

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

Delaware pols see approval decline

Raleigh, N.C. – Delaware’s Governor and two Senators have all seen pretty significant drops in their approval ratings over the course of 2009, although two of them retain solid numbers when compared to most of their peers.

Jack Markell’s approval rating is now 40%, with 31% of voters in the state disapproving of him. That’s down from a 62/17 spread back in March. That poll came during his honeymoon period after starting office, and it appears voters are now holding him more personally accountable for some of the economic woes the state faces. In a time when many Governors’ approval ratings are in the red though, Markell could be doing worse.

Markell’s most significant drop has come within his own party. Where 76% of Democrats approved of the job he was doing last winter, that’s now down to just 43%.

Also seeing a drop in his approval rating is Tom Carper, who’s now at 44/31 after a 57/26 spread earlier in the year. Like Markell most of the decline in his approval has come among Democrats, from 73% earlier this year to now 52%. It’s hard to ascribe Carper’s drop with his party to any one thing, as 24% of the Democrats who don’t approve of him think the party’s too liberal while 26% think it’s too conservative.

Voters continue to be ambivalent toward appointed Senator Ted Kaufman. 24% approve of the job he’s doing with 22% disapproving and 53% holding no opinion.

“The Democratic Party nationally has taken a tumble over the course of 2009 and the falling approval ratings of Delaware’s major politicians seem to reflect that,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 571 Delaware voters from November 30th to December 2nd. 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.

Complete results are attached and can be found at 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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Delaware Survey Results

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

Approve 40%
Disapprove..... 31%
Not Sure..... 28%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Tom Carper's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 44%
Disapprove..... 31%
Not Sure..... 26%

Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Ted Kaufman's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 24%
Disapprove..... 22%
Not Sure..... 53%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Democrats in Congress? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 42%
Unfavorable 46%
Not Sure..... 12%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Republicans in Congress? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 24%
Unfavorable 57%
Not Sure..... 18%

Q6 Do you think that Congressional Democrats are too liberal, too conservative, or about right? If too liberal, press 1. If too conservative, press 2. If about right, press 3.

Too Liberal..... 43%
Too Conservative..... 13%
About Right..... 44%

Q7 Do you think that Congressional Republicans are too liberal, too conservative, or about right? If too liberal, press 1. If too conservative, press 2. If about right, press 3.

Too Liberal..... 19%
Too Conservative..... 43%
About Right..... 38%

Q8 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..... 37%
Obama 55%
Someone Else/Don't Remember..... 8%

Q9 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 18%
Moderate..... 51%
Conservative..... 32%

Q10 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 55%
Man..... 45%





Q11 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 47%
Republican..... 31%
Independent/Other..... 21%

Q12 If you are white, press one now. If black, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 77%
Black..... 19%
Other..... 4%

