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Cantwell looks good for re-election

Raleigh, N.C. – Leading into 2012, Washington Senator Maria Cantwell appears to be in just as safe shape as she was in the strong Democratic year of 2006, when she won her first re-election bid by 17 points. She leads five potential opponents by 13-19 points.

Perennial candidate Dino Rossi gets the highest level of support, but also drives Cantwell to her highest, trailing 53-40. Rep. Dave Reichert and philanthropist Susan Hutchison each lag, 49-35; 2010 Senate primary loser Clint Didier, 51-35; and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, 50-31. Cantwell has leads of five to 12 points with independents, who are slightly more numerous than Republicans in this state. She also earns 85-92% of her own party's votes and pulls more Republican support (8-9%) than any of the Republicans do Democratic support (2-5%).

Voters' views of Cantwell's performance in office have climbed dramatically since before last fall's election, when PPP measured her at a 41% approval rating, with 43% disapproving. Now, half approve and 36% disapprove, a 16-point swing. In addition to improvement across the partisan spectrum, part of the strengthening in Cantwell's standing is that last fall's pro-Republican enthusiasm gap has almost disappeared. Poll respondents report having voted for Obama over McCain by 14 points, versus his actual 17-point victory in 2008. .

Also helping her is that none of Cantwell's potential opponents is seen positively. The best-known, Rossi, has a 37-52 favorability spread; the next best known, Reichert, a 25-36; Hutchison a 19-24; Didier a 14-28; and the least-known, Rodgers, a 13-21.

"Maria Cantwell doesn't appear to be in much trouble for reelection," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "If Republicans were going to win a Senate seat in Washington they needed to do it last year when the winds were in their direction and Democratic voters were a little bit disengaged."

PPP surveyed 1,098 Washington voters from May 12th to 15th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.0%. 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.



Washington Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Maria Cantwell's job performance?

Approve..... 50% Not sure 14%
Disapprove..... 36%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Clint Didier?

Favorable..... 14%
Unfavorable 28%
Not sure 58%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Susan Hutchison?

Favorable..... 19%
Unfavorable 24%
Not sure 56%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Cathy McMorris Rodgers?

Favorable..... 13%
Unfavorable 21%
Not sure 66%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dave Reichert?

Favorable..... 25%
Unfavorable 36%
Not sure 39%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dino Rossi?

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 52%
Not sure 11%

Q7 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Maria Cantwell and Republican Clint Didier, who would you vote for?

Maria Cantwell..... 51%
Clint Didier 35%
Undecided..... 13%

Q8 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Maria Cantwell and Republican Susan Hutchison, who would you vote for?

Maria Cantwell..... 49%
Susan Hutchison..... 35%
Undecided..... 16%

Q9 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Maria Cantwell and Republican Cathy McMorris Rodgers, who would you vote for?

Maria Cantwell..... 50%
Cathy McMorris Rodgers 31%
Undecided..... 19%

Q10 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Maria Cantwell and Republican Dave Reichert, who would you vote for?

Maria Cantwell..... 49%
Dave Reichert..... 35%
Undecided..... 16%

Q11 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Maria Cantwell and Republican Dino Rossi, who would you vote for?

Maria Cantwell..... 53%
Dino Rossi 40%
Undecided..... 8%





Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	39%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	53%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	8%

Q13 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	11%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	22%
<i>Moderate</i>	30%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	21%
<i>Very conservative</i>	16%

Q14 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	52%
<i>Man</i>	48%

Q15 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	39%
<i>Republican</i>	30%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	31%

