



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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The Race for the Republican Nomination: Santorum Has the Edge
February 8-13, 2012

Nationally, Rick Santorum has now pulled just ahead of Mitt Romney in Republican primary voters' preference for the Republican presidential nomination. Ron Paul is now in third, followed by Newt Gingrich. At 3 points, Santorum's lead is within the poll's margin of error.

After wins in three contests last week, 30% of Republican primary voters now support Santorum for the nomination. He received the backing of just 16% in a slightly different question last month, and was in third place behind Gingrich.

Romney, who won the Maine caucuses on Saturday, has held fairly steady since January, while Gingrich's support has fallen by 11 points. He is now in fourth place behind Paul.

2012 Republican Nomination for President
(among Republican primary voters)

Table with 3 columns: Candidate, Now, 1/2012. Rows: Rick Santorum (30%, 16%), Mitt Romney (27, 28), Ron Paul (12, 15), Newt Gingrich (10, 21)

Santorum receives strong backing from conservatives, Tea Partiers and white evangelicals.

Self-identified conservatives divided their support among the candidates in January, but in this poll they are solidly behind Santorum. He receives far more support from this group than Romney does, and conservative support for Santorum has increased since last month.

Support for Gingrich among conservatives is now half of what it was in January, just before his victory in the South Carolina primary.

2012 Republican Nomination for President
(among Republican primary voters)

Table with 3 columns: Candidate, Now, 1/2012. Sub-header: Conservatives. Rows: Santorum (38%, 24%), Romney (24, 25), Gingrich (12, 25), Paul (5, 10)

Santorum also leads the Republican field among Tea Party supporters, who make up more than four in 10 Republican primary voters, as well as evangelicals. Evangelicals were key to Santorum's narrow win in Iowa last month.

In January's national poll, Tea Partiers divided their support between Romney (29%) and Gingrich (28%), while Santorum trailed with 18%. In that same poll, 23% of white evangelicals backed Santorum and that support has risen to 39% today.

2012 Republican Nomination for President

(among Republican primary voters)

	Tea Party Supporters	White Evangelicals
Rick Santorum	36%	39%
Mitt Romney	24	23
Newt Gingrich	14	11
Ron Paul	12	10

Still, 60% of Republican primary voters nationwide say they could still change their minds about whom to support – and so the race remains fluid.

Mind Made Up Whom to Support?

(among Republican primary voters with a choice)

Yes	39%
Too early	60

This poll was conducted by telephone from February 8-13, 2012 among 1,197 adults nationwide. 1,064 interviews were conducted with registered voters and 331 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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The Republican Race
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q15 Who would you like to see the Republican party nominate as its presidential candidate in 2012 -- Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney or Rick Santorum?

	* REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS *	Jan12b*
	%	%
Rick Santorum	30	16
Mitt Romney	27	28
Ron Paul	12	15
Newt Gingrich	10	21
Someone Else (vol.)	6	3
Undecided (Vol.)	12	6
DK/NA	3	1

*Wording: 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?

q16 Is your mind made up or is it still too early to say for sure?

	* REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS WITH A CANDIDATE CHOICE *
Mind made up	39
Still too early	60
DK/NA	1

Sample sizes:

Total Respondents	1197
Total Republican primary voters	331