

FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 22, 2018

**NELSON HOLDS LEAD IN FLORIDA SENATE RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
HURRICANE DOES NOT LIFT SCOTT OR TRUMP**

Despite his exposure in the wake of Hurricane Michael, Florida Gov. Rick Scott, the Republican challenger in the U.S. Senate race, gains virtually no ground on Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson, getting 46 percent of likely voters to Sen. Nelson's 52 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

This compares to a 53 – 46 percent likely voter lead for Sen. Nelson in a September 25 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll.

Today, women, black, Hispanic and independent voters are the main drivers of Nelson's lead:

- Women back the Democrat 59 – 39 percent, as men back Scott 54 – 44 percent;
- White voters back Scott 53 – 44 percent. Nelson leads 94 – 3 percent among black voters and 59 – 39 percent among Hispanic voters;
- Nelson leads 93 – 6 percent among Democrats and 60 – 38 percent among independent voters. Republicans back Scott 89 – 9 percent.

Only 2 percent of Florida likely voters remain undecided and 4 percent of those who name a candidate say they might change their mind in the next 15 days.

“The Florida race is one of a handful of contests around the country that will decide control of the U.S. Senate. Sen. Bill Nelson and Gov. Rick Scott have spent so many millions of dollars on television ads it is almost impossible to avoid seeing them,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“At this point, Sen. Nelson's six-point overall lead is built on his large margin among independent voters, 60 – 38 percent. If that margin holds up, the senator will be difficult to beat. Moreover, Sen. Nelson's 20-point advantage among women is twice Gov. Scott's 10-point edge among men.”

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“Nelson is just better liked. Florida likely voters view him favorably by 10 percentage points, and see Gov. Scott unfavorably by five points,” Brown added.

Florida likely voters give Nelson a 51 – 41 percent favorability rating.

Scott gets a negative 45 – 50 percent favorability rating, virtually unchanged from his negative 46 – 51 percent rating September 25.

Florida likely voters give President Donald Trump a negative 46 – 51 percent job approval rating, compared to a negative 44 – 54 percent job approval rating September 25.

From October 17 – 21, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,161 Florida likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.5 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	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Nelson	52%	9%	93%	60%	44%	59%	47%	42%
Scott	46	89	6	38	54	39	50	57
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-
DK/NA	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Nelson	36%	51%	44%	94%	59%
Scott	62	46	53	3	39
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	-	-
DK/NA	1	2	2	3	2

	WHITE.....			
	COLLEGE DEG		NO COLLEGE	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Nelson	38%	54%	35%	49%
Scott	60	42	63	50
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	-
DK/NA	1	3	1	1

	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT..		INDEPENDENT	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Nelson	8%	10%	91%	94%	52%	68%
Scott	89	89	8	4	46	30
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	-	1	-
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	1	2

	AREA.....				
	North/ Panhdl	Bay Area	Cen- tral	South West	South East
Nelson	38%	53%	53%	43%	61%
Scott	59	45	46	54	35
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	1	1
DK/NA	3	2	-	2	4

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	96%	96%	96%
Might change	4	3	4
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	51%	13%	88%	58%	43%	58%	49%	40%
Unfavorable	41	78	6	34	49	34	43	54
Hvn't hrd enough	6	7	5	6	6	7	6	4
REFUSED	2	2	-	2	2	2	2	2

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	38%	51%	45%	89%	57%
Unfavorable	55	42	48	3	33
Hvn't hrd enough	6	5	5	8	10
REFUSED	2	3	2	-	-

	WHITE.....			
	COLLEGE DEG		NO COLLEGE	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Favorable	40%	56%	36%	45%
Unfavorable	51	36	58	49
Hvn't hrd enough	7	6	4	4
REFUSED	1	2	2	3

	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT..		INDEPENDENT	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Favorable	10%	16%	86%	90%	52%	64%
Unfavorable	81	74	10	4	40	29
Hvn't hrd enough	6	8	4	6	7	5
REFUSED	2	3	-	-	1	2

	AREA.....				
	North/ Panhdl	Bay Area	Cen- tral	South West	South East
Favorable	40%	50%	53%	40%	62%
Unfavorable	51	42	39	52	31
Hvn't hrd enough	5	8	6	7	6
REFUSED	3	1	2	2	2

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	45%	85%	7%	37%	52%	38%	49%	53%
Unfavorable	50	11	87	60	43	57	47	44
Hvn't hrd enough	4	3	5	2	3	4	3	2
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	-

WHITE.....

	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Unfavorable	38	52	46	79	55
Hvn't hrd enough	2	2	2	13	6
REFUSED	2	1	1	1	1

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		NO COLLEGE	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Favorable	58%	41%	58%	48%
Unfavorable	36	55	40	49
Hvn't hrd enough	2	3	2	1
REFUSED	3	1	-	1

REPUBLICAN DEMOCRAT... INDEPENDENT

	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT..		INDEPENDENT	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Favorable	84%	85%	12%	5%	42%	32%
Unfavorable	12	11	83	89	53	67
Hvn't hrd enough	2	4	4	6	3	2
REFUSED	1	1	1	-	2	-

AREA.....

	North/	Bay	Cen-	South	South
	Panhdl	Area	tral	West	East
Favorable	54%	43%	44%	54%	36%
Unfavorable	40	52	52	42	57
Hvn't hrd enough	4	3	4	4	5
REFUSED	2	1	-	1	2

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	Yes
Approve	46%	90%	6%	39%	56%	38%	50%	58%
Disapprove	51	8	92	58	42	58	47	40
DK/NA	3	2	2	3	2	4	3	2

WHITE.....

	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Disapprove	36	51	44	93	57
DK/NA	2	3	2	4	5

WHITE.....

	COLLEGE DEG		NO COLLEGE	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Approve	59%	43%	66%	51%
Disapprove	38	54	33	47
DK/NA	3	3	1	3

REPUBLICAN DEMOCRAT.. INDEPENDENT

	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT..		INDEPENDENT	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Approve	93%	87%	11%	3%	46%	33%
Disapprove	6	9	88	94	50	66
DK/NA	1	4	-	3	4	1

AREA.....

	North/	Bay	Cen-	South	South
	Panhdl	Area	tral	West	East
Approve	59%	45%	46%	53%	37%
Disapprove	38	53	52	42	59
DK/NA	3	1	3	5	4