

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Murray Still Up Two Over Rossi

Raleigh, N.C. – In PPP’s first look at the Washington Senate race since employing a likely voter screen, the picture looks almost the same as with registered voters before the August primary: incumbent Democrat Patty Murray at 49% and hanging onto a narrow lead over Republican victor and perennial candidate Dino Rossi.

Murray tops Rossi, 49-47. In a poll taken July 27th to August 1st, she was up, 49-46. While Murray has halved her previous 12-point deficit with independents, unaffiliateds now comprise a smaller portion of the electorate, at 29%, than in August (35%), with Republicans making up significantly more, at 34% versus 29%. Democrats are up to 37% from 36%. Both candidates have over 90% of their respective party bases behind them, though Murray is taking slightly more Republicans than Rossi is Democrats.

The projected electorate reports voting for Barack Obama over John McCain by only 7 points, 10 less than his actual margin of victory in 2008. The previous poll reflected a 10-point Obama lead. Were turnout like 2008’s, Murray would have a 53-43 edge.

14% of respondents claim to have already cast ballots in this vote-by-mail state. Murray is cushioning herself against a possible late Rossi surge, with early voters favoring her, 52-47.

Based entirely on a ten-point GOP edge with independents, Washington voters are split just slightly in favor of Republican control of the Senate, 47-46 over Democrats, a sentiment on which Rossi is not capitalizing. Voters are also split, 47-46 for Democrats, on the generic congressional ballot, with three Democratic and one GOP seat in play.

“This race is really very simple,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Washingtonians pretty much like Patty Murray and dislike Dino Rossi or vice versa. There’s no persuasion going on here. This race will be determined completely by who can get more of their supporters to actually take the time to vote.”

PPP surveyed 1,873 likely Washington voters from October 14th to 16th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-2.3%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Washington Survey Results

Q1 The candidates for US Senate are Democrat Patty Murray and Republican Dino Rossi. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Patty Murray 49%
Dino Rossi 47%
Undecided..... 4%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Patty Murray's job performance?

Approve..... 47% *Not sure* 6%
Disapprove..... 48%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dino Rossi?

Favorable..... 44%
Unfavorable 49%
Not sure..... 8%

Q4 Would you rather Democrats or Republicans held the majority in the next US Senate?

Democrats 46%
Republicans 47%
Not sure 7%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 48%
Not sure 6%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Maria Cantwell's job performance?

Approve..... 44% *Not sure* 15%
Disapprove..... 41%

Q7 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Christine Gregoire's job performance?

Approve..... 40% *Not sure* 7%
Disapprove..... 53%

Q8 If there was an election for Congress today, would you vote Democratic or Republican?

Democratic..... 47%
Republican..... 46%
Undecided..... 7%

Q9 Initiative Measure No. 1098 concerns establishing a state income tax and reducing other taxes. This measure would tax "adjusted gross income" above \$200,000 (individuals) and \$400,000 (joint-filers), reduce state property tax levies, reduce certain business and occupation taxes, and direct any increased revenues to education and health. Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes..... 38%
No..... 50%
Not sure..... 12%

Q10 Have you already cast your ballot for this year's election?

Yes..... 14%
No..... 86%

Q11 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 44%
Barack Obama..... 51%
Someone else/Don't remember 5%

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

Liberal..... 24%
Moderate..... 41%
Conservative..... 35%

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

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%



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.

Democrat 37%
Republican..... 34%
Independent/Other..... 29%

Q15 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 91%
Other..... 9%

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.

