

**Iowa Republican Caucus-Goers: The Economy and Electability**

November 30-December 5, 2011

Social issues have often played a key role in Iowa's Republican caucuses, but this year, like the country as a whole, the economy dominates. When asked which will matter more in their vote, economic issues (71%) trump social issues (14%) among those who say they will attend the Iowa Republican caucuses.

Even among most white evangelicals – a Republican voter group that traditionally factors social issues more prominently in their voting decisions - economic issues matter more.

**Which Candidate Views will Matter More in Your Vote?  
(Among Republican Caucus-Goers)**

	All	Tea Party	White Evangelicals
Economic issues	71%	65%	55%
Social issues	14	18	25
Both equally (volunteered)	13	15	18

Electability will be an important consideration for many Iowa caucus-goers. Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney are viewed as the most electable of the Republican field: 31% of Iowa Republican caucus-goers say Gingrich has the best chance of defeating President Obama, while almost as many - 29% - think Romney has the best chance. All other candidates are in single digits.

**Which Candidate Has the Best Chance to Defeat Barack Obama?  
(Among Republican Caucus-Goers)**

Gingrich	31%
Romney	29
Perry	9
Paul	6
Bachmann	3
Huntsman	1
Santorum	1

But among Tea party supporters, Gingrich has a wide lead on this measure. Among that group, 45% pick Gingrich as the candidate with the best chance of defeating President Obama – more than double the percentage that chooses Romney. Gingrich is also viewed as most electable among white evangelicals. However, Romney wins on electability among those caucus-goers who aren't Tea Party supporters, and has a slight edge over Gingrich on this measure among self-identified independents.

**Which Candidate Has the Best Chance to Defeat Barack Obama?  
(Among Republican Caucus-Goers)**

	All	Tea Party	Non-Tea Party	White Evangelicals	Independents
Gingrich	31%	45%	18%	37%	25%
Romney	29	19	40	24	29
Perry	9	7	11	12	7
Paul	6	6	5	6	6
Bachmann	3	2	5	1	4
Huntsman	1	1	1	*	*
Santorum	1	1	1	1	1

(\*) denotes less than 1%

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 CBS News and The New York Times conducted telephone interviews November 30 -December 5, 2011 with 1,869 Republican and independent registered voters in Iowa, including 642 registered voters who said they would definitely or probably attend the Republican caucus in Iowa. The error due to sampling could be plus or minus four points for caucus-goers.

The sample was drawn from two sources: the state of Iowa's registered voter list, and an RDD sample of cell phone interviews.

The full sample was weighted by probabilities of selection and by demographic characteristics to reflect the eligible caucus-goers on the Iowa voter list.

**CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL**  
**The Iowa Caucuses: The Economy and Electability**  
**November 30-December 5, 2011**

q27 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2012, which candidate do you think has the best chance of defeating Barack Obama in the general election in November -- Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, or Rick Santorum?

**\*\* IOWA REPUBLICAN CAUCUS-GOERS \*\***

	%
Bachmann	3
Cain	5
Gingrich	31
Huntsman	1
Paul	6
Perry	9
Romney	29
Santorum	1
All of them (vol.)	5
None of them (vol.)	2
DK/NA	8

q43 Which of the following matters more to you in deciding which Republican presidential candidate to support - the candidate's views on economic issues or the candidate's views on social issues?

Economic	71
Social	14
Both equally (Vol.)	13
Neither (Vol.)	0
DK/NA	2

*Total Iowa Republican Caucus-Goers: 642*