

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312**IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL information@publicpolicypolling.com, OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

Nelson up 7 in Florida Senate race

Raleigh, N.C.-- The Florida Senate race is one of the strangest in the country this year. Bill Nelson has middling approval numbers, with only 35% of voters approving of him to 42% who disapprove. Usually an incumbent in that kind of position would be doomed for defeat. And yet Nelson has a 7 point lead over Connie Mack IV, 45-38, representing a 5 point increase in his lead compared to our last poll in late July.

The reason Nelson's ahead despite being unpopular is that Mack is even *more* unpopular. Only 27% of voters have a favorable opinion of him to 45% with an unfavorable one. Just 17% of independents have a positive opinion of Mack to 48% with a negative one, and much of Nelson's lead comes thanks to a 45-29 advantage with that group.

“Bill Nelson is the clear favorite in the Florida Senate race,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Voters aren’t exactly in love with him but they like Connie Mack IV even less.”

Charlie Crist isn't a particularly popular figure in Florida anymore. After his endorsement of President Obama only 36% of voters in the state now have a positive opinion of him to 44% with a negative one. He's lost most of his remaining appeal to Republican voters- he was at 34/49 with them a month ago and now he's dropped a net 21 points to 24/60. Democrats still appear to be somewhat skeptical of him as well though- 44% rate him positively to 33% with a negative opinion.

44% of voters in the state now think he should complete the switch and join the Democratic Party to 20% who think he should not. There's bipartisan consensus on that front with Democrats (56/12), independents (39/13), and Republicans (36/32) all saying he should do that.

In a hypothetical match Crist, running as a Democrat, would lead Rick Scott 45-42. A generic Democrat would lead Scott by the exact same 45-42 spread. Scott's approval rating is 41% with 49% of voters disapproving of him. Although he continues to be unpopular these are actually the best numbers we've found for him since he took office.

PPP surveyed 1,548 likely Florida voters from August 31st to September 2nd . The margin of error for the survey is +/-2.5%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization.



Florida Survey Results

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

Approve35% Not sure23%
Disapprove.....42%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Connie Mack IV?

Favorable.....27%
Unfavorable45%
Not sure28%

Q3 The candidates for Senate this fall are Democrat Bill Nelson and Republican Connie Mack IV. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Bill Nelson.....45%
Connie Mack IV38%
Undecided.....17%

Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Rick Scott's job performance?

Approve41% Not sure11%
Disapprove.....49%

Q5 Generally speaking, if there was an election today, would you vote for Republican Rick Scott or his Democratic opponent?

Rick Scott.....42% Not sure13%
Democratic
opponent.....45%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Charlie Crist?

Favorable.....36%
Unfavorable44%
Not sure20%

Q7 Do you think Charlie Crist should become a Democrat, or not?

He should.....44%
He should not.....20%
Not sure36%

Q8 If the candidates for Governor next time were Republican Rick Scott and Charlie Crist, running as a Democrat, who would you vote for?

Rick Scott.....42%
Charlie Crist.....45%
Not sure13%

Q9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Debbie Wasserman Schultz?

Favorable.....26%
Unfavorable31%
Not sure42%

Q10 If there was an election for Congress today, would you vote Democratic or Republican?

Democratic.....44%
Republican.....43%
Not sure13%

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

Very liberal9%
Somewhat liberal16%
Moderate.....36%
Somewhat conservative.....25%
Very conservative13%

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

Woman54%
Man.....46%



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 41%
Republican 37%
Independent/Other 21%

Q14 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 13%
Other 5%

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 12%
30 to 45 29%
46 to 65 33%
Older than 65 26%



Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson Approval						
Approve	35%	53%	59%	43%	15%	9%
Disapprove	42%	26%	23%	33%	61%	67%
Not sure	23%	21%	18%	24%	24%	24%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Mack Favorability						
Favorable	27%	16%	12%	20%	40%	45%
Unfavorable	45%	52%	62%	53%	32%	24%
Not sure	28%	32%	26%	27%	28%	31%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nelson/Mack						
Bill Nelson	45%	73%	78%	52%	19%	11%
Connie Mack IV	38%	17%	13%	30%	56%	75%
Undecided	17%	10%	8%	18%	25%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Scott Approval						
Approve	41%	17%	17%	34%	55%	77%
Disapprove	49%	64%	79%	57%	32%	13%
Not sure	11%	19%	5%	9%	13%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Scott or Dem Opponent?						
Rick Scott	42%	15%	16%	33%	63%	81%
Democratic opponent	45%	76%	75%	52%	23%	8%
Not sure	13%	9%	10%	15%	14%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Crist Favorability						
Favorable	36%	43%	55%	43%	19%	18%
Unfavorable	44%	35%	25%	36%	59%	65%
Not sure	20%	22%	19%	21%	21%	17%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Should Crist Become a Dem?						
He should	44%	58%	52%	40%	40%	46%
He should not	20%	16%	12%	18%	26%	27%
Not sure	36%	26%	36%	42%	34%	27%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Scott/Crist '14						
Rick Scott	42%	16%	12%	33%	63%	85%
Charlie Crist	45%	62%	80%	55%	22%	5%
Not sure	13%	22%	8%	12%	15%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
DWS Favorability						
Favorable	26%	41%	49%	29%	13%	6%
Unfavorable	31%	17%	14%	24%	44%	60%
Not sure	42%	42%	37%	47%	43%	35%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Cong. Ballot						
Democratic	44%	82%	82%	49%	18%	6%
Republican	43%	12%	11%	33%	66%	87%
Not sure	13%	6%	8%	18%	16%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson Approval			
Approve	35%	33%	37%
Disapprove	42%	39%	46%
Not sure	23%	28%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Mack Favorability			
Favorable	27%	24%	30%
Unfavorable	45%	45%	46%
Not sure	28%	31%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nelson/Mack			
Bill Nelson	45%	44%	45%
Connie Mack IV	38%	36%	41%
Undecided	17%	19%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Scott Approval			
Approve	41%	39%	42%
Disapprove	49%	48%	49%
Not sure	11%	13%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Scott or Dem Opponent?			
Rick Scott	42%	40%	46%
Democratic opponent	45%	46%	43%
Not sure	13%	14%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Crist Favorability			
Favorable	36%	37%	34%
Unfavorable	44%	40%	48%
Not sure	20%	23%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should Crist Become a Dem ?			
He should	44%	42%	47%
He should not	20%	19%	20%
Not sure	36%	38%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Scott/Crist '14			
Rick Scott	42%	39%	46%
Charlie Crist	45%	47%	42%
Not sure	13%	13%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
DWS Favorability			
Favorable	26%	25%	27%
Unfavorable	31%	29%	35%
Not sure	42%	46%	38%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Cong. Ballot			
Democratic	44%	45%	43%
Republican	43%	41%	45%
Not sure	13%	13%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson Approval				
Approve	35%	52%	15%	36%
Disapprove	42%	27%	64%	35%
Not sure	23%	21%	21%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Mack Favorability				
Favorable	27%	13%	47%	17%
Unfavorable	45%	59%	29%	48%
Not sure	28%	28%	24%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nelson/Mack				
Bill Nelson	45%	71%	15%	45%
Connie Mack IV	38%	15%	70%	29%
Undecided	17%	14%	15%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Scott Approval				
Approve	41%	17%	72%	31%
Disapprove	49%	72%	20%	54%
Not sure	11%	11%	8%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Scott or Dem Opponent?				
Rick Scott	42%	14%	81%	30%
Democratic opponent	45%	76%	10%	46%
Not sure	13%	10%	9%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Crist Favorability				
