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information@publicpolicypolling.com, OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH
OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

Democrats within striking distance of Mitch McConnell for 2014

Raleigh, N.C. – Next year’s Kentucky Senate race is shaping up to be extremely competitive, even without Ashley Judd in the mix. PPP’s latest poll finds Senator Mitch McConnell leading three possible Democratic challengers by 4 to 11 points.

In hypothetical 2014 match-ups, McConnell leads Alison Lundergan Grimes by 4 points (45/41), Ben Chandler by 5 points (46/41) and Ed Marksberry by 11 points (46/35). Grimes and Chandler are both within the poll’s margin of error. The biggest challenge for these candidates is consolidating the support of registered Democrats—24% of Democrats expressed support for McConnell in each of these contests.

McConnell continues to have an abysmal job approval rating with 54% disapproving and just 36% approving of his performance. These numbers are essentially unchanged compared to his 37/55 standing in PPP’s December poll of Kentucky.

“Mitch McConnell continues to be the most unpopular Senator in the country in our polling,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “If Democrats can recruit a strong candidate into the race it’s likely to be very competitive.”

Ashely Judd’s favorability has dropped significantly in recent months, from 42/36 in December to 34/41 in April. Steve Beshear remains popular as Kentucky’s Democratic governor with 48% approving and 31% disapproving of his job performance. 46% approve of Senator Rand Paul to 39% who disapprove, and he would lead Beshear by 4 points (46/42) in a 2016 Senate race. Paul is Kentucky’s favorite Senator with 42% holding a higher opinion of him compared to 24% for McConnell and 34% not sure.

Despite McConnell’s troubles, he doesn’t appear too vulnerable to a Republican primary challenger. 56% of GOP primary voters support McConnell against 18% for Thomas Massie. 46% support McConnell as the 2014 nominee while 32% would support someone more conservative.

PPP surveyed 1,052 Kentucky voters as well as 320 usual Republican primary voters from April 5th to 7th. The margin of error for the overall sample is +/-3.0% and +/-5.5% for the GOP portion. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



Kentucky Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 35%
Disapprove..... 62%
Not sure 3%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Mitch McConnell's job performance?

Approve 36%
Disapprove..... 54%
Not sure 11%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ben Chandler?

Favorable..... 25%
Unfavorable 34%
Not sure 41%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Alison Lundergan Grimes?

Favorable..... 28%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 50%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ed Marksberry?

Favorable..... 7%
Unfavorable 19%
Not sure 74%

Q6 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Mitch McConnell and Democrat Ben Chandler, who would you vote for?

Mitch McConnell 46%
Ben Chandler..... 41%
Not sure 13%

Q7 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Mitch McConnell and Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes, who would you vote for?

Mitch McConnell 45%
Alison Lundergan Grimes 41%
Not sure 14%

Q8 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Mitch McConnell and Democrat Ed Marksberry, who would you vote for?

Mitch McConnell 46%
Ed Marksberry 35%
Not sure 19%

Q9 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Steve Beshear's job performance?

Approve 48%
Disapprove..... 31%
Not sure 21%

Q10 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Rand Paul's job performance?

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 39%
Not sure 15%

Q11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ashley Judd?

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 41%
Not sure 25%

Q12 If the candidates for Senate in 2016 were Democrat Steve Beshear and Republican Rand Paul, who would you vote for?

Steve Beshear 42%
Rand Paul..... 46%
Not sure 11%





Q13 If the candidates for Senate in 2016 were Democrat Ashley Judd and Republican Rand Paul, who would you vote for?

<i>Ashley Judd</i>	40%
<i>Rand Paul</i>	51%
<i>Not sure</i>	9%

Q14 Which of Kentucky’s Senators do you have a higher opinion of: Mitch McConnell or Rand Paul?

