



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

FL Sen. Nelson leads all Republicans for '12 re-election

Raleigh, N.C. – Florida's Bill Nelson is in a little better shape now than in PPP's last gauge of his 2012 re-election race last December, leading six potential opponents by anywhere from 13 to 19 points.

For someone who has been in office for ten years, Bill Nelson has a remarkably low profile. As yesterday's release showed, newly elected junior colleague Marco Rubio is slightly better known already, and better liked. 28% of Floridians have no opinion about Nelson's job performance, and as in PPP polls throughout 2010, the rest split pretty evenly, 38% approving and 34% disapproving. He is not hated by Republicans, but he is not loved by his own party either. Independents split down the middle.

But luckily for Nelson, none of the potential opponents tested against him are any better known or more popular; all of them have at least slightly net negative favorability ratings. 83% have no opinion of Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, 77% of state Rep. Adam Hasner, 69% of former Sen. George LeMieux, 68% of state Sen. Mike Haridopolos, 65% of TV talk show host and former Rep. Joe Scarborough, and 57% of Rep. Connie Mack IV.

Unlikely candidate Scarborough comes closest to Nelson, lagging 45-32, followed by LeMieux (48-33), Hasner (48-32), Haridopolos (50-34), and Wales (47-28). Mack announced he will not run after the poll was in the field. He would have fared little better than anyone else, trailing Nelson 47-34. Two things Nelson has going for him is that he is winning 11-19% of Republican votes and losing only 4-8% of Democrats, while also holding leads with independents of ten to 24 points. Scarborough and Wales were not tested in December, but the others were down only eight to 16 points overall then, versus 13-16 now.

“Bill Nelson's approval numbers make him look vulnerable but they might be a little deceiving,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Democrats don't love him but they would still vote for him in a general election and his better than average support across party lines from Republicans means his eventual opponent will be starting from behind.”

PPP surveyed 500 Florida voters from March 24th to 27th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.4%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





Florida Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Bill Nelson's job performance?

Approve 38%
Disapprove..... 34%
Not sure 28%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Haridopolos?

Favorable..... 9%
Unfavorable 23%
Not sure 68%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Adam Hasner?

Favorable..... 6%
Unfavorable 17%
Not sure 77%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of George LeMieux?

Favorable..... 8%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 69%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Connie Mack IV?

Favorable..... 21%
Unfavorable 23%
Not sure 57%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Joe Scarborough?

Favorable..... 15%
Unfavorable 20%
Not sure 65%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jimmy Wales?

Favorable..... 3%
Unfavorable 14%
Not sure 83%

Q8 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Mike Haridopolos, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 50%
Mike Haridopolos 34%
Undecided..... 17%

Q9 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Adam Hasner, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 48%
Adam Hasner..... 32%
Undecided..... 20%

Q10 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican George LeMieux, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 48%
George LeMieux 33%
Undecided..... 19%

Q11 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Connie Mack IV, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 47%
Connie Mack IV 34%
Undecided..... 18%





Q12 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Joe Scarborough, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 45%
Joe Scarborough 32%
Undecided..... 22%

Q13 If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Jimmy Wales, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 47%
Jimmy Wales 28%
Undecided..... 25%

Q14 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 7%
Somewhat liberal 16%
Moderate..... 30%
Somewhat conservative..... 26%
Very conservative 21%

Q15 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 51%
Man..... 49%

Q16 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 41%
Republican..... 37%
Independent/Other..... 22%

Q17 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 13%
White 70%
African-American 14%
Other..... 4%

