

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voters unhappy with Congress

Raleigh, N.C. – Voters across the country are unhappy with both the Democrats and Republicans in Congress right now, and that’s opening the door for independent candidates to possibly have some success in 2010.

40% of registered voters say they would vote Democratic for Congress if the election was held today, with 29% preferring the Republicans and 22% saying their support would go to an independent or third party candidate. Asked to choose just between the two major parties the Democrats lead 48-40.

The high level of support for a third way reflects voter displeasure with both parties in Congress. 49% are unhappy with the Democrats to just 37% approving. Those are great numbers compared to the Republicans though- they receive only a 21% approval rating with 61% of voters giving them poor marks.

47% of voters in the country think Congressional Democrats are too liberal while 45% think that Congressional Republicans are too conservative. Democrats tend to be happier with their own party, giving it a 65% approval rating while Republicans give their representatives only a 43% approval rating.

“We’re still a Democratic leaning country,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The question is whether Democratic voters will get out to the polls next year. If they do we’re going to see a status quo producing midterm election. But if Republicans are more energized they have the potential for some gains.”

Independents give Democrats a 38-36 lead on the generic ballot. They are particularly unhappy with both parties, giving the Republicans a 15% approval rating and the Democrats 29%.

PPP conducted a national survey of 766 registered voters from October 16th to 19th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.5%. 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 Tom Jensen at 91-744-6312.

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National Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Democrats in Congress are doing? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 37%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not Sure..... 15%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Republicans in Congress are doing? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 21%
Disapprove..... 61%
Not Sure..... 17%

Q3 If the election for Congress was today would you vote for a Democrat, a Republican, or an independent/third party candidate? If a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent/third party candidate, press 3. If you're undecided, press 4.

Democrat 40%
Republican..... 29%
Independent/Third Party 22%
Undecided..... 10%

Q4 If the election for Congress was today and your only choices were a Democratic and Republican candidate, who would you vote for? If a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

Democrat 48%
Republican..... 40%
Undecided..... 12%

Q5 Do you think the Democrats in Congress are too liberal, too conservative, or about right? If too liberal, press 1. If too conservative, press 2. If about right, press 3.

Too Liberal..... 47%
Too Conservative..... 16%
About Right..... 38%

Q6 Do you think the Republicans in Congress are too liberal, too conservative, or about right? If too liberal, press 1. If too conservative, press 2. If about right, press 3.

Too Liberal..... 24%
Too Conservative..... 45%
About Right..... 31%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Balloon Boy? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 5%
Unfavorable 24%
Not Sure..... 70%

Q8 Who did you vote for President last year? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If someone else or you don't remember, press 3.

McCain..... 42%
Obama..... 49%
Someone else/don't remember..... 9%





Q9 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 17%
Moderate..... 45%
Conservative..... 39%

Q10 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q11 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 41%
Republican..... 33%
Independent/Other..... 26%

Q12 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 8%
White 76%
African American 12%
Other..... 4%

Q13 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..... 24%
46 to 65..... 42%
Older than 65..... 19%

