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

Graham in trouble with SC GOP base, Sanford has no support

Raleigh, N.C. – With the GOP’s true believers, Senator Lindsey Graham has a reputation of being conciliatory toward the administration and working too often with Democrats and moderate Republicans. As such, while a 45% plurality of South Carolina Republican primary voters see his views as “about right,” an almost equal 42% view him as too liberal. Two-thirds of the state’s primary electorate label themselves conservative, and 53% of them see Graham as too liberal, while only 38% say “about right.”

It is hard to get good marks from your base if they see you as not standing up for what is right. When PPP last gauged his standing in June 2010, Graham had a 40-45 job approval rating with Palmetto State Republicans; those are only mediocre even among the electorate at large, and horrid for an intraparty rating. Graham now stands at 42-40, but that is still a stark contrast to junior colleague Jim DeMint’s 77-12. Graham sits at only 35-48 with conservatives, essentially unchanged from June’s 35-51.

Being unpopular within your party is no recipe for being assured re-nomination, and if his voters had the choice of “a more conservative challenger,” 52% would go for that candidate, with only 37% pledging for Graham. Last June, it was a slightly larger 57-32 deficit. Graham romps with moderates, 63-23, but that is flipped, 66-24 for the challenger, with conservatives.

Prior to his personal mess going public, ex-governor Mark Sanford would have been a natural choice to challenge Graham. But now a 46% plurality of even his own party would not vote for Sanford in a prospective future run. Despite all Graham’s problems, even he would beat Sanford, 52-34. Graham would not, however, be so lucky against Congressman Joe “You lie!” Wilson, who would edge Graham, 43-41. Roughly 60% of moderates favor Graham in either matchup, but while even conservatives go for him, 46-39, against Sanford, Wilson takes the rightmost voters, 52-31.

“Lindsey Graham should thank God his next race is not until 2014,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “He’d be in good shape in November, but at this rate, he’d be lucky to survive that far.”

PPP surveyed 559 South Carolina Republican primary voters from January 28th to 30th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.1%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



South Carolina Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Lindsey Graham's job performance?

Approve 42%
Disapprove..... 40%
Not sure 18%

Q2 Do you think Lindsey Graham is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal 42%
Too conservative..... 4%
About right 45%
Not sure 8%

Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the work Mark Sanford did during his eight years as Governor?

Approve 56%
Disapprove..... 28%
Not sure 16%

Q4 If Mark Sanford ran for political office again in the future, would you definitely vote for him, consider voting for him, or definitely not vote for him?

Would definitely vote for him..... 14%
Would consider voting for him..... 39%
Would definitely not vote for him..... 46%
Not sure 1%

Q5 If the 2014 Republican primary for Senate was between Lindsey Graham and a more conservative challenger, who would you vote for?

Lindsey Graham 37%
More conservative challenger..... 52%
Not sure 11%

Q6 If the 2014 Republican primary for Senate was between Lindsey Graham and Mark Sanford, who would you vote for?

Lindsey Graham 52%
Mark Sanford..... 34%
Undecided..... 14%

Q7 If the 2014 Republican primary for Senate was between Lindsey Graham and Joe Wilson, who would you vote for?

Lindsey Graham 41%
Joe Wilson 43%
Undecided..... 16%

Q8 Do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party?

Support 78%
Oppose 6%
Not sure 16%

Q9 Do you consider yourself to be a member of the Tea Party?

Yes..... 32%
No..... 52%
Not sure 15%

Q10 Do you think the Republican Party is too conservative, too liberal, or about right?

Too conservative..... 10%
Too liberal 25%
About right 59%
Not sure 6%





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

Liberal..... 2%
Moderate..... 31%
Conservative..... 67%

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

Woman 47%
Man..... 53%

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..... 0%
Republican..... 81%
Independent/Other..... 18%

Q14 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..... 6%
30 to 45..... 26%
46 to 65..... 40%
Older than 65..... 28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Tea Party Support		
		Support	Oppose	Not sure
Graham Approval				
Approve	42%	36%	64%	62%
Disapprove	40%	47%	30%	14%
Not sure	18%	17%	6%	24%

	Base	Tea Party Support		
		Support	Oppose	Not sure
Graham Ideology				
Too liberal	43%	52%	10%	10%
Too conservative	4%	2%	21%	8%
About right	45%	39%	63%	65%
Not sure	8%	6%	6%	17%

	Base	Tea Party Support		
		Support	Oppose	Not sure
Sanford 8 Years Approval				
Approve	56%	61%	18%	48%
Disapprove	28%	24%	70%	29%
Not sure	16%	15%	13%	22%

