

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 17, 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**

## **GOP favored for South Dakota Governor**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – None of the candidates striving to be the next Governor of South Dakota are particularly well known, but at this point it looks like the eventual Republican nominee will start out as the favorite.

Likely Democratic candidate Scott Heidepreim trails four different Republicans by margins ranging from 2-13 points. Dennis Daugaard has a 42-29 advantage, Dave Knudson is up 39-29, Scott Munsterman holds a 35-30 lead, and Ken Knuppe edges him out 32-30.

Heidepreim is actually the best known of the five candidates, even though 57% of voters don't know enough about him to have an opinion. Among those who do 21% view him favorably and 23% unfavorably. Out of the Republicans Daugaard is the most well known, but 67% have no opinion about him. 72% don't know Knudson, 78% say the same of Munsterman, and Knuppe is a blank slate to 82% of voters.

Perhaps helping the Republicans to their early leads is the continuing popularity of the sitting Governor, Mike Rounds. In a time when many chief executives are seeing their approval ratings tank 55% of voters like the job he's doing to only 32% disapproving. He gets good marks from 71% of Republicans, 47% of independents, and 36% of Democrats.

“It's no surprise that in an open seat situation with five largely unknown candidates voters are initially leaning toward the dominant party in the state,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Things could shift a lot as the candidates become better known but all things being equal a Republican will win in South Dakota.”

PPP surveyed 702 South Dakota voters from December 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. 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](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.

###



## South Dakota Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Mike Rounds' job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve* ..... 55%  
*Disapprove*..... 32%  
*Not Sure*..... 14%

**Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Tim Johnson's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve* ..... 46%  
*Disapprove*..... 45%  
*Not Sure*..... 9%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dennis Daugaard? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*..... 18%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 15%  
*Not Sure*..... 67%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Scott Heidepreim? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*..... 21%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 23%  
*Not Sure*..... 57%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dave Knudson? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*..... 14%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 14%  
*Not Sure*..... 72%

**Q6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ken Knuppe? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*..... 4%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 14%  
*Not Sure*..... 82%

**Q7** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Scott Munsterman? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*..... 10%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 12%  
*Not Sure*..... 78%

**Q8** If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Dennis Daugaard and Democrat Scott Heidepreim, who would you vote for? If Dennis Daugaard, press 1. If Scott Heidepreim, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Daugaard*..... 42%  
*Heidepreim* ..... 29%  
*Undecided*..... 29%

**Q9** If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Dave Knudson and Democrat Scott Heidepreim, who would you vote for? If Dave Knudson, press 1. If Scott Heidepreim, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Knudson*..... 39%  
*Heidepreim* ..... 29%  
*Undecided*..... 32%





**Q10** If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Ken Knuppe and Democrat Scott Heidepreim, who would you vote for? If Ken Knuppe, press 1. If Scott Heidepreim, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Knuppe* ..... 32%  
*Heidepreim* ..... 30%  
*Undecided*..... 37%

**Q11** If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Scott Munsterman and Democrat Scott Heidepreim, who would you vote for? If Scott Munsterman, press 1. If Scott Heidepreim, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Munsterman*..... 35%  
*Heidepreim* ..... 30%  
*Undecided*..... 35%

