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KANSAS: U.S. SENATE TOSS-UP

Monmouth University Poll finds Dem leading for Governor

The *Monmouth University Poll* finds a tied race in the Kansas U.S. Senate contest between Republican Pat Roberts and independent Greg Orman. In the race for Governor, Democratic challenger Paul Davis holds a 5 point lead over GOP incumbent Sam Brownback.

In the election for U.S. Senate, Kansas voters who are likely to cast a ballot next month divide their vote – 46% for GOP incumbent Pat Roberts and 46% for independent challenger Greg Orman. Another 3% say they will vote for a different candidate and 5% remain undecided.

In the race for Kansas Governor, 50% of likely voters support Democratic challenger Paul Davis and 45% support GOP incumbent Sam Brownback. Another 2% say they will vote for a different candidate and 3% remain undecided.

“The Kansas polls have been volatile ever since the Democratic nominee withdrew from the Senate race. There may be enough ticket splitting to give the Republicans a win in one contest but not the other,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

The challengers in both contests claim greater than 2-to-1 support among independent voters, but Davis has more solid backing from Democratic voters than does the independent Orman. Specifically, 62% of self-identified independents support Davis for Governor while 31% support Brownback. A similar 60% of independents support Orman for Senate while 32% support Roberts. Among Democrats, Davis commands 91% of the vote to 9% for Brownback. Orman gets a smaller share of the Democratic vote – 81%, to 14% for Roberts.

Another factor making this race close – aside from the strong independent tilt toward the challengers – is that both incumbents have not completely locked up their own partisan base. In the election for Governor, 77% of Republican voters choose Brownback to 17% who prefer Davis. In the Senate race, 76% of Republicans say they will vote for Roberts while 14% prefer Orman.

The poll finds that Kansas voters offer a divided assessment of the leading Senate candidates' qualities. When asked which candidate understands the concerns of Kansas voters, 33% choose Orman, 31% choose Roberts, 5% choose both, and 27% say neither candidate does. When asked which candidate is honest and trustworthy, 28% say Orman, 25% say Roberts, 11% say both, and 28% say this describes neither candidate.

Kansas voters have a slight preference for wanting to see the Republicans in control of the U.S. Senate – 37% prefer the Republicans, 29% prefer the Democrats, and 30% say it makes no difference. However, among the group of voters who say party control of the Senate makes no difference to them, 48% intend to vote for Orman, 36% intend to vote for Roberts and a sizable 12% are still undecided.

“With no clear preference on candidate qualities, it’s possible that undecided voters could be swayed by the idea of having an independent voice in the Senate. Orman is wise to keep his caucus intentions under wraps for now,” said pollster Murray.

The *Monmouth University Poll* also found that likely voters in Kansas hold a negative opinion of Pres. Barack Obama. Just 37% approve of the job the president is doing and 59% disapprove.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from October 16 to 19, 2014 with 429 Kansas voters likely to vote in the November general election. This sample has a margin of error of ± 4.7 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

1. If the election for U.S. Senate was today, would you vote for Pat Roberts, the Republican, Greg Orman, the independent, or some other candidate? [NAMES WERE ROTATED] [IF UNDECIDED: If you had to vote for one of the following at this moment, do you lean more toward Pat Roberts or more toward Greg Orman?]

<i>(with leaners)</i>	LIKELY VOTERS	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-49	50+
Pat Roberts	46%	14%	32%	76%	55%	38%	43%	48%
Greg Orman	46%	81%	60%	14%	38%	52%	43%	46%
Other candidate	3%	4%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%	2%
Undecided	5%	1%	5%	8%	4%	7%	10%	3%

2. If the election for Governor was today, would you vote for Sam Brownback, the Republican, Paul Davis, the Democrat, or some other candidate? [NAMES WERE ROTATED] [IF UNDECIDED: If you had to vote for one of the following at this moment, do you lean more toward Sam Brownback or more toward Paul Davis?]