Q14

Northeast 26%
South 28%
Midwest 29%
West 18%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Congressional Dems Approval				
Approve	37%	5%	66%	24%
Disapprove	49%	87%	14%	58%
Not Sure	15%	7%	20%	17%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Congressional GOP Approval				
Approve	22%	39%	6%	24%
Disapprove	61%	43%	79%	50%
Not Sure	17%	18%	15%	26%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Generic Ballot w/ Indies				
Democrat	40%	5%	73%	23%
Republican	29%	59%	4%	25%
Independent/Third Party	22%	26%	14%	40%
Undecided	9%	9%	9%	12%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Generic Ballot Major Party				
Democrat	48%	7%	86%	31%
Republican	40%	82%	6%	33%
Undecided	12%	10%	8%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Ideology of Democrats in Congress				
Too Liberal	46%	85%	12%	55%
Too Conservative	16%	7%	24%	13%
About Right	38%	8%	64%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Ideology of Republicans in Congress				
Too Liberal	24%	34%	13%	36%
Too Conservative	45%	19%	72%	22%
About Right	31%	47%	15%	42%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Balloon Boy Favorability				
Favorable	5%	7%	3%	8%
Unfavorable	24%	25%	24%	22%
Not Sure	70%	68%	73%	69%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Congressional Dems Approval				
Approve	37%	66%	46%	13%
Disapprove	49%	17%	36%	78%
Not Sure	15%	17%	18%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Congressional GOP Approval				
Approve	21%	6%	16%	34%
Disapprove	61%	79%	69%	45%
Not Sure	17%	15%	14%	22%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Generic Ballot w/ Indies				
Democrat	40%	80%	46%	14%
Republican	29%	4%	22%	48%
Independent/Third Party	22%	9%	20%	29%
Undecided	10%	6%	12%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Generic Ballot Major Party				
Democrat	48%	90%	57%	19%
Republican	40%	8%	30%	67%
Undecided	12%	2%	13%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Ideology of Democrats in Congress				
Too Liberal	47%	13%	37%	73%
Too Conservative	16%	37%	16%	7%
About Right	38%	51%	48%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Ideology of Republicans in Congress				
Too Liberal	24%	10%	11%	45%
Too Conservative	45%	78%	62%	11%
About Right	31%	12%	26%	44%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Balloon Boy Favorability				
Favorable	5%	5%	5%	6%
Unfavorable	24%	35%	23%	22%
Not Sure	70%	60%	72%	73%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congressional Dems Approval			
Approve	37%	40%	33%
Disapprove	49%	46%	51%
Not Sure	15%	14%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congressional GOP Approval			
Approve	21%	25%	18%
Disapprove	61%	57%	66%
Not Sure	17%	18%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Ballot w/ Indies			
Democrat	40%	42%	38%
Republican	29%	30%	27%
Independent/Third Party	22%	19%	25%
Undecided	10%	9%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Ballot Major Party			
Democrat	48%	50%	46%
Republican	40%	41%	40%
Undecided	12%	10%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ideology of Democrats in Congress			
Too Liberal	47%	44%	49%
Too Conservative	16%	15%	17%
About Right	38%	41%	34%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ideology of Republicans in Congress			
Too Liberal	24%	20%	28%
Too Conservative	45%	45%	46%
About Right	31%	35%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Balloon Boy Favorability			
Favorable	5%	4%	6%
Unfavorable	24%	24%	25%
Not Sure	70%	72%	69%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Congressional Dems Approval				
Approve	37%	65%	8%	29%
Disapprove	49%	16%	87%	53%
Not Sure	15%	19%	5%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Congressional GOP Approval				
Approve	21%	9%	43%	15%
Disapprove	61%	76%	45%	58%
Not Sure	17%	15%	13%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Ballot w/ Indies				
Democrat	40%	78%	5%	23%
Republican	29%	6%	67%	18%
Independent/Third Party	22%	10%	19%	45%
Undecided	10%	7%	9%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Ballot Major Party				
Democrat	48%	88%	5%	38%
Republican	40%	8%	85%	36%
Undecided	12%	4%	10%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Ideology of Democrats in Congress				
Too Liberal	47%	15%	84%	49%
