

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)**

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

## **Ritter at risk in 2010**

**Raleigh, N.C.** –Colorado Governor Bill Ritter could be in danger of losing reelection in 2010, the newest survey from Public Policy Polling finds.

Ritter's approval rating has dropped to 41% with 49% disapproving. A January PPP survey showed it at 47% approval and 40% disapproval so the numbers have basically flipped over that period of time.

Ritter's problems are similar to Michael Bennet's. He's getting a net negative rating from Hispanic voters at 46/47, even as Barack Obama meets approval with that group by a 58/36 margin. He's also in negative territory with independents at 40/52.

Ritter trails former Congressman Scott McInnis in a hypothetical match up 48-41, but leads Senate minority leader Josh Penry 42-40.

A 40% plurality of voters in the state say they don't know enough about McInnis to have an opinion of him one way or the other. Among those who do 32% say they have a favorable view of him with 28% seeing him unfavorably.

"Bill Ritter has some work to do to win reelection next year," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "He needs to shore up his standing with one of the Democratic Party's strongest demographics and he also needs to win back the independents who have been so critical to the success of Barack Obama, Mark Udall, and himself over the last couple election cycles in the state."

Ritter's approval is strongly polarized along party lines with 70% of Democrats but only 15% of Republicans giving him positive marks.

PPP surveyed 1,050 Colorado voters between April 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The survey's margin of error is +/-3%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

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



## 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* ..... 41%  
*Disapprove*..... 49%  
*Not Sure*..... 9%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of former Republican Congressman Scott McInnis? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*..... 32%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 28%  
*Not Sure*..... 40%

**Q3** If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Scott McInnis and Democrat Bill Ritter, who would you vote for? If Scott McInnis, press 1. If Bill Ritter, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*McInnis* ..... 48%  
*Ritter* ..... 41%  
*Undecided*..... 11%

**Q4** If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Josh Penry and Democrat Bill Ritter, who would you vote for? If Josh Penry, press 1. If Bill Ritter, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Penry* ..... 40%  
*Ritter* ..... 42%  
*Undecided*..... 18%

**Q5** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 54%  
*Man*..... 46%

**Q6** 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* ..... 36%  
*Republican*..... 38%  
*Independent/Other*..... 26%

**Q7** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

*Hispanic*..... 14%  
*White* ..... 77%  
*African American* ..... 4%  
*Other*..... 5%

**Q8** 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*..... 12%  
*30 to 45*..... 23%  
*46 to 65*..... 47%  
*Older than 65*..... 18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Ritter Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	41%	48%	34%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	43%	57%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	10%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>McInnis Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	27%	39%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	25%	31%
<b>Not Sure</b>	40%	48%	30%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>McInnis/Ritter</b>			
<b>McInnis</b>	48%	44%	52%
<b>Ritter</b>	41%	46%	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	10%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Penry/Ritter</b>			
<b>Penry</b>	40%	36%	45%
<b>Ritter</b>	42%	47%	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	18%	17%	19%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Ritter Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	41%	70%	15%	40%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	20%	76%	52%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	10%	9%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>McInnis Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	13%	53%	29%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	46%	10%	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	40%	41%	37%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>McInnis/Ritter</b>				
<b>McInnis</b>	48%	17%	81%	42%
<b>Ritter</b>	41%	73%	10%	41%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	10%	9%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Penry/Ritter</b>				
<b>Penry</b>	40%	13%	70%	35%
<b>Ritter</b>	42%	77%	10%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	18%	10%	21%	25%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Ritter Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>41%</b>	46%	40%	51%	51%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>49%</b>	47%	51%	34%	46%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	7%	9%	15%	4%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>McInnis Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>32%</b>	31%	33%	18%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>28%</b>	32%	26%	48%	25%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>40%</b>	37%	41%	34%	29%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>McInnis/Ritter</b>					
<b>McInnis</b>	<b>48%</b>	45%	49%	33%	46%
<b>Ritter</b>	<b>41%</b>	42%	40%	55%	42%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	13%	11%	12%	12%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Penry/Ritter</b>					
<b>Penry</b>	<b>40%</b>	38%	41%	30%	39%
<b>Ritter</b>	<b>42%</b>	47%	40%	54%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>18%</b>	15%	19%	16%	16%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Ritter Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	41%	38%	39%	45%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	58%	50%	46%	51%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	4%	11%	8%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>McInnis Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	38%	31%	30%	38%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	42%	27%	27%	22%
<b>Not Sure</b>	40%	20%	42%	43%	40%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>McInnis/Ritter</b>					
<b>McInnis</b>	48%	60%	47%	44%	50%
<b>Ritter</b>	41%	36%	40%	44%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	4%	12%	12%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Penry/Ritter</b>					
<b>Penry</b>	40%	56%	43%	35%	40%
<b>Ritter</b>	42%	40%	40%	45%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	18%	4%	16%	21%	21%

