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Ryan Off To Good Start As Speaker; McConnell Still Down in Dumps

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP's new national poll finds pretty good numbers for Paul Ryan as he begins his Speakership. 41% of voters nationally have a positive opinion of him to 35% with a negative one. That actually gives him a better net favorability rating than anyone running for President has. And 49% of voters say they support his becoming Speaker to only 27% opposed to his ascendance. There was discussion about whether the Republican base would accept Ryan becoming Speaker, but he has a 62/15 favorability rating with GOP voters and by a 69/14 spread they favor his new position. Even among Democrats voters are pretty divided (35/36) on Ryan's becoming Speaker. There may be a mass of Democratic voters who think it could have been a lot worse in terms of who took over for the Republicans.

While Ryan's off to a good start, Mitch McConnell remains exceedingly unpopular. Only 15% of voters approve of the job he's doing to 59% who disapprove. GOP voters are so down on him (15/62 approval), that McConnell actually fares slightly better with Democratic voters (18/53 approval). McConnell's approval rating tracks pretty closely with that of Congress as a whole- only 12% of voters approve of the job it's doing to 76% who disapprove.

Despite the unhappiness with Congress and the Republicans being in control, voters aren't planning to take out their unhappiness on the GOP next year. Republicans lead the generic Congressional ballot 45/43, including a 43/32 advantage with independent voters.

73% of Americans support increasing the minimum wage to at least \$10 an hour, with only 13% in favor of keeping it where it is and 11% wanting to eliminate it altogether. 58% of Republicans support an increase to at least \$10 to only 23% who think it should be left where it is, a sign that the GOP Presidential candidates are out of line with the party base when it comes to this issue. Among Democrats 62% favor going up to at least a \$12 an hour minimum wage, but only 36% favor going all the way to \$15 an hour. Those numbers indicate the position Hillary Clinton took in the debate last weekend actually is the majority position within the party.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 1,360 registered voters on November 16th and 17th. The margin of error for the overall survey is +/-2.7. 80% of participants responded via the phone, while 20% of respondents who did not have landlines conducted the survey over the internet.



National Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing?

Approve 12%
Disapprove..... 76%
Not sure 13%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Mitch McConnell is doing as Senate Majority Leader?

Approve 15%
Disapprove..... 59%
Not sure 26%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Paul Ryan?

Favorable..... 41%
Unfavorable 35%
Not sure 24%

Q4 Do you support or oppose Paul Ryan becoming Speaker of the House?

Support..... 49%
Oppose..... 27%
Not sure 24%

Q5 Generally speaking if there was an election for Congress today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate from your district?

Democrat 43%
Republican..... 45%
Not sure 13%

Q6 Do you support or oppose requiring a criminal background check of every person who wants to buy a firearm?

Support a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm 86%
Oppose a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm 8%
Not sure 6%

Q7 Has the legalization of gay marriage had a positive or negative impact on your life, or has it not had any impact at all?

Positive impact..... 20%
Negative impact..... 28%
No impact at all..... 52%

Q8 The federal minimum wage is currently \$7.25- which of the following would you support most- increasing it to \$15 an hour, increasing it to \$12 an hour, increasing it to \$10 an hour, keeping it at \$7.25 an hour, or eliminating the federal minimum wage altogether?

Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour..... 22%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour..... 20%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour..... 31%
Most support keeping the federal minimum wage at \$7.25 per hour..... 13%
Most support eliminating the federal minimum wage altogether 11%
Not sure 3%

Q9 As you may know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or E-P-A, has announced a plan to address climate change by placing limits on the amount of carbon pollution from power plants. Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose this plan?

Strongly favor..... 40%
Somewhat favor..... 22%
Somewhat oppose 12%
Strongly oppose..... 18%
Not sure 8%





Q10 In the last presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Mitt Romney..... 42%
Someone else / Don't remember 10%

Q11 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 12%
Somewhat liberal 18%
Moderate..... 31%
Somewhat conservative..... 23%
Very conservative 16%

Q12 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q13 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 41%
Republican..... 34%
Independent / Other..... 25%

Q14 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 10%
White 72%
African American..... 12%
Other..... 6%

Q15 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..... 12%
30 to 45..... 27%
46 to 65..... 41%
Older than 65..... 20%

