

**FOR RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

**NELSON TAKES LEAD IN CRITICAL FLORIDA U.S. SENATE RACE,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
WOMEN ARE KEY TO DEMOCRAT'S LEAD**

In the Florida U.S. Senate race, which could be critical to control of the Senate this year, Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson moves into a 53 – 46 percent likely voter lead over Gov. Rick Scott, the Republican challenger, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

This compares to a 49 – 49 percent dead heat in a September 5 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll.

Today, women back Sen. Nelson 58 – 41 percent as men are divided, with 51 percent for Gov. Scott and 47 percent for the incumbent.

White voters back Scott 53 – 45 percent. Supporting Nelson are black voters 90 – 10 percent and Hispanic voters 61 – 39 percent.

Republicans back Scott 89 – 10 percent. Nelson leads 94 – 5 percent among Democrats and 56 – 40 percent among independent voters.

Among Florida likely voters who name a candidate choice, 94 percent say their mind is made up.

Nelson gets a 53 – 41 percent favorability rating, while Scott gets a negative 46 – 51 percent favorability rating.

Florida likely voters give President Donald Trump a negative 44 – 54 percent job approval rating.

“Sen. Bill Nelson has edged ahead of Gov. Rick Scott in the race for one of Florida’s U.S. Senate seats, breaking a 49 – 49 percent tie between the two men in the previous Quinnipiac University poll of this race earlier this month,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

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“Sen. Nelson is ahead 53 – 46 percent by doing a tad better than Gov. Scott with their respective bases and holding a 16-point lead among the key independent voting bloc,” Brown added. “Nelson also leads among women and is breaking even among men – the traditional path to a Democratic victory.

“A Nelson win would be a big boost for Democratic hopes of wresting control of the U.S. Senate from the GOP.”

Among Florida likely voters, 56 percent say they would like Congress to be “more of a check on President Trump,” while 30 percent think, “Congress is doing enough to be a check on President Trump.”

Health care is the most important issue to their vote for U.S. Senator, 26 percent of Florida likely voters say, as 19 percent cite the economy, followed by 18 percent for immigration, 15 percent for the Supreme Court and 12 percent who list gun policy.

Wide gender and racial gaps leave Florida likely voters divided on whether the U.S. Senate should confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, as 47 percent say yes and 48 percent say no.

Women say no to confirmation 54 – 41 percent, while men say yes 55 – 40 percent.

White voters say yes to confirmation 56 – 40 percent. Saying no are black voters 82 – 10 percent and Hispanic voters 55 – 42 percent.

Republicans say yes 92 – 7 percent as Democrats say no 87 – 6 percent. Independent voters are divided as 44 percent say yes and 49 percent say no.

From September 20 – 24, Quinnipiac University surveyed 888 Florida likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts gold standard surveys using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones. The Quinnipiac University Poll conducts nationwide surveys and polls in more than a dozen states on national and statewide elections, as well as public policy issues.

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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	Yes	No
Nelson	53%	10%	94%	56%	47%	58%	51%	39%
Scott	46	89	5	40	51	41	47	59
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
DK/NA	1	1	-	2	2	1	2	1

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Nelson	40%	50%	45%	90%	61%
Scott	58	49	53	10	39
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	1	1	-	1

	MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN HOW TO VOTE Q11				
	Econ	Health care	Imgrtn	Gun Policy	Suprm Court
Nelson	35%	83%	23%	80%	50%
Scott	62	16	75	20	50
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	1	2	-	1

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.....		
	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q4		
	Tot	Nelson	
Mind made up	94%	95%	93%
Might change	6	5	6
DK/NA	-	-	-

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Favorable	53%	14%	91%	55%	48%	58%	51%	38%
Unfavorable	41	79	6	38	45	38	45	54
Hvn't hrd enough	5	6	2	6	6	3	3	7
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

  

WHITE.....					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	39%	49%	44%	92%	63%
Unfavorable	53	46	49	7	31
Hvn't hrd enough	7	3	5	1	5
REFUSED	1	1	1	-	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	46%	88%	8%	38%	49%	43%	44%	60%
Unfavorable	51	11	88	55	47	54	53	38
Hvn't hrd enough	2	1	2	4	3	1	2	2
REFUSED	1	-	1	3	1	2	1	1

  

WHITE.....					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	54%	49%	52%	18%	39%
Unfavorable	43	48	45	76	58
Hvn't hrd enough	3	1	2	5	1
REFUSED	-	2	1	1	2

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Approve	44%	88%	3%	40%	51%	38%	47%	60%
Disapprove	54	11	94	57	47	59	52	39
DK/NA	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	2

  

WHITE.....					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	60%	47%	53%	4%	38%
Disapprove	39	51	45	92	60
DK/NA	2	1	2	4	2

8. As you may know, President Trump has nominated Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Do you think the U.S. Senate should confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
Yes/Confirm	47%	92%	6%	44%	55%	41%	49%	63%	
No	48	7	87	49	40	54	45	34	
DK/NA	5	2	7	8	5	5	6	3	
	WHITE.....								
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp				
Yes/Confirm	62%	50%	56%	10%	42%				
No	34	45	40	82	55				
DK/NA	4	5	5	7	3				

9. In general, would you like to see Congress be more of a check on President Trump, or do you think Congress is doing enough to be a check on President Trump?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
More of a check	56%	19%	91%	59%	48%	62%	56%	39%	
Doing enough	30	58	4	27	37	25	31	44	
LESS OF A CHECK (VOL)	4	8	1	5	7	2	5	7	
DK/NA	9	15	4	8	8	10	8	10	
	WHITE.....								
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp				
More of a check	41%	54%	48%	91%	63%				
Doing enough	41	34	37	4	20				
LESS OF A CHECK (VOL)	9	4	6	-	1				
DK/NA	9	9	9	4	15				

11. Which of these is the most important issue to you in deciding how to vote for United States Senator this year: the economy, taxes, health care, immigration, gun policy, or the Supreme Court?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Economy	19%	25%	11%	21%	24%	14%	17%	19%
Taxes	5	8	2	6	6	4	4	7
Health care	26	8	40	32	25	28	27	20
Immigration	18	32	7	16	16	20	20	20
Gun policy	12	7	19	8	11	13	10	12
Supreme Court	15	14	17	12	13	16	16	17
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1
DK/NA	3	4	2	3	3	4	3	4

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Economy	21%	15%	18%	20%	21%
Taxes	5	6	5	2	8
Health care	22	25	23	41	30
Immigration	21	20	20	6	20
Gun policy	9	13	11	17	12
Supreme Court	16	17	17	12	6
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	2	2	1	-
DK/NA	4	4	4	1	3