Q16 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

<i>White</i>	87%
<i>Other</i>	13%

Q17 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>	10%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	46%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cantwell Approval				
Approve	50%	20%	76%	24%
Disapprove	36%	65%	12%	53%
Not sure	14%	15%	12%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Didier Favorability				
Favorable	14%	27%	4%	16%
Unfavorable	28%	15%	40%	19%
Not sure	58%	58%	57%	65%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Hutchison Favorability				
Favorable	19%	25%	15%	22%
Unfavorable	24%	12%	35%	15%
Not sure	56%	63%	50%	63%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Rodgers Favorability				
Favorable	13%	25%	5%	12%
Unfavorable	21%	11%	29%	18%
Not sure	66%	63%	67%	70%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Reichert Favorability				
Favorable	25%	38%	16%	22%
Unfavorable	36%	13%	54%	26%
Not sure	39%	50%	30%	52%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Rossi Favorability				
Favorable	37%	72%	9%	52%
Unfavorable	52%	16%	82%	30%
Not sure	11%	12%	9%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cantwell/Didier				
Maria Cantwell	51%	13%	84%	25%
Clint Didier	35%	72%	7%	44%
Undecided	13%	16%	9%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cantwell/Hutchison				
Maria Cantwell	49%	8%	82%	21%
Susan Hutchison	35%	73%	6%	46%
Undecided	16%	19%	11%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cantwell/Rodgers				
Maria Cantwell	50%	10%	83%	22%
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	31%	68%	4%	34%
Undecided	19%	23%	13%	43%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cantwell/Reichert				
Maria Cantwell	49%	11%	82%	22%
Dave Reichert	35%	71%	7%	44%
Undecided	16%	18%	11%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cantwell/Rossi				
Maria Cantwell	53%	13%	87%	24%
Dino Rossi	40%	80%	7%	55%
Undecided	8%	7%	6%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cantwell Approval						
Approve	50%	85%	79%	56%	24%	8%
Disapprove	36%	11%	9%	24%	59%	81%
Not sure	14%	4%	12%	20%	17%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Didier Favorability						
Favorable	14%	5%	5%	7%	21%	36%
Unfavorable	28%	46%	42%	30%	14%	11%
Not sure	58%	49%	54%	63%	64%	53%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Hutchison Favorability						
Favorable	19%	14%	11%	19%	27%	27%
Unfavorable	24%	45%	34%	25%	10%	13%
Not sure	56%	41%	55%	56%	63%	60%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Rodgers Favorability						
Favorable	13%	9%	7%	7%	21%	28%
Unfavorable	21%	39%	27%	23%	11%	10%
Not sure	66%	53%	66%	70%	68%	62%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Reichert Favorability						
Favorable	25%	7%	13%	24%	41%	36%
Unfavorable	36%	74%	52%	37%	11%	14%
Not sure	39%	19%	34%	39%	48%	50%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Rossi Favorability						
Favorable	37%	2%	8%	28%	65%	82%
Unfavorable	52%	94%	84%	58%	21%	9%
Not sure	11%	5%	8%	14%	14%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cantwell/Didier						
Maria Cantwell	51%	92%	82%	64%	16%	3%
Clint Didier	35%	7%	7%	17%	68%	85%
Undecided	13%	1%	11%	19%	16%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cantwell/Hutchison						
Maria Cantwell	49%	94%	75%	60%	14%	3%
Susan Hutchison	35%	4%	11%	20%	65%	84%
Undecided	16%	2%	14%	21%	21%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cantwell/Rodgers						
Maria Cantwell	50%	98%	78%	60%	14%	3%
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	31%	1%	9%	14%	59%	80%
Undecided	19%	2%	13%	26%	27%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cantwell/Reichert						
Maria Cantwell	49%	95%	81%	60%	12%	2%
Dave Reichert	35%	3%	7%	22%	64%	82%
Undecided	16%	2%	13%	18%	24%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cantwell/Rossi						
Maria Cantwell	53%	98%	85%	65%	15%	3%
Dino Rossi	40%	1%	7%	26%	76%	91%
Undecided	8%	1%	8%	9%	9%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cantwell Approval			
Approve	50%	55%	45%
Disapprove	36%	28%	44%
Not sure	14%	17%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Didier Favorability			
Favorable	14%	11%	16%
Unfavorable	28%	24%	33%
Not sure	58%	65%	51%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hutchison Favorability			
Favorable	19%	19%	20%
Unfavorable	24%	18%	31%
Not sure	56%	63%	49%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rodgers Favorability			
Favorable	13%	12%	15%
Unfavorable	21%	18%	25%
Not sure	66%	71%	60%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Reichert Favorability			
Favorable	25%	23%	28%
Unfavorable	36%	33%	39%
Not sure	39%	44%	34%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rossi Favorability			
Favorable	37%	34%	40%
Unfavorable	52%	54%	50%
Not sure	11%	11%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cantwell/Didier			
Maria Cantwell	51%	57%	45%
Clint Didier	35%	29%	41%
Undecided	13%	14%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cantwell/Hutchison			
Maria Cantwell	49%	53%	44%
Susan Hutchison	35%	29%	43%
Undecided	16%	18%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cantwell/Rodgers			
Maria Cantwell	50%	54%	45%
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	31%	25%	38%
Undecided	19%	21%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cantwell/Reichert			
Maria Cantwell	49%	54%	45%
Dave Reichert	35%	30%	40%
Undecided	16%	16%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cantwell/Rossi			
Maria Cantwell	53%	58%	48%
Dino Rossi	40%	34%	45%
Undecided	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cantwell Approval				
Approve	50%	80%	17%	44%
Disapprove	36%	7%	69%	40%
Not sure	14%	13%	14%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Didier Favorability				
Favorable	14%	4%	27%	13%
Unfavorable	28%	39%	13%	29%
Not sure	58%	56%	59%	59%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Hutchison Favorability				
Favorable	19%	14%	24%	22%
Unfavorable	24%	34%	14%	22%
Not sure	56%	52%	63%	56%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rodgers Favorability				
Favorable	13%	6%	25%	11%
Unfavorable	21%	28%	13%	20%
Not sure	66%	66%	62%	69%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Reichert Favorability				
Favorable	25%	14%	34%	31%
Unfavorable	36%	57%	13%	31%
Not sure	39%	29%	53%	38%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rossi Favorability				
Favorable	37%	7%	76%	36%
Unfavorable	52%	85%	14%	49%
Not sure	11%	8%	10%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cantwell/Didier				
Maria Cantwell	51%	89%	9%	46%
Clint Didier	35%	5%	75%	34%
Undecided	13%	6%	16%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cantwell/Hutchison				
Maria Cantwell	49%	85%	9%	41%
Susan Hutchison	35%	5%	74%	36%
Undecided	16%	10%	17%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cantwell/Rodgers				
Maria Cantwell	50%	88%	8%	42%
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	31%	2%	69%	31%
Undecided	19%	10%	23%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cantwell/Reichert				
Maria Cantwell	49%	89%	8%	40%
Dave Reichert	35%	4%	76%	33%
Undecided	16%	7%	16%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cantwell/Rossi				
Maria Cantwell	53%	92%	8%	47%
Dino Rossi	40%	2%	85%	42%
Undecided	8%	5%	7%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cantwell Approval			
Approve	50%	50%	53%
Disapprove	36%	37%	24%
Not sure	14%	13%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Didier Favorability			
Favorable	14%	14%	11%
Unfavorable	28%	28%	27%
Not sure	58%	57%	63%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Hutchison Favorability			
Favorable	19%	19%	20%
Unfavorable	24%	24%	25%
Not sure	56%	56%	55%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rodgers Favorability			
Favorable	13%	14%	7%
Unfavorable	21%	22%	18%
Not sure	66%	64%	75%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Reichert Favorability			
Favorable	25%	24%	29%
Unfavorable	36%	35%	38%
Not sure	39%	40%	33%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rossi Favorability			
Favorable	37%	39%	27%
Unfavorable	52%	51%	58%
Not sure	11%	10%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cantwell/Didier			
Maria Cantwell	51%	50%	59%
Clint Didier	35%	37%	26%
Undecided	13%	13%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cantwell/Hutchison			
Maria Cantwell	49%	48%	51%
Susan Hutchison	35%	37%	28%
Undecided	16%	15%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cantwell/Rodgers			
Maria Cantwell	50%	49%	54%
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	31%	33%	22%
Undecided	19%	18%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cantwell/Reichert			
Maria Cantwell	49%	49%	50%
Dave Reichert	35%	36%	25%
Undecided	16%	14%	26%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cantwell/Rossi			
Maria Cantwell	53%	52%	59%
Dino Rossi	40%	41%	28%
Undecided	8%	7%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cantwell Approval					
Approve	50%	45%	44%	53%	54%
Disapprove	36%	31%	41%	34%	35%
Not sure	14%	24%	15%	13%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Didier Favorability					
Favorable	14%	3%	17%	15%	12%
Unfavorable	28%	28%	23%	31%	27%
Not sure	58%	69%	60%	53%	61%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hutchison Favorability					
Favorable	19%	7%	19%	22%	22%
Unfavorable	24%	21%	23%	27%	22%
Not sure	56%	72%	59%	51%	57%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rodgers Favorability					
Favorable	13%	10%	12%	13%	16%
Unfavorable	21%	21%	24%	20%	20%
Not sure	66%	69%	64%	66%	64%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Reichert Favorability					
Favorable	25%	24%	26%	24%	26%
Unfavorable	36%	31%	33%	38%	36%
Not sure	39%	45%	41%	37%	38%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rossi Favorability					
Favorable	37%	24%	46%	36%	35%
Unfavorable	52%	55%	47%	54%	53%
Not sure	11%	21%	7%	10%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cantwell/Didier					
Maria Cantwell	51%	55%	45%	53%	54%
Clint Didier	35%	24%	42%	34%	36%
Undecided	13%	21%	13%	13%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cantwell/Hutchison					
Maria Cantwell	49%	55%	41%	50%	51%
Susan Hutchison	35%	21%	42%	35%	35%
Undecided	16%	24%	16%	15%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cantwell/Rodgers					
Maria Cantwell	50%	55%	41%	52%	53%
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	31%	14%	39%	31%	31%
Undecided	19%	31%	20%	17%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cantwell/Reichert					
Maria Cantwell	49%	59%	38%	52%	52%
Dave Reichert	35%	21%	40%	34%	37%
Undecided	16%	21%	22%	14%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cantwell/Rossi					
Maria Cantwell	53%	66%	44%	54%	56%
Dino Rossi	40%	24%	47%	40%	37%
Undecided	8%	10%	9%	6%	8%

