

FOR RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

**DEAD HEAT IN FLORIDA SENATE RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
NELSON, SCOTT HAVE MATCHING GRADES, BUT RUBIO IS DOWN**

Democratic incumbent U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and Florida Gov. Rick Scott are locked in a 49 – 49 percent dead heat among likely voters in the U.S. Senate race in the Sunshine State, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

The gender gap is a mirror image as men back Gov. Scott 53 – 45 percent, while women back Sen. Nelson 53 – 45 percent. This is the first survey of likely voters in this race by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll, and can not be compared to earlier surveys of registered voters.

White voters back Scott 55 – 44 percent, as black voters back Nelson 90 – 5 percent. Hispanic voters go Republican 59 – 39 percent.

Nelson leads 89 – 8 percent among Democrats and 56 – 43 percent among independent voters. Scott leads 92 – 7 percent among Republicans.

Among Florida likely voters who have named a U.S. Senate candidate, 92 percent say their mind is made up.

Voters approve 49 – 43 percent of the job Nelson is doing as a U.S. Senator and give him a 48 – 42 percent favorability rating.

Voters approve 51 – 46 percent of the job Scott is doing as governor and give him a divided 49 – 47 percent favorability rating.

“The Florida Senate race, one of the most important this election year, is a dead heat,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“Sen. Bill Nelson, the Democratic incumbent, faces the most difficult challenge of his long political career. He is locked in a 49 – 49 percent contest with Republican Rick Scott, Florida’s governor.”

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Quinnipiac University Poll/September 5, 2018 – page 2

“The campaign is a prototype of our nation's political environment: Democrat Nelson carries women and black voters, while Republican Scott wins among men and white voters. The key in close elections like this one often lies with independent voters. So far, Sen. Nelson has the edge with this swing group. The candidate who holds those voters in November is likely to win,” Brown added.

President Donald Trump is not an important factor in their choice of a U.S. Senator, 46 percent of Florida likely voters say, while 26 percent say their Senate vote is mainly to support the president and 25 percent say their vote is mainly in opposition to Trump.

While he is not on the ballot in 2018, only 44 percent of Florida likely voters approve of U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, while 47 percent disapprove.

From August 30 – September 3, Quinnipiac University surveyed 785 Florida likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.3 percentage points, including the design effect. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

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

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4. If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Bill Nelson the Democrat and Rick Scott the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Bill Nelson the Democrat or more toward Rick Scott the Republican?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Nelson	49%	7%	89%	56%	45%	53%	48%	40%
Scott	49	92	8	43	53	45	51	58
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	1

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Nelson	37%	50%	44%	90%	39%
Scott	62	48	55	5	59
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	-	2	1	5	2

4a. (If candidate chosen q4) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q4.....		
	Tot	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q4	
		Nelson	Scott
Mind made up	92%	92%	92%
Might change	8	7	8
DK/NA	-	1	-

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	48%	14%	86%	48%	44%	52%	48%	40%
Unfavorable	42	77	6	42	48	37	42	52
Hvn't hrd enough	8	7	8	8	8	8	7	7
REFUSED	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	1

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	37%	50%	44%	83%	39%
Unfavorable	57	39	47	13	44
Hvn't hrd enough	6	8	7	3	17
REFUSED	1	2	2	1	-

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No	
Favorable	49%	87%	12%	46%	54%	45%	51%	54%
Unfavorable	47	10	83	51	44	50	47	42
Hvn't hrd enough	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
REFUSED	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	2

WHITE.....					
Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Favorable	61%	46%	53%	18%	62%
Unfavorable	38	50	44	74	35
Hvn't hrd enough	1	1	1	5	3
REFUSED	1	3	2	3	-

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No	
Approve	51%	90%	14%	48%	56%	47%	54%	56%
Disapprove	46	8	82	48	41	50	44	40
DK/NA	3	2	3	4	3	3	2	4

WHITE.....					
Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Approve	63%	48%	55%	19%	63%
Disapprove	33	49	42	78	34
DK/NA	4	3	3	3	2

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Nelson is handling his job as United States Senator?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No	
Approve	49%	14%	85%	51%	46%	51%	45%	43%
Disapprove	43	76	9	40	46	40	45	51
DK/NA	8	9	6	9	8	9	10	6

WHITE.....					
Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Approve	38%	49%	44%	77%	48%
Disapprove	56	42	48	12	42
DK/NA	6	9	8	11	10

9. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Marco Rubio is handling his job as United States Senator?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	44%	77%	15%	40%	52%	37%	46%	49%
Disapprove	47	15	77	50	43	52	43	43
DK/NA	8	8	8	10	5	12	11	8
	WHITE.....							
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp			
Approve	57%	38%	47%	19%	57%			
Disapprove	37	49	44	75	40			
DK/NA	5	13	9	7	3			

12. Will your vote in this year's election for United States Senator be more to express support for President Trump, more to express opposition to President Trump, or will President Trump not be an important factor in your vote?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	26%	54%	4%	17%	29%	23%	22%	33%
Opposition	25	3	48	28	22	28	31	19
Not important factor	46	41	43	52	48	45	45	45
DK/NA	3	1	5	3	2	4	2	3
	WHITE.....							
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp			
Support	34%	23%	28%	7%	39%			
Opposition	20	29	25	26	24			
Not important factor	45	44	45	59	36			
DK/NA	1	4	2	8	1			