



**Romney Edges GOP Contenders...
Gingrich and Cain Battle for Second**
*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

For Immediate Release: Friday, November 11, 2011

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

This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

In this national McClatchy-Marist Poll, Newt Gingrich has joined the top tier of candidates vying for the 2012 Republican nomination for president.

Among Republican and Republican leaning independents, here is how the contest stands:

- 23% for Mitt Romney
- 19% for Newt Gingrich
- 17% for Herman Cain
- 10% for Ron Paul
- 8% for Rick Perry
- 5% for Michele Bachmann
- 1% for Jon Huntsman
- 1% for Rick Santorum
- 17% are undecided

“The race for the GOP nomination has taken yet another dramatic turn,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. “Now, the top tier is crowded as Newt Gingrich has taken his place alongside Mitt Romney and Herman Cain. Could anyone imagine a more unsettled contest?”

The race is still very fluid. Only 30% of Republicans and Republican leaning independents are firmly committed to their choice of candidate while 42% somewhat support their pick. A notable 28% say they might cast their ballot for someone else.

When McClatchy-Marist last reported this question in September, an identical 30% said they strongly supported their candidate while nearly four in ten -- 39% -- were somewhat in their candidate's corner, and 31% thought they might change their mind.

Looking at the support of the top tier candidates, 43% of Gingrich's backers say they are firmly committed to their choice of candidate. This compares with 31% of Republicans and Republican leaning independents who are behind Cain and 30% of Romney's supporters who have a similar level of support for their pick.

Shared Values, Experience Most Important Candidate Qualities

33% of Republicans and Republican leaning independents think a candidate who shares their values is key when deciding who to support while 27% believe experience is most important. About one in four Republicans and Republican leaning independents -- 23% -- say a candidate who is closest to them on the issues passes their litmus test while 13% believe electability is the most important quality a candidate should have. Four percent are unsure.

There has been little change on this question since September. At that time, 35% said shared values topped their list while 26% thought experience mattered most. One in five -- 20% -- wanted a candidate who was closest to them on the issues, and 17% thought the ability to defeat President Obama was key. Two percent, then, were unsure.

Key points:

- 22% of those who believe shared values are key back Romney while 21% support Cain.
- Among Republicans and Republican leaning independents who think experience matters most, Gingrich receives the backing of 25% compared with 20% for Romney.
- Looking at Republicans and Republican leaning independents who favor a candidate who is closest to them on the issues, Romney receives the support of 28% while Gingrich takes 21%.
- Romney garners the support of 26% who want a candidate who can defeat President Barack Obama in next year's general election, and Gingrich is backed by 23% of these voters.

Amid Sexual Harassment Allegations, About Seven in Ten Want Cain to Stay in Race

What impact are the accusations of sexual harassment having on Cain's candidacy? 69% of Republicans and Republican leaning independents don't think Cain should drop out of the race while 22% believe he should. Nine percent are unsure.

However, Cain's reputation hasn't been cleared in the court of public opinion. While 29% of Republicans and Republican leaning independents believe Cain didn't do anything wrong, 34% think he did something unethical but not illegal. And, 11% go as far as to say his actions were against the law. A notable 26% are unsure.

And, although nearly half -- 48% -- thinks the sexual harassment accusations lobbed at Cain are mostly being made to ruin his reputation, 28% believe they are based in fact. 24% are unsure.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: National Poll of 1,026 Adults

This survey of 1,026 adults was conducted on November 8th through November 10th, 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 872 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.5 percentage points. There are 347 Republicans and Republican leaning independents. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 5.5 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample: Adults & Registered Voters

