

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312

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Flake holds small leads over Carmona and Bivens

Raleigh, N.C. – Rep. Jeff Flake has been in Congress for almost 11 years and in the race to replace Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl for nine months, so right now, he has a considerable leg up on name recognition over both Democrats: newly announced former Surgeon General Richard Carmona and former state party chair Don Bivens. But Flake leads Carmona by only four points (40-36) and Bivens by ten (42-32) in what could be the most promising Arizona Senate election for Democrats since one of them last won in 1988.

Flake has improved his favorability mark since PPP last polled the race in May, before either Democrat was in the race. Then, 29% saw him positively and 30% negatively. Now, that is 33-27. 41% had no opinion in both surveys. By comparison, 71% cannot say how they feel about Carmona, and 81% of Bivens. But even though Flake is a more familiar face at this point than either of his potential Democratic opponents, still about as many Republican voters are undecided as Democrats, so Democrats cannot just hope that as their party coalesces around a nominee things will improve. Flake's own party is likely to do the same.

It will be difficult for Democrats to win this seat if their party is not united. 14% of Democrats see Flake positively, and he gets 12% of them versus Carmona and 14% against Bivens. Independents will also be key. They are over a fifth of the electorate, and 44% of them are undecided in either matchup, with Flake currently holding leads of three points over Carmona and ten over Bivens. Though three-quarters of them cannot form an opinion on Carmona personally, Republicans actually see him just narrowly favorably (13-12), and 10% of them say they would prefer him to Flake, versus only 7% who say that of Bivens.

“Democrats appear to start out with a real chance in this race,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “In a cycle where the party has limited opportunities on offense this is an alluring race.”

PPP surveyed 500 Arizona voters from November 17th to 20th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.4%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Arizona Survey Results

<p>Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Don Bivens?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 6%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> 13%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 81%</p>	<p>Q7 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Richard Carmona and Republican Wil Cardon, who would you vote for?</p> <p><i>Richard Carmona</i>..... 33%</p> <p><i>Wil Cardon</i>..... 35%</p> <p><i>Undecided</i>..... 32%</p>
<p>Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Wil Cardon?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 7%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> 12%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 82%</p>	<p>Q8 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Richard Carmona and Republican Jeff Flake, who would you vote for?</p> <p><i>Richard Carmona</i>..... 36%</p> <p><i>Jeff Flake</i> 40%</p> <p><i>Undecided</i>..... 24%</p>
<p>Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Richard Carmona?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 17%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> 11%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 71%</p>	<p>Q9 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?</p> <p><i>Very liberal</i>..... 13%</p> <p><i>Somewhat liberal</i> 17%</p> <p><i>Moderate</i>..... 25%</p> <p><i>Somewhat conservative</i>..... 25%</p> <p><i>Very conservative</i> 21%</p>
<p>Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jeff Flake?</p> <p><i>Favorable</i>..... 33%</p> <p><i>Unfavorable</i> 27%</p> <p><i>Not sure</i> 41%</p>	<p>Q10 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.</p> <p><i>Woman</i> 53%</p> <p><i>Man</i>..... 47%</p>
<p>Q5 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Don Bivens and Republican Wil Cardon, who would you vote for?</p> <p><i>Don Bivens</i> 27%</p> <p><i>Wil Cardon</i>..... 35%</p> <p><i>Undecided</i>..... 37%</p>	<p>Q11 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.</p> <p><i>Democrat</i>..... 38%</p> <p><i>Republican</i>..... 41%</p> <p><i>Independent/Other</i>..... 21%</p>
<p>Q6 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Don Bivens and Republican Jeff Flake, who would you vote for?</p> <p><i>Don Bivens</i> 32%</p> <p><i>Jeff Flake</i> 42%</p> <p><i>Undecided</i>..... 26%</p>	<p>Q12 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If other, press 3.</p> <p><i>Hispanic</i>..... 16%</p> <p><i>White</i> 76%</p> <p><i>African-American</i> 8%</p>



Q13 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.

<i>18 to 45</i>	12%
<i>30 to 45</i>	26%
<i>46 to 65</i>	42%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%



Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bivens Favorability						
Favorable	6%	11%	4%	4%	7%	8%
Unfavorable	13%	24%	17%	14%	9%	6%
Not sure	81%	65%	79%	82%	84%	87%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cardon Favorability						
Favorable	7%	4%	2%	4%	10%	11%
Unfavorable	12%	17%	15%	13%	7%	10%
Not sure	82%	79%	84%	83%	83%	79%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Carmona Favorability						
Favorable	17%	28%	23%	18%	18%	4%
Unfavorable	11%	18%	10%	9%	9%	14%
Not sure	71%	54%	66%	72%	74%	82%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Flake Favorability						
Favorable	33%	11%	11%	20%	42%	68%
Unfavorable	27%	43%	45%	37%	12%	7%
Not sure	41%	46%	44%	43%	46%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bivens/Cardon						
Don Bivens	27%	50%	53%	34%	9%	5%
Wil Cardon	35%	24%	11%	12%	44%	79%
Undecided	37%	26%	36%	54%	47%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bivens/Flake						
Don Bivens	32%	59%	62%	43%	12%	2%
Jeff Flake	42%	32%	7%	18%	55%	90%
Undecided	26%	9%	30%	39%	32%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Carmona/Cardon						
Richard Carmona	33%	67%	63%	42%	12%	3%
Wil Cardon	35%	24%	6%	12%	41%	85%
Undecided	32%	10%	31%	46%	47%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Carmona/Flake						
Richard Carmona	36%	71%	66%	46%	16%	5%
Jeff Flake	40%	28%	6%	16%	52%	89%
Undecided	24%	1%	28%	38%	33%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bivens Favorability			
Favorable	6%	6%	7%
Unfavorable	13%	13%	13%
Not sure	81%	82%	80%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cardon Favorability			
Favorable	7%	4%	9%
Unfavorable	12%	11%	12%
Not sure	82%	84%	79%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Carmona Favorability			
Favorable	17%	16%	18%
Unfavorable	11%	9%	14%
Not sure	71%	75%	67%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Flake Favorability			
Favorable	33%	25%	42%
Unfavorable	27%	24%	29%
Not sure	41%	50%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bivens/Cardon			
Don Bivens	27%	23%	32%
Wil Cardon	35%	31%	41%
Undecided	37%	46%	27%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bivens/Flake			
Don Bivens	32%	32%	32%
Jeff Flake	42%	36%	49%
Undecided	26%	31%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Carmona/Cardon			
Richard Carmona	33%	34%	33%
Wil Cardon	35%	29%	42%
Undecided	32%	38%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Carmona/Flake			
Richard Carmona	36%	36%	36%
Jeff Flake	40%	34%	47%
Undecided	24%	30%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bivens Favorability				
Favorable	6%	5%	8%	6%
Unfavorable	13%	19%	10%	6%
Not sure	81%	76%	82%	88%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cardon Favorability				
Favorable	7%	2%	13%	3%
Unfavorable	12%	15%	9%	11%
Not sure	82%	83%	79%	86%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Carmona Favorability				
Favorable	17%	27%	13%	9%
Unfavorable	11%	11%	12%	12%
Not sure	71%	63%	75%	80%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Flake Favorability				
Favorable	33%	14%	52%	29%
Unfavorable	27%	44%	13%	21%
Not sure	41%	42%	35%	50%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bivens/Cardon				
Don Bivens	27%	51%	7%	24%
Wil Cardon	35%	11%	64%	23%
Undecided	37%	38%	29%	53%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bivens/Flake				
Don Bivens	32%	64%	7%	23%
Jeff Flake	42%	14%	73%	33%
Undecided	26%	22%	20%	44%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Carmona/Cardon				
Richard Carmona	33%	64%	9%	25%
Wil Cardon	35%	10%	66%	20%
Undecided	32%	26%	25%	55%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Carmona/Flake				
Richard Carmona	36%	70%	10%	26%
Jeff Flake	40%	12%	72%	29%
Undecided	24%	18%	18%	44%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	African-American
Bivens Favorability				
Favorable	6%	6%	6%	11%
Unfavorable	13%	26%	9%	21%
Not sure	81%	68%	85%	69%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	African-American
Cardon Favorability				
Favorable	7%	3%	8%	7%
Unfavorable	12%	26%	8%	15%
Not sure	82%	72%	84%	78%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	African-American
Carmona Favorability				
Favorable	17%	27%	16%	13%
Unfavorable	11%	21%	9%	14%
Not sure	71%	52%	75%	73%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	African-American
Flake Favorability				
Favorable	33%	22%	35%	36%
Unfavorable	27%	41%	23%	26%
Not sure	41%	37%	42%	38%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	African-American
Bivens/Cardon				
Don Bivens	27%	33%	25%	38%
Wil Cardon	35%	24%	39%	27%
Undecided	37%	43%	36%	35%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	African-American
Bivens/Flake				
Don Bivens	32%	47%	29%	31%
Jeff Flake	42%	23%	47%	33%
Undecided	26%	30%	24%	35%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	African-American
Carmona/Cardon				
Richard Carmona	33%	44%	31%	31%
Wil Cardon	35%	19%	39%	29%
Undecided	32%	37%	30%	39%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	African-American
Carmona/Flake				
Richard Carmona	36%	56%	32%	33%
Jeff Flake	40%	19%	46%	30%
Undecided	24%	25%	22%	37%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 45	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bivens Favorability					
Favorable	6%	4%	9%	4%	10%
Unfavorable	13%	14%	11%	12%	15%
Not sure	81%	82%	80%	84%	75%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 45	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cardon Favorability					
Favorable	7%	-	9%	5%	11%
Unfavorable	12%	15%	9%	12%	12%
Not sure	82%	85%	82%	83%	77%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 45	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Carmona Favorability					
Favorable	17%	11%	8%	22%	25%
Unfavorable	11%	11%	11%	11%	14%
Not sure	71%	79%	82%	67%	62%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 45	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Flake Favorability					
Favorable	33%	25%	33%	35%	32%
Unfavorable	27%	25%	21%	29%	29%
Not sure	41%	50%	45%	36%	39%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 45	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bivens/Cardon					
Don Bivens	27%	29%	18%	30%	31%
Wil Cardon	35%	25%	42%	34%	35%
Undecided	37%	46%	39%	35%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 45	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bivens/Flake					
Don Bivens	32%	39%	24%	33%	36%
Jeff Flake	42%	25%	44%	45%	45%
Undecided	26%	36%	32%	22%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 45	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Carmona/Cardon					
Richard Carmona	33%	39%	21%	36%	40%
Wil Cardon	35%	21%	42%	35%	33%
Undecided	32%	39%	36%	29%	28%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 45	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Carmona/Flake					
Richard Carmona	36%	36%	27%	40%	40%
Jeff Flake	40%	25%	44%	41%	42%
Undecided	24%	39%	29%	18%	18%

