

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Hutchison Vulnerable to Conservative Primary Challenge

Raleigh, N.C. – Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison’s weak showing in her gubernatorial primary challenge to partymate Rick Perry earlier this year revealed rancor in the state’s conservative ranks for Hutchison’s more moderate politics and 17-year tenure in Washington. If she were to make a bid for re-nomination by the GOP today, she would edge one potential named opponent in the primary, but would be an easy target if the Tea Party mood among her party’s base lasts into the next cycle.

In an early 2012 test among usual Republican primary voters in the state, Hutchison would beat Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams, 34-13. But with 53% undecided, and 62% saying they would rather choose a more conservative candidate than Hutchison herself, she could be in for the Bob Bennett treatment in less than two years. Only 25% prefer Hutchison outright when stacked against a generic conservative challenger.

Hutchison’s 2:1 job performance numbers would be outstanding if they were among the general electorate, but at 56-28 among the most fervent Republican voters, Hutchison has a relatively weak standing with those she needs to earn another six years in the Senate. 49% think she should definitely run for re-election next time, but 36% think she should step aside. Almost as many, 38%, think Hutchison is too liberal, as the 44% who see her views as “about right.”

In the early presidential primary field, Newt Gingrich leads with 23% to Sarah Palin and Mike Huckabee at 19%, Mitt Romney at 17%, Texas’ own Ron Paul at only 8%, and someone else with 5%. In PPP’s previous measure in June, the breakdown was similar: Gingrich 25, Huckabee 22, Romney 18, Palin 17, and Paul 10.

“If Republican activists can succeed in picking off establishment Republicans this year and get them elected in the general, expect more revolt in the near future,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 400 Texas Republican primary voters from September 2nd to 6th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.



Texas Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's job performance?

Approve 56%
Disapprove..... 28%
Not sure 17%

Q2 Do you think Kay Bailey Hutchison should run for reelection in 2012?

Yes..... 49%
No..... 36%
Not sure 15%

Q3 Do you think that Kay Bailey Hutchison is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal 38%
Too conservative..... 8%
About right 44%
Not sure 9%

Q4 If the 2012 Republican primary for Senate was between Kay Bailey Hutchison and a more conservative challenger, who would you vote for?

Kay Bailey Hutchison..... 25%
More conservative challenger 62%
Not sure 13%

Q5 If the Republican candidates for Senate in 2012 were Kay Bailey Hutchison and Michael Williams, who would you vote for?

Kay Bailey Hutchison..... 34%
Michael Williams 13%
Undecided..... 53%

Q6 If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 were Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, and Mitt Romney who would you support?

Newt Gingrich 23%
Mike Huckabee 19%
Sarah Palin 19%
Ron Paul..... 8%
Mitt Romney..... 17%
Someone else..... 5%
Undecided..... 10%

Q7 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 3%
Moderate..... 23%
Conservative..... 75%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 48%
Man..... 52%

Q9 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..... 3%
30 to 45..... 22%
46 to 65..... 50%
Older than 65..... 25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hutchison Approval				
Approve	56%	53%	52%	57%
Disapprove	28%	39%	28%	27%
Not sure	17%	8%	20%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hutchison Run for Re-election				
Yes	49%	50%	53%	48%
No	36%	50%	26%	39%
Not sure	15%	-	21%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hutchison Ideology				
Too liberal	38%	22%	13%	47%
Too conservative	8%	69%	19%	2%
About right	44%	8%	57%	42%
Not sure	9%	-	11%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hutchison or Conservative				
Kay Bailey Hutchison	25%	47%	47%	17%
More conservative challenger	62%	34%	27%	74%
Not sure	13%	19%	26%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Hutchison/Williams				
Kay Bailey Hutchison	34%	39%	48%	30%
Michael Williams	13%	22%	9%	15%
Undecided	53%	39%	44%	56%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Newt Gingrich	23%	19%	17%	24%
Mike Huckabee	19%	-	22%	18%
Sarah Palin	19%	42%	10%	21%
Ron Paul	8%	19%	9%	7%
Mitt Romney	17%	11%	15%	18%
Someone else	5%	8%	13%	3%
Undecided	10%	-	14%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hutchison Approval			
Approve	56%	56%	56%
Disapprove	28%	24%	31%
Not sure	17%	20%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hutchison Run for Re-election			
Yes	49%	49%	49%
No	36%	35%	38%
Not sure	15%	17%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hutchison Ideology			
Too liberal	38%	33%	43%
Too conservative	8%	5%	10%
About right	44%	48%	41%
Not sure	9%	13%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hutchison or Conservative			
Kay Bailey Hutchison	25%	24%	25%
More conservative challenger	62%	59%	65%
Not sure	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hutchison/Williams			
Kay Bailey Hutchison	34%	32%	36%
Michael Williams	13%	10%	16%
Undecided	53%	57%	48%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Newt Gingrich	23%	16%	29%
Mike Huckabee	19%	20%	18%
Sarah Palin	19%	23%	16%
Ron Paul	8%	7%	8%
Mitt Romney	17%	16%	18%
Someone else	5%	5%	6%
Undecided	10%	14%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hutchison Approval					
Approve	56%	29%	51%	53%	68%
Disapprove	28%	47%	29%	31%	18%
Not sure	17%	24%	20%	16%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hutchison Run for Re-election					
Yes	49%	46%	43%	50%	54%
No	36%	47%	38%	38%	29%
Not sure	15%	7%	19%	12%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hutchison Ideology					
Too liberal	38%	44%	47%	39%	29%
Too conservative	8%	10%	11%	7%	6%
About right	44%	32%	35%	45%	54%
Not sure	9%	14%	8%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hutchison or Conservative					
Kay Bailey Hutchison	25%	24%	18%	23%	33%
More conservative challenger	62%	76%	64%	66%	51%
Not sure	13%	-	18%	10%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hutchison/Williams					
Kay Bailey Hutchison	34%	24%	33%	29%	47%
Michael Williams	13%	10%	7%	17%	11%
Undecided	53%	66%	60%	54%	42%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Newt Gingrich	23%	7%	25%	26%	16%
Mike Huckabee	19%	17%	18%	16%	23%
Sarah Palin	19%	34%	14%	21%	19%
Ron Paul	8%	10%	9%	9%	4%
Mitt Romney	17%	17%	22%	13%	19%
Someone else	5%	-	4%	4%	9%
Undecided	10%	14%	7%	10%	9%

