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South Dakota Senate Race Tightening

Raleigh, N.C. – -PPP's newest South Dakota poll finds that the race has tightened since the summer, with Republican Mike Rounds now winning by only 6 points. He's at 40% to 34% for Democrat Rick Weiland, with Libertarian Kurt Evans polling at 11%.

The Senate campaign is taking a toll on Rounds' popularity. When PPP polled South Dakota in March he had a 51/34 favorability rating, but now voters are closely divided on him with 42% seeing him favorably to 40% with a negative opinion. Rounds' standing has dropped with Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike. Weiland actually has a better net favorability rating than Rounds at +9 with 28% of voters seeing him positively to 19% with a negative opinion. Weiland's name recognition is lower than Rounds, but that also gives him more room to grow. 17% of Democrats are undecided compared to only 12% of Republicans.

One noteworthy development in the race is the Libertarian Evans polling at 11%. His strong support may be a function of 2 things- voters disgusted with both parties, but also discomfort on the right with Rounds that has had some conservative interests shopping for another candidate. A similar dynamic helped the Libertarian candidate get 7% in Montana last year, and contributed to Jon Tester's reelection.

Despite South Dakota's general Republican leaning voters in the state are closely divided on who's at blame for the government shutdown with 39% blaming President Obama and the Democrats, but 38% pinning it on Speaker Boehner and the Republicans.

68% of South Dakotans think that government has been taken over by big money interests, and by a 58/34 margin they're concerned that Rounds will be too beholden to special interests.

“Add South Dakota to the list of places where the shutdown is improving Democratic prospects for 2014,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Rick Weiland was trailing by double digits in polls over the summer, but voter unhappiness with Republicans is now making this a considerably closer race.”

PPP surveyed 882 South Dakota voters from October 10th-13th on behalf of People for Weiland. The margin of error is +/-3.3%. PPP's surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



South Dakota Survey Results

- Q1** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Weiland?
- Favorable*..... 28%
 - Unfavorable* 19%
 - Not sure* 53%
- Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Rounds?
- Favorable*..... 42%
 - Unfavorable* 40%
 - Not sure* 18%
- Q3** If the candidates for Senate in 2014 were Democrat Rick Weiland, Republican Mike Rounds, and Libertarian Kurt Evans, who would you vote for?
- Rick Weiland*..... 34%
 - Mike Rounds*..... 40%
 - Kurt Evans* 11%
 - Not sure* 15%
- Q4** Who do you blame more for the government shutdown, President Obama and the Democrats or Speaker Boehner and the Republicans, or do you blame both equally?
- President Obama and the Democrats*..... 39%
 - Speaker Boehner and the Republicans* 38%
 - Both equally*..... 21%
 - Not sure*..... 1%
- Q5** Some people say government itself is our problem, and that no government can ever really be trusted to fight for us or be on our side. Other people say government is only the problem because it has been taken over by big money, and that we can fight to take it back and make it work for us, like it used to. Which is closer to your view? That government itself is the problem, or that government has been taken over by big money interests?
- Government itself is the problem* 26%
 - It has been taken over by big money interests* 68%
 - Not sure* 6%
- Q6** Mike Rounds has stated that he's going to raise and spend \$9 million in order to win the South Dakota Senate race, almost double what Tim Johnson spent in his 2008 re-election race. In order to raise that level of money, are you concerned Rounds will be too beholden to wealthy special interests, or does it make no difference to you?
- Are concerned* 58%
 - Makes no difference* 34%
 - Not sure* 8%
- Q7** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.
- Woman* 53%
 - Man*..... 47%
- Q8** 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*..... 35%
 - Republican*..... 43%
 - Independent/Other*..... 22%
- Q9** If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.
- White* 88%
 - Other*..... 12%