Too Conservative	16%	22%	7%	16%
About Right	38%	63%	8%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Ideology of Republicans in Congress				
Too Liberal	24%	18%	35%	20%
Too Conservative	45%	64%	20%	46%
About Right	31%	18%	45%	33%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Balloon Boy Favorability				
Favorable	5%	4%	7%	6%
Unfavorable	24%	24%	26%	24%
Not Sure	70%	73%	68%	70%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Congressional Dems Approval					
Approve	37%	42%	30%	68%	62%
Disapprove	49%	43%	57%	6%	32%
Not Sure	15%	15%	13%	26%	6%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Congressional GOP Approval					
Approve	21%	19%	24%	9%	16%
Disapprove	61%	60%	60%	73%	59%
Not Sure	17%	21%	16%	18%	24%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Generic Ballot w/ Indies					
Democrat	40%	44%	33%	80%	49%
Republican	29%	24%	35%	-	13%
Independent/Third Party	22%	28%	23%	7%	23%
Undecided	10%	4%	9%	13%	15%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Generic Ballot Major Party					
Democrat	48%	52%	41%	85%	66%
Republican	40%	34%	48%	3%	18%
Undecided	12%	14%	11%	12%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Ideology of Democrats in Congress					
Too Liberal	47%	43%	55%	6%	21%
Too Conservative	16%	17%	15%	12%	31%
About Right	38%	40%	30%	82%	48%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Ideology of Republicans in Congress					
Too Liberal	24%	28%	25%	19%	19%
Too Conservative	45%	39%	42%	64%	60%
About Right	31%	33%	33%	17%	21%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Balloon Boy Favorability					
Favorable	5%	4%	6%	2%	3%
Unfavorable	24%	22%	26%	18%	11%
Not Sure	70%	74%	68%	80%	85%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congressional Dems Approval					
Approve	37%	33%	38%	37%	38%
Disapprove	49%	46%	43%	52%	51%
Not Sure	15%	20%	19%	12%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congressional GOP Approval					
Approve	21%	31%	20%	19%	20%
Disapprove	61%	50%	61%	67%	59%
Not Sure	17%	19%	19%	14%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Ballot w/ Indies					
Democrat	40%	41%	38%	40%	42%
Republican	29%	28%	26%	29%	32%
Independent/Third Party	22%	26%	25%	21%	17%
Undecided	10%	6%	11%	10%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Ballot Major Party					
Democrat	48%	52%	47%	47%	48%
Republican	40%	37%	39%	41%	43%
Undecided	12%	11%	14%	12%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ideology of Democrats in Congress					
Too Liberal	47%	46%	43%	48%	48%
Too Conservative	16%	19%	20%	15%	10%
About Right	38%	35%	37%	37%	43%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ideology of Republicans in Congress					
Too Liberal	24%	36%	24%	21%	21%
Too Conservative	45%	28%	48%	47%	51%
About Right	31%	36%	28%	32%	28%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Balloon Boy Favorability					
Favorable	5%	11%	3%	5%	3%
Unfavorable	24%	20%	35%	22%	20%
Not Sure	70%	68%	61%	73%	77%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Congressional Dems Approval					
Approve	37%	39%	34%	34%	43%
Disapprove	49%	44%	51%	54%	42%
Not Sure	15%	17%	14%	12%	15%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Congressional GOP Approval					
Approve	21%	23%	23%	22%	16%
Disapprove	61%	61%	56%	61%	70%
Not Sure	17%	16%	21%	17%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Generic Ballot w/ Indies					
Democrat	40%	45%	36%	38%	42%
Republican	29%	27%	34%	28%	25%
Independent/Third Party	22%	22%	18%	25%	22%
Undecided	10%	6%	12%	9%	11%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Generic Ballot Major Party					
Democrat	48%	52%	41%	46%	54%
Republican	40%	36%	47%	41%	36%
Undecided	12%	11%	12%	12%	10%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Ideology of Democrats in Congress					
Too Liberal	47%	45%	53%	45%	41%
Too Conservative	16%	18%	15%	11%	22%
About Right	38%	37%	32%	44%	37%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Ideology of Republicans in Congress					
Too Liberal	24%	25%	25%	23%	22%
Too Conservative	45%	47%	43%	41%	53%
About Right	31%	28%	32%	36%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Balloon Boy Favorability					
Favorable	5%	6%	9%	2%	4%
Unfavorable	24%	28%	17%	25%	29%
Not Sure	70%	66%	73%	73%	68%

