



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington Senate Race Remains Close

Raleigh, N.C. – Every time PPP has polled the Washington Senate race this year it's found the race to be within 2 or 3 points and our final poll there is no exception. But there is one twist- for the first time we find Dino Rossi leading Patty Murray, by a 50-48 margin.

Neither candidate has much in the way of support across party lines- Rossi's winning 93% of Republicans and Murray's winning 91% of Democrats. That means independents, as they are in so many races across the country, are making the difference for the GOP here. Rossi leads Murray with them by a 54-42 margin.

The most worrisome number for Murray within the poll, beyond her small overall disadvantage, is that among voters who say they've already returned their ballots Rossi's advantage is wider at 52-47. Murray's ability to keep the race close is predicated on the 24% of respondents who have not yet done so returning their ballots. That group supports her by a 51-45 margin.

Washington has one of the more severe enthusiasm gaps in the country. Barack Obama won the state by 17 points in 2008 but those planning to vote this year supported him by only a 7 point margin. If Democrats in the state vote at a higher rate than response to our poll suggested over the weekend that would likely be enough to put Murray over the top.

Murray's approval rating has fallen to 44%, with 51% of voters disapproving of her. Rossi's not real popular either with 45% of voters seeing him favorably to 46% with an unfavorable opinion. Like many races across the country this year the Washington Senate contest is shaping up for voters as a choice between two candidates they're not particularly enamored with and for the most part the GOP is winning out in situations where that's the case.

“A lot of the time in a wave election all of the close elections end up tilting away from the party in power at the end,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “If that proves to be the case this year Patty Murray could be one of the victims of it. This is going to be a very close race that we may not know the outcome of for several days.”

PPP surveyed 2,055 likely Washington voters from October 29th to 31st. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





Washington Survey Results

Q1 The candidates for US Senate are Democrat Patty Murray and Republican Dino Rossi. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Patty Murray 48%
Dino Rossi 50%
Undecided..... 2%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Patty Murray's job performance?

Approve 44%
Disapprove..... 51%
Not sure 5%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dino Rossi?

Favorable 45% *Not sure* 10%
Unfavorable..... 46%

Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 42%
Disapprove..... 53%
Not sure 6%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Maria Cantwell's job performance?

Approve 41%
Disapprove..... 43%
Not sure 16%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Christine Gregoire's job performance?

Approve 36%
Disapprove..... 55%
Not sure 9%

Q7 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 44%
Barack Obama..... 51%
Someone else/Don't remember 5%

Q8 Do you identify yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 23%
Moderate..... 41%
Conservative..... 36%

Q9 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q10 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..... 35%
Republican..... 32%
Independent/Other..... 33%

Q11 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 88%
Other..... 12%

Q12 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..... 24%
46 to 65..... 39%
Older than 65..... 27%

Q13 Have you already cast your ballot for this year's election?

Yes..... 76%
No..... 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Murray/Rossi				
Patty Murray	48%	7%	85%	33%
Dino Rossi	50%	93%	13%	48%
Undecided	2%	0%	2%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Murray Approval				
Approve	44%	7%	79%	22%
Disapprove	51%	90%	15%	60%
Not sure	5%	3%	6%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Rossi Favorability				
Favorable	45%	82%	12%	47%
Unfavorable	46%	8%	80%	30%
Not sure	10%	10%	8%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	4%	76%	25%
Disapprove	53%	94%	16%	63%
Not sure	6%	3%	8%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cantwell Approval				
Approve	41%	8%	72%	21%
Disapprove	43%	76%	13%	45%
Not sure	16%	16%	15%	33%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gregoire Approval				
Approve	36%	5%	64%	23%
Disapprove	55%	90%	24%	56%
Not sure	9%	5%	12%	21%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Murray/Rossi				
Patty Murray	48%	90%	59%	9%
Dino Rossi	50%	8%	39%	89%
Undecided	2%	2%	2%	1%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Murray Approval				
Approve	44%	85%	54%	9%
Disapprove	51%	11%	40%	88%
Not sure	5%	5%	6%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rossi Favorability				
Favorable	45%	8%	33%	81%
Unfavorable	46%	86%	55%	10%
Not sure	10%	6%	12%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	81%	49%	9%
Disapprove	53%	15%	41%	88%
Not sure	6%	4%	10%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Cantwell Approval				
Approve	41%	77%	49%	12%
Disapprove	43%	13%	32%	72%
Not sure	16%	10%	19%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gregoire Approval				
Approve	36%	73%	41%	9%
Disapprove	55%	18%	46%	87%
Not sure	9%	9%	13%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Murray/Rossi			
Patty Murray	48%	52%	43%
Dino Rossi	50%	45%	56%
Undecided	2%	2%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Murray Approval			
Approve	44%	49%	39%
Disapprove	51%	45%	57%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rossi Favorability			
Favorable	45%	41%	49%
Unfavorable	46%	50%	41%
Not sure	10%	9%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	42%	46%	37%
Disapprove	53%	48%	58%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cantwell Approval			
Approve	41%	46%	36%
Disapprove	43%	36%	50%
Not sure	16%	19%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gregoire Approval			
Approve	36%	40%	32%
Disapprove	55%	49%	62%
Not sure	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Murray/Rossi				
Patty Murray	48%	91%	7%	42%
Dino Rossi	50%	7%	93%	54%
Undecided	2%	2%	0%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Murray Approval				
Approve	44%	86%	7%	38%
Disapprove	51%	9%	90%	56%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rossi Favorability				
Favorable	45%	7%	85%	44%
Unfavorable	46%	86%	6%	41%
Not sure	10%	6%	9%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	82%	7%	33%
Disapprove	53%	12%	90%	58%
Not sure	6%	5%	3%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cantwell Approval				
Approve	41%	77%	9%	36%
Disapprove	43%	10%	73%	47%
Not sure	16%	13%	19%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gregoire Approval				
Approve	36%	73%	7%	25%
Disapprove	55%	18%	88%	62%
Not sure	9%	9%	5%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Murray/Rossi			
Patty Murray	48%	47%	53%
Dino Rossi	50%	52%	40%
Undecided	2%	1%	7%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Murray Approval			
Approve	44%	44%	47%
Disapprove	51%	52%	44%
Not sure	5%	4%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rossi Favorability			
Favorable	45%	46%	35%
Unfavorable	46%	45%	48%
Not sure	10%	9%	17%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	42%	41%	45%
Disapprove	53%	53%	47%
Not sure	6%	6%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cantwell Approval			
Approve	41%	41%	41%
Disapprove	43%	42%	43%
Not sure	16%	16%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gregoire Approval			
Approve	36%	36%	39%
Disapprove	55%	56%	48%
Not sure	9%	8%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Murray/Rossi					
Patty Murray	48%	55%	43%	50%	47%
Dino Rossi	50%	40%	56%	49%	51%
Undecided	2%	5%	2%	1%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Murray Approval					
Approve	44%	51%	37%	47%	44%
Disapprove	51%	40%	57%	49%	51%
Not sure	5%	9%	6%	4%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rossi Favorability					
Favorable	45%	41%	50%	42%	46%
Unfavorable	46%	48%	38%	50%	45%
Not sure	10%	11%	12%	8%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	42%	43%	38%	44%	40%
Disapprove	53%	50%	57%	51%	53%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%	5%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cantwell Approval					
Approve	41%	42%	32%	46%	43%
Disapprove	43%	42%	46%	40%	43%
Not sure	16%	17%	22%	14%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gregoire Approval					
Approve	36%	37%	28%	39%	38%
Disapprove	55%	53%	61%	55%	51%
Not sure	9%	10%	10%	7%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Murray/Rossi			
Patty Murray	48%	47%	51%
Dino Rossi	50%	52%	45%
Undecided	2%	1%	5%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Murray Approval			
Approve	44%	44%	45%
Disapprove	51%	52%	46%
Not sure	5%	4%	9%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Rossi Favorability			
Favorable	45%	46%	40%
Unfavorable	46%	45%	47%
Not sure	10%	8%	14%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Obama Approval			
Approve	42%	41%	42%
Disapprove	53%	54%	48%
Not sure	6%	5%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Cantwell Approval			
Approve	41%	42%	38%
Disapprove	43%	44%	37%
Not sure	16%	13%	26%

	Base	Already Voted?	
		Yes	No
Gregoire Approval			
Approve	36%	37%	33%
Disapprove	55%	56%	53%
Not sure	9%	7%	15%

