

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Republicans tighten generic ballot**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – The approval ratings of Democrats in Congress are dropping to a point where they're almost as bad as the Republicans, and the result of that is a tightening of the generic Congressional ballot as we head toward 2010.

59% of voters disapprove of the job Congressional Democrats are doing, compared to 61% who disapprove of Congressional Republicans. In PPP's November survey 52% disapproved of the Democrats and 57% the Republicans. The fact that approval ratings are dropping for both parties in Congress is a pretty good indication of how unpopular the body is right now.

On the generic ballot Democrats lead 44-42, down from 46-38 a month ago. Republicans are more unified with voters planning to stick with their party by a margin of 86-7, while Democrats commit to theirs by only an 81-10 spread. Independents are almost evenly divided with 35% planning to go Democratic, 33% Republican, and 32% undecided.

One thing that may eventually work against Democrats is that 50% of voters think they have too much power right now compared to 41% who think they don't. A majority of independents and even 18% of Democrats hold that belief.

“Republicans are more and more in position to pick up a lot of Congressional seats next year,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The tide continues to turn against the Democrats and that's putting some districts that haven't been close in quite a while into the competitive category.”

There have been several recent Democratic retirements in key swing districts.

PPP conducted a national survey of 1,253 registered voters from December 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.8%. 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](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Tom Jensen at 919-744-6312.

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## National Survey Results

**Q1** If the election for Congress was today would you vote for a Democrat or a Republican? If a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Democrat* ..... 44%  
*Republican*..... 42%  
*Undecided*..... 14%

**Q2** 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* ..... 28%  
*Disapprove*..... 59%  
*Not Sure*..... 13%

**Q3** 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* ..... 24%  
*Disapprove*..... 61%  
*Not Sure*..... 15%

**Q4** Do you think Democrats in Washington have too much power right now? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Yes* ..... 50%  
*No*..... 40%  
*Not Sure*..... 10%

**Q5** 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*..... 45%  
*Obama*..... 47%  
*Someone else/don't remember*..... 8%

**Q6** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 18%  
*Moderate*..... 41%  
*Conservative*..... 41%

**Q7** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 53%  
*Man*..... 47%

**Q8** 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*..... 39%  
*Republican*..... 34%  
*Independent/Other*..... 27%

**Q9** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

*Hispanic*..... 8%  
*White* ..... 74%  
*African American* ..... 13%  
*Other*..... 4%

**Q10** 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*..... 10%  
*30 to 45*..... 25%  
*46 to 65*..... 46%  
*Older than 65*..... 19%

**Q11**

*Northeast* ..... 24%  
*South* ..... 27%  
*Midwest* ..... 33%  
*West* ..... 16%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>Generic Ballot</b>				
Democrat	44%	10%	80%	15%
Republican	42%	78%	7%	42%
Undecided	14%	11%	12%	42%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>Congressional Dems Approval</b>				
Approve	28%	6%	53%	4%
Disapprove	59%	90%	27%	74%
Not Sure	13%	3%	21%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>Congressional GOP Approval</b>				
Approve	24%	44%	5%	29%
Disapprove	61%	39%	84%	42%
Not Sure	15%	17%	11%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
<b>Dems Too Much Power</b>				
Yes	50%	87%	11%	71%
No	40%	5%	78%	10%
Not Sure	10%	8%	11%	19%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Generic Ballot</b>				
Democrat	44%	83%	57%	14%
Republican	42%	5%	26%	74%
Undecided	14%	12%	17%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Congressional Dems Approval</b>				
Approve	28%	60%	34%	8%
Disapprove	59%	23%	47%	87%
Not Sure	13%	17%	19%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Congressional GOP Approval</b>				
Approve	24%	6%	14%	42%
Disapprove	61%	84%	71%	40%
Not Sure	15%	10%	15%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Dems Too Much Power</b>				
Yes	50%	14%	30%	85%
No	40%	75%	56%	9%
Not Sure	10%	11%	14%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Generic Ballot</b>			
Democrat	44%	48%	39%
Republican	42%	39%	46%
Undecided	14%	14%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Congressional Dems Approval</b>			
Approve	28%	37%	18%
Disapprove	59%	49%	71%
Not Sure	13%	14%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Congressional GOP Approval</b>			
Approve	24%	24%	24%
Disapprove	61%	59%	62%
Not Sure	15%	17%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dems Too Much Power</b>			
Yes	50%	44%	57%
No	40%	43%	37%
Not Sure	10%	14%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Generic Ballot</b>				
Democrat	44%	81%	7%	35%
Republican	42%	10%	86%	33%
Undecided	14%	8%	7%	32%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Congressional Dems Approval</b>				
Approve	28%	55%	4%	19%
Disapprove	59%	27%	91%	66%
Not Sure	13%	18%	4%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Congressional GOP Approval</b>				
Approve	24%	9%	48%	17%
Disapprove	61%	77%	35%	69%
Not Sure	15%	14%	17%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Dems Too Much Power</b>				
Yes	50%	18%	87%	49%
No	40%	70%	5%	41%
Not Sure	10%	12%	8%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Generic Ballot</b>					
Democrat	44%	58%	35%	82%	47%
Republican	42%	32%	50%	9%	20%
Undecided	14%	11%	15%	9%	33%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Congressional Dems Approval</b>					
Approve	28%	32%	21%	59%	41%
Disapprove	59%	53%	66%	27%	41%
Not Sure	13%	16%	12%	14%	17%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Congressional GOP Approval</b>					
Approve	24%	21%	28%	5%	24%
Disapprove	61%	63%	55%	91%	48%
Not Sure	15%	16%	16%	5%	28%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Dems Too Much Power</b>					
Yes	50%	26%	58%	18%	43%
No	40%	58%	33%	68%	43%
Not Sure	10%	16%	9%	14%	13%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Generic Ballot</b>					
Democrat	44%	50%	44%	43%	43%
Republican	42%	36%	43%	41%	45%
Undecided	14%	14%	12%	16%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Congressional Dems Approval</b>					
Approve	28%	34%	36%	26%	19%
Disapprove	59%	51%	53%	62%	65%
Not Sure	13%	14%	11%	12%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Congressional GOP Approval</b>					
Approve	24%	26%	23%	22%	31%
Disapprove	61%	56%	62%	64%	53%
Not Sure	15%	19%	16%	14%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Dems Too Much Power</b>					
Yes	50%	45%	48%	49%	57%
No	40%	44%	42%	40%	36%
Not Sure	10%	11%	10%	11%	7%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
<b>Generic Ballot</b>					
Democrat	44%	57%	34%	38%	52%
Republican	42%	28%	48%	51%	33%
Undecided	14%	15%	17%	11%	15%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
<b>Congressional Dems Approval</b>					
Approve	28%	27%	24%	30%	32%
Disapprove	59%	54%	62%	61%	55%
Not Sure	13%	18%	14%	8%	13%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
<b>Congressional GOP Approval</b>					
Approve	24%	16%	30%	29%	17%
Disapprove	61%	67%	49%	60%	72%
Not Sure	15%	16%	21%	12%	11%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
<b>Dems Too Much Power</b>					
Yes	50%	38%	60%	57%	35%
No	40%	52%	29%	36%	49%
Not Sure	10%	11%	10%	7%	16%

