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Dayton Leads Every Potential Republican Candidate

Raleigh, N.C. – Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton should feel comfortable in his office right now because in every match up between himself and current Republican potentials for Governor next year, he wins.

When asked whether they approve of Dayton's job performance, Minnesota voters answered with (53-39), compared with other Republicans who received not so favorable opinions such as former Senator, Norm Coleman (35-43) or former Governor, Tim Pawlenty (44-50).

Other Republicans in the mix were lesser known to the Minnesota voters such as Keith Downey, Jeff Johnson, Julie Rosen, and Kurt Zellers. They received unsure ratings of 79%, 82%, 80%, and 67%, respectively. These unsure ratings could be due to the fact that they are current or former members of the Minnesotan legislature and have yet to make it to the statewide political stage.

Governor Mark Dayton beat every possible Republican pick by at least 8 points and at the most 25 points. Dayton beat Coleman 52-39, Downey 53-30, Johnson 53-29, Pawlenty 50-42, Rosen 52-27, and Zellers 52-29.

When given the choices of Norm Coleman, Keith Downey, David Hann, Jeff Johnson, Julie Rosen, Marty Seifert, and Kurt Zellers for the Republican candidate for Governor next year, 57% of Republican primary voters chose Norm Coleman while the other candidates hovered around 4%. 17% of these voters were not sure or wanted someone else not listed.

“Mark Dayton's in a pretty solid position for reelection,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “He's popular on his own merits, and none of his potential Republican opponents appear to be particularly strong at this point- most of them are unknown and the ones who are well known aren't very popular.”

PPP surveyed 1,065 Minnesota voters and 275 usual Republican primary voters from January 18th to 20th. The margin of error for the overall sample is +/-3.0% and +/-5.9% for the GOP portion. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



Minnesota Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Mark Dayton's job performance?

Approve 53% *Not sure* 8%
Disapprove 39%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Norm Coleman?

Favorable 35%
Unfavorable 43%
Not sure 21%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Keith Downey?

Favorable 5%
Unfavorable 16%
Not sure 79%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jeff Johnson?

Favorable 7%
Unfavorable 11%
Not sure 82%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tim Pawlenty?

Favorable 44%
Unfavorable 50%
Not sure 7%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Julie Rosen?

Favorable 8%
Unfavorable 12%
Not sure 80%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Kurt Zellers?

Favorable 9%
Unfavorable 24%
Not sure 67%

Q8 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Mark Dayton and Republican Norm Coleman, who would you vote for?

Mark Dayton 52%
Norm Coleman 39%
Not sure 9%

Q9 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Mark Dayton and Republican Keith Downey, who would you vote for?

Mark Dayton 53%
Keith Downey 30%
Not sure 18%

Q10 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Mark Dayton and Republican Jeff Johnson, who would you vote for?

Mark Dayton 53%
Jeff Johnson 29%
Not sure 18%

Q11 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Mark Dayton and Republican Tim Pawlenty, who would you vote for?

Mark Dayton 50%
Tim Pawlenty 42%
Not sure 7%





Q12 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Mark Dayton and Republican Julie Rosen, who would you vote for?

Mark Dayton 52%
Julie Rosen 27%
Not sure 21%

Q13 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Mark Dayton and Republican Kurt Zellers, who would you vote for?

Mark Dayton 52%
Kurt Zellers 29%
Not sure 19%

Q14 (Asked only of 275 Republican primary voters) Given the choices of Norm Coleman, Keith Downey, David Hann, Jeff Johnson, Julie Rosen, Marty Seifert, and Kurt Zellers, who would you most like to see as the Republican candidate for Governor next year?

