

## **Romney Leads, Santorum Surges into the Top Tier**

January 4-8, 2012

- On the heels of the Iowa caucuses last week, Mitt Romney now leads the field of Republican candidates. Newt Gingrich is in second, and Rick Santorum has leapt into the top tier and is now right behind Gingrich in the latest CBS News national poll.
- Romney and Santorum draw backing from different factions of the Republican Party: Romney from moderates, women and non-Tea Party supporters, Santorum from evangelicals and voters who are very conservative. Santorum and Gingrich tie with Tea Party supporters.
- And Romney and Santorum bring different perceived strengths to the race as well. Romney is viewed as most electable (and most likely to be the eventual nominee), while Santorum is seen as the candidate who best represents these voters' values, up 17 points since November. Romney is right behind him on this measure.

In the race for the nomination nationally, 19% of Republican primary voters support Mitt Romney, followed by Newt Gingrich with 15%, and Rick Santorum right behind him with 14%. This is an increase of 11 points for Santorum since last month, but a 5 point decline for Gingrich.

### **2012 Republican Nomination for President**

(among Republican primary voters)

	Now	12/11	11/11	10/25	10/3	9/16
Mitt Romney	19%	20%	15%	21%	17%	16%
Newt Gingrich	15	20	15	10	8	7
Rick Santorum	14	3	2	1	3	1
Ron Paul	10	10	5	8	7	5
Rick Perry	6	6	8	6	12	23
Jon Huntsman	4	1	1	1	2	1
Someone else	19	19	14	12	10	11
Undecided/Don't know	13	17	17	14	18	22

When voters who chose someone else are asked to choose a candidate from the current field, the race remains similar: Romney leads with 24%, followed by Santorum and Gingrich, each with 18%.

Each of the candidates receives their support from different factions of the Republican primary electorate. Romney leads among women, moderates and Republican voters who do not support the Tea Party movement.

Some groups that previously backed Gingrich appear to be migrating toward Santorum. Santorum is the leader among Republican voters who identify as very conservative – a group that Gingrich led with last month. Gingrich is ahead among those who say they are somewhat conservative.

Santorum and Gingrich are tied among Republican primary voters who support the Tea Party movement, but Gingrich led this group by 16 points in December.

White evangelicals now back Santorum in this race. Their votes were split between Romney and Gingrich last month.

### 2012 Republican Nomination for President

(among Republican primary voters)

	Romney	Gingrich	Santorum
Men (50%)	18%	17	16
Women (50%)	20%	14	12
White evangelicals (39%)	13%	18	21
Very conservative (33%)	15%	17	26
Somewhat conservative (29%)	17%	23	12
Moderate (33%)	25%	8	5
Tea Party (49%)	17%	19	19
Non-Tea Party (41%)	23%	12	9

### Expectations, Electability and Values

Fresh off his narrow victory in Iowa, most Republican primary voters (55%) now expect Mitt Romney to eventually be the Republican nominee for president— far ahead of any other candidate. Registered voters nationwide agree.

### Who Do You Expect To Be The Republican Nominee?

	Rep Primary Voters	All Registered Voters
Romney	55%	48%
Gingrich	9	7
Santorum	7	7
Paul	4	6
Perry	3	3
Huntsman	2	2
Don't know	20	26

When asked directly which candidate has the best chance to beat Barack Obama next year, Romney remains at the top of the list -- and has gained on the other candidates in the last month. Now, 49% say Romney has the best chance to win, up from 37% in December. Gingrich has dropped sharply on this measure, from 31% to just 13% now.

### Which Candidate Has Best Chance of Beating Obama?

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

	Now	Last month
Romney	49%	37%
Gingrich	13	31
Santorum	8	2
Perry	5	5
Paul	4	8
Huntsman	1	2

Rick Santorum has risen in the race for the nomination in this poll, and he resonates with these voters when it comes to his values. Santorum is now at the top of the list of candidates who best represents these voters' values, closely followed by Mitt Romney. Santorum has risen 17 points on this measure since November.