	Base	Tea Party Support		
		Support	Oppose	Not sure
Support Sanford if Runs Again?				
Would definitely vote for him	14%	16%	6%	8%
Would consider voting for him	39%	40%	19%	40%
Would definitely not vote for him	46%	42%	75%	52%
Not sure	1%	2%	-	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Tea Party Support		
		Support	Oppose	Not sure
Graham vs. Con Challenger				
Lindsey Graham	36%	29%	75%	59%
More conservative challenger	52%	63%	12%	15%
Not sure	11%	8%	14%	25%

	Base	Tea Party Support		
		Support	Oppose	Not sure
Graham/Sanford				
Lindsey Graham	52%	46%	87%	65%
Mark Sanford	34%	39%	6%	22%
Undecided	14%	15%	8%	14%

	Base	Tea Party Support		
		Support	Oppose	Not sure
Graham/Wilson				
Lindsey Graham	41%	32%	80%	66%
Joe Wilson	43%	51%	14%	16%
Undecided	16%	17%	6%	19%

	Base	Tea Party ID		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Graham Approval				
Approve	42%	26%	50%	50%
Disapprove	40%	59%	31%	35%
Not sure	18%	15%	20%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Tea Party ID		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Graham Ideology				
Too liberal	42%	64%	32%	33%
Too conservative	4%	3%	6%	2%
About right	45%	30%	52%	52%
Not sure	8%	3%	10%	12%

	Base	Tea Party ID		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Sanford 8 Years Approval				
Approve	56%	71%	49%	50%
Disapprove	28%	18%	34%	26%
Not sure	16%	11%	17%	24%

	Base	Tea Party ID		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Support Sanford if Runs Again?				
Would definitely vote for him	14%	18%	11%	17%
Would consider voting for him	39%	41%	39%	35%
Would definitely not vote for him	46%	41%	49%	46%
Not sure	1%	1%	1%	2%

	Base	Tea Party ID		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Graham vs. Con Challenger				
Lindsey Graham	37%	18%	47%	42%
More conservative challenger	52%	76%	40%	42%
Not sure	11%	6%	13%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Tea Party ID		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Graham/Sanford				
Lindsey Graham	52%	36%	60%	58%
Mark Sanford	34%	49%	26%	30%
Undecided	14%	14%	14%	12%

	Base	Tea Party ID		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Graham/Wilson				
Lindsey Graham	41%	22%	52%	44%
Joe Wilson	43%	63%	32%	41%
Undecided	16%	16%	17%	15%

	Base	GOP Ideology			
		Too conservative	Too liberal	About right	Not sure
Graham Approval					
Approve	42%	57%	18%	49%	44%
Disapprove	40%	31%	70%	30%	37%
Not sure	18%	12%	11%	21%	19%

	Base	GOP Ideology			
		Too conservative	Too liberal	About right	Not sure
Graham Ideology					
Too liberal	42%	18%	78%	32%	39%
Too conservative	4%	20%	3%	3%	3%
About right	45%	62%	18%	55%	33%
Not sure	8%	-	1%	11%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	GOP Ideology			
		Too conservative	Too liberal	About right	Not sure
Sanford 8 Years Approval					
Approve	56%	37%	72%	54%	40%
Disapprove	28%	57%	19%	26%	37%
Not sure	16%	6%	8%	20%	23%

	Base	GOP Ideology			
		Too conservative	Too liberal	About right	Not sure
Support Sanford if Runs Again?					
Would definitely vote for him	14%	16%	16%	14%	3%
Would consider voting for him	39%	20%	39%	42%	40%
Would definitely not vote for him	46%	64%	43%	43%	54%
Not sure	1%	-	2%	1%	3%

	Base	GOP Ideology			
		Too conservative	Too liberal	About right	Not sure
Graham vs. Con Challenger					
Lindsey Graham	37%	64%	11%	43%	37%
More conservative challenger	52%	23%	82%	46%	33%
Not sure	11%	13%	7%	11%	30%

