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Paul, McConnell, Tea Party disliked in KY

Raleigh, N.C. – New Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul was never very popular to begin with, and voters are now split slightly against him. Despite beating Jack Conway by 11 points last fall, most of that had to do with Conway's far greater unpopularity by the end of that campaign. Paul was seen favorably by 48% when PPP last polled the state late last October, and unfavorably by 43%. Now, only 42% approve and 44% disapprove of his job performance, exactly where his senior colleague Mitch McConnell was just before last fall's election.

But McConnell has taken a severe hit in the interim, with only 37% approving and half disapproving, making him the fifth least popular of 87 senators on which PPP has polled. Paul is tied for 14th worst. Paul also has slightly better numbers than the Tea Party he embraces, which is seen positively by 40% and negatively by 46%, 28-39 among independents.

If the time for same-sex marriage has not yet come, Americans pretty much everywhere are in favor of civil unions granting the same legal rights as marriage, if not the name. Even in socially conservative Kentucky, where 62% oppose gay marriage and only 26% support it, 51% favor at least civil unions, with only 46% wanting no legal recognition of gay couples' relationships at all. That includes 63% of independents, 56% of Democrats, and even 37% of Republicans. That is up 27 points from Republicans' support for marriage alone, 29 points for independents, and 21 points for Democrats.

There has been some controversy, mostly from the left, over Gov. Steve Beshear approving state funds to build the Ark Encounter, a theme park featuring a life-sized replica of Noah's Ark. But 59% of the state's voters oppose their tax dollars going toward the park, and only 26% support it. Independents are most opposed, 17-72, joining Democrats (23-62) and even Republicans (34-51).

PPP surveyed 600 likely Kentucky voters from August 25th to 28th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.0%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. 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.



Kentucky Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Mitch McConnell's job performance?

Approve37% Not sure13%
Disapprove.....50%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Rand Paul's job performance?

Approve42% Not sure14%
Disapprove.....44%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Tea Party?

Favorable..... 40%
Unfavorable 46%
Not sure 14%

Q4 If there was an election for the legislature today, generally speaking, do you think you would vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate from your district?

Democrat 44%
Republican..... 41%
Not sure 15%

Q5 Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal or illegal?

Legal.....26%
Illegal62%
Not sure 12%

Q6 Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry 21%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry 30%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship 46%
Not sure 3%

Q7 Do you support or oppose taxpayer funds going to build the Ark Encounter, a theme park featuring a life-sized replica of Noah's Ark?

Support taxpayer funds going toward it..... 26%
Oppose it 59%
Not sure 14%

Q8 Is your favorite NFL team the Chicago Bears, Cincinnati Bengals, Dallas Cowboys, Green Bay Packers, Indianapolis Colts, Pittsburgh Steelers, St. Louis Rams, or Tennessee Titans?

Bears 6%
Bengals..... 15%
Cowboys..... 8%
Packers..... 7%
Colts 16%
Steelers..... 8%
Rams 1%
Titans..... 9%
Someone else/Not a football fan 30%





Q9 Is your favorite Major League Baseball team the Atlanta Braves, Boston Red Sox, Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians, New York Yankees, Pittsburgh Pirates, St. Louis Cardinals, or someone else?

<i>Braves</i>	8%
<i>Red Sox</i>	6%
<i>Cubs</i>	6%
<i>Reds</i>	36%
<i>Indians</i>	2%
<i>Yankees</i>	7%
<i>Pirates</i>	1%
<i>Cardinals</i>	10%
<i>Someone else/Not a baseball fan</i>	25%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	48%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	44%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	8%

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

<i>Very liberal</i>	8%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	17%
<i>Moderate</i>	29%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	28%
<i>Very conservative</i>	19%

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

<i>Woman</i>	54%
<i>Man</i>	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.

