

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312

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information@publicpolicypolling.com, OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH
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Rubio Remains Unpopular; Gun Issues Could Cause Trouble in Senate Bid

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP's newest Florida poll provides a prism into the difficulty gun issues could cause Senate Republicans this fall- especially Marco Rubio if he decides to run for reelection to his seat.

Rubio remains very unpopular in Florida- only 30% of voters approve of him to 49% who disapprove of the job he's doing. Among critical independent voters he's even more unpopular than he is with the electorate as a whole- a 26/55 spread. Rubio trails Patrick Murphy 42/41 in a hypothetical match up. That one point deficit is the same as we found when we polled Florida last week. That previous survey also found that among voters familiar with both Rubio and Murphy, Murphy held a 57/35 advantage. Alan Grayson trails Rubio 42/40 this week, on the heels of trailing Rubio 43/38 on the previous survey.

“Marco Rubio continues to sport dreadful approval numbers,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “And his unpopular positions on gun issues could just make a potential reelection bid even more difficult.”

The reason for polling Florida again though is to find out where voters in the state are on gun control measures in the wake of Sunday's shooting in Orlando, and how those issues might affect Rubio in a possible Senate bid this fall:

-93% of voters in the state support requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm, compared to only 5% opposed to that. That concept has support from 97% of independents, 92% of Republicans, and 91% of Democrats.

-83% of voters in the state support barring those on the Terror Watch List from buying a gun, to only 11% who are opposed to making that change in the law. 85% of Democrats, 84% of independents, and 80% of Republicans are in favor of that.

Given the strong bipartisan mandate for these measures, we also asked how opposing them might impact a potential Senate candidate. 74% of voters say they're less likely to vote for a Senate candidate opposed to barring people on the Terror Watch List from buying a firearm, to only 14% who say they'd be more likely to vote for such a candidate. And 64% are less likely to vote for a candidate opposed to requiring criminal background checks to buy a gun, to only 21% who say they'd be more likely to vote for such a candidate. Those numbers show what dicey issues these could be for Republicans in key Senate races.

At the end of the poll we did a simple informed horse race, after telling respondents that Rubio has opposed barring people on the Terror Watch List from buying firearms and that he's opposed requiring criminal background checks for those wanting to buy firearms. Murphy's initial 42/41 lead over Rubio ballooned all the way up to 47/32 based on his position on those gun issues. Those numbers are a pretty strong indicator that this year might be different when it comes to gun issues and the election if Congress once again fails to act.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 508 registered voters on June 15th and 16th. The margin of error is +/-4.4%. 80% of participants, selected through a list based sample, responded via the phone, while 20% of respondents who did not have landlines conducted the survey over the internet through an opt-in internet panel.



Florida Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Marco Rubio's job performance?

Approve 30%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not sure 20%

Q2 If the candidates for US Senate were Republican Marco Rubio and Democrat Patrick Murphy, who would you vote for?

Marco Rubio 41%
Patrick Murphy..... 42%
Not sure 17%

Q3 If the candidates for US Senate were Republican Marco Rubio and Democrat Alan Grayson, who would you vote for?

Marco Rubio 42%
Alan Grayson..... 40%
Not sure 17%

Q4 Would you support or oppose a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm?

Support a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm 83%
Oppose a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm 11%
Not sure 6%

Q5 If a candidate for the Senate supported allowing people on the terrorist watch list to purchase firearms would that make you more or less likely to vote for them, or would it not make a difference?

More likely..... 14%
Less likely 74%
Wouldn't make a difference..... 9%
Not sure 3%

Q6 Do you support or oppose requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm?

Support requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm..... 93%
Oppose requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm..... 5%
Not sure 2%

Q7 If a candidate for the Senate opposed requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm, would that make you more or less likely to vote for them, or would it not make a difference?

