

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

## **Miller Win Not a Product of Palin Coattail**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Contrary to the media spin on the surprise results of last Tuesday’s GOP Senate primary in Alaska, former Governor Sarah Palin did not seem to have a decisive influence on Joe Miller’s apparent victory over incumbent Lisa Murkowski (barring absentee ballot counts). If anything, her impact was minimal, with 65% of those who reported voting in the primary saying Palin’s endorsement had no bearing whatsoever on their vote. Only 15% said it was very important, and 20% somewhat important. In fact, a 39% plurality said that Palin’s endorsement in general makes no difference on who they support, with 35% saying it actually makes them less likely to support her endorsee and only 26% saying it makes them more likely.

Feelings on Miller and Palin do, however, seem to correlate, with both getting 51-40 personal favorability marks. Murkowski, meanwhile, has only a tepid 48-46.

As well as voters liking Miller more than Murkowski, the main thrust of his narrow win seems to have come from the ideology of the voters and the perceived ideologies of the candidates. 59% are conservatives, to only 37% moderates—actually less conservative than the GOP primary electorates in some other states. But 53% support the goals of the Tea Party movement, and Miller hitched every limb of his body to that Express. Indeed, a 47% plurality view Murkowski as too liberal, something only 7% say of Miller, whose views are seen as “about right” by a 51% majority, with only 33% saying he is too conservative. 38% think Murkowski’s ideology “about right.” Only slightly fewer, 34%, see the Republican Party itself as too liberal, than the 35% who see it is “about right.”

“Sarah Palin can claim credit for putting Joe Miller on the map, but not for carrying him to victory, should he end up prevailing,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Instead, the story in Alaska is the same as most other places: the winner was better liked than the loser, and his views were seen as more in line with the electorate. Miller is yet another insurgent candidate who proudly claimed the Tea Party mantle.”

PPP surveyed 805 Republican primary voters on August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error is +/-3.5%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.



## Alaska Survey Results

**Q1** Did you vote for Joe Miller or Lisa Murkowski in the Senate primary?

*Joe Miller* ..... 50%  
*Lisa Murkowski* ..... 50%

**Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Lisa Murkowski's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 48%  
*Disapprove* ..... 46%  
*Not sure* ..... 5%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Joe Miller?

*Favorable* ..... 51% *Not sure* ..... 10%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 40%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

*Favorable* ..... 51% *Not sure* ..... 9%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 40%

**Q5** Are you more or less likely to vote for a candidate endorsed by Sarah Palin, or does it not make a difference?

*More likely* ..... 26%  
*Less likely* ..... 35%  
*Doesn't make a difference* ..... 39%

**Q6** Do you think that Lisa Murkowski is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

*Too liberal* ..... 47%  
*Too conservative* ..... 9%  
*About right* ..... 38%  
*Not sure* ..... 5%

**Q7** Do you think that Joe Miller is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

*Too liberal* ..... 7%  
*Too conservative* ..... 33%  
*About right* ..... 51%  
*Not sure* ..... 8%

**Q8** Do you approve or disapprove of the current direction of the Republican Party?

*Approve* ..... 30%  
*Disapprove* ..... 45%  
*Not sure* ..... 25%

**Q9** Do you support or oppose the goals of the 'Tea Party' movement?

*Support* ..... 53%  
*Oppose* ..... 28%  
*Not sure* ..... 19%

**Q10** Do you personally identify as a member of the 'Tea Party' movement?

*Yes* ..... 18%  
*No* ..... 65%  
*Not sure* ..... 17%

**Q11** Do you think the Republican Party is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

*Too liberal* ..... 34%  
*Too conservative* ..... 24%  
*About right* ..... 35%  
*Not sure* ..... 7%





**Q12** Was Sarah Palin's endorsement in the Senate race very important, somewhat important, or not important at all in who you decided to vote for?

*Very important*..... 15%  
*Somewhat important*..... 20%  
*Not important at all*..... 65%

**Q13** If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 4%  
*Moderate*..... 37%  
*Conservative*..... 59%

**Q14** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 48%  
*Man*..... 52%

**Q15** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 6%  
*30 to 45*..... 26%  
*46 to 65*..... 46%  
*Older than 65*..... 22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Murkowski Approval		
		Approve	Disapprove	Not sure
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>				
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	15%	86%	52%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	85%	14%	48%

	Base	Miller Favorability		
		Favorable	Unfavorable	Not sure
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>				
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	85%	9%	28%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	15%	91%	72%

	Base	Palin Favorability		
		Favorable	Unfavorable	Not sure
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>				
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	72%	20%	50%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	28%	80%	50%

	Base	Palin Endorsement Impact		
		More likely	Less likely	Doesn't make a difference
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>				
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	82%	19%	57%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	18%	81%	43%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Murkowski Ideology			
		Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	Not sure
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>					
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	85%	35%	12%	55%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	15%	65%	88%	45%

	Base	Miller Ideology			
		Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	Not sure
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>					
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	28%	14%	82%	20%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	72%	86%	18%	80%

	Base	GOP Direction Approval		
		Approve	Disapprove	Not sure
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>				
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	55%	47%	49%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	45%	53%	51%

	Base	Tea Party Support		
		Support	Oppose	Not sure
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>				
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	74%	12%	38%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	26%	88%	62%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Tea Party ID		
		Yes	No	Not sure
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>				
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	80%	37%	67%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	20%	63%	33%

	Base	GOP Ideology			
		Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	Not sure
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>					
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	76%	20%	47%	43%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	24%	80%	53%	57%

	Base	Palin Endorsement Importance		
		Very important	Somewhat important	Not important at all
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>				
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	54%	66%	44%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	46%	34%	56%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Miller or Murkowski</b>				
<b>Joe Miller</b>	50%	59%	23%	67%
<b>Lisa Murkowski</b>	50%	41%	77%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Miller or Murkowski			
Joe Miller	50%	46%	54%
Lisa Murkowski	50%	54%	46%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Miller or Murkowski					
Joe Miller	50%	73%	44%	51%	48%
Lisa Murkowski	50%	27%	56%	49%	52%

