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McMahon, Murphy lead CT GOP and Dem Senate primaries

Raleigh, N.C. – Chris Shays is Republicans’ strongest candidate for a potential upset in the Connecticut Senate race because of his appeal to independents and Democrats. But to give his party that shot at taking over Joe Lieberman’s long-held seat, he will have to get through Linda McMahon. And right now, last year’s failed Senate nominee has a stranglehold on the early GOP nomination race. She has over half the vote (54%) in a four-person field, with Shays way back at 19%, Rob Simmons at 15%, and Jason McCoy at 2%. Even if Simmons chooses to stay out of the fray, Shays would benefit little, trailing McMahon 60-27.

Connecticut’s Republican voters are much more moderate than most other states’. More (27%) say they are centrist than very conservative (25%). McMahon has a 67-point advantage with the furthest-right voters, and leads by more than 30 points with the 41% plurality who say they are only somewhat conservative. With Simmons on the slate, McMahon even leads by three points with moderates, and Shays jumps to only a four-point lead in Simmons’ absence. To come from way behind to win, Shays will have to seriously contest McMahon with the center-right and dominate with moderates.

Mitt Romney needs to employ the same formula to beat Rick Perry for the presidential nod, but because of his regional ties and the Nutmeg State GOP’s ideological temperateness, he is in solid shape. He earns 25% to Perry’s 18%, Newt Gingrich’s, Herman Cain’s, and Ron Paul’s 10%, and Michele Bachmann’s 8%.

As on the Republican side, it is clear who the Democrats’ strongest Senate candidate would be: Chris Murphy. But while he will not have to claw from behind to win the nomination like Shays, he will have to protect against Susan Bysiewicz. Murphy has only a 39-33 lead over her at the moment. Bysiewicz actually leads by eight points with the most liberal voters (19% of the electorate), but Murphy by 20 with the somewhat liberal plurality. It is a tie with the 28% who say they are moderate.

PPP surveyed 400 usual Connecticut Democratic primary voters and 400 Republican primary voters from September 22nd to 25th. The margin of error for each survey is +/- 4.9%. 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.



Connecticut Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Michele Bachmann?

Favorable..... 45%
Unfavorable 37%
Not sure 18%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 53%
Unfavorable 35%
Not sure 12%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 16%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Perry?

Favorable..... 51%
Unfavorable 32%
Not sure 17%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 59%
Unfavorable 29%
Not sure 12%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Linda McMahon?

Favorable..... 69%
Unfavorable 21%
Not sure 10%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Christopher Shays?

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 29%
Not sure 35%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rob Simmons?

Favorable..... 38%
Unfavorable 21%
Not sure 41%

Q9 If the Republican candidates for President were Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Gary Johnson, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, and Rick Santorum, who would you vote for?

Michele Bachmann 8%
Herman Cain..... 10%
Newt Gingrich 10%
Jon Huntsman..... 3%
Gary Johnson 1%
Ron Paul..... 10%
Rick Perry 18%
Mitt Romney..... 25%
Rick Santorum 3%
Someone else/Not sure 12%





Q10 If the Republican Presidential race came down to just Rick Perry and Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Rick Perry 36%
Mitt Romney..... 45%
Not sure 19%

Q11 If the Republican candidates for Senate next year were Jason McCoy, Linda McMahon, Christopher Shays, and Rob Simmons, who would you vote for?

Jason McCoy..... 2%
Linda McMahon 54%
Christopher Shays 19%
Rob Simmons 15%
Someone else/Not sure 10%

Q12 If the Republican candidates for Senate next year were just Jason McCoy, Linda McMahon, and Christopher Shays, who would you vote for?

Jason McCoy..... 3%
Linda McMahon 60%
Christopher Shays 27%
Someone else/Not sure 10%

Q13 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 2%
Somewhat liberal 5%
Moderate..... 27%
Somewhat conservative..... 41%
Very conservative 25%

