

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312

**IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL [information@publicpolicypolling.com](mailto:information@publicpolicypolling.com), OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

### **Cruz leads national Republican field**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – PPP's newest national poll finds Ted Cruz is now the top choice of Republican primary voters to be their candidate for President in 2016. He leads the way with 20% to 17% for Rand Paul, 14% for Chris Christie, 11% for Jeb Bush, 10% each for Marco Rubio and Paul Ryan, 4% for Bobby Jindal, and 3% each for Rick Santorum and Scott Walker.

Cruz has gained 8 points since our last national 2016 poll in July while everyone else has more or less stayed in place. He's made himself the face of a government shutdown over Obamacare, and the Republican base supports that by a 64/20 margin. It's not surprising that Republicans identifying as 'very conservative' support a shutdown 75/10, but even the moderate wing of the party supports it by a 46/36 margin.

Cruz is leading the GOP field based especially on his appeal to 'very conservative' primary voters, who he gets 34% with 17% for Rand Paul and 12% for Paul Ryan. Voters who fall into that ideological group make up the largest portion of the Republican electorate at 39%. With moderates Cruz gets only 4% with Christie leading at 34% to 12% for Jeb Bush and 10% for Marco Rubio, but they only account for 18% of GOP voters and thus aren't all that relevant to Cruz's prospects for winning a Republican nomination.

Our numbers also suggest that Cruz is now viewed more broadly as the leader of the Republican Party. When asked whether they trust Cruz or GOP leader Mitch McConnell more, Cruz wins out 49/13. When it comes to who's more trusted between Cruz and Speaker John Boehner, Cruz has a 51/20 advantage. And when it comes to Cruz and 2008 GOP nominee and Senate colleague John McCain, Cruz wins out 52/31. He now has more credibility with the GOP base than the folks who have been leading the party for years.

“Ted Cruz this week established himself as the grassroots hero of the Republican Party,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The party base has a lot more faith in him than their more official leaders like Mitch McConnell and John Boehner.”

PPP surveyed 743 Republican primary voters on September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error is +/-3.6%. This poll was not authorized or paid for by any campaign or political organization. PPP's surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



## National Survey Results

**Q1** Given the choices of Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Bobby Jindal, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, Paul Ryan, Rick Santorum, and Scott Walker, who would you most like to see as the GOP candidate for President in 2016?

<i>Jeb Bush</i> .....	11%
<i>Chris Christie</i> .....	14%
<i>Ted Cruz</i> .....	20%
<i>Bobby Jindal</i> .....	4%
<i>Rand Paul</i> .....	17%
<i>Marco Rubio</i> .....	10%
<i>Paul Ryan</i> .....	10%
<i>Rick Santorum</i> .....	3%
<i>Scott Walker</i> .....	3%
<i>Someone else/Not sure</i> .....	9%

**Q2** Who do you trust more: Ted Cruz or Mitch McConnell?

<i>Ted Cruz</i> .....	49%
<i>Mitch McConnell</i> .....	13%
<i>Not sure</i> .....	38%

**Q3** Who do you trust more: Ted Cruz or John Boehner?

<i>Ted Cruz</i> .....	51%
<i>John Boehner</i> .....	20%
<i>Not sure</i> .....	29%

**Q4** Who do you trust more: Ted Cruz or John McCain?

<i>Ted Cruz</i> .....	52%
<i>John McCain</i> .....	31%
<i>Not sure</i> .....	17%

**Q5** Would you support or oppose shutting down the government unless Obamacare is defunded?

<i>Support</i> .....	64%
<i>Oppose</i> .....	20%
<i>Not sure</i> .....	16%

**Q6** Do you think Twitter allows President Obama to go over the 140 character limit for a tweet, or not?

<i>Yes</i> .....	13%
<i>No</i> .....	36%
<i>Not sure</i> .....	52%

**Q7** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i> .....	1%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i> .....	4%
<i>Moderate</i> .....	18%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i> .....	37%
<i>Very conservative</i> .....	39%

