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Florida Republicans want Bush to challenge Nelson

Raleigh, N.C. – If Jeb Bush would let them, Florida’s GOP faithful would crown him their Senate nominee in 2012 without a contest. When given an eight-candidate list of potential nominees, they give Bush almost three-quarters of the vote, and no one else gets more than 6%. Unfortunately for the party, he is unlikely to run, and in his absence, almost a third of respondents are undecided. In that case, their primary is likely to be a large and wide-open race, with the top four candidates bunched in the mid- to low teens.

Bush is the preference of 72% of the hardest-core Republican voters in the Sunshine State. The next closest option is outgoing Attorney General and Gubernatorial primary loser Bill McCollum at 6%, with George LeMieux, Connie Mack IV, U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, and state Rep. Jennifer Carroll each at 3%, Mike Haridopolos at 1%, and Adam Hasner at less than 1%. 10% are either not sure or prefer someone else.

With Bush eliminated from the field, though, any one of the lesser options could win at this point. A full 31% have no idea who they would support, and of the remaining voters, 15% choose Mack, 14% McCollum, 11% LeMieux, 10% Carroll, 9% Haridopolos, 7% Buchanan, and 3% Hasner. Considering the margin of error, almost all of them are statistically tied for the lead. Tuesday’s release showed that Haridopolos, Hasner, and even LeMieux and Mack are essentially unknowns statewide, and that is still the case with these most dedicated partisans who ought to know them best. So all of these possible nominees have plenty of time to make a name for themselves and fill the Bush-less void.

The race for president is similarly jumbled-up. Mike Huckabee barely edges Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich, 23-21-18, with Sarah Palin at 13%, Ron Paul at 8%, Tim Pawlenty at 4%, Mitch Daniels at 2%, John Thune at 1%, and 10% undecided. Romney tops with moderates over Huckabee and Gingrich, 25-23-15, but they make up only a quarter of the votes. The 70% who call themselves conservative break down very similarly to the overall electorate.

“Jeb Bush is currently the only Republican who can beat Bill Nelson, and Republicans want to give him that chance,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 400 usual Florida Republican primary voters from December 17th to 20th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.9%. 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 have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 59%
Unfavorable 24%
Not sure 18%

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

Favorable..... 67%
Unfavorable 20%
Not sure 13%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable..... 61%
Unfavorable 32%
Not sure 7%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 61%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 16%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jeb Bush?

Favorable..... 83%
Unfavorable 11%
Not sure 6%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Haridopolos?

Favorable..... 9%
Unfavorable 13%
Not sure 78%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Adam Hasner?

Favorable..... 2%
Unfavorable 9%
Not sure 89%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Connie Mack IV?

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 15%
Not sure 59%

Q9 Between Vern Buchanan, Jeb Bush, Jennifer Carroll, Mike Haridopolos, Adam Hasner, George LeMieux, Connie Mack IV, and Bill McCollum who would you most like to see as the Republican Senate nominee in 2012?

Vern Buchanan 3%
Jeb Bush..... 72%
Jennifer Carroll 3%
Mike Haridopolos 1%
Adam Hasner..... 0%
George LeMieux 3%
Connie Mack IV 3%
Bill McCollum 6%
Someone else/Not sure 10%





Q10 If your choices as a Republican Senate candidate for 2012 were just Vern Buchanan, Jennifer Carroll, Mike Haridopolos, Adam Hasner, George LeMieux, Connie Mack IV, and Bill McCollum who would you most like to see as the Republican Senate nominee in 2012?

<i>Vern Buchanan</i>	7%
<i>Jennifer Carroll</i>	10%
<i>Mike Haridopolos</i>	9%
<i>Adam Hasner</i>	3%
<i>George LeMieux</i>	11%
<i>Connie Mack IV</i>	15%
<i>Bill McCollum</i>	14%
<i>Someone else/Not sure</i>	31%

Q11 If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and John Thune who would you vote for?

<i>Mitch Daniels</i>	2%
<i>Newt Gingrich</i>	18%
<i>Mike Huckabee</i>	23%
<i>Sarah Palin</i>	13%
<i>Ron Paul</i>	8%
<i>Tim Pawlenty</i>	4%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	21%
<i>John Thune</i>	1%
<i>Someone else/Undecided</i>	10%

