



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Ensign in 2012**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – In a sign of the times more Nevada voters disapprove than approve of the job John Ensign is doing as a Senator, but that doesn't seem to have put him in a particularly perilous position looking toward 2012 anyway.

Ensign's approval rating is 38%, with 44% of voters in the state disapproving of the job he's doing. He gets good marks from 68% of Republicans but only 37% of independents and 15% of Democrats.

Despite that Ensign leads three potential Democratic opponents we tested against him in hypothetical match ups by margins ranging from 2 to 11 points.

Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman does best against Ensign, trailing 43-41. The incumbent has a 49-40 lead against Congresswoman Shelley Berkley and a 47-36 advantage over Secretary of State Ross Miller.

Despite the fact that independents disapprove of Ensign's job performance on balance, he holds a double digit lead over each of the Democratic candidates with them, perhaps an indication that unhappiness with President Obama and the party's health care plan outweighs concerns over Ensign's personal issues.

“John Ensign may not be dead in the water for reelection,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “In this political climate voters appear more concerned about how Ensign votes than they are about his marital infidelity. Whether that will still be the case two years from now remains to be seen but for now it appears he could be reelected.”

PPP surveyed 763 Nevada voters on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error is +/- 3.6%. 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 Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## Nevada Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator John Ensign's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve* ..... 38%  
*Disapprove*..... 44%  
*Not Sure*..... 18%

**Q2** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Republican John Ensign and Democrat Shelley Berkley, who would you vote for? If John Ensign, press 1. If Shelley Berkley, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Ensign*..... 49%  
*Berkley*..... 40%  
*Undecided*..... 11%

**Q3** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Republican John Ensign and Democrat Oscar Goodman, who would you vote for? If John Ensign, press 1. If Oscar Goodman, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Ensign*..... 43%  
*Goodman*..... 41%  
*Undecided*..... 16%

**Q4** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Republican John Ensign and Democrat Ross Miller, who would you vote for? If John Ensign, press 1. If Ross Miller, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Ensign*..... 47%  
*Miller*..... 36%  
*Undecided*..... 18%

**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*..... 41%  
*Obama*..... 49%  
*Someone Else/Don't Remember*..... 10%

**Q6** If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 17%  
*Moderate*..... 45%  
*Conservative*..... 38%

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

*Woman* ..... 51%  
*Man*..... 49%

**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*..... 42%  
*Republican*..... 35%  
*Independent/Other*..... 22%

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

*Hispanic*..... 17%  
*White* ..... 69%  
*African American* ..... 8%  
*Other*..... 6%

**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*..... 12%  
*30 to 45*..... 28%  
*46 to 65*..... 38%  
*Older than 65*..... 22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Ensign Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	38%	69%	14%	34%
<b>Disapprove</b>	44%	18%	66%	38%
<b>Not Sure</b>	18%	13%	19%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Ensign/Berkley</b>				
<b>Ensign</b>	49%	84%	18%	57%
<b>Berkley</b>	40%	7%	71%	24%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	9%	12%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Ensign/Goodman</b>				
<b>Ensign</b>	43%	77%	14%	49%
<b>Goodman</b>	41%	12%	70%	17%
<b>Undecided</b>	16%	10%	16%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Ensign/Miller</b>				
<b>Ensign</b>	47%	83%	13%	60%
<b>Miller</b>	36%	6%	66%	13%
<b>Undecided</b>	18%	11%	21%	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Ensign Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>38%</b>	17%	28%	61%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>44%</b>	65%	53%	22%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	17%	19%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Ensign/Berkley</b>				
<b>Ensign</b>	<b>49%</b>	21%	35%	78%
<b>Berkley</b>	<b>40%</b>	69%	54%	10%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	10%	12%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Ensign/Goodman</b>				
<b>Ensign</b>	<b>43%</b>	16%	30%	72%
<b>Goodman</b>	<b>41%</b>	69%	52%	15%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>16%</b>	15%	18%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Ensign/Miller</b>				
<b>Ensign</b>	<b>47%</b>	18%	33%	75%
<b>Miller</b>	<b>36%</b>	71%	43%	11%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>18%</b>	11%	24%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Ensign Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	38%	37%	40%
<b>Disapprove</b>	44%	44%	43%
<b>Not Sure</b>	18%	19%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Ensign/Berkley</b>			
<b>Ensign</b>	49%	43%	54%
<b>Berkley</b>	40%	44%	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	12%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Ensign/Goodman</b>			
<b>Ensign</b>	43%	39%	48%
<b>Goodman</b>	41%	43%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	16%	18%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Ensign/Miller</b>			
<b>Ensign</b>	47%	40%	54%
<b>Miller</b>	36%	39%	32%
<b>Undecided</b>	18%	21%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Ensign Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	38%	15%	68%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	44%	65%	19%	43%
<b>Not Sure</b>	18%	20%	13%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Ensign/Berkley</b>				
<b>Ensign</b>	49%	19%	82%	53%
<b>Berkley</b>	40%	71%	10%	28%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	10%	9%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Ensign/Goodman</b>				
<b>Ensign</b>	43%	15%	77%	44%
<b>Goodman</b>	41%	68%	15%	31%
<b>Undecided</b>	16%	17%	8%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Ensign/Miller</b>				
<b>Ensign</b>	47%	16%	81%	52%
<b>Miller</b>	36%	66%	10%	18%
<b>Undecided</b>	18%	18%	10%	30%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Ensign Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	38%	23%	44%	17%	48%
<b>Disapprove</b>	44%	50%	42%	52%	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	18%	27%	14%	30%	13%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Ensign/Berkley</b>					
<b>Ensign</b>	49%	36%	54%	26%	56%
<b>Berkley</b>	40%	55%	34%	61%	33%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	9%	12%	13%	11%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Ensign/Goodman</b>					
<b>Ensign</b>	43%	34%	48%	17%	54%
<b>Goodman</b>	41%	55%	36%	57%	31%
<b>Undecided</b>	16%	11%	16%	26%	15%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
<b>Ensign/Miller</b>					
<b>Ensign</b>	47%	34%	51%	27%	56%
<b>Miller</b>	36%	48%	33%	41%	28%
<b>Undecided</b>	18%	18%	16%	32%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Ensign Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>38%</b>	38%	38%	38%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>44%</b>	35%	44%	47%	44%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	27%	18%	15%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Ensign/Berkley</b>					
<b>Ensign</b>	<b>49%</b>	46%	48%	53%	44%
<b>Berkley</b>	<b>40%</b>	39%	40%	38%	43%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	15%	13%	8%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Ensign/Goodman</b>					
<b>Ensign</b>	<b>43%</b>	42%	39%	48%	42%
<b>Goodman</b>	<b>41%</b>	36%	46%	39%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>16%</b>	22%	16%	12%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Ensign/Miller</b>					
<b>Ensign</b>	<b>47%</b>	42%	43%	53%	43%
<b>Miller</b>	<b>36%</b>	37%	36%	35%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>18%</b>	21%	22%	12%	20%