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

Woman 43%
Man..... 57%

Q15 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..... 27%
46 to 65..... 41%
Older than 65..... 26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bachmann Favorability						
Favorable	45%	57%	24%	20%	47%	71%
Unfavorable	37%	25%	66%	57%	34%	17%
Not sure	18%	18%	10%	23%	19%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	53%	50%	31%	35%	56%	73%
Unfavorable	35%	35%	63%	56%	28%	18%
Not sure	12%	15%	6%	10%	16%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	37%	77%	23%	34%	35%	40%
Unfavorable	47%	15%	70%	47%	44%	50%
Not sure	16%	8%	6%	19%	20%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry Favorability						
Favorable	51%	60%	32%	28%	55%	72%
Unfavorable	32%	25%	54%	49%	26%	17%
Not sure	17%	15%	14%	23%	19%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	59%	43%	66%	61%	62%	50%
Unfavorable	29%	47%	31%	23%	26%	37%
Not sure	12%	10%	3%	16%	11%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McMahon Favorability						
Favorable	69%	82%	58%	52%	70%	87%
Unfavorable	21%	18%	38%	34%	19%	7%
Not sure	10%	-	3%	14%	11%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Shays Favorability						
Favorable	36%	40%	31%	43%	34%	32%
Unfavorable	29%	43%	28%	24%	28%	36%
Not sure	35%	18%	42%	34%	38%	33%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Simmons Favorability						
Favorable	38%	57%	28%	37%	40%	35%
Unfavorable	21%	8%	37%	20%	13%	32%
Not sure	41%	35%	35%	43%	47%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary						
Michele Bachmann	8%	-	12%	7%	7%	13%
Herman Cain	10%	8%	24%	7%	9%	12%
Newt Gingrich	10%	10%	-	9%	12%	8%
Jon Huntsman	3%	-	3%	9%	1%	-
Gary Johnson	1%	-	4%	3%	-	-
Ron Paul	10%	22%	8%	10%	9%	10%
Rick Perry	18%	10%	14%	10%	22%	24%
Mitt Romney	25%	15%	19%	24%	27%	24%
Rick Santorum	3%	10%	-	3%	6%	1%
Someone else/Not sure	12%	25%	15%	19%	9%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry/Romney						
Rick Perry	36%	48%	23%	17%	42%	48%
Mitt Romney	45%	52%	61%	58%	39%	39%
Not sure	19%	-	15%	26%	19%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Sen Primary						
Jason McCoy	2%	22%	3%	1%	2%	-
Linda McMahon	54%	43%	66%	37%	51%	78%
Christopher Shays	19%	28%	8%	34%	15%	11%
Rob Simmons	15%	-	4%	16%	20%	9%
Someone else/Not sure	10%	8%	18%	13%	13%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/o Simmons						
Jason McCoy	3%	22%	-	1%	4%	1%
Linda McMahon	60%	60%	69%	40%	60%	81%
Christopher Shays	27%	18%	16%	44%	26%	14%
Someone else/Not sure	10%	-	15%	14%	10%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bachmann Favorability			
Favorable	45%	39%	49%
Unfavorable	37%	39%	36%
Not sure	18%	22%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	53%	46%	59%
Unfavorable	35%	37%	33%
Not sure	12%	17%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	37%	31%	41%
Unfavorable	47%	46%	48%
Not sure	16%	23%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry Favorability			
Favorable	51%	42%	58%
Unfavorable	32%	35%	29%
Not sure	17%	23%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	59%	59%	58%
Unfavorable	29%	24%	33%
Not sure	12%	17%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McMahon Favorability			
Favorable	69%	65%	72%
Unfavorable	21%	24%	19%
Not sure	10%	11%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Shays Favorability			
Favorable	36%	31%	39%
Unfavorable	29%	24%	33%
Not sure	35%	45%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Simmons Favorability			
Favorable	38%	32%	42%
Unfavorable	21%	16%	24%
Not sure	41%	52%	34%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Michele Bachmann	8%	9%	8%
Herman Cain	10%	8%	11%
Newt Gingrich	10%	9%	10%
Jon Huntsman	3%	3%	3%
Gary Johnson	1%	2%	1%
Ron Paul	10%	8%	11%
Rick Perry	18%	14%	22%
Mitt Romney	25%	29%	21%
Rick Santorum	3%	4%	3%
Someone else/Not sure	12%	15%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry/Romney			
Rick Perry	36%	26%	43%
Mitt Romney	45%	49%	43%
Not sure	19%	25%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Sen Primary			
Jason McCoy	2%	1%	2%
Linda McMahon	54%	57%	52%
Christopher Shays	19%	19%	19%
Rob Simmons	15%	11%	17%
Someone else/Not sure	10%	11%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/o Simmons			
Jason McCoy	3%	2%	3%
Linda McMahon	60%	62%	59%
Christopher Shays	27%	27%	28%
Someone else/Not sure	10%	10%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bachmann Favorability					
Favorable	45%	67%	42%	48%	37%
Unfavorable	37%	25%	41%	35%	41%
Not sure	18%	8%	17%	17%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	53%	58%	51%	56%	50%
Unfavorable	35%	33%	41%	31%	36%
Not sure	12%	8%	8%	13%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	37%	58%	39%	36%	29%
Unfavorable	47%	33%	46%	47%	52%
Not sure	16%	8%	15%	17%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry Favorability					
Favorable	51%	67%	53%	51%	45%
Unfavorable	32%	25%	22%	35%	38%
Not sure	17%	8%	25%	13%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	59%	42%	51%	64%	62%
Unfavorable	29%	50%	37%	24%	23%
Not sure	12%	8%	12%	12%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McMahon Favorability					
Favorable	69%	92%	73%	75%	51%
Unfavorable	21%	-	19%	20%	29%
Not sure	10%	8%	8%	5%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Shays Favorability					
Favorable	36%	17%	34%	32%	47%
Unfavorable	29%	50%	27%	32%	22%
Not sure	35%	33%	39%	36%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Simmons Favorability					
Favorable	38%	50%	32%	35%	45%
Unfavorable	21%	25%	22%	23%	15%
Not sure	41%	25%	46%	42%	40%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Michele Bachmann	8%	8%	15%	7%	3%
Herman Cain	10%	8%	15%	7%	9%
Newt Gingrich	10%	-	5%	13%	11%
Jon Huntsman	3%	-	2%	4%	3%
Gary Johnson	1%	-	2%	1%	1%
Ron Paul	10%	50%	12%	6%	4%
Rick Perry	18%	17%	17%	19%	19%
Mitt Romney	25%	17%	19%	27%	30%
Rick Santorum	3%	-	5%	4%	1%
Someone else/Not sure	12%	-	8%	12%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry/Romney					
Rick Perry	36%	55%	41%	32%	32%
Mitt Romney	45%	45%	36%	48%	51%
Not sure	19%	-	22%	20%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Sen Primary					
Jason McCoy	2%	17%	-	1%	1%
Linda McMahon	54%	50%	58%	59%	44%
Christopher Shays	19%	-	17%	18%	27%
Rob Simmons	15%	25%	10%	15%	17%
Someone else/Not sure	10%	8%	15%	7%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/o Simmons					
Jason McCoy	3%	8%	2%	2%	3%
Linda McMahon	60%	67%	64%	64%	49%
Christopher Shays	27%	8%	22%	26%	38%
Someone else/Not sure	10%	17%	12%	7%	10%





