

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

Lots of Undecideds in Matthews/Specter Match

Raleigh, N.C. – A Public Policy Polling survey of Pennsylvania voters conducted shortly before last week’s election found that MSNBC host Chris Matthews would have a shot if he ran as a Democrat for the US Senate against long time Republican incumbent Arlen Specter in 2010.

Specter polls at just 40% in a potential match up with Matthews. That’s still a 13 point lead over the potential challenger, who gets 27%, but 33% of the electorate is undecided about how they would vote in such a contest, an indication that they’re at least open to the thought of supporting Matthews.

There is good news and bad news for a possible Matthews candidacy within the numbers. 30% of Democrats say they would support Specter if Matthews was the candidate. He would likely have difficulty winning if he didn’t have his party more lined up behind him than that. At the same time 32% of Republicans say they’re not sure who they would vote for in such a contest, an indication that his celebrity could make it possible for him to win some crossover support.

“Arlen Specter would definitely start out as the favorite if Chris Matthews challenged him,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But this poll provides clear evidence that a Matthews candidacy is not a non-starter. Pennsylvania voters would listen to what he has to say and give him a shot.”

Matthews is most popular with young voters, among whom he has a 33-20 advantage. Specter does well with older voters, leading 54-23.

PPP surveyed 1,529 likely voters from October 31st to November 2nd. The survey’s margin of error is +/-2.5%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at www.publicpolicypolling.com.

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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Pennsylvania Poll

Q1 If MSNBC host Chris Matthews ran as a Democrat against Republican Senator Arlen Specter in 2010, who would you vote for? If you would vote for Chris Matthews, press 1. If for Arlen Specter, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Matthews 27%
Specter 40%
Not Sure..... 33%

Q2 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q3 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

Democrat 51%
Republican..... 42%
Other..... 7%

Q4 If you are white, press 1. If you are African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 85%
African American 12%
Other..... 3%

Q5 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..... 15%
30 to 45..... 27%
46 to 65..... 36%
Older than 65..... 22%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Matthews/Specter			
Matthews	27%	26%	29%
Specter	40%	35%	45%
Not Sure	33%	40%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Matthews/Specter				
Matthews	27%	35%	18%	28%
Specter	40%	30%	50%	41%
Not Sure	33%	34%	32%	31%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Matthews/Specter				
Matthews	27%	26%	31%	33%
Specter	40%	42%	25%	31%
Not Sure	33%	32%	44%	36%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Matthews/Specter					
Matthews	27%	33%	22%	31%	23%
Specter	40%	20%	35%	42%	54%
Not Sure	33%	47%	43%	27%	23%

