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Heller hangs onto slim lead over Berkley

Raleigh, N.C. – Despite voters souring on Dean Heller’s job performance and improving their views of his Democratic opponent Shelley Berkley in the last few months, the appointed Republican senator from Nevada maintains a three-point lead five months from his bid for a full term.

Heller’s job approval numbers are now in the red, with only 36% approving and 39% disapproving of the work he has been doing in D.C. That is a ten-point slide since PPP last took a look at the state just over three months ago. Then, the spread was 43-36.

At the same time, Berkley’s favorability rating is up from 33% to 38%, and her unfavorable level down from 40% to 37%. She basically breaks even, but has equalled Heller in terms of name recognition.

Yet Berkley still trails by a similar deficit to the previous poll; she is down 44-43 now, versus 46-43 in late March to early April. One bright spot is that Berkley has improved a bit with independents. Heller still leads by seven points with them, but that is down from 13 in the last poll.

“Heller has had a consistent small edge in most of our polling, but this’ll be a close race down to the wire,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

Looking ahead to his possible re-election bid in two years, Gov. Brian Sandoval starts out with healthy leads against two potential Democratic challengers—18 points over Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto (51-33) and 22 over Secretary of State Ross Miller (50-28).

With two little-known opponents, these horse races track pretty closely to Sandoval’s stellar approval rating (52-28). Even Democrats do not strongly dislike the work he is doing (35-45), though when given the choice of candidates from their own party, only 18-23% of them stick with Sandoval—still a much larger level of defection than Democrats can afford. Sandoval has his base locked up, and leads Miller by 28 points and Cortez Masto by 34 with independents.

PPP surveyed 500 Nevada voters from June 7th to 10th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.4%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



Nevada Survey Results

- Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Dean Heller's job performance?
Approve36% *Not sure*25%
Disapprove.....39%
- Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Shelley Berkley?
Favorable..... 38%
Unfavorable 37%
Not sure 25%
- Q3** If the candidates for US Senate this fall were Republican Dean Heller and Democrat Shelley Berkley, who would you vote for?
Dean Heller..... 44%
Shelley Berkley 43%
Undecided..... 13%
- Q4** Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Brian Sandoval's job performance?
Approve..... 52% *Not sure* 19%
Disapprove..... 28%
- Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Catherine Cortez Masto?
Favorable..... 24%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 53%
- Q6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ross Miller?
Favorable..... 23%
Unfavorable 13%
Not sure 64%
- Q7** If the candidates for Governor in 2014 were Republican Brian Sandoval and Democrat Catherine Cortez Masto, who would you vote for?
Brian Sandoval 51%
Catherine Cortez-Masto..... 33%
Not sure 16%
- Q8** If the candidates for Governor in 2014 were Republican Brian Sandoval and Democrat Ross Miller, who would you vote for?
Brian Sandoval 50%
Ross Miller..... 28%
Not sure 22%
- Q9** Who did you vote for President in 2008?
John McCain..... 41%
Barack Obama..... 50%
Someone else/Don't remember 9%
- Q10** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?
Very liberal..... 12%
Somewhat liberal 17%
Moderate..... 34%
Somewhat conservative..... 23%
Very conservative 14%
- Q11** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.
Woman 53%
Man..... 47%
- Q12** 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 40%
Republican..... 38%
Independent/Other..... 21%



Q13 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2.
If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