18 to 29..... 10%
30 to 45..... 24%
46 to 65..... 38%
Older than 65..... 28%



Crosstabs

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Murray/Rossi			
Patty Murray	49%	52%	48%
Dino Rossi	47%	47%	47%
Undecided	4%	1%	5%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Murray Approval			
Approve	47%	47%	46%
Disapprove	48%	48%	48%
Not sure	6%	5%	6%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Rossi Favorability			
Favorable	44%	44%	44%
Unfavorable	49%	49%	49%
Not sure	8%	7%	8%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Dem or GOP Senate Control			
Democrats	46%	48%	46%
Republicans	47%	48%	47%
Not sure	7%	4%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Obama Approval			
Approve	46%	49%	45%
Disapprove	48%	48%	48%
Not sure	6%	2%	6%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Cantwell Approval			
Approve	44%	48%	43%
Disapprove	41%	42%	41%
Not sure	15%	11%	16%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Gregoire Approval			
Approve	40%	39%	40%
Disapprove	53%	55%	53%
Not sure	7%	7%	7%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Generic Ballot			
Democratic	47%	48%	47%
Republican	46%	48%	46%
Undecided	7%	4%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Initiative 1098			
Yes	38%	43%	37%
No	50%	50%	50%
Not sure	12%	6%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Murray/Rossi				
Patty Murray	49%	6%	86%	40%
Dino Rossi	47%	91%	9%	47%
Undecided	4%	3%	5%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Murray Approval				
Approve	47%	6%	83%	34%
Disapprove	48%	91%	10%	55%
Not sure	6%	4%	7%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Rossi Favorability				
Favorable	44%	84%	10%	34%
Unfavorable	49%	8%	83%	48%
Not sure	8%	7%	7%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Dem or GOP Senate Control				
Democrats	46%	3%	84%	32%
Republicans	47%	92%	8%	45%
Not sure	7%	5%	8%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	5%	83%	22%
Disapprove	48%	92%	10%	60%
Not sure	6%	3%	7%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cantwell Approval				
Approve	44%	7%	76%	32%
Disapprove	41%	78%	10%	40%
Not sure	15%	14%	14%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gregoire Approval				
Approve	40%	5%	72%	22%
Disapprove	53%	91%	20%	62%
Not sure	7%	4%	9%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Generic Ballot				
Democratic	47%	3%	85%	32%
Republican	46%	91%	8%	45%
Undecided	7%	5%	7%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Initiative 1098				
Yes	38%	11%	61%	31%
No	50%	78%	27%	54%
Not sure	12%	11%	12%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Murray/Rossi				
Patty Murray	49%	92%	58%	8%
Dino Rossi	47%	4%	35%	89%
Undecided	4%	4%	6%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Murray Approval				
Approve	47%	89%	56%	7%
Disapprove	48%	5%	37%	90%
Not sure	6%	6%	7%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rossi Favorability				
Favorable	44%	4%	34%	82%
Unfavorable	49%	89%	58%	11%
Not sure	8%	7%	9%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Dem or GOP Senate Control				
Democrats	46%	91%	54%	7%
Republicans	47%	4%	36%	89%
Not sure	7%	5%	10%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	82%	58%	8%
Disapprove	48%	11%	36%	89%
Not sure	6%	7%	7%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Cantwell Approval				
Approve	44%	81%	53%	8%
Disapprove	41%	4%	32%	77%
Not sure	15%	15%	15%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gregoire Approval				
Approve	40%	78%	47%	6%
Disapprove	53%	13%	44%	90%
Not sure	7%	8%	9%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Generic Ballot				
Democratic	47%	92%	54%	8%
Republican	46%	4%	35%	87%
Undecided	7%	4%	11%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Initiative 1098				
Yes	38%	72%	42%	10%
No	50%	15%	48%	77%
Not sure	12%	13%	10%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Murray/Rossi			
Patty Murray	49%	53%	44%
Dino Rossi	47%	42%	52%
Undecided	4%	5%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Murray Approval			
Approve	47%	50%	42%
Disapprove	48%	44%	52%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rossi Favorability			
Favorable	44%	39%	49%
Unfavorable	49%	52%	45%
Not sure	8%	9%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dem or GOP Senate Control			
Democrats	46%	50%	42%
Republicans	47%	43%	51%