**Q12** 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%

**Q13** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 50%  
*Man*..... 50%

**Q14** 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%

**Q15** If you are white, press one now. If other, press 2.

*White* ..... 89%  
*Other*..... 11%

**Q16** 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
<b>Rounds Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	55%	34%	46%	67%
<b>Disapprove</b>	32%	51%	40%	20%
<b>Not Sure</b>	14%	15%	15%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Johnson Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	46%	75%	64%	24%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	21%	27%	66%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	4%	10%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Daugaard Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	18%	8%	17%	21%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	15%	30%	17%	9%
<b>Not Sure</b>	67%	62%	66%	70%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Heidepreim Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	21%	37%	28%	11%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	23%	7%	19%	29%
<b>Not Sure</b>	57%	56%	53%	60%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Knudson Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	14%	14%	17%	11%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	10%	13%	14%
<b>Not Sure</b>	72%	76%	69%	74%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Knappe Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	3%	3%	5%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	13%	16%	11%
<b>Not Sure</b>	82%	84%	80%	84%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Munsterman Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	10%	10%	9%	10%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	12%	16%	15%	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	78%	75%	75%	81%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Daugaard/Heidepreim</b>				
<b>Daugaard</b>	42%	14%	27%	62%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	29%	62%	41%	11%
<b>Undecided</b>	29%	24%	33%	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Knudson/Heidepreim</b>				
<b>Knudson</b>	<b>39%</b>	12%	22%	59%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	<b>29%</b>	62%	40%	12%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>32%</b>	26%	38%	29%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Knuppe/Heidepreim</b>				
<b>Knuppe</b>	<b>32%</b>	12%	16%	50%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	<b>30%</b>	64%	44%	11%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>37%</b>	24%	39%	38%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Munsterman/Heidepreim</b>				
<b>Munsterman</b>	<b>35%</b>	11%	19%	54%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	<b>30%</b>	63%	44%	10%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>35%</b>	26%	37%	37%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Rounds Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	<b>55%</b>	55%	55%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>32%</b>	31%	32%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	14%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Johnson Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	46%	49%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	40%	50%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	11%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Daugaard Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	18%	18%	18%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	15%	12%	17%
<b>Not Sure</b>	67%	69%	65%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Heidepreim Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	21%	20%	21%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	23%	19%	26%
<b>Not Sure</b>	57%	61%	53%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Knudson Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	14%	11%	18%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	7%	20%
<b>Not Sure</b>	72%	83%	62%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Knuppe Favorability</b>			
Favorable	4%	4%	4%
Unfavorable	14%	10%	17%
Not Sure	82%	86%	78%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Munsterman Favorability</b>			
Favorable	10%	10%	10%
Unfavorable	12%	10%	14%
Not Sure	78%	80%	76%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Daugaard/Heidepreim</b>			
Daugaard	42%	40%	44%
Heidepreim	29%	29%	29%
Undecided	29%	31%	27%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Knudson/Heidepreim</b>			
Knudson	39%	35%	42%
Heidepreim	29%	29%	28%
Undecided	32%	35%	29%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Knuppe/Heidepreim</b>			
<b>Knuppe</b>	32%	31%	34%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	30%	30%	30%
<b>Undecided</b>	37%	39%	36%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Munsterman/Heidepreim</b>			
<b>Munsterman</b>	35%	30%	39%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	30%	31%	28%
<b>Undecided</b>	35%	39%	32%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Rounds Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	55%	36%	71%	47%
<b>Disapprove</b>	32%	42%	22%	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	14%	22%	7%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Johnson Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	46%	75%	24%	49%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	17%	67%	40%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	9%	9%	11%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Daugaard Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	18%	10%	25%	15%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	15%	20%	11%	13%
<b>Not Sure</b>	67%	70%	64%	72%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Heidepreim Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	21%	32%	14%	15%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	23%	12%	30%	24%
<b>Not Sure</b>	57%	56%	56%	61%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Knudson Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	14%	11%	17%	12%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	10%	16%	14%