<i>Democrat</i>	55%
<i>Republican</i>	36%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	9%

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

<i>White</i>	90%
<i>African American</i>	6%
<i>Other</i>	4%

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>	13%
<i>30 to 45</i>	22%
<i>46 to 65</i>	38%
<i>Older than 65</i>	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McConnell Approval				
Approve	37%	60%	12%	38%
Disapprove	50%	22%	80%	48%
Not sure	13%	18%	7%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Paul Approval				
Approve	42%	69%	11%	52%
Disapprove	44%	14%	78%	38%
Not sure	14%	18%	11%	10%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Tea Party Favorability				
Favorable	40%	70%	7%	41%
Unfavorable	46%	16%	82%	35%
Not sure	14%	14%	12%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	44%	9%	85%	28%
Republican	41%	74%	6%	33%
Not sure	15%	16%	8%	38%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Same-Sex Marriage				
Legal	26%	10%	44%	21%
Illegal	62%	79%	44%	66%
Not sure	12%	10%	13%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	21%	6%	37%	16%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	33%	30%	12%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	59%	30%	60%
Not sure	3%	2%	3%	12%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Support/Oppose Tax \$ for Ark Encounter				
Support taxpayer funds going toward it	26%	32%	20%	32%
Oppose it	59%	52%	68%	52%
Not sure	14%	16%	12%	16%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Fave NFL Team				
Bears	6%	4%	8%	4%
Bengals	15%	12%	18%	24%
Cowboys	8%	7%	10%	8%
Packers	7%	8%	7%	2%
Colts	16%	17%	16%	7%
Steelers	8%	9%	5%	12%
Rams	1%	2%	1%	-
Titans	9%	9%	7%	14%
Someone else/Not a football fan	30%	32%	28%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Fave MLB Team				
Braves	8%	7%	9%	8%
Red Sox	6%	4%	7%	9%
Cubs	6%	5%	8%	2%
Reds	36%	36%	35%	40%
Indians	2%	1%	3%	-
Yankees	7%	8%	6%	5%
Pirates	1%	1%	0%	-
Cardinals	10%	12%	8%	5%
Someone else/Not a baseball fan	25%	26%	22%	32%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell Approval						
Approve	37%	25%	11%	22%	57%	61%
Disapprove	50%	71%	81%	68%	26%	21%
Not sure	13%	4%	9%	10%	16%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Approval						
Approve	42%	17%	12%	27%	57%	81%
Disapprove	44%	80%	78%	60%	21%	9%
Not sure	14%	4%	10%	14%	22%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Tea Party Favorability						
Favorable	40%	10%	8%	20%	57%	85%
Unfavorable	46%	82%	82%	64%	23%	7%
Not sure	14%	8%	9%	16%	20%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Leg. Ballot						
Democrat	44%	82%	80%	60%	21%	7%
Republican	41%	10%	11%	19%	60%	88%
Not sure	15%	9%	9%	21%	19%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Same-Sex Marriage						
Legal	26%	55%	63%	26%	10%	4%
Illegal	62%	34%	32%	50%	83%	91%
Not sure	12%	11%	6%	25%	6%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	21%	48%	50%	23%	6%	1%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	19%	27%	33%	38%	20%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	22%	21%	38%	54%	78%
Not sure	3%	11%	2%	6%	1%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Support/Oppose Tax \$ for Ark Encounter						
Support taxpayer funds going toward it	26%	27%	15%	24%	32%	33%
Oppose it	59%	68%	74%	65%	48%	49%
Not sure	14%	5%	11%	11%	20%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Fave NFL Team						
Bears	6%	23%	4%	6%	3%	5%
Bengals	15%	8%	25%	18%	13%	10%
Cowboys	8%	13%	7%	8%	9%	8%
Packers	7%	4%	7%	6%	7%	10%
Colts	16%	18%	6%	18%	16%	20%
Steelers	8%	7%	12%	5%	9%	6%