Not sure	7%	8%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	46%	48%	44%
Disapprove	48%	46%	51%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cantwell Approval			
Approve	44%	48%	39%
Disapprove	41%	36%	47%
Not sure	15%	17%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gregoire Approval			
Approve	40%	45%	35%
Disapprove	53%	47%	59%
Not sure	7%	8%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Ballot			
Democratic	47%	50%	43%
Republican	46%	42%	50%
Undecided	7%	7%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Initiative 1098			
Yes	38%	38%	38%
No	50%	45%	56%
Not sure	12%	16%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Murray/Rossi				
Patty Murray	49%	93%	6%	43%
Dino Rossi	47%	4%	91%	49%
Undecided	4%	3%	3%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Murray Approval				
Approve	47%	90%	7%	37%
Disapprove	48%	6%	90%	53%
Not sure	6%	4%	3%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rossi Favorability				
Favorable	44%	6%	86%	42%
Unfavorable	49%	89%	8%	45%
Not sure	8%	5%	5%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dem or GOP Senate Control				
Democrats	46%	93%	4%	37%
Republicans	47%	4%	93%	47%
Not sure	7%	4%	3%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	86%	7%	39%
Disapprove	48%	8%	89%	53%
Not sure	6%	6%	3%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cantwell Approval				
Approve	44%	82%	8%	37%
Disapprove	41%	6%	76%	45%
Not sure	15%	11%	16%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gregoire Approval				
Approve	40%	76%	6%	34%
Disapprove	53%	16%	90%	57%
Not sure	7%	7%	5%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Ballot				
Democratic	47%	95%	3%	36%
Republican	46%	3%	93%	45%
Undecided	7%	2%	3%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Initiative 1098				
Yes	38%	63%	15%	33%
No	50%	23%	74%	58%
Not sure	12%	14%	11%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Murray/Rossi			
Patty Murray	49%	48%	56%
Dino Rossi	47%	48%	39%
Undecided	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Murray Approval			
Approve	47%	46%	53%
Disapprove	48%	49%	39%
Not sure	6%	5%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rossi Favorability			
Favorable	44%	44%	36%
Unfavorable	49%	48%	52%
Not sure	8%	7%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dem or GOP Senate Control			
Democrats	46%	45%	53%
Republicans	47%	48%	36%
Not sure	7%	7%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	46%	45%	54%
Disapprove	48%	49%	40%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cantwell Approval			
Approve	44%	43%	50%
Disapprove	41%	41%	39%
Not sure	15%	15%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gregoire Approval			
Approve	40%	40%	45%
Disapprove	53%	54%	46%
Not sure	7%	7%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Generic Ballot			
Democratic	47%	46%	57%
Republican	46%	47%	35%
Undecided	7%	7%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Initiative 1098			
Yes	38%	38%	33%
No	50%	50%	52%
Not sure	12%	12%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Murray/Rossi					
Patty Murray	49%	53%	47%	48%	50%
Dino Rossi	47%	40%	48%	49%	45%
Undecided	4%	7%	5%	3%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Murray Approval					
Approve	47%	49%	43%	46%	50%
Disapprove	48%	38%	51%	50%	46%
Not sure	6%	13%	6%	4%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rossi Favorability					
Favorable	44%	43%	40%	46%	44%
Unfavorable	49%	52%	51%	47%	48%
Not sure	8%	5%	9%	7%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dem or GOP Senate Control					
Democrats	46%	51%	45%	45%	46%
Republicans	47%	43%	48%	48%	46%
Not sure	7%	7%	7%	6%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	46%	51%	44%	46%	45%
Disapprove	48%	41%	48%	51%	48%
Not sure	6%	8%	8%	3%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cantwell Approval					
Approve	44%	41%	42%	44%	46%
Disapprove	41%	36%	43%	43%	39%
Not sure	15%	23%	15%	13%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gregoire Approval					
Approve	40%	36%	36%	42%	43%
Disapprove	53%	57%	55%	53%	50%
Not sure	7%	7%	9%	5%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Ballot					
Democratic	47%	52%	47%	45%	47%
Republican	46%	46%	46%	47%	45%
Undecided	7%	2%	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Initiative 1098					
Yes	38%	36%	41%	36%	38%
No	50%	44%	46%	54%	51%
Not sure	12%	20%	13%	9%	12%

