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King leads by only 8 points in Maine Senate race

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP's newest poll on the Maine Senate race finds it much closer than expected, with independent Angus King leading with 43% to 35% for Republican Charlie Summers, and 14% for Democrat Cynthia Dill.

King's popularity is not what it was at the beginning of the campaign. 52% of voters have a favorable opinion of him to 35% with an unfavorable one. That +17 spread is down a net 21 points from March when he was at +38 with 62% of voters rating him positively and 24% holding a negative opinion. The drop in King's popularity has been across the board, but it's particularly acute with Republicans. He's gone from 43/38 with them to now 22/65. His declines with independents (from 69/20 to 57/30) and Democrats (from 74/14 to 69/19) have been more modest.

It's reaching the point where King may need to more explicitly say he's going to organize as a Democrat if he wants to win this race. King is winning only 13% of the Republican vote at this point, but he's losing 26% of the Democratic vote to Dill. Among those already voting for King 64% want him to caucus with the Democrats if he's elected to only 9% who want him to side with the Republicans and 23% who are undecided. So he has more to gain by bringing Democrats voting for Dill into the fold than he does to lose by antagonizing his small number of Republican leaning supporters.

“The Maine Senate race is closer now than anyone really expected it to be,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Angus King is losing more Democrats than he is picking up Republicans and although he remains the favorite, a victory for him is not as inevitable as it used to be.”

There's nothing too interesting in the Presidential contest in Maine. Barack Obama leads Mitt Romney 55-39, a result pretty much in line with his 17 point victory there in 2008. Obama has solid approval numbers with 54% of voters giving him good marks to 42% who disapprove. Romney is quite unpopular with only 37% of voters rating him favorably to 57% with an unfavorable opinion. He's not getting any New England home region advantage in Maine.

PPP surveyed 804 likely Maine voters on September 17th and 18th. The margin of error for the overall survey is +/-3.5%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



Maine Survey Results

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

Approve 54%
Disapprove..... 42%
Not sure 4%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 57%
Not sure 6%

Q3 The candidates for President are Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 55%
Mitt Romney..... 39%
Undecided..... 7%

Q4 Do you trust Barack Obama or Mitt Romney more on the issue of the economy?

Barack Obama..... 54%
Mitt Romney..... 42%
Not sure 5%

Q5 Do you trust Barack Obama or Mitt Romney more on the issue of foreign policy?

Barack Obama..... 55%
Mitt Romney..... 39%
Not sure 6%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Cynthia Dill?

Favorable..... 24%
Unfavorable 37%
Not sure..... 39%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Angus King?

Favorable..... 52%
Unfavorable 35%
Not sure..... 13%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Charlie Summers?

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 40%
Not sure..... 24%

Q9 The candidates for US Senate are Democrat Cynthia Dill, independent Angus King, and Republican Charlie Summers. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Cynthia Dill..... 14%
Angus King 43%
Charlie Summers 35%
Undecided..... 8%

Q10 If Angus King is elected to the US Senate, would you like him to caucus with the Democrats or Republicans, or are you not sure?

Democrats 43%
Republicans 30%
Not sure 28%

Q11 Are you very excited, somewhat excited, or not at all excited about voting in the 2012 elections?

Very excited 49%
Somewhat excited 29%
Not at all excited 22%





Q12 Do you approve or disapprove of how Mitt Romney reacted to the situation in Libya this week?

Approve 34%
Disapprove..... 51%
Not sure 16%

Q13 Do you think Mitt Romney should release his tax returns for the last 12 years, or not?

He should..... 55%
He should not..... 37%
Not sure 7%

Q14 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 9%
Somewhat liberal 24%
Moderate..... 32%
Somewhat conservative..... 23%
Very conservative 12%

Q15 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 51%
Man..... 49%

Q16 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..... 42%
Republican..... 29%
Independent/Other..... 29%