Favorable	36%	44%	24%	43%
Unfavorable	44%	33%	60%	35%
Not sure	20%	23%	17%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should Crist Become a Dem ?				
He should	44%	56%	36%	39%
He should not	20%	12%	32%	13%
Not sure	36%	32%	32%	48%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Scott/Crist '14				
Rick Scott	42%	15%	77%	31%
Charlie Crist	45%	69%	15%	52%
Not sure	13%	15%	9%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
DWS Favorability				
Favorable	26%	42%	10%	26%
Unfavorable	31%	17%	50%	25%
Not sure	42%	42%	39%	49%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Cong. Ballot				
Democratic	44%	80%	9%	39%
Republican	43%	12%	83%	28%
Not sure	13%	7%	8%	33%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson Approval					
Approve	35%	30%	34%	46%	31%
Disapprove	42%	45%	44%	31%	38%
Not sure	23%	24%	22%	23%	30%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Mack Favorability					
Favorable	27%	33%	26%	25%	24%
Unfavorable	45%	36%	48%	43%	37%
Not sure	28%	31%	26%	33%	39%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Nelson/Mack					
Bill Nelson	45%	37%	42%	64%	48%
Connie Mack IV	38%	41%	41%	22%	35%
Undecided	17%	22%	16%	14%	17%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Scott Approval					
Approve	41%	36%	45%	22%	41%
Disapprove	49%	50%	46%	63%	40%
Not sure	11%	14%	9%	14%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Scott or Dem Opponent?					
Rick Scott	42%	37%	49%	17%	34%
Democratic opponent	45%	50%	39%	70%	41%
Not sure	13%	13%	12%	13%	25%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Crist Favorability					
Favorable	36%	35%	38%	32%	21%
Unfavorable	44%	40%	44%	47%	46%
Not sure	20%	25%	19%	21%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Should Crist Become a Dem ?					
He should	44%	47%	43%	55%	34%
He should not	20%	19%	22%	15%	6%
Not sure	36%	33%	35%	31%	60%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Scott/Crist '14					
Rick Scott	42%	37%	47%	27%	31%
Charlie Crist	45%	47%	42%	54%	53%
Not sure	13%	16%	11%	19%	16%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
DWS Favorability					
Favorable	26%	28%	25%	32%	22%
Unfavorable	31%	33%	32%	22%	36%
Not sure	42%	39%	42%	46%	42%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Generic Cong. Ballot					
Democratic	44%	55%	37%	71%	45%
Republican	43%	33%	48%	24%	34%
Not sure	13%	12%	14%	5%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson Approval					
Approve	35%	20%	38%	37%	37%
Disapprove	42%	44%	39%	42%	45%
Not sure	23%	36%	23%	21%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Mack Favorability					
Favorable	27%	20%	23%	29%	31%
Unfavorable	45%	42%	44%	48%	46%
Not sure	28%	38%	33%	24%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nelson/Mack					
Bill Nelson	45%	32%	49%	45%	44%
Connie Mack IV	38%	38%	35%	39%	42%
Undecided	17%	30%	15%	16%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Scott Approval					
Approve	41%	33%	36%	42%	47%
Disapprove	49%	51%	52%	49%	44%
Not sure	11%	16%	12%	9%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Scott or Dem Opponent?					
Rick Scott	42%	33%	35%	47%	49%
Democratic opponent	45%	45%	48%	45%	41%
Not sure	13%	22%	17%	8%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Crist Favorability					
Favorable	36%	29%	32%	38%	40%
Unfavorable	44%	42%	45%	45%	41%
Not sure	20%	29%	23%	16%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should Crist Become a Dem ?					
He should	44%	36%	41%	48%	47%
He should not	20%	27%	18%	20%	19%
Not sure	36%	36%	41%	32%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Scott/Crist '14					
Rick Scott	42%	42%	35%	45%	48%
Charlie Crist	45%	37%	50%	44%	43%
Not sure	13%	21%	15%	11%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
DWS Favorability					
Favorable	26%	28%	24%	29%	25%
Unfavorable	31%	30%	30%	32%	33%
Not sure	42%	42%	46%	39%	42%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Cong. Ballot					
Democratic	44%	42%	47%	45%	41%
Republican	43%	40%	35%	45%	50%
Not sure	13%	19%	18%	10%	8%