More likely..... 21%
Less likely 64%
Wouldn't make a difference..... 11%
Not sure 5%

Q8 Marco Rubio has opposed barring people on the terrorist watch list from buying firearms, and opposed requiring criminal background checks for all people wanting to buy firearms. Now let me ask you again: If the candidates for US Senate were Republican Marco Rubio and Democrat Patrick Murphy, who would you vote for?

Marco Rubio 32%
Patrick Murphy..... 47%
Not sure 21%

Q9 Now let me ask you again: If the candidates for US Senate were Republican Marco Rubio and Democrat Alan Grayson, who would you vote for?

Marco Rubio 37%
Alan Grayson..... 47%
Not sure 16%





Q10 In the 2012 presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Barack Obama..... 47%
Mitt Romney..... 42%
Someone else/Don't remember 11%

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

Very liberal..... 12%
Somewhat liberal 19%
Moderate..... 34%
Somewhat conservative..... 26%
Very conservative 10%

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

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

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 43%
Republican 37%
Independent or identify with another party..... 20%

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

Hispanic..... 14%
White 65%
African-American 15%
Other..... 6%

Q15 If you are 18-29 years old, press 1. If 30-45, press 2. If 46-65, press 3. If you're older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 12%
30 to 45..... 20%
46 to 65..... 41%
Older than 65..... 27%

Q16 Mode

Phone 80%
Internet 20%





	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama...	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Rubio Approval				
Approve	30%	16%	49%	20%
Disapprove	49%	60%	36%	51%
Not sure	20%	23%	15%	28%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama...	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Rubio/Murphy Vote				
Marco Rubio	41%	15%	72%	31%
Patrick Murphy	42%	75%	9%	28%
Not sure	17%	9%	20%	40%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama...	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Rubio/Grayson Vote				
Marco Rubio	42%	15%	75%	39%
Alan Grayson	40%	70%	10%	27%
Not sure	17%	15%	16%	33%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama...	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Terrorist Watch List Support/Oppose				
Support a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	83%	85%	81%	80%
Oppose a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	11%	12%	12%	6%
Not sure	6%	3%	7%	14%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama...	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Senator Opposed Gun Control More/Less Likely				
More likely	14%	14%	18%	2%
Less likely	74%	82%	66%	70%
Wouldn't make a difference	9%	2%	14%	19%
Not sure	3%	2%	2%	10%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama...	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Background Check Support/Oppose				
Support requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	93%	93%	95%	83%
Oppose requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	5%	6%	4%	5%
Not sure	2%	1%	1%	12%





	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama...	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Senator Opposed Background Checks More/Less Likely				
More likely	21%	17%	27%	9%
Less likely	64%	71%	56%	60%
Wouldn't make a difference	11%	7%	13%	23%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%	8%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama...	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Terrorist Watch List Rubio/Murphy				
Marco Rubio	32%	11%	59%	21%
Patrick Murphy	47%	78%	14%	39%
Not sure	21%	11%	27%	40%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama...	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Rubio/Grayson Vote Repeat				
Marco Rubio	37%	12%	69%	23%
Alan Grayson	47%	79%	13%	36%
Not sure	16%	8%	18%	42%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very libe...	Somewh-at liberal	Moderat-e	Somewhat conservati...	Very conser-vative
Rubio Approval						
Approve	30%	14%	18%	24%	47%	51%
Disapprove	49%	47%	63%	60%	36%	26%
Not sure	20%	39%	20%	16%	17%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very libe...	Somewh-at liberal	Moderat-e	Somewhat conservati...	Very conser-vative
Rubio/Murphy Vote						
Marco Rubio	41%	18%	13%	30%	71%	78%
Patrick Murphy	42%	70%	72%	47%	14%	10%
Not sure	17%	13%	15%	23%	15%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very libe...	Somewh-at liberal	Moderat-e	Somewhat conservati...	Very conser-vative
Rubio/Grayson Vote						
Marco Rubio	42%	17%	15%	32%	73%	81%
Alan Grayson	40%	72%	76%	40%	14%	4%
Not sure	17%	11%	9%	28%	14%	15%