Q10 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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	15%
<i>30 to 45</i>	28%
<i>46 to 65</i>	37%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Weiland Favorability			
Favorable	28%	28%	27%
Unfavorable	19%	14%	25%
Not sure	53%	58%	47%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rounds Favorability			
Favorable	42%	42%	43%
Unfavorable	40%	40%	39%
Not sure	18%	19%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Weiland/Rounds/Evans			
Rick Weiland	34%	35%	33%
Mike Rounds	40%	39%	40%
Kurt Evans	11%	8%	15%
Not sure	15%	17%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Who Do Blame Most for Shutdown?			
President Obama and the Democrats	39%	37%	42%
Speaker Boehner and the Republicans	38%	39%	38%
Both equally	21%	23%	19%
Not sure	1%	1%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Is Gov't the Problem or Has It Been Taken Over by \$?			
Government itself is the problem	26%	20%	32%
It has been taken over by big money interests	68%	74%	61%
Not sure	6%	5%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Concerned About Rounds Being Beholden to Special Interests?			
Are concerned	58%	63%	52%
Makes no difference	34%	29%	40%
Not sure	8%	9%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Weiland Favorability				
Favorable	28%	49%	16%	16%
Unfavorable	19%	8%	27%	23%
Not sure	53%	42%	57%	62%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rounds Favorability				
Favorable	42%	24%	60%	37%
Unfavorable	40%	62%	23%	36%
Not sure	18%	14%	18%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Weiland/Rounds/Evans				
Rick Weiland	34%	67%	14%	21%
Mike Rounds	40%	9%	67%	34%
Kurt Evans	11%	7%	7%	26%
Not sure	15%	17%	12%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Who Do Blame Most for Shutdown?				
President Obama and the Democrats	39%	5%	66%	42%
Speaker Boehner and the Republicans	38%	70%	17%	31%
Both equally	21%	24%	16%	27%
Not sure	1%	1%	1%	0%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Is Gov't the Problem or Has It Been Taken Over by \$?				
Government itself is the problem	26%	12%	33%	35%
It has been taken over by big money interests	68%	81%	62%	61%
Not sure	6%	7%	6%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Concerned About Rounds Being Beholden to Special Interests?				
Are concerned	58%	85%	36%	56%
Makes no difference	34%	8%	54%	37%
Not sure	8%	7%	11%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Weiland Favorability			
Favorable	28%	30%	11%
Unfavorable	19%	16%	42%
Not sure	53%	54%	47%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rounds Favorability			
Favorable	42%	41%	53%
Unfavorable	40%	41%	31%
Not sure	18%	19%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Weiland/Rounds/Evans			
Rick Weiland	34%	37%	13%
Mike Rounds	40%	39%	49%
Kurt Evans	11%	10%	19%
Not sure	15%	14%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Who Do Blame Most for Shutdown?			
President Obama and the Democrats	39%	36%	61%
Speaker Boehner and the Republicans	38%	41%	20%
Both equally	21%	22%	15%
Not sure	1%	1%	3%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Is Gov't the Problem or Has It Been Taken Over by \$?			
Government itself is the problem	26%	24%	40%
It has been taken over by big money interests	68%	70%	55%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Concerned About Rounds Being Beholden to Special Interests?			
Are concerned	58%	62%	26%
Makes no difference	34%	30%	61%
Not sure	8%	8%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Weiland Favorability					
Favorable	28%	30%	16%	31%	36%
Unfavorable	19%	19%	24%	18%	16%
Not sure	53%	51%	60%	50%	49%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rounds Favorability					
Favorable	42%	47%	45%	39%	40%
Unfavorable	40%	30%	38%	43%	42%
Not sure	18%	23%	17%	17%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Weiland/Rounds/Evans					
Rick Weiland	34%	35%	24%	37%	41%
Mike Rounds	40%	44%	43%	38%	36%
Kurt Evans	11%	12%	13%	12%	8%
Not sure	15%	9%	20%	13%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Who Do Blame Most for Shutdown?					
President Obama and the Democrats	39%	56%	42%	33%	35%
Speaker Boehner and the Republicans	38%	30%	32%	42%	47%
Both equally	21%	14%	24%	24%	17%
Not sure	1%	-	2%	1%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Is Gov't the Problem or Has It Been Taken Over by \$?					
Government itself is the problem	26%	33%	31%	22%	21%
It has been taken over by big money interests	68%	60%	65%	72%	71%
Not sure	6%	7%	4%	5%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Concerned About Rounds Being Beholden to Special Interests?					
Are concerned	58%	48%	54%	62%	62%
Makes no difference	34%	45%	40%	30%	25%
Not sure	8%	7%	6%	8%	13%

