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Arizona's Kyl not in danger of being primaried

Raleigh, N.C. – The Tea Party is hungry to get its favored candidates nominated at every possible level of government. Their success in ousting several establishment Republicans in 2010 primaries could only make them more motivated to put up further challengers in 2012. But if he decides to go for another term next year, Arizona Senator Jon Kyl should feel pretty comfortable he will not be among the far right's targets.

Kyl's base gives him a healthy 70-16 approval rating. 68% of Arizona's GOP primary voters see his views as "about right," and only 9% think them too liberal. Even among the 70% who call themselves conservatives, only 11% say that, while three-quarters think him "about right."

If Kyl were to face a generic "more conservative challenger" next spring, he would survive that test with 46% of the vote. Only 30% would support his unnamed primary opponent, and almost as many, 24%, are not sure. There is some danger with conservative voters here, though. They go for Kyl by only a 41-38 margin (versus 55-15 with the 27% of self-labeled moderates). Even though Kyl is seen as sufficiently right of center, if you ask conservatives if they would support someone to the right of even the most strident right-winger, they will generally say "yes."

"These numbers say a lot about how hard it is to be an establishment Republican right now," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Only 9% of Republicans think Kyl's too liberal yet 30% still want to replace him with someone more conservative. With a significant chunk of the GOP base it is simply impossible to be conservative enough."

Arizona's presidential primary is a wide-open race between the usual top four. Mitt Romney emerges as the favorite at this point, though narrowly, with 23% of the vote. That bests Mike Huckabee's 19%, and more (16%) are undecided than support any of the other candidates. Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich each capture 15%, with the usual suspects in low single digits: Ron Paul at 5%, Tim Pawlenty at 4%, Mitch Daniels at 2%, and John Thune at 1%.

PPP surveyed 400 usual Arizona Republican primary voters from January 28th to 30th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Arizona Survey Results

- Q1** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?
- Favorable*..... 59%
- Unfavorable* 22%
- Not sure* 19%
- Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?
- Favorable*..... 62%
- Unfavorable* 20%
- Not sure* 17%
- Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?
- Favorable*..... 66%
- Unfavorable* 26%
- Not sure* 8%
- Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?
- Favorable*..... 62%
- Unfavorable* 22%
- Not sure* 16%
- Q5** Do you approve or disapprove of Democratic Senator Jon Kyl's job performance?
- Approve*70% *Not sure*14%
- Disapprove*.....16%
- Q6** If the Republican candidates for President next year were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and John Thune who would you vote for?
- Mitch Daniels* 2%
- Newt Gingrich* 15%
- Mike Huckabee* 19%
- Sarah Palin* 15%
- Ron Paul*..... 5%
- Tim Pawlenty* 4%
- Mitt Romney*..... 23%
- John Thune*..... 1%
- Someone else/Undecided*..... 16%
- Q7** Do you think Jon Kyl is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?
- Too liberal* 9%
- Too conservative*..... 10%
- About right* 68%
- Not sure* 13%
- Q8** If the Republican primary for Senate next year was between Jon Kyl and a more conservative challenger, who would you vote for?
- Jon Kyl*..... 46%
- More conservative challenger*..... 30%
- Not sure* 24%
- Q9** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?
- Liberal*..... 3%
- Moderate*..... 27%
- Conservative*..... 70%



Q10 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 50%

Man..... 50%

Q11 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2.
If other, press 3.

