

Peter Brown, Assistant Director,  
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute  
(203) 535-6203

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



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**SCOTT CHIPS AWAY AT CRIST LEAD IN FLORIDA GOV RACE,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
GOV'S GRADES ARE LOW, BUT BEST EVER**

Florida Gov. Rick Scott trails former Gov. Charlie Crist 47 – 37 percent in his 2014 reelection bid, compared to his 16-point deficit in March, and gets his best job approval rating so far, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Crist, the Republican-turned independent-turned Democrat, was up 50 – 34 percent in a March 20 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

In today's survey, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, who some Democrats are pushing to run for governor, tops Scott 48 – 38 percent, running as well as Crist. The incumbent would defeat former state Senate Democratic leader Nan Rich 42 – 36 percent.

Voters are divided 43 – 44 percent in their job approval for Gov. Scott, his highest approval rating since he was elected and up from a negative 36 – 49 percent score March 20.

Voters still say 50 – 35 percent that Scott does not deserve to be reelected, but that also is his best score so far on that question, better than the 55 – 32 percent 'no' vote in March.

Scott gets a divided 40 – 42 percent favorability rating, but that also is up from a negative 33 – 46 percent favorability rating March 20, and his best score so far.

“It is an indication of how far down Florida Gov. Rick Scott's numbers have been that he can take some solace from a poll that finds him losing by 10 points to his predecessor in the governor's office,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. “In addition to cutting the deficit between himself and former Gov. Charlie Crist, Gov. Scott sees his tepid job approval and favorability numbers and his still-negative reelection numbers as notably improved.”

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“Now that doesn’t mean that happy days are here again for the governor, but if he is going to make a comeback these are the kind of steps that would be required. Whether it is the start of something larger, we’ll see in the coming months,” Brown added.

By 48 – 31 percent Florida voters have a favorable opinion of Crist, virtually unchanged.

Sen. Nelson has a 41 – 23 percent favorability rating and a 51 – 29 percent job approval, while 84 percent of voters haven’t heard enough about Ms. Rich to form an opinion of her.

In a possible matchup between Scott and Crist, the governor carries Republicans 75 – 13 percent, but loses Democrats 83 – 8 percent and independent voters 45 – 33 percent. Men are tied 43 – 43 percent, while women back Crist 51 – 32 percent.

“For Scott to win, he will have to do better among Republicans than Crist does among Democrats; carry independent voters and drastically reduce his deficit among women. That’s a tall order, but there are 17 months until the election,” Brown said.

Crist’s change in party affiliation is positive evidence of political pragmatism, 47 percent of voters say. Another 44 percent of voters say this is negative evidence that Crist lacks core beliefs. In March, 50 percent of voters said Crist’s party switching was a good thing, compared to 40 percent who saw it as a bad thing.

One reason that Scott may be edging up in the voters’ eyes is that by 33 – 18 percent voters say the state’s economy is getting better, compared to 31 – 21 percent who felt that way in March. Among those who see an improving economy 65 percent give at least a little credit to President Barack Obama, while 82 percent credit Scott.

“The governor needs to make voters believe he is responsible for a better economy. That’s the key to his electoral future. He isn’t going to get re-elected because he is Mr. Personality. He needs to essentially convince voters, ‘You may not like me, but I’m the guy who is making things better,’” Brown said.

From June 11 – 16, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,176 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.9 percentage points.

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](#).**

1. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Charlie Crist the Democrat and Rick Scott the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Crist	47%	13%	83%	45%	43%	51%	43%	73%	40%
Scott	37	75	8	33	43	32	43	13	33
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	1	4	2	2	3	-	-
DK/NA	12	10	8	15	10	13	8	13	24

	North/ Panhd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Crist	42%	48%	42%	39%	57%
Scott	46	35	42	50	24
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	3	2	1	3
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	5	1	-
DK/NA	10	12	10	10	15

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	35-54	55+
Crist	50%	46%	51%	43%	52%	45%	52%	46%
Scott	38	37	32	46	39	29	34	42
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	2	1	2	1	4	2	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	2	3	2	6	1	1
DK/NA	8	13	14	6	6	16	11	9

TREND: If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Charlie Crist the Democrat and Rick Scott the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Jun 18 2013	Mar 20 2013
Crist	47	50
Scott	37	34
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	3
DK/NA	12	12

2. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Bill Nelson the Democrat and Rick Scott the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Nelson	48%	15%	82%	48%	44%	52%	44%	75%	45%
Scott	38	77	8	33	43	33	42	15	34
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	1	1	2	1	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	1	4	2	2	3	-	1
DK/NA	11	7	9	14	10	11	9	9	19

	North/ Panhd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Nelson	45%	50%	44%	31%	58%
Scott	42	35	40	53	29
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	3	1	3	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	4	1	1
DK/NA	11	10	11	13	11

