

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 8, 2009**

**INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)**

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

## **DeMint favored for reelection, but not unbeatable**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Jim DeMint hasn't earned himself a lot of popularity beyond the Republican base in his first term as a Senator from South Carolina, but that's enough at this point to make him favored for reelection in 2010.

44% of voters in the state approve of the job DeMint is doing, with 29% disapproving. Tested against a generic Democratic candidate, DeMint leads 47-38.

On that generic ballot DeMint leads 79-7 with Republicans but trails 77-9 with Democrats and is up only 45-34 with independents. Those numbers are an indication he hasn't yet built up the sort of crossover support other GOP Senators from the state like Strom Thurmond and Lindsey Graham had.

The poll's results also hint at a potential line of attack Democrats may be able to use against DeMint next year. 41% of voters in the state think DeMint has been most focused on being a national leader in the conservative movement compared to 29% who think his top priority has been advocating for South Carolina. Perceptions of greater interest in national issues than state ones helped to sink Elizabeth Dole's Senate tenure after one term.

“Jim DeMint is certainly favored for reelection at this point but the race could be competitive if Democrats decide to devote significant resources here,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “He's below the 50% mark generally considered safe for an incumbent.”

Lindsey Graham's approval rating is 43%, with 35% of voters disapproving of him.

PPP surveyed 570 South Carolina voters from December 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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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## South Carolina Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve* ..... 46%  
*Disapprove*..... 49%  
*Not Sure*..... 5%

**Q2** Do you support or oppose the health care bill passed in the House of Representatives a few weeks ago? If you support it, press 1. If you oppose it, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Support* ..... 35%  
*Oppose* ..... 53%  
*Not Sure*..... 12%

**Q3** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Lindsey Graham's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve* .....43% *Not Sure*.....23%  
*Disapprove*.....35%

**Q4** Do you think that Lindsey Graham is too liberal, too conservative, or about right? If too liberal, press 1. If too conservative, press 2. If about right, press 3.

*Too Liberal*..... 29%  
*Too Conservative*..... 23%  
*About Right*..... 49%

**Q5** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jim DeMint's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve* ..... 44%  
*Disapprove*..... 29%  
*Not Sure*..... 27%

**Q6** Generally speaking, next year would you vote to reelect Republican Jim DeMint or vote for his Democratic opponent? If you would vote for DeMint, press 1. If you would vote for his Democratic opponent, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*DeMint* ..... 47%  
*Democrat*..... 38%  
*Not Sure*..... 16%

**Q7** Do you think that Jim DeMint is too liberal, too conservative, or about right? If too liberal, press 1. If too conservative, press 2. If about right, press 3.

*Too Liberal*..... 12%  
*Too Conservative*..... 32%  
*About Right*..... 56%

**Q8** Do you think that Jim DeMint is more focused on advocating for South Carolina in the US Senate or being a national leader in the conservative movement? If you think he is more focused on advocating for South Carolina, press 1. If you think he's more focused on being a national leader in the conservative movement, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Advocating for South Carolina* ..... 29%  
*National Leader in Conservative Movement* ... 41%  
*Not Sure*..... 29%

**Q9** 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*..... 51%  
*Obama*..... 41%  
*Someone Else/Don't Remember*..... 9%





**Q10** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 11%  
*Moderate*..... 43%  
*Conservative*..... 46%

**Q11** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 54%  
*Man*..... 46%

**Q12** 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* ..... 34%  
*Republican*..... 41%  
*Independent/Other*..... 25%

