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Nelson Leads Republican Field by Double Digits

Raleigh, N.C. – Democrat Bill Nelson leads all 3 of his potential Republican challengers by between 10 and 14 points, a new survey of Florida voters from Public Policy Polling finds. Nelson leads Republican frontrunner Connie Mack IV 47-37, he leads Mike McCalister 47-35, and he leads George LeMieux 48-34. The state of the race is largely unchanged from the last time PPP polled the contest in November 2011, when Nelson led Mack 46-35, led McCalister 47-32, and led LeMieux 48-34.

The Republican field still suffers from low name recognition and favorability numbers. Connie Mack IV is viewed favorably by 20% of voters, with 27% viewing him unfavorably and 53% not sure. LeMieux is at 10% favorable, 25% unfavorable and 65% not sure while McCalister is at 6% favorable, 17% unfavorable and a whopping 77% not sure. More problematic for LeMieux and McCalister is their net unfavorable rating among Republican voters. LeMieux is at 14-18 among Republican voters and McCalister is at 8-14. Only Connie Mack IV is viewed favorably by Republican voters at 30-18.

“The race is essentially unchanged from last fall, with Republicans still introducing themselves to voters and Bill Nelson leading the field comfortably,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

Bill Nelson’s job approval rating is at 36% approval, 32% disapproval and 33% unknown, an unusually low profile for a sitting two-term Senator. Nelson commands the approval of only 55% of Democratic voters, with 13% disapproving and 31% not sure. Among Republicans he’s at 15% favorable and 50% unfavorable with 35% not sure. And with independent voters he’s at 37% favorable, 34% unfavorable and 29% not sure. Democrats fall in line in the head to head matchups though, with over 80% supporting Nelson against all 3 Democratic challengers. Republicans don’t yet enjoy such party unity, with LeMieux pulling 67% of Republican voters against Nelson, and Nelson and McCalister getting 70% of Republican support against Nelson.

PPP surveyed 700 Florida voters from April 12th to 15th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.7%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. 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?

Approve36% Not sure33%
Disapprove.....32%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of George LeMieux?

Favorable..... 10%
Unfavorable 25%
Not sure 65%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Connie Mack IV?

Favorable..... 20%
Unfavorable 27%
Not sure 53%

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

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

Q5 If the candidates for US Senate this fall were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican George LeMieux, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 48%
George LeMieux 34%
Undecided..... 18%

Q6 If the candidates for US Senate this fall were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Connie Mack IV, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 47%
Connie Mack IV 37%
Undecided..... 17%

Q7 If the candidates for US Senate this fall were Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Mike McCalister, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson..... 47%
Mike McCalister 35%
Undecided..... 19%

Q8 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 47%
Barack Obama..... 47%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

Q9 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 10%
Somewhat liberal 19%
Moderate..... 32%
Somewhat conservative..... 22%
Very conservative 16%

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

Democrat..... 41%
Republican..... 41%
Independent/Other..... 18%

Q12 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 13%
White 71%
African-American 11%
Other..... 5%



