

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2009

INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Snowe finds more friends in Democratic ranks

Raleigh, N.C. – Following her vote last week to support a Democratic health care bill in the Senate Finance Committee, Republican Senator Olympia Snowe is finding she's a lot more popular with voters of the opposing party than her own.

70% of Democrats but just 45% of Republicans now approve of Snowe's job performance. Independents split 51/33 in her favor for an overall approval rating of 56%, with 31% disapproving. That makes her one of the most popular Senators PPP has polled on across the country this year.

Specifically on the issue of health care 52% of Republicans disapprove of Snowe's performance with only 33% approving. Democrats give her good marks by a 64/20 margin.

Despite the unusual party breakdown of her approval numbers, most voters don't think Snowe should switch parties. 49% think she should remain a Republican while 32% think she should change to the Democrats and 20% are unsure. Interestingly there is very little difference between Democrats and Republicans on this issue- 33% of Democrats think she should flip and 32% of Republicans do.

"With less than half of Republicans approving of Olympia Snowe now it's going to be interesting to see if she's challenged from the right come 2012," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Is she going to be pushed into a corner the way Arlen Specter was where her only prospect for political survival is a party switch? It's certainly something political observers across the country will be watching."

PPP will release numbers on the 2010 race for Governor tomorrow.

PPP surveyed 1,130 likely voters from October 16th to 19th. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at www.publicpolicypolling.com.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.



Maine Poll

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 49%
Disapprove..... 41%
Not Sure..... 10%

Q2 Do you support or oppose President Obama's health care plan, or do you not have an opinion? If you support it, press 1. If you oppose it, press 2. If you don't have an opinion, press 3.

Support 41%
Oppose 40%
No Opinion..... 19%

Q3 Do you support or oppose a 'public option' for health care, or are you not sure? If you support it, press 1. If you oppose it, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Support 48%
Oppose 28%
Not Sure..... 24%

Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of Republican Senator Olympia Snowe's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 56%
Disapprove..... 31%
Not Sure..... 13%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of how Olympia Snowe has handled the health care issue? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 48%
Disapprove..... 35%
Not Sure..... 17%

Q6 Do you think that Olympia Snowe should switch parties and become a Democrat? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Yes 32%
No..... 49%
Not Sure..... 20%

Q7 Do you think that Olympia Snowe is a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 21%
Moderate..... 66%
Conservative..... 13%

Q8 Do you approve or disapprove of Republican Senator Susan Collins' job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 48%
Disapprove..... 30%
Not Sure..... 22%

Q9 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 22%
Moderate..... 44%
Conservative..... 33%

Q10 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%





Q11 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

Democrat 38%
Republican..... 30%
Other..... 32%

Q12 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 93%
Other..... 7%

Q13 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29..... 10%
30 to 45..... 22%
46 to 65..... 46%
Older than 65..... 22%





	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	85%	57%	14%
Disapprove	41%	8%	33%	75%
Not Sure	10%	7%	11%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Health Care				
Support	41%	75%	47%	10%
Oppose	40%	9%	30%	74%
No Opinion	19%	16%	23%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Public Option				
Support	48%	79%	52%	22%
Oppose	28%	8%	22%	50%
Not Sure	24%	13%	26%	28%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe Approval				
Approve	56%	67%	67%	34%
Disapprove	31%	18%	20%	53%
Not Sure	13%	15%	12%	13%