<i>Hispanic</i>	12%
<i>White</i>	72%
<i>African-American</i>	7%
<i>Other</i>	9%

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>	14%
<i>30 to 45</i>	30%
<i>46 to 65</i>	36%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Heller Approval				
Approve	36%	62%	16%	31%
Disapprove	39%	18%	56%	38%
Not sure	25%	20%	28%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Berkley Favorability				
Favorable	38%	18%	56%	26%
Unfavorable	37%	59%	20%	36%
Not sure	25%	24%	24%	38%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Heller/Berkley				
Dean Heller	44%	74%	20%	43%
Shelley Berkley	43%	16%	68%	32%
Undecided	13%	10%	12%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Sandoval Approval				
Approve	52%	73%	37%	45%
Disapprove	28%	11%	42%	30%
Not sure	19%	16%	20%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cortez Masto Favorability				
Favorable	24%	15%	34%	16%
Unfavorable	22%	32%	15%	19%
Not sure	53%	54%	51%	65%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Miller Favorability				
Favorable	23%	23%	25%	15%
Unfavorable	13%	16%	10%	14%
Not sure	64%	60%	65%	70%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Sandoval/Cortez Masto				
Brian Sandoval	51%	86%	23%	41%
Catherine Cortez-Masto	33%	6%	56%	28%
Not sure	16%	8%	21%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Sandoval/Miller				
Brian Sandoval	50%	83%	24%	44%
Ross Miller	28%	5%	47%	27%
Not sure	22%	12%	29%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Heller Approval						
Approve	36%	20%	17%	25%	64%	54%
Disapprove	39%	55%	53%	45%	12%	35%
Not sure	25%	25%	30%	30%	24%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Berkley Favorability						
Favorable	38%	56%	58%	43%	16%	19%
Unfavorable	37%	20%	21%	24%	64%	60%
Not sure	25%	24%	21%	33%	21%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Heller/Berkley						
Dean Heller	44%	25%	19%	31%	75%	70%
Shelley Berkley	43%	70%	73%	48%	15%	19%
Undecided	13%	5%	8%	21%	10%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Sandoval Approval						
Approve	52%	35%	46%	40%	72%	74%
Disapprove	28%	43%	39%	34%	12%	15%
Not sure	19%	22%	14%	26%	15%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cortez Masto Favorability						
Favorable	24%	30%	36%	31%	10%	11%
Unfavorable	22%	26%	13%	13%	33%	35%
Not sure	53%	44%	51%	55%	57%	54%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Miller Favorability						
Favorable	23%	25%	30%	22%	23%	15%
Unfavorable	13%	16%	14%	9%	11%	25%
Not sure	64%	59%	56%	69%	66%	60%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Sandoval/Cortez Masto						
Brian Sandoval	51%	28%	23%	38%	79%	84%
Catherine Cortez-Masto	33%	63%	58%	34%	13%	10%
Not sure	16%	10%	19%	28%	7%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Sandoval/Miller						
Brian Sandoval	50%	26%	28%	38%	75%	84%
Ross Miller	28%	60%	46%	28%	10%	7%
Not sure	22%	14%	26%	34%	15%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Heller Approval			
Approve	36%	35%	37%
Disapprove	39%	36%	42%
Not sure	25%	28%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Berkley Favorability			
Favorable	38%	41%	34%
Unfavorable	37%	33%	43%
Not sure	25%	27%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Heller/Berkley			
Dean Heller	44%	40%	48%
Shelley Berkley	43%	46%	40%
Undecided	13%	13%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Sandoval Approval			
Approve	52%	49%	56%
Disapprove	28%	28%	29%
Not sure	19%	23%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cortez Masto Favorability			
Favorable	24%	25%	23%
Unfavorable	22%	17%	28%
Not sure	53%	58%	48%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Miller Favorability			
Favorable	23%	27%	18%
Unfavorable	13%	7%	20%
Not sure	64%	65%	62%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Sandoval/Cortez Masto			
Brian Sandoval	51%	46%	56%
Catherine Cortez-Masto	33%	36%	30%
Not sure	16%	19%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Sandoval/Miller			
Brian Sandoval	50%	46%	55%
Ross Miller	28%	29%	26%
