



INSIDE MICHIGAN POLITICS

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Romney, Hoekstra Alone at Top of GOP Primary Fields *Romney in dead heat with Obama, Perry trails by 11*

Lansing—If the Michigan GOP primary elections for President and US Senate were held today Mitt Romney and Pete Hoekstra would win in landslides. In the presidential primary race Rick Perry is the closest competitor to Romney. In the race for the Senate none of the other candidates come close to breaking into double digits against Hoekstra.

In the US Senate race among definite GOP primary voters, Hoekstra captures 51 percent of the vote. His closest competitor is Clark Durant at three percent.

In the Presidential primary ballot test, Romney receives 40 percent to Perry's 17, followed by Newt Gingrich at eight, Herman Cain at seven, and Ron Paul at five. None of the other candidates receive more than three percent, including Michigan Congressman Thaddeus McCotter who gets one percent of the vote.

In general election head to head match-ups among all likely voters in Michigan, Romney is tied with Obama at 44 percent while Perry trails Obama 50 to 39 percent.

"Pete Hoekstra has more votes than each of his six potential competitors combined. Pete is the only candidate with statewide name recognition. Even Pete's best-known opponent, Clark Durant, gets only five percent of the Metro Detroit vote. Right now, Hoekstra is in the driver's seat and it will take a lot of money and advertising for any of his opponents to begin to be competitive," said MRG president Tom Shields.

"Mitt Romney continues to perform much better in Michigan than he does on the national level. In almost every national poll of Republican primary voters Rick Perry has overtaken Romney as the GOP frontrunner. The strength of the Romney name is surprising since George Romney's last year as Governor of the state was over 40 years ago," said IMP publisher Bill Ballenger.

The actual wording of the questions and the results are below...

If the Republican primary election for US Senator were being held today, and the candidates were (**ROTATE**: Scotty Boman, Chad Dewey, Clark Durant, Gary Glenn, Randy Hekman, Pete Hoekstra and Peter Konetchy) for whom would you vote? (**IF REF/DK, ASK**: Which way do you lean as of today, toward (**ROTATE**: Boman, Dewey, Durant, Glenn, Hekman, Hoekstra or Konetchy)?)

	ALL POSSIBLE GOP VOTERS (n=310) (± 5.6)	DEF. GOP ONLY (n=225) (± 6.5)
TOTAL BOMAN.....	2%	2%
TOTAL DEWEY.....	*	*
TOTAL DURANT.....	3%	3%
TOTAL GLENN.....	1%	2%
TOTAL HEKMAN.....	2%	2%
TOTAL HOEKSTRA.....	41%	51%
TOTAL KONETCHY.....	*	*
TOTAL UNDECIDED.....	50%	39%

If the Republican primary election for President were being held today, and the candidates were (**ROTATE**: Michele Bachman, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Thaddeus McCotter, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum) for whom would you vote? (**IF REF/DK, ASK**: Which way do you lean as of today, toward (**ROTATE**: Bachman, Cain, Gingrich, Huntsman, McCotter, Paul, Perry, Romney or Santorum)?)

	ALL POSSIBLE GOP VOTERS (n=310) (± 5.6)	DEF. GOP ONLY (n=225) (± 6.5)
TOTAL BACHMAN.....	3%	3%
TOTAL CAIN.....	5%	7%
TOTAL GINGRICH.....	7%	8%
TOTAL HUNTSMAN.....	3%	*
TOTAL MCCOTTER.....	2%	1%
TOTAL PAUL.....	6%	5%
TOTAL PERRY.....	13%	17%
TOTAL ROMNEY.....	34%	40%
TOTAL SANTORUM.....	1%	2%
TOTAL UNDECIDED.....	27%	17%

If the general election for President were being held today, and the candidates were (**ROTATE**: Mitt Romney the Republican and Barack Obama the Democrat), for whom would you vote? (**IF UNDECIDED OR REFUSED, ASK**: Which way do you lean as of today, toward Romney or Obama?)

Vote Romney.....	42%
Lean Romney.....	2%
Vote Obama.....	42%
Lean Obama.....	3%
Don't know/Undecided.....	10%
Refused.....	1%
TOTAL ROMNEY.....	44%
TOTAL OBAMA.....	44%

And if the general election candidates for President were (**ROTATE:** Rick Perry the Republican and Barack Obama the Democrat), for whom would you vote? (**IF UNDECIDED OR REFUSED, ASK:** Which way do you lean as of today, toward Perry or Obama?)

Vote Perry.....	35%
Lean Perry.....	4%
Vote Obama.....	47%
Lean Obama.....	3%
Don't know/Undecided.....	10%
Refused.....	1%
TOTAL PERRY.....	39%
TOTAL OBAMA.....	50%

* indicates less than 1%

The survey sampled 600 likely voters, stratified by city and/or township and based on past voting history. The statistical margin of error is +/- 4 percent. The survey was conducted September 14-19, 2011. Eighty-eight percent of the surveys were conducted over the telephone by professional interviewers and 12 percent were conducted online with likely voters in cell-phone-only households. Twenty-six percent of the respondents identified themselves as Republicans, 30 percent as Democrats and 43 percent as Independents.

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Lansing, Michigan-based Marketing Resource Group, Inc. (www.mrgmi.com) is an award-winning PR firm representing corporate, association, nonprofit, and private clients with interests in Michigan. MRG offers expertise in public affairs, communications, political campaign management, and public opinion survey research. For more than thirty years, MRG has conducted its bi-annual omnibus Michigan Poll™, tracking the pulse of Michigan voters on key statewide public policy and political issues. MRG is the only Michigan public opinion survey research firm that maintains nearly 30 years of trend analyses of voter attitudes related to state and national leaders, political parties, and the political and economic climate in Michigan. MRG has earned six Public Relations Society of America Silver Anvil awards, the PR profession's highest honor.

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