



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312

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Markey leads by 4 in Massachusetts Special

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP's first poll of the general election in the Massachusetts Senate special finds a close race, with Ed Markey leading Gabriel Gomez by a 44-40 margin.

Gomez is starting out as a pretty popular candidate, with 41% of voters rating him favorably to 27% with an unfavorable opinion. Beyond having good numbers with Republicans he's at 42/24 with independents, and actually seen narrowly positively even by Democrats at 33/32. Voters meanwhile are more divided on Markey, with 44% holding a positive view of him to 41% with a negative one. He's at 31/50 with independents.

For a Republican to be competitive in Massachusetts they need to win independents by a hefty margin and get a fair amount of crossover support from Democrats, and right now Gomez is doing both of those things. He's up 47/31 with independents and winning over 21% of Democratic voters. Both those numbers suggest that some folks who supported Stephen Lynch in the primary are being a little reticent about supporting Markey in the general.

The good news for Markey in the poll beyond the obvious fact that he's in the lead is that Barack Obama remains pretty popular in the state. He has a 53/41 approval rating. Obama was at only 44/43 when Brown won in 2010 and the President's lack of popularity was a big contributor to the upset. He's in a much better position this time around. The pool of undecided voters also sets up well for Markey- they voted for Obama by 18 points in November, 32% are liberals compared to only 25% who are conservatives, and 61% of them are women. Those are all demographics that ought to end up favorable to him in the end.

“Ed Markey is the favorite in the Massachusetts Senate election but it looks like it could be a competitive race,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Gabriel Gomez is starting out as an appealing candidate and is drawing some support from the kinds of voters who supported Stephen Lynch in the Democratic primary.”

PPP surveyed 1,539 likely voters on May 1st and 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. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.





Massachusetts Survey Results

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

Approve53% Not sure 6%
Disapprove.....41%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Gabriel Gomez?

Favorable..... 41%
Unfavorable 27%
Not sure 32%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ed Markey?

Favorable..... 44%
Unfavorable 41%
Not sure 15%

Q4 The candidates for US Senate are Republican Gabriel Gomez and Democrat Ed Markey. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Gabriel Gomez..... 40%
Ed Markey..... 44%
Undecided..... 16%

Q5 In the last Presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Barack Obama..... 57%
Mitt Romney..... 39%
Someone else/Don't remember 5%

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

Very liberal..... 17%
Somewhat liberal 22%
Moderate..... 33%
Somewhat conservative..... 20%
Very conservative 8%

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

Woman 55%
Man..... 45%

Q8 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..... 17%
Independent/Other..... 42%

Q9 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 84%
Other..... 16%

Q10 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..... 9%
30 to 45..... 24%
46 to 65..... 46%
Older than 65..... 21%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	53%	88%	6%	22%
Disapprove	41%	8%	89%	49%
Not sure	6%	5%	5%	29%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Gomez Favorability				
Favorable	41%	32%	55%	32%
Unfavorable	27%	30%	23%	21%
Not sure	32%	37%	23%	47%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Markey Favorability				
Favorable	44%	68%	11%	20%
Unfavorable	41%	18%	76%	35%
Not sure	15%	15%	13%	44%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Gomez/Markey				
Gabriel Gomez	40%	19%	73%	31%
Ed Markey	44%	66%	13%	21%
Undecided	16%	15%	14%	48%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	53%	86%	76%	54%	15%	7%
Disapprove	41%	10%	19%	37%	81%	89%
Not sure	6%	4%	5%	9%	4%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gomez Favorability						
Favorable	41%	41%	28%	39%	54%	57%
Unfavorable	27%	33%	30%	28%	19%	18%
Not sure	32%	26%	42%	33%	27%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Markey Favorability						
Favorable	44%	71%	64%	43%	13%	8%
Unfavorable	41%	18%	21%	37%	74%	79%
Not sure	15%	12%	15%	20%	13%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gomez/Markey						
Gabriel Gomez	40%	20%	18%	36%	74%	77%
Ed Markey	44%	68%	67%	43%	12%	6%
Undecided	16%	11%	15%	21%	14%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	53%	58%	47%
Disapprove	41%	35%	49%
Not sure	6%	7%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gomez Favorability			
Favorable	41%	41%	41%
Unfavorable	27%	24%	31%
Not sure	32%	35%	29%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Markey Favorability			
Favorable	44%	49%	38%
Unfavorable	41%	34%	49%
Not sure	15%	18%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gomez/Markey			
Gabriel Gomez	40%	36%	45%
Ed Markey	44%	46%	41%
Undecided	16%	18%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	53%	81%	16%	41%
Disapprove	41%	14%	79%	52%
Not sure	6%	5%	4%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gomez Favorability				
Favorable	41%	33%	60%	42%
Unfavorable	27%	32%	22%	24%
Not sure	32%	35%	18%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Markey Favorability				
Favorable	44%	70%	12%	31%
Unfavorable	41%	18%	73%	50%
Not sure	15%	12%	15%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gomez/Markey				
Gabriel Gomez	40%	21%	70%	47%
Ed Markey	44%	68%	17%	31%
Undecided	16%	11%	14%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	53%	51%	64%
Disapprove	41%	44%	25%
Not sure	6%	5%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gomez Favorability			
Favorable	41%	42%	37%
Unfavorable	27%	27%	27%
Not sure	32%	31%	36%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Markey Favorability			
Favorable	44%	44%	45%
Unfavorable	41%	42%	33%
Not sure	15%	14%	22%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gomez/Markey			
Gabriel Gomez	40%	41%	34%
Ed Markey	44%	43%	47%
Undecided	16%	16%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	53%	54%	53%	55%	50%
Disapprove	41%	29%	44%	40%	45%
Not sure	6%	17%	3%	5%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gomez Favorability					
Favorable	41%	38%	42%	39%	46%
Unfavorable	27%	28%	29%	27%	23%
Not sure	32%	34%	29%	34%	30%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Markey Favorability					
Favorable	44%	36%	39%	47%	46%
Unfavorable	41%	34%	45%	39%	43%
Not sure	15%	30%	16%	14%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gomez/Markey					
Gabriel Gomez	40%	33%	41%	39%	44%
Ed Markey	44%	40%	44%	45%	43%
Undecided	16%	27%	16%	16%	13%

