

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boxer at 50% Over Fiorina in California

Raleigh, N.C. – California is the rare state that appears to have no enthusiasm gap. Compared to their GOP counterparts, Democrats in the Golden State are just as enthused about voting as they were in 2008. In that environment, Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer is no less endangered for re-election than she was in PPP's last survey of registered voters in July. She led Carly Fiorina by a 49-40 margin then, and now tops her, 50-42, in PPP's first survey of likely California voters.

What has changed is that Boxer now trails among independents, 38-50, after winning them 48-38 last time. Fiorina also now has a little more of her base locked up than Boxer does of hers, at 86% of the GOP to Boxer's 81% of Democrats. In July, they each had a 77-13 lead with their respective partisans. Despite the positive trends with independents, if Fiorina simply won all of the remaining undecided independent and Republican voters, she would get no more than 46% of the vote.

Though she only breaks even on the job approval front, at 46-46, Boxer is up from 43-46 in July, and is still better liked than Fiorina, who comes in at 34-42, a slight improvement from July's 28-40. Independents have turned sharply against Boxer, from 40-48 to 34-56, and significantly in favor of Fiorina, from 20-40 to 35-39. Luckily for the senator, unaffiliateds account for only 18% of the electorate, and Democrats, who like her more than previously, are now actually slightly more prevalent than they were in the registered electorate two months ago.

Except in 2004, Boxer has never been elected handily, though she has gotten increasingly safer, winning by margins of 5, 10, and 20 points.

“The simple reality is that for a Republican to win in California they have to be appealing to Democrats and for now Carly Fiorina has not passed the test,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Barbara Boxer has her party's voters locked up and for a Democrat in California that's enough to win.”

PPP surveyed 630 likely California voters from September 14th to 16th. The margin of error is +/-3.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



California Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 53%
Disapprove..... 42%
Not sure 5%

Q2 Do you support or oppose President Obama's health care plan, or do you not have an opinion?

Support 47%
Oppose 42%
No opinion..... 11%

Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Dianne Feinstein's job performance?

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 40%
Not sure 14%

Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Barbara Boxer's job performance?

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 46%
Not sure 9%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Carly Fiorina?

Favorable 34% Not sure 24%
Unfavorable..... 42%

Q6 The candidates for U.S. Senate are Republican Carly Fiorina and Democrat Barbara Boxer. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Carly Fiorina 42%
Barbara Boxer..... 50%
Undecided..... 8%

Q7 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 36%
Barack Obama..... 57%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

Q8 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 27%
Moderate..... 39%
Conservative..... 34%

Q9 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q10 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..... 49%
Republican..... 33%
Independent/Other..... 18%

Q11 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If Asian, press 4. If other, press 5.