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+
Nelson	51%	47%	51%	48%	53%	48%	53%	47%
Scott	38	38	33	42	42	31	34	41
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	2	2	3	2	5	1	1
DK/NA	8	12	12	7	2	14	11	8

3. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Nan Rich the Democrat and Rick Scott the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Rich	36%	7%	68%	32%	30%	40%	31%	62%	36%
Scott	42	81	12	39	48	37	49	18	31
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	3	1	2	3	3	2	3	2	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	4	1
DK/NA	18	10	15	23	17	18	15	14	30

	North/ Panhd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Rich	29%	35%	31%	28%	49%
Scott	50	40	45	56	28
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	4	2	1	3
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	2	3	3	2
DK/NA	15	19	19	12	18

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+
Rich	39%	34%	38%	37%	42%	34%	43%	34%
Scott	41	42	37	48	45	34	40	46
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	3	3	1	1	4	3	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	2	3	2	1	6	1	2
DK/NA	16	18	19	12	11	22	13	16

4. Is your opinion of Rick Scott favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	40%	74%	12%	38%	44%	35%	44%	19%	34%
Unfavorable	42	13	69	43	41	43	42	51	37
Hvn't hrd enough	16	12	18	15	12	19	12	29	26
REFUSED	3	2	2	4	3	3	3	2	2

TREND: Is your opinion of Rick Scott favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Jun 18 2013	Mar 20 2013	Dec 19 2012	Feb 02 2011	Aug 19 2010	Jul 30 2010	Jun 09 2010
Favorable	40	33	31	28	28	29	31
Unfavorable	42	46	43	24	40	30	22
Hvn't hrd enough	16	18	24	45	30	38	46
REFUSED	3	3	2	3	2	2	1

5. Is your opinion of Charlie Crist favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	48%	27%	67%	49%	44%	51%	47%	64%	40%
Unfavorable	31	55	11	30	35	28	36	15	21
Hvn't hrd enough	18	16	18	18	18	18	15	18	36
REFUSED	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3

TREND: Is your opinion of Charlie Crist favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Jun 18 2013	Mar 20 2013	Dec 19 2012	Aug 19 2010	Jul 30 2010	FAVORABLE.....	
						High Feb 19 2009	Low Dec 19 2012
Favorable	48	49	47	53	49	68	47
Unfavorable	31	30	33	33	35	21	33
Hvn't hrd enough	18	20	19	10	13	9	19
REFUSED	3	2	2	4	3	3	2

6. Is your opinion of Nan Rich favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	7%	4%	12%	6%	9%	6%	7%	10%	10%
Unfavorable	6	8	2	7	7	5	6	1	10
Hvn't hrd enough	84	86	84	83	81	87	86	86	76
REFUSED	2	1	2	3	3	2	1	3	4

TREND: Is your opinion of Nan Rich favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Jun 18 2013	Dec 19 2012
Favorable	7	6
Unfavorable	6	4
Hvn't hrd enough	84	90
REFUSED	2	1

7. Is your opinion of Bill Nelson favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	41%	23%	59%	42%	40%	42%	44%	42%	30%
Unfavorable	23	42	5	24	28	19	28	5	13
Hvn't hrd enough	33	33	34	29	29	37	26	50	52
REFUSED	3	2	2	5	3	3	2	3	5

TREND: Is your opinion of Bill Nelson favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Jun 18 2013	Jun 21 2012	May 24 2012	Jan 11 2012	Feb 3 2011
Favorable	41	44	39	41	39
Unfavorable	23	26	28	23	23
Hvn't hrd enough	33	28	31	35	36
REFUSED	3	2	2	1	2

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Rick Scott is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	43%	72%	17%	44%	51%	36%	47%	16%	45%
Disapprove	44	17	70	42	40	48	43	65	32
DK/NA	13	11	12	14	9	16	10	19	23

	North/ Panhd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Approve	51%	39%	43%	61%	34%
Disapprove	39	51	40	32	50
DK/NA	11	10	17	7	16

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	41%	44%	38%	51%	44%	38%	42%	46%
Disapprove	49	42	46	41	52	38	48	44
DK/NA	9	15	16	8	4	24	11	10

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Rick Scott is handling his job as Governor?

