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Reed, Langevin popular in RI; Chafee, Cicilline not

Raleigh, N.C. – Despite narrowly besting both the Democratic and Republican nominees last fall, independent Lincoln Chafee starts out near the bottom third of the 41 governors whose approval ratings PPP has measured in the last year. He has a 38-44 margin about a month into his term. That puts him about where Ohio's Ted Strickland was last December, a month after he lost re-election. Despite being the scion of an old Republican family, Republicans give Chafee the worst marks, 10-84, and Democrats give him the best, 53-24. What really hurts him is that the 45% independent plurality, who one would expect would embrace him, instead disapprove by a 34-51 ratio.

Rhode Island is one of the bluest states in the nation, but the Democrat who ran against Chafee and Republican John Robitaille placed third. Frank Caprio has only a 29-46 favorability rating. The 41% who call themselves Democrats do not give him much better marks, 33-42, and both Republicans and independents disapprove by -22 margins.

Ex-congressman Patrick Kennedy is only narrowly disliked, 43-47. The two-thirds of Democrats who like him offset the 87% of Republicans and 58% of independents who do not.

The man who replaced Kennedy in the House, newly elected Rep. David Cicilline, is pretty unpopular so far, with a 34-47 grade statewide. Two-thirds of Republicans and 56% of independents have unfavorable views, stronger negative sentiment than the 50% of his own party who look at him favorably.

Rhode Island's other congressman is pretty overwhelmingly popular, however. James Langevin posts a 50-29, including a 62-17 breakdown in his own ranks and 47-34 with independents. Even 23% of Republicans have a positive opinion of Langevin.

But no one is better liked in the state than senior Senator Jack Reed. In fact, with a 60-27 approval rating, no one but Wyoming's delegation is more popular with his own constituents out of the 82 senators on which PPP has polled in the last 13 months. At 78-9, Reed's Democrats are pretty unanimously in his corner, joined by 56% of independents. Even 22% of Republicans approve of the job he is doing in D.C.

PPP surveyed 544 Rhode Island voters from February 16th to 22nd. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.2%. 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.



Rhode Island Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Lincoln Chafee's job performance?

Approve..... 38% Not sure 17%
Disapprove..... 44%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jack Reed's job performance?

Approve 60%
Disapprove..... 27%
Not sure 12%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Frank Caprio?

Favorable..... 29%
Unfavorable 46%
Not sure 25%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of David Cicilline?

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 18%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Patrick Kennedy?

Favorable..... 43%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 10%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of James Langevin?

Favorable..... 50%
Unfavorable 29%
Not sure 21%

Q7 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 31%
Barack Obama..... 58%
Someone else/Don't remember 12%

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

Woman 55%
Man..... 45%

Q9 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..... 14%
Independent/Other..... 45%

Q10 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 86%
Other..... 14%

Q11 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..... 30%
46 to 65..... 40%
Older than 65..... 18%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Chafee Approval				
Approve	38%	12%	56%	19%
Disapprove	44%	81%	22%	58%
Not sure	17%	7%	22%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Reed Approval				
Approve	60%	36%	78%	37%
Disapprove	27%	51%	11%	45%
Not sure	12%	13%	11%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Caprio Favorability				
Favorable	29%	33%	27%	31%
Unfavorable	46%	43%	47%	44%
Not sure	25%	24%	26%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cicilline Favorability				
Favorable	34%	15%	49%	16%
Unfavorable	47%	69%	33%	59%
Not sure	18%	16%	18%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Kennedy Favorability				
Favorable	43%	13%	63%	25%
Unfavorable	47%	81%	26%	61%
Not sure	10%	6%	11%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Langevin Favorability				
Favorable	50%	35%	63%	25%
Unfavorable	29%	43%	17%	51%
Not sure	21%	22%	19%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Chafee Approval			
Approve	38%	45%	31%
Disapprove	44%	38%	52%
Not sure	17%	18%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Reed Approval			
Approve	60%	68%	51%
Disapprove	27%	17%	39%
Not sure	12%	14%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Caprio Favorability			
Favorable	29%	29%	28%
Unfavorable	46%	42%	50%
Not sure	25%	28%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cicilline Favorability			
Favorable	34%	42%	25%
Unfavorable	47%	35%	62%
Not sure	18%	23%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kennedy Favorability			
Favorable	43%	49%	36%
Unfavorable	47%	39%	57%
Not sure	10%	12%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Langevin Favorability			
Favorable	50%	54%	45%
Unfavorable	29%	22%	39%
Not sure	21%	24%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Chafee Approval				
Approve	38%	53%	10%	34%
Disapprove	44%	24%	84%	51%
Not sure	17%	23%	5%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Reed Approval				
Approve	60%	78%	22%	56%
Disapprove	27%	9%	58%	35%
Not sure	12%	14%	20%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Caprio Favorability				
Favorable	29%	33%	23%	27%
Unfavorable	46%	42%	45%	49%
Not sure	25%	24%	32%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cicilline Favorability				
Favorable	34%	50%	19%	25%
Unfavorable	47%	30%	67%	56%
Not sure	18%	20%	13%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kennedy Favorability				
Favorable	43%	67%	6%	32%
Unfavorable	47%	22%	87%	58%
Not sure	10%	11%	7%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Langevin Favorability				
Favorable	50%	62%	23%	47%
Unfavorable	29%	17%	54%	34%
Not sure	21%	22%	23%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Chafee Approval			
Approve	38%	39%	38%
Disapprove	44%	45%	39%
Not sure	17%	16%	24%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Reed Approval			
Approve	60%	61%	59%
Disapprove	27%	28%	25%
Not sure	12%	12%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Caprio Favorability			
Favorable	29%	30%	24%
Unfavorable	46%	45%	51%
Not sure	25%	26%	25%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cicilline Favorability			
Favorable	34%	34%	35%
Unfavorable	47%	48%	45%
Not sure	18%	18%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Kennedy Favorability			
Favorable	43%	41%	55%
Unfavorable	47%	49%	34%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Langevin Favorability			
Favorable	50%	49%	53%
Unfavorable	29%	30%	23%
Not sure	21%	20%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Chafee Approval					
Approve	38%	43%	36%	42%	33%
Disapprove	44%	37%	45%	44%	49%
Not sure	17%	20%	19%	15%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Reed Approval					
Approve	60%	52%	59%	64%	60%
Disapprove	27%	28%	26%	27%	28%
Not sure	12%	21%	15%	8%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Caprio Favorability					
Favorable	29%	37%	32%	25%	27%
Unfavorable	46%	43%	39%	52%	44%
Not sure	25%	20%	29%	22%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cicilline Favorability					
Favorable	34%	30%	32%	36%	38%
Unfavorable	47%	47%	53%	44%	44%
Not sure	18%	23%	16%	19%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kennedy Favorability					
Favorable	43%	40%	44%	41%	48%
Unfavorable	47%	47%	51%	46%	44%
Not sure	10%	13%	5%	13%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Langevin Favorability					
Favorable	50%	43%	48%	53%	49%
Unfavorable	29%	30%	27%	30%	31%
Not sure	21%	27%	24%	17%	20%