(with leaners)	LIKELY VOTERS	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-49	50+
Sam Brownback	45%	9%	31%	77%	52%	39%	45%	46%
Paul Davis	50%	91%	62%	17%	44%	56%	47%	51%
Other candidate	2%	0%	4%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%
Undecided	3%	0%	3%	5%	2%	4%	5%	2%

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

	LIKELY VOTERS	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		SENATE VOTE CHOICE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-49	50+	Roberts	Orman	Undecided
Approve	37%	83%	40%	8%	29%	44%	35%	37%	7%	68%	34%
Disapprove	59%	12%	53%	90%	65%	53%	63%	58%	93%	25%	56%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	5%	8%	3%	6%	4%	2%	6%	0%	7%	10%

4. Which party would you like to see control the U.S. Senate – the Republicans or the Democrats, or would it make no difference?

	LIKELY VOTERS	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		SENATE VOTE CHOICE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-49	50+	Roberts	Orman	Undecided
Republicans	37%	1%	22%	69%	44%	31%	30%	40%	74%	7%	14%
Democrats	29%	73%	33%	2%	26%	33%	28%	30%	2%	55%	33%
No difference	30%	24%	39%	27%	27%	33%	40%	27%	24%	33%	44%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	2%	6%	2%	4%	4%	2%	4%	1%	4%	9%

[QUESTIONS 5 AND 6 WERE ROTATED]

5. Which candidate for Senate understands the concerns of people like you – Pat Roberts, Greg Orman, both of them, or neither of them?

	LIKELY VOTERS	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		SENATE VOTE CHOICE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-49	50+	Roberts	Orman	Undecided
Roberts	31%	9%	15%	56%	35%	27%	25%	33%	66%	1%	13%
Orman	33%	62%	46%	7%	29%	37%	30%	34%	1%	77%	12%
Both	5%	4%	3%	7%	4%	6%	6%	4%	7%	2%	7%
Neither	27%	19%	33%	27%	30%	25%	35%	25%	23%	19%	54%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	7%	2%	4%	2%	6%	5%	4%	3%	1%	14%

6. Which candidate for Senate is honest and trustworthy – Pat Roberts, Greg Orman, both of them, or neither of them?

	LIKELY VOTERS	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		SENATE VOTE CHOICE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-49	50+	Roberts	Orman	Undecided
Roberts	25%	5%	14%	46%	26%	25%	19%	28%	55%	0%	9%
Orman	28%	51%	40%	6%	23%	33%	27%	28%	1%	64%	12%
Both	11%	9%	14%	11%	13%	10%	14%	11%	8%	14%	14%
Neither	28%	21%	30%	29%	31%	24%	31%	27%	32%	17%	42%
(VOL) Don't know	7%	14%	3%	8%	7%	8%	9%	7%	4%	5%	23%

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from October 16 to 19, 2014 with a statewide random sample of 429 likely Kansas voters drawn from a list of registered voters who voted in at least one of the last four general or primary elections and indicate they are likely to vote in the upcoming election. This includes 339 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 90 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, gender, and party registration based on state registration list information on the pool of voters who participated in recent midterm elections. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and L2 (voter list). For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 4.7 percentage points. Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS			
Likely Voter Sample (weighted)			
Self-Reported Party ID	Party of Registration	Gender	Age
24% Democrat	25% Democrat	47% Male	8% 18-34
42% Republican	60% Republican	53% Female	18% 35-49
34% Independent	15% Independent		37% 50-64
			37% 65+

	LIKELY VOTERS	PARTY ID			MARGIN OF ERROR GENDER		AGE		SENATE VOTE CHOICE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-49	50+	Roberts	Orman	Undecided
Unweighted N	429	116	137	174	213	216	99	323	171	163	76
moe	4.7%	9.1%	8.4%	7.4%	6.7%	6.7%	9.9%	5.5%	7.5%	7.7%	11.3%

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