Q12 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

<i>Liberal</i>	5%
<i>Moderate</i>	25%
<i>Conservative</i>	70%

Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	48%
<i>Man</i>	52%

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

<i>Hispanic</i>	7%
<i>White</i>	90%
<i>African-American</i>	1%
<i>Other</i>	2%

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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	6%
<i>30 to 45</i>	20%
<i>46 to 65</i>	38%
<i>Older than 65</i>	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	59%	33%	42%	66%
Unfavorable	24%	42%	34%	18%
Not sure	18%	26%	24%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	67%	28%	51%	75%
Unfavorable	20%	49%	31%	14%
Not sure	13%	23%	17%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	61%	31%	34%	73%
Unfavorable	32%	59%	56%	22%
Not sure	7%	11%	10%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	61%	19%	54%	67%
Unfavorable	22%	54%	23%	20%
Not sure	16%	27%	23%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Bush Favorability				
Favorable	83%	48%	74%	89%
Unfavorable	11%	40%	23%	5%
Not sure	6%	12%	3%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Haridopolos Favorability				
Favorable	9%	3%	6%	10%
Unfavorable	13%	30%	17%	11%
Not sure	78%	66%	77%	79%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hasner Favorability				
Favorable	2%	3%	2%	2%
Unfavorable	9%	18%	9%	8%
Not sure	89%	78%	89%	90%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Mack Favorability				
Favorable	26%	27%	27%	26%
Unfavorable	15%	15%	11%	17%
Not sure	59%	58%	62%	57%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/ Bush				
Vern Buchanan	3%	3%	5%	2%
Jeb Bush	72%	46%	65%	77%
Jennifer Carroll	3%	10%	2%	2%
Mike Haridopolos	1%	3%	-	1%
Adam Hasner	0%	-	-	0%
George LeMieux	3%	10%	2%	2%
Connie Mack IV	3%	10%	2%	3%
Bill McCollum	6%	12%	6%	5%
Someone else/Not sure	10%	5%	17%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/o Bush				
Vern Buchanan	7%	7%	12%	5%
Jennifer Carroll	10%	26%	11%	9%
Mike Haridopolos	9%	16%	8%	9%
Adam Hasner	3%	9%	3%	3%
George LeMieux	11%	10%	4%	14%
Connie Mack IV	15%	15%	15%	16%
Bill McCollum	14%	-	13%	15%
Someone else/Not sure	31%	17%	34%	31%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Mitch Daniels	2%	-	3%	2%
Newt Gingrich	18%	24%	15%	19%
Mike Huckabee	23%	31%	23%	22%
Sarah Palin	13%	22%	8%	14%
Ron Paul	8%	17%	6%	8%
Tim Pawlenty	4%	-	2%	5%
Mitt Romney	21%	7%	25%	21%
John Thune	1%	-	-	1%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	-	18%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	59%	57%	60%
Unfavorable	24%	20%	27%
Not sure	18%	23%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	67%	70%	64%
Unfavorable	20%	13%	27%
Not sure	13%	17%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	61%	59%	62%
Unfavorable	32%	31%	33%
Not sure	7%	10%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	61%	64%	59%
Unfavorable	22%	17%	28%
Not sure	16%	19%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bush Favorability			
Favorable	83%	85%	81%
Unfavorable	11%	9%	14%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Haridopolos Favorability			
Favorable	9%	8%	9%
Unfavorable	13%	12%	14%
Not sure	78%	80%	77%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hasner Favorability			
Favorable	2%	1%	3%
Unfavorable	9%	6%	11%
Not sure	89%	93%	86%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Mack Favorability			
Favorable	26%	24%	28%
Unfavorable	15%	15%	15%
Not sure	59%	60%	57%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/ Bush			
Vern Buchanan	3%	3%	2%
Jeb Bush	72%	77%	67%
Jennifer Carroll	3%	3%	2%
Mike Haridopolos	1%	1%	1%
Adam Hasner	0%	0%	-
George LeMieux	3%	2%	3%
Connie Mack IV	3%	2%	5%
Bill McCollum	6%	5%	7%
Someone else/Not sure	10%	6%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/o Bush			
Vern Buchanan	7%	8%	6%
Jennifer Carroll	10%	10%	10%
Mike Haridopolos	9%	10%	8%
Adam Hasner	3%	4%	3%
George LeMieux	11%	10%	12%
Connie Mack IV	15%	13%	18%
Bill McCollum	14%	14%	14%
Someone else/Not sure	31%	31%	30%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Mitch Daniels	2%	1%	3%
Newt Gingrich	18%	20%	17%
Mike Huckabee	23%	27%	19%
Sarah Palin	13%	10%	15%
Ron Paul	8%	4%	12%
Tim Pawlenty	4%	6%	3%
Mitt Romney	21%	20%	23%
John Thune	1%	0%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	12%	8%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African- American	Other
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	59%	56%	59%	19%	64%
Unfavorable	24%	22%	24%	50%	-
Not sure	18%	22%	17%	31%	36%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African- American	Other
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	67%	62%	68%	50%	47%
Unfavorable	20%	20%	20%	19%	18%
Not sure	13%	18%	12%	31%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	61%	63%	60%	19%	82%
Unfavorable	32%	25%	33%	50%	7%
Not sure	7%	11%	6%	31%	11%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	61%	71%	62%	-	40%
Unfavorable	22%	18%	22%	31%	33%
Not sure	16%	11%	16%	69%	27%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Bush Favorability					
Favorable	83%	86%	84%	50%	60%
Unfavorable	11%	14%	11%	31%	11%
Not sure	6%	-	5%	19%	29%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Haridopolos Favorability					
Favorable	9%	11%	9%	-	-
Unfavorable	13%	21%	13%	31%	-
Not sure	78%	68%	78%	69%	100%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Hasner Favorability					
Favorable	2%	3%	2%	-	-
Unfavorable	9%	14%	8%	31%	-
Not sure	89%	83%	89%	69%	100%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Mack Favorability					
Favorable	26%	37%	25%	19%	47%
Unfavorable	15%	14%	15%	31%	11%
Not sure	59%	49%	60%	50%	42%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/ Bush					
Vern Buchanan	3%	5%	3%	-	-
Jeb Bush	72%	69%	74%	31%	47%
Jennifer Carroll	3%	3%	2%	-	11%
Mike Haridopolos	1%	-	1%	-	-
Adam Hasner	0%	-	-	-	7%
George LeMieux	3%	-	3%	-	-
Connie Mack IV	3%	4%	3%	50%	-
Bill McCollum	6%	8%	5%	-	22%
Someone else/Not sure	10%	11%	10%	19%	14%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/o Bush					
Vern Buchanan	7%	7%	7%	-	-
Jennifer Carroll	10%	16%	9%	31%	29%
Mike Haridopolos	9%	10%	9%	-	7%
Adam Hasner	3%	-	3%	31%	-
George LeMieux	11%	9%	11%	-	11%
Connie Mack IV	15%	4%	16%	19%	7%
Bill McCollum	14%	11%	14%	-	40%
Someone else/Not sure	31%	42%	31%	19%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Mitch Daniels	2%	-	2%	-	-
Newt Gingrich	18%	23%	18%	19%	29%
Mike Huckabee	23%	20%	23%	62%	-
Sarah Palin	13%	12%	13%	-	25%
Ron Paul	8%	-	9%	-	7%
Tim Pawlenty	4%	12%	3%	-	22%
Mitt Romney	21%	22%	21%	19%	18%
John Thune	1%	4%	0%	-	-
Someone else/Undecided	10%	7%	10%	-	-

