**ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL: 2016 Election**

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AFTER 12:01 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, 2014**

**Romney Leads Scattered 2016 GOP Field,**

**Clinton Still Dominates the Democratic Race**

Hillary Clinton continues to hold a commanding lead in the potential Democratic field for president in 2016, while the GOP frontrunner in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll is a familiar figure – but one not favored by eight in 10 potential Republican voters.

That would be Mitt Romney, supported for the GOP nomination by 21 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. That’s double the support of his closest potential rival, but it also leaves 79 percent who prefer one of 13 other possible candidates tested, or none of them.

When Romney is excluded from the race, his supporters scatter, adding no clarity to the GOP free-for-all. In that scenario former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul have 12 or 13 percent support from leaned Republicans who are registered to vote. All others have support in the single digits.

Were Romney to run again, he’d likely face some of the same challenges that dragged out the 2012 GOP contest. He’s supported by only half as many “strong” conservatives as those who are “somewhat” conservative, 15 vs. 30 percent in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](http://www.langerresearch.com).

Huckabee, for his part, does somewhat better with Republican-leaning independents than with mainline Republicans, a potential problem in closed primaries. He also does better with women than with men; that’s reversed for Paul.

 ----------------- Registered voters -------------

 Romney Bush Huckabee Paul Christie Ryan

 All 21% 10 10 9 8 5

 Men 24 10 6 13 9 7

 Women 18 10 14 5 6 4

 Republicans 23 12 8 8 7 6

 Independents 20 7 16 9 10 1

 Very conservative 15 13 8 9 3 4

 Somewhat cons. 30 7 11 13 8 5

DEMS – Clinton continues to dominate on the Democratic side, with 64 percent support. Still, there are some gaps in her support: It’s 54 percent among men vs. 70 percent of women and

55 percent among those younger than 50 vs. 72 percent among those 50 and older. And she gets less support from Democratic-leaning independents, 53 percent, than from mainline Democrats, 69 percent.

Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts have 13 and 11 percent support, respectively. Biden does better among those under 50, those with less education and nonwhites; Warren, among college graduates and whites.

                       --- Registered voters ---

            Clinton   Biden Warren

 All          64%      13   11

 Men          54       18 16

 Women        70       10 8

 Under 50     55       21       11

 Over 50      72        7       11

 Democrats         69       11    10

             Independents      53       20 14

                  Liberals        67        8 18

                  Moderates        58       17 8

                  Whites          61       10       16

                  Nonwhites       67       19       4

                  HS or less     63      23        5

                  Some college   69 9       6

                  College grad    60   7       20

It’s early days for all this, of course; the 2016 election is two years away. But after the midterms just two weeks off, it’ll be the next item on the dance card.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Oct. 9-12, 2014, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,006 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents.Results among the 871 registered voters interviewed have a margin of [sampling error](http://abcnews.go.com/PollingUnit/story?id=5984818&page=1) of 4 points, including design effect.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](http://langerresearch.com/) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Ryan Struyk.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

Media contact: Van Scott Jr., (212) 456-7423.

Full results follow.

\*in data columns = less than 0.5 percent

1-34 previously released.

35. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) I'm going to read a list of possible candidates for the Democratic nomination for president in 2016. After you hear the list, please tell me, if the 2016 Democratic presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, for whom would you vote?

10/12/14 - NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE

 --- Among RVs ----

 10/12 6/1 1/23

Joe Biden 13 12 11

Hillary Clinton 64 69 73

Andrew Cuomo NA 2 NA

Martin O'Malley 1 2 NA

Bernie Sanders 1 2 NA

Brian Schweitzer NA 1 NA

Elizabeth Warren 11 7 9

Jim Webb 2 1 NA

Other (vol.) 0 0 \*

None of these (vol.) 3 2 3

Would not vote (vol.) 0 0 \*

No opinion 5 2 4

36. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) I'm going to read a list of possible candidates for the Republican nomination for president in 2016. If the 2016 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, for whom would you vote? Which candidate would you lean toward?

10/12/14 - NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE

 ---- Among RVs -----

 10/12 4/27 1/23\*

Jeb Bush 10 12 18

Ben Carson 6 NA NA

Chris Christie 8 9 14

Ted Cruz 3 7 12

Mike Huckabee 10 14 NA

Bobby Jindal 1 2 NA

John Kasich 1 1 NA

Rand Paul 9 15 11

Rick Perry 5 5 NA

Mitt Romney 21 NA NA

Paul Ryan 5 12 18

Marco Rubio 6 6 10

Rick Santorum 4 NA NA

Scott Walker 1 5 NA

Other (vol.) 1 2 2

None of these (vol.) 2 4 4

Would not vote (vol.) 0 \* 1

No opinion 6 5 9

\*"If the 2016 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state was being held today, and the candidates were..."

37. (IF WOULD VOTE FOR ROMNEY) If Romney does not run for president, for whom would you vote? Which candidate would you lean toward?

10/12/14 - NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE – ALL LEANED REPS

 RVs

Jeb Bush 13

Ben Carson 7

Chris Christie 8

Ted Cruz 4

Mike Huckabee 12

Bobby Jindal 2

John Kasich 2

Rand Paul 12

Rick Perry 6

Paul Ryan 9

Marco Rubio 8

Rick Santorum 4

Scott Walker 2

Other (vol.) 1

None of these (vol.) 3

Would not vote (vol.) 0

No opinion 9

\*\*\*END\*\*\*