

**Mitchell Research &
Communications Inc.
and
Rosetta Stone Communications**

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 23, 2012

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Romney Maintains Lead in Michigan

Romney 36% - Santorum 33% - Paul 12% - Gingrich 9%

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Fueled by a strong debate performance Wednesday night, Mitt Romney continues to lead Rick Santorum in the latest Mitchell/Rosetta Stone Poll of Michigan conducted for MIRS (Michigan Information & Research Service) the night after the CNN Debate. The two front runners are still in a statistical dead heat, although Romney (36%) has increased his lead by 1% over Rick Santorum (33%) while Ron Paul (12%) replaced Newt Gingrich (9%) in third place. Undecided voters dropped in half to 11%.

The telephone survey of 430 likely 2012 Republican Presidential Primary voters was conducted jointly by Mitchell Research & Communications, Inc. of East Lansing, Michigan and Rosetta Stone Communications of Atlanta, Georgia on Thursday, February 23, 2012, and has a margin of error of + or – 4.7%. It was an automated IVR (Interactive Voice Response) Poll.

“Romney’s lead seems to have solidified after real volatility over the past two weeks. Romney has made big inroads with conservatives over the past ten days: Santorum’s 16% lead among Tea Party voters has been erased and he is now tied with them; his 16% lead with Evangelical Christians has now been cut in half to 8%, and Santorum’s 31% lead with self-identified “very conservatives” has now been cut to 13%. Romney had to persuade fiscal and social conservatives that he was more conservative than they thought he was. He also had to persuade them that Santorum was not as conservative as Santorum said he was. Romney seems to be accomplishing both those tasks,” Steve Mitchell, president of Mitchell Research & Communications, Inc. said.

John Garst, President of Rosetta Stone Communications in Atlanta, said “Romney was the clear winner in the debate last night. A third of the voters (33%) said that Romney won compared to only 13% who said Santorum, 10% who said Paul, and 9% who said Gingrich. Almost one in ten voters said they switched their support as a result of the debate. Of those that switched, Romney (27%) was leading Paul (24%), Santorum (22%) and Gingrich (11%). That would explain a slight uptick in Romney’s lead from a survey we conducted Monday night.”

Highlights of the poll were as follows:

The polling shows that three fourths of the voters are self-identified Republicans (77%) up from two-thirds (69%) Monday, while one-fifth are either Democrats (7%) or independents (13%). Three percent said they were from another party.

Romney has gone from being behind by 10% among Republicans to being 9% ahead. He now leads by 1% among men after trailing by 23% ten days ago.

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The following is a comparison between the February 12th, 20th, and 23rd polls:

	Newt Gingrich	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum	Undecided
Total 2/12	5%	11%	24%	34%	25%
Total 2/20	9	7	32	30	22
Total 2/23	9	12	36	33	11
Democrats 2/12	4	16	15	20	45
Democrats 2/20	13	11	16	19	41
Democrats 2/23	19	16	3	36	26
Independents 2/12	0	21	20	26	33
Independents 2/20	10	10	23	31	26
Independents 2/23	7	31	22	26	15
Republicans 2/12	7	9	29	39	17
Republicans 2/20	9	5	38	34	15
Republicans 2/23	8	8	42	33	8
	Newt Gingrich	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum	Undecided
Total 2/12	5%	11%	24%	34%	25%
Total 2/20	9	7	32	30	22
Total 2/23	9	12	36	33	11
Males 2/12	7	13	19	42	19
Males 2/20	10	7	31	33	20
Males 2/23	9	15	35	34	8
Females 2/12	4	9	29	28	30
Females 2/20	9	7	34	27	24
Females 2/23	8	9	37	31	15
	Newt Gingrich	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum	Undecided
Total 2/12	5%	11%	24%	34%	25%
Total 2/20	9	7	32	30	22
Total 2/23	9	12	36	33	11
18-39 Yrs Old 2/12	3	33	13	27	23
18-39 Yrs Old 2/20	19	10	10	35	27
18-39 Yrs Old 2/23	19	17	26	26	12
40-59 Yrs Old 2/12	8	13	17	35	27
40-59 Yrs Old 2/20	7	9	30	33	22
40-59 Yrs Old 2/23	6	15	34	38	7
60+ Yrs Old 2/12	4	7	30	35	25
60+ Yrs Old 2/20	8	4	40	27	21
60+ Yrs Old 2/23	9	12	36	33	11

	Newt Gingrich	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum	3 Undecided
Total 2/12	5%	11%	24%	34%	25%
Total 2/20	9	7	32	30	22
Total 2/23	9	12	36	33	11
Detroit 2/12	5	13	23	31	29
Detroit 2/20	9	5	40	28	17
Detroit 2/23	9	18	37	24	11
Grand Rapids 2/12	7	9	28	45	11
Grand Rapids 2/20	8	14	19	33	27
Grand Rapids 2/23	10	10	30	41	10
Other Areas in MI 2/23	8	9	37	34	12

	Newt Gingrich	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum	Undecided
Total 2/12	5%	11%	24%	34%	25%
Total 2/20	9	7	32	30	22
Total 2/23	9	12	36	33	11
Tea Party Supporters 2/12	7	8	25	42	18
Tea Party Supporters 2/20	11	4	32	38	16
Tea Party Supporters 2/23	10	10	37	37	7
Tea Party Opponents 2/12	2	18	22	23	35
Tea Party Opponents 2/20	7	13	34	18	28
Tea Party Opponents 2/23	7	20	34	19	21

	Newt Gingrich	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum	Undecided
Total 2/12	5%	11%	24%	34%	25%
Total 2/20	9	7	32	30	22
Total 2/23	9	12	36	33	11
Conservatives (very) 2/12	8	7	19	50	17
Conservatives (very) 2/20	14	5	25	41	15
Conservatives (very) 2/23	12	7	31	44	6
Conservatives 2/12	5	11	29	27	29
Conservatives 2/20	6	5	41	25	23
Conservatives 2/23	6	12	46	21	15
Liberals 2/12	2	21	22	19	36
Liberals 2/20	8	13	27	21	31
Liberals 2/23	5	29	19	29	19

	Newt Gingrich	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum	4 Undecided
Total 2/12	5%	11%	24%	34%	25%
Total 2/20	9	7	32	30	22
Total 2/23	9	12	36	33	11
Evangelicals 2/12	6	11	21	37	26
Evangelicals 2/20	8	6	24	35	29
Evangelicals 2/23	9	8	33	40	10
Non-Evangelicals 2/12	5	11	29	31	24
Non-Evangelicals 2/20	11	8	40	26	16
Non-Evangelicals 2/23	8	16	38	25	13

In order to be surveyed, voters had to pass the following screen:

In the upcoming February 28th Presidential Primary you can either vote for a field of Republicans or you can vote in the Democratic Primary for Barack Obama. Whichever primary you vote in, you have to declare yourself to be a member of that party. The fact that you declare yourself to be a Republican or Democrat will be public information that anyone can get. The list of those who vote in the Democratic or Republican Primary will be made available to list vendors. Knowing this, are you definitely voting, probably voting, not sure yet, or definitely not voting. Those who said they were definitely not voting were not surveyed.

Only those saying they were voting in the Republican Primary were surveyed.

(Mitchell Research & Communications, Inc. has been the most accurate media pollster in every Presidential Primary and General Election in Michigan since 1992. In each of the last four Presidential General Elections the company's final polling has been almost identical to the actual results. The Mitchell USA Poll has also been dead-on accurate in the last two presidential elections.)