

**INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Moderate does better vs. Obama than Tea Partier in CO**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – As yesterday’s release showed, President Obama looks strong enough to win Colorado regardless of the name or ideology of the GOP’s headliner next year, but new results from PPP show that a candidate with a less conservative image would certainly have a better shot than one who embraces the Tea Party. A generic Tea-Party Republican would fall to Obama in Colorado by a 53-41 margin, a bigger win for the president than the overall 51-44 he posts against any old generic Republican—but still closer than his leads over the two most conservative named candidates, Sarah Palin (19 points) and Newt Gingrich (14).

A moderate Republican, however, would pull the president under 50%, lagging only 48-42, very similar to the generic ballot test and to moderate Mitt Romney’s six-point deficit. This matchup would send 14% of independents who were in Obama’s column against a Tea Partier to the undecided category, giving him only a 43-33 lead over the GOP’s more moderate nominee. But a centrist Republican would also cause slightly more Democrats to cross the aisle, and a few more Republicans to stay true to their party.

When asked if the GOP should nominate a moderate or conservative, independents favor the former by a 48-33 margin, but two-thirds of Republicans want a conservative, to only a quarter who prefer someone toward the center.

“It’s clear that if Republicans nominate someone as stridently right-wing as Sarah Palin, they will face disaster at the ballot box next November,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Their best shot is with a mainstream moderate who can still hold together the base—a daunting challenge.”

Two-fifths of Coloradans now favor full marriage equality for same-sex couples, and a further third support civil unions. Only a quarter oppose any legal recognition for gay relationships. 63% of Democrats and a 38% plurality of independents are for gay marriage. Even 38% of the GOP supports civil unions; 45% oppose unions and marriage.

More Coloradans (38%) are in favor of making the health care reform bill even stronger than the 35% who favor full repeal. That includes a 40-27 breakdown with independents.

PPP surveyed 517 Colorado voters from February 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.3%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



## Colorado Survey Results

**Q1** If the choices for president next year were Democrat Barack Obama and a conservative Republican candidate endorsed by the Tea Party, who would you vote for?

*Barack Obama*..... 53%  
*Conservative Tea Party Republican*..... 41%  
*Not sure* ..... 6%

**Q2** If the choices for president next year were Democrat Barack Obama and a moderate Republican candidate, who would you vote for?

*Barack Obama*..... 48%  
*Moderate Republican*..... 42%  
*Not sure* ..... 10%

**Q3** Would you rather Republicans next year nominated a moderate candidate or a conservative one?

*Moderate*..... 40%  
*Conservative*..... 42%  
*Not sure* ..... 17%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the new Republican majority in the US House?

*Favorable*..... 41%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 44%  
*Not sure* ..... 14%

**Q5** Who do you trust more to run the country: President Obama or Congressional Republicans?

*President Obama*..... 51%  
*Congressional Republicans* ..... 43%  
*Not sure* ..... 6%

**Q6** Do you think Barack Obama is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

*Too liberal* ..... 43%  
*Too conservative*..... 9%  
*About right* ..... 44%  
*Not sure* ..... 4%

**Q7** Do you think the Republican Party is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

*Too liberal* ..... 18%  
*Too conservative*..... 47%  
*About right* ..... 27%  
*Not sure* ..... 8%

**Q8** Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

*Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry* ..... 40%  
*Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry*..... 32%  
*There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship* ..... 25%  
*Not sure* ..... 3%





**Q9** What would you like to see the new Congress do with the health care reform bill that was passed last year: keep the bill but make it stronger, keep the bill exactly in its current form, repeal certain parts of the bill, or repeal the bill entirely?

<i>Keep the bill, make it stronger</i> .....	38%
<i>Keep exactly in its current form</i> .....	5%
<i>Repeal certain parts</i> .....	19%
<i>Repeal entirely</i> .....	35%
<i>Not sure</i> .....	2%

**Q10** Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i> .....	42%
<i>Barack Obama</i> .....	51%
<i>Someone Else/Don't Remember</i> .....	7%

**Q11** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

<i>Liberal</i> .....	25%
<i>Moderate</i> .....	41%
<i>Conservative</i> .....	35%

**Q12** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i> .....	54%
<i>Man</i> .....	46%

**Q13** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i> .....	43%
<i>Republican</i> .....	35%
<i>Independent/Other</i> .....	22%

**Q14** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>Hispanic</i> .....	14%
<i>White</i> .....	81%
<i>Other</i> .....	5%

