

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

Heller would oust Ensign in primary

Raleigh, N.C. – Last week’s release showed John Ensign trailing every possible Democrat, should he decide to seek another term in 2012. It also showed Dean Heller beating those same Democrats. Part of Heller’s comparative strength was not only a greater appeal across the aisle but also within the party. Indeed, if Heller were the sole challenger to Ensign in a primary right now, he would soundly defeat the incumbent, 52-34. Even when given seven possible choices, 30% of reliable Republicans choose Heller, and only 20% pick Ensign, with Sue Lowden and Danny Tarkanian following at 12% and 10%, respectively, Sharron Angle at 9%, Brian Krolicki at 6%, and John Chachas at 5%.

Behind Ensign’s weak 53-30 intraparty approval rating is a 59-25 margin with conservatives, but he is dragged down a bit by moderates, who split, 40-40. As such, conservatives are actually in favor of Ensign running again, but only by a 47-38 margin. For moderates, that is flipped; they side against his re-election bid, 32-48.

Therefore, it is no surprise that moderates are the driving force behind Heller’s 30-20 lead in the multi-candidate slate; with them, Heller gets 30% to Ensign’s 14%, not far above Lowden and Tarkanian. With conservatives, Heller leads only 30-23. But something interesting happens in the absence of the minor candidates. Their supporters collapse towards Heller in the two-way such that conservatives end up giving Heller an equal margin as do moderates. Thus, head-to-head, Heller romps Ensign, 52-34—the reverse of his approval rating, which suggests a significant chunk of conservatives who approve of his job performance and want him to run for re-election nevertheless would prefer their standard-bearer against the eventual Democratic nominee be someone else.

“John Ensign is going to have a very difficult time getting nominated for another term,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

In the early presidential caucus race, Mitt Romney dominates, as he did in 2008, with 31% to Sarah Palin’s 19%, Newt Gingrich’s 18%, Mike Huckabee’s 14%, and Ron Paul’s 7%. Nevada is the rare state where Romney draws his strength from conservatives and Palin from moderates. Palin’s 22% of moderates almost matches Romney’s 25%, but her 17% lags severely behind his 34% of conservatives and even Gingrich’s 20%.

PPP surveyed 400 usual Nevada primary voters from January 3rd to 5th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Nevada Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 63%
Unfavorable 20%
Not sure 17%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

Favorable..... 65%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 14%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable..... 70%
Unfavorable 24%
Not sure 6%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 70%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 11%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jon Ensign's job performance?

Approve 53%
Disapprove..... 30%
Not sure 18%

Q6 Do you think John Ensign should run for reelection next year?

Yes..... 42%
No..... 41%
Not sure 17%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dean Heller?

Favorable..... 63%
Unfavorable 12%
Not sure 25%

Q8 Between Sharron Angle, John Chachas, John Ensign, Dean Heller, Brian Krolicki, Sue Lowden, and Danny Tarkanian who would you most like to see as the Republican Senate candidate next year?

Sharron Angle..... 9%
John Chachas..... 5%
John Ensign..... 20%
Dean Heller..... 30%
Brian Krolicki..... 6%
Sue Lowden..... 12%
Danny Tarkanian..... 10%
Someone else/Not sure 8%

Q9 If the choices for the Republican Senate candidate next year were just John Ensign and Dean Heller, who would you vote for?

John Ensign..... 34%
Dean Heller..... 52%
Not sure 13%





Q10 If the Republican candidates for President next year were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and John Thune who would you vote for?

<i>Mitch Daniels</i>	1%
<i>Newt Gingrich</i>	18%
<i>Mike Huckabee</i>	14%
<i>Sarah Palin</i>	19%
<i>Ron Paul</i>	7%
<i>Tim Pawlenty</i>	1%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	31%
<i>John Thune</i>	1%
<i>Someone else/Undecided</i>	8%

Q11 Who would your second choice be as the Republican candidate for President next year?