	Base	Ideology				
		Very libe...	Somewh- at liberal	Moderat- e	Somewhat conservati...	Very conser- vative
Terrorist Watch List Support/Oppose						
Support a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	83%	94%	80%	87%	76%	79%
Oppose a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	11%	3%	17%	8%	15%	11%
Not sure	6%	3%	3%	6%	9%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very libe...	Somewh- at liberal	Moderat- e	Somewhat conservati...	Very conser- vative
Senator Opposed Gun Control More/Less Likely						
More likely	14%	15%	14%	14%	15%	12%
Less likely	74%	79%	82%	73%	70%	66%
Wouldn't make a difference	9%	3%	4%	8%	13%	18%
Not sure	3%	3%	0%	5%	2%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very libe...	Somewh- at liberal	Moderat- e	Somewhat conservati...	Very conser- vative
Background Check Support/Oppose						
Support requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	93%	96%	88%	93%	95%	91%
Oppose requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	5%	2%	12%	4%	3%	5%
Not sure	2%	1%	1%	3%	2%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very libe...	Somewh- at liberal	Moderat- e	Somewhat conservati...	Very conser- vative
Senator Opposed Background Checks More/Less Likely						
More likely	21%	20%	20%	21%	18%	27%
Less likely	64%	68%	70%	65%	58%	55%
Wouldn't make a difference	11%	10%	7%	10%	17%	9%
Not sure	5%	2%	4%	4%	6%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very libe...	Somewh- at liberal	Moderat- e	Somewhat conservati...	Very conser- vative
Terrorist Watch List Rubio/Murphy						
Marco Rubio	32%	18%	9%	26%	49%	75%
Patrick Murphy	47%	72%	84%	48%	22%	7%
Not sure	21%	11%	7%	26%	30%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very libe...	Somewh- at liberal	Moderat- e	Somewhat conservati...	Very conser- vative
Rubio/Grayson Vote Repeat						
Marco Rubio	37%	17%	11%	27%	61%	80%
Alan Grayson	47%	81%	82%	47%	22%	5%
Not sure	16%	3%	7%	26%	17%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Rubio Approval			
Approve	30%	32%	28%
Disapprove	49%	43%	57%
Not sure	20%	25%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Rubio/Murphy Vote			
Marco Rubio	41%	41%	40%
Patrick Murphy	42%	40%	44%
Not sure	17%	18%	15%





	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Rubio/Grayson Vote			
Marco Rubio	42%	43%	42%
Alan Grayson	40%	38%	43%
Not sure	17%	19%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Terrorist Watch List Support/Oppose			
Support a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	83%	82%	84%
Oppose a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	11%	9%	13%
Not sure	6%	8%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Senator Opposed Gun Control More/Less Likely			
More likely	14%	12%	17%
Less likely	74%	76%	72%
Wouldn't make a difference	9%	8%	10%
Not sure	3%	5%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Background Check Support/Oppose			
Support requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	93%	91%	94%
Oppose requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	5%	4%	6%
Not sure	2%	4%	0%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Senator Opposed Background Checks More/Less Likely			
More likely	21%	16%	25%
Less likely	64%	65%	62%
Wouldn't make a difference	11%	12%	10%
Not sure	5%	7%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Terrorist Watch List Rubio/Murphy			
Marco Rubio	32%	28%	38%
Patrick Murphy	47%	48%	44%
Not sure	21%	24%	18%