**Which Candidate Best Represents the Values You Live by?**

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

	Now	11/2011
Santorum	22%	5%
Romney	21	17
Gingrich	14	9
Paul	13	7
Perry	6	9
Huntsman	3	2

Nationally, the race for the nomination remains fluid, and most voters have not completely settled on their candidate. Among Republican voters who pick a candidate, seven 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	12/2011	11/2011	12/2007
Yes	28%	21%	28%	23%
Too early	71	79	72	76

---

This poll was conducted by telephone from January 4-8, 2012 among 1,413 adults nationwide. 1,247 interviews were conducted with registered voters and 440 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.

**CBS News Poll**  
**Romney Leads, Santorum Surges into The Top Tier**  
**January 4-8, 2012**

q15 Which one of these candidates would you like to see the Republican Party nominate for President in 2012 - Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, or would you like to see someone else nominated?

	*REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS*	Dec11b^
	%	%
Mitt Romney	19	20
Newt Gingrich	15	20
Rick Santorum	14	3
Ron Paul	10	10
Rick Perry	6	6
Jon Huntsman	4	1
Someone Else	19	19
Michele Bachmann (Vol.)	0	4
Undecided (Vol.)	7	13
No/No one	0	0
DK/NA	6	4
^Included Michele Bachmann		

q16 If you had to choose, which one of these candidates would you like to see the Republican Party nominate for President in 2012 - Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, or Rick Santorum?

	*REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS*
	(No "Someone else" choice)
	%
Mitt Romney	24
Newt Gingrich	18
Rick Santorum	18
Ron Paul	11
Rick Perry	7
Jon Huntsman	4
Someone Else (vol.)	2
Undecided (Vol.)	10
No/No one	1
DK/NA	5

q17 Is your mind made up or is it still too early to say for sure?

	*REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS WITH A CHOICE*
Mind made up	28
Still too early	71
DK/NA	1

q25 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2012, which one of these candidates do you think has the best chance of beating Barack Obama in the general election in November 2012 -- Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, or Rick Santorum?

	*REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS*	Dec11b^
	%	%
Mitt Romney	49	37
Newt Gingrich	13	31
Rick Santorum	8	2
Rick Perry	5	5
Ron Paul	4	8
Jon Huntsman	1	2
Michele Bachmann (Vol.)	0	3
All of them (Vol.)	1	2
None of them (Vol.)	3	1
DK/NA	16	9

^Included Michele Bachmann

q26 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2012, which one of these candidates do you think most represents the values you try to live by -- Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, or Rick Santorum?

		Nov11a^
Rick Santorum	22	5
Mitt Romney	21	17
Newt Gingrich	14	9
Ron Paul	13	7
Rick Perry	6	9
Jon Huntsman	3	2
Michele Bachmann (Vol.)	0	10
Herman Cain	na	13
All of them (Vol.)	0	1
None of them (Vol.)	3	8
DK/NA	18	19

^Includes Michele Bachmann and Herman Cain

q45 Regardless of who you support, who do you expect to finally win the Republican nomination for President in 2012 -- Michele Bachmann, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, or Rick Santorum?

	*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Republican Primary Voters
	%	%	%	%	%
Mitt Romney	48	51	48	44	55
Newt Gingrich	7	11	5	7	9
Rick Santorum	7	8	7	7	7
Ron Paul	6	4	7	8	4
Rick Perry	3	3	4	2	3
Jon Huntsman	2	2	1	4	2
Someone Else (vol.)	1	0	2	1	0
DK/NA	26	21	26	27	20

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>1,413</b>	
<b>Total Registered Voters</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>1,133</b>
Republicans	380	350 (31%)
Democrats	451	396 (35%)
Independents	416	387 (34%)
<b>Total Republican Primary Voters</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>398</b>