Released:
Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Contact:
PATRICK MURRAY
732-979-6769 (cell); 732-263-5858 (office)
pdmurray@monmouth.edu
Follow on Twitter: @PollsterPatrick

NATIONAL: CLINTON MAINTAINS BIG LEAD

Most Democrats satisfied with frontrunner

West Long Branch, NJ – Hillary Clinton's substantial lead over Bernie Sanders in the latest national ***Monmouth University Poll*** is basically unchanged from October. Most Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters would be satisfied with Clinton as the nominee, even if they are not currently supporting her in the party contest.

Clinton currently has the support of 59% of Democrats nationwide, which is similar to the 57% support she held in October right after the first debate. Sanders gets 26% support, which is basically unchanged from his 24% support two months ago. Martin O'Malley has 4% support, up from 1%.

"Clinton successfully ran the gauntlet this fall, appearing before the Benghazi Committee and outlasting the specter of a Biden candidacy. She really hasn't lost ground since then," said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

Four-in-five Democratic voters would be either enthusiastic (22%) or satisfied (58%) with Clinton as their party's nominee. Just 11% would be dissatisfied and only 5% would be upset. Even a majority of Sanders supporters (59%) would be okay if Clinton ultimately won the nomination over their preferred candidate.

Personal ratings for the Democratic field have held basically steady over the past two months. Clinton scores a 73% favorable and 15% unfavorable rating now, compared to 77% – 18% in October. Sanders earns a 59% favorable and 16% unfavorable rating, compared to 60% – 11% two months ago. O'Malley has a 18% favorable and 18% unfavorable rating, with 63% of Democrats nationwide still having no opinion of him.

The top issue for Democratic voters is the economy and jobs (27% first choice / 19% second choice), followed by national security and terrorism (20% first choice / 16% second choice) and education (15% first choice / 17% second choice). The next tier of issue concerns for Democrats includes gun

control (9% / 11%), taxes and government spending (7% / 11%), and social issues (6% / 9%). Immigration (2% / 5%) ranks very low on Democratic voters' list of concerns.

A *Monmouth University Poll* released Monday found Republican voters are much more likely than Democrats to name national security (57% compared to 36%) and immigration (25% compared to 7%) among their top two issues. However, GOP voters are less likely to say the same about education (8% compared to 32%) or gun control (9% compared to 20%).

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from December 10 to 13, 2015 with 1,006 adults in the United States.   This release is based on a voter sample of 374 registered voters who identify themselves as Democrats or lean toward the Democratic Party. This voter sample has a margin of error of +5.1 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:
(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

1. I know the 2016 election is far away, but who would you support for the Democratic nomination for president if the candidates were – [*NAMES WERE ROTATED*]?

	December 2015	October 2015	September 2015	August 2015	July 2015	June 2015	April 2015
Hillary Clinton	**59%**	57%	42%	52%	51%	57%	60%
Bernie Sanders	**26%**	24%	20%	16%	17%	12%	7%
Martin O'Malley	**4%**	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
(VOL) Other	**1%**	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Joe Biden	***n/a***	*n/a*	*22%*	*12%*	*13%*	*12%*	*16%*
Lincoln Chafee	***n/a***	*1%*	*0%*	*0%*	*0%*	*0%*	*n/a*
Larry Lessig	***n/a***	*1%*	*n/a*	*n/a*	*n/a*	*n/a*	*n/a*
Jim Webb	***n/a***	*1%*	*1%*	*2%*	*1%*	*2%*	*1%*
(VOL) No one	**3%**	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%
(VOL) Undecided	**8%**	12%	10%	11%	15%	14%	12%
Unwtd N	***374***	*340*	*339*	*429*	*357*	*350*	*356*

2. I'm going to read you a few names of people who are running for president in 2016. Please tell me if your general impression of each is favorable or unfavorable, or if you don't really have an opinion. [*NAMES WERE ROTATED*]

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	**73%**	**15%**	**12%**
--October 2015	*77*	*18*	*6*
--September 2015	*71*	*17*	*12*
--August 2015	*71*	*17*	*13*
--July 2015	*74*	*17*	*9*
--June 2015	*78*	*12*	*10*
--April 2015	*76*	*16*	*8*
--December 2014	*82*	*11*	*7*
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley	**18%**	**18%**	**63%**
--October 2015	*23*	*17*	*60*
--September 2015	*13*	*14*	*72*
--August 2015	*13*	*9*	*78*
--July 2015	*13*	*14*	*72*
--June 2015	*13*	*18*	*70*
--April 2015	*21*	*12*	*66*
--December 2014	*10*	*13*	*77*
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	**59%**	**16%**	**26%**
--October 2015	*60*	*11*	*28*
--September 2015	*41*	*14*	*45*
--August 2015	*42*	*12*	*45*
--July 2015	*36*	*12*	*51*
--June 2015	*29*	*18*	*54*
--April 2015	*30*	*12*	*58*
--December 2014	*22*	*13*	*65*

3. How would you feel if Hillary Clinton became the Democratic nominee – enthusiastic, satisfied, dissatisfied, or upset?

	December 2015
Enthusiastic	**22%**
Satisfied	**58%**
Dissatisfied	**11%**
Upset	**5%**
(VOL) Don't know	**4%**

4. Which of the following issues is the most important to you in deciding who to support for president? [*ITEMS WERE ROTATED*]
5. And which is the second most important?

	FIRST CHOICE	**SECOND CHOICE**	*Combined 1st & 2nd*
Immigration	**2%**	**5%**	*7%*
The economy and jobs	**27%**	**19%**	*46%*
National security and terrorism	**20%**	**16%**	*36%*
Social issues like abortion and same-sex marriage	**6%**	**9%**	*15%*
Taxes and government spending	**7%**	**11%**	*18%*
Education	**15%**	**17%**	*32%*
Gun control	**9%**	**11%**	*20%*
(VOL) All equally important	**9%**	**0%**	*9%*
(VOL) Other	**3%**	**1%**	*4%*
(VOL) Don't know	**2%**	**12%**	*14%*

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from December 10 to 13, 2015 with a national random sample of 1,006 adults age 18 and older. This includes 654 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 352 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). The results in this poll release are based on a subsample of 374 registered voters who identify themselves as Democrats or lean toward the Democratic Party. For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 5.1 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). 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 (weighted)
FULL SAMPLE - ALL ADULTS

49% Male	*32% 18-34*	*66% White*
51% Female	*36% 35-54*	*12% Black*
	32% 55+	*15% Hispanic*
		7% Asian/Other

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)
DEMOCRAT VOTERS ONLY

41% Male	*27% 18-34*	*56% White*
59% Female	*38% 35-54*	*22% Black*
	35% 55+	*16% Hispanic*
		6% Asian/Other

MARGIN OF ERROR

	DEMOCRAT VOTER	*PARTY ID*		*GENDER*		*AGE*		
		Dem	*Lean Dem*	*Male*	*Female*	*18-34*	*35-54*	*55+*
Unweighted N	*374*	*291*	*83*	*146*	*228*	*58*	*120*	*195*
moe	*5.1%*	*5.8%*	*10.8%*	*8.1%*	*6.5%*	*12.9%*	*9.0%*	*7.0%*

###