**Q13** If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 69%  
*African-American* ..... 26%  
*Other*..... 4%

**Q14** 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*..... 26%  
*46 to 65*..... 43%  
*Older than 65*..... 21%

**Q15**

*803*..... 37%  
*843*..... 35%  
*864*..... 29%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	46%	10%	91%	46%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	85%	6%	40%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	5%	3%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	35%	4%	75%	29%
<b>Oppose</b>	53%	90%	8%	40%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%	5%	17%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Graham Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	43%	49%	38%	25%
<b>Disapprove</b>	35%	33%	38%	34%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	18%	24%	42%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Graham Ideology</b>				
<b>Too Liberal</b>	29%	42%	12%	29%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	23%	7%	43%	21%
<b>About Right</b>	49%	51%	45%	50%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>DeMint Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	44%	67%	19%	24%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	11%	48%	44%
<b>Not Sure</b>	27%	22%	33%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Generic Ballot</b>				
<b>DeMint</b>	47%	81%	7%	34%
<b>Democrat</b>	38%	6%	76%	38%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	13%	17%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>DeMint Ideology</b>				
<b>Too Liberal</b>	12%	9%	17%	12%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	32%	10%	60%	29%
<b>About Right</b>	56%	81%	24%	60%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>DeMint's Focus</b>				
<b>Advocating for South Carolina</b>	29%	42%	14%	24%
<b>National Leader in Conservative Movement</b>	41%	25%	60%	50%
<b>Not Sure</b>	29%	33%	26%	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>46%</b>	70%	63%	24%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>49%</b>	22%	30%	73%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>5%</b>	8%	6%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	<b>35%</b>	55%	52%	15%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>53%</b>	26%	33%	77%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>12%</b>	19%	15%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Graham Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>43%</b>	33%	45%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>35%</b>	38%	32%	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>23%</b>	29%	23%	20%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Graham Ideology</b>				
<b>Too Liberal</b>	<b>29%</b>	7%	18%	44%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	<b>23%</b>	60%	28%	9%
<b>About Right</b>	<b>49%</b>	34%	54%	47%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>DeMint Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	44%	17%	31%	62%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	48%	39%	15%
<b>Not Sure</b>	27%	35%	29%	24%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Generic Ballot</b>				
<b>DeMint</b>	47%	16%	28%	72%
<b>Democrat</b>	38%	74%	53%	14%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	10%	19%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>DeMint Ideology</b>				
<b>Too Liberal</b>	12%	10%	15%	11%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	32%	59%	46%	12%
<b>About Right</b>	56%	32%	39%	77%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>DeMint's Focus</b>				
<b>Advocating for South Carolina</b>	29%	11%	19%	43%
<b>National Leader in Conservative Movement</b>	41%	64%	52%	26%
<b>Not Sure</b>	29%	25%	28%	32%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	46%	49%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	44%	55%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	7%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Health Care</b>			
<b>Support</b>	35%	37%	33%
<b>Oppose</b>	53%	48%	58%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%	15%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Graham Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	43%	43%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	35%	29%	42%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	28%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Graham Ideology</b>			
<b>Too Liberal</b>	29%	23%	35%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	23%	24%	22%
<b>About Right</b>	49%	53%	44%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>DeMint Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	44%	39%	50%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	27%	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	27%	35%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Generic Ballot</b>			
<b>DeMint</b>	47%	41%	54%
<b>Democrat</b>	38%	44%	30%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	16%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>DeMint Ideology</b>			
<b>Too Liberal</b>	12%	13%	12%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	32%	34%	29%
<b>About Right</b>	56%	53%	59%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>DeMint's Focus</b>			
<b>Advocating for South Carolina</b>	29%	25%	34%
<b>National Leader in Conservative Movement</b>	41%	41%	42%
<b>Not Sure</b>	29%	34%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	46%	85%	17%	41%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	12%	78%	51%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	3%	5%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	35%	70%	8%	32%
<b>Oppose</b>	53%	13%	85%	55%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%	18%	7%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Graham Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	43%	38%	46%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	35%	36%	34%	36%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	26%	20%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Graham Ideology</b>				
<b>Too Liberal</b>	29%	13%	41%	31%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	23%	44%	9%	16%
<b>About Right</b>	49%	43%	50%	53%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>DeMint Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	44%	22%	62%	45%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	43%	16%	31%
<b>Not Sure</b>	27%	35%	22%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Generic Ballot</b>				
<b>DeMint</b>	47%	9%	79%	45%
<b>Democrat</b>	38%	77%	7%	34%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	13%	14%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>DeMint Ideology</b>				
<b>Too Liberal</b>	12%	18%	10%	8%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	32%	52%	12%	37%
<b>About Right</b>	56%	30%	78%	56%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>DeMint's Focus</b>				
<b>Advocating for South Carolina</b>	29%	14%	44%	24%
<b>National Leader in Conservative Movement</b>	41%	56%	24%	51%
<b>Not Sure</b>	29%	29%	32%	25%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	46%	30%	87%	44%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	64%	9%	47%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	5%	4%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	35%	22%	67%	46%
<b>Oppose</b>	53%	68%	13%	49%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%	10%	20%	5%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Graham Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	43%	45%	34%	54%
<b>Disapprove</b>	35%	37%	30%	27%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	18%	36%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Graham Ideology</b>				
<b>Too Liberal</b>	29%	33%	17%	32%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	23%	19%	33%	24%
<b>About Right</b>	49%	48%	50%	43%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>DeMint Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	44%	51%	25%	46%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	25%	37%	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	27%	24%	37%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Generic Ballot</b>				
<b>DeMint</b>	47%	60%	12%	46%
<b>Democrat</b>	38%	27%	66%	41%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	13%	22%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>DeMint Ideology</b>				
<b>Too Liberal</b>	12%	8%	24%	14%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	32%	27%	45%	30%
<b>About Right</b>	56%	65%	32%	57%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>DeMint's Focus</b>				
<b>Advocating for South Carolina</b>	29%	34%	19%	22%
<b>National Leader in Conservative Movement</b>	41%	38%	51%	49%
<b>Not Sure</b>	29%	29%	31%	30%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	46%	44%	53%	46%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	47%	43%	50%	56%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	9%	4%	4%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Health Care</b>					
<b>Support</b>	35%	35%	43%	34%	28%
<b>Oppose</b>	53%	50%	47%	53%	62%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%	14%	11%	14%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Graham Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	43%	34%	41%	42%	50%
<b>Disapprove</b>	35%	38%	35%	38%	28%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	28%	24%	20%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Graham Ideology</b>					
<b>Too Liberal</b>	29%	26%	31%	31%	22%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	23%	22%	24%	23%	22%
<b>About Right</b>	49%	52%	45%	46%	56%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>DeMint Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	44%	31%	45%	42%	52%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	30%	25%	32%	27%
<b>Not Sure</b>	27%	40%	31%	26%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Generic Ballot</b>					
<b>DeMint</b>	47%	46%	39%	45%	61%
<b>Democrat</b>	38%	44%	39%	41%	27%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	9%	22%	14%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>DeMint Ideology</b>					
<b>Too Liberal</b>	12%	16%	13%	12%	11%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	32%	28%	32%	34%	29%
<b>About Right</b>	56%	56%	55%	54%	61%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>DeMint's Focus</b>					
<b>Advocating for South Carolina</b>	29%	36%	30%	27%	30%
<b>National Leader in Conservative Movement</b>	41%	34%	41%	43%	42%
<b>Not Sure</b>	29%	29%	29%	30%	28%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Area Code		
		803	843	864
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	46%	53%	45%	38%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	43%	49%	57%
<b>Not Sure</b>	5%	4%	6%	5%