Q13 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>	12%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	31%
<i>Older than 65</i>	33%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nelson Approval				
Approve	36%	17%	55%	26%
Disapprove	32%	51%	14%	23%
Not sure	33%	32%	31%	51%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
LeMieux Favorability				
Favorable	10%	16%	6%	2%
Unfavorable	25%	18%	31%	29%
Not sure	65%	66%	63%	70%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Mack Favorability				
Favorable	20%	29%	11%	12%
Unfavorable	27%	18%	37%	18%
Not sure	53%	53%	52%	70%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCalister Favorability				
Favorable	6%	8%	6%	2%
Unfavorable	17%	12%	20%	29%
Not sure	77%	80%	74%	69%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nelson/LeMieux				
Bill Nelson	48%	19%	81%	23%
George LeMieux	34%	64%	6%	27%
Undecided	18%	17%	14%	50%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nelson/Mack				
Bill Nelson	47%	16%	80%	26%
Connie Mack IV	37%	67%	6%	34%
Undecided	17%	17%	14%	41%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nelson/McCalister				
Bill Nelson	47%	15%	81%	29%
Mike McCalister	35%	64%	6%	30%
Undecided	19%	21%	14%	41%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson Approval						
Approve	36%	42%	61%	42%	20%	10%
Disapprove	32%	27%	14%	22%	41%	63%
Not sure	33%	31%	25%	36%	38%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
LeMieux Favorability						
Favorable	10%	2%	5%	11%	11%	19%
Unfavorable	25%	45%	31%	28%	14%	15%
Not sure	65%	53%	64%	61%	75%	65%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Mack Favorability						
Favorable	20%	5%	18%	15%	21%	38%
Unfavorable	27%	43%	35%	31%	13%	18%
Not sure	53%	52%	47%	54%	66%	44%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCalister Favorability						
Favorable	6%	5%	5%	7%	5%	9%
Unfavorable	17%	34%	21%	18%	9%	10%
Not sure	77%	61%	73%	75%	86%	82%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/LeMieux						
Bill Nelson	48%	77%	85%	57%	17%	12%
George LeMieux	34%	10%	7%	20%	61%	73%
Undecided	18%	13%	8%	23%	22%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/Mack						
Bill Nelson	47%	80%	82%	55%	16%	9%
Connie Mack IV	37%	11%	11%	22%	63%	76%
Undecided	17%	9%	8%	23%	20%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/McCalister						
Bill Nelson	47%	76%	81%	56%	17%	9%
Mike McCalister	35%	14%	11%	20%	56%	75%
Undecided	19%	10%	8%	24%	27%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson Approval			
Approve	36%	34%	37%
Disapprove	32%	23%	43%
Not sure	33%	43%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
LeMieux Favorability			
Favorable	10%	8%	13%
Unfavorable	25%	18%	33%
Not sure	65%	73%	54%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Mack Favorability			
Favorable	20%	15%	25%
Unfavorable	27%	22%	33%
Not sure	53%	63%	42%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCalister Favorability			
Favorable	6%	6%	7%
Unfavorable	17%	12%	22%
Not sure	77%	82%	71%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/LeMieux			
Bill Nelson	48%	53%	43%
George LeMieux	34%	25%	45%
Undecided	18%	22%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/Mack			
Bill Nelson	47%	50%	43%
Connie Mack IV	37%	28%	47%
Undecided	17%	23%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/McCalister			
Bill Nelson	47%	50%	42%
Mike McCalister	35%	27%	44%
Undecided	19%	22%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson Approval				
Approve	36%	55%	15%	37%
Disapprove	32%	13%	50%	34%
Not sure	33%	31%	35%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
LeMieux Favorability				
Favorable	10%	8%	14%	8%
Unfavorable	25%	29%	18%	31%
Not sure	65%	64%	68%	60%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Mack Favorability				
Favorable	20%	11%	30%	15%
Unfavorable	27%	36%	18%	27%
Not sure	53%	52%	53%	58%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCalister Favorability				
Favorable	6%	5%	8%	6%
Unfavorable	17%	20%	14%	18%
Not sure	77%	76%	78%	76%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/LeMieux				
Bill Nelson	48%	81%	16%	49%
George LeMieux	34%	8%	67%	21%
Undecided	18%	12%	18%	30%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/Mack				
Bill Nelson	47%	80%	14%	45%
Connie Mack IV	37%	10%	70%	21%
Undecided	17%	10%	16%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/McCalister				
Bill Nelson	47%	81%	11%	49%
Mike McCalister	35%	8%	70%	16%
Undecided	19%	11%	19%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson Approval					
Approve	36%	27%	38%	33%	36%
Disapprove	32%	33%	33%	20%	34%
Not sure	33%	40%	29%	47%	30%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
LeMieux Favorability					
Favorable	10%	11%	11%	1%	17%
Unfavorable	25%	39%	23%	29%	9%
Not sure	65%	50%	66%	70%	74%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Mack Favorability					
Favorable	20%	16%	22%	13%	15%
Unfavorable	27%	31%	26%	27%	27%
Not sure	53%	53%	52%	60%	58%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
McCalister Favorability					
Favorable	6%	8%	6%	4%	17%
Unfavorable	17%	27%	14%	28%	9%
Not sure	77%	65%	81%	68%	74%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/LeMieux					
Bill Nelson	48%	49%	45%	66%	56%
George LeMieux	34%	25%	39%	18%	28%
Undecided	18%	25%	16%	16%	16%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/Mack					
Bill Nelson	47%	47%	43%	71%	43%
Connie Mack IV	37%	26%	42%	16%	38%
Undecided	17%	27%	15%	13%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/McCalister					
Bill Nelson	47%	48%	42%	71%	49%
Mike McCalister	35%	30%	39%	16%	30%
Undecided	19%	22%	19%	12%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson Approval					
Approve	36%	25%	34%	37%	40%
Disapprove	32%	21%	31%	35%	33%
Not sure	33%	54%	35%	29%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
LeMieux Favorability					
Favorable	10%	3%	9%	13%	11%
Unfavorable	25%	28%	26%	20%	28%
Not sure	65%	69%	65%	67%	61%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Mack Favorability					
Favorable	20%	3%	15%	22%	26%
Unfavorable	27%	24%	26%	24%	31%
Not sure	53%	72%	59%	54%	42%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCalister Favorability					
Favorable	6%	-	9%	7%	7%
Unfavorable	17%	24%	16%	13%	18%
Not sure	77%	76%	75%	80%	75%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/LeMieux					
Bill Nelson	48%	55%	53%	44%	47%
George LeMieux	34%	21%	29%	40%	38%
Undecided	18%	24%	19%	16%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/Mack					
Bill Nelson	47%	55%	50%	44%	44%
Connie Mack IV	37%	21%	26%	43%	44%
Undecided	17%	24%	24%	13%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/McCalister					
Bill Nelson	47%	55%	49%	43%	45%
Mike McCalister	35%	21%	31%	40%	38%
Undecided	19%	24%	20%	17%	17%

