

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Hickenlooper starts out ahead

Raleigh, N.C. – John Hickenlooper has a strong early advantage in the Colorado Governor’s race, leading Republican opponent Scott McInnis by a 50-39 margin.

Hickenlooper is bucking both of the trends that have made GOP candidates the early favorites in most competitive races around the country. Unlike most of his Democratic brethren he leads with independents, 48-34. And he’s also getting more crossover support from Republicans (13%) than McInnis is from Democrats (7%.)

Hickenlooper is both better known and more popular than McInnis. 51% of voters in the state view him favorably compared to 27% who see him unfavorably. McInnis has the same 27% with a negative opinion of him, but only 28% have a positive view of him. 44% of respondents have no opinion about McInnis while just 22% are ambivalent toward Hickenlooper.

There’s little doubt that Democrats are better off with Hickenlooper as their candidate than they were with Bill Ritter. Ritter’s approval rating is a negative 38/50 spread, numbers even worse than the 40/45 spread he showed when PPP last surveyed the state in August. At that time Ritter trailed McInnis by 8 points.

“John Hickenlooper’s entry into this race has turned it from one where Democrats were favored to lose to one where they will be favored to win,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “McInnis’ leads last year were much less about his strength than Ritter’s weakness. With a stronger Democratic candidate in the picture now this is a completely different race.”

PPP will release numbers looking at the 2012 GOP Presidential candidates in the state tomorrow, the Senate race on Friday, and the primaries for Governor and Senate Monday.

PPP surveyed 580 Colorado voters from March 5th to 8th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.1%. 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.

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Colorado Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Bill Ritter's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 38%
Disapprove..... 50%
Not Sure..... 11%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Hickenlooper? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Yes 51%
No..... 27%
Not Sure..... 22%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Scott McInnis? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 28%
Unfavorable 27%
Not Sure..... 44%

Q4 If the candidates for Governor this fall were Democrat John Hickenlooper and Republican Scott McInnis, who would you vote for? If John Hickenlooper, press 1. If Scott McInnis, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

Hickenlooper..... 50%
McInnis 39%
Undecided..... 11%

Q5 Who did you vote for President last year? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If someone else or you don't remember, press 3.

McCain..... 49%
Obama..... 49%
Someone Else/Don't Remember..... 2%

Q6 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 23%
Moderate..... 42%
Conservative..... 35%

Q7 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 50%
Man..... 50%

Q8 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 39%
Republican..... 36%
Independent/Other..... 24%

Q9 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 12%
White 80%
African American 4%
Other..... 4%

Q10 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29..... 11%
30 to 45..... 26%
46 to 65..... 43%
Older than 65..... 19%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Ritter Approval				
Approve	39%	11%	68%	10%
Disapprove	50%	79%	20%	71%
Not Sure	11%	10%	12%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Hickenlooper Favorability				
Yes	53%	30%	76%	59%
No	26%	42%	10%	-
Not Sure	22%	28%	14%	41%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
McInnis Favorability				
Favorable	29%	44%	12%	31%
Unfavorable	27%	13%	42%	10%
Not Sure	44%	43%	46%	59%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Hickenlooper/McInnis				
Hickenlooper	51%	14%	86%	90%
McInnis	39%	74%	6%	10%
Undecided	10%	13%	8%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Ritter Approval				
Approve	38%	63%	50%	7%
Disapprove	50%	24%	37%	84%
Not Sure	11%	13%	13%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hickenlooper Favorability				
Yes	51%	70%	64%	23%
No	27%	13%	18%	45%
Not Sure	22%	17%	17%	31%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
McInnis Favorability				
Favorable	28%	8%	26%	45%
Unfavorable	27%	43%	33%	9%
Not Sure	44%	50%	40%	46%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hickenlooper/McInnis				
Hickenlooper	50%	86%	62%	10%
McInnis	39%	7%	25%	77%
Undecided	11%	7%	12%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ritter Approval			
Approve	38%	43%	34%
Disapprove	50%	43%	57%
Not Sure	11%	13%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hickenlooper Favorability			
Yes	51%	54%	49%
No	27%	23%	31%
Not Sure	22%	24%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McInnis Favorability			
Favorable	28%	23%	34%
Unfavorable	27%	27%	27%
Not Sure	44%	49%	39%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hickenlooper/McInnis			
Hickenlooper	50%	55%	45%
McInnis	39%	32%	46%
Undecided	11%	13%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Ritter Approval				
Approve	38%	66%	12%	33%
Disapprove	50%	23%	79%	51%
Not Sure	11%	10%	10%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Hickenlooper Favorability				
Yes	51%	72%	30%	49%
No	27%	12%	41%	28%
Not Sure	22%	16%	28%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McInnis Favorability				
Favorable	28%	11%	49%	26%
Unfavorable	27%	42%	10%	30%
Not Sure	44%	48%	41%	44%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Hickenlooper/McInnis				
Hickenlooper	50%	85%	13%	48%
McInnis	39%	7%	77%	34%
Undecided	11%	8%	10%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Ritter Approval					
Approve	38%	53%	35%	67%	28%
Disapprove	50%	44%	53%	17%	53%
Not Sure	11%	3%	12%	17%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Hickenlooper Favorability					
Yes	51%	44%	52%	58%	50%
No	27%	29%	27%	17%	25%
Not Sure	22%	26%	21%	25%	25%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
McInnis Favorability					
Favorable	28%	24%	30%	17%	19%
Unfavorable	27%	35%	26%	42%	22%
Not Sure	44%	41%	44%	42%	58%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Hickenlooper/McInnis					
Hickenlooper	50%	59%	47%	83%	36%
McInnis	39%	32%	42%	-	44%
Undecided	11%	9%	11%	17%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ritter Approval					
Approve	38%	46%	36%	42%	29%
Disapprove	50%	41%	52%	49%	57%
Not Sure	11%	13%	12%	9%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hickenlooper Favorability					
Yes	51%	50%	47%	58%	43%
No	27%	22%	28%	24%	32%
Not Sure	22%	28%	24%	18%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McInnis Favorability					
Favorable	28%	24%	26%	27%	38%
Unfavorable	27%	33%	18%	34%	22%
Not Sure	44%	44%	56%	40%	41%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hickenlooper/McInnis					
Hickenlooper	50%	53%	48%	54%	41%
McInnis	39%	27%	42%	37%	47%
Undecided	11%	20%	9%	10%	12%