Norm Coleman..... 57% *Julie Rosen* 5%
Keith Downey..... 4% *Marty Seifert* 4%
David Hann 4% *Kurt Zellers* 5%
Jeff Johnson 4% *Someone else/Not
sure*..... 17%

Q15 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 13%
Somewhat liberal 22%
Moderate 27%
Somewhat conservative 24%
Very conservative 14%

Q16 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 50%
Man 50%

Q17 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 39%
Republican 29%
Independent/Other 33%

Q18 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2

White 93%
Other 7%

Q19 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 32%
46 to 65 39%
Older than 65 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dayton Approval						
Approve	53%	87%	80%	65%	24%	7%
Disapprove	39%	8%	12%	26%	67%	85%
Not sure	8%	6%	9%	9%	9%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Coleman Favorability						
Favorable	35%	13%	20%	28%	56%	59%
Unfavorable	43%	65%	58%	53%	21%	20%
Not sure	21%	22%	21%	20%	22%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Downey Favorability						
Favorable	5%	4%	6%	5%	6%	5%
Unfavorable	16%	16%	16%	20%	11%	15%
Not sure	79%	80%	79%	75%	82%	80%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Johnson Favorability						
Favorable	7%	4%	9%	6%	8%	4%
Unfavorable	11%	13%	10%	13%	10%	12%
Not sure	82%	83%	81%	81%	82%	83%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Pawlenty Favorability						
Favorable	44%	12%	20%	41%	72%	67%
Unfavorable	50%	80%	74%	56%	19%	23%
Not sure	7%	8%	6%	3%	9%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Rosen Favorability						
Favorable	8%	5%	12%	9%	6%	6%
Unfavorable	12%	13%	9%	14%	10%	14%
Not sure	80%	82%	79%	78%	84%	80%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Zellers Favorability						
Favorable	9%	0%	10%	7%	11%	16%
Unfavorable	24%	27%	23%	34%	17%	14%
Not sure	67%	73%	68%	59%	72%	69%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dayton/Coleman						
Mark Dayton	52%	87%	82%	62%	20%	7%
Norm Coleman	39%	4%	10%	28%	72%	81%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%	10%	8%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dayton/Downey						
Mark Dayton	53%	90%	85%	63%	18%	6%
Keith Downey	30%	2%	7%	22%	52%	69%
Not sure	18%	8%	8%	16%	30%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dayton/Johnson						
Mark Dayton	53%	91%	85%	64%	18%	6%
Jeff Johnson	29%	2%	6%	18%	52%	70%
Not sure	18%	6%	9%	18%	29%	24%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dayton/Pawlenty						
Mark Dayton	50%	88%	81%	58%	17%	10%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	7%	12%	33%	76%	81%
Not sure	7%	5%	6%	9%	7%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dayton/Rosen						
Mark Dayton	52%	87%	82%	63%	19%	9%
Julie Rosen	27%	6%	8%	14%	47%	66%
Not sure	21%	6%	10%	23%	34%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Dayton/Zellers						
Mark Dayton	52%	91%	81%	63%	21%	6%
Kurt Zellers	29%	2%	6%	18%	50%	71%
Not sure	19%	7%	13%	19%	29%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2016 GOP Gov Preference						
Norm Coleman	57%	77%	53%	52%	62%	53%
Keith Downey	4%	-	31%	4%	2%	3%
David Hann	4%	-	-	11%	4%	3%
Jeff Johnson	4%	-	-	4%	4%	5%
Julie Rosen	5%	-	4%	10%	3%	5%
Marty Seifert	4%	-	-	5%	0%	8%
Kurt Zellers	5%	-	-	2%	4%	8%
Someone else/Not sure	17%	23%	12%	11%	21%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dayton Approval			
Approve	53%	57%	49%
Disapprove	39%	33%	45%
Not sure	8%	10%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Coleman Favorability			
Favorable	35%	34%	37%
Unfavorable	43%	42%	45%
Not sure	21%	24%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Downey Favorability			
Favorable	5%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	16%	11%	21%
Not sure	79%	84%	73%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Johnson Favorability			
Favorable	7%	5%	8%
Unfavorable	11%	8%	15%
Not sure	82%	87%	77%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Pawlenty Favorability			
Favorable	44%	40%	47%
Unfavorable	50%	51%	49%
Not sure	7%	9%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rosen Favorability			
