



Campaign 2012: Obama's Re-election Chances

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Contact: Lee M. Miringoff
Barbara L. Carvalho
Mary E. Azzoli
Marist College
845.575.5050

This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

President Barack Obama has officially announced that he will seek re-election next year, but he faces an electorate that still needs convincing. According to this McClatchy-Marist Poll, a plurality of registered voters nationwide -- 44% -- say they definitely plan to vote against Mr. Obama in 2012. 37% report they definitely plan to vote for him, and 18% are unsure.

Despite the president's transition into campaign mode, little has changed on this question since McClatchy-Marist last asked it in November. At that time, 48% of voters said they will not support the president in his re-election bid while 36% thought they would. 16%, at the time, were unsure.

"The president is hoping lightning strikes in the same place twice," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "If there is a silver lining for his re-election, it's the lack of clarity in the GOP field."

The president continues to struggle with those all-important independent voters. 47% of these voters say they don't plan on casting their ballot for Obama while 32% do. 21% are unsure. In the fall, half -- 50% -- believed they would back another candidate while three in ten -- 30% -- reported they would support the incumbent president. 20% were unsure.

Romney and Huckabee Close the Gap with Obama...Palin and Trump Trail Far Behind

How do some of the most talked about potential GOP candidates fare against the president? When given the choice between former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and the president, voters divide. 46% of registered voters say they would back the president while 45% say they would cast their ballot for Romney. Nine percent are undecided.

When McClatchy-Marist last reported this question in January, Mr. Obama had a 13 percentage point lead over Romney. At that time, a slim majority -- 51% -- said they would vote for the president while 38% thought they would back Romney. 11% were undecided.

The president has lost ground among independent voters. Currently a plurality -- 45% -- back Romney while 42% support Obama. 13% are undecided. Previously, the president held a 10 percentage point lead over Romney.

When paired with former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, President Obama has a slight lead. 48% of voters say they would support the president in this hypothetical contest while 43% believe they would back Huckabee. Nine percent are undecided. However, Huckabee has narrowed the gap. In McClatchy-Marist's previous survey, 12 percentage points separated the two. In January, half of voters -- 50% -- said Obama was their candidate while 38% said the same about Huckabee. 12% were undecided.

However, Obama outdistances former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. A majority -- 56% -- believe they will vote for Obama if Palin receives the Republican nomination. 34%, though, say they will cast their ballot for Palin. One in ten -- 10% -- are undecided. In January, the same proportion of voters -- 56% -- supported Obama while 30% backed Palin. 13%, at the time, were undecided.

And, there's been much speculation about a presidential run by businessman Donald Trump. Is he a strong contender when he's toe-to-toe with President Obama? In this contest, Obama garners a majority of voters -- 54% -- to 38% for Trump. Eight percent are undecided.

Romney, Huckabee Top Republican Field, But...

The list of Republican names tossed around as possible 2012 presidential candidates is long, but is there one among them who stands out? Among Republican and Republican leaning independents, this is what the field looks like:

- 18% for former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney
- 17% for former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee
- 13% for businessman Donald Trump
- 9% for former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani
- 8% for former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin
- 7% for Texas Congressman Ron Paul
- 4% for former Georgia Congressman Newt Gingrich
- 3% for Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann
- 2% for Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels
- 2% for Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty
- 2% for former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum
- 2% for businessman Herman Cain
- 1% for Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour
- 1% for former Utah Governor and current U.S. Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman
- 11% are undecided

Other notable findings:

- Romney and Huckabee run evenly among Republicans with 19% each.
- Huckabee is the favorite among Tea Party supporters with 20%.
- Trump tops the list among Republican leaning independents with 18%.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: National Poll of 1,274 Adults

This survey of 1,274 adults was conducted on April 10th through April 14th, 2011. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. There are 1,084 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. There are 468 Republicans and Republican leaning independents. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 4.5 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample: Adults

| Nature of the Sample - National Adults | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | | National Adults |
| | | Col % |
| National Adults | | 100% |
| Registered Voters | | 80% |
| Region | Northeast | 19% |
| | Midwest | 22% |
| | South | 37% |
| | West | 22% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 51% |
| | \$50,000 or more | 49% |
| Race | White | 67% |
| | African American | 10% |
| | Latino | 11% |
| | Other | 11% |
| Race | White | 67% |
| | Non-white | 33% |
| Age | Under 45 | 40% |
| | 45 or older | 60% |
| Generation | Millennials (18-30) | 20% |
| | Gen X (31-46) | 24% |
| | Baby Boomers (47-65) | 37% |
| | Silent-Greatest (Over 65) | 19% |
| Gender | Men | 49% |
| | Women | 51% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 74% |
| | Cell Phone | 26% |

