

Tim Malloy, Assistant Director,  
Quinnipiac University Poll  
(203) 645-8043

Rubenstein Associates, Inc.  
Public Relations  
Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026



---

FOR RELEASE: NOVEMBER 19, 2015

**DON'T ARREST OR EXPEL TEEN SEXTERS,  
COLORADO VOTERS TELL QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL;  
VOTERS SAY LET TEACHERS CARRY GUNS IN SCHOOL**

Sexting is a “very serious” problem among young people, 42 percent of Colorado voters say, while 33 percent say it is a “somewhat serious” problem, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

But voters say 62 – 29 percent that students who sext should not be expelled from school, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds. There is strong opposition to expelling sexters among all party, gender, education and age groups.

Colorado voters also say 70 – 20 percent, with strong agreement among all listed groups, that sexters should not face criminal charges.

Among voters with children under 18 years old, 49 percent say the children have a cell phone. Among that smaller group, 29 percent say they monitor their children’s cell phone use “very closely” and 48 percent say “somewhat closely.”

“A lenient view on a troubling phenomenon. Coloradoans may think sexting by young people is a serious problem, but most voters say booting them from school is too severe a punishment and prosecuting them is out of the question,” said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

Colorado voters support 55 – 41 percent allowing teachers and school officials to carry guns on school grounds. Support is 81 – 16 percent among Republicans and 56 – 40 percent among independent voters, with Democrats opposed 75 – 22 percent. Men support arming teachers 60 – 36 percent with support among women at 51 – 46 percent.

If more people carried guns, Colorado would be safer, voters say 49 – 39 percent. Men say 57 – 32 percent that more guns would make the state safer, while women say 47 – 41 percent more guns would make the state less safe.

**-more-**

## **Quinnipiac University Poll/November 19, 2015 – page 2**

But 59 percent of voters say mass shootings in the U.S. have had no effect on their decision to carry a gun, while 30 percent say they are more likely to carry a gun and 10 percent say they are less likely.

“Pistol-packing public school teachers are just fine with Coloradoans, and the more guns in the hands of law abiding citizens, the safer the citizenry will be,” Malloy said.

### **Climate Change, Marijuana**

A total of 60 percent of Colorado voters are “very concerned” or “somewhat concerned” about climate change. Colorado must do more to address climate change, 43 percent of voters say, while 30 percent say the state is doing enough and 18 percent say it is doing too much.

The U.S. must do more on climate change, 52 percent of Colorado voters say, with 18 percent saying the U.S. is doing enough and 25 percent saying the U.S. is doing too much.

Other countries must do more to address climate change, 67 percent of voters say, while 12 percent say other countries are doing enough and 9 percent say they are doing too much.

“From a state where Mother Nature is on glorious display, a red flag from voters: Colorado, the U.S. and other countries all must do more to address climate change,” Malloy said.

Two years after Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, 53 percent of voters say it has been good for the state, while 39 percent say it has been bad for the state. There is a large gender gap as men say 60 – 32 percent that legalized marijuana has been good for the state. Women are divided as 45 percent say it has been good for the state and 47 percent say it has been bad.

“A smoking hot issue when first proposed, legalized marijuana sales seem to be on a mellow ride toward acceptance. Women are divided. Men are flat out loving it,” Malloy said.

From November 11 – 15, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,262 Colorado voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

**For more information, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on Twitter @QuinnipiacPoll.**

19. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Hickenlooper is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	47%	24%	82%	47%	45%	49%	56%	41%
Disapprove	41	65	8	42	45	37	36	44
DK/NA	12	11	10	11	11	13	8	15
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Approve	44%	50%	48%	50%	44%	50%	47%	53%
Disapprove	34	41	45	38	46	38	42	28
DK/NA	22	9	7	12	9	12	11	19

20. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Cory Gardner is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	45%	61%	29%	42%	47%	43%	42%	47%
Disapprove	27	14	39	33	26	28	33	23
DK/NA	28	25	32	26	28	29	24	31
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Approve	44%	42%	47%	48%	46%	45%	45%	43%
Disapprove	19	28	31	27	25	28	27	26
DK/NA	36	29	22	25	29	26	28	31

21. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Michael Bennet is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	37%	20%	60%	38%	35%	39%	44%	33%
Disapprove	35	51	13	35	38	32	35	35
DK/NA	28	29	27	26	27	28	21	33
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Approve	38%	37%	36%	44%	34%	40%	37%	48%
Disapprove	22	32	43	37	37	31	34	30
DK/NA	40	31	21	19	29	29	29	23

22. Looking ahead to the 2016 election for United States Senator, do you feel that Michael Bennet deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes/Deserves	30%	15%	52%	31%	28%	32%	40%	24%
No/Does not	41	57	19	41	46	36	39	42
DK/NA	29	27	29	28	26	32	22	34
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Yes/Deserves	29%	30%	30%	35%	26%	34%	30%	33%
No/Does not	32	38	48	42	47	34	40	44
DK/NA	39	32	22	24	27	33	30	24

23. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	39%	4%	90%	37%	37%	41%	45%	35%
Disapprove	58	95	7	59	61	55	51	63
DK/NA	3	1	3	4	2	4	3	2
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Approve	41%	43%	37%	38%	31%	38%	35%	58%
Disapprove	55	54	62	59	67	59	63	37
DK/NA	4	3	1	3	2	3	2	5

24. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Colorado today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Very satisfied	14%	5%	26%	15%	17%	11%	17%	13%
Smwht satisfied	47	38	56	48	46	48	51	44
Smwht dissatisfied	25	34	12	24	23	26	20	27
Very dissatisfied	14	23	5	13	14	15	12	16
DK/NA	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Very satisfied	22%	13%	14%	10%	18%	12%	15%	15%
Smwht satisfied	50	47	43	49	47	48	48	53
Smwht dissatisfied	18	25	26	26	23	24	23	17
Very dissatisfied	8	15	17	15	12	16	14	14
DK/NA	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	2

60. (Split Sample) Do you support or oppose the stricter new gun control laws in Colorado?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	37%	9%	79%	39%	30%	43%	42%	33%
Oppose	58	82	17	58	66	49	52	61
DK/NA	6	8	4	3	4	8	6	6

61. (Split Sample) Do you support or oppose the stricter new gun laws in Colorado?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	39%	6%	78%	40%	34%	43%	52%	29%
Oppose	56	91	12	56	62	50	45	63
DK/NA	5	3	10	4	4	7	2	7

62. If more people carried guns, do you think Colorado would be safer or less safe?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		Gun HsHld
							Yes	No	
Safer	49%	79%	9%	49%	57%	41%	42%	54%	65%
Less safe	39	8	84	39	32	47	48	34	23
DK/NA	12	13	7	12	10	13	10	12	12

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		COLLEGE DEG	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Safer	53%	53%	48%	40%	59%	43%	51%	32%
Less safe	36	37	42	47	31	44	38	56
DK/NA	10	10	9	13	10	13	11	12

63. Do you support or oppose allowing teachers and school officials to carry guns on school grounds?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		Gun HsHld
							Yes	No	
Support	55%	81%	22%	56%	60%	51%	49%	60%	68%
Oppose	41	16	75	40	36	46	49	35	28
DK/NA	4	3	3	4	4	3	2	5	4

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		COLLEGE DEG	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Support	62%	58%	55%	42%	62%	52%	57%	43%
Oppose	36	37	42	53	34	45	40	53
DK/NA	2	5	3	5	4	3	3	4

64. Have the mass shootings that have taken place in the United States in the last few years made you more likely to purchase a gun, less likely to purchase a gun, or haven't they had any effect either way on your likelihood of purchasing a gun?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		Gun HsHld
							Yes	No	
More likely	29%	50%	11%	25%	31%	28%	27%	31%	38%
Less likely	10	3	21	9	8	13	9	11	4
No effect	60	47	67	65	60	59	64	57	57
DK/NA	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	1
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
More likely	32%	35%	28%	22%	30%	29%	30%	26%	
Less likely	9	8	9	18	6	12	9	17	
No effect	59	56	61	58	62	58	60	57	
DK/NA	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	-	

65. Have the mass shootings that have taken place in the United States in the last few years made you more likely to carry a gun, less likely to carry a gun, or haven't they had any effect either way on your likelihood of carrying a gun?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		Gun HsHld
							Yes	No	
More likely	30%	52%	8%	27%	35%	26%	25%	34%	43%
Less likely	10	2	20	9	7	12	9	10	3
No effect	59	45	72	62	56	61	65	54	52
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
More likely	33%	35%	29%	23%	35%	27%	31%	21%	
Less likely	7	7	8	19	6	12	9	14	
No effect	57	57	61	56	59	60	59	62	
DK/NA	3	1	1	2	-	1	1	3	

66. As you may know, voters in Colorado passed a law legalizing marijuana for recreational use in 2012. Do you support or oppose this law?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	55%	31%	72%	65%	60%	50%	57%	54%
Oppose	41	65	25	33	36	47	40	42
DK/NA	3	4	3	2	4	3	3	4
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Support	73%	59%	53%	35%	61%	50%	55%	58%
Oppose	22	37	46	61	35	48	42	41
DK/NA	6	4	1	3	4	2	3	1

67. Keeping in mind that all of your answers in this survey are confidential, have you, yourself ever happened to try marijuana?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes	54%	44%	58%	61%	62%	47%	52%	56%
No	45	55	41	39	37	52	46	43
DK/NA	1	1	1	-	1	1	2	1

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Yes	62%	57%	63%	32%	62%	48%	55%	48%
No	36	43	36	68	37	52	45	51
DK/NA	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	2

