

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2010

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

Maine Voters: Snowe Should be a Democrat

Raleigh, N.C. – Pressure from her home state’s voters and from the U.S. Senate’s Democratic leadership if their ranks are thinned following November’s expected Republican tide could push Maine Senator Olympia Snowe to change parties.

Snowe has a decent 50-40 job approval rating, better than her doppelganger Susan Collins’ tepid 45-43. Likely because of their moderate, maverick reputations, both are viewed far better by Democrats and independents than by their fellow Republicans, particularly Snowe. Democrats love Snowe, 59-29, as do independents, 52-39.

Overall, 42% of Maine voters think Snowe fits best in the Democratic Party, more than the 37% who think she is comfortable in the GOP. Almost as many Democrats, 36%, think she would be more at home with them as the 37% of Republicans who welcome her and as the 40% of Democrats who think she should stay right where she is. Independents see her slightly more as a Democrat, 38-34. But the real story is that exactly half of Republicans want to exile Snowe to the opposite party.

Behind this force is not only this year’s Tea Party-fueled push for ideological purity by the GOP base, but a gradual trend that has made the New England Republican an endangered species. Republicans are pushing their own out at the same time as the Northeast generally becomes more and more Democratic. Indeed, 63% of Republicans see Snowe as too liberal, more than the 60% of Democrats and 55% of independents who view her as “about right.”

“Olympia Snowe may have more power in a diminished Democratic Senate caucus and an easier time winning re-election in two years if she hews to her voters’ wishes,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 1,468 likely Maine voters from September 2nd to 6th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-2.6%. 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.



Maine Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Susan Collins' job performance?

Approve 45%
Disapprove..... 43%
Not sure 12%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Olympia Snowe's job performance?

Approve 50%
Disapprove..... 40%
Not sure 10%

Q3 Do you think Olympia Snowe more properly belongs in the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Democratic Party 42%
Republican Party 37%
Not sure 21%

Q4 Do you think Olympia Snowe is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal 35%
Too conservative..... 17%
About right 49%

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

Legal..... 43%
Illegal 49%
Not sure 8%

Q6 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 44%
Barack Obama..... 51%
Someone else/Don't remember 5%

Q7 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 19%
Moderate..... 43%
Conservative..... 38%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q9 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..... 37%
Republican..... 39%
Independent/Other..... 25%

Q10 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 97%
Other..... 3%

Q11 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..... 9%
30 to 45..... 21%
46 to 65..... 42%
Older than 65..... 28%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Collins Approval				
Approve	45%	38%	51%	44%
Disapprove	43%	53%	35%	45%
Not sure	12%	10%	14%	12%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Snowe Approval				
Approve	50%	37%	61%	47%
Disapprove	40%	54%	28%	43%
Not sure	10%	8%	11%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Snowe in Dem or GOP				
Democratic Party	42%	55%	32%	33%
Republican Party	37%	30%	44%	34%
Not sure	21%	16%	24%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Snowe Ideology				
Too liberal	35%	65%	7%	46%
Too conservative	17%	3%	29%	11%
About right	49%	31%	65%	43%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gay Marriage				
Legal	43%	16%	68%	21%
Illegal	49%	77%	23%	71%
Not sure	8%	7%	9%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Collins Approval				
Approve	45%	39%	60%	30%
Disapprove	43%	46%	27%	60%
Not sure	12%	16%	12%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe Approval				
Approve	50%	48%	69%	30%
Disapprove	40%	40%	21%	62%
Not sure	10%	12%	10%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe in Dem or GOP				
Democratic Party	42%	36%	30%	59%
Republican Party	37%	44%	46%	24%
Not sure	21%	20%	24%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Snowe Ideology				
Too liberal	35%	4%	15%	72%
Too conservative	17%	52%	12%	4%
About right	49%	44%	73%	24%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gay Marriage				
Legal	43%	83%	51%	13%
Illegal	49%	11%	39%	81%
Not sure	8%	6%	10%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Collins Approval			
Approve	45%	51%	38%
Disapprove	43%	35%	53%
Not sure	12%	14%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe Approval			
Approve	50%	57%	42%
Disapprove	40%	31%	50%
Not sure	10%	12%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe in Dem or GOP			
Democratic Party	42%	39%	46%
Republican Party	37%	37%	37%
Not sure	21%	24%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Snowe Ideology			
Too liberal	35%	28%	42%
Too conservative	17%	17%	17%
About right	49%	55%	41%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage			
Legal	43%	47%	38%
Illegal	49%	44%	55%
Not sure	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Collins Approval				
Approve	45%	49%	40%	46%
Disapprove	43%	38%	50%	40%
Not sure	12%	13%	10%	14%



Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Snowe Approval				
Approve	50%	59%	40%	52%
Disapprove	40%	29%	51%	39%
Not sure	10%	12%	9%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Snowe in Dem or GOP				
Democratic Party	42%	36%	50%	38%
Republican Party	37%	40%	37%	34%
Not sure	21%	23%	13%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Snowe Ideology				
Too liberal	35%	7%	63%	31%
Too conservative	17%	33%	3%	14%
About right	49%	60%	34%	55%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage				
Legal	43%	69%	18%	41%
Illegal	49%	25%	75%	46%
Not sure	8%	6%	7%	13%



Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Collins Approval			
Approve	45%	45%	22%
Disapprove	43%	43%	58%
Not sure	12%	12%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Snowe Approval			
Approve	50%	50%	35%
Disapprove	40%	40%	57%
Not sure	10%	10%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Snowe in Dem or GOP			
Democratic Party	42%	42%	53%
Republican Party	37%	37%	40%
Not sure	21%	21%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Snowe Ideology			
Too liberal	35%	35%	25%
Too conservative	17%	16%	32%
About right	49%	49%	44%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gay Marriage			
Legal	43%	43%	38%
Illegal	49%	50%	40%
Not sure	8%	7%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Collins Approval					
Approve	45%	40%	39%	45%	50%
Disapprove	43%	43%	51%	45%	35%
Not sure	12%	17%	10%	10%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe Approval					
Approve	50%	55%	44%	47%	56%
Disapprove	40%	34%	48%	43%	32%
Not sure	10%	10%	7%	10%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe in Dem or GOP					
Democratic Party	42%	43%	47%	40%	42%
Republican Party	37%	37%	32%	40%	37%
Not sure	21%	20%	21%	20%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Snowe Ideology					
Too liberal	35%	27%	45%	35%	30%
Too conservative	17%	20%	17%	18%	13%
About right	49%	53%	38%	48%	57%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage					
Legal	43%	43%	43%	45%	38%
Illegal	49%	47%	51%	49%	50%
Not sure	8%	10%	6%	6%	12%

