

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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

GOP favored in possible special election

Raleigh, N.C. – It’s looking less and less likely to happen, but if there was a special election to fill the remainder of Kay Bailey Hutchison’s term in the US Senate Republicans would start out with a strong advantage.

Republicans lead 53-38 on a generic ballot question about how they would vote for the Senate. That advantage is largely due to a 55-22 advantage among independents, reminiscent of the huge margin Scott Brown put up with that group to make GOP victory possible in the recent Massachusetts special election.

The brand of national Democrats in the state is not particularly strong right now. Barack Obama’s approval rating is 33% with 61% of voters there disapproving of him. Independents give him bad marks by a 70/19 margin and Republicans are more unified in their dislike (94%) of him than Democrats are in their support (75%).

Congressional Democrats are even more unpopular than Obama. 66% of voters disapprove of the job they’re doing with just 24% giving them good marks. Congressional Republicans aren’t a whole lot better liked- they have just a 32% approval rating with 54% of voters viewing them negatively.

“Democrats are having trouble everywhere right now but the numbers in Texas are particularly eye-popping,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It’s the first place we’ve polled where the President’s approval with independents is under 20%. Republicans are likely to be holding this seat a year from now regardless of what happens with Hutchison’s Gubernatorial bid.”

Despite this being his eighth year serving in the Senate, John Cornyn is a relatively blank slate to Texas voters. 38% say they have no opinion about him one way or the other. Among those who do 32% approve of him to 30% disapproving.

PPP surveyed 1,200 Texas registered voters from February 4th to 7th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-2.8%. 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.



Texas Survey Results

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

Approve 33%
Disapprove..... 61%
Not Sure..... 7%

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 27%
Oppose 59%
No Opinion..... 14%

Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator John Cornyn's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 32%
Disapprove..... 30%
Not Sure..... 37%

Q4 If Kay Bailey Hutchison was elected Governor, would you be more inclined to vote for a Democrat or Republican as her replacement in the US Senate? If a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

Democrat 38%
Republican..... 53%
Undecided..... 9%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Democrats in Congress are doing? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 24%
Disapprove..... 66%
Not Sure..... 10%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Republicans in Congress are doing? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 32%
Disapprove..... 54%
Not Sure..... 14%

Q7 Do you think that Congressional Democrats are too liberal, too conservative, or about right? If too liberal, press 1. If too conservative, press 2. If about right, press 3.

Too Liberal..... 56%
Too Conservative..... 15%
About Right..... 29%

Q8 Do you think that Congressional Republicans are too liberal, too conservative, or about right? If too liberal, press 1. If too conservative, press 2. If about right, press 3.

Too Liberal..... 26%
Too Conservative..... 36%
About Right..... 38%





Q9 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..... 54%
Obama..... 40%
Someone Else/Don't Remember..... 6%

Q10 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 15%
Moderate..... 34%
Conservative..... 51%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q12 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..... 36%
Republican..... 40%
Independent/Other..... 24%

Q13 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 21%
White 63%
African American 12%
Other..... 4%

