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Bredesen only match for Corker

Raleigh, N.C. – Bob Corker is not enormously well liked, but he starts out the 2012 cycle strongly favored for re-election unless popular ex-governor Phil Bredesen jumps into the race. Even in far-fetched, never-going-to-happen matchups with celebrities Al Gore and Tim McGraw, Corker jumps out to leads of between 15 and 23 points.

Bredesen has a 46-41 advantage over Corker. As a Southern Democrat in a relatively red state, Bredesen plotted a moderate path as governor, and as a consequence, 57% of Republicans, 61% of independents, and 71% of Democrats see him positively, for an astounding overall 63-19 favorability rating. As such, he locks up 83% of his party's vote against Corker and 15% of the GOP, plus a 43-34 lead with independents.

Corker himself has only a 42-36 approval rating, which puts him about in the middle of the pack of 79 senators on which PPP has polled in the last year. Unlike Bredesen, Corker polarizes the two parties and splits independents, as most politicians do.

But despite a good chunk of his voters still not expressing an opinion on his job performance, and those who do not overly satisfied, Corker still manages to best every other candidate tested against him by a wide margin. Against Gore, the former inhabitant of the state's other Senate seat, Corker prevails, 53-38. Gore is by far the best-known candidate tested, but voters split 41-50 against him personally. Corker also tops country star McGraw, who has mentioned a desire to seek office as a Democrat in the past, by a 50-28 margin. McGraw is well liked across the board, but surprisingly almost half of voters are not sure how they feel about him. Corker prevails against Harold Ford, Jr., 55-32, much wider than the three points by which he beat Ford to take the seat in 2006. Ford has since renounced Tennessee and proclaims he is a New Yorker now. Corker beats Rep. Jim Cooper, 50-32, and former Rep. Bart Gordon, 52-29. In all the non-Bredesen matchups, Corker expands on the GOP's 43-37 turnout advantage over the Democrats by posting leads of 18 to 26 points with independents and earning far more Democratic support than his challengers do Republican votes.

“Bob Corker's in a pretty strong position for reelection unless Phil Bredesen runs,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 500 Tennessee voters from February 9th to 13th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.4%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Tennessee Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Bob Corker's job performance?

Approve 42%
Disapprove..... 36%
Not sure 23%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Phil Bredesen?

Favorable..... 63%
Unfavorable 19%
Not sure 18%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jim Cooper?

Favorable..... 25%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 53%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Harold Ford, Jr.?

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 42%
Not sure 32%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bart Gordon?

Favorable..... 20%
Unfavorable 23%
Not sure 58%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Al Gore?

Favorable..... 40%
Unfavorable 51%
Not sure 9%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tim McGraw?

Favorable..... 38%
Unfavorable 16%
Not sure 46%

Q8 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Bob Corker and Democrat Phil Bredesen, who would you vote for?

Bob Corker..... 41%
Phil Bredesen 46%
Undecided..... 12%

Q9 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Bob Corker and Democrat Jim Cooper, who would you vote for?

Bob Corker..... 50%
Jim Cooper 32%
Undecided..... 18%

Q10 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Bob Corker and Democrat Harold Ford Jr., who would you vote for?

Bob Corker..... 55%
Harold Ford Jr...... 32%
Undecided..... 14%

Q11 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Bob Corker and Democrat Bart Gordon, who would you vote for?

Bob Corker..... 52%
Bart Gordon 29%
Undecided..... 19%





Q12 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Bob Corker and Democrat Al Gore, who would you vote for?

Bob Corker..... 53%
Al Gore 38%
Undecided..... 9%

Q13 If the candidates for Senate next year were Republican Bob Corker and Democrat Tim McGraw, who would you vote for?

Bob Corker..... 50%
Tim McGraw 28%
Undecided..... 22%

Q14 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 8%
Somewhat liberal 15%
Moderate..... 29%
Somewhat conservative..... 24%
Very conservative 25%

Q15 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 55%
Man..... 45%

Q16 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..... 37%
Republican..... 43%
Independent/Other..... 20%

Q17 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 80%
African-American 16%
Other..... 4%