	Base	GOP Ideology			
		Too conservative	Too liberal	About right	Not sure
Graham/Sanford					
Lindsey Graham	52%	72%	27%	58%	60%
Mark Sanford	34%	13%	55%	31%	16%
Undecided	14%	14%	19%	11%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	GOP Ideology			
		Too conservative	Too liberal	About right	Not sure
Graham/Wilson					
Lindsey Graham	41%	67%	16%	47%	37%
Joe Wilson	43%	21%	66%	37%	43%
Undecided	16%	12%	18%	16%	19%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Graham Approval				
Approve	42%	80%	56%	35%
Disapprove	40%	-	26%	48%
Not sure	18%	20%	18%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Graham Ideology				
Too liberal	42%	49%	19%	53%
Too conservative	4%	-	11%	2%
About right	45%	51%	60%	38%
Not sure	8%	-	11%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Sanford 8 Years Approval				
Approve	56%	56%	46%	61%
Disapprove	28%	36%	35%	25%
Not sure	16%	9%	19%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Support Sanford if Runs Again?				
Would definitely vote for him	14%	40%	11%	15%
Would consider voting for him	39%	36%	37%	40%
Would definitely not vote for him	46%	24%	52%	44%
Not sure	1%	-	0%	2%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Graham vs. Con Challenger				
Lindsey Graham	37%	71%	63%	24%
More conservative challenger	52%	9%	23%	66%
Not sure	11%	20%	13%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Graham/Sanford				
Lindsey Graham	52%	71%	63%	46%
Mark Sanford	34%	29%	24%	39%
Undecided	14%	-	13%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Graham/Wilson				
Lindsey Graham	41%	78%	59%	31%
Joe Wilson	43%	22%	25%	52%
Undecided	16%	-	16%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Graham Approval			
Approve	42%	46%	39%
Disapprove	40%	31%	48%
Not sure	18%	23%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Graham Ideology			
Too liberal	42%	35%	49%
Too conservative	4%	3%	5%
About right	45%	51%	40%
Not sure	8%	11%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Sanford 8 Years Approval			
Approve	56%	55%	57%
Disapprove	28%	28%	28%
Not sure	16%	18%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support Sanford if Runs Again?			
Would definitely vote for him	14%	13%	15%
Would consider voting for him	39%	36%	41%
Would definitely not vote for him	46%	49%	43%
Not sure	1%	2%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Graham vs. Con Challenger			
Lindsey Graham	37%	41%	33%
More conservative challenger	52%	44%	59%
Not sure	11%	15%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Graham/Sanford			
Lindsey Graham	52%	55%	49%
Mark Sanford	34%	31%	37%
Undecided	14%	14%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Graham/Wilson			
Lindsey Graham	41%	44%	38%
Joe Wilson	43%	39%	47%
Undecided	16%	17%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Graham Approval				
Approve	42%	70%	44%	34%
Disapprove	40%	30%	39%	48%
Not sure	18%	-	17%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Graham Ideology				
Too liberal	42%	-	41%	49%
Too conservative	4%	30%	4%	6%
About right	45%	70%	47%	37%
Not sure	8%	-	8%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Sanford 8 Years Approval				
Approve	56%	-	58%	48%
Disapprove	28%	100%	27%	31%
Not sure	16%	-	15%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support Sanford if Runs Again?				
Would definitely vote for him	14%	-	16%	8%
Would consider voting for him	39%	-	40%	33%
Would definitely not vote for him	46%	100%	43%	58%
Not sure	1%	-	1%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Graham vs. Con Challenger				
Lindsey Graham	37%	70%	36%	37%
More conservative challenger	52%	-	53%	47%
Not sure	11%	30%	10%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Graham/Sanford				
Lindsey Graham	52%	70%	53%	48%
Mark Sanford	34%	-	34%	36%
Undecided	14%	30%	14%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Graham/Wilson				
Lindsey Graham	41%	100%	42%	35%
Joe Wilson	43%	-	41%	51%
Undecided	16%	-	17%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Graham Approval					
Approve	42%	31%	45%	41%	44%
Disapprove	40%	56%	36%	43%	37%
Not sure	18%	13%	19%	16%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Graham Ideology					
Too liberal	42%	56%	42%	43%	39%
Too conservative	4%	13%	1%	6%	4%
About right	45%	25%	47%	44%	49%
Not sure	8%	6%	9%	7%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Sanford 8 Years Approval					
Approve	56%	56%	56%	60%	52%
Disapprove	28%	25%	32%	28%	25%
Not sure	16%	19%	13%	13%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support Sanford if Runs Again?					
Would definitely vote for him	14%	19%	14%	13%	15%
Would consider voting for him	39%	50%	43%	34%	39%
Would definitely not vote for him	46%	31%	42%	51%	45%
Not sure	1%	-	1%	1%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Graham vs. Con Challenger					
Lindsey Graham	37%	38%	32%	37%	40%
More conservative challenger	52%	56%	57%	50%	49%
Not sure	11%	6%	11%	12%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Graham/Sanford					
Lindsey Graham	52%	50%	54%	46%	58%
Mark Sanford	34%	50%	32%	37%	28%
Undecided	14%	-	14%	17%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Graham/Wilson					
Lindsey Graham	41%	50%	38%	40%	42%
Joe Wilson	43%	50%	43%	42%	43%
Undecided	16%	-	19%	18%	15%

