



CBS NEWS POLL
 For release: Tuesday, December 20, 2011
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The Race for the Republican Nomination: It's Tight at the Top
 December 14-18, 2011

Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney lead the field of Republican candidates nationally, each with 20%. Ron Paul takes the third spot at 10%, while the remaining candidates are in single digits. Last month, Herman Cain was the top choice of Republican primary voters, but Gingrich and Romney now lead after Cain's exit from the race.

2012 Republican Nomination for President

(among Republican primary voters)

	Now	11/11	10/25	10/3	9/16
Newt Gingrich	20%	15%	10%	8%	7%
Mitt Romney	20	15	21	17	16
Ron Paul	10	5	8	7	5
Rick Perry	6	8	6	12	23
Michele Bachmann	4	4	2	4	7
Rick Santorum	3	2	1	3	1
Jon Huntsman	1	1	1	2	1
Herman Cain	na	18	25	17	5
Someone else	19	14	12	10	11
Undecided/Don't know	17	17	14	18	22

While the Iowa caucuses are just two weeks away, nationally the race for the nomination remains fluid. 17% of Republican primary voters are undecided about a candidate and another 19% want someone else. Even among Republican voters who pick a candidate, nearly eight in 10 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	11/2011	12/2007
Yes	21%	28%	23%
Too early	79	72	76

Gingrich and Romney receive their support from different factions of the Republican primary electorate. Gingrich leads among self-identified conservatives, and Republican primary voters who support the Tea Party movement. Romney has the advantage with non-Tea Party supporters and moderates, but less than a third of Republican primary voters call themselves moderates.

2012 Republican Nomination for President
(among Republican primary voters)

	Gingrich	Romney	Paul
Total	20%	20	10
Conservative	26%	18	9
Moderate	14%	25	15
Tea Party	28%	12	6
Non-Tea Party	14%	26	15

This poll was conducted by telephone from December 14-18, 2011 among 992 adults nationwide. 893 interviews were conducted with registered voters and 291 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 six 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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q18 Which one of these candidates would you like to see the Republican Party nominate for President in 2012 - Michele Bachmann, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, or would you like to see someone else nominated?

	Republican Primary Voters	Nov11a*
	%	%
Newt Gingrich	20	15
Mitt Romney	20	15
Ron Paul	10	5
Rick Perry	6	8
Rick Santorum	3	2
Michele Bachmann	4	4
Jon Huntsman	1	1
Herman Cain	NA	18
Someone Else	19	14
Undecided (Vol.)	13	12
No/No one (vol.)	0	1
DK/NA	4	5

*Asked with Herman Cain

q19 Is your mind made up or is it still too early to say for sure?

Mind made up	21	28
Still too early	79	72
DK/NA	0	0

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	992	
Total Registered Voters	893	809
Total Republican Primary Voters	291	251