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**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Nelson down to Bruning, Stenberg in Nebraska**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Among 21 Democratic senators up for re-election next year, there is little question that the most endangered is Nebraska's Ben Nelson, a conservative Democrat in an even more conservative state. Though he won re-election handily in 2006, his first race was decided by a mere two points, and Nelson would lose a rematch to his opponent that year, State Treasurer Don Stenberg, as well as the most likely matchup with Attorney General Jon Bruning. Nelson would only defeat two unknown Republicans, Pat Flynn and Deb Fischer.

If the election were today, Bruning would oust Nelson, 50-39, as would Stenberg, but by a narrower 45-41 margin. Nelson would receive similar proportions of the vote against Flynn and Fischer, but their low profiles would currently give him respective 42-33 and 42-35 edges. Nelson wins independents by at least nine points in every matchup, but they make up such a small portion of voters that to beat Bruning or Stenberg, he is going to have to do what he does against Flynn and Fischer: cut down on Democratic defections and attract significant Republican support.

Though about a quarter of Republicans like the work he is doing, and independents approve, 47-43, Nelson's overall 39-50 job performance figure suffers not only from the 52-34 Republican registration advantage over Democrats, but also by his weak standing with his own party, at only 58-33. By contrast, his colleague Mike Johanns has a 59-28 overall approval margin, making him the third most popular of 77 current senators about which PPP has polled; Nelson is in the bottom fifth. 73% are not familiar with Fischer, and 79% with Flynn, but Bruning and Stenberg post decent 42-26 and 38-25 favorability ratings.

"It may be too early to say Ben Nelson is toast, but things certainly are not looking up for his survival into a third term," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

Governor Dave Heineman is now the most popular governor of 38 whose approval ratings PPP has tested in the last year, with a 67-23 margin. Amazingly, Democrats split evenly at 44% approving and disapproving, while independents mirror the overall electorate.

PPP surveyed 977 Nebraska voters from January 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.1%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



## Nebraska Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Dave Heineman's job performance?

Approve..... 67% Not sure ..... 9%  
Disapprove..... 23%

**Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Mike Johanns' job performance?

Approve..... 59% Not sure ..... 13%  
Disapprove..... 28%

**Q3** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Ben Nelson's job performance?

Approve..... 39% Not sure ..... 10%  
Disapprove..... 50%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jon Bruning?

Favorable..... 42%  
Unfavorable ..... 26%  
Not sure ..... 32%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Deb Fischer?

Favorable..... 13%  
Unfavorable ..... 14%  
Not sure ..... 73%

**Q6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Pat Flynn?

Favorable..... 8%  
Unfavorable ..... 13%  
Not sure ..... 79%

**Q7** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Don Stenberg?

Favorable..... 38%  
Unfavorable ..... 25%  
Not sure ..... 37%

**Q8** If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Ben Nelson and Republican Jon Bruning, who would you vote for?

Ben Nelson ..... 39%  
Jon Bruning..... 50%  
Undecided..... 11%

**Q9** If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Ben Nelson and Republican Deb Fischer, who would you vote for?

Ben Nelson ..... 42%  
Deb Fischer ..... 35%  
Undecided..... 22%

**Q10** If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Ben Nelson and Republican Pat Flynn, who would you vote for?

Ben Nelson ..... 42%  
Pat Flynn..... 33%  
Undecided..... 24%

**Q11** If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Ben Nelson and Republican Don Stenberg, who would you vote for?

Ben Nelson ..... 41%  
Don Stenberg..... 45%  
Undecided..... 14%

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

Liberal..... 13%  
Moderate..... 43%  
Conservative..... 45%

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

Woman ..... 51%  
Man..... 49%





**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* ..... 34%  
*Republican*..... 52%  
*Independent/Other*..... 14%