Q16 Mode

Phone 80%
Internet 20%





	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Congress Approval				
Approve	12%	14%	10%	5%
Disapprove	76%	71%	81%	79%
Not sure	13%	15%	9%	16%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
McConnell Approval				
Approve	15%	16%	15%	8%
Disapprove	59%	56%	63%	56%
Not sure	26%	28%	22%	35%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Ryan Favorability				
Favorable	41%	25%	63%	24%
Unfavorable	35%	52%	15%	36%
Not sure	24%	23%	21%	40%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Ryan Speaker Support/Oppose				
Support	49%	34%	70%	28%
Oppose	27%	38%	13%	33%
Not sure	24%	28%	16%	39%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Generic Congress Vote				
Democrat	43%	81%	5%	13%
Republican	45%	10%	85%	48%
Not sure	13%	10%	10%	39%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Background Checks Support/Oppose				
Support a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	86%	93%	82%	71%
Oppose a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	8%	4%	12%	13%
Not sure	6%	3%	6%	16%





	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Gay Marriage Impact				
Positive impact	20%	31%	8%	12%
Negative impact	28%	13%	44%	38%
No impact at all	52%	56%	49%	50%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Minimum Wage Increase Yes/No				
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour	22%	39%	4%	18%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour	20%	29%	10%	16%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour	31%	25%	39%	29%
Most support keeping the federal minimum wage at \$7.25 per h...	13%	2%	24%	18%
Most support eliminating the federal minimum wage altogether	11%	2%	19%	16%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	4%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
EPA Power Plant Plan Favor/Oppose				
Strongly favor	40%	68%	11%	30%
Somewhat favor	22%	19%	24%	26%
Somewhat oppose	12%	2%	23%	17%
Strongly oppose	18%	3%	35%	17%
Not sure	8%	8%	6%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Congress Approval						
Approve	12%	21%	13%	11%	9%	9%
Disapprove	76%	64%	81%	72%	82%	77%
Not sure	13%	15%	6%	17%	9%	14%





	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McConnell Approval						
Approve	15%	29%	12%	15%	13%	9%
Disapprove	59%	44%	62%	58%	59%	71%
Not sure	26%	28%	26%	28%	28%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Ryan Favorability						
Favorable	41%	26%	29%	34%	60%	52%
Unfavorable	35%	51%	48%	41%	16%	25%
Not sure	24%	23%	23%	24%	24%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Ryan Speaker Support/Oppose						
Support	49%	38%	34%	44%	65%	60%
Oppose	27%	41%	38%	29%	12%	21%
Not sure	24%	21%	28%	27%	23%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Congress Vote						
Democrat	43%	88%	74%	52%	8%	3%
Republican	45%	3%	16%	30%	79%	89%
Not sure	13%	9%	10%	18%	13%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Background Checks Support/Oppose						
Support a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	86%	91%	88%	91%	86%	72%
Oppose a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	8%	4%	9%	4%	9%	19%
Not sure	6%	5%	3%	6%	6%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage Impact						
Positive impact	20%	49%	32%	18%	6%	5%
Negative impact	28%	10%	11%	19%	32%	73%
No impact at all	52%	41%	57%	63%	62%	21%