Q17 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 96%
Other..... 4%

Q18 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..... 33%
46 to 65..... 46%
Older than 65..... 21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	54%	91%	87%	63%	19%	7%
Disapprove	42%	8%	9%	31%	79%	90%
Not sure	4%	1%	4%	6%	2%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	37%	8%	8%	24%	70%	89%
Unfavorable	57%	92%	90%	66%	20%	10%
Not sure	6%	-	2%	10%	10%	0%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	55%	92%	90%	63%	18%	6%
Mitt Romney	39%	8%	5%	28%	74%	90%
Undecided	7%	-	5%	9%	9%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Trust More on Econ.?						
Barack Obama	54%	91%	90%	61%	17%	3%
Mitt Romney	42%	9%	6%	34%	77%	89%
Not sure	5%	-	4%	4%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Trust More on Foreign Policy?						
Barack Obama	55%	91%	90%	65%	18%	3%
Mitt Romney	39%	8%	6%	29%	71%	91%
Not sure	6%	1%	4%	6%	11%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dill Favorability						
Favorable	24%	54%	37%	25%	9%	2%
Unfavorable	37%	16%	18%	30%	58%	68%
Not sure	39%	30%	46%	44%	32%	30%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
King Favorability						
Favorable	52%	73%	77%	60%	28%	12%
Unfavorable	35%	21%	12%	25%	58%	75%
Not sure	13%	6%	10%	15%	14%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Summers Favorability						
Favorable	36%	9%	14%	28%	66%	64%
Unfavorable	40%	71%	60%	44%	14%	12%
Not sure	24%	20%	25%	28%	21%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dill/King/Summers						
Cynthia Dill	14%	29%	24%	12%	6%	2%
Angus King	43%	58%	67%	50%	21%	8%
Charlie Summers	35%	7%	5%	24%	69%	75%
Undecided	8%	5%	3%	13%	5%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Want King to Caucus w/ Dems or GOP?						
Democrats	43%	88%	74%	42%	14%	7%
Republicans	30%	8%	5%	18%	61%	66%
Not sure	28%	4%	22%	41%	25%	27%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Voter Enthusiasm						
Very excited	49%	69%	44%	37%	56%	60%
Somewhat excited	29%	20%	38%	34%	25%	15%
Not at all excited	22%	12%	19%	29%	19%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Approve/Disapprove of Romney Libya Handling						
Approve	34%	6%	7%	22%	63%	73%
Disapprove	51%	86%	81%	62%	17%	8%
Not sure	16%	7%	13%	15%	20%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Should Romney Release Taxes?						
He should	55%	86%	86%	64%	26%	13%
He should not	37%	11%	8%	27%	67%	76%
Not sure	7%	3%	6%	9%	7%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	54%	60%	49%
Disapprove	42%	35%	49%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	37%	32%	43%
Unfavorable	57%	63%	50%
Not sure	6%	5%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	55%	61%	48%
Mitt Romney	39%	33%	45%
Undecided	7%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Trust More on Econ.?			
Barack Obama	54%	60%	47%
Mitt Romney	42%	34%	50%
Not sure	5%	7%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Trust More on Foreign Policy?			
Barack Obama	55%	61%	49%
Mitt Romney	39%	32%	46%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dill Favorability			
Favorable	24%	26%	22%
Unfavorable	37%	29%	46%
Not sure	39%	45%	32%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
King Favorability			
Favorable	52%	54%	50%
Unfavorable	35%	29%	42%
Not sure	13%	17%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Summers Favorability			
Favorable	36%	31%	41%
Unfavorable	40%	38%	41%
Not sure	24%	31%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dill/King/Summers			
Cynthia Dill	14%	14%	14%
Angus King	43%	46%	40%
Charlie Summers	35%	30%	39%
Undecided	8%	10%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Want King to Caucus w/ Dems or GOP?			
Democrats	43%	47%	38%
Republicans	30%	24%	36%
Not sure	28%	29%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Voter Enthusiasm			
Very excited	49%	46%	52%
Somewhat excited	29%	31%	28%
Not at all excited	22%	24%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Approve/Disapprove of Romney Libya Handling			
Approve	34%	26%	42%
Disapprove	51%	53%	48%
Not sure	16%	21%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should Romney Release Taxes?			
He should	55%	61%	50%
He should not	37%	31%	44%
Not sure	7%	8%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	54%	86%	15%	47%
Disapprove	42%	12%	83%	44%
Not sure	4%	2%	2%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	10%	78%	37%
Unfavorable	57%	86%	16%	54%
Not sure	6%	4%	6%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	55%	87%	13%	49%
Mitt Romney	39%	9%	81%	39%
Undecided	7%	4%	5%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Trust More on Econ.?				
Barack Obama	54%	85%	13%	48%
Mitt Romney	42%	12%	82%	44%
Not sure	5%	3%	4%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Trust More on Foreign Policy?				
Barack Obama	55%	86%	15%	50%
Mitt Romney	39%	9%	80%	40%
Not sure	6%	4%	5%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dill Favorability				
Favorable	24%	42%	6%	16%
Unfavorable	37%	19%	60%	41%
Not sure	39%	39%	33%	44%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
King Favorability				
Favorable	52%	69%	22%	57%
Unfavorable	35%	19%	65%	30%
Not sure	13%	12%	13%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Summers Favorability				
Favorable	36%	17%	69%	30%
Unfavorable	40%	60%	12%	37%
Not sure	24%	22%	19%	32%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dill/King/Summers				
Cynthia Dill	14%	26%	4%	7%
Angus King	43%	58%	13%	51%
Charlie Summers	35%	8%	76%	31%
Undecided	8%	7%	7%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Want King to Caucus w/ Dems or GOP?				
Democrats	43%	73%	10%	32%
Republicans	30%	4%	68%	29%
Not sure	28%	23%	22%	40%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Voter Enthusiasm				
Very excited	49%	47%	64%	36%
Somewhat excited	29%	33%	19%	34%
Not at all excited	22%	20%	16%	30%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Approve/Disapprove of Romney Libya Handling				
Approve	34%	11%	68%	31%
Disapprove	51%	80%	11%	48%
Not sure	16%	8%	21%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should Romney Release Taxes?				
He should	55%	80%	22%	55%
He should not	37%	14%	71%	36%
Not sure	7%	6%	7%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	54%	55%	45%
Disapprove	42%	41%	54%
Not sure	4%	4%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	37%	37%	46%
Unfavorable	57%	57%	54%
Not sure	6%	6%	-

