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OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

Bill Nelson leads host of Republicans by at least 13 points

Raleigh, N.C. – His opponents are faceless names at this point, but Florida Sen. Bill Nelson holds double-digit leads over any of the four Republicans vying to face him next fall. And unlike many incumbents who are on shaky ground in this turbulent political environment, Nelson's leads have only grown since PPP last polled the state in June.

Per last week's release, Mike McCalister is the narrow early leader of the GOP primary, and he is closest to Nelson, but still trails by 13 points, 47-34. The only two candidates matched against Nelson in the previous poll also matched in this one, Adam Hasner and George LeMieux, are down by identical 49-35 margins. That is up a bit from respective 47-35 and 46-35 margins three months ago. Craig Miller lags by 17, 49-32.

Only 18% to 31% of voters have an opinion on the GOP contenders personally, so Nelson does benefit from their anonymity to some extent. 15-22% of Republicans and 29-33% of independents remain undecided, versus only 7-10% of Democrats. But the contests would only get a little closer once the Republicans have settled on a nominee, because Nelson has leads of 19 to 25 points with independents, and he earns 12-15% of the Republican vote, while they poach only 8% or 9% of Nelson's partisans.

A larger part of Nelson's boost than his potential opponents being unknown is that his approval rating is slowly rising. Nelson's net approval margin is up from 36-33 last December to 38-34 in March to 38-31 in June to 40-32 now. That still puts him in the middle of the pack of the 87 senators on which PPP has polled. But he is in better shape than Claire McCaskill, Scott Brown, Robert Menendez, Dean Heller, Orrin Hatch, Sherrod Brown, and Debbie Stabenow, all of whom are also up for re-election in 2012.

"Nelson's vulnerability is overstated," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Voters don't love him, but they don't hate him, and with pretty strong support from Republicans and independents, he's going to be hard to beat."

PPP surveyed 476 Florida voters from September 22nd to 25th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.5%. 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.



Florida Survey Results

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

Approve 40%
Disapprove..... 32%
Not sure 29%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Adam Hasner?

Favorable..... 5%
Unfavorable 15%
Not sure 79%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of George LeMieux?

Favorable..... 8%
Unfavorable 23%
Not sure 69%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike McCalister?

Favorable..... 6%
Unfavorable 16%
Not sure 78%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Craig Miller?

Favorable..... 5%
Unfavorable 13%
Not sure 82%

Q6 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Adam Hasner, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 49%
Adam Hasner..... 35%
Undecided..... 16%

Q7 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican George LeMieux, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 49%
George LeMieux 35%
Undecided..... 15%

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

Bill Nelson..... 47%
Mike McCalister 34%
Undecided..... 19%

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

Bill Nelson..... 49%
Craig Miller..... 32%
Undecided..... 19%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 45%
Barack Obama..... 48%
Someone else/Don't remember 7%

Q11 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 10%
Somewhat liberal 14%
Moderate..... 32%
Somewhat conservative..... 27%
Very conservative 16%

Q12 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%



Q13 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 40%
Republican 37%
Independent/Other 23%

Q14 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic 16%
White 67%
African-American 12%
Other 6%