<i>Mitch Daniels</i>	5%
<i>Newt Gingrich</i>	17%
<i>Mike Huckabee</i>	14%
<i>Sarah Palin</i>	21%
<i>Ron Paul</i>	6%
<i>Tim Pawlenty</i>	5%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	17%
<i>John Thune</i>	3%
<i>Someone else/Undecided</i>	12%

Q12 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

<i>Liberal</i>	2%
<i>Moderate</i>	30%
<i>Conservative</i>	68%

Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	48%
<i>Man</i>	52%

Q14 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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	8%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	43%
<i>Older than 65</i>	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Gingrich Favorability										
Favorable	64%	80%	92%	57%	52%	36%	100%	66%	50%	44%
Unfavorable	20%	20%	2%	18%	28%	29%	-	19%	50%	38%
Not sure	17%	-	6%	25%	20%	35%	-	15%	-	17%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Huckabee Favorability										
Favorable	65%	63%	68%	91%	57%	65%	51%	59%	100%	52%
Unfavorable	22%	37%	18%	4%	20%	24%	49%	29%	-	30%
Not sure	14%	-	15%	5%	22%	12%	-	13%	-	17%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Palin Favorability										
Favorable	71%	90%	76%	77%	95%	52%	100%	58%	68%	45%
Unfavorable	24%	10%	16%	17%	5%	44%	-	35%	-	46%
Not sure	6%	-	8%	7%	-	4%	-	6%	32%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Romney Favorability										
Favorable	71%	37%	75%	60%	49%	49%	89%	97%	100%	48%
Unfavorable	18%	37%	22%	25%	28%	33%	11%	1%	-	30%
Not sure	11%	27%	4%	15%	23%	18%	-	2%	-	22%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Ensign Approval										
Approve	52%	89%	64%	46%	41%	66%	43%	57%	68%	28%
Disapprove	30%	11%	25%	28%	31%	26%	37%	29%	-	54%
Not sure	18%	-	11%	26%	28%	8%	20%	14%	32%	18%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Should Ensign Run for Re-election?										
Yes	42%	30%	59%	30%	40%	39%	23%	45%	68%	20%
No	41%	70%	30%	40%	39%	52%	57%	41%	-	64%
Not sure	17%	-	11%	30%	21%	8%	20%	14%	32%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Heller Favorability										
Favorable	63%	80%	72%	56%	62%	53%	89%	62%	82%	56%
Unfavorable	12%	-	5%	8%	18%	16%	11%	12%	18%	24%
Not sure	25%	20%	23%	37%	19%	31%	-	27%	-	19%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
2012 GOP Sen Primary										
Sharron Angle	9%	17%	8%	10%	21%	4%	-	5%	-	5%
John Chachas	5%	10%	3%	3%	5%	16%	20%	5%	-	-
John Ensign	20%	10%	24%	25%	19%	14%	11%	22%	32%	7%
Dean Heller	29%	37%	31%	18%	25%	21%	57%	33%	50%	39%
Brian Krolicki	6%	17%	2%	9%	3%	4%	-	5%	18%	22%
Sue Lowden	12%	-	15%	11%	11%	16%	-	14%	-	3%
Danny Tarkanian	10%	-	12%	14%	9%	7%	11%	11%	-	-
Someone else/Not sure	8%	10%	4%	10%	7%	17%	-	4%	-	24%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Ensign/Heller										
John Ensign	34%	20%	45%	32%	30%	32%	23%	38%	50%	13%
Dean Heller	52%	71%	49%	45%	54%	49%	77%	52%	50%	63%
Not sure	14%	10%	6%	23%	16%	19%	-	10%	-	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice										
Mitch Daniels	1%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newt Gingrich	18%	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mike Huckabee	14%	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sarah Palin	19%	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-
Ron Paul	7%	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-
Tim Pawlenty	1%	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-