**Q15** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i> .....	8%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	24%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	48%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama/Tea Party Republican</b>				
Barack Obama	53%	8%	93%	28%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	85%	4%	48%
Not sure	6%	8%	3%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama/Moderate Republican</b>				
Barack Obama	48%	6%	85%	26%
Moderate Republican	42%	85%	5%	53%
Not sure	10%	9%	10%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?</b>				
Moderate	40%	21%	58%	27%
Conservative	42%	71%	19%	38%
Not sure	17%	8%	23%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>GOP House Majority Favorability</b>				
Favorable	41%	82%	8%	38%
Unfavorable	44%	7%	79%	22%
Not sure	14%	12%	13%	40%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More?</b>				
<b>President Obama</b>	51%	7%	92%	22%
<b>Congressional Republicans</b>	43%	87%	4%	57%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	6%	5%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama Ideology</b>				
<b>Too liberal</b>	43%	88%	6%	42%
<b>Too conservative</b>	9%	5%	13%	5%
<b>About right</b>	44%	5%	79%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	2%	2%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>GOP Ideology</b>				
<b>Too liberal</b>	18%	30%	6%	27%
<b>Too conservative</b>	47%	11%	80%	27%
<b>About right</b>	27%	52%	6%	30%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	7%	8%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Gay Marriage</b>				
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry</b>	40%	10%	66%	25%
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry</b>	32%	43%	25%	25%
<b>There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship</b>	25%	43%	7%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	4%	2%	3%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Health Care Repeal</b>				
Keep the bill, make it stronger	38%	5%	69%	17%
Keep exactly in its current form	5%	2%	9%	-
Repeal certain parts	19%	21%	16%	34%
Repeal entirely	35%	70%	3%	47%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	2%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Tea Party Republican</b>				
Barack Obama	53%	90%	69%	6%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	8%	20%	90%
Not sure	6%	2%	11%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Moderate Republican</b>				
Barack Obama	48%	88%	58%	6%
Moderate Republican	42%	10%	26%	85%
Not sure	10%	2%	16%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?</b>				
Moderate	40%	50%	63%	7%
Conservative	42%	31%	14%	84%
Not sure	17%	20%	23%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>GOP House Majority Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	41%	9%	23%	86%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	44%	80%	54%	8%
<b>Not sure</b>	14%	11%	23%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More ?</b>				
<b>President Obama</b>	51%	88%	66%	6%
<b>Congressional Republicans</b>	43%	10%	24%	89%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	2%	10%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Ideology</b>				
<b>Too liberal</b>	43%	11%	26%	86%
<b>Too conservative</b>	9%	21%	7%	3%
<b>About right</b>	44%	66%	63%	7%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	2%	4%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>GOP Ideology</b>				
<b>Too liberal</b>	18%	10%	6%	37%
<b>Too conservative</b>	47%	80%	65%	3%
<b>About right</b>	27%	7%	18%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	3%	12%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Gay Marriage</b>				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	76%	47%	6%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	32%	15%	35%	41%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	25%	8%	13%	51%
Not sure	3%	1%	5%	2%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Health Care Repeal</b>				
Keep the bill, make it stronger	38%	72%	46%	6%
Keep exactly in its current form	5%	6%	8%	2%
Repeal certain parts	19%	8%	28%	17%
Repeal entirely	35%	10%	15%	75%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Tea Party Republican</b>			
Barack Obama	53%	56%	49%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	37%	46%
Not sure	6%	7%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Moderate Republican</b>			
Barack Obama	48%	51%	43%
Moderate Republican	42%	39%	46%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?</b>			
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>40%</b>	39%	42%
<b>Conservative</b>	<b>42%</b>	40%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>17%</b>	21%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>GOP House Majority Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>41%</b>	37%	45%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>44%</b>	46%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	17%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More?</b>			
<b>President Obama</b>	<b>51%</b>	55%	46%
<b>Congressional     Republicans</b>	<b>43%</b>	39%	46%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>6%</b>	5%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Ideology</b>			
<b>Too liberal</b>	<b>43%</b>	39%	47%
<b>Too conservative</b>	<b>9%</b>	7%	11%
<b>About right</b>	<b>44%</b>	50%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>4%</b>	3%	5%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>GOP Ideology</b>			
<b>Too liberal</b>	18%	14%	22%
<b>Too conservative</b>	47%	49%	46%
<b>About right</b>	27%	27%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	10%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gay Marriage</b>			
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry</b>	40%	45%	34%
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry</b>	32%	29%	36%
<b>There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship</b>	25%	23%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	3%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Health Care Repeal</b>			
<b>Keep the bill, make it stronger</b>	38%	39%	38%
<b>Keep exactly in its current form</b>	5%	6%	4%
<b>Repeal certain parts</b>	19%	23%	15%
<b>Repeal entirely</b>	35%	29%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	3%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Tea Party Republican</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	53%	87%	8%	57%
<b>Conservative Tea Party Republican</b>	41%	10%	83%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	3%	8%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Moderate Republican</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	48%	83%	7%	43%
<b>Moderate Republican</b>	42%	12%	85%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	5%	7%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?</b>				
<b>Moderate</b>	40%	49%	25%	48%
<b>Conservative</b>	42%	27%	66%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	24%	8%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>GOP House Majority Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	41%	12%	82%	31%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	44%	74%	9%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	14%	14%	9%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More?</b>				
<b>President Obama</b>	51%	86%	7%	52%
<b>Congressional Republicans</b>	43%	11%	86%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	3%	6%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Ideology</b>				
<b>Too liberal</b>	43%	13%	85%	33%
<b>Too conservative</b>	9%	14%	2%	11%
<b>About right</b>	44%	72%	9%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	1%	4%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>GOP Ideology</b>				
<b>Too liberal</b>	18%	11%	26%	16%
<b>Too conservative</b>	47%	70%	14%	56%
<b>About right</b>	27%	10%	53%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	8%	6%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gay Marriage</b>				
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry</b>	40%	63%	13%	38%
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry</b>	32%	27%	38%	34%
<b>There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship</b>	25%	9%	45%	23%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	2%	4%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Health Care Repeal</b>				
<b>Keep the bill, make it stronger</b>	38%	65%	5%	40%
<b>Keep exactly in its current form</b>	5%	7%	3%	6%
<b>Repeal certain parts</b>	19%	14%	22%	25%
<b>Repeal entirely</b>	35%	10%	69%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	2%	3%	1%	2%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Obama/Tea Party Republican</b>				
Barack Obama	53%	63%	50%	70%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	32%	43%	30%
Not sure	6%	5%	7%	-

