

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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

Thune safe for reelection

Raleigh, N.C. – After winning one of the closest Senate races of the decade over Tom Daschle in 2004, it looks like John Thune will have a much easier time earning his second term.

Thune leads a generic Democratic candidate 56-33, our newest poll finds. That overwhelming advantage may help to explain why there is no actual Democratic candidate yet in the race against Thune.

He has an 86-9 lead with Republicans and a 44-37 advantage with independents while also winning over a decent number of Democrats, trailing 64-22. Thune leads with men, women, whites, nonwhites, and voters within every age group of the electorate.

Thune's approval rating is 57% with 35% of voters disapproving of him. Despite his overall popularity voters in South Dakota are not very keen on the possibility of his running for President in 2012. Only 28% say they would like him to run while 55% are opposed to the idea. Republicans are evenly divided 39/39 on a possible Thune Presidential bid, while independents are opposed 63/23 and Democrats are by a 73/15 spread.

“If South Dakota's an electoral battleground in 2010 it won't be for the Senate race,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “John Thune is one of the more popular Senators in the country and safe for reelection.”

PPP will release numbers looking at the race for Governor tomorrow. Numbers released yesterday showed that the House race in the state could be competitive next year.

PPP surveyed 702 South Dakota voters from December 10th to 13th. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.7%. 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.

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 Dakota Survey Results

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

Approve 57%
Disapprove..... 35%
Not Sure..... 8%

Q2 Generally speaking, next year would you vote to reelect Republican John Thune or vote for his Democratic opponent? If you would vote for Thune, press 1. If you would vote for his Democratic opponent, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Thune 56%
Democrat 33%
Not Sure..... 11%

Q3 Would you like to see John Thune run for President in 2012? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Yes 28%
No 55%
Not Sure..... 17%

Q4 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 10%
Moderate..... 42%
Conservative..... 48%

Q5 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 50%
Man..... 50%

Q6 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 35%
Republican..... 48%
Independent/Other..... 18%

Q7 If you are white, press one now. If other, press 2.

White 89%
Other..... 11%

Q8 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..... 15%
30 to 45..... 21%
46 to 65..... 44%
Older than 65..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Thune Approval				
Approve	57%	36%	41%	75%
Disapprove	35%	57%	49%	17%
Not Sure	8%	7%	10%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Generic Senate Ballot				
Thune	56%	22%	38%	79%
Democrat	33%	63%	49%	12%
Not Sure	11%	15%	12%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Thune Presidential Run				
Yes	28%	11%	22%	37%
No	55%	77%	68%	39%
Not Sure	17%	12%	10%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Thune Approval			
Approve	57%	55%	59%
Disapprove	35%	35%	35%
Not Sure	8%	11%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Senate Ballot			
Thune	56%	54%	58%
Democrat	33%	35%	30%
Not Sure	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Thune Presidential Run			
Yes	28%	26%	30%
No	55%	55%	55%
Not Sure	17%	19%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Thune Approval				
Approve	57%	31%	79%	47%
Disapprove	35%	57%	15%	45%
Not Sure	8%	13%	5%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Senate Ballot				
Thune	56%	22%	86%	44%
Democrat	33%	64%	9%	37%
Not Sure	11%	14%	6%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Thune Presidential Run				
Yes	28%	15%	39%	23%
No	55%	73%	39%	63%
Not Sure	17%	13%	21%	13%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Thune Approval			
Approve	57%	58%	45%
Disapprove	35%	34%	41%
Not Sure	8%	8%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Generic Senate Ballot			
Thune Democrat	56%	58%	42%
Democrat	33%	32%	38%
Not Sure	11%	10%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Thune Presidential Run			
Yes	28%	27%	32%
No	55%	55%	53%
Not Sure	17%	17%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Thune Approval					
Approve	57%	48%	66%	55%	59%
Disapprove	35%	39%	31%	38%	28%
Not Sure	8%	14%	3%	7%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Senate Ballot					
Thune	56%	48%	63%	53%	63%
Democrat	33%	36%	28%	36%	27%
Not Sure	11%	16%	9%	11%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Thune Presidential Run					
Yes	28%	27%	38%	25%	25%
No	55%	61%	47%	58%	52%
Not Sure	17%	11%	14%	17%	23%