68. Have you used marijuana after recreational sales began in Colorado January 1st, 2014?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes	25%	15%	27%	30%	30%	19%	23%	26%
No	74	85	72	69	69	80	76	73
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Yes	48%	26%	18%	8%	29%	19%	24%	25%
No	51	74	81	92	70	80	75	73
DK/NA	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	2

69. Do you believe legalizing marijuana has been good or bad for the state?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Good	53%	31%	65%	64%	60%	45%	53%	53%
Bad	39	62	26	30	32	47	39	39
DK/NA	8	7	9	6	8	8	8	8

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Good	76%	52%	50%	31%	61%	44%	52%	58%
Bad	18	38	42	59	31	48	40	34
DK/NA	6	10	7	10	8	8	8	8

70. How concerned are you about climate change; very concerned, somewhat concerned, not so concerned, or not concerned at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Very concerned	34%	5%	70%	39%	30%	39%	41%	30%
Somewhat concerned	26	25	20	31	30	23	24	28
Not so concerned	15	27	6	10	14	16	14	15
Not concerned at all	23	42	3	20	26	20	19	26
DK/NA	1	2	1	-	1	2	1	1
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Very concerned	36%	32%	38%	34%	30%	38%	34%	45%
Somewhat concerned	31	33	17	23	30	23	26	30
Not so concerned	14	17	14	15	15	15	15	14
Not concerned at all	17	17	30	27	25	22	23	10
DK/NA	2	-	1	-	1	2	1	2

71. Do you think other countries are doing enough to address climate change, doing too much, or do you think more needs to be done to address climate change?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Doing enough	12%	18%	4%	12%	10%	14%	12%	12%
Doing too much	9	16	-	9	11	8	8	11
More to be done	67	51	89	71	68	67	73	64
DK/NA	11	15	6	7	11	12	8	13
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Doing enough	16%	12%	10%	8%	10%	13%	11%	11%
Doing too much	6	11	13	7	13	8	11	2
More to be done	70	68	65	70	68	68	68	75
DK/NA	8	9	12	15	9	11	10	12

72. Do you think the United States is doing enough to address climate change, doing too much, or do you think more needs to be done to address climate change?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Doing enough	18%	29%	7%	17%	19%	17%	19%	18%
Doing too much	25	47	-	22	26	24	24	26
More to be done	52	18	88	59	49	55	55	50
DK/NA	5	6	5	2	6	4	3	6
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Doing enough	20%	20%	15%	20%	19%	18%	18%	15%
Doing too much	14	22	32	27	29	25	27	9
More to be done	61	55	48	47	48	53	50	71
DK/NA	6	4	4	6	5	4	4	5



73. Do you think Colorado is doing enough to address climate change, doing too much, or do you think more needs to be done to address climate change?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Doing enough	30%	42%	14%	33%	34%	26%	30%	30%
Doing too much	18	33	-	16	19	17	18	18
More to be done	43	14	78	46	38	49	46	42
DK/NA	9	10	7	5	9	8	6	10
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Doing enough	32%	30%	28%	33%	36%	27%	31%	23%
Doing too much	7	18	24	17	20	17	19	8
More to be done	50	44	42	42	35	49	43	59
DK/NA	12	8	7	8	8	7	8	10

74. As you may know, sexting is sending and receiving sexually explicit messages, primarily between mobile phones. How serious a problem do you think sexting is among young people today; a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, a not so serious problem, or not a problem at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		HvKids
							Yes	No	<18
Very serious	42%	52%	37%	37%	33%	51%	37%	46%	40%
Smwht serious	33	32	36	33	33	34	38	30	39
Not so serious	14	7	16	19	19	8	13	14	13
Not a problem at all	6	5	5	8	9	3	7	6	5
DK/NA	5	4	5	3	5	4	5	5	4
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
Very serious	34%	44%	40%	55%	34%	50%	42%	37%	
Smwht serious	26	34	40	30	36	34	35	33	
Not so serious	20	16	10	8	16	9	12	16	
Not a problem at all	16	4	4	2	9	2	6	12	
DK/NA	3	3	7	5	5	4	5	3	

75. Do you think students who sext should or should not be expelled from school?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		HvKids
							Yes	No	<18
Yes/Should	29%	38%	22%	24%	25%	32%	22%	34%	25%
No/Should not	62	53	65	70	67	57	68	58	68
DK/NA	9	8	13	6	8	11	10	8	7
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
Yes/Should	14%	30%	35%	35%	25%	33%	29%	28%	
No/Should not	80	63	55	52	69	57	62	61	
DK/NA	6	7	10	13	7	11	9	11	

76. Do you think minors who sext should or should not face criminal charges?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		HvKids
							Yes	No	<18
Yes/Should	20%	26%	15%	15%	16%	24%	14%	24%	22%
No/Should not	70	65	74	78	77	64	74	68	68
DK/NA	10	9	12	7	8	12	12	8	10
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
Yes/Should	18%	24%	19%	19%	16%	22%	19%	20%	
No/Should not	76	66	71	70	76	65	71	70	
DK/NA	6	11	10	11	7	13	10	10	