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Obama/Moderate Republican</b>				
Barack Obama	48%	63%	44%	68%
Moderate Republican	42%	33%	45%	30%
Not sure	10%	4%	12%	2%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?</b>				
Moderate	40%	28%	43%	36%
Conservative	42%	45%	41%	56%
Not sure	17%	27%	16%	8%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>GOP House Majority Favorability</b>				
Favorable	41%	36%	42%	39%
Unfavorable	44%	51%	43%	54%
Not sure	14%	13%	15%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More?</b>				
<b>President Obama</b>	51%	61%	48%	70%
<b>Congressional     Republicans</b>	43%	35%	45%	30%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	4%	7%	-

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Obama Ideology</b>				
<b>Too liberal</b>	43%	34%	45%	27%
<b>Too conservative</b>	9%	13%	7%	35%
<b>About right</b>	44%	50%	44%	32%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	3%	4%	7%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>GOP Ideology</b>				
<b>Too liberal</b>	18%	29%	15%	29%
<b>Too conservative</b>	47%	44%	47%	54%
<b>About right</b>	27%	15%	30%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	13%	8%	-

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Gay Marriage</b>				
<b>Gay couples should     be allowed to legally     marry</b>	40%	50%	38%	39%
<b>Gay couples should     be allowed to form     civil unions but not     legally marry</b>	32%	18%	35%	27%
<b>There should be no     legal recognition of a     gay couple's     relationship</b>	25%	29%	24%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	3%	3%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Health Care Repeal</b>				
Keep the bill, make it stronger	38%	43%	36%	64%
Keep exactly in its current form	5%	6%	6%	-
Repeal certain parts	19%	18%	21%	6%
Repeal entirely	35%	30%	36%	30%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	-

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Tea Party Republican</b>					
Barack Obama	53%	57%	58%	54%	40%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	29%	40%	39%	51%
Not sure	6%	14%	2%	6%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Moderate Republican</b>					
Barack Obama	48%	52%	50%	50%	37%
Moderate Republican	42%	38%	40%	40%	53%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?</b>					
Moderate	40%	33%	40%	43%	38%
Conservative	42%	38%	45%	41%	44%
Not sure	17%	29%	15%	17%	18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>GOP House Majority Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	41%	19%	43%	39%	52%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	44%	62%	48%	44%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	14%	19%	8%	18%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More?</b>					
<b>President Obama</b>	51%	57%	57%	52%	40%
<b>Congressional Republicans</b>	43%	38%	40%	40%	55%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	5%	3%	9%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Ideology</b>					
<b>Too liberal</b>	43%	33%	42%	42%	51%
<b>Too conservative</b>	9%	19%	10%	9%	5%
<b>About right</b>	44%	38%	47%	47%	39%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	10%	2%	3%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>GOP Ideology</b>					
<b>Too liberal</b>	18%	29%	22%	16%	11%
<b>Too conservative</b>	47%	48%	50%	51%	36%
<b>About right</b>	27%	10%	22%	25%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	14%	7%	8%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gay Marriage</b>					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	57%	47%	40%	25%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	32%	29%	28%	31%	42%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	25%	14%	20%	26%	33%
Not sure	3%	-	5%	4%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Health Care Repeal</b>					
Keep the bill, make it stronger	38%	38%	50%	37%	27%
Keep exactly in its current form	5%	10%	2%	7%	5%
Repeal certain parts	19%	10%	17%	20%	24%
Repeal entirely	35%	43%	30%	34%	38%
Not sure	2%	-	2%	1%	5%

