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Ron Sachs Communications/Mason-Dixon Florida Poll Finds President Obama Trailing Govs. Romney, Huckabee

~Romney leads pack of Republican Presidential hopefuls~

Tallahassee, FL - Former Governors Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee would win Florida's 29 electoral votes over President Barack Obama if the 2012 Presidential election were held today, according to the results of a new statewide Ron Sachs Communications/Mason-Dixon Poll released Monday.

"President Obama's hopes for reelection will either be warmed or eclipsed by the 'Sunshine State,'" said Ron Sachs, president and CEO of Ron Sachs Communications who commissioned the poll. "Already, it's clear that he has considerable work to do to make his incumbency an asset, rather than a liability, in a Florida that has drifted more conservative than even four years ago."

In head-to-head matchups between hypothetical Republican nominees and President Obama, Governor Romney leads with 48 percent to 43 percent for President Obama. Governor Huckabee leads with 49 percent to 44 percent for President Obama. The President leads against all other Republican hopefuls included in the poll.

The poll, which was conducted April 4 through April 7 by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, also found Governor Romney leading with 23 percent support among a sample size of 400 likely Republican primary voters. In what seems to be developing into a crowded Republican primary field, 13 candidates were included in the poll, including Governor Mike Huckabee, real estate magnate Donald Trump, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Governor Tim Pawlenty and others.

"Governor Mitt Romney is the early favorite - most likely benefiting from his high name recognition following his 2008 Presidential run," said Mason-Dixon Managing Director Brad Coker. "As more candidates announce and more voters begin paying attention, expect the race in Florida to become much more competitive."

Among the poll's key findings:

- 43 percent approve of President Obama's performance as President while 51 percent disapprove.
- Governor Romney receives 48 percent to President Obama's 43 percent in a hypothetical matchup.

- Governor Huckabee receives 49 percent to President Obama's 44 percent in a hypothetical matchup.
- President Obama would receive 48 percent of the vote against former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, who would receive 39 percent.
- President Obama would receive 48 percent of the vote against Donald Trump, who would receive 40 percent.

In a hypothetical Republican primary contest, the Sachs/Mason-Dixon Poll shows:

- Mitt Romney received 23 percent.
- Mike Huckabee received 18 percent.
- Donald Trump received 13 percent.
- Newt Gingrich received 11 percent.
- Tim Pawlenty received 8 percent.
- Sarah Palin received 5 percent.
- Mitch Daniels received 4 percent.
- Ron Paul received 3 percent.
- Michelle Bachman received 1 percent.
- Rick Santorum received 1 percent.
- Haley Barbour received no votes with 13 percent of the voters undecided.

The Sachs/Mason-Dixon Poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent. A total of 800 registered voters were interviewed statewide by telephone. All respondents stated they vote regularly in state elections.

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HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

This poll was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. of Washington, D.C. from April 4 through April 7, 2011. A total of 800 registered voters were interviewed statewide by telephone. All stated they vote regularly in state elections.

Those interviewed were selected by the random variation of the last four digits of telephone numbers. A cross-section of exchanges was utilized and quotas were assigned to

reflect voter turn-out by county. The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figure would fall within that range if all voters were surveyed. The margin for error is higher for any subgroup, such as a gender or party grouping. This survey also includes an over-sampling of 400 likely Republican primary voters. Only the question relative to the GOP presidential primary race was asked of these additional voters, and not the questions concerning the general election. The margin for error for the Republican primary voter sample is plus or minus 5%.

***** 400 LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS *****

QUESTION: If the 2012 Republican primary were held today, which one of the following candidates would get your vote? (ORDER ROTATED)

Mitt Romney	23%
Mike Huckabee	18%
Donald Trump	13%
Newt Gingrich	11%
Tim Pawlenty	8%
Sarah Palin	5%
Mitch Daniels	4%
Ron Paul	3%
Michelle Bachman	1%
Rick Santorum	1%
Haley Barbour	-
Undecided	13%

ALL VOTERS

QUESTION: Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>IND</u>
APPROVE	43%	38%	47%	78%	7%	34%
DISAPPROVE	51%	57%	46%	16%	89%	56%
NOT SURE	6%	5%	7%	6%	4%	10%

QUESTION: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, for whom would you vote if the choice were between Barack

Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>IND</u>
ROMNEY	48%	53%	44%	13%	86%	46%
OBAMA	43%	41%	44%	80%	5%	39%
UNDECIDED	9%	6%	12%	7%	9%	15%

QUESTION: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, for whom would you vote if the choice were between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mike Huckabee, the Republican?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>IND</u>
HUCKABEE	49%	54%	44%	15%	88%	44%
OBAMA	44%	40%	48%	83%	3%	40%
UNDECIDED	7%	6%	8%	2%	9%	16%

QUESTION: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, for whom would you vote if the choice were between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Sarah Palin, the Republican?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>IND</u>
OBAMA	51%	47%	54%	89%	9%	49%
PALIN	39%	43%	36%	7%	74%	37%
UNDECIDED	10%	10%	10%	4%	17%	14%

QUESTION: If the 2012 presidential election were held today, for whom would you vote if the choice were between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Donald Trump, the Republican?

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>IND</u>
OBAMA	48%	41%	54%	81%	13%	43%
TRUMP	40%	45%	35%	14%	69%	36%
UNDECIDED	12%	14%	11%	5%	18%	21%

DEMOGRAPHICS :

PARTY REGISTRATION:

Democrat	354 (44%)
Republican	317 (40%)
Independent or Other	129 (16%)

AGE:	18-34	93 (12%)
	35-49	220 (28%)
	50-64	227 (28%)
	65+	258 (32%)
	Refused	2 -

RACE/ETHNICITY:

White/Caucasian	602 (75%)
Black/African American	98 (12%)
Hispanic or Cuban	93 (12%)
Other/Refused	7 (1%)

SEX:

Male	390 (49%)
Female	410 (51%)

REGION:

North Florida	150 (19%)
Central Florida	170 (21%)
Tampa Bay	150 (19%)
Southwest Florida	90 (11%)
Southeast Florida	240 (30%)