



From: Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling

To: Interested Parties

Subject: McConnell emerges from shutdown in weak position

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PPP's newest Kentucky poll finds voters in the state extremely unhappy about the government shutdown, and taking it out on Mitch McConnell. The Republican Senator Minority Leader now trails Alison Lundergan Grimes 45/43 for reelection.

60% of Kentucky voters opposed the shutdown, compared to only 32% who supported it. Those numbers are in line with what we've found in other red states- it doesn't matter if a place went for Obama by 20 points or Romney by 20 points last fall, the shutdown is a huge problem for Republican politicians everywhere.

48% of voters in the state say they're less likely to support McConnell for reelection next year because he supported the shutdown, compared to only 34% who say they're now more likely to support him.

The shutdown gives Grimes an opening to win over more moderate Republican voters. Even among GOP partisans 43% in Kentucky opposed the shutdown and Grimes is taking 18% of the Republican vote head to head with McConnell, a strong amount of crossover support for a Democrat in the state.

This race was already looking like a toss up even before the government shutdown, but unhappiness with McConnell over that just further reinforces this being a winnable race for Grimes.

PPP interviewed 1,193 Kentucky voters on October 14th and 15th with a margin of error of +/-2.8%. This survey was sponsored by Americans United for Change.





Kentucky Survey Results

Q1 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes and Republican Mitch McConnell, who would you vote for?

Alison Lundergan Grimes 45%
Mitch McConnell 43%
Not sure 12%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Tea Party?

Favorable 41%
Unfavorable 42%
Not sure 17%

Q3 Do you support or oppose Congress shutting down major activities of the federal government as a way to stop the health care law from being put into place?

Support 32%
Oppose 60%
Not sure 8%

Q4 Would you be less likely or more likely to support Senator Mitch McConnell for re-election next year because he voted to support shutting down major activities of the federal government as a way to stop the health care law from being put into place, or does it not make a difference?

Less likely 48%
More likely 34%
No difference 15%
Not sure 2%

Q5 Now that you know Mitch McConnell supported the government shutdown, I'll ask you one more time: If the election for US Senate next year were today, would you vote for Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes or Republican Mitch McConnell?

Alison Lundergan Grimes 47%
Mitch McConnell 45%
Not sure 8%

Q6 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 54%
Man 46%

Q7 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 53%
Republican 37%
Independent/Other 11%

Q8 If you are Hispanic or Latino, press 1. If white or Caucasian, press 2. If black or African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic/Latino 4%
White/Caucasian 87%
Black/African-American 5%
Other 4%

Q9 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 12%
30 to 45 27%
46 to 65 37%
Older than 65 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Grimes/McConnell 1			
Alison Lundergan Grimes	45%	51%	39%
Mitch McConnell	43%	38%	49%
Not sure	12%	11%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Tea Party Favorability			
Favorable	41%	37%	46%
Unfavorable	42%	46%	38%
Not sure	17%	17%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support/Oppose Shutdown			
Support	32%	27%	37%
Oppose	60%	65%	55%
Not sure	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Pro-Shutdown: More/Less Likely to Support McConnell			
Less likely	48%	53%	43%
More likely	34%	29%	40%
No difference	15%	16%	14%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Grimes/McConnell 2			
Alison Lundergan Grimes	47%	51%	42%
Mitch McConnell	45%	41%	51%
Not sure	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Grimes/McConnell 1				
Alison Lundergan Grimes	45%	67%	18%	34%
Mitch McConnell	43%	24%	72%	40%
Not sure	12%	9%	10%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Tea Party Favorability				
Favorable	41%	25%	64%	40%
Unfavorable	42%	58%	20%	39%
Not sure	17%	17%	16%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support/Oppose Shutdown				
Support	32%	20%	50%	23%
Oppose	60%	72%	43%	61%
Not sure	8%	7%	7%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Pro-Shutdown: More/Less Likely to Support McConnell				
Less likely	48%	64%	27%	44%
More likely	34%	21%	54%	29%
No difference	15%	13%	16%	24%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Grimes/McConnell 2				
Alison Lundergan Grimes	47%	70%	16%	33%
Mitch McConnell	45%	24%	78%	42%
Not sure	8%	6%	6%	25%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic/Latino	White/Caucasian	Black/African- American	Other
Grimes/McConnell 1					
Alison Lundergan Grimes	45%	55%	44%	73%	35%
Mitch McConnell	43%	31%	45%	15%	46%
Not sure	12%	14%	11%	11%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic/Latino	White/Caucasian	Black/African- American	Other
Tea Party Favorability					
Favorable	41%	46%	42%	19%	46%
Unfavorable	42%	28%	42%	64%	38%
Not sure	17%	26%	17%	16%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic/Latino	White/Caucasian	Black/African-American	Other
Support/Oppose Shutdown					
Support	32%	39%	33%	9%	34%
Oppose	60%	48%	59%	89%	56%
Not sure	8%	14%	8%	2%	10%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic/Latino	White/Caucasian	Black/African-American	Other
Pro-Shutdown: More/Less Likely to Support McConnell					
Less likely	48%	46%	48%	64%	38%
More likely	34%	40%	35%	25%	26%
No difference	15%	12%	15%	4%	30%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	6%	6%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic/Latino	White/Caucasian	Black/African-American	Other
Grimes/McConnell 2					
Alison Lundergan Grimes	47%	48%	45%	79%	38%
Mitch McConnell	45%	42%	48%	9%	43%
Not sure	8%	11%	7%	12%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Grimes/McConnell 1					
Alison Lundergan Grimes	45%	43%	39%	52%	43%
Mitch McConnell	43%	49%	45%	38%	46%
Not sure	12%	8%	15%	10%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Tea Party Favorability					
Favorable	41%	46%	41%	39%	40%
Unfavorable	42%	35%	37%	47%	43%
Not sure	17%	19%	22%	13%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support/Oppose Shutdown					
Support	32%	30%	40%	28%	28%
Oppose	60%	62%	50%	68%	60%
Not sure	8%	8%	10%	4%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Pro-Shutdown: More/Less Likely to Support McConnell					
Less likely	48%	54%	37%	56%	47%
More likely	34%	32%	42%	30%	33%
No difference	15%	14%	20%	12%	15%
Not sure	2%	-	1%	3%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Grimes/McConnell 2					
Alison Lundergan Grimes	47%	43%	39%	54%	45%
Mitch McConnell	45%	51%	51%	39%	46%
Not sure	8%	5%	10%	7%	9%