<i>Mitch McConnell</i>	24%
<i>Rand Paul</i>	42%
<i>Not sure</i>	34%

Q15 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	10%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	15%
<i>Moderate</i>	28%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	26%
<i>Very conservative</i>	20%

Q16 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

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

Q17 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	51%
<i>Republican</i>	39%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	10%

Q18 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

<i>White</i>	92%
<i>Other</i>	8%

Q19 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>	20%
<i>46 to 65</i>	48%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	35%	74%	57%	51%	14%	6%
Disapprove	62%	23%	40%	45%	85%	91%
Not sure	3%	2%	3%	4%	1%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell Approval						
Approve	36%	26%	16%	18%	52%	59%
Disapprove	54%	70%	74%	73%	35%	28%
Not sure	11%	4%	10%	9%	13%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Chandler Favorability						
Favorable	25%	46%	37%	31%	18%	8%
Unfavorable	34%	18%	24%	26%	44%	47%
Not sure	41%	36%	39%	43%	38%	46%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Grimes Favorability						
Favorable	28%	52%	39%	34%	20%	9%
Unfavorable	22%	11%	17%	20%	24%	31%
Not sure	50%	37%	45%	46%	56%	60%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Marksberry Favorability						
Favorable	7%	13%	4%	8%	5%	4%
Unfavorable	19%	19%	18%	21%	17%	19%
Not sure	74%	67%	78%	71%	77%	76%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell/Chandler						
Mitch McConnell	46%	19%	24%	27%	65%	76%
Ben Chandler	41%	70%	62%	57%	25%	12%
Not sure	13%	11%	14%	17%	10%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell/Grimes						
Mitch McConnell	45%	16%	28%	26%	61%	79%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	41%	73%	62%	57%	25%	9%
Not sure	14%	11%	10%	17%	14%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell/Marksberry						
Mitch McConnell	46%	15%	28%	26%	64%	78%
Ed Marksberry	35%	69%	49%	50%	18%	8%
Not sure	19%	16%	24%	23%	18%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Beshear Approval						
Approve	48%	71%	68%	61%	35%	21%
Disapprove	31%	17%	17%	21%	40%	51%
Not sure	21%	12%	15%	18%	24%	28%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Approval						
Approve	46%	24%	21%	32%	64%	72%
Disapprove	39%	67%	63%	53%	18%	12%
Not sure	15%	9%	16%	14%	18%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Judd Favorability						
Favorable	34%	74%	49%	41%	20%	12%
Unfavorable	41%	12%	26%	28%	55%	66%
Not sure	25%	14%	24%	30%	25%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Beshear/Paul						
Steve Beshear	42%	87%	66%	59%	18%	12%
Rand Paul	46%	10%	23%	25%	70%	77%
Not sure	11%	3%	11%	15%	11%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Judd/Paul						
Ashley Judd	40%	85%	62%	55%	18%	8%
Rand Paul	51%	14%	31%	34%	70%	82%
Not sure	9%	1%	7%	11%	13%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Higher Opinion of McConnell or Paul?						
Mitch McConnell	24%	22%	22%	21%	25%	28%
Rand Paul	42%	23%	31%	37%	50%	54%
Not sure	34%	55%	47%	41%	24%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	35%	39%	32%
Disapprove	62%	58%	66%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell Approval			
Approve	36%	34%	37%
Disapprove	54%	54%	53%
Not sure	11%	12%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Chandler Favorability			
Favorable	25%	23%	28%
Unfavorable	34%	29%	39%
Not sure	41%	48%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Grimes Favorability			
Favorable	28%	27%	29%
Unfavorable	22%	18%	26%
Not sure	50%	55%	45%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Marksberry Favorability			
Favorable	7%	8%	6%
Unfavorable	19%	16%	23%
Not sure	74%	77%	72%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell/Chandler			
Mitch McConnell	46%	43%	49%
Ben Chandler	41%	43%	40%
Not sure	13%	14%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell/Grimes			
Mitch McConnell	45%	41%	49%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	41%	44%	38%
Not sure	14%	15%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell/Marksberry			
Mitch McConnell	46%	42%	50%
Ed Marksberry	35%	37%	33%
Not sure	19%	21%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Beshear Approval			
Approve	48%	51%	45%
Disapprove	31%	27%	36%
Not sure	21%	22%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Approval			
Approve	46%	41%	52%
Disapprove	39%	40%	37%
Not sure	15%	19%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Judd Favorability			
Favorable	34%	34%	35%
Unfavorable	41%	38%	44%
Not sure	25%	28%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Beshear/Paul			
Steve Beshear	42%	47%	38%
Rand Paul	46%	41%	52%
Not sure	11%	13%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Judd/Paul			
Ashley Judd	40%	43%	35%
Rand Paul	51%	47%	55%
Not sure	9%	10%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Higher Opinion of McConnell or Paul?			
Mitch McConnell	24%	30%	17%
Rand Paul	42%	36%	48%
Not sure	34%	34%	35%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	35%	53%	12%	36%
Disapprove	62%	44%	86%	56%
Not sure	3%	3%	2%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McConnell Approval				
Approve	36%	23%	53%	32%
Disapprove	54%	69%	34%	54%
Not sure	11%	8%	13%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Chandler Favorability				
Favorable	25%	36%	12%	21%
Unfavorable	34%	25%	45%	37%
Not sure	41%	39%	43%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Grimes Favorability				
Favorable	28%	38%	15%	27%
Unfavorable	22%	17%	28%	22%
Not sure	50%	45%	57%	51%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Marksberry Favorability				
Favorable	7%	9%	4%	6%
Unfavorable	19%	18%	19%	21%
Not sure	74%	73%	77%	72%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McConnell/Chandler				
Mitch McConnell	46%	24%	75%	41%
Ben Chandler	41%	62%	15%	41%
Not sure	13%	14%	11%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McConnell/Grimes				
Mitch McConnell	45%	24%	74%	41%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	41%	61%	16%	39%
Not sure	14%	16%	10%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McConnell/Marksberry				
Mitch McConnell	46%	24%	75%	39%
Ed Marksberry	35%	52%	13%	37%
Not sure	19%	24%	13%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Beshear Approval				
Approve	48%	66%	30%	34%
Disapprove	31%	19%	44%	37%
Not sure	21%	15%	25%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Approval				
Approve	46%	28%	68%	52%
Disapprove	39%	56%	20%	27%
Not sure	15%	16%	13%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Judd Favorability				
Favorable	34%	50%	15%	35%
Unfavorable	41%	25%	63%	37%
Not sure	25%	26%	22%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Beshear/Paul				
Steve Beshear	42%	68%	14%	29%
Rand Paul	46%	21%	76%	51%
Not sure	11%	11%	10%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Judd/Paul				
Ashley Judd	40%	60%	14%	35%
Rand Paul	51%	29%	79%	53%
Not sure	9%	11%	7%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Higher Opinion of McConnell or Paul?				
Mitch McConnell	24%	26%	24%	14%
Rand Paul	42%	30%	56%	46%
Not sure	34%	44%	21%	39%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	35%	32%	74%
Disapprove	62%	65%	26%
Not sure	3%	3%	-