Favorable	8%	6%	10%
Unfavorable	12%	7%	16%
Not sure	80%	87%	74%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Zellers Favorability			
Favorable	9%	6%	12%
Unfavorable	24%	18%	30%
Not sure	67%	76%	59%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dayton/Coleman			
Mark Dayton	52%	56%	48%
Norm Coleman	39%	35%	43%
Not sure	9%	10%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dayton/Downey			
Mark Dayton	53%	58%	47%
Keith Downey	30%	26%	34%
Not sure	18%	16%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dayton/Johnson			
Mark Dayton	53%	58%	48%
Jeff Johnson	29%	25%	33%
Not sure	18%	18%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dayton/Pawlenty			
Mark Dayton	50%	55%	45%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	37%	48%
Not sure	7%	8%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dayton/Rosen			
Mark Dayton	52%	56%	47%
Julie Rosen	27%	23%	31%
Not sure	21%	21%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dayton/Zellers			
Mark Dayton	52%	57%	48%
Kurt Zellers	29%	24%	34%
Not sure	19%	20%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2016 GOP Gov Preference			
Norm Coleman	57%	55%	59%
Keith Downey	4%	7%	2%
David Hann	4%	3%	5%
Jeff Johnson	4%	1%	7%
Julie Rosen	5%	7%	3%
Marty Seifert	4%	3%	5%
Kurt Zellers	5%	3%	7%
Someone else/Not sure	17%	21%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dayton Approval				
Approve	53%	86%	14%	49%
Disapprove	39%	7%	80%	40%
Not sure	8%	7%	6%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Coleman Favorability				
Favorable	35%	18%	60%	34%
Unfavorable	43%	61%	17%	45%
Not sure	21%	20%	22%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Downey Favorability				
Favorable	5%	7%	7%	2%
Unfavorable	16%	15%	12%	21%
Not sure	79%	79%	81%	77%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Johnson Favorability				
Favorable	7%	6%	9%	5%
Unfavorable	11%	9%	10%	16%
Not sure	82%	85%	81%	79%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Pawlenty Favorability				
Favorable	44%	16%	80%	44%
Unfavorable	50%	78%	13%	49%
Not sure	7%	6%	7%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rosen Favorability				
Favorable	8%	9%	9%	6%
Unfavorable	12%	9%	9%	18%
Not sure	80%	82%	82%	77%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Zellers Favorability				
Favorable	9%	6%	17%	6%
Unfavorable	24%	27%	14%	29%
Not sure	67%	67%	69%	66%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dayton/Coleman				
Mark Dayton	52%	90%	9%	45%
Norm Coleman	39%	4%	85%	40%
Not sure	9%	6%	6%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dayton/Downey				
Mark Dayton	53%	92%	9%	44%
Keith Downey	30%	2%	71%	26%
Not sure	18%	6%	20%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dayton/Johnson				
Mark Dayton	53%	92%	10%	44%
Jeff Johnson	29%	2%	70%	25%
Not sure	18%	6%	20%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dayton/Pawlenty				
Mark Dayton	50%	89%	7%	43%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	7%	88%	44%
Not sure	7%	5%	5%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dayton/Rosen				
Mark Dayton	52%	89%	10%	45%
Julie Rosen	27%	4%	64%	22%
Not sure	21%	7%	26%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dayton/Zellers				
Mark Dayton	52%	91%	9%	45%
Kurt Zellers	29%	2%	69%	24%
Not sure	19%	6%	21%	32%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
2016 GOP Gov Preference				
Norm Coleman	57%	44%	63%	46%
Keith Downey	4%	30%	4%	2%
David Hann	4%	10%	4%	4%
Jeff Johnson	4%	-	3%	8%
Julie Rosen	5%	-	4%	6%
Marty Seifert	4%	-	3%	6%
Kurt Zellers	5%	-	7%	2%
Someone else/Not sure	17%	17%	13%	27%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dayton Approval			
Approve	53%	53%	54%
Disapprove	39%	39%	40%
Not sure	8%	8%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Coleman Favorability			
Favorable	35%	37%	16%
Unfavorable	43%	42%	63%
Not sure	21%	21%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Downey Favorability			
Favorable	5%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	16%	16%	18%
Not sure	79%	79%	77%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Johnson Favorability			
