



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Snowe in trouble with her base

Raleigh, N.C. – Olympia Snowe has worn out her welcome with conservative Republicans in Maine and looks to be highly susceptible to a primary challenge if she runs again in 2012.

By a 63-29 margin Republicans in the state say they would choose a more conservative alternative to Snowe if they were presented the opportunity in the next election. That desire is very closely intertwined with a sentiment among GOP voters there that Snowe is too liberal. 64% of voters in her party hold that opinion with 32% thinking that she's about right and only 4% believing she's too conservative.

Tested against a named potential opponent, 2006 Gubernatorial nominee Chandler Woodcock, Snowe trails by a 38-33 margin. Not surprisingly there's a large ideological divide on that question. Moderates prefer Snowe by a 61-19 margin, while conservatives go for Woodcock 47-20. The problem for Snowe is that the Republican electorate in Maine is moving to the right with 69% of voters describing themselves as conservatives and only 30% as moderates. The party's been going in a different direction from her ideologically since she was first elected to the Senate.

“If the successes of the Tea Party movement across the country this year embolden a conservative challenger to Olympia Snowe she's going to be in big trouble,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “She may need to become an independent or even a Democrat to survive politically in the future.”

A look ahead to the 2012 Republican Presidential field in the state finds Mitt Romney as an early favorite with Sarah Palin as the runner up. Romney gets 27% to 21% for Palin with Newt Gingrich at 15% and Mike Huckabee at 14%. Maine appears to be less keen on the Southern candidates in the race than folks in the rest of the country are.

PPP surveyed 584 Republican primary voters from September 2nd to 6th. The margin of error is +/-4.1%. 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 Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Olympia Snowe's job performance?

Approve 39%
Disapprove..... 53%
Not sure 8%

Q2 Do you think Olympia Snowe more properly belongs in the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Democratic Party 52%
Republican Party 36%
Not sure 13%

Q3 Do you think Olympia Snowe is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal 64%
Too conservative..... 4%
About right 32%

Q4 If the 2012 Republican primary for Senate was between Olympia Snowe and a more conservative challenger, who would you vote for?

Olympia Snowe..... 29%
More conservative challenger 63%
Not sure 8%

Q5 If the Republican candidates for Senate in 2012 were Olympia Snowe and Chandler Woodcock, who would you vote for?

Olympia Snowe..... 33%
Chandler Woodcock..... 38%
Undecided..... 29%

Q6 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, and Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Newt Gingrich 15%
Mike Huckabee 14%
Sarah Palin 21%
Ron Paul..... 7%
Mitt Romney..... 27%
Someone else..... 8%
Undecided..... 8%

Q7 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 2%
Moderate..... 30%
Conservative..... 69%

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

Woman 48%
Man..... 52%

Q9 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..... 5%
30 to 45..... 25%
46 to 65..... 42%
Older than 65..... 29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe Approval				
Approve	39%	52%	70%	26%
Disapprove	53%	48%	25%	66%
Not sure	8%	-	6%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe in Dem or GOP				
Democratic Party	52%	10%	26%	64%
Republican Party	36%	64%	61%	24%
Not sure	12%	26%	13%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe Ideology				
Too liberal	64%	10%	30%	80%
Too conservative	4%	38%	5%	2%
About right	32%	52%	64%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe or Conservative				
Olympia Snowe	29%	62%	58%	15%
More conservative challenger	63%	38%	32%	78%
Not sure	8%	-	10%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe/Woodcock				
Olympia Snowe	33%	62%	61%	20%
Chandler Woodcock	38%	28%	19%	47%
Undecided	29%	10%	20%	33%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres				
Newt Gingrich	15%	-	9%	17%
Mike Huckabee	14%	18%	15%	13%
Sarah Palin	21%	20%	10%	26%
Ron Paul	7%	-	6%	8%
Mitt Romney	27%	16%	29%	26%
Someone else	8%	38%	18%	4%
Undecided	8%	8%	13%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe Approval			
Approve	39%	46%	33%
Disapprove	53%	45%	61%
Not sure	8%	9%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe in Dem or GOP			
Democratic Party	52%	47%	56%
Republican Party	36%	37%	35%
Not sure	12%	16%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe Ideology			
Too liberal	64%	59%	68%
Too conservative	4%	3%	5%
About right	32%	38%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe or Conservative			
Olympia Snowe	29%	33%	24%
More conservative challenger	63%	58%	68%
Not sure	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe/Woodcock			
Olympia Snowe	33%	35%	31%
Chandler Woodcock	38%	29%	47%
Undecided	29%	36%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres			
Newt Gingrich	15%	11%	18%
Mike Huckabee	14%	16%	12%
Sarah Palin	21%	21%	21%
Ron Paul	7%	6%	8%
Mitt Romney	27%	27%	27%
Someone else	8%	8%	9%
Undecided	8%	10%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe Approval					
Approve	39%	67%	35%	35%	44%
Disapprove	53%	33%	62%	58%	43%
Not sure	8%	-	3%	7%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe in Dem or GOP					
Democratic Party	52%	33%	60%	54%	44%
Republican Party	36%	50%	31%	35%	39%
Not sure	12%	17%	8%	12%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe Ideology					
Too liberal	64%	67%	72%	64%	56%
Too conservative	4%	-	5%	5%	2%
About right	32%	33%	23%	31%	42%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe or Conservative					
Olympia Snowe	29%	33%	21%	26%	38%
More conservative challenger	63%	50%	72%	66%	55%
Not sure	8%	17%	7%	9%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe/Woodcock					
Olympia Snowe	33%	33%	24%	30%	44%
Chandler Woodcock	38%	17%	47%	42%	29%
Undecided	29%	50%	29%	27%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres					
Newt Gingrich	15%	17%	9%	16%	17%
Mike Huckabee	14%	17%	19%	11%	13%
Sarah Palin	21%	50%	20%	22%	16%
Ron Paul	7%	-	14%	7%	4%
Mitt Romney	27%	-	24%	28%	31%
Someone else	8%	-	9%	7%	11%
Undecided	8%	17%	5%	9%	7%