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
McConnell Approval			
Approve	36%	37%	24%
Disapprove	54%	52%	69%
Not sure	11%	11%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Chandler Favorability			
Favorable	25%	25%	28%
Unfavorable	34%	34%	32%
Not sure	41%	41%	39%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Grimes Favorability			
Favorable	28%	27%	35%
Unfavorable	22%	22%	23%
Not sure	50%	51%	41%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Marksberry Favorability			
Favorable	7%	7%	9%
Unfavorable	19%	19%	15%
Not sure	74%	74%	76%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
McConnell/Chandler			
Mitch McConnell	46%	48%	21%
Ben Chandler	41%	39%	65%
Not sure	13%	13%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
McConnell/Grimes			
Mitch McConnell	45%	47%	22%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	41%	39%	60%
Not sure	14%	13%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
McConnell/Marksberry			
Mitch McConnell	46%	48%	19%
Ed Marksberry	35%	33%	56%
Not sure	19%	19%	25%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Beshear Approval			
Approve	48%	47%	62%
Disapprove	31%	33%	14%
Not sure	21%	20%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Paul Approval			
Approve	46%	49%	21%
Disapprove	39%	36%	62%
Not sure	15%	15%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Judd Favorability			
Favorable	34%	34%	37%
Unfavorable	41%	43%	19%
Not sure	25%	23%	44%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Beshear/Paul			
Steve Beshear	42%	40%	69%
Rand Paul	46%	48%	20%
Not sure	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Judd/Paul			
Ashley Judd	40%	37%	62%
Rand Paul	51%	53%	25%
Not sure	9%	9%	13%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Higher Opinion of McConnell or Paul?			
Mitch McConnell	24%	24%	21%
Rand Paul	42%	43%	27%
Not sure	34%	33%	52%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	35%	34%	27%	38%	38%
Disapprove	62%	63%	71%	59%	59%
Not sure	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell Approval					
Approve	36%	41%	34%	33%	41%
Disapprove	54%	41%	53%	57%	52%
Not sure	11%	18%	13%	10%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Chandler Favorability					
Favorable	25%	21%	14%	30%	29%
Unfavorable	34%	28%	42%	33%	31%
Not sure	41%	51%	45%	37%	41%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Grimes Favorability					
Favorable	28%	24%	23%	30%	30%
Unfavorable	22%	22%	25%	22%	20%
Not sure	50%	54%	53%	48%	50%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Marksberry Favorability					
Favorable	7%	7%	7%	6%	7%
Unfavorable	19%	25%	20%	18%	16%
Not sure	74%	68%	73%	76%	77%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell/Chandler					
Mitch McConnell	46%	38%	50%	44%	50%
Ben Chandler	41%	38%	34%	46%	40%
Not sure	13%	24%	17%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell/Grimes					
Mitch McConnell	45%	44%	49%	42%	50%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	41%	44%	32%	45%	40%
Not sure	14%	12%	19%	13%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell/Marksberry					
Mitch McConnell	46%	40%	49%	44%	50%
Ed Marksberry	35%	44%	29%	36%	32%
Not sure	19%	16%	22%	19%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Beshear Approval					
Approve	48%	51%	37%	52%	50%
Disapprove	31%	19%	35%	33%	30%
Not sure	21%	30%	27%	16%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Approval					
Approve	46%	41%	56%	42%	49%
Disapprove	39%	38%	30%	42%	38%
Not sure	15%	21%	14%	15%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Judd Favorability					
Favorable	34%	32%	30%	37%	33%
Unfavorable	41%	42%	42%	39%	44%
Not sure	25%	27%	28%	23%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Beshear/Paul					
Steve Beshear	42%	49%	32%	46%	42%
Rand Paul	46%	39%	55%	43%	49%
Not sure	11%	12%	13%	12%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Judd/Paul					
Ashley Judd	40%	41%	36%	41%	38%
Rand Paul	51%	50%	59%	47%	54%
Not sure	9%	9%	5%	12%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Higher Opinion of McConnell or Paul?					
Mitch McConnell	24%	31%	20%	24%	25%
Rand Paul	42%	41%	55%	40%	33%
Not sure	34%	28%	25%	36%	42%