Q18 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..... 32%
46 to 65..... 39%
Older than 65..... 19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker Approval						
Approve	42%	22%	20%	34%	54%	57%
Disapprove	36%	69%	50%	44%	21%	22%
Not sure	23%	10%	30%	22%	25%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bredesen Favorability						
Favorable	63%	68%	67%	71%	64%	49%
Unfavorable	19%	19%	17%	16%	14%	30%
Not sure	18%	13%	16%	13%	22%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cooper Favorability						
Favorable	25%	39%	33%	37%	17%	11%
Unfavorable	22%	22%	14%	17%	23%	30%
Not sure	53%	39%	53%	46%	60%	59%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Ford Favorability						
Favorable	26%	48%	36%	41%	17%	5%
Unfavorable	42%	31%	26%	29%	47%	67%
Not sure	32%	22%	37%	31%	37%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gordon Favorability						
Favorable	20%	26%	35%	27%	12%	7%
Unfavorable	23%	24%	15%	19%	24%	29%
Not sure	58%	50%	50%	54%	63%	63%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gore Favorability						
Favorable	40%	73%	68%	58%	22%	9%
Unfavorable	51%	24%	18%	31%	73%	83%
Not sure	9%	2%	15%	11%	5%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McGraw Favorability						
Favorable	38%	16%	32%	45%	44%	35%
Unfavorable	16%	46%	17%	10%	12%	17%
Not sure	46%	38%	51%	45%	44%	47%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker/Bredesen						
Bob Corker	41%	23%	14%	22%	53%	75%
Phil Bredesen	46%	57%	83%	62%	33%	16%
Undecided	12%	20%	4%	16%	15%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker/Cooper						
Bob Corker	50%	14%	17%	28%	75%	82%
Jim Cooper	32%	64%	67%	46%	9%	7%
Undecided	18%	22%	16%	26%	15%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker/Ford						
Bob Corker	55%	26%	26%	33%	74%	86%
Harold Ford Jr.	32%	67%	60%	45%	12%	7%
Undecided	14%	7%	14%	22%	13%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker/Gordon						
Bob Corker	52%	21%	21%	32%	71%	86%
Bart Gordon	29%	59%	61%	42%	8%	5%
Undecided	19%	20%	17%	26%	20%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker/Gore						
Bob Corker	53%	24%	20%	31%	75%	87%
Al Gore	38%	76%	71%	54%	17%	8%
Undecided	9%	-	8%	15%	8%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Corker/McGraw						
Bob Corker	50%	24%	21%	29%	69%	83%
Tim McGraw	28%	56%	51%	40%	13%	6%
Undecided	22%	20%	27%	30%	19%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker Approval			
Approve	42%	40%	44%
Disapprove	36%	33%	40%
Not sure	23%	27%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bredesen Favorability			
Favorable	63%	66%	59%
Unfavorable	19%	16%	24%
Not sure	18%	18%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cooper Favorability			
Favorable	25%	23%	28%
Unfavorable	22%	18%	26%
Not sure	53%	59%	45%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ford Favorability			
Favorable	26%	25%	28%
Unfavorable	42%	37%	49%
Not sure	32%	38%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gordon Favorability			
Favorable	20%	18%	22%
Unfavorable	23%	21%	24%
Not sure	58%	61%	53%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gore Favorability			
Favorable	40%	46%	33%
Unfavorable	51%	46%	58%
Not sure	9%	8%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McGraw Favorability			
Favorable	38%	41%	34%
Unfavorable	16%	13%	20%
Not sure	46%	45%	47%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker/Bredesen			
Bob Corker	41%	36%	48%
Phil Bredesen	46%	50%	42%
Undecided	12%	14%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker/Cooper			
Bob Corker	50%	47%	54%
Jim Cooper	32%	34%	30%
Undecided	18%	20%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker/Ford			
Bob Corker	55%	51%	59%
Harold Ford Jr.	32%	35%	27%
Undecided	14%	14%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker/Gordon			
Bob Corker	52%	50%	55%
Bart Gordon	29%	29%	29%
Undecided	19%	21%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker/Gore			
Bob Corker	53%	50%	57%
Al Gore	38%	42%	33%
Undecided	9%	8%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Corker/McGraw			
Bob Corker	50%	48%	54%
Tim McGraw	28%	33%	22%
Undecided	22%	19%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Corker Approval				
Approve	42%	17%	62%	43%
Disapprove	36%	57%	15%	41%
Not sure	23%	26%	23%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bredesen Favorability				
Favorable	63%	71%	57%	61%
Unfavorable	19%	14%	22%	23%
Not sure	18%	15%	21%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cooper Favorability				
Favorable	25%	37%	14%	29%
Unfavorable	22%	16%	27%	21%
Not sure	53%	47%	60%	50%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Ford Favorability				
Favorable	26%	46%	7%	30%
Unfavorable	42%	21%	61%	43%
Not sure	32%	33%	32%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gordon Favorability				
Favorable	20%	33%	9%	18%
Unfavorable	23%	16%	29%	22%
Not sure	58%	50%	63%	60%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gore Favorability				
Favorable	40%	74%	12%	35%
Unfavorable	51%	14%	83%	55%