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 16%
30 to 45 22%
46 to 65 36%
Older than 65 26%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nelson Approval				
Approve	40%	18%	62%	19%
Disapprove	32%	47%	17%	35%
Not sure	29%	35%	20%	46%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Hasner Favorability				
Favorable	5%	3%	7%	3%
Unfavorable	15%	9%	20%	22%
Not sure	79%	87%	72%	75%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
LeMieux Favorability				
Favorable	8%	12%	5%	3%
Unfavorable	23%	12%	32%	31%
Not sure	69%	75%	64%	66%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCalister Favorability				
Favorable	6%	9%	4%	3%
Unfavorable	16%	8%	22%	25%
Not sure	78%	84%	74%	72%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Miller Favorability				
Favorable	5%	5%	6%	-
Unfavorable	13%	7%	16%	25%
Not sure	82%	88%	78%	75%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nelson/Hasner				
Bill Nelson	49%	14%	85%	26%
Adam Hasner	35%	67%	6%	26%
Undecided	16%	19%	9%	47%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nelson/LeMieux				
Bill Nelson	49%	13%	87%	26%
George LeMieux	35%	67%	7%	23%
Undecided	15%	20%	6%	51%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nelson/McCalister				
Bill Nelson	47%	10%	85%	30%
Mike McCalister	34%	65%	6%	20%
Undecided	19%	25%	9%	51%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nelson/Miller				
Bill Nelson	49%	11%	87%	26%
Craig Miller	32%	62%	5%	22%
Undecided	19%	26%	7%	52%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson Approval						
Approve	40%	43%	71%	50%	21%	17%
Disapprove	32%	33%	14%	19%	38%	64%
Not sure	29%	25%	14%	31%	41%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Hasner Favorability						
Favorable	5%	4%	5%	6%	3%	8%
Unfavorable	15%	21%	22%	16%	13%	9%
Not sure	79%	75%	73%	78%	84%	83%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
LeMieux Favorability						
Favorable	8%	2%	3%	8%	9%	15%
Unfavorable	23%	35%	36%	21%	16%	18%
Not sure	69%	63%	61%	71%	74%	67%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCalister Favorability						
Favorable	6%	2%	3%	5%	9%	9%
Unfavorable	16%	26%	26%	13%	11%	11%
Not sure	78%	72%	71%	82%	80%	80%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Miller Favorability						
Favorable	5%	4%	5%	5%	7%	2%
Unfavorable	13%	16%	18%	12%	12%	9%
Not sure	82%	80%	78%	83%	81%	89%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/Hasner						
Bill Nelson	49%	78%	85%	66%	21%	9%
Adam Hasner	35%	4%	6%	15%	61%	79%
Undecided	16%	18%	8%	19%	19%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/LeMieux						
Bill Nelson	49%	78%	89%	65%	22%	9%
George LeMieux	35%	4%	5%	18%	58%	80%
Undecided	15%	18%	5%	16%	21%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/McCalister						
Bill Nelson	47%	76%	89%	62%	19%	9%
Mike McCalister	34%	6%	5%	15%	56%	77%
Undecided	19%	18%	5%	22%	26%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/Miller						
Bill Nelson	49%	82%	89%	65%	19%	9%
Craig Miller	32%	4%	5%	13%	56%	74%
Undecided	19%	14%	5%	22%	25%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson Approval			
Approve	40%	40%	39%
Disapprove	32%	29%	35%
Not sure	29%	31%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hasner Favorability			
Favorable	5%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	15%	12%	19%
Not sure	79%	83%	76%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
LeMieux Favorability			
Favorable	8%	7%	9%
Unfavorable	23%	19%	26%
Not sure	69%	74%	64%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCalister Favorability			
Favorable	6%	6%	6%
Unfavorable	16%	14%	17%
Not sure	78%	80%	77%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Miller Favorability			
Favorable	5%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	13%	11%	15%
Not sure	82%	84%	81%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/Hasner			
Bill Nelson	49%	51%	46%
Adam Hasner	35%	30%	41%
Undecided	16%	19%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/LeMieux			
Bill Nelson	49%	52%	47%
George LeMieux	35%	30%	41%
Undecided	15%	18%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/McCalister			
Bill Nelson	47%	50%	44%
Mike McCalister	34%	28%	40%
Undecided	19%	22%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/Miller			
Bill Nelson	49%	52%	46%
Craig Miller	32%	28%	37%