Hispanic..... 20%
White 62%
African-American 8%
Asian..... 6%
Other..... 4%

Q12 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..... 11%
30 to 45..... 28%
46 to 65..... 39%
Older than 65..... 23%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	53%	4%	86%	28%
Disapprove	42%	93%	7%	66%
Not sure	5%	3%	7%	7%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Health Care Plan				
Support	47%	4%	77%	21%
Oppose	42%	93%	7%	64%
No opinion	11%	3%	16%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Feinstein Approval				
Approve	46%	9%	71%	36%
Disapprove	40%	79%	14%	47%
Not sure	14%	12%	15%	17%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Boxer Approval				
Approve	46%	3%	75%	23%
Disapprove	46%	92%	14%	68%
Not sure	9%	5%	11%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Fiorina Favorability				
Favorable	34%	69%	11%	43%
Unfavorable	42%	10%	64%	30%
Not sure	24%	21%	25%	27%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Fiorina/Boxer				
Carly Fiorina	42%	89%	11%	57%
Barbara Boxer	50%	5%	82%	16%
Undecided	8%	6%	7%	27%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	53%	87%	60%	18%
Disapprove	42%	6%	34%	78%
Not sure	5%	7%	6%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Health Care Plan				
Support	47%	83%	54%	9%
Oppose	42%	6%	33%	81%
No opinion	11%	12%	12%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Feinstein Approval				
Approve	46%	74%	53%	17%
Disapprove	40%	13%	30%	71%
Not sure	14%	13%	17%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Boxer Approval				
Approve	46%	79%	51%	14%
Disapprove	46%	12%	41%	77%
Not sure	9%	9%	9%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Fiorina Favorability				
Favorable	34%	8%	25%	65%
Unfavorable	42%	71%	48%	13%
Not sure	24%	22%	27%	22%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Fiorina/Boxer				
Carly Fiorina	42%	8%	35%	78%
Barbara Boxer	50%	85%	56%	16%
Undecided	8%	7%	10%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	53%	57%	48%
Disapprove	42%	38%	45%
Not sure	5%	4%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Health Care Plan			
Support	47%	48%	45%
Oppose	42%	38%	46%
No opinion	11%	14%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Feinstein Approval			
Approve	46%	47%	45%
Disapprove	40%	34%	45%
Not sure	14%	18%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Boxer Approval			
Approve	46%	51%	40%
Disapprove	46%	39%	53%
Not sure	9%	11%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Fiorina Favorability			
Favorable	34%	30%	38%
Unfavorable	42%	44%	40%
Not sure	24%	26%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Fiorina/Boxer			
Carly Fiorina	42%	37%	48%
Barbara Boxer	50%	55%	45%
Undecided	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	53%	83%	12%	42%
Disapprove	42%	11%	85%	47%
Not sure	5%	5%	3%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Health Care Plan				
Support	47%	75%	8%	37%
Oppose	42%	9%	88%	51%
No opinion	11%	16%	4%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Feinstein Approval				
Approve	46%	72%	12%	37%
Disapprove	40%	12%	78%	46%
Not sure	14%	16%	10%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Boxer Approval				
Approve	46%	76%	7%	34%
Disapprove	46%	14%	89%	56%
Not sure	9%	11%	4%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Fiorina Favorability				
Favorable	34%	11%	68%	35%
Unfavorable	42%	63%	13%	39%
Not sure	24%	26%	19%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Fiorina/Boxer				
Carly Fiorina	42%	11%	86%	50%
Barbara Boxer	50%	81%	9%	38%
Undecided	8%	8%	5%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Obama Approval						
Approve	53%	66%	45%	88%	48%	41%
Disapprove	42%	28%	49%	12%	44%	51%
Not sure	5%	6%	6%	-	8%	8%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Obama Health Care Plan						
Support	47%	52%	42%	77%	40%	37%
Oppose	42%	31%	49%	12%	40%	49%
No opinion	11%	16%	8%	12%	20%	14%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Feinstein Approval						
Approve	46%	57%	42%	62%	44%	28%
Disapprove	40%	24%	47%	15%	36%	58%
Not sure	14%	19%	10%	23%	20%	14%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Boxer Approval						
Approve	46%	55%	41%	65%	44%	25%
Disapprove	46%	30%	53%	23%	36%	65%
Not sure	9%	15%	5%	12%	20%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Fiorina Favorability						
Favorable	34%	22%	39%	15%	40%	38%
Unfavorable	42%	45%	41%	54%	44%	28%
Not sure	24%	33%	20%	31%	16%	34%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Fiorina/Boxer						
Carly Fiorina	42%	27%	51%	19%	32%	50%
Barbara Boxer	50%	61%	43%	77%	56%	32%
Undecided	8%	12%	6%	4%	12%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	53%	66%	51%	54%	47%
Disapprove	42%	24%	43%	43%	45%
Not sure	5%	10%	6%	3%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Health Care Plan					
Support	47%	55%	44%	48%	43%
Oppose	42%	22%	45%	44%	45%
No opinion	11%	22%	11%	8%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Feinstein Approval					
Approve	46%	42%	44%	48%	48%
Disapprove	40%	30%	43%	39%	40%
Not sure	14%	28%	13%	12%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Boxer Approval					
Approve	46%	45%	47%	47%	43%
Disapprove	46%	33%	48%	46%	49%
Not sure	9%	22%	6%	8%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Fiorina Favorability					
Favorable	34%	23%	34%	34%	39%
Unfavorable	42%	40%	45%	41%	43%
Not sure	24%	37%	22%	25%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Fiorina/Boxer					
Carly Fiorina	42%	27%	43%	44%	47%
Barbara Boxer	50%	58%	50%	51%	45%
Undecided	8%	16%	7%	6%	8%