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

*White* ..... 95%  
*Other*..... 5%

**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*..... 30%  
*46 to 65*..... 40%  
*Older than 65*..... 20%

**Q17**

*1st*..... 36%  
*2nd*..... 33%  
*3rd* ..... 31%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Heineman Approval</b>				
Approve	67%	40%	59%	83%
Disapprove	23%	52%	31%	8%
Not sure	9%	8%	10%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Johanns Approval</b>				
Approve	59%	28%	49%	76%
Disapprove	28%	55%	38%	11%
Not sure	13%	16%	13%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson Approval</b>				
Approve	39%	49%	58%	20%
Disapprove	50%	39%	33%	70%
Not sure	10%	12%	10%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Bruning Favorability</b>				
Favorable	42%	18%	32%	58%
Unfavorable	26%	49%	36%	11%
Not sure	32%	33%	31%	32%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Fischer Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	12%	13%	13%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	24%	14%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	73%	64%	72%	75%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Flynn Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	8%	11%	8%	7%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	13%	22%	13%	9%
<b>Not sure</b>	79%	67%	79%	83%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Stenberg Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	38%	16%	30%	51%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	51%	32%	12%
<b>Not sure</b>	37%	33%	38%	37%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson/Bruning</b>				
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	39%	72%	58%	12%
<b>Jon Bruning</b>	50%	16%	31%	77%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	12%	10%	11%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson/Fischer</b>				
Ben Nelson	42%	70%	63%	15%
Deb Fischer	35%	11%	16%	60%
Undecided	22%	18%	21%	25%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson/Flynn</b>				
Ben Nelson	42%	73%	62%	16%
Pat Flynn	33%	8%	16%	57%
Undecided	24%	19%	22%	27%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Nelson/Stenberg</b>				
Ben Nelson	41%	72%	61%	13%
Don Stenberg	45%	13%	24%	74%
Undecided	14%	15%	15%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Heineman Approval</b>			
Approve	67%	66%	68%
Disapprove	23%	22%	25%
Not sure	9%	12%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Johanns Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	59%	57%	60%
<b>Disapprove</b>	28%	27%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	39%	42%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	50%	45%	56%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	13%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Bruning Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	42%	39%	45%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	24%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	32%	37%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Fischer Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	7%	19%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	12%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	73%	81%	64%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Flynn Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	8%	5%	11%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	13%	11%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	79%	84%	75%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Stenberg Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	38%	34%	41%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	24%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	37%	41%	32%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson/Bruning</b>			
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	39%	38%	40%
<b>Jon Bruning</b>	50%	47%	53%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	15%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson/Fischer</b>			
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	42%	43%	42%
<b>Deb Fischer</b>	35%	29%	41%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	27%	17%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson/Flynn</b>			
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	42%	43%	42%
<b>Pat Flynn</b>	33%	26%	41%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	31%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Nelson/Stenberg</b>			
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	41%	41%	40%
<b>Don Stenberg</b>	45%	41%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	18%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Heineman Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	67%	44%	83%	65%
<b>Disapprove</b>	23%	44%	10%	23%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	12%	7%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Johanns Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	59%	32%	78%	50%
<b>Disapprove</b>	28%	55%	10%	32%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	14%	12%	18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	39%	58%	26%	47%
<b>Disapprove</b>	50%	33%	64%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	9%	11%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Bruning Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	42%	22%	57%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	47%	13%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	32%	31%	30%	38%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Fischer Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	16%	12%	11%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	19%	12%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	73%	66%	76%	76%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Flynn Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	8%	9%	7%	9%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	13%	20%	10%	5%
<b>Not sure</b>	79%	71%	83%	86%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Stenberg Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	38%	22%	51%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	43%	15%	23%
<b>Not sure</b>	37%	35%	35%	51%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson/Bruning</b>				
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	39%	72%	17%	45%
<b>Jon Bruning</b>	50%	16%	75%	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	12%	8%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson/Fischer</b>				
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	42%	74%	21%	47%
<b>Deb Fischer</b>	35%	10%	54%	27%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	17%	25%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson/Flynn</b>				
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	42%	75%	20%	49%
<b>Pat Flynn</b>	33%	7%	53%	24%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	18%	27%	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Nelson/Stenberg</b>				
Ben Nelson	41%	76%	16%	47%
Don Stenberg	45%	11%	71%	30%
Undecided	14%	13%	13%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Heineman Approval</b>			
Approve	67%	68%	47%
Disapprove	23%	22%	39%
Not sure	9%	9%	13%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Johanns Approval</b>			
Approve	59%	59%	52%
Disapprove	28%	28%	32%
Not sure	13%	13%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Nelson Approval</b>			
Approve	39%	39%	56%
Disapprove	50%	51%	36%
Not sure	10%	10%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Bruning Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	42%	43%	31%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	25%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	32%	32%	22%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Fischer Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	13%	15%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	14%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	73%	73%	58%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Flynn Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	8%	7%	17%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	13%	13%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	79%	80%	68%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Stenberg Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	38%	38%	31%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	25%	32%
<b>Not sure</b>	37%	37%	37%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Nelson/Bruning</b>			
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	39%	38%	70%
<b>Jon Bruning</b>	50%	51%	27%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	12%	3%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Nelson/Fischer</b>			
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	42%	41%	74%
<b>Deb Fischer</b>	35%	36%	16%
<b>Undecided</b>	22%	23%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Nelson/Flynn</b>			
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	42%	41%	73%
<b>Pat Flynn</b>	33%	34%	16%
<b>Undecided</b>	24%	25%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Nelson/Stenberg</b>			
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	41%	39%	67%
<b>Don Stenberg</b>	45%	46%	26%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	15%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Heineman Approval</b>					
Approve	67%	69%	63%	67%	72%
Disapprove	23%	19%	30%	22%	18%
Not sure	9%	13%	7%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Johanns Approval</b>					
Approve	59%	56%	56%	60%	59%
Disapprove	28%	23%	29%	27%	31%
Not sure	13%	21%	15%	12%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson Approval</b>					
Approve	39%	48%	40%	38%	37%
Disapprove	50%	38%	51%	54%	49%
Not sure	10%	15%	9%	8%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Bruning Favorability</b>					
Favorable	42%	35%	41%	44%	43%
Unfavorable	26%	19%	31%	26%	25%
Not sure	32%	46%	29%	30%	32%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Fischer Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	13%	6%	18%	11%	14%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	13%	16%	14%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	73%	81%	66%	76%	72%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Flynn Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	8%	6%	10%	6%	10%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	13%	15%	11%	12%	15%
<b>Not sure</b>	79%	79%	79%	82%	75%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Stenberg Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	38%	23%	31%	42%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	25%	17%	28%	25%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	37%	60%	40%	33%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson/Bruning</b>					
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	39%	44%	44%	34%	40%
<b>Jon Bruning</b>	50%	40%	44%	56%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	17%	12%	10%	9%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson/Fischer</b>					
Ben Nelson	42%	44%	46%	38%	44%
Deb Fischer	35%	38%	33%	37%	33%
Undecided	22%	19%	21%	24%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson/Flynn</b>					
Ben Nelson	42%	44%	46%	39%	44%
Pat Flynn	33%	38%	29%	38%	29%
Undecided	24%	19%	25%	23%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Nelson/Stenberg</b>					
Ben Nelson	41%	42%	45%	38%	38%
Don Stenberg	45%	42%	39%	49%	48%
Undecided	14%	17%	16%	13%	14%

