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## **Jeb Bush only Republican to lead Bill Nelson**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Florida’s former governor Jeb Bush is by far the most popular Republican in a slate of candidates PPP tested against Senator Bill Nelson, who is perceived to be one of the most vulnerable Democrats up for election in 2012. Bush is also the only one to beat him or even come close. Against everyone else, Nelson has at least an eight-point lead, but Bush would top him by five if he chose to go back on his oft-stated noninterest in a return to elective politics.

Bush has a near majority, with 49% to Nelson’s 44%. After that, Congressman Connie Mack comes closest but still trails, 36-44. Outgoing appointed incumbent of the other Senate seat, George LeMieux, is down, 36-47. State Senate President Mike Haridopolos trails, 32-44. And State Rep. Adam Hasner lags, 30-46. Nelson has almost 3:1 margins with independents against Mack, Hasner, and Haridopolos, and more than 2:1 against LeMieux, but against Bush, his lead is an insignificant 43-39. Bush takes the overall lead because he holds more of the GOP base than Nelson does of Democrats, while Nelson bests all the other Republicans in that category, some by significant margins.

Voters are pretty split on Nelson’s job performance, with 36% approving, 33% disapproving, and 31% unsure, so he is ripe for a strong challenge. But Bush is the only other prospective candidate with positive reviews, holding a 51-40 favorability rating. Mack is next best, at 20-24, but 56% have no opinion. LeMieux never made much of an impression on voters. His rating is 16-27, with even more, 58%, having not heard of him than of Mack, who serves only one sliver of the state. Haridopolos gets the nod from a measly 4% of the state’s voters, the same as for Hasner. 26% are down on the former and 18% on the latter, so 70% are unaware of Haridopolos and 78% of Hasner. All of these candidates’ standings are largely a reflection of name recognition, so the four non-Bush aspirants have plenty of time to make up ground should they go forward with a race and take the nomination.

“Right now, it appears unlikely candidate Jeb Bush is the only Republican who could defeat Bill Nelson,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But Nelson’s job performance reviews are not stellar, and Marco Rubio showed this year that a candidate can come out of nowhere to beat the odds.”

PPP surveyed 1,034 Florida voters from December 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.0%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



## Florida Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Bill Nelson's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 36%  
*Disapprove*..... 33%  
*Not sure* ..... 31%

**Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator George LeMieux's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 16%  
*Disapprove*..... 27%  
*Not sure* ..... 58%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jeb Bush?

*Favorable*..... 51%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 40%  
*Not sure* ..... 10%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Haridopolos?

*Favorable*..... 4%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 26%  
*Not sure* ..... 70%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Adam Hasner?

*Favorable*..... 4%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 18%  
*Not sure* ..... 78%

**Q6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Connie Mack IV?

*Favorable*..... 20%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 24%  
*Not sure* ..... 56%

**Q7** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican George LeMieux, who would you vote for?

*Bill Nelson*..... 47%  
*George LeMieux* ..... 36%  
*Undecided*..... 17%

**Q8** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Jeb Bush, who would you vote for?

*Bill Nelson*..... 44%  
*Jeb Bush*..... 49%  
*Undecided*..... 7%

**Q9** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Mike Haridopolos, who would you vote for?

*Bill Nelson*..... 44%  
*Mike Haridopolos* ..... 32%  
*Undecided*..... 24%

**Q10** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Adam Hasner, who would you vote for?

*Bill Nelson*..... 46%  
*Adam Hasner*..... 30%  
*Undecided*..... 25%

**Q11** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Connie Mack IV, who would you vote for?

*Bill Nelson*..... 44%  
*Connie Mack IV* ..... 36%  
*Undecided*..... 20%





**Q12** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

<i>Liberal</i> .....	22%
<i>Moderate</i> .....	43%
<i>Conservative</i> .....	36%

**Q13** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i> .....	50%
<i>Man</i> .....	50%

**Q14** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i> .....	42%
<i>Republican</i> .....	40%
<i>Independent/Other</i> .....	18%

**Q15** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

<i>Hispanic</i> .....	13%
<i>White</i> .....	72%
<i>African-American</i> .....	9%
<i>Other</i> .....	6%