	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe Health Care Approval				
Approve	48%	63%	59%	23%
Disapprove	35%	19%	25%	59%
Not Sure	17%	18%	16%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe Switch Parties				
Yes	32%	36%	22%	42%
No	49%	43%	58%	40%
Not Sure	20%	22%	20%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe Ideology				
Liberal	21%	10%	15%	37%
Moderate	66%	76%	75%	47%
Conservative	13%	13%	10%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Collins Approval				
Approve	48%	37%	54%	48%
Disapprove	30%	39%	26%	29%
Not Sure	22%	24%	21%	23%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	49%	53%	45%
Disapprove	41%	37%	46%
Not Sure	10%	10%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Health Care			
Support	41%	42%	40%
Oppose	40%	36%	45%
No Opinion	19%	22%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Public Option			
Support	48%	48%	49%
Oppose	28%	23%	34%
Not Sure	24%	29%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe Approval			
Approve	56%	61%	51%
Disapprove	31%	24%	38%
Not Sure	13%	15%	11%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe Health Care Approval			
Approve	48%	51%	45%
Disapprove	35%	29%	42%
Not Sure	17%	20%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe Switch Parties			
Yes	32%	29%	34%
No	49%	48%	50%
Not Sure	20%	23%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe Ideology			
Liberal	21%	18%	24%
Moderate	66%	69%	62%
Conservative	13%	12%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Collins Approval			
Approve	48%	49%	47%
Disapprove	30%	25%	35%
Not Sure	22%	26%	18%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	79%	16%	45%
Disapprove	41%	13%	73%	45%
Not Sure	10%	8%	11%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Obama Health Care				
Support	41%	68%	12%	37%
Oppose	40%	14%	71%	41%
No Opinion	19%	18%	17%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Public Option				
Support	48%	69%	25%	46%
Oppose	28%	11%	48%	30%
Not Sure	24%	20%	27%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Snowe Approval				
Approve	56%	70%	45%	51%
Disapprove	31%	17%	45%	33%
Not Sure	13%	13%	10%	16%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Snowe Health Care Approval				
Approve	48%	64%	33%	44%
Disapprove	35%	20%	52%	37%
Not Sure	17%	16%	15%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Snowe Switch Parties				
Yes	32%	33%	32%	29%
No	49%	47%	53%	47%
Not Sure	20%	19%	15%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Snowe Ideology				
Liberal	21%	10%	32%	24%
Moderate	66%	75%	59%	62%
Conservative	13%	14%	9%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Collins Approval				
Approve	48%	40%	58%	48%
Disapprove	30%	36%	23%	29%
Not Sure	22%	24%	19%	23%





	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	49%	50%	37%
Disapprove	41%	41%	49%
Not Sure	10%	9%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Health Care			
Support	41%	42%	29%
Oppose	40%	39%	47%
No Opinion	19%	19%	24%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Public Option			
Support	48%	49%	39%
Oppose	28%	27%	42%
Not Sure	24%	24%	18%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Snowe Approval			
Approve	56%	57%	43%
Disapprove	31%	30%	40%
Not Sure	13%	13%	17%





	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Snowe Health Care Approval			
Approve	48%	49%	41%
Disapprove	35%	34%	43%
Not Sure	17%	17%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Snowe Switch Parties			
Yes	32%	32%	32%
No	49%	49%	47%
Not Sure	20%	19%	21%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Snowe Ideology			
Liberal	21%	21%	27%
Moderate	66%	67%	56%
Conservative	13%	12%	17%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Collins Approval			
Approve	48%	48%	46%
Disapprove	30%	29%	34%
Not Sure	22%	23%	19%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	49%	43%	41%	55%	48%
Disapprove	41%	42%	49%	38%	41%
Not Sure	10%	15%	10%	8%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Health Care					
Support	41%	41%	35%	46%	37%
Oppose	40%	37%	46%	37%	41%
No Opinion	19%	22%	19%	17%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Public Option					
Support	48%	46%	47%	51%	44%
Oppose	28%	28%	31%	28%	27%
Not Sure	24%	26%	22%	21%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe Approval					
Approve	56%	56%	47%	58%	62%
Disapprove	31%	34%	38%	29%	26%
Not Sure	13%	10%	15%	13%	12%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe Health Care Approval					
Approve	48%	40%	40%	51%	54%
Disapprove	35%	40%	40%	34%	30%
Not Sure	17%	20%	20%	15%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe Switch Parties					
Yes	32%	43%	33%	30%	28%
No	49%	38%	46%	50%	54%
Not Sure	20%	19%	21%	19%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe Ideology					
Liberal	21%	28%	19%	21%	21%
Moderate	66%	60%	67%	67%	66%
Conservative	13%	12%	14%	12%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Collins Approval					
Approve	48%	52%	42%	47%	54%
Disapprove	30%	28%	32%	32%	23%
Not Sure	22%	20%	25%	21%	24%