Not sure	9%	12%	5%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McGraw Favorability				
Favorable	38%	33%	42%	38%
Unfavorable	16%	19%	16%	12%
Not sure	46%	49%	42%	49%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Corker/Bredesen				
Bob Corker	41%	9%	73%	34%
Phil Bredesen	46%	83%	15%	43%
Undecided	12%	8%	11%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Corker/Cooper				
Bob Corker	50%	12%	85%	45%
Jim Cooper	32%	67%	4%	26%
Undecided	18%	20%	11%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Corker/Ford				
Bob Corker	55%	16%	90%	52%
Harold Ford Jr.	32%	67%	4%	26%
Undecided	14%	17%	7%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Corker/Gordon				
Bob Corker	52%	15%	88%	45%
Bart Gordon	29%	62%	2%	25%
Undecided	19%	23%	10%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Corker/Gore				
Bob Corker	53%	13%	89%	52%
Al Gore	38%	80%	4%	34%
Undecided	9%	7%	8%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Corker/McGraw				
Bob Corker	50%	15%	83%	47%
Tim McGraw	28%	57%	6%	22%
Undecided	22%	28%	11%	32%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Corker Approval				
Approve	42%	47%	21%	24%
Disapprove	36%	32%	54%	48%
Not sure	23%	22%	26%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bredesen Favorability				
Favorable	63%	61%	74%	68%
Unfavorable	19%	21%	13%	12%
Not sure	18%	18%	13%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cooper Favorability				
Favorable	25%	21%	44%	36%
Unfavorable	22%	23%	15%	20%
Not sure	53%	56%	41%	44%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Ford Favorability				
Favorable	26%	20%	51%	44%
Unfavorable	42%	48%	18%	24%
Not sure	32%	32%	31%	32%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gordon Favorability				
Favorable	20%	18%	26%	28%
Unfavorable	23%	23%	21%	20%
Not sure	58%	59%	54%	52%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gore Favorability				
Favorable	40%	32%	74%	60%
Unfavorable	51%	59%	18%	32%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McGraw Favorability				
Favorable	38%	41%	28%	20%
Unfavorable	16%	14%	23%	28%
Not sure	46%	45%	49%	52%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Corker/Bredesen				
Bob Corker	41%	49%	8%	20%
Phil Bredesen	46%	39%	77%	64%
Undecided	12%	12%	15%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Corker/Cooper				
Bob Corker	50%	59%	10%	24%
Jim Cooper	32%	25%	67%	44%
Undecided	18%	16%	23%	32%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Corker/Ford				
Bob Corker	55%	65%	10%	20%
Harold Ford Jr.	32%	22%	72%	60%
Undecided	14%	13%	18%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Corker/Gordon				
Bob Corker	52%	61%	13%	28%
Bart Gordon	29%	23%	59%	44%
Undecided	19%	16%	28%	28%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Corker/Gore				
Bob Corker	53%	62%	13%	24%
Al Gore	38%	28%	82%	56%
Undecided	9%	9%	5%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Corker/McGraw				
Bob Corker	50%	58%	18%	28%
Tim McGraw	28%	22%	59%	36%
Undecided	22%	20%	23%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker Approval					
Approve	42%	46%	39%	35%	56%
Disapprove	36%	33%	31%	46%	25%
Not sure	23%	21%	30%	18%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bredesen Favorability					
Favorable	63%	63%	55%	68%	66%
Unfavorable	19%	20%	24%	18%	14%
Not sure	18%	17%	21%	14%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cooper Favorability					
Favorable	25%	21%	17%	31%	30%
Unfavorable	22%	24%	22%	22%	21%
Not sure	53%	55%	61%	47%	49%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ford Favorability					
Favorable	26%	23%	20%	33%	23%
Unfavorable	42%	44%	43%	39%	48%
Not sure	32%	33%	37%	28%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gordon Favorability					
Favorable	20%	22%	16%	21%	22%
Unfavorable	23%	17%	25%	22%	23%
Not sure	58%	61%	60%	57%	55%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gore Favorability					
Favorable	40%	54%	37%	42%	34%
Unfavorable	51%	33%	54%	52%	56%
Not sure	9%	13%	9%	6%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McGraw Favorability					
Favorable	38%	46%	47%	37%	21%
Unfavorable	16%	18%	14%	18%	14%
Not sure	46%	35%	38%	45%	65%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker/Bredesen					
Bob Corker	41%	34%	46%	35%	50%
Phil Bredesen	46%	50%	37%	57%	39%
Undecided	12%	15%	17%	8%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker/Cooper					
Bob Corker	50%	51%	53%	44%	58%
Jim Cooper	32%	26%	27%	37%	33%
Undecided	18%	23%	20%	19%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker/Ford					
Bob Corker	55%	57%	56%	49%	63%
Harold Ford Jr.	32%	30%	27%	39%	24%
Undecided	14%	13%	16%	12%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker/Gordon					
Bob Corker	52%	55%	52%	46%	64%
Bart Gordon	29%	20%	28%	35%	25%
Undecided	19%	25%	20%	19%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker/Gore					
Bob Corker	53%	56%	53%	47%	64%
Al Gore	38%	38%	38%	44%	26%
Undecided	9%	5%	9%	9%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Corker/McGraw					
Bob Corker	50%	56%	48%	44%	63%
Tim McGraw	28%	28%	26%	34%	20%
Undecided	22%	15%	25%	22%	17%

