

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Delaware Senate Primary Too Close to Call

Raleigh, N.C. – It looks like there's a real possibility of a major upset in the Delaware Senate primary on Tuesday night, with insurgent conservative Christine O'Donnell leading longtime Congressman and Governor Mike Castle 47-44. That 3 point lead is well within the poll's margin of error.

If Castle is indeed defeated Tuesday night it will be yet another sign that conservatives have a strangle hold on the Republican Party and moderates may or may not be welcome anymore. Castle has an overwhelming 69-21 lead with moderate voters but they only make up 33% of the likely primary electorate. O'Donnell has a 62-31 lead with conservatives that's more than enough to propel her to the overall lead.

It's clear that Castle's popularity has taken a sharp turn in the wrong direction over the last month. An August PPP poll found his favorability with Delaware Republicans at a 60/25 spread. Now his favorables within the party are negative at 43/47. That's largely a product of 55% of voters in his party saying they think he's too liberal compared to 37% who think he's about right.

GOP voters are pretty sharply divided about O'Donnell as well. 45% have a favorable opinion of her with 41% seeing her unfavorably. Only 50% of primary voters think she's fit to hold public office but she does much better than Castle on the ideology front- 53% think she's about right.

If O'Donnell pulls it out Tuesday night it will be a major victory for Delaware's small but united group of Tea Party voters. Just 25% of Republicans in the state consider themselves to be members of that movement but they give her a 79-18 advantage that's more than enough to overcome her 52-39 deficit with everyone else.

"The biggest winner of the Delaware GOP primary may end up being Chris Coons," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Running against O'Donnell or a wounded Castle will put him in his strongest position since he entered the race."

PPP surveyed 668 likely Republican primary voters on September 11th and 12th. The margin of error is +/-3.8%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

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Delaware Survey Results

- Q1** The Republican candidates for US Senate are Mike Castle and Christine O'Donnell. If the election was today, who would you vote for?
- Mike Castle..... 44%
 - Christine O'Donnell..... 47%
 - Undecided..... 8%
- Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Castle?
- Favorable.....43% Not sure.....10%
 - Unfavorable.....47%
- Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Christine O'Donnell?
- Favorable.....45% Not sure.....14%
 - Unfavorable.....41%
- Q4** Do you think Mike Castle is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?
- Too liberal..... 55%
 - Too conservative..... 3%
 - About right..... 37%
 - Not sure..... 4%
- Q5** Do you think Christine O'Donnell is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?
- Too liberal..... 11%
 - Too conservative..... 24%
 - About right..... 53%
 - Not sure..... 12%
- Q6** Do you think Mike Castle is fit to hold public office?
- Yes..... 54%
 - No..... 32%
 - Not sure..... 14%
- Q7** Do you think Christine O'Donnell is fit to hold public office?
- Yes..... 50%
 - No..... 37%
 - Not sure..... 13%
- Q8** The Republican candidates for US House are Rose Izzo, Michele Rollins, and Glen Urquhart. If the election was today, who would you vote for?
- Rose Izzo..... 3%
 - Michele Rollins..... 38%
 - Glen Urquhart..... 50%
 - Undecided..... 9%
- Q9** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Michele Rollins?
- Favorable..... 48%
 - Unfavorable..... 24%
 - Not sure..... 28%
- Q10** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Glen Urquhart?
- Favorable..... 53%
 - Unfavorable..... 23%
 - Not Sure..... 24%
- Q11** Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who was endorsed by Sarah Palin, or would it not make a difference?
- More likely..... 35%
 - Less likely..... 24%
 - Doesn't make a difference..... 42%





Q12 Do you consider yourself to be a member of the Tea Party?

Yes..... 25%
 No..... 58%
 Not sure..... 17%

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

Woman..... 47%
 Man..... 53%

Q14 Do you think the Republican Party is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal..... 30%
 Too conservative..... 16%
 About right..... 47%
 Not sure..... 7%

Q15 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..... 20%
 46 to 65..... 42%
 Older than 65..... 28%

