



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Beshear Trails Generic Republican in Kentucky**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Facing re-election in 2011, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear is looking somewhat weak, and could fall victim to voters' throw-the-bums-out attitude if it spills over into next fall.

Kentucky voters are split on his job performance, with 38% approving and 39% disapproving. Liberals (61-19) and moderates (52-26) overwhelmingly like how Beshear is handling his job, but the 49% of the electorate which self-identifies as conservative gives him only a 21-54 mark.

This is a slight improvement for Beshear since PPP last polled Kentucky in late December 2009. Then 36% approved to the same 39% who disapproved. Beshear has seen his disapproval among the small but conservative group of independents go from 36% to 50%, but his margin among moderates double to 26 points (from 45-32).

When asked if they would vote to give Beshear a second term, only 35% of Kentucky voters said yes, to 44% who said no. As with his approval rating, liberals (76-9) and moderates (52-23) are strongly in favor of keeping him in office, but the large bloc of conservatives pledge to vote for his Republican opponent by a 69-10 margin.

“Steve Beshear’s run for reelection next fall will probably draw a lot of national attention for what it may say about the mood of the electorate going into the Presidential election,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Kentucky may or may not be representative of the country as a whole, but the Gubernatorial race will be the last major competitive statewide in the country before American decide whether to keep Barack Obama or not and that should make it a race to watch.”

Complete results are attached.

PPP surveyed 946 Kentucky voters on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The margin of error for the survey was +/-3.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## Kentucky Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Steve Beshear's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 38%  
*Disapprove*..... 39%  
*Not Sure*..... 23%

**Q2** Generally speaking next year do you think you will vote to reelect Steve Beshear or will you vote for his Republican opponent?

*Will vote for Beshear*..... 35%  
*Will vote for Republican opponent* ..... 44%  
*Undecided*..... 21%

**Q3** Who did you vote for President last year? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If someone else or you don't remember, press 3.

*McCain*..... 54%  
*Obama*..... 37%  
*Someone else/don't remember*..... 9%

**Q4** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 13%  
*Moderate*..... 38%  
*Conservative*..... 49%

**Q5** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 53%  
*Man*..... 47%

**Q6** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat* ..... 50%  
*Republican*..... 40%  
*Independent/Other*..... 10%

**Q7** If you are white, press 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 88%  
*African American* ..... 8%  
*Other*..... 4%

**Q8** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 8%  
*30 to 45*..... 26%  
*46 to 65*..... 43%  
*Older than 65*..... 23%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>Beshear Job Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>38%</b>	24%	58%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>39%</b>	52%	20%	36%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>23%</b>	24%	22%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>Beshear Re-elect</b>				
<b>Will vote for Beshear</b>	<b>35%</b>	11%	71%	31%
<b>Will vote for Republican opponent</b>	<b>44%</b>	68%	10%	35%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>21%</b>	21%	19%	35%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Beshear Job Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>38%</b>	61%	52%	21%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>39%</b>	19%	26%	54%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>23%</b>	20%	22%	24%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Beshear Re-elect</b>				
<b>Will vote for Beshear</b>	<b>35%</b>	76%	52%	10%
<b>Will vote for Republican opponent</b>	<b>44%</b>	9%	23%	69%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>21%</b>	16%	25%	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Beshear Job Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	38%	40%	36%
<b>Disapprove</b>	39%	32%	47%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	28%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Beshear Re-elect</b>			
<b>Will vote for Beshear</b>	35%	38%	32%
<b>Will vote for Republican opponent</b>	44%	37%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	21%	25%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Beshear Job Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	38%	52%	24%	29%
<b>Disapprove</b>	39%	27%	51%	50%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	21%	26%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Beshear Re-elect</b>				
<b>Will vote for Beshear</b>	35%	58%	9%	25%
<b>Will vote for Republican opponent</b>	44%	22%	70%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	21%	20%	21%	30%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Beshear Job Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	38%	38%	44%	21%
<b>Disapprove</b>	39%	40%	20%	60%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	22%	36%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Beshear Re-elect</b>				
<b>Will vote for Beshear</b>	35%	34%	48%	28%
<b>Will vote for Republican opponent</b>	44%	46%	16%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	21%	20%	36%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Beshear Job Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	38%	29%	30%	43%	41%
<b>Disapprove</b>	39%	38%	45%	38%	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	33%	25%	19%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Beshear Re-elect</b>					
<b>Will vote for Beshear</b>	35%	24%	30%	40%	35%
<b>Will vote for Republican opponent</b>	44%	39%	48%	41%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	21%	37%	23%	18%	20%

