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Herbert faces a tough race if Matheson runs for governor

Raleigh, N.C. – For the Democrats to compete in a statewide race in Utah, they would need an extraordinarily popular candidate, and they could have it in Congressman Jim Matheson. As is true for Orrin Hatch’s Senate seat, Republicans will have no trouble holding onto the governorship in Utah unless Matheson chooses to run.

Incumbent Governor Gary Herbert is looking quite strong, with a 51-32 approval rating. While independents do not like him, giving him a 34-44 rating, Herbert garners a significant amount of crossover support, earning 27% approval among Democrats, and holds a 71-14 rating among Republicans. Herbert is popular among fellow Mormons, garnering a 62-20 rating with them, compared to only a 25-59 rating among non-Mormons. Luckily for Herbert, Mormons make up 70% of the state.

A +19 approval rating for a Republican governor in one of the reddest states in the nation should be a recipe for a huge landslide. Against most of his possible opponents, this is true. Herbert leads Salt Lake City Mayor Peter Corroon, 55-32, and holds a 56-29 advantage against former Utah Attorney General Jan Graham. However, against Matheson, it is a whole different story. Herbert holds only a 45-43 lead against the congressman.

Matheson achieves such competitiveness by locking in Democrats, 83-10, garnering a fair amount of Republican support, 18-73, and crushing Herbert with independents 57-23. There is a particularly large age gap in Utah, with Matheson garnering his strongest numbers among 18- to 29-year-olds, with whom he leads, 55-29. On the other hand, voters over 65 go for Herbert, 52-39.

“Democrats could have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to compete statewide in Utah,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The problem is: Jim Matheson can only run for one office.”

PPP surveyed 732 Utah voters from July 8th to 10th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.6%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Utah Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Gary Herbert's job performance?

Approve..... 51% Not sure 17%
Disapprove..... 32%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Peter Corroon?

Favorable..... 33%
Unfavorable 29%
Not sure 38%

Q3 If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Gary Herbert and Democrat Peter Corroon, who would you vote for?

Gary Herbert..... 55%
Peter Corroon 32%
Undecided..... 12%

Q4 If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Gary Herbert and Democrat Jan Graham, who would you vote for?

Gary Herbert..... 56%
Jan Graham..... 29%
Undecided..... 15%

Q5 If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Gary Herbert and Democrat Jim Matheson, who would you vote for?

Gary Herbert..... 45%
Jim Matheson 43%
Undecided..... 12%

Q6 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 8%
Somewhat liberal 14%
Moderate..... 25%
Somewhat conservative..... 29%
Very conservative 23%

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 22%
Republican..... 50%
Independent/Other..... 28%

Q9 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 94%
Other..... 6%

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.

18 to 29..... 10%
30 to 45..... 30%
46 to 65..... 37%
Older than 65..... 23%

Q11 Are you a Mormon or another religion?