Kentucky Survey Results

Q1 If the Republican candidates for Senate in 2014 were Mitch McConnell and Thomas Massie, who would you vote for?

Mitch McConnell 56%
Thomas Massie 18%
Not sure 27%

Q2 Generally speaking, would you like the Republican nominee for Senate in 2014 to be Mitch McConnell or somebody more conservative than him?

Mitch McConnell 46%
Someone more conservative 32%
Not sure 22%

Q3 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 2%
Somewhat liberal 8%
Moderate 19%
Somewhat conservative 34%
Very conservative 37%

Q4 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man 48%

Q5 If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

18 to 45 30%
46 to 65 42%
Older than 65 28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell/Massie						
Mitch McConnell	56%	53%	46%	45%	60%	60%
Thomas Massie	18%	19%	34%	21%	14%	17%
Not sure	27%	28%	21%	34%	27%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell/Someone More Conservative						
Mitch McConnell	46%	62%	52%	48%	50%	39%
Someone more conservative	32%	38%	22%	16%	27%	48%
Not sure	22%	-	27%	36%	23%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell/Massie			
Mitch McConnell	56%	50%	62%
Thomas Massie	18%	16%	19%
Not sure	27%	33%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell/Someone More Conservative			
Mitch McConnell	46%	42%	50%
Someone more conservative	32%	33%	32%
Not sure	22%	25%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell/Massie				
Mitch McConnell	56%	42%	59%	65%
Thomas Massie	18%	22%	18%	14%
Not sure	27%	37%	23%	21%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell/Someone More Conservative				
Mitch McConnell	46%	46%	39%	56%
Someone more conservative	32%	28%	37%	31%
Not sure	22%	26%	24%	13%