Q16 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 3%
 Moderate..... 33%
 Conservative..... 64%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
GOP Sen Primary			
Mike Castle	44%	46%	43%
Christine O'Donnell	47%	44%	51%
Undecided	8%	10%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Castle Favorability			
Favorable	43%	42%	43%
Unfavorable	47%	45%	49%
Not sure	10%	13%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
O'Donnell Favorability			
Favorable	45%	44%	47%
Unfavorable	41%	40%	42%
Not sure	14%	16%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Castle Ideology			
Too liberal	55%	50%	59%
Too conservative	3%	3%	3%
About right	37%	39%	35%
Not sure	4%	7%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
O'Donnell Ideology			
Too liberal	11%	11%	11%
Too conservative	24%	22%	25%
About right	53%	51%	54%
Not sure	12%	16%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Castle Fitness			
Yes	54%	51%	57%
No	32%	32%	31%
Not sure	14%	17%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
O'Donnell Fitness			
Yes	50%	46%	53%
No	37%	39%	35%
Not sure	13%	15%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
GOP House Primary			
Rose Izzo	3%	3%	3%
Michele Rollins	38%	41%	36%
Glen Urquhart	50%	46%	54%
Undecided	9%	10%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rollins Favorability			
Favorable	48%	48%	49%
Unfavorable	24%	20%	27%
Not sure	28%	32%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Urquhart Favorability			
Favorable	53%	49%	56%
Unfavorable	23%	20%	26%
Not Sure	24%	31%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Endorsement Impact			
More likely	35%	32%	37%
Less likely	24%	23%	24%
Doesn't make a difference	42%	45%	39%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Tea Party ID			
Yes	25%	26%	24%
No	58%	52%	62%
Not sure	17%	21%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
GOP Ideology			
Too liberal	30%	24%	35%
Too conservative	16%	14%	18%
About right	47%	53%	41%
Not sure	7%	9%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
GOP Sen Primary					
Mike Castle	44%	42%	37%	41%	56%
Christine O'Donnell	47%	52%	53%	51%	37%
Undecided	8%	6%	11%	8%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Castle Favorability					
Favorable	43%	41%	37%	39%	52%
Unfavorable	47%	41%	56%	52%	36%
Not sure	10%	17%	7%	9%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
O'Donnell Favorability					
Favorable	45%	59%	51%	47%	33%
Unfavorable	41%	31%	35%	39%	52%
Not sure	14%	10%	14%	13%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Castle Ideology					
Too liberal	55%	48%	64%	59%	45%
Too conservative	3%	8%	3%	3%	2%
About right	37%	40%	28%	33%	48%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
O'Donnell Ideology					
Too liberal	11%	20%	7%	10%	13%
Too conservative	24%	8%	28%	23%	28%
About right	53%	52%	60%	56%	42%
Not sure	12%	20%	6%	11%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Castle Fitness					
Yes	54%	50%	51%	53%	58%
No	32%	38%	39%	31%	26%
Not sure	14%	13%	10%	16%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
O'Donnell Fitness					
Yes	50%	58%	57%	50%	41%
No	37%	38%	30%	33%	47%
Not sure	13%	4%	13%	16%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
GOP House Primary					
Rose Izzo	3%	-	5%	3%	3%
Michele Rollins	38%	27%	35%	39%	44%
Glen Urquhart	50%	63%	52%	49%	45%
Undecided	9%	10%	9%	8%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rollins Favorability					
Favorable	48%	41%	55%	47%	49%
Unfavorable	24%	28%	22%	24%	24%
Not sure	28%	31%	24%	29%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Urquhart Favorability					
Favorable	53%	59%	59%	50%	49%
Unfavorable	23%	14%	17%	27%	26%
Not Sure	24%	28%	24%	23%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Endorsement Impact					
More likely	35%	33%	37%	37%	31%
Less likely	24%	15%	23%	24%	26%
Doesn't make a difference	42%	52%	40%	39%	43%





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	Base	Age			
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Tea Party ID					
Yes	25%	28%	26%	27%	20%
No	58%	32%	64%	57%	64%
Not sure	17%	40%	10%	17%	16%

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GOP Ideology					
Too liberal	30%	28%	37%	33%	20%
Too conservative	16%	4%	23%	16%	16%
About right	47%	56%	34%	44%	57%
Not sure	7%	12%	5%	8%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
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Mike Castle	44%	61%	69%	31%
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		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Castle Favorability				
Favorable	43%	59%	66%	30%
Unfavorable	47%	36%	24%	59%
Not sure	10%	5%	10%	11%





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		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Castle Ideology				
Too liberal	55%	34%	26%	71%
Too conservative	3%	22%	4%	2%
About right	37%	44%	64%	23%
Not sure	4%	-	6%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
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O'Donnell Ideology				
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About right	53%	46%	23%	68%
Not sure	12%	19%	19%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Castle Fitness				
Yes	54%	56%	73%	44%
No	32%	36%	15%	40%
Not sure	14%	7%	12%	16%





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O'Donnell Fitness				
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	Base	Ideology		
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GOP House Primary				
Rose Izzo	3%	6%	5%	2%
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Favorable	53%	32%	34%	63%
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Not sure	17%	31%	17%	17%

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