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	59%	40%	44%	56%	73%
Unfavorable	24%	30%	38%	23%	15%
Not sure	18%	30%	18%	21%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	67%	20%	62%	74%	70%
Unfavorable	20%	60%	33%	12%	16%
Not sure	13%	20%	5%	14%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	61%	30%	54%	62%	69%
Unfavorable	32%	70%	44%	28%	24%
Not sure	7%	-	3%	11%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	61%	40%	49%	61%	72%
Unfavorable	22%	30%	33%	22%	15%
Not sure	16%	30%	18%	17%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bush Favorability					
Favorable	83%	70%	79%	85%	85%
Unfavorable	11%	10%	18%	10%	9%
Not sure	6%	20%	3%	5%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Haridopolos Favorability					
Favorable	9%	-	8%	10%	9%
Unfavorable	13%	20%	26%	7%	12%
Not sure	78%	80%	67%	83%	79%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hasner Favorability					
Favorable	2%	-	3%	1%	3%
Unfavorable	9%	30%	10%	6%	7%
Not sure	89%	70%	87%	93%	90%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Mack Favorability					
Favorable	26%	-	26%	28%	29%
Unfavorable	15%	60%	13%	12%	13%
Not sure	59%	40%	62%	61%	58%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/ Bush					
Vern Buchanan	3%	-	-	3%	5%
Jeb Bush	72%	60%	77%	72%	71%
Jennifer Carroll	3%	-	-	4%	3%
Mike Haridopolos	1%	-	-	1%	1%
Adam Hasner	0%	-	-	-	0%
George LeMieux	3%	-	3%	2%	3%
Connie Mack IV	3%	10%	3%	3%	3%
Bill McCollum	6%	20%	8%	5%	3%
Someone else/Not sure	10%	10%	10%	9%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Sen Primary w/o Bush					
Vern Buchanan	7%	10%	3%	7%	8%
Jennifer Carroll	10%	20%	16%	9%	6%
Mike Haridopolos	9%	10%	8%	9%	9%
Adam Hasner	3%	-	5%	3%	3%
George LeMieux	11%	-	11%	9%	15%
Connie Mack IV	15%	-	18%	14%	18%
Bill McCollum	14%	-	11%	16%	16%
Someone else/Not sure	31%	60%	29%	33%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Mitch Daniels	2%	10%	3%	1%	2%
New t Gingrich	18%	20%	15%	16%	23%
Mike Huckabee	23%	10%	31%	25%	19%
Sarah Palin	13%	10%	10%	14%	13%
Ron Paul	8%	20%	8%	9%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	4%	-	5%	5%	3%
Mitt Romney	21%	20%	23%	16%	26%
John Thune	1%	-	-	1%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	10%	5%	14%	8%