	Base	Gender	
		Wom...	Man
Rubio/Grayson Vote Repeat			
Marco Rubio	37%	34%	40%
Alan Grayson	47%	49%	45%
Not sure	16%	17%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democr- at	Republica- n	Independent or identifi- y with another party
Rubio Approval				
Approve	30%	20%	44%	26%
Disapprove	49%	53%	42%	55%
Not sure	20%	26%	14%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democr- at	Republica- n	Independent or identifi- y with another party
Rubio/Murphy Vote				
Marco Rubio	41%	20%	64%	42%
Patrick Murphy	42%	68%	12%	42%
Not sure	17%	12%	24%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democr- at	Republica- n	Independent or identifi- y with another party
Rubio/Grayson Vote				
Marco Rubio	42%	20%	69%	42%
Alan Grayson	40%	63%	11%	45%
Not sure	17%	17%	20%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democr- at	Republica- n	Independent or identifi- y with another party
Terrorist Watch List Support/Oppose				
Support a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	83%	85%	80%	84%
Oppose a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	11%	12%	11%	10%
Not sure	6%	4%	9%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democr- at	Republica- n	Independent or identifi- y with another party
Senator Opposed Gun Control More/Less Likely				
More likely	14%	13%	19%	8%
Less likely	74%	79%	65%	77%
Wouldn't make a difference	9%	4%	12%	13%
Not sure	3%	3%	4%	2%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent or identify with another party
Background Check Support/Oppose				
Support requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	93%	91%	92%	97%
Oppose requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	5%	7%	5%	0%
Not sure	2%	2%	3%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent or identify with another party
Senator Opposed Background Checks More/Less Likely				
More likely	21%	18%	27%	16%
Less likely	64%	69%	55%	67%
Wouldn't make a difference	11%	8%	15%	10%
Not sure	5%	5%	3%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent or identify with another party
Terrorist Watch List Rubio/Murphy				
Marco Rubio	32%	13%	58%	29%
Patrick Murphy	47%	72%	15%	49%
Not sure	21%	16%	27%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent or identify with another party
Rubio/Grayson Vote Repeat				
Marco Rubio	37%	17%	61%	35%
Alan Grayson	47%	74%	16%	46%
Not sure	16%	9%	23%	20%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American...	Other
Rubio Approval					
Approve	30%	22%	34%	21%	31%
Disapprove	49%	56%	50%	41%	45%
Not sure	20%	21%	16%	38%	24%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American...	Other
Rubio/Murphy Vote					
Marco Rubio	41%	32%	50%	15%	27%
Patrick Murphy	42%	40%	34%	74%	58%
Not sure	17%	29%	16%	11%	15%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American...	Other
Rubio/Grayson Vote					
Marco Rubio	42%	30%	54%	12%	27%
Alan Grayson	40%	38%	33%	71%	49%
Not sure	17%	32%	14%	18%	24%





	Base	Race			
		Hispani- c	White	African- Americ...	Other
Terrorist Watch List Support/Oppose					
Support a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	83%	69%	87%	77%	86%
Oppose a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	11%	15%	8%	20%	10%
Not sure	6%	16%	5%	3%	4%

	Base	Race			
		Hispani- c	White	African- Americ...	Other
Senator Opposed Gun Control More/Less Likely					
More likely	14%	33%	13%	8%	6%
Less likely	74%	56%	73%	91%	78%
Wouldn't make a difference	9%	8%	10%	2%	15%
Not sure	3%	4%	4%	-	1%

	Base	Race			
		Hispani- c	White	African- Americ...	Other
Background Check Support/Oppose					
Support requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	93%	90%	92%	94%	99%
Oppose requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	5%	7%	5%	6%	1%
Not sure	2%	4%	3%	-	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispani- c	White	African- Americ...	Other
Senator Opposed Background Checks More/Less Likely					
More likely	21%	31%	20%	10%	26%
Less likely	64%	49%	65%	72%	67%
Wouldn't make a difference	11%	14%	12%	6%	7%
Not sure	5%	6%	3%	12%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispani- c	White	African- Americ...	Other
Terrorist Watch List Rubio/Murphy					
Marco Rubio	32%	31%	41%	-	20%
Patrick Murphy	47%	43%	39%	80%	60%
Not sure	21%	27%	20%	20%	20%