**Q16** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i> .....	12%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	22%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	38%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	28%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson Approval</b>				
Approve	36%	42%	48%	18%
Disapprove	33%	32%	20%	50%
Not sure	31%	26%	33%	32%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>LeMieux Approval</b>				
Approve	16%	5%	11%	27%
Disapprove	27%	35%	32%	15%
Not sure	58%	60%	57%	57%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Bush Favorability</b>				
Favorable	51%	30%	38%	79%
Unfavorable	40%	66%	49%	12%
Not sure	10%	3%	13%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Haridopolos Favorability</b>				
Favorable	4%	8%	1%	5%
Unfavorable	26%	32%	29%	18%
Not sure	70%	60%	70%	77%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Hasner Favorability</b>				
Favorable	4%	8%	2%	3%
Unfavorable	18%	28%	19%	10%
Not sure	78%	63%	79%	87%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Mack Favorability</b>				
Favorable	20%	16%	20%	24%
Unfavorable	24%	43%	19%	19%
Not sure	56%	42%	61%	58%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson/LeMieux</b>				
Bill Nelson	47%	66%	61%	18%
George LeMieux	36%	14%	20%	68%
Undecided	17%	20%	19%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson/Bush</b>				
Bill Nelson	44%	70%	60%	8%
Jeb Bush	49%	25%	34%	83%
Undecided	7%	5%	6%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson/Haridopolos</b>				
Bill Nelson	44%	63%	59%	14%
Mike Haridopolos	32%	21%	14%	60%
Undecided	24%	16%	27%	26%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson/Hasner</b>				
Bill Nelson	46%	63%	62%	16%
Adam Hasner	30%	23%	10%	57%
Undecided	25%	14%	28%	27%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson/Mack</b>				
Bill Nelson	44%	62%	60%	12%
Connie Mack IV	36%	22%	18%	67%
Undecided	20%	16%	22%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson Approval</b>			
Approve	36%	28%	44%
Disapprove	33%	34%	33%
Not sure	31%	39%	23%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>LeMieux Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	16%	12%	19%
<b>Disapprove</b>	27%	21%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	58%	67%	49%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Bush Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	51%	51%	51%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	36%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	13%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Haridopolos Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	4%	5%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	25%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	70%	72%	69%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Hasner Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	4%	3%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	18%	14%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	78%	82%	75%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Mack Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	20%	19%	22%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	24%	21%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	56%	60%	51%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson/LeMieux</b>			
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	47%	43%	51%
<b>George LeMieux</b>	36%	33%	38%
<b>Undecided</b>	17%	24%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson/Bush</b>			
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	44%	44%	45%
<b>Jeb Bush</b>	49%	47%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	7%	9%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson/Haridopolos</b>			
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	44%	40%	48%
<b>Mike Haridopolos</b>	32%	31%	32%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	29%	20%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson/Hasner</b>			
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	46%	41%	51%
<b>Adam Hasner</b>	30%	29%	30%
<b>Undecided</b>	25%	30%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson/Mack</b>			
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	44%	38%	50%
<b>Connie Mack IV</b>	36%	37%	35%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	25%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	36%	45%	23%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	33%	19%	47%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	31%	36%	30%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>LeMieux Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	16%	11%	23%	9%
<b>Disapprove</b>	27%	31%	21%	30%
<b>Not sure</b>	58%	58%	56%	61%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Bush Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	51%	29%	76%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	60%	16%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	12%	8%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Haridopolos Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	5%	5%	1%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	31%	18%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	70%	65%	77%	68%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Hasner Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	5%	4%	1%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	18%	25%	8%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	78%	70%	89%	76%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Mack Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	20%	16%	26%	19%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	24%	29%	14%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	56%	55%	60%	48%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson/LeMieux</b>				
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	47%	71%	20%	50%
<b>George LeMieux</b>	36%	14%	65%	22%
<b>Undecided</b>	17%	15%	15%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson/Bush</b>				
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	44%	73%	14%	43%
<b>Jeb Bush</b>	49%	23%	81%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	7%	4%	5%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson/Haridopolos</b>				
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	44%	66%	22%	42%
<b>Mike Haridopolos</b>	32%	15%	56%	15%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	18%	23%	43%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson/Hasner</b>				
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	46%	76%	16%	42%
<b>Adam Hasner</b>	30%	12%	56%	14%
<b>Undecided</b>	25%	12%	28%	45%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson/Mack</b>				
Bill Nelson	44%	71%	15%	42%
Connie Mack IV	36%	17%	66%	15%
Undecided	20%	12%	19%	43%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Nelson Approval</b>					
Approve	36%	22%	36%	33%	68%
Disapprove	33%	35%	35%	21%	23%
Not sure	31%	43%	29%	47%	9%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>LeMieux Approval</b>					
Approve	16%	18%	17%	5%	10%
Disapprove	27%	27%	26%	18%	48%
Not sure	58%	55%	57%	77%	42%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Bush Favorability</b>					
Favorable	51%	53%	55%	27%	37%
Unfavorable	40%	39%	36%	61%	54%
Not sure	10%	8%	10%	12%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Haridopolos Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	12%	3%	3%	4%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	31%	24%	29%	30%
<b>Not sure</b>	70%	57%	73%	68%	65%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Hasner Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	10%	2%	6%	3%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	18%	28%	14%	33%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	78%	62%	84%	61%	76%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Mack Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	20%	25%	21%	17%	9%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	24%	39%	22%	20%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	56%	36%	57%	63%	70%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Nelson/LeMieux</b>					
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	47%	48%	43%	58%	73%
<b>George LeMieux</b>	36%	32%	41%	16%	14%
<b>Undecided</b>	17%	20%	16%	26%	13%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Nelson/Bush</b>					
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	44%	33%	40%	75%	72%
<b>Jeb Bush</b>	49%	56%	54%	20%	24%
<b>Undecided</b>	7%	11%	7%	5%	4%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Nelson/Haridopolos</b>					
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	44%	38%	42%	65%	54%
<b>Mike Haridopolos</b>	32%	41%	33%	13%	28%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	22%	26%	23%	17%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Nelson/Hasner</b>					
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	46%	41%	42%	72%	62%
<b>Adam Hasner</b>	30%	42%	30%	16%	16%
<b>Undecided</b>	25%	17%	28%	12%	22%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Nelson/Mack</b>					
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	44%	39%	39%	74%	58%
<b>Connie Mack IV</b>	36%	44%	39%	15%	16%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	17%	21%	12%	26%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson Approval</b>					
Approve	36%	27%	37%	39%	34%
Disapprove	33%	36%	23%	36%	37%
Not sure	31%	36%	40%	26%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>LeMieux Approval</b>					
Approve	16%	9%	20%	12%	20%
Disapprove	27%	36%	31%	24%	23%
Not sure	58%	55%	49%	64%	57%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Bush Favorability</b>					
Favorable	51%	45%	54%	45%	58%
Unfavorable	40%	45%	43%	43%	30%
Not sure	10%	9%	3%	12%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Haridopolos Favorability</b>					
Favorable	4%	9%	-	4%	6%
Unfavorable	26%	27%	43%	20%	19%
Not sure	70%	64%	57%	76%	75%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Hasner Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	9%	3%	1%	6%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	18%	27%	23%	16%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	78%	64%	74%	83%	81%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Mack Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	20%	18%	20%	20%	22%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	24%	45%	20%	20%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	56%	36%	60%	60%	54%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson/LeMieux</b>					
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	47%	64%	46%	43%	46%
<b>George LeMieux</b>	36%	27%	37%	35%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	17%	9%	17%	22%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson/Bush</b>					
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	44%	64%	37%	46%	38%
<b>Jeb Bush</b>	49%	27%	54%	48%	56%
<b>Undecided</b>	7%	9%	9%	6%	6%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson/Haridopolos</b>					
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	<b>44%</b>	36%	50%	44%	43%
<b>Mike Haridopolos</b>	<b>32%</b>	36%	32%	30%	31%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>24%</b>	27%	18%	26%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson/Hasner</b>					
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	<b>46%</b>	55%	49%	45%	42%
<b>Adam Hasner</b>	<b>30%</b>	27%	26%	30%	33%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>25%</b>	18%	26%	25%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson/Mack</b>					
<b>Bill Nelson</b>	<b>44%</b>	55%	43%	43%	40%
<b>Connie Mack IV</b>	<b>36%</b>	27%	43%	34%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>20%</b>	18%	14%	22%	23%