Not sure	22%	25%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Heller Approval				
Approve	36%	17%	61%	27%
Disapprove	39%	54%	16%	50%
Not sure	25%	28%	23%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Berkley Favorability				
Favorable	38%	62%	14%	33%
Unfavorable	37%	20%	59%	32%
Not sure	25%	18%	27%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Heller/Berkley				
Dean Heller	44%	18%	71%	45%
Shelley Berkley	43%	73%	16%	38%
Undecided	13%	9%	13%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Sandoval Approval				
Approve	52%	35%	71%	53%
Disapprove	28%	45%	12%	26%
Not sure	19%	20%	17%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cortez Masto Favorability				
Favorable	24%	36%	13%	23%
Unfavorable	22%	14%	34%	18%
Not sure	53%	50%	54%	59%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Miller Favorability				
Favorable	23%	27%	24%	13%
Unfavorable	13%	11%	16%	13%
Not sure	64%	62%	60%	74%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Sandoval/Cortez Masto				
Brian Sandoval	51%	18%	83%	54%
Catherine Cortez-Masto	33%	64%	9%	20%
Not sure	16%	19%	8%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Sandoval/Miller				
Brian Sandoval	50%	23%	82%	43%
Ross Miller	28%	55%	7%	15%
Not sure	22%	22%	11%	41%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Heller Approval					
Approve	36%	48%	36%	20%	32%
Disapprove	39%	32%	39%	40%	41%
Not sure	25%	20%	24%	39%	27%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Berkley Favorability					
Favorable	38%	35%	34%	59%	55%
Unfavorable	37%	50%	38%	28%	19%
Not sure	25%	15%	28%	13%	26%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Heller/Berkley					
Dean Heller	44%	40%	48%	23%	29%
Shelley Berkley	43%	49%	40%	57%	56%
Undecided	13%	10%	12%	19%	16%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Sandoval Approval					
Approve	52%	63%	52%	39%	50%
Disapprove	28%	27%	28%	40%	30%
Not sure	19%	10%	20%	21%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Cortez Masto Favorability					
Favorable	24%	39%	20%	30%	33%
Unfavorable	22%	26%	22%	33%	13%
Not sure	53%	35%	58%	37%	54%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Miller Favorability					
Favorable	23%	30%	21%	22%	35%
Unfavorable	13%	21%	13%	22%	-
Not sure	64%	49%	67%	56%	65%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Sandoval/Cortez Masto					
Brian Sandoval	51%	53%	53%	34%	35%
Catherine Cortez-Masto	33%	33%	30%	53%	43%
Not sure	16%	14%	16%	13%	21%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Sandoval/Miller					
Brian Sandoval	50%	65%	52%	29%	31%
Ross Miller	28%	18%	26%	67%	36%
Not sure	22%	18%	23%	4%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Heller Approval					
Approve	36%	33%	27%	39%	47%
Disapprove	39%	37%	43%	38%	34%
Not sure	25%	30%	30%	23%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Berkley Favorability					
Favorable	38%	37%	34%	41%	37%
Unfavorable	37%	33%	30%	40%	47%
Not sure	25%	30%	36%	19%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Heller/Berkley					
Dean Heller	44%	41%	36%	46%	53%
Shelley Berkley	43%	41%	49%	42%	39%
Undecided	13%	19%	14%	11%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Sandoval Approval					
Approve	52%	48%	40%	60%	60%
Disapprove	28%	30%	34%	25%	27%
Not sure	19%	22%	26%	15%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cortez Mastro Favorability					
Favorable	24%	31%	21%	24%	24%
Unfavorable	22%	27%	23%	20%	23%
Not sure	53%	42%	56%	56%	53%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Miller Favorability					
Favorable	23%	27%	19%	24%	25%
Unfavorable	13%	23%	10%	11%	14%
Not sure	64%	50%	71%	64%	61%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Sandoval/Cortez Mastro					
Brian Sandoval	51%	61%	40%	52%	56%
Catherine Cortez-Mastro	33%	22%	43%	32%	29%
Not sure	16%	17%	18%	16%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Sandoval/Miller					
Brian Sandoval	50%	64%	35%	53%	58%
Ross Miller	28%	14%	38%	26%	26%
Not sure	22%	23%	27%	21%	17%