<b>Not Sure</b>	72%	79%	67%	74%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Knuppe Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	3%	5%	3%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	11%	16%	11%
<b>Not Sure</b>	82%	86%	78%	85%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Munsterman Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	10%	5%	14%	8%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	12%	16%	9%	13%
<b>Not Sure</b>	78%	79%	78%	78%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Daugaard/Heidepreim</b>				
<b>Daugaard</b>	42%	15%	66%	30%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	29%	56%	10%	25%
<b>Undecided</b>	29%	29%	23%	45%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Knudson/Heidepreim</b>				
<b>Knudson</b>	39%	10%	62%	32%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	29%	55%	11%	24%
<b>Undecided</b>	32%	34%	27%	43%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Knuppe/Heidepreim</b>				
<b>Knuppe</b>	32%	7%	52%	27%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	30%	59%	11%	26%
<b>Undecided</b>	37%	33%	37%	48%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Munsterman/Heidepreim</b>				
<b>Munsterman</b>	35%	7%	58%	27%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	30%	59%	10%	26%
<b>Undecided</b>	35%	35%	32%	46%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Rounds Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	55%	55%	49%
<b>Disapprove</b>	32%	31%	34%
<b>Not Sure</b>	14%	13%	17%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Johnson Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	46%	45%	53%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	46%	35%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	9%	13%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Daugaard Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	18%	19%	11%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	15%	14%	16%
<b>Not Sure</b>	67%	67%	73%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Heidepreim Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	21%	20%	24%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	23%	22%	25%
<b>Not Sure</b>	57%	57%	51%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Knudson Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	14%	14%	14%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	13%	19%
<b>Not Sure</b>	72%	73%	67%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Knuppe Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	4%	3%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	13%	19%
<b>Not Sure</b>	82%	83%	78%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Munsterman Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	10%	9%	15%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	12%	11%	17%
<b>Not Sure</b>	78%	80%	68%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Daugaard/Heidepreim</b>			
<b>Daugaard</b>	42%	44%	27%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	29%	26%	47%
<b>Undecided</b>	29%	30%	27%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Knudson/Heidepreim</b>			
<b>Knudson</b>	39%	41%	24%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	29%	27%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	32%	32%	31%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Knuppe/Heidepreim</b>			
<b>Knuppe</b>	32%	34%	20%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	30%	28%	46%
<b>Undecided</b>	37%	38%	34%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Munsterman/Heidepreim</b>			
<b>Munsterman</b>	35%	36%	26%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	30%	28%	43%
<b>Undecided</b>	35%	36%	31%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Rounds Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	55%	50%	63%	52%	55%
<b>Disapprove</b>	32%	32%	29%	35%	27%
<b>Not Sure</b>	14%	18%	8%	13%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Johnson Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	46%	45%	43%	49%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	41%	50%	44%	45%
<b>Not Sure</b>	9%	14%	7%	8%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Daugaard Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	18%	11%	16%	21%	18%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	15%	14%	14%	16%	12%
<b>Not Sure</b>	67%	75%	69%	62%	70%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Heidepreim Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	21%	14%	12%	25%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	23%	25%	25%	22%	20%
<b>Not Sure</b>	57%	61%	63%	53%	53%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Knudson Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	14%	14%	11%	17%	12%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	18%	13%	12%	13%
<b>Not Sure</b>	72%	68%	75%	71%	75%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Kruppe Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	-	4%	4%	9%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	16%	15%	14%	10%
<b>Not Sure</b>	82%	84%	81%	83%	81%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Munsterman Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	10%	23%	7%	8%	7%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	12%	7%	12%	14%	12%
<b>Not Sure</b>	78%	70%	81%	78%	81%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Daugaard/Heidepreim</b>					
<b>Daugaard</b>	42%	45%	41%	44%	37%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	29%	27%	27%	29%	30%
<b>Undecided</b>	29%	27%	32%	27%	33%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Knudson/Heidepreim</b>					
<b>Knudson</b>	<b>39%</b>	43%	37%	38%	38%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	<b>29%</b>	27%	25%	30%	31%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>32%</b>	30%	37%	31%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Knuppe/Heidepreim</b>					
<b>Knuppe</b>	<b>32%</b>	36%	33%	30%	33%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	<b>30%</b>	27%	26%	33%	31%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>37%</b>	36%	41%	36%	36%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Munsterman/Heidepreim</b>					
<b>Munsterman</b>	<b>35%</b>	34%	39%	33%	35%
<b>Heidepreim</b>	<b>30%</b>	27%	27%	34%	27%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>35%</b>	39%	34%	33%	39%