Hispanic..... 11%

White 82%

Other..... 7%

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..... 6%

30 to 45..... 20%

46 to 65..... 42%

Older than 65..... 32%



Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	59%	52%	40%	67%
Unfavorable	22%	40%	38%	15%
Not sure	19%	8%	22%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	62%	70%	39%	71%
Unfavorable	20%	30%	40%	12%
Not sure	17%	-	21%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	66%	47%	41%	77%
Unfavorable	26%	48%	51%	15%
Not sure	8%	5%	8%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	62%	54%	56%	64%
Unfavorable	22%	36%	27%	20%
Not sure	16%	9%	17%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Kyl Approval				
Approve	70%	52%	53%	78%
Disapprove	16%	48%	32%	8%
Not sure	14%	-	15%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Mitch Daniels	2%	-	-	3%
Newt Gingrich	15%	-	15%	16%
Mike Huckabee	19%	40%	20%	17%
Sarah Palin	15%	22%	13%	15%
Ron Paul	5%	8%	9%	3%
Tim Pawlenty	4%	-	4%	4%
Mitt Romney	23%	12%	26%	22%
John Thune	1%	-	-	1%
Someone else/Undecided	16%	17%	14%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Kyl Ideology				
Too liberal	9%	17%	3%	11%
Too conservative	10%	53%	28%	1%
About right	68%	22%	55%	75%
Not sure	13%	8%	13%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Kyl vs. Con Challenger				
Jon Kyl	46%	78%	55%	41%
More conservative challenger	30%	-	15%	38%
Not sure	24%	22%	31%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	59%	54%	64%
Unfavorable	22%	23%	21%
Not sure	19%	23%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	62%	59%	65%
Unfavorable	20%	21%	20%
Not sure	17%	20%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	66%	61%	72%
Unfavorable	26%	31%	20%
Not sure	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	62%	58%	65%
Unfavorable	22%	24%	20%
Not sure	16%	18%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kyl Approval			
Approve	70%	69%	71%
Disapprove	16%	13%	19%
Not sure	14%	18%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Mitch Daniels	2%	2%	3%
Newt Gingrich	15%	12%	18%
Mike Huckabee	19%	22%	15%
Sarah Palin	15%	13%	17%
Ron Paul	5%	5%	4%
Tim Pawlenty	4%	5%	3%
Mitt Romney	23%	21%	25%
John Thune	1%	2%	0%
Someone else/Undecided	16%	19%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kyl Ideology			
Too liberal	9%	7%	10%
Too conservative	10%	10%	11%
About right	68%	68%	68%
Not sure	13%	15%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kyl vs. Con Challenger			
Jon Kyl	46%	45%	47%
More conservative challenger	30%	26%	34%
Not sure	24%	29%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	59%	40%	62%	53%
Unfavorable	22%	34%	20%	27%
Not sure	19%	27%	18%	20%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	62%	71%	61%	60%
Unfavorable	20%	14%	21%	29%
Not sure	17%	15%	18%	11%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	66%	66%	68%	49%
Unfavorable	26%	33%	23%	40%
Not sure	8%	2%	9%	11%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	62%	46%	64%	58%
Unfavorable	22%	31%	20%	35%
Not sure	16%	23%	16%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Kyl Approval				
Approve	70%	53%	73%	60%
Disapprove	16%	25%	13%	32%
Not sure	14%	22%	13%	8%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Mitch Daniels	2%	2%	2%	4%
Newt Gingrich	15%	9%	16%	10%
Mike Huckabee	19%	26%	19%	5%
Sarah Palin	15%	22%	14%	16%
Ron Paul	5%	5%	4%	16%
Tim Pawlenty	4%	5%	4%	-
Mitt Romney	23%	8%	25%	25%
John Thune	1%	-	1%	-
Someone else/Undecided	16%	24%	15%	24%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Kyl Ideology				
Too liberal	9%	10%	8%	10%
Too conservative	10%	17%	9%	16%
About right	68%	49%	73%	46%
Not sure	13%	24%	10%	28%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Kyl vs. Con Challenger				
Jon Kyl	46%	41%	47%	34%
More conservative challenger	30%	42%	29%	26%
Not sure	24%	16%	24%	40%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	59%	50%	55%	54%	69%
Unfavorable	22%	10%	24%	25%	19%
Not sure	19%	40%	21%	20%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	62%	60%	66%	60%	63%
Unfavorable	20%	20%	16%	25%	18%
Not sure	17%	20%	18%	15%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	66%	67%	66%	65%	69%
Unfavorable	26%	33%	26%	27%	22%
Not sure	8%	-	8%	8%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	62%	56%	58%	59%	68%
Unfavorable	22%	22%	24%	24%	19%
Not sure	16%	22%	18%	17%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kyl Approval					
Approve	70%	60%	61%	70%	78%
Disapprove	16%	30%	13%	19%	11%
Not sure	14%	10%	26%	11%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Mitch Daniels	2%	-	3%	2%	2%
Newt Gingrich	15%	20%	13%	15%	15%
Mike Huckabee	19%	30%	24%	14%	19%
Sarah Palin	15%	10%	13%	19%	12%
Ron Paul	5%	10%	-	8%	3%
Tim Pawlenty	4%	-	-	6%	5%
Mitt Romney	23%	20%	26%	17%	28%
John Thune	1%	-	-	-	3%
Someone else/Undecided	16%	10%	21%	18%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kyl Ideology					
Too liberal	9%	30%	8%	8%	6%
Too conservative	10%	-	11%	11%	11%
About right	68%	50%	55%	70%	77%
Not sure	13%	20%	26%	11%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kyl vs. Con Challenger					
Jon Kyl	46%	30%	26%	50%	56%
More conservative challenger	30%	40%	47%	25%	24%
Not sure	24%	30%	26%	25%	21%