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Heineman Approval</b>				
Approve	67%	69%	63%	70%
Disapprove	23%	22%	27%	20%
Not sure	9%	9%	10%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Johanns Approval</b>				
Approve	59%	61%	55%	60%
Disapprove	28%	28%	30%	27%
Not sure	13%	11%	16%	13%

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Nelson Approval</b>				
Approve	39%	39%	46%	32%
Disapprove	50%	50%	45%	56%
Not sure	10%	11%	8%	12%

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Bruning Favorability</b>				
Favorable	42%	47%	32%	46%
Unfavorable	26%	23%	35%	22%
Not sure	32%	30%	34%	32%

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Fischer Favorability</b>				
Favorable	13%	13%	10%	17%
Unfavorable	14%	14%	15%	13%
Not sure	73%	73%	75%	70%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Flynn Favorability</b>				
Favorable	8%	7%	9%	7%
Unfavorable	13%	14%	11%	13%
Not sure	79%	79%	80%	80%

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Stenberg Favorability</b>				
Favorable	38%	39%	27%	47%
Unfavorable	25%	28%	29%	19%
Not sure	37%	33%	44%	34%

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Nelson/Bruning</b>				
Ben Nelson	39%	38%	50%	30%
Jon Bruning	50%	52%	37%	59%
Undecided	11%	10%	13%	11%

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Nelson/Fischer</b>				
Ben Nelson	42%	41%	52%	35%
Deb Fischer	35%	38%	26%	42%
Undecided	22%	21%	23%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Nelson/Flynn</b>				
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	<b>42%</b>	41%	51%	35%
<b>Pat Flynn</b>	<b>33%</b>	35%	26%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>24%</b>	24%	23%	25%

	Base	Congressional District		
		1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Nelson/Stenberg</b>				
<b>Ben Nelson</b>	<b>41%</b>	39%	52%	31%
<b>Don Stenberg</b>	<b>45%</b>	47%	33%	55%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>14%</b>	14%	16%	13%