Q18 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..... 12%
30 to 45..... 22%
46 to 65..... 38%
Older than 65..... 28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson Approval						
Approve	38%	63%	52%	53%	28%	12%
Disapprove	34%	24%	13%	21%	44%	58%
Not sure	28%	13%	35%	26%	28%	30%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Haridopolos Favorability						
Favorable	9%	10%	5%	5%	11%	14%
Unfavorable	23%	50%	28%	22%	21%	15%
Not sure	68%	41%	67%	73%	68%	71%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Hasner Favorability						
Favorable	6%	11%	4%	6%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	17%	41%	22%	20%	13%	8%
Not sure	77%	48%	75%	74%	82%	87%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
LeMieux Favorability						
Favorable	8%	5%	2%	4%	15%	12%
Unfavorable	22%	53%	27%	27%	16%	8%
Not sure	69%	42%	70%	69%	68%	80%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Mack Favorability						
Favorable	21%	25%	9%	16%	26%	27%
Unfavorable	23%	45%	29%	28%	15%	13%
Not sure	57%	30%	62%	56%	59%	59%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Scarborough Favorability						
Favorable	15%	13%	11%	16%	18%	13%
Unfavorable	20%	44%	24%	19%	17%	12%
Not sure	65%	44%	65%	65%	64%	75%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Wales Favorability						
Favorable	3%	10%	6%	2%	2%	3%
Unfavorable	14%	34%	11%	16%	14%	6%
Not sure	83%	55%	83%	82%	83%	91%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/Haridopolos						
Bill Nelson	50%	88%	77%	71%	30%	10%
Mike Haridopolos	34%	2%	4%	12%	49%	79%
Undecided	17%	10%	19%	17%	21%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/Hasner						
Bill Nelson	48%	95%	77%	70%	26%	7%
Adam Hasner	32%	-	5%	13%	45%	74%
Undecided	20%	5%	18%	17%	29%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/LeMieux						
Bill Nelson	48%	92%	77%	69%	24%	9%
George LeMieux	33%	-	4%	14%	47%	75%
Undecided	19%	8%	19%	16%	29%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/Mack						
Bill Nelson	47%	86%	78%	72%	21%	9%
Connie Mack IV	34%	9%	5%	13%	50%	75%
Undecided	18%	5%	17%	15%	29%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/Scarborough						
Bill Nelson	45%	86%	76%	63%	23%	9%
Joe Scarborough	32%	6%	5%	14%	45%	72%
Undecided	22%	8%	19%	22%	32%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/Wales						
Bill Nelson	47%	87%	81%	70%	23%	6%
Jimmy Wales	28%	6%	1%	9%	39%	70%
Undecided	25%	7%	17%	21%	39%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson Approval			
Approve	38%	40%	37%
Disapprove	34%	25%	42%
Not sure	28%	35%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Haridopolos Favorability			
Favorable	9%	8%	10%
Unfavorable	23%	21%	25%
Not sure	68%	71%	65%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hasner Favorability			
Favorable	6%	6%	5%
Unfavorable	17%	15%	20%
Not sure	77%	79%	75%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
LeMieux Favorability			
Favorable	8%	6%	10%
Unfavorable	22%	19%	25%
Not sure	69%	74%	64%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Mack Favorability			
Favorable	21%	19%	23%
Unfavorable	23%	21%	25%
Not sure	57%	61%	52%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Scarborough Favorability			
Favorable	15%	13%	17%
Unfavorable	20%	19%	21%
Not sure	65%	68%	62%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Wales Favorability			
Favorable	3%	3%	4%
Unfavorable	14%	15%	13%
Not sure	83%	82%	83%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/Haridopolos			
Bill Nelson	50%	53%	46%
Mike Haridopolos	34%	29%	38%
Undecided	17%	18%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/Hasner			
Bill Nelson	48%	53%	43%
Adam Hasner	32%	26%	37%
Undecided	20%	20%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/LeMieux			
Bill Nelson	48%	52%	43%
George LeMieux	33%	27%	39%
Undecided	19%	21%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/Mack			
Bill Nelson	47%	51%	44%
Connie Mack IV	34%	30%	38%
Undecided	18%	18%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/Scarborough			
Bill Nelson	45%	49%	41%
Joe Scarborough	32%	27%	38%
Undecided	22%	24%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/Wales			
Bill Nelson	47%	49%	46%
Jimmy Wales	28%	25%	31%
Undecided	25%	26%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson Approval				
Approve	38%	55%	21%	37%
Disapprove	34%	16%	51%	38%
Not sure	28%	29%	28%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Haridopolos Favorability				
Favorable	9%	7%	14%	3%
Unfavorable	23%	29%	17%	21%
Not sure	68%	64%	68%	75%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Hasner Favorability				
Favorable	6%	6%	7%	3%
Unfavorable	17%	23%	10%	19%
Not sure	77%	71%	83%	78%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
LeMieux Favorability				
Favorable	8%	4%	13%	9%
Unfavorable	22%	30%	15%	19%
Not sure	69%	65%	72%	72%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Mack Favorability				
Favorable	21%	15%	29%	17%
Unfavorable	23%	26%	19%	23%
Not sure	57%	59%	52%	60%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Scarborough Favorability				
Favorable	15%	13%	15%	17%
Unfavorable	20%	23%	17%	17%
Not sure	65%	63%	67%	66%



Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Wales Favorability				
Favorable	3%	3%	2%	5%
Unfavorable	14%	18%	11%	10%
Not sure	83%	79%	86%	85%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/Haridopolos				
Bill Nelson	50%	77%	19%	49%
Mike Haridopolos	34%	8%	65%	29%
Undecided	17%	15%	16%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/Hasner				
Bill Nelson	48%	79%	14%	48%
Adam Hasner	32%	7%	60%	31%
Undecided	20%	15%	26%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/LeMieux				
Bill Nelson	48%	76%	13%	52%
George LeMieux	33%	7%	64%	28%
Undecided	19%	16%	23%	20%



Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/Mack				
Bill Nelson	47%	79%	11%	50%
Connie Mack IV	34%	6%	66%	33%
Undecided	18%	15%	23%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/Scarborough				
Bill Nelson	45%	74%	13%	45%
Joe Scarborough	32%	7%	58%	35%
Undecided	22%	19%	28%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/Wales				
Bill Nelson	47%	80%	11%	47%
Jimmy Wales	28%	4%	54%	29%
Undecided	25%	16%	35%	24%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson Approval					
Approve	38%	47%	35%	48%	37%
Disapprove	34%	24%	38%	23%	21%
Not sure	28%	29%	27%	29%	42%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Haridopolos Favorability					
Favorable	9%	9%	10%	6%	4%
Unfavorable	23%	25%	23%	26%	9%
Not sure	68%	67%	67%	67%	87%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Hasner Favorability					
Favorable	6%	2%	6%	8%	4%
Unfavorable	17%	17%	16%	26%	13%
Not sure	77%	81%	78%	66%	82%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
LeMieux Favorability					
Favorable	8%	9%	9%	5%	-
Unfavorable	22%	12%	22%	34%	17%
Not sure	69%	79%	69%	60%	83%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Mack Favorability					
Favorable	21%	17%	22%	19%	21%
Unfavorable	23%	14%	25%	19%	23%
Not sure	57%	69%	53%	62%	56%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Scarborough Favorability					
Favorable	15%	15%	16%	14%	-
Unfavorable	20%	18%	20%	24%	6%
Not sure	65%	67%	64%	62%	94%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Wales Favorability					
Favorable	3%	1%	4%	1%	10%
Unfavorable	14%	17%	11%	29%	3%
Not sure	83%	82%	85%	70%	87%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/Haridopolos					
Bill Nelson	50%	67%	41%	80%	48%
Mike Haridopolos	34%	22%	42%	7%	25%
Undecided	17%	11%	17%	14%	27%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/Hasner					
Bill Nelson	48%	66%	38%	83%	46%
Adam Hasner	32%	25%	38%	9%	17%
Undecided	20%	9%	23%	8%	38%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/LeMieux					
Bill Nelson	48%	59%	39%	81%	52%
George LeMieux	33%	25%	40%	9%	17%
Undecided	19%	15%	21%	10%	31%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/Mack					
Bill Nelson	47%	64%	37%	85%	44%
Connie Mack IV	34%	27%	42%	4%	21%
Undecided	18%	9%	21%	10%	36%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/Scarborough					
Bill Nelson	45%	58%	36%	76%	51%
Joe Scarborough	32%	25%	39%	7%	17%
Undecided	22%	17%	24%	16%	33%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/Wales					
Bill Nelson	47%	59%	38%	82%	48%
Jimmy Wales	28%	24%	34%	3%	17%
Undecided	25%	17%	27%	15%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson Approval					
Approve	38%	36%	35%	38%	43%
Disapprove	34%	14%	43%	36%	32%
Not sure	28%	50%	22%	26%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Haridopolos Favorability					
Favorable	9%	-	6%	12%	11%
Unfavorable	23%	25%	26%	18%	26%
Not sure	68%	75%	69%	70%	63%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hasner Favorability					
Favorable	6%	11%	6%	4%	5%
Unfavorable	17%	14%	22%	15%	18%
Not sure	77%	75%	72%	81%	77%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
LeMieux Favorability					
Favorable	8%	4%	4%	11%	11%
Unfavorable	22%	21%	27%	20%	21%
Not sure	69%	75%	69%	69%	68%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Mack Favorability					
Favorable	21%	4%	22%	24%	22%
Unfavorable	23%	21%	22%	23%	24%
Not sure	57%	75%	56%	53%	53%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Scarborough Favorability					
Favorable	15%	11%	20%	13%	16%
Unfavorable	20%	25%	18%	19%	20%
Not sure	65%	64%	62%	68%	64%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Wales Favorability					
Favorable	3%	7%	4%	2%	3%
Unfavorable	14%	14%	20%	11%	13%
Not sure	83%	79%	76%	87%	84%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/Haridopolos					
Bill Nelson	50%	54%	56%	48%	46%
Mike Haridopolos	34%	14%	35%	35%	39%
Undecided	17%	32%	9%	17%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/Hasner					
Bill Nelson	48%	50%	51%	49%	45%
Adam Hasner	32%	21%	40%	31%	30%
Undecided	20%	29%	9%	20%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/LeMieux					
Bill Nelson	48%	54%	47%	47%	46%
George LeMieux	33%	18%	40%	34%	32%
Undecided	19%	29%	13%	19%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/Mack					
Bill Nelson	47%	50%	49%	47%	46%
Connie Mack IV	34%	21%	38%	34%	36%
Undecided	18%	29%	13%	19%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/Scarborough					
Bill Nelson	45%	43%	47%	45%	45%
Joe Scarborough	32%	21%	38%	32%	33%
Undecided	22%	36%	15%	24%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/Wales					
Bill Nelson	47%	46%	51%	46%	47%
Jimmy Wales	28%	18%	35%	29%	25%
Undecided	25%	36%	15%	25%	27%