	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Minimum Wage Increase Yes/No						
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour	22%	58%	25%	26%	7%	7%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour	20%	17%	37%	24%	9%	9%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour	31%	16%	29%	33%	43%	26%
Most support keeping the federal minimum wage at \$7.25 per h...	13%	4%	2%	7%	24%	27%
Most support eliminating the federal minimum wage altogether	11%	-	4%	7%	14%	29%
Not sure	3%	5%	4%	3%	3%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
EPA Power Plant Plan Favor/Oppose						
Strongly favor	40%	88%	68%	40%	16%	9%
Somewhat favor	22%	8%	15%	31%	28%	13%
Somewhat oppose	12%	1%	3%	10%	22%	20%
Strongly oppose	18%	0%	5%	9%	24%	53%
Not sure	8%	3%	8%	9%	9%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Congress Approval			
Approve	12%	12%	11%
Disapprove	76%	75%	77%
Not sure	13%	13%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McConnell Approval			
Approve	15%	11%	18%
Disapprove	59%	54%	65%
Not sure	26%	35%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ryan Favorability			
Favorable	41%	38%	45%
Unfavorable	35%	35%	35%
Not sure	24%	27%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ryan Speaker Support/Oppose			
Support	49%	44%	53%
Oppose	27%	29%	25%
Not sure	24%	27%	21%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Congress Vote			
Democrat	43%	47%	38%
Republican	45%	39%	51%
Not sure	13%	15%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Background Checks Support/Oppose			
Support a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	86%	90%	81%
Oppose a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	8%	4%	13%
Not sure	6%	5%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage Impact			
Positive impact	20%	22%	16%
Negative impact	28%	23%	34%
No impact at all	52%	54%	50%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Minimum Wage Increase Yes/No			
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour	22%	24%	20%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour	20%	21%	17%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour	31%	34%	28%
Most support keeping the federal minimum wage at \$7.25 per h...	13%	11%	16%
Most support eliminating the federal minimum wage altogether	11%	7%	15%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
EPA Power Plant Plan Favor/Oppose			
Strongly favor	40%	47%	33%
Somewhat favor	22%	22%	21%
Somewhat oppose	12%	8%	16%
Strongly oppose	18%	11%	26%
Not sure	8%	11%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Congress Approval				
Approve	12%	13%	14%	7%
Disapprove	76%	72%	75%	82%
Not sure	13%	15%	11%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
McConnell Approval				
Approve	15%	18%	15%	9%
Disapprove	59%	53%	62%	65%
Not sure	26%	29%	23%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Ryan Favorability				
Favorable	41%	24%	62%	41%
Unfavorable	35%	50%	15%	38%
Not sure	24%	26%	23%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Ryan Speaker Support/Oppose				
Support	49%	35%	69%	43%
Oppose	27%	36%	14%	31%
Not sure	24%	29%	17%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Generic Congress Vote				
Democrat	43%	80%	5%	32%
Republican	45%	10%	88%	43%
Not sure	13%	10%	7%	26%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Background Checks Support/Oppose				
Support a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	86%	93%	82%	81%
Oppose a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	8%	4%	13%	10%
Not sure	6%	3%	5%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Gay Marriage Impact				
Positive impact	20%	29%	9%	18%
Negative impact	28%	14%	46%	28%
No impact at all	52%	57%	45%	54%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Minimum Wage Increase Yes/No				
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour	22%	36%	9%	18%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour	20%	26%	11%	20%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour	31%	27%	38%	30%
Most support keeping the federal minimum wage at \$7.25 per h...	13%	4%	23%	14%
Most support eliminating the federal minimum wage altogether	11%	4%	16%	14%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
EPA Power Plant Plan Favor/Oppose				
Strongly favor	40%	62%	17%	38%
Somewhat favor	22%	22%	25%	19%
Somewhat oppose	12%	2%	19%	18%
Strongly oppose	18%	5%	34%	18%
Not sure	8%	9%	5%	8%





	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Congress Approval					
Approve	12%	29%	10%	6%	12%
Disapprove	76%	50%	82%	65%	67%
Not sure	13%	21%	8%	29%	21%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
McConnell Approval					
Approve	15%	22%	15%	11%	9%
Disapprove	59%	55%	61%	56%	55%
Not sure	26%	24%	25%	33%	37%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Ryan Favorability					
Favorable	41%	54%	46%	13%	21%
Unfavorable	35%	38%	30%	60%	48%
Not sure	24%	7%	25%	27%	32%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Ryan Speaker Support/Oppose					
Support	49%	59%	54%	21%	24%
Oppose	27%	31%	23%	43%	38%
Not sure	24%	10%	23%	35%	38%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Generic Congress Vote					
Democrat	43%	59%	34%	79%	43%
Republican	45%	30%	53%	10%	38%
Not sure	13%	11%	13%	11%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Background Checks Support/Oppose					
Support a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	86%	88%	85%	90%	90%
Oppose a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	8%	12%	9%	1%	6%
Not sure	6%	-	6%	9%	4%





