

Dodd is Competitive in the Race for Senate
Voters Disapprove of Rell's Leadership on the State Budget
Obama Approval Rating on the Rise

Senator Chris Dodd remains competitive against his top challenger, while Governor Jodi Rell feels the fallout from the budget crisis. Nationally, President Obama's approval ratings are on the rise after a dip in August, according to state and national polling out this week.

In Connecticut

Senator Dodd

A Daily Kos Poll out this week shows incumbent Dodd trailing Simmons 46% to 42% - too close to call when you consider the margin of error. When matched against Caligiuri, Dodd wins comfortably 46% to 37%, with 17% of likely voters still undecided. The race against former Ambassador Tom Foley is closer with Dodd winning 44% to 40%. When looking at the Republican primary Simmons (38%) continues to lead Caligiuri (7%) and Foley (6%).

The Daily Kos poll shows Dodd's favorability rating stabilizing. Forty-three percent of likely voters have a favorable impression of the Senator while 47% have an unfavorable impression of him. Simmons also has a favorability rating of 43%. Only 17% of likely voters have an unfavorable impression of the former Congressman and 40% of likely voters are unsure.

The Daily Kos Poll of Connecticut likely Voters was conducted between September 8 and 10, 2009. The margin of error for the sample of 600 is ± 4 percentage points. For more information: <http://www.dailykos.com/statepoll/2009/9/10/CT/369>

Governor Rell

Connecticut's voters (56%) say Gov. Jodi Rell "copped out" by failing to either sign or veto the recently enacted state budget. Only one-third of the state's voters approve of Rell's actions. Looking at the Governor's overall handling of the State's budget, voters disapprove 52% to 42%.

The Governor's overall approval rating continues to fall. Currently 59% of the State's voters approve of the job Governor Rell is going in office while 34% disapprove. In July Rell's approval rating was 65% and in March of this year it was 75%. The continual drop in her approval rating shows that voters are unhappy with her leadership in the state budget process.

Across the Nation

President Obama's approval ratings are on the rise according to a recent CNN/Opinion Research Corporation survey. The poll shows 58% of Americans approve of the job President Barack Obama is doing in office while 40% disapprove. A late August CNN poll reported President Obama's approval rating at 53%. The higher approval rating comes, at least in part, from increased approval among independent voters. In the August survey 43% of independents approved of the job President Obama was doing while 53% disapproved. In the most recent survey President Obama received a job approval rating of 51% from independent voters.

The President's job approval ratings on some key issues have also improved. In the most recent CNN/ORC survey, 54% of Americans approve of the job President Obama is doing on the economy. This is a five-point increase from the August survey when 49% approved. Likewise, 51% of those surveyed approve of the job President Obama is doing on healthcare compared to the August survey when only 44% approved.

The CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll was conducted between September 11 and 13, 2009. The margin of error for the nationwide sample of 1,012 ± 3 percentage points. For more information: http://www.pollingreport.com/obama_job.htm.