**Q8** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i> .....	51%
<i>Man</i> .....	49%

**Q9** If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

<i>18 to 45</i> .....	30%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	46%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>2016 GOP Pres Preference</b>						
Jeb Bush	11%	12%	21%	12%	14%	7%
Chris Christie	14%	38%	19%	34%	12%	4%
Ted Cruz	20%	32%	16%	4%	13%	34%
Bobby Jindal	4%	-	2%	7%	3%	5%
Rand Paul	17%	6%	21%	9%	20%	17%
Marco Rubio	10%	-	2%	10%	11%	9%
Paul Ryan	10%	-	2%	6%	11%	12%
Rick Santorum	3%	-	2%	2%	3%	4%
Scott Walker	3%	-	-	6%	2%	2%
Someone else/Not sure	9%	13%	16%	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Trust Cruz or McConnell More?</b>						
Ted Cruz	49%	30%	30%	19%	47%	67%
Mitch McConnell	13%	17%	24%	24%	14%	6%
Not sure	38%	52%	46%	57%	39%	28%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Trust Cruz or Boehner More?</b>						
Ted Cruz	51%	62%	24%	30%	48%	66%
John Boehner	20%	12%	28%	32%	21%	13%
Not sure	29%	26%	49%	38%	31%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Trust Cruz or McCain More?</b>						
Ted Cruz	52%	51%	26%	25%	52%	69%
John McCain	31%	36%	49%	51%	28%	21%
Not sure	17%	13%	25%	24%	20%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Support/Oppose Gov't Shutdown Unless Obamacare Defunded</b>						
<b>Support</b>	64%	40%	37%	46%	64%	75%
<b>Oppose</b>	20%	51%	50%	36%	19%	10%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	9%	12%	19%	17%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Does Twitter Allow Obama Over 140 Characters?</b>						
<b>Yes</b>	13%	35%	16%	10%	12%	14%
<b>No</b>	36%	31%	45%	42%	33%	34%
<b>Not sure</b>	52%	35%	39%	48%	55%	53%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>2016 GOP Pres Preference</b>			
<b>Jeb Bush</b>	11%	10%	13%
<b>Chris Christie</b>	14%	16%	11%
<b>Ted Cruz</b>	20%	16%	24%
<b>Bobby Jindal</b>	4%	5%	4%
<b>Rand Paul</b>	17%	16%	18%
<b>Marco Rubio</b>	10%	10%	9%
<b>Paul Ryan</b>	10%	10%	9%
<b>Rick Santorum</b>	3%	4%	2%
<b>Scott Walker</b>	3%	2%	4%
<b>Someone else/Not sure</b>	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Trust Cruz or McConnell More?</b>			
<b>Ted Cruz</b>	49%	40%	57%
<b>Mitch McConnell</b>	13%	12%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	38%	47%	29%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Trust Cruz or Boehner More?</b>			
<b>Ted Cruz</b>	51%	44%	59%
<b>John Boehner</b>	20%	20%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	29%	36%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Trust Cruz or McCain More?</b>			
<b>Ted Cruz</b>	52%	44%	61%
<b>John McCain</b>	31%	33%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	23%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Support/Oppose Gov't Shutdown Unless Obamacare Defunded</b>			
<b>Support</b>	64%	57%	71%
<b>Oppose</b>	20%	19%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	24%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Does Twitter Allow Obama Over 140 Characters?</b>			
<b>Yes</b>	13%	11%	14%
<b>No</b>	36%	27%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	52%	62%	42%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>2016 GOP Pres Preference</b>				
Jeb Bush	11%	9%	12%	12%
Chris Christie	14%	11%	17%	11%
Ted Cruz	20%	16%	23%	19%
Bobby Jindal	4%	5%	2%	7%
Rand Paul	17%	20%	16%	16%
Marco Rubio	10%	7%	9%	13%
Paul Ryan	10%	15%	8%	6%
Rick Santorum	3%	2%	3%	4%
Scott Walker	3%	5%	1%	3%
Someone else/Not sure	9%	8%	9%	9%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Trust Cruz or McConnell More?</b>				
Ted Cruz	49%	45%	51%	49%
Mitch McConnell	13%	13%	12%	16%
Not sure	38%	43%	38%	35%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Trust Cruz or Boehner More?</b>				
Ted Cruz	51%	49%	55%	46%
John Boehner	20%	16%	17%	32%
Not sure	29%	34%	28%	23%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Trust Cruz or McCain More?</b>				
Ted Cruz	52%	46%	54%	57%
John McCain	31%	33%	30%	29%
Not sure	17%	21%	16%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Support/Oppose Gov't Shutdown Unless Obamacare Defunded</b>				
<b>Support</b>	<b>64%</b>	71%	63%	57%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>20%</b>	14%	22%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>16%</b>	15%	15%	19%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Does Twitter Allow Obama Over 140 Characters?</b>				
<b>Yes</b>	<b>13%</b>	9%	15%	13%
<b>No</b>	<b>36%</b>	37%	36%	34%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>52%</b>	54%	49%	53%

