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McConnell, Grimes Still Neck and Neck

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP's newest Kentucky poll finds that Mitch McConnell is the least popular Senator in the country and as a result Alison Lundergan Grimes is remaining very competitive with him, even as Democrats have struggled nationally over the last couple months.

Only 31% of voters approve of the job McConnell is doing to 61% who disapprove. He's only on narrowly positive ground with Republicans at 47/41, and he meets with nearly universal disapproval from independents (22/66) and Democrats (19/75). Attack ads in recent months have taken their toll on Grimes' image too- where in May she had a 34/24 favorability rating, now she's dropped a net 16 points to 31/37.

McConnell leads Grimes just 43/42 head to head. McConnell's 43% standing is the same as where we found him in October, while Grimes has seen a slight decline in her support from its previous 45% mark. As unpopular as McConnell is, it's helping his cause that Barack Obama is just as bad off with a 31% approval rating to 64% of voters disapproving of him.

If Matt Bevin was somehow able to snag the Republican nomination from McConnell he would lead Grimes by the same one point margin, at 39/38. Bevin will have to come from behind in the primary though. Right now McConnell has a 53/26 advantage over him. McConnell is theoretically vulnerable. Primary voters say by a 42/39 margin that they'd like 'someone more conservative' to be the GOP nominee next year.

Whether Bevin can position himself as an alternative to McConnell remains to be seen. He remains mostly unknown to GOP voters in the state- 61% don't have an opinion about him one way or the other. And the voters who do have an opinion about him don't particularly like him- just 14% see him favorably to 25% with a negative opinion.

“Kentucky voters continue to hate Mitch McConnell,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The question remains whether they hate him enough to vote for a Democrat next year when the President’s approval rating in the state is only 31%.”

PPP surveyed 1,509 Kentucky voters, including 540 Republican primary voters, from December 12th to 15th. The margin of error for the overall survey is +/- 2.5% and for the Republican primary part it's +/-4.2%. PPP's surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.





Kentucky Survey Results

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

Approve 31%
Disapprove..... 64%
Not sure 4%

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

Approve 31%
Disapprove..... 61%
Not sure 8%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Matt Bevin?

Favorable..... 13%
Unfavorable 23%
Not sure 64%

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

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 37%
Not sure 32%

Q5 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Mitch McConnell and Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes, who would you vote for?

Mitch McConnell 43%
Alison Lundergan Grimes 42%
Not sure 15%

Q6 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Matt Bevin and Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes, who would you vote for?

Matt Bevin..... 39%
Alison Lundergan Grimes 38%
Not sure 24%

Q7 Do you think Rand Paul supports Mitch McConnell for re-election to the US Senate, or not?

Think he does 30%
Think he does not 32%
Not sure 38%

Q8 Would you support or oppose raising the minimum wage to \$10 an hour?

Support 54%
Oppose 33%
Not sure 13%

Q9 In the last presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Barack Obama..... 38%
Mitt Romney..... 54%
Someone else/Don't remember 8%

Q10 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 9%
Somewhat liberal 14%
Moderate..... 31%
Somewhat conservative..... 27%
Very conservative 19%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q12 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 52%
Republican..... 39%
Independent/Other..... 9%



Q13 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	89%
<i>African-American</i>	6%
<i>Other</i>	5%

Q14 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>	9%
<i>30 to 45</i>	22%
<i>46 to 65</i>	47%
<i>Older than 65</i>	22%



	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	31%	77%	3%	14%
Disapprove	64%	17%	97%	68%
Not sure	4%	6%	1%	18%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
McConnell Approval				
Approve	31%	8%	47%	22%
Disapprove	61%	89%	42%	61%
Not sure	8%	3%	11%	18%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Bevin Favorability				
Favorable	13%	13%	13%	13%
Unfavorable	23%	24%	23%	15%
Not sure	64%	63%	64%	73%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Grimes Favorability				
Favorable	31%	66%	10%	16%
Unfavorable	37%	10%	56%	31%
Not sure	32%	25%	34%	53%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
McConnell/Grimes				
Mitch McConnell	43%	9%	70%	21%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	42%	83%	15%	32%
Not sure	15%	8%	16%	46%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Bevin/Grimes				
Matt Bevin	39%	9%	61%	23%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	38%	80%	9%	30%
Not sure	24%	10%	29%	47%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Does Paul Support McConnell?				
Think he does	30%	26%	34%	18%
Think he does not	32%	36%	29%	34%
Not sure	38%	38%	37%	48%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Support/Oppose \$10 Min. Wage				
Support	54%	77%	39%	57%
Oppose	33%	11%	49%	24%
Not sure	13%	12%	12%	19%