Mormon..... 70%
Another religion..... 30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Herbert Approval						
Approve	51%	23%	28%	38%	68%	68%
Disapprove	32%	67%	55%	38%	18%	17%
Not sure	17%	10%	17%	24%	14%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corroon Favorability						
Favorable	33%	68%	58%	44%	18%	11%
Unfavorable	29%	10%	14%	19%	38%	46%
Not sure	38%	22%	28%	37%	45%	43%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Herbert/Corroon						
Gary Herbert	55%	11%	25%	34%	74%	89%
Peter Corroon	32%	76%	63%	51%	12%	4%
Undecided	12%	13%	11%	15%	14%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Herbert/Graham						
Gary Herbert	56%	10%	20%	35%	76%	92%
Jan Graham	29%	70%	65%	45%	9%	1%
Undecided	15%	20%	15%	20%	15%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Herbert/Matheson						
Gary Herbert	45%	4%	10%	24%	59%	84%
Jim Matheson	43%	77%	81%	65%	23%	10%
Undecided	12%	18%	9%	11%	17%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Herbert Approval			
Approve	51%	52%	50%
Disapprove	32%	31%	33%
Not sure	17%	17%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corroon Favorability			
Favorable	33%	33%	32%
Unfavorable	29%	22%	37%
Not sure	38%	44%	31%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Herbert/Corroon			
Gary Herbert	55%	55%	56%
Peter Corroon	32%	31%	34%
Undecided	12%	15%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Herbert/Graham			
Gary Herbert	56%	57%	56%
Jan Graham	29%	28%	30%
Undecided	15%	15%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Herbert/Matheson			
Gary Herbert	45%	43%	48%
Jim Matheson	43%	45%	41%
Undecided	12%	12%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Herbert Approval				
Approve	51%	27%	71%	34%
Disapprove	32%	58%	14%	44%
Not sure	17%	15%	16%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Corroon Favorability				
Favorable	33%	64%	16%	40%
Unfavorable	29%	9%	41%	23%
Not sure	38%	27%	43%	37%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Herbert/Corroon				
Gary Herbert	55%	18%	83%	35%
Peter Corroon	32%	75%	7%	44%
Undecided	12%	7%	10%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Herbert/Graham				
Gary Herbert	56%	16%	85%	36%
Jan Graham	29%	69%	6%	39%
Undecided	15%	15%	9%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Herbert/Matheson				
Gary Herbert	45%	10%	73%	23%
Jim Matheson	43%	83%	18%	57%
Undecided	12%	7%	9%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Herbert Approval			
Approve	51%	52%	28%
Disapprove	32%	30%	66%
Not sure	17%	18%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Corroon Favorability			
Favorable	33%	32%	36%
Unfavorable	29%	30%	21%
Not sure	38%	38%	43%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Herbert/Corroon			
Gary Herbert	55%	57%	38%
Peter Corroon	32%	31%	51%
Undecided	12%	12%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Herbert/Graham			
Gary Herbert	56%	58%	23%
Jan Graham	29%	27%	57%
Undecided	15%	15%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Herbert/Matheson			
Gary Herbert	45%	46%	24%
Jim Matheson	43%	42%	69%
Undecided	12%	12%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Herbert Approval					
Approve	51%	35%	50%	53%	56%
Disapprove	32%	42%	32%	32%	27%
Not sure	17%	23%	18%	15%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corroon Favorability					
Favorable	33%	29%	31%	37%	29%
Unfavorable	29%	32%	31%	26%	31%
Not sure	38%	39%	38%	37%	40%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Herbert/Corroon					
Gary Herbert	55%	42%	55%	55%	62%
Peter Corroon	32%	35%	30%	35%	30%
Undecided	12%	23%	15%	10%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Herbert/Graham					
Gary Herbert	56%	35%	56%	57%	63%
Jan Graham	29%	39%	25%	30%	27%
Undecided	15%	26%	18%	13%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Herbert/Matheson					
Gary Herbert	45%	29%	47%	44%	52%
Jim Matheson	43%	55%	37%	47%	39%
Undecided	12%	16%	16%	9%	9%

	Base	Religion	
		Mormon	Another religion
Herbert Approval			
Approve	51%	62%	25%
Disapprove	32%	20%	59%
Not sure	17%	18%	16%

	Base	Religion	
		Mormon	Another religion
Corroon Favorability			
Favorable	33%	23%	56%
Unfavorable	29%	34%	17%
Not sure	38%	43%	27%

	Base	Religion	
		Mormon	Another religion
Herbert/Corroon			
Gary Herbert	55%	69%	23%
Peter Corroon	32%	18%	66%
Undecided	12%	13%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Religion	
		Mormon	Another religion
Herbert/Graham			
Gary Herbert	56%	72%	18%
Jan Graham	29%	16%	59%
Undecided	15%	11%	23%

	Base	Religion	
		Mormon	Another religion
Herbert/Matheson			
Gary Herbert	45%	57%	17%
Jim Matheson	43%	32%	71%
Undecided	12%	12%	12%