Mitt Romney	31%	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-
John Thune	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-
Someone else/Undecided	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
2012 GOP Pres Primary 2nd Choice										
Mitch Daniels	5%	10%	1%	-	10%	2%	37%	4%	18%	3%
Newt Gingrich	17%	27%	7%	21%	20%	11%	-	25%	-	2%
Mike Huckabee	14%	-	19%	21%	13%	22%	-	11%	50%	2%
Sarah Palin	21%	27%	29%	20%	30%	15%	20%	18%	-	-
Ron Paul	6%	-	1%	9%	4%	19%	11%	7%	-	3%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	20%	8%	3%	1%	-	11%	8%	-	3%
Mitt Romney	17%	17%	27%	20%	8%	20%	-	19%	32%	-
John Thune	3%	-	5%	-	4%	-	20%	2%	-	3%
Someone else/Undecided	12%	-	3%	6%	10%	10%	-	5%	-	84%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	63%	-	40%	76%
Unfavorable	20%	67%	38%	11%
Not sure	17%	33%	22%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	65%	20%	53%	71%
Unfavorable	22%	59%	28%	18%
Not sure	14%	20%	19%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	70%	41%	46%	82%
Unfavorable	24%	59%	43%	15%
Not sure	6%	-	11%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	70%	41%	61%	75%
Unfavorable	18%	33%	27%	14%
Not sure	11%	26%	12%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Ensign Approval				
Approve	53%	28%	40%	59%
Disapprove	30%	46%	40%	25%
Not sure	18%	26%	21%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Should Ensign Run for Re-election?				
Yes	42%	20%	32%	47%
No	41%	54%	48%	38%
Not sure	17%	26%	20%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Heller Favorability				
Favorable	63%	61%	52%	67%
Unfavorable	12%	26%	23%	7%
Not sure	25%	13%	24%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Sen Primary				
Sharron Angle	9%	13%	5%	11%
John Chachas	5%	7%	8%	4%
John Ensign	20%	26%	14%	23%
Dean Heller	30%	28%	30%	30%
Brian Krolicki	6%	13%	9%	5%
Sue Lowden	12%	-	12%	12%
Danny Tarkanian	10%	-	12%	9%
Someone else/Not sure	8%	13%	10%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Ensign/Heller				
John Ensign	34%	20%	32%	35%
Dean Heller	52%	54%	50%	53%
Not sure	13%	26%	18%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice				
Mitch Daniels	1%	7%	0%	2%
Newt Gingrich	18%	-	15%	20%
Mike Huckabee	14%	-	13%	14%
Sarah Palin	19%	33%	22%	17%
Ron Paul	7%	13%	10%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	1%	-	-	2%
Mitt Romney	31%	20%	25%	34%
John Thune	1%	-	1%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	8%	26%	13%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary 2nd Choice				
Mitch Daniels	5%	7%	7%	4%
Newt Gingrich	17%	-	13%	19%
Mike Huckabee	14%	13%	11%	16%
Sarah Palin	21%	20%	19%	22%
Ron Paul	6%	13%	7%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	-	4%	6%
Mitt Romney	17%	20%	17%	17%
John Thune	3%	-	3%	3%
Someone else/Undecided	12%	26%	19%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	63%	60%	67%
Unfavorable	20%	18%	22%
Not sure	17%	22%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	65%	64%	66%
Unfavorable	22%	19%	24%
Not sure	14%	17%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	70%	71%	70%
Unfavorable	24%	22%	26%
Not sure	6%	7%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	70%	71%	70%
Unfavorable	18%	12%	24%
Not sure	11%	17%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ensign Approval			
Approve	53%	51%	54%
Disapprove	30%	25%	34%
Not sure	18%	24%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should Ensign Run for Re-election?			