Connecticut Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Susan Bysiewicz?

Favorable..... 38%
Unfavorable 30%
Not sure 33%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Chris Murphy?

Favorable..... 49%
Unfavorable 19%
Not sure 32%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of William Tong?

Favorable..... 6%
Unfavorable 25%
Not sure 69%

Q4 If the Democratic candidates for Senate were Susan Bysiewicz, Chris Murphy, and William Tong, who would you vote for?

Susan Bysiewicz..... 33%
Chris Murphy 39%
William Tong 8%
Someone else/Not sure 19%

Q5 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 19%
Somewhat liberal 40%
Moderate..... 28%
Somewhat conservative..... 10%
Very conservative 4%

Q6 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 57%
Man..... 43%

Q7 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 83%
Other..... 17%

Q8 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..... 24%
46 to 65..... 46%
Older than 65..... 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bysiewicz Favorability						
Favorable	38%	49%	40%	32%	29%	24%
Unfavorable	30%	23%	24%	30%	53%	46%
Not sure	33%	28%	35%	38%	18%	30%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Murphy Favorability						
Favorable	49%	57%	62%	38%	31%	5%
Unfavorable	19%	15%	11%	24%	38%	42%
Not sure	32%	28%	28%	38%	31%	54%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Tong Favorability						
Favorable	6%	9%	7%	3%	7%	-
Unfavorable	25%	19%	23%	32%	25%	28%
Not sure	69%	72%	70%	65%	68%	72%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 Dem Sen Primary						
Susan Bysiewicz	33%	43%	29%	34%	32%	37%
Chris Murphy	39%	35%	49%	35%	28%	13%
William Tong	8%	13%	5%	9%	9%	11%
Someone else/Not sure	19%	9%	17%	21%	32%	39%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bysiewicz Favorability			
Favorable	38%	40%	34%
Unfavorable	30%	24%	36%
Not sure	33%	35%	29%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Murphy Favorability			
Favorable	49%	49%	49%
Unfavorable	19%	16%	23%
Not sure	32%	35%	27%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Tong Favorability			
Favorable	6%	4%	8%
Unfavorable	25%	24%	27%
Not sure	69%	71%	65%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 Dem Sen Primary			
Susan Bysiewicz	33%	34%	32%
Chris Murphy	39%	37%	42%
William Tong	8%	9%	8%
Someone else/Not sure	19%	20%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Bysiewicz Favorability			
Favorable	38%	38%	37%
Unfavorable	30%	30%	28%
Not sure	33%	32%	35%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Murphy Favorability			
Favorable	49%	50%	42%
Unfavorable	19%	18%	23%
Not sure	32%	31%	35%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Tong Favorability			
Favorable	6%	5%	9%
Unfavorable	25%	26%	23%
Not sure	69%	69%	68%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
2012 Dem Sen Primary			
Susan Bysiewicz	33%	30%	52%
Chris Murphy	39%	41%	29%
William Tong	8%	8%	8%
Someone else/Not sure	19%	21%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bysiewicz Favorability					
Favorable	38%	38%	29%	43%	36%
Unfavorable	30%	31%	25%	31%	31%
Not sure	33%	31%	46%	26%	33%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Murphy Favorability					
Favorable	49%	38%	50%	53%	44%
Unfavorable	19%	31%	25%	14%	21%
Not sure	32%	31%	25%	34%	35%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Tong Favorability					
Favorable	6%	23%	4%	4%	9%
Unfavorable	25%	23%	21%	25%	30%
Not sure	69%	54%	75%	71%	61%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 Dem Sen Primary					
Susan Bysiewicz	33%	46%	27%	33%	38%
Chris Murphy	39%	31%	40%	44%	33%
William Tong	8%	15%	6%	7%	11%
Someone else/Not sure	19%	8%	27%	16%	19%