	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	31%	71%	68%	37%	11%	6%
Disapprove	64%	25%	29%	57%	85%	93%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	6%	4%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell Approval						
Approve	31%	12%	13%	23%	46%	42%
Disapprove	61%	82%	82%	69%	44%	47%
Not sure	8%	6%	4%	8%	10%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bevin Favorability						
Favorable	13%	11%	10%	13%	11%	20%
Unfavorable	23%	36%	25%	21%	17%	25%
Not sure	64%	54%	65%	66%	72%	55%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Grimes Favorability						
Favorable	31%	56%	57%	40%	16%	8%
Unfavorable	37%	16%	20%	24%	47%	64%
Not sure	32%	28%	22%	36%	37%	28%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell/Grimes						
Mitch McConnell	43%	14%	17%	31%	61%	71%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	42%	76%	74%	48%	24%	16%
Not sure	15%	10%	9%	21%	15%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bevin/Grimes						
Matt Bevin	39%	14%	14%	26%	53%	70%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	38%	76%	71%	45%	17%	11%
Not sure	24%	10%	15%	29%	30%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Does Paul Support McConnell?						
Think he does	30%	24%	24%	26%	32%	40%
Think he does not	32%	37%	43%	34%	26%	27%
Not sure	38%	39%	33%	40%	42%	33%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Support/Oppose \$10 Min. Wage						
Support	54%	88%	79%	60%	36%	38%
Oppose	33%	8%	15%	27%	45%	49%
Not sure	13%	4%	6%	13%	18%	13%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	31%	31%	32%
Disapprove	64%	63%	66%
Not sure	4%	6%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell Approval			
Approve	31%	28%	33%
Disapprove	61%	61%	61%
Not sure	8%	11%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bevin Favorability			
Favorable	13%	10%	16%
Unfavorable	23%	20%	26%
Not sure	64%	69%	58%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Grimes Favorability			
Favorable	31%	33%	30%
Unfavorable	37%	31%	44%
Not sure	32%	37%	27%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell/Grimes			
Mitch McConnell	43%	40%	47%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	42%	41%	42%
Not sure	15%	19%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bevin/Grimes			
Matt Bevin	39%	35%	43%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	38%	38%	37%
Not sure	24%	26%	20%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Does Paul Support McConnell?			
Think he does	30%	26%	34%
Think he does not	32%	31%	33%
Not sure	38%	43%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support/Oppose \$10 Min. Wage			
Support	54%	57%	52%
Oppose	33%	29%	37%
Not sure	13%	14%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	31%	51%	7%	29%
Disapprove	64%	43%	92%	64%
Not sure	4%	6%	1%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McConnell Approval				
Approve	31%	19%	47%	22%
Disapprove	61%	75%	41%	66%
Not sure	8%	5%	12%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bevin Favorability				
Favorable	13%	13%	13%	13%
Unfavorable	23%	22%	25%	19%
Not sure	64%	65%	62%	68%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Grimes Favorability				
Favorable	31%	48%	10%	28%
Unfavorable	37%	24%	53%	39%
Not sure	32%	28%	38%	33%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McConnell/Grimes				
Mitch McConnell	43%	24%	69%	40%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	42%	62%	16%	35%
Not sure	15%	14%	15%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bevin/Grimes				
Matt Bevin	39%	21%	62%	36%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	38%	59%	12%	32%
Not sure	24%	20%	26%	32%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Does Paul Support McConnell?				
Think he does	30%	25%	37%	24%
Think he does not	32%	35%	28%	33%
Not sure	38%	40%	35%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support/Oppose \$10 Min. Wage				
Support	54%	66%	41%	43%
Oppose	33%	22%	46%	39%
Not sure	13%	11%	13%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	31%	28%	74%	38%
Disapprove	64%	67%	22%	61%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	1%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McConnell Approval				
Approve	31%	32%	7%	27%
Disapprove	61%	59%	91%	67%
Not sure	8%	9%	3%	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bevin Favorability				
Favorable	13%	13%	9%	13%
Unfavorable	23%	21%	35%	31%
Not sure	64%	65%	56%	56%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Grimes Favorability				
Favorable	31%	30%	61%	26%
Unfavorable	37%	37%	21%	49%
Not sure	32%	33%	18%	26%