Rams	1%	-	1%	1%	2%	2%
Titans	9%	9%	7%	9%	10%	7%
Someone else/Not a football fan	30%	19%	31%	29%	31%	33%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Fave MLB Team						
Braves	8%	13%	6%	9%	8%	9%
Red Sox	6%	11%	11%	6%	4%	2%
Cubs	6%	7%	8%	8%	5%	2%
Reds	36%	23%	40%	32%	39%	38%
Indians	2%	3%	4%	2%	1%	1%
Yankees	7%	2%	6%	10%	8%	6%
Pirates	1%	-	-	1%	1%	1%
Cardinals	10%	12%	4%	9%	12%	11%
Someone else/Not a baseball fan	25%	29%	21%	25%	22%	31%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell Approval			
Approve	37%	35%	40%
Disapprove	50%	48%	52%
Not sure	13%	17%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Approval			
Approve	42%	37%	48%
Disapprove	44%	47%	41%
Not sure	14%	16%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Tea Party Favorability			
Favorable	40%	35%	46%
Unfavorable	46%	49%	43%
Not sure	14%	17%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Leg. Ballot			
Democrat	44%	47%	41%
Republican	41%	40%	43%
Not sure	15%	13%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Same-Sex Marriage			
Legal	26%	29%	22%
Illegal	62%	60%	66%
Not sure	12%	11%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	21%	27%	13%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	27%	33%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	42%	51%
Not sure	3%	4%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support/Oppose Tax \$ for Ark Encounter			
Support taxpayer funds going toward it	26%	24%	29%
Oppose it	59%	58%	60%
Not sure	14%	17%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Fave NFL Team			
Bears	6%	6%	6%
Bengals	15%	15%	16%
Cow boys	8%	8%	9%
Packers	7%	6%	8%
Colts	16%	14%	18%
Steelers	8%	8%	8%
Rams	1%	0%	3%
Titans	9%	9%	8%
Someone else/Not a football fan	30%	34%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Fave MLB Team			
Braves	8%	6%	11%
Red Sox	6%	7%	4%
Cubs	6%	7%	6%
Reds	36%	33%	39%
Indians	2%	2%	1%
Yankees	7%	7%	7%
Pirates	1%	1%	0%
Cardinals	10%	10%	9%
Someone else/Not a baseball fan	25%	27%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McConnell Approval				
Approve	37%	20%	64%	40%
Disapprove	50%	69%	20%	53%
Not sure	13%	11%	17%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Approval				
Approve	42%	23%	71%	41%
Disapprove	44%	64%	15%	39%
Not sure	14%	13%	14%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Tea Party Favorability				
Favorable	40%	18%	77%	28%
Unfavorable	46%	69%	13%	39%
Not sure	14%	13%	10%	33%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	44%	73%	6%	19%
Republican	41%	12%	85%	47%
Not sure	15%	14%	10%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Same-Sex Marriage				
Legal	26%	35%	10%	34%
Illegal	62%	53%	81%	45%
Not sure	12%	12%	9%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	21%	29%	5%	28%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	27%	32%	35%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	41%	59%	27%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support/Oppose Tax \$ for Ark Encounter				
Support taxpayer funds going toward it	26%	23%	34%	17%
Oppose it	59%	62%	51%	72%
Not sure	14%	14%	15%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Fave NFL Team				
Bears	6%	7%	5%	6%
Bengals	15%	15%	13%	25%
Cowboys	8%	10%	5%	12%
Packers	7%	7%	5%	11%
Colts	16%	15%	18%	8%
Steelers	8%	7%	9%	6%
Rams	1%	1%	2%	-
Titans	9%	9%	9%	4%
Someone else/Not a football fan	30%	28%	33%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Fave MLB Team				
Braves	8%	9%	9%	4%
Red Sox	6%	7%	5%	2%
Cubs	6%	6%	6%	7%
Reds	36%	35%	37%	34%
Indians	2%	2%	1%	4%
Yankees	7%	7%	6%	9%
Pirates	1%	0%	1%	-