	Jun 18 2013	Mar 20 2013	Dec 19 2012	Jun 27 2012	Jun 20 2012	APPROVE..... High Jun 18 2013	Low May 25 2011
Approve	43	36	36	35	39	43	29
Disapprove	44	49	45	48	49	44	57
DK/NA	13	15	19	17	13	13	14

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Very satisfied	5%	8%	5%	3%	6%	4%	5%	4%	8%
Smwht satisfied	48	57	42	47	51	45	49	52	44
Smwht dissatisfied	28	20	32	31	27	30	28	28	26
Very dissatisfied	17	13	20	18	16	19	17	15	22
DK/NA	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	-

	North/ Panhd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Very satisfied	4%	6%	4%	11%	4%
Smwht satisfied	48	45	49	57	46
Smwht dissatisfied	31	30	31	17	26
Very dissatisfied	14	17	15	14	24
DK/NA	2	3	1	1	-

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL	HS	INC	AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<50K	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Very satisfied	4%	5%	4%	8%	4%	3%	5%	6%
Smwht satisfied	46	48	45	47	53	49	45	49
Smwht dissatisfied	32	27	32	26	27	32	30	26
Very dissatisfied	16	18	19	17	15	13	19	18
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	1

TREND: In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Florida today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied? (\*combined High also 63% Sep 2004)

	Jun 18 2013	Mar 20 2013	Dec 19 2012	Jun 20 2012	May 24 2012	VERY+SMWHT.... High Low Feb 24 Sep 22 2005* 2011	
Very satisfied	5	4	6	5	4	15	4
Smwht satisfied	48	46	43	36	39	48	31
Smwht dissatisfied	28	31	33	34	30	22	29
Very dissatisfied	17	16	17	25	25	15	34
DK/NA	1	2	2	1	2	1	2

23. Do you feel that Rick Scott deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes/Deserves	35%	63%	11%	35%	42%	29%	38%	17%	37%
No/Does not	50	23	75	49	45	54	48	65	42
DK/NA	15	14	14	16	13	17	13	18	21

	North/ Panhd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Yes/Deserves	43%	33%	36%	49%	26%
No/Does not	39	56	47	34	60
DK/NA	18	11	18	18	14

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	35-54	55+
Yes/Deserves	37%	35%	32%	44%	38%	31%	34%	38%
No/Does not	54	48	50	47	56	43	53	50
DK/NA	9	18	18	9	6	26	12	12

TREND: Do you feel that Rick Scott deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Jun 18 2013	Mar 20 2013	Dec 19 2012
Yes/Deserves	35	32	30
No/Does not	50	55	52
DK/NA	15	13	18

24. In the last three years, Charlie Crist has changed his party affiliation from Republican to Independent to Democrat. Some people say this is a positive thing because it shows he is a pragmatist who can change with the times and issues. Other people say it is a negative thing because it shows he has no core beliefs. Which comes closest to your view of Charlie Crist?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Positive thing	47%	18%	71%	53%	45%	48%	43%	56%	57%
Negative thing	44	77	18	41	47	41	50	29	32
DK/NA	9	5	10	7	7	11	7	16	11

	North/ Panhd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Positive thing	41%	50%	38%	50%	57%
Negative thing	50	41	52	48	33
DK/NA	10	8	11	2	10

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	35-54	55+
Positive thing	50%	46%	49%	49%	52%	58%	50%	42%
Negative thing	46	43	41	45	45	30	42	51
DK/NA	4	11	10	5	3	13	8	7



TREND: In the last three years, Charlie Crist has changed his party affiliation from Republican to Independent to Democrat. Some people say this is a positive thing because it shows he is a pragmatist who can change with the times and issues. Other people say it is a negative thing because it shows he has no core beliefs. Which comes closest to your view of Charlie Crist?

	Jun 18 2013	Mar 20 2013
Positive thing	47	50
Negative thing	44	40
DK/NA	9	10

25. Do you think Florida's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Better	33%	40%	36%	27%	37%	30%	36%	28%	26%
Worse	18	19	15	19	12	24	19	15	20
The same	47	40	47	52	50	44	44	53	50
DK/NA	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	4	4

	North/ Panhd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Better	31%	32%	31%	50%	33%
Worse	22	19	16	8	20
The same	45	47	52	41	45
DK/NA	3	2	1	1	3

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	ANNUAL <50K	HSHOLD 50-100	INC >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	35-54	55+
Better	43%	29%	25%	41%	52%	24%	36%	36%
Worse	12	21	24	12	8	15	22	17
The same	44	48	49	46	39	58	41	46
DK/NA	2	2	3	-	1	2	2	2

TREND: Do you think Florida's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Jun 18 2013	Dec 19 2012
Better	33	31
Worse	18	21
The same	47	46
DK/NA	2	2

26a. (If economy better q25) How much credit, if any, do you think the - Obama administration should receive for this; a lot of credit, some, a little or none at all?

	ECONOMY BETTER Q25		
	Tot	Men	Wom
A lot	21%	21%	21%
Some	28	23	34
A little	16	16	16
None at all	35	40	28
DK/NA	-	-	1

TREND: (If economy better) How much credit, if any, do you think the Obama administration should receive for this; a lot of credit, some, a little or none at all?