	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McConnell/Grimes				
Mitch McConnell	43%	45%	17%	43%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	42%	39%	72%	44%
Not sure	15%	16%	11%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bevin/Grimes				
Matt Bevin	39%	40%	18%	46%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	38%	36%	72%	37%
Not sure	24%	25%	10%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Does Paul Support McConnell?				
Think he does	30%	30%	29%	17%
Think he does not	32%	32%	23%	34%
Not sure	38%	37%	48%	49%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Support/Oppose \$10 Min. Wage				
Support	54%	53%	74%	55%
Oppose	33%	34%	16%	33%
Not sure	13%	13%	10%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	31%	30%	28%	33%	33%
Disapprove	64%	64%	68%	63%	63%
Not sure	4%	6%	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell Approval					
Approve	31%	23%	26%	30%	39%
Disapprove	61%	64%	66%	62%	54%
Not sure	8%	13%	8%	8%	7%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bevin Favorability					
Favorable	13%	11%	17%	13%	11%
Unfavorable	23%	29%	21%	21%	25%
Not sure	64%	60%	62%	66%	64%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Grimes Favorability					
Favorable	31%	33%	29%	31%	34%
Unfavorable	37%	30%	40%	37%	35%
Not sure	32%	37%	31%	32%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell/Grimes					
Mitch McConnell	43%	45%	38%	43%	47%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	42%	37%	45%	41%	41%
Not sure	15%	18%	16%	16%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bevin/Grimes					
Matt Bevin	39%	40%	39%	39%	37%
Alison Lundergan Grimes	38%	39%	39%	37%	38%
Not sure	24%	21%	21%	24%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Does Paul Support McConnell?					
Think he does	30%	34%	29%	29%	31%
Think he does not	32%	36%	42%	29%	27%
Not sure	38%	30%	29%	42%	42%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support/Oppose \$10 Min. Wage					
Support	54%	59%	47%	58%	53%
Oppose	33%	35%	42%	30%	31%
Not sure	13%	7%	12%	13%	16%





Kentucky Survey Results

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

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 43%
Not sure 11%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Matt Bevin?

Favorable..... 14%
Unfavorable 25%
Not sure 61%

Q3 If the Republican candidates for Senate in 2014 were Mitch McConnell and Matt Bevin, who would you vote for?

Mitch McConnell 53%
Matt Bevin..... 26%
Not sure 21%

Q4 Generally speaking, would you like the Republican nominee for Senate in 2014 to be Mitch McConnell or somebody more conservative than him?

Mitch McConnell 39%
Someone more conservative 42%
Not sure 19%

Q5 Which of Kentucky's Senators do you have a higher opinion of: Mitch McConnell or Rand Paul?

Mitch McConnell 27%
Rand Paul..... 59%
Not sure 14%

Q6 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 3%
Somewhat liberal 6%
Moderate..... 20%
Somewhat conservative..... 35%
Very conservative 36%

Q7 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 48%
Man..... 52%

Q8 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..... 43%
Older than 65..... 27%





	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell Approval						
Approve	46%	28%	37%	35%	55%	47%
Disapprove	43%	72%	54%	57%	34%	40%
Not sure	11%	-	9%	8%	11%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bevin Favorability						
Favorable	14%	11%	14%	11%	9%	19%
Unfavorable	25%	57%	23%	22%	21%	27%
Not sure	62%	32%	63%	66%	69%	53%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell/Bevin						
Mitch McConnell	53%	24%	50%	42%	61%	53%
Matt Bevin	26%	48%	44%	32%	18%	25%
Not sure	21%	28%	6%	26%	20%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell/Someone More Conservative						
Mitch McConnell	40%	24%	45%	41%	48%	31%
Someone more conservative	42%	61%	45%	32%	32%	55%
Not sure	19%	15%	9%	27%	20%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Higher Opinion of McConnell or Paul?						
Mitch McConnell	27%	26%	43%	35%	31%	15%
Rand Paul	59%	63%	37%	50%	53%	74%
Not sure	14%	11%	20%	15%	16%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell Approval			
Approve	46%	46%	46%
Disapprove	43%	41%	45%
Not sure	11%	12%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bevin Favorability			
Favorable	14%	11%	16%
Unfavorable	25%	19%	30%
Not sure	61%	69%	54%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell/Bevin			
Mitch McConnell	53%	52%	53%
Matt Bevin	26%	24%	28%
Not sure	21%	24%	19%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell/Someone More Conservative			
Mitch McConnell	39%	40%	39%
Someone more conservative	42%	39%	45%
Not sure	19%	21%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Higher Opinion of McConnell or Paul?			
Mitch McConnell	27%	26%	27%
Rand Paul	59%	58%	60%
Not sure	14%	16%	12%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell Approval				
Approve	46%	35%	46%	59%
Disapprove	43%	53%	45%	31%
Not sure	11%	13%	10%	10%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bevin Favorability				
Favorable	14%	15%	14%	12%
Unfavorable	25%	29%	23%	24%
Not sure	61%	56%	63%	64%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell/Bevin				
Mitch McConnell	53%	48%	49%	64%
Matt Bevin	26%	35%	24%	18%
Not sure	21%	18%	26%	18%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell/Someone More Conservative				
Mitch McConnell	39%	35%	36%	49%
Someone more conservative	42%	49%	44%	32%
Not sure	19%	16%	20%	19%





	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Higher Opinion of McConnell or Paul?				
Mitch McConnell	27%	29%	23%	30%
Rand Paul	59%	61%	62%	52%
Not sure	14%	10%	15%	18%