Favorable	7%	7%	6%
Unfavorable	11%	11%	20%
Not sure	82%	83%	74%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Pawlenty Favorability			
Favorable	44%	44%	40%
Unfavorable	50%	49%	58%
Not sure	7%	7%	2%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rosen Favorability			
Favorable	8%	8%	14%
Unfavorable	12%	11%	17%
Not sure	80%	81%	70%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Zellers Favorability			
Favorable	9%	9%	7%
Unfavorable	24%	23%	31%
Not sure	67%	68%	63%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dayton/Coleman			
Mark Dayton	52%	52%	55%
Norm Coleman	39%	39%	30%
Not sure	9%	9%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dayton/Downey			
Mark Dayton	53%	53%	44%
Keith Downey	30%	30%	35%
Not sure	18%	17%	21%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dayton/Johnson			
Mark Dayton	53%	53%	52%
Jeff Johnson	29%	29%	26%
Not sure	18%	18%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dayton/Pawlenty			
Mark Dayton	50%	50%	50%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	42%	41%
Not sure	7%	7%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dayton/Rosen			
Mark Dayton	52%	52%	54%
Julie Rosen	27%	27%	26%
Not sure	21%	21%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dayton/Zellers			
Mark Dayton	52%	53%	48%
Kurt Zellers	29%	29%	29%
Not sure	19%	19%	24%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
2016 GOP Gov Preference			
Norm Coleman	57%	59%	21%
Keith Downey	4%	4%	16%
David Hann	4%	4%	16%
Jeff Johnson	4%	4%	-
Julie Rosen	5%	4%	16%
Marty Seifert	4%	4%	-
Kurt Zellers	5%	5%	-
Someone else/Not sure	17%	16%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dayton Approval					
Approve	53%	57%	46%	54%	61%
Disapprove	39%	30%	46%	38%	33%
Not sure	8%	14%	9%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Coleman Favorability					
Favorable	35%	38%	35%	37%	33%
Unfavorable	43%	27%	47%	44%	44%
Not sure	21%	35%	19%	19%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Downey Favorability					
Favorable	5%	8%	4%	5%	7%
Unfavorable	16%	16%	12%	18%	18%
Not sure	79%	76%	84%	77%	75%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Johnson Favorability					
Favorable	7%	8%	6%	7%	5%
Unfavorable	11%	11%	11%	12%	13%
Not sure	82%	81%	83%	81%	82%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Pawlenty Favorability					
Favorable	44%	43%	49%	41%	41%
Unfavorable	50%	46%	46%	53%	52%
Not sure	7%	11%	5%	7%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rosen Favorability					
Favorable	8%	3%	10%	6%	10%
Unfavorable	12%	16%	11%	12%	11%
Not sure	80%	81%	80%	82%	78%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Zellers Favorability					
Favorable	9%	8%	9%	9%	9%
Unfavorable	24%	22%	23%	24%	24%
Not sure	67%	70%	67%	67%	67%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dayton/Coleman					
Mark Dayton	52%	59%	46%	52%	57%
Norm Coleman	39%	24%	44%	40%	36%
Not sure	9%	16%	10%	8%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dayton/Downey					
Mark Dayton	53%	62%	46%	53%	58%
Keith Downey	30%	32%	32%	31%	23%
Not sure	18%	5%	23%	15%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dayton/Johnson					
Mark Dayton	53%	65%	47%	53%	57%
Jeff Johnson	29%	24%	32%	32%	21%
Not sure	18%	11%	22%	15%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dayton/Pawlenty					
Mark Dayton	50%	43%	44%	53%	59%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	43%	49%	40%	35%
Not sure	7%	14%	7%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dayton/Rosen					
Mark Dayton	52%	59%	46%	52%	58%
Julie Rosen	27%	22%	31%	29%	19%
Not sure	21%	19%	23%	18%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dayton/Zellers					
Mark Dayton	52%	58%	47%	53%	58%
Kurt Zellers	29%	22%	33%	29%	23%
Not sure	19%	19%	20%	18%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2016 GOP Gov Preference					
Norm Coleman	57%	50%	50%	59%	68%
Keith Downey	4%	13%	4%	3%	3%
David Hann	4%	13%	4%	3%	3%
Jeff Johnson	4%	-	4%	6%	3%
Julie Rosen	5%	-	10%	2%	1%
Marty Seifert	4%	-	6%	2%	5%
Kurt Zellers	5%	13%	6%	3%	4%
Someone else/Not sure	17%	13%	15%	22%	14%

