



**CBS NEWS POLL**  
**For Release: Friday, November 11, 2011**  
**7:00 am (ET)**

**The 2012 Republican Nomination: Now a Close Three-Way Race**  
 November 6-10, 2011

- In the Republican race for the presidential nomination, Newt Gingrich’s support continues to slowly grow, and he is now tied with Mitt Romney for second place, while Herman Cain just edges both of them out for the top spot. Both Cain and Romney have lost support since late October.
- 61% of Republican primary voters say the sexual harassment accusations against Cain won’t make any difference in their vote, but 30% say the charges make them less likely to back him, and that rises to 38% among women. Cain has lost support among women since last month – from 28% in October to 15% now. He has lost ground with conservatives and Tea Party supporters as well.
- But the race could still change; seven in 10 Republican primary voters say it is still too early to say for sure which candidate they will support.

The field of Republican candidates now has three candidates within striking distance of each other at the top of the list: with 18%, Herman Cain is in the top spot, followed by Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich with 15% each. Support for both Cain and Romney has declined since late last month, and Gingrich is the only one of the top three whose support is steadily – if slowly – on the upswing.

**2012 Republican Nomination for President**  
 (among Republican primary voters)

|                      | Now | 10/25/2011 | 10/3/2011 | 9/16/2011 |
|----------------------|-----|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Herman Cain          | 18% | 25%        | 17%       | 5%        |
| Mitt Romney          | 15  | 21         | 17        | 16        |
| Newt Gingrich        | 15  | 10         | 8         | 7         |
| Rick Perry           | 8   | 6          | 12        | 23        |
| Ron Paul             | 5   | 8          | 7         | 5         |
| Michele Bachmann     | 4   | 2          | 4         | 7         |
| Rick Santorum        | 2   | 1          | 3         | 1         |
| Jon Huntsman         | 1   | 1          | 2         | 1         |
| Someone else         | 14  | 12         | 10        | 11        |
| Undecided/Don’t know | 17  | 14         | 18        | 22        |

Cain has lost support among women since late October. Then, he led among women, garnering 28% of their support. Now, his support among women is just 15%. He has also lost ground with conservatives, from 30% to 23% now. And there has been some movement among Tea Party supporters as well; their support for Cain has declined from 32% to 19%. Romney has lost support among men, while Gingrich’s support among that group has increased 8 points.

### 2012 Republican Nomination for President

(Among Republican Primary voters)

|               | ----- Now ----- |        |          | ----- 10/25/2011 ----- |        |          |
|---------------|-----------------|--------|----------|------------------------|--------|----------|
|               | Cain            | Romney | Gingrich | Cain                   | Romney | Gingrich |
| Tea Party     | 19%             | 11     | 21       | 32%                    | 18     | 15       |
| Non-Tea Party | 18%             | 21     | 8        | 17%                    | 26     | 5        |
| Men           | 21%             | 15     | 19       | 22%                    | 23     | 11       |
| Women         | 15%             | 16     | 10       | 28%                    | 19     | 9        |
| Conservatives | 23%             | 14     | 16       | 30%                    | 18     | 12       |
| Moderates     | 9%              | 21     | 16       | 22%                    | 21     | 8        |

### Impact of the Allegations against Herman Cain

Six in 10 Republican primary voters say the charges of sexual harassment against Herman Cain make no difference to their vote. Still, 30% say the charges make them less likely to support Cain. 71% of self-identified Tea Party supporters say the allegations make no difference, as do 67% of conservatives. This poll was being conducted as new, and more specific, allegations arose against Cain.

### Do the Allegations Against Cain Make You...?

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

|                             | Total | Tea Party Supporters | Women |
|-----------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| More likely to vote for him | 4%    | 4%                   | 1%    |
| No difference               | 61    | 71                   | 57    |
| Less likely to vote for him | 30    | 21                   | 38    |

Among women, 38% say they are less likely to support Cain because of the allegations against him. 57% say that will make no difference in their vote. Just 23% of men say they are less likely to vote for Cain because of the harassment allegations.

Voters overall are following this story: most have heard something about the harassment allegations, including 59% of Republican primary voters who have heard a lot.

### How Much Have You Heard About the Sexual Harassment Allegations Against Cain?

|                  | All Voters | Republican Primary Voters |
|------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| A lot            | 47%        | 59%                       |
| Some             | 26         | 25                        |
| Not much/nothing | 27         | 17                        |

Among Republican voters who have heard or read a lot about it, a majority still says the allegations won't impact their vote.

Still, the race for the nomination remains fluid. More than seven in 10 Republican voters who pick a candidate say it's too early to say whether their mind is made up.

### **Mind Made Up Whom to Support?**

(among Republican Primary Voters with a Choice)

|           | Now | 12/2007 |
|-----------|-----|---------|
| Yes       | 28% | 23%     |
| Too early | 72  | 76      |

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This poll was conducted by telephone from November 6-10, 2011 among 1,182 adults nationwide. 1,029 interviews were conducted with registered voters and 382 with voters who said they plan to vote in a Republican primary. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The margin of error for the sample of registered voters could be plus or minus three points and five points for the sample of Republican primary voters. The error for subgroups may be higher. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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q1-q21 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q21 Which one of these candidates would you like to see the Republican Party nominate for President in 2012 - Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, or would you like to see someone else nominated?

|                  | Rep. Primary Voters | Oct11a1 |
|------------------|---------------------|---------|
|                  | %                   | %       |
| Herman Cain      | 18                  | 25      |
| Mitt Romney      | 15                  | 21      |
| Newt Gingrich    | 15                  | 10      |
| Rick Perry       | 8                   | 6       |
| Ron Paul         | 5                   | 8       |
| Michele Bachmann | 4                   | 2       |
| Rick Santorum    | 2                   | 1       |
| Jon Huntsman     | 1                   | 1       |
| Someone Else     | 14                  | 12      |
| Undecided (Vol.) | 12                  | 11      |
| No/No one        | 1                   | 0       |
| DK/NA            | 5                   | 3       |

q22 Is your mind made up or is it still too early to say for sure?

|                 | * Republican Primary Voters with Choice * | Oct11a1 |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| Mind made up    | 28  | 19      |
| Still too early | 72  | 80      |
| DK/NA           | 0   | 1       |

q23-q42 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q43 How much have you heard or read about allegations of sexual harassment made against Herman Cain in the 1990's when he was head of the National Restaurant Association - a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

|                | ***** REGISTERED VOTERS ***** |                    |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
|                | Total                         | Rep Primary Voters |
|                | %                             | %                  |
| A lot          | 47                            | 59                 |
| Some           | 26                            | 25                 |
| Not much       | 12                            | 7                  |
| Nothing at all | 15                            | 10                 |
| DK/NA          | 0                             | 0                  |

q44 Do these allegations make you more likely to vote for Herman Cain for the Republican nomination, less likely to vote for Herman Cain, or won't they make a difference in your vote?

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| More likely   | 4  |
| Less likely   | 30 |
| No difference | 61 |
| DK/NA         | 5  |

|                                 | <u>UNWEIGHTED</u> | <u>WEIGHTED</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Total Respondents               | 1,182             |                 |
| Total Registered Voters         | 1,029             | 955             |
| Total Republican Primary Voters | 382               | 341             |