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=1274 MOE +/- 3%.
Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Nature of the Sample: Registered Voters

| Nature of the Sample - Registered Voters | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Registered Voters |
| | | Col % |
| Registered Voters | | 100% |
| President Obama's April 13th Speech | Before | 54% |
| | After | 46% |
| Party ID | Democrat | 35% |
| | Republican | 27% |
| | Independent | 36% |
| | Other | 2% |
| Support Tea Party | Yes | 28% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 21% |
| | Moderate | 39% |
| | Conservative | 40% |
| Region | Northeast | 20% |
| | Midwest | 21% |
| | South | 37% |
| | West | 22% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 46% |
| | \$50,000 or more | 54% |
| Race | White | 70% |
| | African American | 11% |
| | Latino | 9% |
| | Other | 10% |
| Race | White | 70% |
| | Non-white | 30% |
| Age | Under 45 | 34% |
| | 45 or older | 66% |
| Generation | Millennials (18-30) | 14% |
| | Gen X (31-46) | 24% |
| | Baby Boomers (47-65) | 39% |
| | Silent-Greatest (Over 65) | 22% |
| Gender | Men | 50% |
| | Women | 50% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 79% |
| | Cell Phone | 21% |

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=1084
MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Nature of the Sample: Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents

| Nature of the Sample - Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents | | |
|--|--------------------|---|
| | | Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents |
| | | Col % |
| Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents | | 100% |
| Party ID | Republican | 67% |
| | Independent | 33% |
| Support Tea Party | Yes | 47% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 42% |
| | \$50,000 or more | 58% |
| Age | Under 45 | 30% |
| | 45 or older | 70% |
| Gender | Men | 53% |
| | Women | 47% |

Marist Poll National Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=468 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Definitely Vote For or Against President Obama in 2012

Asked of Registered Voters:

Question Wording: Do you definitely plan to vote for Barack Obama for re-election as president or do you definitely plan to vote against him?

| | | Registered Voters | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------|
| | | Do you definitely plan to vote for Barack Obama for re-election as president or do you definitely plan to vote against him? | | |
| | | Definitely vote for President Obama | Definitely vote against him | Unsure |
| | | Row % | Row % | Row % |
| Registered Voters | | 37% | 44% | 18% |
| Party ID | Democrat | 70% | 12% | 17% |
| | Republican | 3% | 82% | 15% |
| | Independent | 32% | 47% | 21% |
| Tea Party Supporters | | 12% | 75% | 14% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 66% | 19% | 15% |
| | Moderate | 44% | 34% | 22% |
| | Conservative | 17% | 70% | 14% |
| Region | Northeast | 39% | 38% | 23% |
| | Midwest | 39% | 50% | 11% |
| | South | 33% | 47% | 20% |
| | West | 41% | 39% | 20% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 37% | 45% | 17% |
| | \$50,000 or more | 39% | 43% | 18% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 35% | 48% | 17% |
| | College graduate | 40% | 40% | 20% |
| Age | Under 45 | 44% | 36% | 21% |
| | 45 or older | 34% | 49% | 17% |
| Generation | Millennials (18-30) | 51% | 29% | 20% |
| | Gen X (31-46) | 36% | 43% | 21% |
| | Baby Boomers (47-65) | 34% | 49% | 17% |
| | Silent-Greatest (Over 65) | 35% | 47% | 17% |
| Race | White | 30% | 52% | 17% |
| | Non-white | 55% | 25% | 20% |
| Gender | Men | 37% | 43% | 20% |
| | Women | 38% | 45% | 17% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 35% | 45% | 20% |
| | Cell Phone | 47% | 41% | 12% |

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=1084 MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Hypothetical 2012 Presidential Matchup: Obama/Romney

Asked of Registered Voters:

Question Wording: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

| | | Registered Voters | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | | If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: | | |
| | | Barack Obama, the Democrat | Mitt Romney, the Republican | Undecided |
| | | Row % | Row % | Row % |
| Registered Voters | | 46% | 45% | 9% |
| Party ID | Democrat | 80% | 13% | 6% |
| | Republican | 10% | 83% | 7% |
| | Independent | 42% | 45% | 13% |
| Tea Party Supporters | | 18% | 75% | 7% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 77% | 19% | 4% |
| | Moderate | 54% | 35% | 11% |
| | Conservative | 23% | 67% | 9% |
| Region | Northeast | 51% | 38% | 12% |
| | Midwest | 47% | 48% | 5% |
| | South | 42% | 49% | 10% |
| | West | 49% | 41% | 10% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 47% | 42% | 11% |
| | \$50,000 or more | 49% | 46% | 5% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 42% | 48% | 10% |
| | College graduate | 52% | 40% | 8% |
| Age | Under 45 | 56% | 39% | 5% |
| | 45 or older | 41% | 48% | 10% |
| Generation | Millennials (18-30) | 60% | 36% | 4% |
| | Gen X (31-46) | 51% | 42% | 6% |
| | Baby Boomers (47-65) | 39% | 50% | 11% |
| | Silent-Greatest (Over 65) | 44% | 46% | 10% |
| Race | White | 37% | 55% | 8% |
| | Non-white | 69% | 22% | 10% |
| Gender | Men | 50% | 44% | 6% |
| | Women | 42% | 45% | 13% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 43% | 46% | 11% |
| | Cell Phone | 55% | 41% | 4% |

Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=532 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Hypothetical 2012 Presidential Matchup: Obama/Romney Over Time

Asked of Registered Voters:

Question Wording: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

| | Registered Voters | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: | | |
| | Barack Obama, the Democrat | Mitt Romney, the Republican | Undecided |
| | Row % | Row % | Row % |
| April 2011 | 46% | 45% | 9% |
| January 2011 | 51% | 38% | 11% |
| December 2010 | 44% | 46% | 10% |
| Marist Poll Registered Voters | | | |

Hypothetical 2012 Presidential Matchup: Obama/Huckabee

Asked of Registered Voters:

Question Wording: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

| | | Registered Voters | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | | If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: | | |
| | | Barack Obama, the Democrat | Mike Huckabee, the Republican | Undecided |
| | | Row % | Row % | Row % |
| Registered Voters | | 48% | 43% | 9% |
| Party ID | Democrat | 85% | 11% | 4% |
| | Republican | 7% | 89% | 4% |
| | Independent | 41% | 44% | 16% |
| Tea Party Supporters | | 15% | 82% | 2% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 76% | 14% | 11% |
| | Moderate | 59% | 34% | 7% |
| | Conservative | 23% | 70% | 7% |
| Region | Northeast | 49% | 35% | 16% |
| | Midwest | 45% | 45% | 10% |
| | South | 48% | 48% | 4% |
| | West | 49% | 40% | 11% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 47% | 46% | 8% |
| | \$50,000 or more | 51% | 41% | 8% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 43% | 45% | 12% |
| | College graduate | 54% | 40% | 5% |
| Age | Under 45 | 51% | 41% | 8% |
| | 45 or older | 47% | 44% | 9% |
| Generation | Millennials (18-30) | 57% | 35% | 7% |
| | Gen X (31-46) | 46% | 45% | 9% |
| | Baby Boomers (47-65) | 49% | 42% | 10% |
| | Silent-Greatest (Over 65) | 45% | 47% | 8% |
| Race | White | 43% | 50% | 7% |
| | Non-white | 58% | 27% | 14% |
| Gender | Men | 43% | 48% | 9% |
| | Women | 53% | 37% | 10% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 45% | 45% | 10% |
| | Cell Phone | 60% | 33% | 7% |

Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=552 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Hypothetical 2012 Presidential Matchup: Obama/Huckabee Over Time

Asked of Registered Voters:

Question Wording: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

| | Registered Voters | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: | | |
| | Barack Obama, the Democrat | Mike Huckabee, the Republican | Undecided |
| | Row % | Row % | Row % |
| April 2011 | 48% | 43% | 9% |
| January 2011 | 50% | 38% | 12% |
| December 2010 | 47% | 43% | 11% |
| Marist Poll Registered Voters | | | |

Hypothetical 2012 Presidential Matchup: Obama/Palin

Asked of Registered Voters:

Question Wording: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

| | | Registered Voters | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | | If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: | | |
| | | Barack Obama, the Democrat | Sarah Palin, the Republican | Undecided |
| | | Row % | Row % | Row % |
| Registered Voters | | 56% | 34% | 10% |
| Party ID | Democrat | 87% | 6% | 7% |
| | Republican | 20% | 69% | 10% |
| | Independent | 52% | 35% | 13% |
| Tea Party Supporters | | 25% | 64% | 12% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 82% | 14% | 5% |
| | Moderate | 67% | 23% | 9% |
| | Conservative | 31% | 56% | 13% |
| Region | Northeast | 61% | 26% | 13% |
| | Midwest | 55% | 41% | 4% |
| | South | 49% | 37% | 13% |
| | West | 62% | 30% | 8% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 54% | 37% | 9% |
| | \$50,000 or more | 59% | 33% | 8% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 52% | 39% | 9% |
| | College graduate | 61% | 28% | 11% |
| Age | Under 45 | 66% | 30% | 5% |
| | 45 or older | 50% | 38% | 12% |
| Generation | Millennials (18-30) | 72% | 27% | 2% |
| | Gen X (31-46) | 59% | 32% | 9% |
| | Baby Boomers (47-65) | 49% | 41% | 10% |
| | Silent-Greatest (Over 65) | 53% | 34% | 13% |
| Race | White | 47% | 44% | 9% |
| | Non-white | 78% | 12% | 10% |
| Gender | Men | 57% | 34% | 9% |
| | Women | 55% | 34% | 11% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 53% | 35% | 12% |
| | Cell Phone | 65% | 31% | 4% |

Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=532 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Hypothetical 2012 Presidential Matchup: Obama/Palin Over Time

Asked of Registered Voters:

Question Wording: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

| | Registered Voters | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: | | |
| | Barack Obama, the Democrat | Sarah Palin, the Republican | Undecided |
| | Row % | Row % | Row % |
| April 2011 | 56% | 34% | 10% |
| January 2011 | 56% | 30% | 13% |
| December 2010 | 52% | 40% | 9% |
| Marist Poll Registered Voters | | | |

Hypothetical 2012 Presidential Matchup: Obama/Trump

Asked of Registered Voters:

Question Wording: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

| | | Registered Voters | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| | | If the 2012 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: | | |
| | | Barack Obama, the Democrat | Donald Trump, the Republican | Undecided |
| | | Row % | Row % | Row % |
| Registered Voters | | 54% | 38% | 8% |
| Party ID | Democrat | 89% | 8% | 4% |
| | Republican | 18% | 75% | 8% |
| | Independent | 46% | 42% | 12% |
| Tea Party Supporters | | 25% | 68% | 6% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 79% | 16% | 5% |
| | Moderate | 65% | 26% | 9% |
| | Conservative | 28% | 65% | 7% |
| Region | Northeast | 60% | 33% | 6% |
| | Midwest | 45% | 48% | 7% |
| | South | 53% | 38% | 9% |
| | West | 58% | 32% | 10% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 52% | 41% | 7% |
| | \$50,000 or more | 57% | 36% | 7% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 51% | 40% | 9% |
| | College graduate | 57% | 36% | 7% |
| Age | Under 45 | 58% | 37% | 4% |
| | 45 or older | 51% | 39% | 10% |
| Generation | Millennials (18-30) | 76% | 22% | 2% |
| | Gen X (31-46) | 47% | 46% | 7% |
| | Baby Boomers (47-65) | 54% | 39% | 8% |
| | Silent-Greatest (Over 65) | 48% | 38% | 14% |
| Race | White | 47% | 44% | 9% |
| | Non-white | 69% | 24% | 7% |
| Gender | Men | 52% | 40% | 8% |
| | Women | 55% | 36% | 8% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 50% | 40% | 9% |
| | Cell Phone | 68% | 29% | 4% |

Marist Poll National Registered Voters Split Sample: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=552 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

2012 Republican Presidential Primary

Asked of Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents:

Question Wording: If the 2012 Republican presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

| | | Republicans and Republican leaning independents | Party ID | | Tea Party Supporters |
|--|--|---|------------|-------------|----------------------|
| | | | Republican | Independent | |
| | | Col % | Col % | Col % | Col % |
| If the 2012 Republican presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: | Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour | 1% | 1% | 1% | 2% |
| | Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels | 2% | 1% | 2% | 1% |
| | Former Georgia Congressman Newt Gingrich | 4% | 3% | 5% | 6% |
| | Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee | 17% | 19% | 14% | 20% |
| | Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin | 8% | 8% | 10% | 9% |
| | Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty | 2% | 2% | 3% | 2% |
| | Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney | 18% | 19% | 15% | 13% |
| | Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani | 9% | 11% | 6% | 6% |
| | Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann | 3% | 3% | 3% | 5% |
| | Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum | 2% | 3% | 1% | 3% |
| | Former Utah governor and current U.S. Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| | Businessman Herman Cain | 2% | 1% | 3% | 4% |
| | Businessman Donald Trump | 13% | 11% | 18% | 16% |
| | Texas Congressman Ron Paul | 7% | 5% | 10% | 5% |
| | Undecided | 11% | 12% | 8% | 7% |

Marist Poll National Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents: Interviews conducted April 10th through April 14th, 2011, N=468 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

2012 Republican Presidential Primary Over Time

Asked of Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents:

Question Wording: If the 2012 Republican presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

| | | Republicans and Republican leaning independents | |
|--|--|---|---------------|
| | | April 2011 | November 2010 |
| If the 2012 Republican presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: | Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour | 1% | 1% |
| | Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels | 2% | 4% |
| | Former Georgia Congressman Newt Gingrich | 4% | 10% |
| | Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee | 17% | 16% |
| | Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin | 8% | 13% |
| | Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty | 2% | 2% |
| | Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney | 18% | 20% |
| | Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani | 9% | NA |
| | Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann | 3% | NA |
| | Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum | 2% | NA |
| | Former Utah governor and current U.S. Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman | 1% | NA |
| | Businessman Herman Cain | 2% | NA |
| | Businessman Donald Trump | 13% | NA |
| | Texas Congressman Ron Paul | 7% | NA |
| | Other | NA | 20% |
| | Undecided | 11% | 14% |

Marist Poll National Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents