

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rubio Still Up, But Two-Way with Crist Would Be Tied

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP has not polled the Florida Senate race since the weekend before the late-August primary, but the outlook remains the same: with independent Charlie Crist and actual Democratic nominee Kendrick Meek splitting Democrats, Republican Marco Rubio is cruising to a double-digit win in a three-way contest. If Meek were to drop out at this late stage, however, the gap between Crist and Rubio would vanish.

Rubio has 44% to Crist's 33% and Meek's 21%. Amid speculation that a deal may be in place for Meek to exit the race, this poll confirms the hunch that the result would be a dead heat between the remaining two, with Crist and Rubio each at 46%. Virtually all of Meek's independent support would move to Crist, but only some of his Democratic support. Democrats are split in the three-way, Crist at 42% and Meek at 41%, and Crist wins independents 50-27-19 over Rubio and Meek. Against just Rubio, Crist would win Democrats only 69-20 and independents 66-31, versus Rubio's 80-14 lead with the GOP. Republicans make up almost as much of the electorate, at 40%, as Democrats' 41%.

Part of Rubio clinging onto a healthy lead and even a tie in the two-way with Crist is that the enthusiasm gap for Republicans has grown since August, from almost 6 points to almost 10 points. President Obama won the state by 2.5 points in 2008, but John McCain voters outnumber the president's supporters by 7 points in this fall's likely electorate, versus 3 last time. If this were 2008, Crist would still have only a third of the vote, with Rubio slightly less and Meek slightly more than they have now. But Crist would be leading Rubio by a 49-43 margin head-to-head.

"Marco Rubio's been sitting on a solid lead for weeks now," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "It will stay that way as long as the Democratic vote remains pretty evenly divided between now and the election. Unless Crist or Meek can break away with Democrats down the stretch this one will be an early call on election night."

PPP surveyed 448 likely Florida voters from October 9th to 10th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.6%. 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.



Florida Survey Results

Q1 The candidates for Senate are Independent Charlie Crist, Democrat Kendrick Meek, and Republican Marco Rubio. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

<i>Charlie Crist</i>	33%
<i>Kendrick Meek</i>	21%
<i>Marco Rubio</i>	44%
<i>Undecided</i>	3%

Q2 If the candidates for US Senate were just Independent Charlie Crist and Republican Marco Rubio, who would you vote for?

<i>Charlie Crist</i>	46%
<i>Marco Rubio</i>	46%
<i>Undecided</i>	8%

Q3 If the candidates for US Senate were just Democrat Kendrick Meek and Republican Marco Rubio, who would you vote for?

<i>Kendrick Meek</i>	41%
<i>Marco Rubio</i>	48%
<i>Undecided</i>	12%

Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Charlie Crist's job performance?

<i>Approve</i>	47%
<i>Disapprove</i>	43%
<i>Not sure</i>	10%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Kendrick Meek?

<i>Favorable</i>	35%
<i>Unfavorable</i>	37%
<i>Not sure</i>	28%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Marco Rubio?

<i>Favorable</i>	45%
<i>Unfavorable</i>	43%
<i>Not sure</i>	12%

Q7 Would you prefer that Democrats or Republicans were in control of the Senate in the next Congress?

<i>Democrats</i>	43%
<i>Republicans</i>	48%
<i>Not sure</i>	9%

Q8 Do you think Charlie Crist cares more about doing what's best for Florida or what's best for Charlie Crist?

<i>What's best for Florida</i>	39%
<i>What's best for Charlie Crist</i>	51%
<i>Not sure</i>	10%

Q9 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

<i>Approve</i>	42%
<i>Disapprove</i>	52%
<i>Not sure</i>	6%

Q10 Do you support or oppose drilling for oil off the coast of Florida?

<i>Support</i>	46%
<i>Oppose</i>	43%
<i>Not sure</i>	12%





Q11 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	51%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	44%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	5%

Q12 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

<i>Liberal</i>	21%
<i>Moderate</i>	40%
<i>Conservative</i>	39%

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

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

Q14 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>	41%
<i>Republican</i>	40%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	19%

Q15 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

<i>Hispanic</i>	15%
<i>White</i>	70%
<i>African-American</i>	11%
<i>Other</i>	4%

Q16 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>	8%
<i>30 to 45</i>	20%
<i>46 to 65</i>	40%
<i>Older than 65</i>	32%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Crist/Meek/Rubio				
Charlie Crist	33%	19%	46%	53%
Kendrick Meek	21%	2%	45%	8%
Marco Rubio	44%	78%	5%	39%
Undecided	3%	2%	3%	-

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Crist/Rubio Only				
Charlie Crist	46%	19%	77%	61%
Marco Rubio	46%	76%	11%	39%
Undecided	8%	5%	12%	-

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Meek/Rubio Only				
Kendrick Meek	41%	9%	80%	20%
Marco Rubio	48%	80%	11%	42%
Undecided	12%	11%	9%	38%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Crist Approval				
Approve	47%	28%	68%	46%
Disapprove	43%	62%	21%	47%
Not sure	10%	10%	11%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Meek Favorability				
Favorable	35%	11%	65%	16%
Unfavorable	37%	58%	13%	36%
Not sure	28%	31%	21%	49%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Rubio Favorability				
Favorable	45%	76%	10%	33%
Unfavorable	43%	14%	78%	31%
Not sure	12%	10%	11%	36%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Senate Control				
Democrats	43%	7%	89%	16%
Republicans	48%	87%	4%	46%
Not sure	9%	7%	7%	39%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Crist: Best for FL or Himself				
What's best for Florida	39%	20%	59%	50%
What's best for Charlie Crist	51%	71%	29%	41%
Not sure	10%	8%	12%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	7%	86%	23%
Disapprove	52%	90%	5%	64%
Not sure	6%	3%	9%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Drilling				
Support	46%	71%	18%	24%
Oppose	43%	18%	69%	61%
Not sure	12%	11%	12%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Crist/MEEK/Rubio				
Charlie Crist	33%	40%	48%	13%
Kendrick Meek	21%	53%	19%	6%
Marco Rubio	44%	6%	29%	80%
Undecided	3%	2%	5%	1%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Crist/Rubio Only				
Charlie Crist	46%	77%	61%	15%
Marco Rubio	46%	8%	31%	80%
Undecided	8%	15%	8%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Meek/Rubio Only				
Kendrick Meek	41%	82%	50%	9%
Marco Rubio	48%	8%	34%	83%
Undecided	12%	9%	16%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Crist Approval				
Approve	47%	65%	62%	21%
Disapprove	43%	24%	31%	66%
Not sure	10%	11%	7%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Meek Favorability				
Favorable	35%	70%	41%	11%
Unfavorable	37%	13%	27%	60%
Not sure	28%	16%	32%	30%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rubio Favorability				
Favorable	45%	10%	32%	77%
Unfavorable	43%	77%	54%	13%
Not sure	12%	13%	14%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Senate Control				
Democrats	43%	86%	55%	8%
Republicans	48%	14%	30%	85%
Not sure	9%	-	14%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Crist: Best for FL or Himself				
What's best for Florida	39%	55%	53%	16%
What's best for Charlie Crist	51%	31%	39%	74%
Not sure	10%	14%	8%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	83%	56%	6%
Disapprove	52%	12%	35%	90%
Not sure	6%	5%	9%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Drilling				
Support	46%	20%	32%	73%
Oppose	43%	73%	54%	14%
Not sure	12%	7%	14%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Crist/Meek/Rubio			
Charlie Crist	33%	30%	36%
Kendrick Meek	21%	22%	20%
Marco Rubio	44%	45%	43%
Undecided	3%	4%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Crist/Rubio Only			
Charlie Crist	46%	45%	48%
Marco Rubio	46%	47%	45%
Undecided	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Meek/Rubio Only			
Kendrick Meek	41%	39%	43%
Marco Rubio	48%	51%	44%
Undecided	12%	11%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Crist Approval			
Approve	47%	42%	51%
Disapprove	43%	46%	40%
Not sure	10%	12%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Meek Favorability			
Favorable	35%	34%	36%
Unfavorable	37%	37%	37%
Not sure	28%	29%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rubio Favorability			
Favorable	45%	46%	44%
Unfavorable	43%	41%	46%
Not sure	12%	13%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Senate Control			
Democrats	43%	44%	42%
Republicans	48%	47%	50%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Crist: Best for FL or Himself			
What's best for Florida	39%	37%	41%
What's best for Charlie Crist	51%	50%	53%
Not sure	10%	13%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	42%	43%	42%
Disapprove	52%	51%	53%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Drilling			
Support	46%	39%	52%
Oppose	43%	45%	40%
Not sure	12%	16%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Crist/Meeke/Rubio				
Charlie Crist	33%	42%	14%	50%
Kendrick Meek	21%	41%	2%	19%
Marco Rubio	44%	15%	82%	27%
Undecided	3%	2%	2%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Crist/Rubio Only				
Charlie Crist	46%	69%	14%	66%
Marco Rubio	46%	20%	80%	31%
Undecided	8%	12%	7%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Meek/Rubio Only				
Kendrick Meek	41%	72%	7%	45%
Marco Rubio	48%	18%	85%	34%
Undecided	12%	10%	8%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Crist Approval				
Approve	47%	58%	23%	70%
Disapprove	43%	30%	66%	25%
Not sure	10%	12%	11%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Meek Favorability				
Favorable	35%	59%	11%	35%
Unfavorable	37%	22%	56%	30%
Not sure	28%	19%	33%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rubio Favorability				
Favorable	45%	19%	77%	36%
Unfavorable	43%	72%	11%	48%
Not sure	12%	10%	12%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Senate Control				
Democrats	43%	79%	6%	44%
Republicans	48%	15%	88%	38%
Not sure	9%	6%	6%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Crist: Best for FL or Himself				
What's best for Florida	39%	51%	15%	63%
What's best for Charlie Crist	51%	35%	75%	35%
Not sure	10%	14%	10%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	74%	7%	47%
Disapprove	52%	19%	90%	43%
Not sure	6%	7%	3%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Drilling				
Support	46%	29%	67%	37%
Oppose	43%	60%	19%	54%
Not sure	12%	11%	14%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Crist/Meek/Rubio					
Charlie Crist	33%	48%	29%	28%	52%
Kendrick Meek	21%	23%	14%	63%	24%
Marco Rubio	44%	22%	55%	8%	24%
Undecided	3%	7%	2%	1%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Crist/Rubio Only					
Charlie Crist	46%	69%	38%	59%	71%
Marco Rubio	46%	28%	55%	15%	29%
Undecided	8%	3%	7%	27%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Meek/Rubio Only					
Kendrick Meek	41%	56%	30%	87%	57%
Marco Rubio	48%	29%	59%	8%	29%
Undecided	12%	15%	12%	6%	14%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Crist Approval					
Approve	47%	58%	41%	57%	72%
Disapprove	43%	33%	49%	29%	21%
Not sure	10%	9%	10%	15%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Meek Favorability					
Favorable	35%	46%	27%	72%	47%
Unfavorable	37%	27%	44%	8%	28%
Not sure	28%	27%	29%	20%	26%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Rubio Favorability					
Favorable	45%	35%	53%	12%	29%
Unfavorable	43%	57%	36%	61%	62%
Not sure	12%	8%	10%	27%	9%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Senate Control					
Democrats	43%	53%	35%	78%	57%
Republicans	48%	33%	58%	12%	33%
Not sure	9%	15%	7%	10%	10%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Crist: Best for FL or Himself					
What's best for Florida	39%	62%	30%	55%	60%
What's best for Charlie Crist	51%	27%	60%	35%	21%
Not sure	10%	11%	9%	11%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	42%	55%	34%	71%	64%
Disapprove	52%	42%	61%	14%	33%
Not sure	6%	3%	5%	15%	3%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Drilling					
Support	46%	24%	53%	25%	40%
Oppose	43%	65%	37%	48%	45%
Not sure	12%	11%	9%	27%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Crist/Meek/Rubio					
Charlie Crist	33%	33%	51%	26%	29%
Kendrick Meek	21%	39%	20%	22%	17%
Marco Rubio	44%	28%	24%	50%	52%
Undecided	3%	-	4%	2%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Crist/Rubio Only					
Charlie Crist	46%	67%	58%	43%	39%
Marco Rubio	46%	28%	24%	52%	56%
Undecided	8%	6%	18%	6%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Meek/Rubio Only					
Kendrick Meek	41%	61%	49%	40%	32%
Marco Rubio	48%	28%	31%	52%	57%
Undecided	12%	11%	20%	8%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Crist Approval					
Approve	47%	56%	62%	44%	38%
Disapprove	43%	39%	36%	44%	48%
Not sure	10%	6%	2%	12%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Meek Favorability					
Favorable	35%	61%	40%	34%	28%
Unfavorable	37%	33%	22%	40%	43%
Not sure	28%	6%	38%	26%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rubio Favorability					
Favorable	45%	33%	27%	51%	52%
Unfavorable	43%	56%	56%	39%	38%
Not sure	12%	11%	18%	10%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Senate Control					
Democrats	43%	50%	58%	40%	36%
Republicans	48%	39%	29%	53%	57%
Not sure	9%	11%	13%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Crist: Best for FL or Himself					
What's best for Florida	39%	50%	51%	37%	31%
What's best for Charlie Crist	51%	44%	38%	55%	56%
Not sure	10%	6%	11%	8%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	42%	50%	60%	40%	33%
Disapprove	52%	39%	38%	53%	62%
Not sure	6%	11%	2%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Drilling					
Support	46%	17%	33%	48%	57%
Oppose	43%	67%	60%	37%	33%
Not sure	12%	17%	7%	15%	10%

