

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2010

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

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Tight 2011 Gov. Race: Beshear Leads Grayson, Trails Farmer

Raleigh, N.C. – While still not overwhelmingly popular, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear has brought his job approval margin into positive territory since PPP last polled the state in early May. And while he then trailed a generic Republican opponent, 44-35, he now polls much closer against two possible named opponents, Secretary of State Trey Grayson and Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer.

Beshear tops Grayson, 41-38, but lags behind Farmer, 40-39. The major difference is that Farmer pulls 24% of the 52%-majority Democrats, versus Grayson's 19%. Farmer also does much better among women, trailing Beshear only 40-38 among them, to Grayson's 46-33 deficit. While Republicans are more united around Grayson and Farmer than Democrats are around Beshear, the two Republicans pull only 65% and 63% of the GOP vote, respectively, compared to the 70% a generic Republican garnered in May.

Two months ago, Beshear's job performance figure was 38% in favor and 39% opposed. He has brought his negatives down to 35% since then because a small number of Republicans and independents have moved from the disapproval category to being undecided.

Though 47% still have no opinion of him, Farmer, a former shooting guard for the Kentucky Wildcats, is by far the most popular of the three candidates. 39% have a favorable opinion of him, to only 14% unfavorable. Compare that to Grayson, whose 24-21 margin includes 55% unsure after a hotly contested GOP primary for Jim Bunning's Senate seat that Rand Paul ultimately won by a landslide.

“Steve Beshear was elected by an overwhelming margin in 2007 but it looks like he'll probably face a closer race in his bid for reelection,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Farmer or Grayson would both give him a good challenge and it's likely other Republicans would as well.”

PPP surveyed 625 Kentucky voters from June 28th to 30th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

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



Kentucky Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Steve Beshear's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 38%
Disapprove..... 35%
Not Sure..... 26%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Trey Grayson? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 24%
Unfavorable 21%
Not Sure..... 55%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Richie Farmer? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 39%
Unfavorable 14%
Not Sure..... 47%

Q4 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Steve Beshear and Republican Trey Grayson, who would you vote for? If Steve Beshear, press 1. If Trey Grayson, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

Beshear 41%
Grayson 38%
Undecided..... 21%

Q5 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Steve Beshear and Republican Richie Farmer, who would you vote for? If Steve Beshear, press 1. If Richie Farmer, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

Beshear 39%
Farmer 40%
Undecided..... 21%

Q6 Who did you vote for President last year? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If someone else or you don't remember, press 3.

McCain..... 53%
Obama 38%
Someone Else/Don't Remember..... 9%

Q7 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 12%
Moderate..... 41%
Conservative..... 47%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 55%
Man..... 45%

Q9 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 52%
Republican..... 37%
Independent/Other..... 11%





Q10 If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	89%
<i>African-American</i>	8%
<i>Other</i>	3%

Q11 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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	10%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	42%
<i>Older than 65</i>	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Beshear Approval				
Approve	38%	24%	58%	38%
Disapprove	35%	50%	17%	30%
Not Sure	26%	26%	25%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Grayson Favorability				
Favorable	24%	28%	21%	16%
Unfavorable	21%	20%	20%	26%
Not Sure	55%	52%	59%	58%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Farmer Favorability				
Favorable	39%	46%	31%	28%
Unfavorable	14%	11%	19%	15%
Not Sure	47%	43%	51%	57%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Beshear/Grayson				
Beshear	41%	15%	77%	46%
Grayson	38%	62%	7%	27%
Undecided	21%	23%	16%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Beshear/Farmer				
Beshear	39%	16%	73%	31%
Farmer	40%	61%	11%	37%
Undecided	21%	22%	16%	32%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Beshear Approval				
Approve	38%	57%	49%	24%
Disapprove	35%	19%	27%	47%
Not Sure	26%	25%	25%	28%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Grayson Favorability				
Favorable	24%	25%	20%	28%
Unfavorable	21%	23%	21%	20%
Not Sure	55%	52%	60%	52%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Farmer Favorability				
Favorable	39%	29%	34%	45%
Unfavorable	14%	28%	14%	10%
Not Sure	47%	43%	51%	45%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Beshear/Grayson				
Beshear	41%	75%	52%	22%
Grayson	38%	5%	25%	58%
Undecided	21%	20%	22%	20%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Beshear/Farmer				
Beshear	39%	76%	49%	21%
Farmer	40%	10%	28%	58%
Undecided	21%	13%	24%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Beshear Approval			
Approve	38%	40%	37%
Disapprove	35%	33%	38%
Not Sure	26%	27%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Grayson Favorability			
Favorable	24%	22%	27%
Unfavorable	21%	19%	22%
Not Sure	55%	59%	50%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Farmer Favorability			
Favorable	39%	36%	42%
Unfavorable	14%	13%	15%
Not Sure	47%	51%	43%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Beshear/Grayson			
Beshear	41%	46%	35%
Grayson	38%	33%	44%
Undecided	21%	21%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Beshear/Farmer			
Beshear	39%	40%	38%
Farmer	40%	38%	43%
Undecided	21%	22%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Beshear Approval				
Approve	38%	51%	24%	26%
Disapprove	35%	26%	47%	38%
Not Sure	26%	23%	29%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Grayson Favorability				
Favorable	24%	19%	34%	15%
Unfavorable	21%	20%	18%	33%
Not Sure	55%	61%	48%	52%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Farmer Favorability				
Favorable	39%	37%	45%	25%
Unfavorable	14%	16%	9%	22%
Not Sure	47%	47%	46%	53%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Beshear/Grayson				
Beshear	41%	61%	15%	32%
Grayson	38%	19%	65%	42%
Undecided	21%	20%	19%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Beshear/Farmer				
Beshear	39%	59%	14%	28%
Farmer	40%	24%	63%	36%
Undecided	21%	16%	23%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Beshear Approval				
Approve	38%	37%	47%	52%
Disapprove	35%	36%	24%	36%
Not Sure	26%	27%	30%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Grayson Favorability				
Favorable	24%	25%	17%	29%
Unfavorable	21%	20%	17%	49%
Not Sure	55%	55%	67%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Farmer Favorability				
Favorable	39%	41%	19%	19%
Unfavorable	14%	14%	13%	25%
Not Sure	47%	45%	68%	56%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Beshear/Grayson				
Beshear	41%	38%	77%	44%
Grayson	38%	41%	10%	46%
Undecided	21%	22%	13%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Beshear/Farmer				
Beshear	39%	37%	67%	40%
Farmer	40%	43%	13%	25%
Undecided	21%	20%	20%	35%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Beshear Approval					
Approve	38%	44%	30%	38%	44%
Disapprove	35%	21%	46%	38%	26%
Not Sure	26%	35%	23%	24%	30%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Grayson Favorability					
Favorable	24%	21%	22%	27%	22%
Unfavorable	21%	21%	26%	20%	17%
Not Sure	55%	59%	52%	53%	61%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Farmer Favorability					
Favorable	39%	26%	36%	42%	40%
Unfavorable	14%	26%	15%	13%	9%
Not Sure	47%	47%	48%	44%	51%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Beshear/Grayson					
Beshear	41%	38%	40%	39%	47%
Grayson	38%	29%	44%	40%	33%
Undecided	21%	32%	15%	21%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Beshear/Farmer					
Beshear	39%	32%	36%	40%	43%
Farmer	40%	35%	47%	40%	35%
Undecided	21%	32%	16%	20%	22%