	ECONOMY BETTER	
	Jun 18 2013	Dec 19 2012
A lot	21	27
Some	28	32
A little	16	13
None at all	35	28
DK/NA	-	1

26b. (If economy better q25) How much credit, if any, do you think the - Scott administration should receive for this; a lot of credit, some, a little or none at all?

	ECONOMY BETTER Q25		
	Tot	Men	Wom
A lot	14%	12%	17%
Some	44	46	42
A little	24	28	20
None at all	16	13	19
DK/NA	2	1	3

TREND: (If economy better) How much credit, if any, do you think the Scott administration should receive for this; a lot of credit, some, a little or none at all?

	ECONOMY BETTER	
	Jun 18 2013	Dec 19 2012
A lot	14	16
Some	44	33
A little	24	20
None at all	16	27
DK/NA	2	4

27a. (If economy worse q25) How much blame, if any, do you think the - Obama administration should receive for this; a lot of blame, some, a little or none at all? (\* Subgroup size less than 75, additional caution should be taken when interpreting findings of this group because of the large margin of error)

	ECONOMY WORSE Q25		
	Tot	Men*	Wom
A lot	42%	41%	42%
Some	18	22	16
A little	17	18	16
None at all	20	17	22
DK/NA	3	1	4

TREND: (If economy worse) How much blame, if any, do you think the Obama administration should receive for this; a lot of blame, some, a little or none at all?

	ECONOMY WORSE	
	Jun 18 2013	Dec 19 2012
A lot	42	42%
Some	18	24
A little	17	14
None at all	20	19
DK/NA	3	1

27b. (If economy worse q25) How much blame, if any, do you think the - Scott administration should receive for this; a lot of blame, some, a little or none at all? (\* Subgroup size less than 75, additional caution should be taken when interpreting findings of this group because of the large margin of error)

	ECONOMY WORSE Q25		
	Tot	Men*	Wom
A lot	35%	42%	32%
Some	37	35	38
A little	18	12	21
None at all	6	10	5
DK/NA	3	1	4

TREND: (If economy worse) How much blame, if any, do you think the Scott administration should receive for this; a lot of blame, some, a little or none at all?

	ECONOMY WORSE	
	Jun 18 2013	Dec 19 2012
A lot	35	23%
Some	37	44
A little	18	15
None at all	6	15
DK/NA	3	2

28. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Rick Scott is handling the state budget?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	35%	63%	15%	34%	42%	30%	40%	16%	30%
Disapprove	48	23	70	49	45	50	45	68	43
DK/NA	17	14	15	18	13	20	15	15	27

	North/ Panhd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Approve	42%	33%	36%	55%	26%
Disapprove	47	52	43	34	55
DK/NA	12	14	21	11	19

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL HSHOLD <50K	ANNUAL HSHOLD 50-100	ANNUAL HSHOLD >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	AGE IN YRS..... 35-54	AGE IN YRS..... 55+
Approve	40%	33%	29%	47%	39%	26%	35%	40%
Disapprove	49	48	50	42	54	51	53	44
DK/NA	11	19	22	11	7	23	12	16

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Rick Scott is handling the state budget?

	Jun 18 2013	Mar 20 2013	Dec 19 2012	Jun 20 2012	May 24 2012	APPROVE..... High Jun 20 2012	APPROVE..... Low May 25 2011
Approve	35	34	32	38	37	38	30
Disapprove	48	50	47	48	48	48	59
DK/NA	17	15	20	14	14	14	11

29. Do you think the state budget is fair or unfair to people like you?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Fair	45%	64%	30%	43%	51%	40%	49%	22%	44%
Unfair	42	25	57	43	41	44	38	66	44
DK/NA	13	11	13	14	9	16	13	11	13

	North/ Panhd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Fair	47%	48%	42%	62%	39%
Unfair	42	36	41	31	52
DK/NA	11	15	17	7	9

	COLLEGE DEG Yes	COLLEGE DEG No	ANNUAL HSHOLD <50K	ANNUAL HSHOLD 50-100	ANNUAL HSHOLD >100K	AGE IN YRS..... 18-34	AGE IN YRS..... 35-54	AGE IN YRS..... 55+
Fair	50%	43%	36%	52%	57%	49%	37%	49%
Unfair	38	44	50	37	37	42	52	37
DK/NA	12	13	14	12	7	9	11	14

TREND: Do you think the state budget is fair or unfair to people like you? (\*new state budget, \*\*High also 45% Dec 2012)

	Jun 18	Mar 20	Dec 19	Jun 20	Jan 10	FAIR.....	
	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	High	Low
						Jun 18	May 25
						2013**	2011*
Fair	45	40	45	40	39	45	29
Unfair	42	43	39	48	48	42	54
DK/NA	13	18	16	13	14	13	16