Yes	42%	40%	43%
No	41%	34%	48%
Not sure	17%	26%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Heller Favorability			
Favorable	63%	57%	68%
Unfavorable	12%	11%	13%
Not sure	25%	32%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Sen Primary			
Sharron Angle	9%	9%	10%
John Chachas	5%	6%	4%
John Ensign	20%	17%	23%
Dean Heller	30%	31%	28%
Brian Krolicki	6%	6%	6%
Sue Lowden	12%	13%	11%
Danny Tarkanian	10%	9%	10%
Someone else/Not sure	8%	8%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ensign/Heller			
John Ensign	34%	36%	33%
Dean Heller	52%	50%	55%
Not sure	13%	15%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice			
Mitch Daniels	1%	1%	2%
Newt Gingrich	18%	17%	19%
Mike Huckabee	14%	16%	11%
Sarah Palin	19%	16%	21%
Ron Paul	7%	4%	9%
Tim Pawlenty	1%	1%	2%
Mitt Romney	31%	35%	28%
John Thune	1%	1%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary 2nd Choice			
Mitch Daniels	5%	2%	7%
Newt Gingrich	17%	15%	18%
Mike Huckabee	14%	16%	13%
Sarah Palin	21%	19%	22%
Ron Paul	6%	6%	6%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	7%	4%
Mitt Romney	17%	18%	16%
John Thune	3%	4%	2%
Someone else/Undecided	12%	13%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	63%	50%	54%	67%	71%
Unfavorable	20%	40%	18%	20%	16%
Not sure	17%	10%	28%	13%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	65%	64%	52%	65%	77%
Unfavorable	22%	27%	28%	21%	15%
Not sure	14%	9%	20%	14%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	70%	82%	68%	66%	77%
Unfavorable	24%	18%	32%	24%	18%
Not sure	6%	-	-	10%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	70%	36%	68%	75%	77%
Unfavorable	18%	45%	18%	17%	13%
Not sure	11%	18%	14%	9%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ensign Approval					
Approve	53%	27%	42%	55%	66%
Disapprove	30%	45%	38%	26%	24%
Not sure	18%	27%	20%	19%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should Ensign Run for Re-election?					
Yes	42%	27%	32%	42%	55%
No	41%	45%	52%	39%	33%
Not sure	17%	27%	16%	18%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Heller Favorability					
Favorable	63%	36%	62%	65%	67%
Unfavorable	12%	36%	10%	10%	11%
Not sure	25%	27%	28%	25%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Sen Primary					
Sharron Angle	9%	27%	8%	9%	6%
John Chachas	5%	-	10%	4%	4%
John Ensign	20%	18%	18%	15%	31%
Dean Heller	30%	-	32%	32%	33%
Brian Krolicki	6%	9%	4%	8%	4%
Sue Lowden	12%	27%	16%	8%	11%
Danny Tarkanian	10%	18%	6%	12%	6%
Someone else/Not sure	8%	-	6%	11%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ensign/Heller					
John Ensign	34%	50%	36%	29%	37%
Dean Heller	52%	30%	54%	55%	52%
Not sure	13%	20%	10%	16%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary 1st Choice					
Mitch Daniels	1%	-	-	2%	3%
Newt Gingrich	18%	9%	20%	18%	20%
Mike Huckabee	14%	36%	6%	13%	16%
Sarah Palin	19%	36%	24%	17%	11%
Ron Paul	7%	-	12%	5%	8%
Tim Pawlenty	1%	-	2%	1%	1%
Mitt Romney	31%	9%	30%	34%	35%
John Thune	1%	-	-	1%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	8%	9%	6%	10%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary 2nd Choice					
Mitch Daniels	5%	9%	8%	2%	5%
Newt Gingrich	17%	9%	22%	15%	17%
Mike Huckabee	14%	9%	16%	13%	17%
Sarah Palin	21%	36%	14%	24%	18%
Ron Paul	6%	9%	6%	5%	8%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	-	6%	7%	4%
Mitt Romney	17%	9%	16%	17%	20%
John Thune	3%	9%	4%	2%	2%
Someone else/Undecided	12%	9%	8%	16%	10%