Undecided	19%	20%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson Approval				
Approve	40%	62%	21%	29%
Disapprove	32%	20%	45%	31%
Not sure	29%	18%	34%	40%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Hasner Favorability				
Favorable	5%	8%	3%	2%
Unfavorable	15%	21%	8%	18%
Not sure	79%	71%	88%	80%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
LeMieux Favorability				
Favorable	8%	6%	13%	2%
Unfavorable	23%	30%	14%	25%
Not sure	69%	64%	73%	72%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCalister Favorability				
Favorable	6%	6%	8%	2%
Unfavorable	16%	22%	7%	17%
Not sure	78%	71%	85%	81%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Miller Favorability				
Favorable	5%	6%	5%	2%
Unfavorable	13%	17%	6%	16%
Not sure	82%	77%	88%	83%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/Hasner				
Bill Nelson	49%	80%	15%	47%
Adam Hasner	35%	9%	70%	24%
Undecided	16%	10%	15%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/LeMieux				
Bill Nelson	49%	84%	13%	47%
George LeMieux	35%	9%	72%	22%
Undecided	15%	7%	15%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/McCalister				
Bill Nelson	47%	82%	12%	43%
Mike McCalister	34%	9%	67%	24%
Undecided	19%	10%	21%	33%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/Miller				
Bill Nelson	49%	83%	13%	46%
Craig Miller	32%	8%	65%	22%
Undecided	19%	9%	22%	32%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson Approval					
Approve	40%	52%	32%	60%	48%
Disapprove	32%	30%	36%	12%	30%
Not sure	29%	18%	32%	28%	22%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Hasner Favorability					
Favorable	5%	10%	2%	15%	4%
Unfavorable	15%	22%	14%	17%	13%
Not sure	79%	68%	84%	68%	83%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
LeMieux Favorability					
Favorable	8%	8%	9%	8%	4%
Unfavorable	23%	25%	23%	22%	19%
Not sure	69%	67%	69%	70%	77%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
McCalister Favorability					
Favorable	6%	6%	5%	14%	4%
Unfavorable	16%	17%	13%	27%	21%
Not sure	78%	76%	82%	59%	76%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Miller Favorability					
Favorable	5%	1%	4%	17%	2%
Unfavorable	13%	20%	11%	17%	11%
Not sure	82%	79%	85%	66%	87%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/Hasner					
Bill Nelson	49%	67%	38%	87%	50%
Adam Hasner	35%	17%	46%	3%	21%
Undecided	16%	16%	16%	10%	29%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/LeMieux					
Bill Nelson	49%	68%	37%	89%	65%
George LeMieux	35%	18%	46%	3%	21%
Undecided	15%	14%	17%	8%	14%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/McCalister					
Bill Nelson	47%	65%	36%	83%	58%
Mike McCalister	34%	18%	44%	4%	19%
Undecided	19%	17%	20%	13%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/Miller					
Bill Nelson	49%	66%	37%	88%	58%
Craig Miller	32%	18%	42%	3%	19%
Undecided	19%	16%	21%	9%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson Approval					
Approve	40%	41%	36%	42%	38%
Disapprove	32%	13%	32%	35%	40%
Not sure	29%	46%	32%	23%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hasner Favorability					
Favorable	5%	8%	6%	3%	6%
Unfavorable	15%	15%	13%	19%	12%
Not sure	79%	77%	81%	78%	81%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
LeMieux Favorability					
Favorable	8%	3%	6%	9%	12%
Unfavorable	23%	31%	19%	25%	18%
Not sure	69%	67%	75%	66%	69%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCalister Favorability					
Favorable	6%	3%	8%	6%	7%
Unfavorable	16%	26%	13%	15%	12%
Not sure	78%	72%	79%	79%	81%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Miller Favorability					
Favorable	5%	5%	6%	4%	6%
Unfavorable	13%	21%	11%	14%	7%
Not sure	82%	74%	83%	82%	87%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/Hasner					
Bill Nelson	49%	51%	51%	51%	42%
Adam Hasner	35%	21%	32%	36%	45%
Undecided	16%	28%	17%	13%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/LeMieux					
Bill Nelson	49%	54%	51%	51%	43%
George LeMieux	35%	21%	32%	36%	47%
Undecided	15%	26%	17%	13%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/McCalister					
Bill Nelson	47%	54%	48%	49%	40%
Mike McCalister	34%	13%	31%	36%	46%
Undecided	19%	33%	21%	15%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/Miller					
Bill Nelson	49%	59%	50%	50%	40%
Craig Miller	32%	15%	31%	32%	44%
Undecided	19%	26%	19%	18%	16%