Q13 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..... 10%
30 to 45..... 22%
46 to 65..... 49%
Older than 65..... 19%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Markell Approval				
Approve	40%	27%	49%	36%
Disapprove	31%	47%	20%	38%
Not Sure	28%	26%	31%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Carper Approval				
Approve	44%	30%	55%	31%
Disapprove	31%	48%	18%	33%
Not Sure	26%	22%	26%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Kaufman Approval				
Approve	24%	7%	37%	15%
Disapprove	22%	44%	8%	21%
Not Sure	53%	49%	55%	64%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Democrats in Congress				
Favorable	42%	5%	70%	23%
Unfavorable	46%	90%	14%	64%
Not Sure	12%	5%	16%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Republicans in Congress				
Favorable	24%	54%	5%	22%
Unfavorable	57%	30%	77%	46%
Not Sure	18%	15%	18%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Congressional Democrats Ideology				
Too Liberal	43%	83%	14%	60%
Too Conservative	13%	7%	18%	12%
About Right	44%	10%	68%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Congressional Republicans Ideology				
Too Liberal	19%	24%	15%	22%
Too Conservative	43%	15%	64%	27%
About Right	38%	60%	21%	50%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Markell Approval				
Approve	40%	53%	44%	28%
Disapprove	31%	17%	28%	45%
Not Sure	28%	30%	28%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Carper Approval				
Approve	44%	54%	48%	32%
Disapprove	31%	17%	28%	42%
Not Sure	26%	29%	24%	26%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Kaufman Approval				
Approve	24%	41%	27%	11%
Disapprove	22%	11%	19%	34%
Not Sure	53%	48%	54%	54%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Democrats in Congress				
Favorable	42%	74%	46%	18%
Unfavorable	46%	16%	41%	72%
Not Sure	12%	10%	14%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Republicans in Congress				
Favorable	24%	7%	17%	46%
Unfavorable	57%	82%	65%	31%
Not Sure	18%	11%	17%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Congressional Democrats Ideology				
Too Liberal	43%	5%	41%	68%
Too Conservative	13%	35%	9%	8%
About Right	44%	60%	50%	24%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Congressional Republicans Ideology				
Too Liberal	19%	6%	15%	33%
Too Conservative	43%	77%	53%	8%
About Right	38%	17%	32%	59%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Markell Approval			
Approve	40%	41%	39%
Disapprove	31%	30%	33%
Not Sure	28%	29%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Carper Approval			
Approve	44%	47%	40%
Disapprove	31%	23%	39%
Not Sure	26%	30%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kaufman Approval			
Approve	24%	25%	24%
Disapprove	22%	14%	32%
Not Sure	53%	61%	44%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Democrats in Congress			
Favorable	42%	46%	37%
Unfavorable	46%	38%	56%
Not Sure	12%	16%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Republicans in Congress			
Favorable	24%	21%	28%
Unfavorable	57%	59%	55%
Not Sure	18%	20%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congressional Democrats Ideology			
Too Liberal	43%	37%	51%
Too Conservative	13%	13%	14%
About Right	44%	51%	35%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congressional Republicans Ideology			
Too Liberal	19%	17%	22%
Too Conservative	43%	45%	40%
About Right	38%	38%	38%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Markell Approval				
Approve	40%	43%	32%	46%
Disapprove	31%	26%	40%	31%
Not Sure	28%	31%	28%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Carper Approval				
Approve	44%	52%	28%	49%
Disapprove	31%	21%	46%	30%
Not Sure	26%	27%	27%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kaufman Approval				
Approve	24%	32%	10%	28%
Disapprove	22%	13%	38%	20%
Not Sure	53%	55%	52%	51%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Democrats in Congress				
Favorable	42%	69%	9%	31%
Unfavorable	46%	20%	82%	51%
Not Sure	12%	11%	9%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Republicans in Congress				
Favorable	24%	9%	50%	22%
Unfavorable	57%	72%	35%	58%
Not Sure	18%	19%	16%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Congressional Democrats Ideology				
Too Liberal	43%	18%	79%	47%
Too Conservative	13%	18%	8%	11%
About Right	44%	64%	13%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Congressional Republicans Ideology				
Too Liberal	19%	19%	23%	14%
Too Conservative	43%	57%	19%	47%
About Right	38%	24%	59%	39%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Markell Approval				
Approve	40%	42%	35%	29%
Disapprove	31%	33%	26%	35%
Not Sure	28%	25%	40%	35%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Carper Approval				
Approve	44%	45%	44%	29%
Disapprove	31%	33%	19%	35%
Not Sure	26%	22%	37%	35%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Kaufman Approval				
Approve	24%	23%	30%	18%
Disapprove	22%	26%	9%	24%
Not Sure	53%	51%	60%	59%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Democrats in Congress				
Favorable	42%	35%	72%	37%
Unfavorable	46%	54%	14%	51%
Not Sure	12%	11%	14%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Republicans in Congress				
Favorable	24%	28%	7%	38%
Unfavorable	57%	55%	67%	48%
Not Sure	18%	17%	26%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Congressional Democrats Ideology				
Too Liberal	43%	50%	14%	49%
Too Conservative	13%	12%	19%	10%
About Right	44%	38%	67%	41%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Congressional Republicans Ideology				
Too Liberal	19%	17%	28%	20%
Too Conservative	43%	43%	42%	39%
About Right	38%	40%	30%	41%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Markell Approval					
Approve	40%	34%	33%	41%	48%
Disapprove	31%	29%	45%	31%	19%
Not Sure	28%	37%	22%	28%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Carper Approval					
Approve	44%	36%	44%	48%	37%
Disapprove	31%	31%	31%	26%	41%
Not Sure	26%	33%	24%	26%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kaufman Approval					
Approve	24%	21%	24%	24%	27%
Disapprove	22%	21%	22%	21%	29%
Not Sure	53%	58%	54%	56%	44%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Democrats in Congress					
Favorable	42%	45%	44%	45%	32%
Unfavorable	46%	47%	43%	44%	56%
Not Sure	12%	8%	13%	12%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Republicans in Congress					
Favorable	24%	25%	22%	24%	30%
Unfavorable	57%	49%	61%	58%	57%
Not Sure	18%	26%	18%	19%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congressional Democrats Ideology					
Too Liberal	43%	42%	43%	42%	46%
Too Conservative	13%	28%	10%	13%	10%
About Right	44%	30%	47%	44%	44%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congressional Republicans Ideology					
Too Liberal	19%	32%	24%	18%	10%
Too Conservative	43%	32%	45%	44%	44%
About Right	38%	36%	32%	38%	46%