	Base	Race			
		Hispani- c	White	African- Americ...	Other
Rubio/Grayson Vote Repeat					
Marco Rubio	37%	28%	46%	12%	20%
Alan Grayson	47%	44%	38%	85%	61%
Not sure	16%	28%	16%	3%	19%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Rubio Approval					
Approve	30%	28%	22%	30%	39%
Disapprove	49%	44%	48%	58%	40%
Not sure	20%	29%	30%	12%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Rubio/Murphy Vote					
Marco Rubio	41%	42%	29%	37%	55%
Patrick Murphy	42%	40%	45%	48%	33%
Not sure	17%	18%	26%	16%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Rubio/Grayson Vote					
Marco Rubio	42%	42%	31%	39%	55%
Alan Grayson	40%	48%	41%	43%	32%
Not sure	17%	10%	28%	17%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Terrorist Watch List Support/Oppose					
Support a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	83%	71%	91%	85%	78%
Oppose a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	11%	25%	4%	10%	13%
Not sure	6%	3%	5%	5%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Senator Opposed Gun Control More/Less Likely					
More likely	14%	26%	20%	11%	11%
Less likely	74%	54%	69%	79%	77%
Wouldn't make a difference	9%	14%	6%	8%	9%
Not sure	3%	6%	5%	2%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Background Check Support/Oppose					
Support requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	93%	89%	91%	94%	94%
Oppose requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	5%	10%	4%	5%	4%
Not sure	2%	2%	5%	2%	2%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Senator Opposed Background Checks More/Less Likely					
More likely	21%	36%	23%	13%	23%
Less likely	64%	43%	63%	74%	58%
Wouldn't make a difference	11%	18%	9%	11%	11%
Not sure	5%	3%	5%	3%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Terrorist Watch List Rubio/Murphy					
Marco Rubio	32%	38%	19%	30%	44%
Patrick Murphy	47%	50%	44%	52%	38%
Not sure	21%	12%	37%	18%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than ...
Rubio/Grayson Vote Repeat					
Marco Rubio	37%	35%	27%	33%	51%
Alan Grayson	47%	55%	47%	53%	34%
Not sure	16%	10%	26%	14%	15%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
Rubio Approval			
Approve	30%	32%	24%
Disapprove	49%	51%	43%
Not sure	20%	17%	33%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
Rubio/Murphy Vote			
Marco Rubio	41%	44%	30%
Patrick Murphy	42%	43%	41%
Not sure	17%	14%	30%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
Rubio/Grayson Vote			
Marco Rubio	42%	46%	29%
Alan Grayson	40%	39%	46%
Not sure	17%	16%	25%





	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
Terrorist Watch List Support/Oppose			
Support a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	83%	83%	81%
Oppose a bill barring people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm	11%	11%	10%
Not sure	6%	5%	9%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
Senator Opposed Gun Control More/Less Likely			
More likely	14%	12%	25%
Less likely	74%	79%	55%
Wouldn't make a difference	9%	9%	10%
Not sure	3%	1%	10%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
Background Check Support/Oppose			
Support requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	93%	94%	85%
Oppose requiring a criminal background check to buy a firearm	5%	4%	8%
Not sure	2%	1%	6%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
Senator Opposed Background Checks More/Less Likely			
More likely	21%	19%	26%
Less likely	64%	66%	53%
Wouldn't make a difference	11%	11%	14%
Not sure	5%	4%	8%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
Terrorist Watch List Rubio/Murphy			
Marco Rubio	32%	35%	21%
Patrick Murphy	47%	45%	51%
Not sure	21%	19%	27%

	Base	Mode	
		Pho...	Intern...
Rubio/Grayson Vote Repeat			
Marco Rubio	37%	42%	17%
Alan Grayson	47%	45%	55%
Not sure	16%	13%	27%

