

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 17, 2008**

**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**

## **Hickenlooper Top Choice as Salazar Replacement**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper is the top choice of Colorado voters to replace Ken Salazar in the US Senate, the newest survey from Public Policy Polling finds.

But it's by no means a clear picture. 23% of respondents think that Hickenlooper should be appointed, followed by 15% who think the outgoing Senator's brother John should be picked. House Speaker Andrew Romanoff gets 12%, former Denver Mayor and cabinet member Federico Pena gets 11%, Congresswoman Diane Degette is at 8%, Congressman Ed Perlmutter receives 6%, and Treasurer Cary Kennedy has 2%.

24%, mostly Republicans, aren't sure or think that someone else should be appointed.

Hickenlooper is the top choice for Democrats, Republicans, and independents. He gets a steady 23-24% from each group. He's also the clear top choice among white voters. He's not as popular with Hispanic voters. 32% of them would like to see Pena picked with 18% preferring Salazar, 16% liking Romanoff, and Hickenlooper getting just 11% support with them.

"The main conclusion of this poll is that there is no overwhelming preference among Colorado voters when it comes to who should replace Ken Salazar," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Most of the candidates being discussed publicly at this point have some level of popularity."

Governor Bill Ritter receives pretty good marks from Colorado voters as he makes the pick. 49% approve of his job performance with just 36% disapproving.

PPP surveyed 712 Colorado voters on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.7%. 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.

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## Colorado Survey Results

**Q1** With Senator Ken Salazar being nominated as Secretary of the Interior, Governor Bill Ritter will have the opportunity to appoint a new United States Senator. Some of the candidates being mentioned are Congresswoman Diana Degette, Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, State Treasurer Cary Kennedy, Congressman Ed Perlmutter, former Denver Mayor Federico Pena, House Speaker Andrew Romanoff, and Congressman John Salazar. Which of these would be your preference for the Governor to appoint? If you think Diana Degette should be appointed to replace Ken Salazar, press 1. If John Hickenlooper, press 2. If Cary Kennedy, press 3. If Ed Perlmutter, press 4. If Federico Pena, press 5. If Andrew Romanoff, press 6. If John Salazar, press 7. If you're not sure or think someone else should be appointed, press 8.

*Degette* ..... 8%    *Pena* .....11%  
*Hickenlooper*.....23%    *Romanoff* .....12%  
*Kennedy*..... 2%    *Salazar*.....15%  
*Perlmutter* ..... 6%    *Not Sure/Someone Else*.....24%

**Q2** 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* .....49%  
*Disapprove*..... 36%  
*Not Sure*..... 15%

**Q3** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Women* .....50%    *Men*.....50%

**Q4** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

*Democrat*..... 39%  
*Republican*..... 38%  
*Other*.....23%

**Q5** If you are white, press 1. If you are African American, press 2. If you are Hispanic, press 3. If other, press 4.

*White* .....79%    *Hispanic*.....14%  
*African American* .... 4%    *Other*..... 3%

**Q6** 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 than 65, press 4.

*18-29*..... 8%    *46-65*.....40%  
*30-45*.....22%    *Older than 65*.....30%

**Q7**

*Denver Metro Area* ..... 60%  
*Rest of State*.....40%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Top Choice</b>			
<b>Degette</b>	8%	9%	7%
<b>Hickenlooper</b>	23%	22%	25%
<b>Kennedy</b>	2%	3%	1%
<b>Perlmutter</b>	6%	8%	4%
<b>Pena</b>	11%	8%	13%
<b>Romanoff</b>	12%	11%	12%
<b>Salazar</b>	15%	16%	13%
<b>Not Sure/Someone Else</b>	24%	22%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Ritter Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	49%	52%	46%
<b>Disapprove</b>	36%	27%	45%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	21%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Top Choice</b>				
<b>Degette</b>	8%	12%	3%	9%
<b>Hickenlooper</b>	23%	23%	24%	23%
<b>Kennedy</b>	2%	2%	1%	2%
<b>Perlmutter</b>	6%	8%	5%	4%
<b>Pena</b>	11%	13%	9%	9%
<b>Romanoff</b>	12%	17%	6%	11%
<b>Salazar</b>	15%	17%	12%	14%
<b>Not Sure/Someone Else</b>	24%	7%	40%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
<b>Ritter Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	49%	75%	21%	50%
<b>Disapprove</b>	36%	13%	61%	34%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	11%	18%	16%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Top Choice</b>					
Degette	8%	8%	12%	8%	7%
Hickenlooper	23%	26%	12%	11%	25%
Kennedy	2%	1%	12%	3%	-
Perlmutter	6%	7%	8%	3%	2%
Pena	11%	7%	15%	32%	7%
Romanoff	12%	12%	-	16%	5%
Salazar	15%	14%	12%	18%	19%
Not Sure/Someone Else	24%	25%	31%	11%	35%

	Base	Race			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Ritter Approval</b>					
Approve	49%	49%	35%	54%	39%
Disapprove	36%	37%	38%	30%	46%
Not Sure	15%	14%	27%	16%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Top Choice</b>					
Degette	8%	8%	7%	9%	7%
Hickenlooper	23%	28%	26%	21%	24%
Kennedy	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%
Perlmutter	6%	9%	6%	4%	8%
Pena	11%	14%	13%	12%	7%
Romanoff	12%	13%	8%	11%	15%
Salazar	15%	4%	16%	16%	15%
Not Sure/Someone Else	24%	21%	23%	25%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Ritter Approval</b>					
Approve	49%	56%	49%	51%	45%
Disapprove	36%	34%	35%	36%	37%
Not Sure	15%	10%	16%	13%	18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Region	
		Denver Metro Area	Rest of State
<b>Top Choice</b>			
<b>Degette</b>	8%	10%	6%
<b>Hickenlooper</b>	23%	26%	19%
<b>Kennedy</b>	2%	3%	0%
<b>Perlmutter</b>	6%	9%	1%
<b>Pena</b>	11%	11%	11%
<b>Romanoff</b>	12%	13%	10%
<b>Salazar</b>	15%	8%	25%
<b>Not Sure/Someone Else</b>	24%	21%	28%

	Base	Region	
		Denver Metro Area	Rest of State
<b>Ritter Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	49%	51%	46%
<b>Disapprove</b>	36%	35%	38%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	14%	16%