Cardinals	10%	8%	12%	8%
Someone else/Not a baseball fan	25%	24%	23%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
McConnell Approval				
Approve	37%	39%	21%	25%
Disapprove	50%	48%	70%	69%
Not sure	13%	13%	9%	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Paul Approval				
Approve	42%	45%	11%	27%
Disapprove	44%	42%	69%	47%
Not sure	14%	13%	20%	26%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Tea Party Favorability				
Favorable	40%	42%	13%	31%
Unfavorable	46%	44%	69%	61%
Not sure	14%	14%	18%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	44%	41%	87%	59%
Republican	41%	44%	11%	20%
Not sure	15%	15%	3%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Same-Sex Marriage				
Legal	26%	26%	30%	28%
Illegal	62%	63%	58%	60%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	21%	20%	25%	20%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	29%	30%	39%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	47%	44%	32%
Not sure	3%	3%	2%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Support/Oppose Tax \$ for Ark Encounter				
Support taxpayer funds going toward it	26%	28%	14%	24%
Oppose it	59%	58%	62%	74%
Not sure	14%	14%	24%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Fave NFL Team				
Bears	6%	6%	4%	-
Bengals	15%	15%	12%	25%
Cow boys	8%	9%	9%	3%
Packers	7%	7%	4%	4%
Colts	16%	16%	20%	7%
Steelers	8%	7%	10%	11%
Rams	1%	1%	-	4%
Titans	9%	9%	7%	6%
Someone else/Not a football fan	30%	29%	33%	40%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Fave MLB Team				
Braves	8%	9%	4%	6%
Red Sox	6%	6%	11%	3%
Cubs	6%	6%	10%	-
Reds	36%	37%	24%	34%
Indians	2%	2%	3%	-
Yankees	7%	7%	3%	25%
Pirates	1%	1%	-	-
Cardinals	10%	10%	3%	3%
Someone else/Not a baseball fan	25%	23%	42%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell Approval					
Approve	37%	38%	46%	31%	39%
Disapprove	50%	51%	37%	58%	49%
Not sure	13%	10%	17%	11%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Approval					
Approve	42%	45%	49%	38%	40%
Disapprove	44%	43%	35%	50%	44%
Not sure	14%	13%	16%	12%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Tea Party Favorability					
Favorable	40%	35%	41%	37%	45%
Unfavorable	46%	53%	40%	52%	41%
Not sure	14%	13%	19%	12%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Leg. Ballot					
Democrat	44%	48%	38%	50%	41%
Republican	41%	38%	44%	38%	44%
Not sure	15%	15%	17%	12%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Same-Sex Marriage					
Legal	26%	38%	29%	27%	17%
Illegal	62%	53%	60%	62%	70%
Not sure	12%	10%	11%	11%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	21%	25%	27%	19%	15%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	20%	29%	36%	27%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	50%	40%	43%	54%
Not sure	3%	5%	5%	2%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support/Oppose Tax \$ for Ark Encounter					
Support taxpayer funds going toward it	26%	23%	40%	26%	18%
Oppose it	59%	65%	48%	60%	64%
Not sure	14%	13%	13%	13%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Fave NFL Team					
Bears	6%	13%	5%	7%	3%
Bengals	15%	18%	11%	18%	15%
Cowboys	8%	13%	8%	6%	10%
Packers	7%	3%	5%	8%	9%
Colts	16%	10%	16%	17%	17%
Steelers	8%	5%	13%	5%	9%
Rams	1%	3%	-	2%	1%
Titans	9%	13%	6%	7%	11%
Someone else/Not a football fan	30%	25%	37%	31%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Fave MLB Team					
Braves	8%	8%	8%	9%	8%
Red Sox	6%	18%	3%	4%	5%
Cubs	6%	8%	3%	7%	6%
Reds	36%	30%	35%	36%	39%
Indians	2%	3%	-	2%	3%
Yankees	7%	3%	11%	7%	6%
Pirates	1%	-	2%	1%	-
Cardinals	10%	5%	10%	11%	9%
Someone else/Not a baseball fan	25%	28%	29%	23%	24%

