

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

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

# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

---

FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 30, 2014

## INDEPENDENT VOTERS BOOST CRIST IN FLORIDA, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; VOTERS LIKE REPUBLICAN TURNED DEM A LITTLE MORE

A jump in support from independent likely voters in the Florida governor's race leaves Democrat Charlie Crist with 43 percent, inches ahead of Republican incumbent Gov. Rick Scott with 40 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. Libertarian candidate Adrian Wyllie has 8 percent, with 9 percent undecided.

This compares to results of an October 22 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University, showing Gov. Scott and Crist tied 42 – 42 percent, with Wyllie at 7 percent.

With Wyllie out of the race, Crist gets 45 percent to Scott's 42 percent.

Men and women remain divided in the three-way matchup. Scott leads Crist among men 47 – 37 percent, with 9 percent for Wyllie, while Crist leads Scott 49 – 35 percent among women, with 6 percent for Wyllie.

Independent voters go to Crist over Scott 47 – 29 percent, with 16 percent for Wyllie. This compares to last week's result, showing Crist taking 41 percent of independent voters, to Scott's 38 percent, with 11 percent for Wyllie.

Republicans back Scott over Crist 81 – 8 percent, with 4 percent for Wyllie. Democrats go to Crist over Scott 83 – 7 percent, with 3 percent for Wyllie.

Among those who already have voted, Crist gets 40 percent to Scott's 39 percent.

“Independent voters are often the difference in swing states like Florida, but the size of former Gov. Charlie Crist's lead among them is truly remarkable,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

---

**-more-**

## Quinnipiac University Poll/October 30, 2014 – page 2

“Crist, who always has sought to portray himself as a pragmatist rather than an ideologue, seems to have sold that message to independents who historically have favored problem-solvers who are less political,” Brown added. “It may turn out that Crist’s change from Republican to independent to Democrat branded him as the kind of less political politician with the most important voter group. If Crist can win independents by 20 points on Election Day, he will be difficult to beat.

“It would be a reasonable hypothesis that the candidates’ debates made a big difference in this race. Scott was ahead going into them and behind after them. It could be a coincidence, but it would be a pretty large coincidence. Crist has long been thought of as an excellent campaigner and he used those skills to his advantage.

“Wyllie is holding on to his 8 percent and if those voters decide to leave him for a major party candidate they could also make a difference.”

Just five days before Election Day, 90 percent of voters who name a candidate say their mind is made up, while 10 percent say they might change their mind. Their mind is made up, say 91 percent of Crist voters, 92 percent of Scott supporters and 67 percent of Wyllie backers.

Florida likely voters give Crist a split 45 – 45 percent favorability rating, compared to Scott’s negative 41 – 46 percent, while 81 percent of likely voters still do not know enough about Wyllie to form an opinion of him.

From October 22 – 27, Quinnipiac University surveyed 817 likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.4 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 data or RSS feed– <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on Twitter @QuinnipiacPoll.**

1. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Charlie Crist the Democrat, Rick Scott the Republican, and Adrian Wyllie the Libertarian, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) If you had to choose today, would you vote for Crist, Scott, or Wyllie? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						Already Voted
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Crist	43%	8%	83%	47%	37%	49%	40%
Scott	40	81	7	29	47	35	39
Wyllie	8	4	3	16	9	6	3
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	9	7	7	7	8	10	17

TREND: If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Charlie Crist the Democrat, Rick Scott the Republican, and Adrian Wyllie the Libertarian, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) If you had to choose today, would you vote for Crist, Scott, or Wyllie? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 30 2014	Oct 22 2014	Sep 24 2014
Crist	43	42	42
Scott	40	42	44
Wyllie	8	7	8
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	1
DK/NA	9	8	5

1a. (If candidate chosen q1) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....			
	Tot	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....		
		CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1		
		Crist	Scott	Wyllie
Mind made up	90%	91%	92%	67%
Might change	10	8	8	32
DK/NA	-	-	-	1

TREND: (If candidate chosen) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN		
	Oct 30 2014	Oct 22 2014	Sep 24 2014
Mind made up	90	90	81
Might change	10	10	17
DK/NA	-	-	1

2. RECALCULATED MATCHUP Q1 ASKING WYLLIE VOTERS: Who is your second choice?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						
	MATCHUP Q1 WITHOUT WYLLIE.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Already Voted
Crist	45%	9%	84%	53%	39%	51%	41%
Scott	42	83	8	33	49	37	40
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	1	3	2	1	1
DK/NA	11	7	7	11	11	11	18

TREND: RECALCULATED MATCHUP ASKING WYLLIE VOTERS: Who is your second choice?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	MATCHUP WITHOUT WYLLIE		
	Oct 30	Oct 22	Sep 24
	2014	2014	2014
Crist	45	44	44
Scott	42	44	46
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	2	2
DK/NA	11	11	7

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Already Voted
Favorable	45%	10%	84%	49%	36%	53%	50%
Unfavorable	45	79	12	44	53	38	41
Hvn't hrd enough	5	5	3	4	7	3	3
REFUSED	5	5	1	3	4	6	6

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 30	Oct 22	Sep 24
	2014	2014	2014
Favorable	45	42	41
Unfavorable	45	47	49
Hvn't hrd enough	5	6	8
REFUSED	5	5	3

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						Already
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Voted
Favorable	41%	74%	14%	36%	45%	38%	40%
Unfavorable	46	15	74	56	45	48	50
Hvn't hrd enough	7	4	10	5	6	9	3
REFUSED	5	6	2	2	5	5	8

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 30 2014	Oct 22 2014	Sep 24 2014
Favorable	41	40	42
Unfavorable	46	48	48
Hvn't hrd enough	7	7	7
REFUSED	5	5	3

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						Already
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Voted
Favorable	10%	8%	8%	15%	11%	10%	10%
Unfavorable	5	5	7	3	6	3	5
Hvn't hrd enough	81	83	82	80	80	83	79
REFUSED	3	4	2	2	3	4	6

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 30 2014	Oct 22 2014	Sep 24 2014
Favorable	10	8	8
Unfavorable	5	6	4
Hvn't hrd enough	81	83	86
REFUSED	3	3	2