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Heller edges Berkley

Raleigh, N.C. – The story remains largely the same as when PPP last took a look at the Nevada Senate race three months ago: new incumbent Dean Heller has a few-point lead over likely Democratic nominee Shelley Berkley.

Last time, Heller led, 47-43, and this time, it is 46-43. Berkley has seen a huge closure in the independent vote. Where Heller led 56-29 in the previous poll, he ekes out only a 44-41 advantage now. But self-identified nonpartisan voters account for only about a fifth of the electorate, and that 24-point marginal shrinkage means less than five points in the overall standings, offset by slight adjustments in the two-party vote. Heller still has his party locked up more than Berkley hers, but her lower profile so far means more Democrats (14%) are undecided than Republicans (only 8%).

When the last poll was conducted, Heller had yet to be appointed to John Ensign's abandoned seat. His favorability rating then was a strong 43%, with 29% seeing him negatively. But his approval rating a few months into his term in the upper chamber of Congress is only 38%, with almost as many (35%) disapproving. That is because more Republicans are undecided on his actual job performance than him as a person, and because Democrats disapprove in stronger numbers than they expressed an unfavorable opinion, but mostly because independents have moved from 51-21 to only 41-32.

Berkley, meanwhile, splits voters right down the middle, with a third seeing her both favorably and unfavorably. Her primary opponent, Byron Georgiou, is still a non-entity, and would unsurprisingly trail Heller, 48-31, up from 52-28 in April.

“Any thought that getting appointed to the Senate was going to help Dean Heller's prospects for a full term can probably be put to rest,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Nevada voters had a much more charitable view of Representative Heller than they now do of Senator Heller.”

PPP surveyed 601 Nevada voters from July 28th to 31st. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.0%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Nevada Survey Results

- Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Dean Heller's job performance?
- Approve* 38%
 - Disapprove*..... 35%
 - Not sure* 27%
- Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Shelley Berkley?
- Favorable*..... 33%
 - Unfavorable* 33%
 - Not sure* 33%
- Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Byron Georgiou?
- Favorable*..... 4%
 - Unfavorable* 17%
 - Not sure* 79%
- Q4** If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Shelley Berkley and Republican Dean Heller, who would you vote for?
- Shelley Berkley*..... 43%
 - Dean Heller*..... 46%
 - Undecided*..... 12%
- Q5** If the candidates for US Senate next year were Democrat Byron Georgiou and Republican Dean Heller, who would you vote for?
- Byron Georgiou*..... 31%
 - Dean Heller*..... 48%
 - Undecided*..... 20%
- Q6** Who did you vote for President in 2008?
- John McCain*..... 43%
 - Barack Obama*..... 51%
 - Someone else/Don't remember* 6%
- Q7** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?
- Very liberal*..... 11%
 - Somewhat liberal* 18%
 - Moderate*..... 29%
 - Somewhat conservative*..... 25%
 - Very conservative* 17%
- Q8** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.
- Woman* 52%
 - Man*..... 48%
- Q9** 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* 43%
 - Republican*..... 38%
 - Independent/Other*..... 19%
- Q10** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.
- Hispanic*..... 16%
 - White* 71%
 - African American*..... 8%
 - Other*..... 5%
- Q11** 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*..... 8%
 - 30 to 45*..... 28%
 - 46 to 65*..... 44%
 - Older than 65*..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Heller approval				
Approve	38%	68%	12%	46%
Disapprove	35%	7%	59%	34%
Not sure	27%	25%	29%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Berkley Favorability				
Favorable	33%	9%	55%	25%
Unfavorable	33%	53%	16%	45%
Not sure	33%	38%	29%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Georgiou Favorability				
Favorable	4%	4%	4%	14%
Unfavorable	17%	12%	21%	16%
Not sure	79%	84%	75%	70%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Berkley/Heller				
Shelley Berkley	43%	6%	76%	24%
Dean Heller	46%	86%	11%	53%
Undecided	12%	9%	13%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Georgiou/Heller				
Byron Georgiou	31%	2%	57%	22%
Dean Heller	48%	88%	13%	60%
Undecided	20%	10%	30%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Heller approval						
Approve	38%	8%	6%	28%	62%	74%
Disapprove	35%	74%	58%	38%	18%	6%
Not sure	27%	18%	36%	34%	20%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Berkley Favorability						
Favorable	33%	47%	64%	43%	14%	4%
Unfavorable	33%	25%	10%	20%	52%	61%
Not sure	33%	29%	26%	37%	35%	35%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Georgiou Favorability						
Favorable	4%	4%	4%	4%	6%	3%
Unfavorable	17%	30%	22%	17%	14%	10%
Not sure	79%	66%	74%	79%	80%	88%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Berkley/Heller						
Shelley Berkley	43%	82%	79%	51%	16%	4%
Dean Heller	46%	5%	8%	31%	77%	90%
Undecided	12%	13%	12%	18%	8%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Georgiou/Heller						
Byron Georgiou	31%	75%	64%	31%	7%	5%
Dean Heller	48%	3%	11%	36%	80%	90%
Undecided	20%	22%	25%	32%	13%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Heller approval			
Approve	38%	36%	40%
Disapprove	35%	36%	34%
Not sure	27%	27%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Berkley Favorability			
Favorable	33%	33%	34%
Unfavorable	33%	32%	35%
Not sure	33%	35%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Georgiou Favorability			
Favorable	4%	5%	4%
Unfavorable	17%	15%	19%
Not sure	79%	80%	77%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Berkley/Heller			
Shelley Berkley	43%	45%	40%
Dean Heller	46%	43%	48%
Undecided	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Georgiou/Heller			
Byron Georgiou	31%	32%	31%
Dean Heller	48%	45%	52%
Undecided	20%	23%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Heller approval				
Approve	38%	12%	66%	41%
Disapprove	35%	59%	9%	32%
Not sure	27%	29%	25%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Berkley Favorability				
Favorable	33%	56%	10%	29%
Unfavorable	33%	16%	53%	34%
Not sure	33%	28%	37%	37%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Georgiou Favorability				
Favorable	4%	4%	2%	9%
Unfavorable	17%	22%	14%	13%
Not sure	79%	74%	84%	78%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Berkley/Heller				
Shelley Berkley	43%	75%	6%	41%
Dean Heller	46%	11%	86%	44%
Undecided	12%	14%	8%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Georgiou/Heller				
Byron Georgiou	31%	58%	4%	26%
Dean Heller	48%	14%	87%	49%
Undecided	20%	28%	9%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Heller approval					
Approve	38%	35%	41%	14%	38%
Disapprove	35%	39%	32%	55%	38%
Not sure	27%	26%	27%	31%	23%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Berkley Favorability					
Favorable	33%	35%	29%	62%	38%
Unfavorable	33%	35%	34%	24%	31%
Not sure	33%	29%	36%	14%	31%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Georgiou Favorability					
Favorable	4%	10%	3%	7%	8%
Unfavorable	17%	6%	18%	28%	20%
Not sure	79%	84%	79%	66%	72%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Berkley/Heller					
Shelley Berkley	43%	52%	36%	83%	40%
Dean Heller	46%	39%	53%	3%	32%
Undecided	12%	10%	11%	14%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Georgiou/Heller					
Byron Georgiou	31%	39%	26%	66%	28%
Dean Heller	48%	35%	57%	7%	32%
Undecided	20%	26%	17%	28%	40%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Heller approval					
Approve	38%	34%	34%	39%	44%
Disapprove	35%	31%	36%	34%	39%
Not sure	27%	35%	30%	28%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Berkley Favorability					
Favorable	33%	33%	33%	34%	34%
Unfavorable	33%	34%	34%	34%	32%
Not sure	33%	33%	33%	33%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Georgiou Favorability					
Favorable	4%	3%	7%	4%	1%
Unfavorable	17%	23%	12%	17%	23%
Not sure	79%	74%	81%	79%	76%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Berkley/Heller					
Shelley Berkley	43%	44%	45%	43%	38%
Dean Heller	46%	31%	44%	46%	54%
Undecided	12%	26%	11%	11%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Georgiou/Heller					
Byron Georgiou	31%	37%	32%	33%	25%
Dean Heller	48%	34%	46%	50%	53%
Undecided	20%	29%	23%	16%	22%