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	55%	55%	42%
Mitt Romney	39%	38%	55%
Undecided	7%	7%	3%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Trust More on Econ.?			
Barack Obama	54%	54%	42%
Mitt Romney	42%	41%	55%
Not sure	5%	5%	3%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Trust More on Foreign Policy?			
Barack Obama	55%	56%	40%
Mitt Romney	39%	38%	60%
Not sure	6%	7%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dill Favorability			
Favorable	24%	24%	27%
Unfavorable	37%	37%	45%
Not sure	39%	39%	29%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
King Favorability			
Favorable	52%	52%	42%
Unfavorable	35%	35%	34%
Not sure	13%	12%	25%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Summers Favorability			
Favorable	36%	36%	29%
Unfavorable	40%	40%	36%
Not sure	24%	24%	35%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dill/King/Summers			
Cynthia Dill	14%	14%	18%
Angus King	43%	44%	29%
Charlie Summers	35%	34%	42%
Undecided	8%	8%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Want King to Caucus w/ Dems or GOP?			
Democrats	43%	43%	30%
Republicans	30%	29%	54%
Not sure	28%	28%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Voter Enthusiasm			
Very excited	49%	48%	55%
Somewhat excited	29%	29%	29%
Not at all excited	22%	22%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Approve/Disapprove of Romney Libya Handling			
Approve	34%	32%	56%
Disapprove	51%	52%	36%
Not sure	16%	16%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Should Romney Release Taxes?			
He should	55%	56%	48%
He should not	37%	37%	52%
Not sure	7%	8%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval				
Approve	54%	48%	59%	53%
Disapprove	42%	47%	37%	44%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%	3%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	41%	34%	38%
Unfavorable	57%	52%	60%	56%
Not sure	6%	7%	6%	6%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	55%	47%	60%	54%
Mitt Romney	39%	44%	35%	40%
Undecided	7%	9%	5%	6%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Trust More on Econ.?				
Barack Obama	54%	46%	59%	53%
Mitt Romney	42%	48%	38%	41%
Not sure	5%	7%	3%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Trust More on Foreign Policy?				
Barack Obama	55%	47%	61%	54%
Mitt Romney	39%	45%	34%	39%
Not sure	6%	9%	4%	7%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dill Favorability				
Favorable	24%	23%	25%	25%
Unfavorable	37%	35%	38%	38%
Not sure	39%	42%	37%	37%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
King Favorability				
Favorable	52%	51%	55%	47%
Unfavorable	35%	35%	33%	42%
Not sure	13%	14%	12%	11%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Summers Favorability				
Favorable	36%	43%	30%	38%
Unfavorable	40%	36%	42%	40%
Not sure	24%	21%	28%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dill/King/Summers				
Cynthia Dill	14%	12%	15%	15%
Angus King	43%	41%	45%	41%
Charlie Summers	35%	39%	30%	37%
Undecided	8%	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Want King to Caucus w/ Dems or GOP?				
Democrats	43%	40%	45%	44%
Republicans	30%	30%	29%	31%
Not sure	28%	31%	26%	25%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Voter Enthusiasm				
Very excited	49%	51%	48%	46%
Somewhat excited	29%	28%	31%	28%
Not at all excited	22%	21%	21%	26%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Approve/Disapprove of Romney Libya Handling				
Approve	34%	41%	30%	30%
Disapprove	51%	44%	55%	53%
Not sure	16%	15%	15%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should Romney Release Taxes?				
He should	55%	48%	59%	57%
He should not	37%	42%	34%	36%
Not sure	7%	10%	6%	7%