	Base	Area Code		
		803	843	864
<b>Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	35%	41%	37%	24%
<b>Oppose</b>	53%	45%	51%	64%
<b>Not Sure</b>	12%	14%	11%	11%

	Base	Area Code		
		803	843	864
<b>Graham Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	43%	48%	38%	41%
<b>Disapprove</b>	35%	26%	39%	42%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	26%	23%	17%

	Base	Area Code		
		803	843	864
<b>Graham Ideology</b>				
<b>Too Liberal</b>	29%	22%	31%	35%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	23%	21%	27%	20%
<b>About Right</b>	49%	57%	42%	46%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Area Code		
		803	843	864
<b>DeMint Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	44%	38%	43%	51%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	32%	28%	26%
<b>Not Sure</b>	27%	30%	28%	23%

	Base	Area Code		
		803	843	864
<b>Generic Ballot</b>				
<b>DeMint</b>	47%	42%	47%	52%
<b>Democrat</b>	38%	40%	37%	34%
<b>Not Sure</b>	16%	17%	15%	13%

	Base	Area Code		
		803	843	864
<b>DeMint Ideology</b>				
<b>Too Liberal</b>	12%	10%	17%	11%
<b>Too Conservative</b>	32%	37%	29%	29%
<b>About Right</b>	56%	54%	55%	60%

	Base	Area Code		
		803	843	864
<b>DeMint's Focus</b>				
<b>Advocating for South Carolina</b>	29%	28%	28%	32%
<b>National Leader in Conservative Movement</b>	41%	44%	43%	36%
<b>Not Sure</b>	29%	28%	29%	32%

