



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

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Ongoing Primaries Seen as Bad for the Party

74% of Republicans Say Romney 'Definitely' the GOP Nominee

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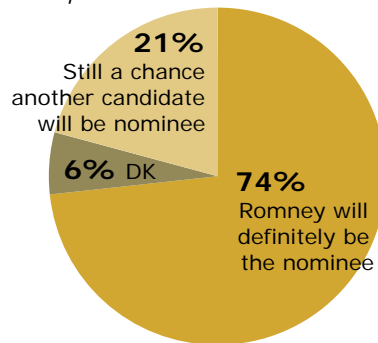
Ongoing Primaries Seen as Bad for the Party 74% of Republicans Say Romney ‘Definitely’ the Nominee

Following primary victories in Wisconsin, Maryland and the District of Columbia last Tuesday, Mitt Romney is clearly seen as the inevitable GOP nominee, and Republicans now see continued primaries as bad for the party.

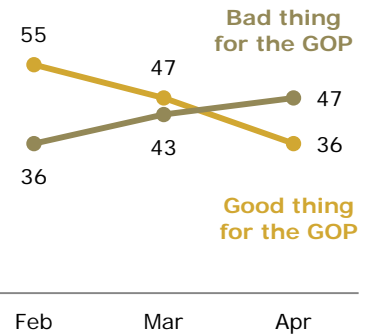
In the latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, conducted April 5-8, 2012, roughly three-quarters (74%) of Republican and Republican-leaning voters say that Romney will definitely be the Republican Party’s nominee this fall. Only 21% believe a candidate other than Romney still has a chance to become the party’s nominee.

Republicans See Contest as Sewn Up

Impression of the GOP contest



The fact that the primaries are still going on...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 5-8, 2012. Based on 295 Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters.

And Republicans’ appetite for the ongoing primary campaign has soured. By a 47% to 36% margin, more say it is a bad for the party, not good, that the nomination race has not yet been decided and is still going on. Just a month ago, Republicans were split on this question, and as recently as February a majority thought it was a good thing for the party that the nomination had not yet been finalized.

The sense of Romney’s inevitability is shared by Democrats as well: 64% of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters also see Romney as the inevitable nominee. And 63% of Democrats believe that the long GOP primary is bad for the Republican Party.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted April 5-8, 2012 among a national sample of 1,000 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (600 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 400 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 191 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,000	4.0 percentage points
Rep/Rep leaning RVs	295	7.0 percentage points
Dem/Dem leaning RVs	361	6.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
APRIL 5-8, 2012 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,000**

PEW.1-PEW.5, PEW.11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO PEW.6, PEW.9-10

ASK ALL:

PEW.7 Do you think the fact that the Republican primary contest has not yet been decided and is still going on is a good thing or a bad thing for the Republican Party?

BASED ON

TOTAL:

Apr 5-8

2012

26	Good thing
51	Bad thing
5	Neither/Still early (VOL.)
17	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN-LEANING
REGISTERED VOTERS [N=295]:**

Apr 5-8

Mar 7-11

Feb 8-12

2012

2012

2012

36	47	55
47	43	36
8	3	4
9	7	5

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Dem/Dem Leaning Registered Voters

Democratic Primary Contest (Clinton/Obama)

May

Apr

Mar

Late Feb

2008¹

2008

2008

2008

Good thing	38	35	44	57
Bad thing	48	51	41	27
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	14	14	15	16

ASK ALL:

PEW.8 From what you've read and heard, do you think Mitt Romney will definitely be the Republican nominee for president this year, or is there still a chance that another candidate will become the nominee?

BASED ON

TOTAL:

Apr 5-8

2012

61	Romney will definitely be the nominee
26	Still a chance another candidate will be the nominee
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN-LEANING
REGISTERED VOTERS [N=295]:**

Apr 5-8

2012

74

21

6

¹ In May 2008, the question read: "Do you think the fact that the contest between Clinton and Obama is still going on is a good thing or a bad thing for the Democratic Party?" In April 2008 and earlier, the question read: "Do you think the fact that the contest between Clinton and Obama has not yet been decided is ..."