	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Gay Marriage Impact					
Positive impact	20%	35%	19%	8%	16%
Negative impact	28%	24%	30%	23%	30%
No impact at all	52%	41%	51%	68%	55%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Minimum Wage Increase Yes/No					
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour	22%	35%	16%	46%	29%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour	20%	26%	17%	28%	19%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour	31%	28%	35%	20%	18%
Most support keeping the federal minimum wage at \$7.25 per h...	13%	1%	16%	-	18%
Most support eliminating the federal minimum wage altogether	11%	8%	13%	-	6%
Not sure	3%	2%	2%	6%	10%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
EPA Power Plant Plan Favor/Oppose					
Strongly favor	40%	39%	36%	64%	47%
Somewhat favor	22%	40%	22%	12%	8%
Somewhat oppose	12%	4%	14%	4%	16%
Strongly oppose	18%	16%	21%	2%	22%
Not sure	8%	2%	6%	19%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Congress Approval					
Approve	12%	27%	15%	7%	7%
Disapprove	76%	41%	69%	86%	85%
Not sure	13%	32%	16%	7%	7%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McConnell Approval					
Approve	15%	24%	14%	12%	15%
Disapprove	59%	33%	53%	68%	66%
Not sure	26%	43%	33%	20%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ryan Favorability					
Favorable	41%	40%	39%	40%	46%
Unfavorable	35%	35%	37%	36%	30%
Not sure	24%	25%	24%	23%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ryan Speaker Support/Oppose					
Support	49%	55%	45%	46%	56%
Oppose	27%	18%	31%	30%	21%
Not sure	24%	28%	24%	24%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Congress Vote					
Democrat	43%	51%	43%	40%	42%
Republican	45%	37%	42%	47%	48%
Not sure	13%	12%	15%	13%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Background Checks Support/Oppose					
Support a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	86%	84%	84%	86%	89%
Oppose a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	8%	10%	8%	9%	6%
Not sure	6%	6%	8%	4%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage Impact					
Positive impact	20%	28%	30%	14%	13%
Negative impact	28%	29%	24%	31%	29%
No impact at all	52%	44%	46%	56%	59%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Minimum Wage Increase Yes/No					
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour	22%	36%	24%	18%	20%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour	20%	13%	18%	20%	24%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour	31%	29%	30%	32%	31%
Most support keeping the federal minimum wage at \$7.25 per h...	13%	9%	14%	14%	12%
Most support eliminating the federal minimum wage altogether	11%	4%	12%	12%	10%
Not sure	3%	8%	2%	3%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
EPA Power Plant Plan Favor/Oppose					
Strongly favor	40%	41%	38%	41%	43%
Somewhat favor	22%	18%	30%	20%	18%
Somewhat oppose	12%	9%	10%	14%	13%
Strongly oppose	18%	19%	11%	21%	20%
Not sure	8%	13%	11%	4%	7%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Congress Approval			
Approve	12%	7%	29%
Disapprove	76%	83%	46%
Not sure	13%	9%	25%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
McConnell Approval			
Approve	15%	12%	25%
Disapprove	59%	67%	29%
Not sure	26%	21%	46%





	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Ryan Favorability			
Favorable	41%	44%	30%
Unfavorable	35%	36%	34%
Not sure	24%	21%	36%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Ryan Speaker Support/Oppose			
Support	49%	50%	43%
Oppose	27%	28%	23%
Not sure	24%	22%	34%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Generic Congress Vote			
Democrat	43%	40%	53%
Republican	45%	49%	26%
Not sure	13%	11%	21%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Background Checks Support/Oppose			
Support a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	86%	86%	85%
Oppose a criminal background check for everyone who wants to buy a firearm	8%	8%	9%
Not sure	6%	5%	6%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Gay Marriage Impact			
Positive impact	20%	15%	36%
Negative impact	28%	31%	16%
No impact at all	52%	53%	48%





	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
Minimum Wage Increase Yes/No			
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour	22%	19%	34%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour	20%	18%	27%
Most support increasing the federal minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour	31%	34%	20%
Most support keeping the federal minimum wage at \$7.25 per h...	13%	15%	6%
Most support eliminating the federal minimum wage altogether	11%	12%	4%
Not sure	3%	2%	9%

	Base	Mode	
		Phone	Internet
EPA Power Plant Plan Favor/Oppose			
Strongly favor	40%	41%	40%
Somewhat favor	22%	19%	32%
Somewhat oppose	12%	14%	6%
Strongly oppose	18%	22%	3%
Not sure	8%	5%	18%