		National	
		National Adults	Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
Registered Voters		85%	100%
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	35%
	Republican	n/a	26%
	Independent	n/a	37%
	Other	n/a	2%
Support Tea Party	Yes	n/a	25%
Political Ideology	Very liberal	n/a	4%
	Liberal	n/a	16%
	Moderate	n/a	38%
	Conservative	n/a	32%
	Very conservative	n/a	10%
Region	Northeast	18%	19%
	Midwest	22%	23%
	South	37%	37%
	West	23%	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%	47%
	\$50,000 or more	51%	53%
Race	White	73%	76%
	African American	9%	10%
	Latino	10%	8%
	Other	7%	7%
Race	White	73%	76%
	Non-white	27%	24%
Age	Under 45	32%	27%
	45 or older	68%	73%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	18%	13%
	Gen X (31-46)	18%	17%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	37%	40%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	27%	31%
Gender	Men	49%	48%
	Women	51%	52%
Interview Type	Landline	75%	79%
	Cell Phone	25%	21%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted November 8th through 10th, 2011, N=1046 MOE +/- 3%. Marist Poll National Registered Voters: N=872 MOE +/- 3.5%. 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
		Col %
Republicans and Republican leaning independents		
100%		
Party Identification	Republican	65%
	Independent	35%
Support Tea Party	Yes	47%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	43%
	\$50,000 or more	57%
Age	Under 45	23%
	45 or older	77%
Gender	Men	50%
	Women	50%

Marist Poll National Republicans and Republican Leaning
Independents: Interviews conducted November 8th through 10th,
2011, N=347 MOE +/- 5.5%. 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 or caucus in your state were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

		Republicans and Republican leaning independents		Party Identification		Tea Party Supporters	Most important quality in Republican presidential candidate				
		Col %	Republican		Col %		Col %	Shares your values	Is closest to you on the issues	Can beat President Obama in 2012	Has the experience to govern
			Col %	Independent							
If the 2012 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:	Newt Gingrich	19%	21%	17%	28%	14%	21%	23%	25%		
	Mitt Romney	23%	26%	16%	17%	22%	28%	26%	20%		
	Michele Bachmann	5%	4%	5%	3%	3%	1%	14%	5%		
	Rick Santorum	1%	<1%	1%	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	<1%		
	Jon Huntsman	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	2%	3%		
	Herman Cain	17%	15%	19%	22%	21%	18%	13%	11%		
	Ron Paul	10%	8%	12%	10%	9%	16%	7%	7%		
	Rick Perry	8%	8%	9%	10%	13%	6%	5%	8%		
Undecided	17%	14%	21%	10%	17%	8%	9%	22%			

Marist Poll National Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents: Interviews conducted November 8th through 10th, 2011, N=347 MOE +/- 5.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Intensity of Support

Asked of Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents

Question Wording: Would you say you strongly support <candidate>, somewhat support <candidate>, or do you think you might vote differently in your primary or caucus?

		Republicans and Republican leaning independents		
		Would you say you strongly support <candidate>, somewhat support <candidate>, or do you think you might vote differently in your primary or caucus?		
		Strongly support	Somewhat support	Might vote differently
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Republicans and Republican leaning independents		30%	42%	28%
Party Identification	Republican	31%	43%	26%
	Independent	29%	39%	32%
Tea Party Supporters		41%	36%	23%
Top 3 Republican Candidates	Mitt Romney	30%	45%	25%
	Newt Gingrich	43%	36%	22%
	Herman Cain	31%	41%	28%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	36%	41%	23%
	\$50,000 or more	28%	39%	33%
Education	Not college graduate	30%	45%	24%
	College graduate	31%	38%	32%
Age	Under 45	22%	43%	36%
	45 or older	32%	41%	26%
Gender	Men	33%	37%	30%
	Women	28%	46%	26%

Marist Poll National Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents: Interviews conducted November 8th through 10th, 2011, N=347 MOE +/- 5.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Most Important Quality in a Republican Nominee

Asked of Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents

Question Wording: Which one of the following qualities is most important to you in deciding who to support for the Republican presidential nomination? A candidate who:

		Republicans and Republican leaning independents				
		Which one of the following qualities is most important to you in deciding who to support for the Republican presidential nomination? A candidate who:				
		Shares your values	Is closest to you on the issues	Can beat President Obama in 2012	Has the experience to govern	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Republicans and Republican leaning independents		33%	23%	13%	27%	4%
Party Identification	Republican	35%	23%	14%	24%	3%
	Independent	28%	22%	12%	32%	5%
Tea Party Supporters		34%	25%	17%	21%	3%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	31%	24%	16%	24%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	37%	24%	10%	26%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	31%	24%	13%	28%	4%
	College graduate	36%	21%	13%	27%	4%
Age	Under 45	38%	20%	2%	36%	5%
	45 or older	31%	24%	17%	25%	4%
Gender	Men	41%	19%	11%	24%	4%
	Women	25%	26%	15%	30%	4%

Marist Poll National Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents: Interviews conducted November 8th through 10th, 2011, N=347
MOE +/- 5.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Should Herman Cain Drop Out of the Race?

Asked of Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents

Question Wording: Do you think Herman Cain should drop out of the race for president, or not?

		Republicans and Republican leaning independents		
		Do you think Herman Cain should drop out of the race for president, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Republicans and Republican leaning independents		22%	69%	9%
Party Identification	Republican	24%	68%	9%
	Independent	19%	73%	8%
Tea Party Supporters		21%	75%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	22%	69%	10%
	\$50,000 or more	24%	68%	8%
Education	Not college graduate	28%	62%	10%
	College graduate	14%	80%	6%
Age	Under 45	20%	67%	13%
	45 or older	23%	69%	7%
Gender	Men	21%	72%	7%
	Women	23%	66%	11%

Marist Poll National Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents: Interviews conducted November 8th through 10th, 2011, N=347 MOE +/- 5.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Views on Herman Cain's Actions

Asked of Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents

Question Wording: Thinking about the allegations of sexual harassment brought against Herman Cain do you think Herman Cain did something illegal, something unethical but not illegal, or he did nothing wrong?

		Republicans and Republican leaning independents			
		Thinking about the allegations of sexual harassment brought against Herman Cain do you think Herman Cain did something illegal, something unethical but not illegal, or he did nothing wrong?			
		Did something illegal	Did something unethical but not illegal	Did nothing wrong	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Republicans and Republican leaning independents		11%	34%	29%	26%
Party Identification	Republican	10%	36%	29%	25%
	Independent	13%	29%	30%	27%
Tea Party Supporters		8%	31%	40%	20%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	13%	35%	33%	20%
	\$50,000 or more	11%	36%	28%	25%
Education	Not college graduate	12%	38%	25%	25%
	College graduate	11%	28%	35%	26%
Age	Under 45	17%	38%	18%	28%
	45 or older	10%	32%	33%	25%
Gender	Men	11%	30%	30%	29%
	Women	12%	37%	29%	23%

Marist Poll National Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents: Interviews conducted November 8th through 10th, 2011, N=347 MOE +/- 5.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Motivation for the Sexual Harassment Accusations against Herman Cain

Asked of Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents

Question Wording: Do you believe the accusations of sexual harassment against Herman Cain:

		Republicans and Republican leaning independents		
		Do you believe the accusations of sexual harassment against Herman Cain:		
		Are being made just to ruin his reputation	Are based on something that happened	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Republicans and Republican leaning independents		48%	28%	24%
Party Identification	Republican	47%	27%	26%
	Independent	49%	30%	21%
Tea Party Supporters		60%	26%	14%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	50%	30%	19%
	\$50,000 or more	48%	31%	20%
Education	Not college graduate	45%	32%	23%
	College graduate	51%	24%	25%
Age	Under 45	41%	31%	29%
	45 or older	49%	28%	23%
Gender	Men	49%	29%	23%
	Women	46%	28%	25%

Marist Poll National Republicans and Republican Leaning Independents: Interviews conducted November 8th through 10th, 2011, N=347 MOE +/- 5.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.