Q14 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..... 9%
30 to 45..... 26%
46 to 65..... 47%
Older than 65..... 17%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	33%	1%	79%	16%
Disapprove	60%	96%	11%	70%
Not Sure	7%	3%	10%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Health Care				
Support	27%	1%	64%	21%
Oppose	59%	94%	10%	71%
No Opinion	14%	5%	27%	8%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Cornyn Approval				
Approve	32%	51%	7%	27%
Disapprove	30%	14%	55%	16%
Not Sure	38%	35%	38%	57%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Hutchison Replacement				
Democrat	38%	7%	82%	39%
Republican	53%	85%	8%	42%
Undecided	9%	8%	10%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Congressional Democrats Approval				
Approve	24%	2%	55%	26%
Disapprove	66%	94%	24%	65%
Not Sure	10%	4%	21%	9%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Congressional Republicans Approval				
Approve	32%	50%	7%	26%
Disapprove	54%	34%	82%	60%
Not Sure	14%	15%	11%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Congressional Democrats Ideology				
Too Liberal	56%	85%	12%	58%
Too Conservative	15%	2%	34%	13%
About Right	29%	12%	54%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Congressional Republicans Ideology				
Too Liberal	26%	31%	13%	54%
Too Conservative	37%	12%	77%	14%
About Right	38%	57%	11%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	33%	70%	52%	9%
Disapprove	61%	23%	37%	88%
Not Sure	7%	8%	11%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Health Care				
Support	27%	68%	39%	7%
Oppose	59%	18%	38%	86%
No Opinion	14%	15%	23%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Cornyn Approval				
Approve	32%	11%	22%	46%
Disapprove	30%	62%	36%	17%
Not Sure	37%	27%	42%	37%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hutchison Replacement				
Democrat	38%	87%	53%	13%
Republican	53%	10%	32%	80%
Undecided	9%	3%	15%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Congressional Democrats Approval				
Approve	24%	50%	39%	6%
Disapprove	66%	39%	43%	89%
Not Sure	10%	10%	17%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Congressional Republicans Approval				
Approve	32%	5%	25%	45%
Disapprove	54%	87%	61%	40%
Not Sure	14%	8%	14%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Congressional Democrats Ideology				
Too Liberal	56%	7%	33%	85%
Too Conservative	15%	52%	16%	4%
About Right	29%	41%	52%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Congressional Republicans Ideology				
Too Liberal	26%	10%	14%	37%
Too Conservative	36%	77%	61%	9%
About Right	38%	13%	25%	54%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	33%	33%	33%
Disapprove	61%	58%	63%
Not Sure	7%	8%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Health Care			
Support	27%	30%	24%
Oppose	59%	59%	60%
No Opinion	14%	11%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cornyn Approval			
Approve	32%	27%	38%
Disapprove	30%	27%	34%
Not Sure	37%	46%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hutchison Replacement			
Democrat	38%	39%	36%
Republican	53%	52%	55%
Undecided	9%	9%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congressional Democrats Approval			
Approve	24%	24%	23%
Disapprove	66%	63%	69%
Not Sure	10%	14%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congressional Republicans Approval			
Approve	32%	32%	32%
Disapprove	54%	49%	59%
Not Sure	14%	18%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congressional Democrats Ideology			
Too Liberal	56%	55%	57%
Too Conservative	15%	15%	15%
About Right	29%	30%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congressional Republicans Ideology			
Too Liberal	26%	28%	23%
Too Conservative	36%	34%	40%
About Right	38%	39%	37%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	33%	75%	4%	19%
Disapprove	61%	17%	94%	70%
Not Sure	7%	8%	2%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Health Care				
Support	27%	63%	2%	17%
Oppose	59%	14%	93%	70%
No Opinion	14%	23%	6%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cornyn Approval				
Approve	32%	8%	56%	29%
Disapprove	30%	49%	14%	31%
Not Sure	37%	43%	31%	40%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Hutchison Replacement				
Democrat	38%	88%	6%	22%
Republican	53%	6%	90%	55%
Undecided	9%	6%	4%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Congressional Democrats Approval				
Approve	24%	57%	3%	14%
Disapprove	66%	25%	95%	72%
Not Sure	10%	19%	2%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Congressional Republicans Approval				
Approve	32%	8%	57%	25%
Disapprove	54%	81%	28%	61%
Not Sure	14%	12%	15%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Congressional Democrats Ideology				
Too Liberal	56%	12%	85%	63%
Too Conservative	15%	30%	4%	13%
About Right	29%	57%	11%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Congressional Republicans Ideology				
Too Liberal	26%	18%	28%	31%
Too Conservative	36%	69%	11%	36%
About Right	38%	13%	61%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	33%	47%	21%	69%	38%
Disapprove	61%	47%	73%	21%	50%
Not Sure	7%	5%	6%	10%	13%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Obama Health Care					
Support	27%	41%	18%	52%	24%
Oppose	59%	46%	72%	14%	58%
No Opinion	14%	14%	9%	34%	18%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Cornyn Approval					
Approve	32%	28%	38%	14%	24%
Disapprove	30%	31%	27%	45%	42%
Not Sure	37%	42%	36%	41%	34%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Hutchison Replacement					
Democrat	38%	53%	27%	69%	43%
Republican	53%	38%	65%	19%	41%
Undecided	9%	9%	8%	12%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Congressional Democrats Approval					
Approve	24%	38%	13%	56%	32%
Disapprove	66%	56%	78%	20%	54%
Not Sure	10%	6%	9%	24%	14%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Congressional Republicans Approval					
Approve	32%	33%	36%	9%	24%
Disapprove	54%	53%	51%	70%	57%
Not Sure	14%	13%	12%	22%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Congressional Democrats Ideology					
Too Liberal	56%	38%	66%	24%	60%
Too Conservative	15%	24%	10%	29%	14%
About Right	29%	38%	24%	48%	26%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Congressional Republicans Ideology					
Too Liberal	26%	28%	26%	19%	26%
Too Conservative	36%	48%	27%	71%	44%
About Right	38%	24%	47%	10%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	33%	44%	31%	34%	27%
Disapprove	61%	47%	63%	60%	67%
Not Sure	7%	10%	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Health Care					
Support	27%	37%	25%	29%	20%
Oppose	59%	46%	63%	58%	63%
No Opinion	14%	16%	12%	12%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cornyn Approval					
Approve	32%	27%	29%	33%	39%
Disapprove	30%	34%	29%	30%	30%
Not Sure	37%	39%	42%	37%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hutchison Replacement					
Democrat	38%	55%	32%	39%	36%
Republican	53%	40%	57%	51%	59%
Undecided	9%	5%	11%	10%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congressional Democrats Approval					
Approve	24%	42%	19%	25%	18%
Disapprove	66%	44%	74%	64%	70%
Not Sure	10%	14%	7%	11%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congressional Republicans Approval					
Approve	32%	27%	39%	28%	37%
Disapprove	54%	55%	52%	58%	46%
Not Sure	14%	17%	9%	14%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congressional Democrats Ideology					
Too Liberal	56%	29%	56%	60%	58%
Too Conservative	15%	21%	22%	12%	10%
About Right	29%	50%	22%	28%	32%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congressional Republicans Ideology					
Too Liberal	26%	35%	27%	25%	20%
Too Conservative	36%	37%	36%	40%	27%
About Right	38%	27%	37%	35%	52%

