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**DEMS AHEAD IN FLORIDA, OHIO SENATE RACES,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY SWING STATE POLL FINDS;  
TOOMEY GIVES GOP EDGE IN PENNSYLVANIA**

Democratic candidates hold small early leads in 2016 U.S. Senate races in Florida and Ohio, while Republican incumbent U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey is ahead in Pennsylvania, according to a Quinnipiac University Swing State Poll released today.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich enjoys a 2-1 job approval rating, while Florida Gov. Rick Scott is stuck in a job approval hole and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf has a modest approval rating, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds. The Swing State Poll focuses on Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania because since 1960 no candidate has won the presidential race without taking at least two of these three states.

President Barack Obama has a negative job approval rating in all three states:

- 43 – 51 percent in Florida;
- 40 – 56 percent in Ohio;
- 42 – 55 percent in Pennsylvania.

“All three swing states are expected to have very competitive U.S. Senate races. None of the candidates in Florida are well known to voters, while the Pennsylvania and Ohio races involve candidates who have run statewide previously,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac Poll. “Democrats hold an early edge in the Sunshine State, but no candidate from either party has much visibility at this point.”

“In Ohio and Pennsylvania, however, the major candidates are well-known. Former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland has a slim edge over incumbent GOP Sen. Rob Portman in a race Republicans had seen as relatively safe. Next door in Pennsylvania, Republican U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey has a larger than expected lead over Joe Sestak, whom he defeated to win the seat six years ago. The betting is that when Election Day comes all three of these Senate races will be close.”

**-more-**

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“President Barack Obama is unlikely to be much, if any, help to the Democratic candidates. His job approval numbers are close to his all-time low in Pennsylvania and well below water in Ohio and Florida,” Brown added.

### Florida

In possible matchups in the 2016 U.S. Senate race in Florida:

- Democratic U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy tops Republican Lt. Gov. Carlos Lopez-Cantera 40 – 28 percent;
- Democratic U.S. Rep. Alan Grayson tops Lopez-Cantera 37 – 31 percent;
- Murphy tops Republican U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis 39 – 31 percent;
- Grayson tops DeSantis 38 – 32 percent;

The possible candidates are largely unknown at this point as the percentage of voters who don’t know enough about each candidate ranges from 62 percent to 81 percent.

Florida voters give Gov. Rick Scott a negative 39 – 49 percent job approval rating, his lowest score since a negative 36 – 49 percent score in a March 20, 2013, Quinnipiac University poll. Scott has never had a positive job approval rating, since a 35 – 22 percent score in his first poll after he was elected.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson gets a 48 – 27 percent job approval rating, with U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio at 50 – 38 percent.

“The U.S. Senate candidates in Florida might want to put their pictures on milk cartons to increase their visibility. U.S. Rep. Alan Grayson is the best-known, but 62 percent of voters don’t know him well-enough to have an opinion about him. The ‘don’t know’ numbers for the others are even worse.”

### Ohio

Former Gov. Ted Strickland, a Democrat, has a 46 – 40 percent lead over Republican U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, who is up for reelection in 2016.

Portman tops Cincinnati City Council member P.G. Sittenfeld 49 – 24 percent.

The incumbent has a 49 – 28 percent job approval rating and a 43 – 21 percent favorability. Strickland gets a 47 – 29 percent favorability rating, while 85 percent of voters haven’t heard enough about Sittenfeld to form an opinion.

Gov. John Kasich has a 60 – 30 percent job approval rating, brushing up against his all-time high of 61 – 28 percent April 6.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown has a 50 – 31 percent job approval rating.

“Gov. John Kasich was re-elected in a landslide in 2014, while President Barack Obama carried the Buckeye State comfortably in 2012,” Brown said.

**-more-**

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“Yet Kasich remains a political icon, while Obama might have difficulty winning in Ohio these days, factors which could boost Sen. Rob Portman’s re-election chances,” Brown added. “But it’s too soon to be sure where anyone’s numbers will be on Election Day 17 months from now.”

### Pennsylvania

In a rematch of the 2010 U.S. Senate race in the Keystone State, Republican incumbent Sen. Pat Toomey leads possible Democratic challenger Joe Sestak 47 – 36 percent.

Toomey tops another Democrat, Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski 52 – 28 percent.

Toomey has a 51 – 28 percent job approval rating and a 47 – 24 percent favorability rating. His possible challengers are largely unknown as 58 percent of voters haven’t heard enough about Sestak to form an opinion of him, and 85 percent haven’t heard enough about Pawlowski.

Pennsylvania voters approve 47 – 32 percent of the job Gov. Tom Wolf is doing and give U.S. Sen. Robert Casey a 48 – 29 percent job approval rating.

“With healthy job approval and favorability ratings and opponents who have very weak or even negligible recognition, Republican incumbent U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey seems to be on cruise control – for now,” said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf prolongs the honeymoon with job approval numbers his Republican predecessor, Tom Corbett, could only have dreamed of.”

From June 4 – 15 Quinnipiac University surveyed:

- 1,147 Florida voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.9 percentage points;
- 1,191 Ohio voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points;
- 970 Pennsylvania voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percentage points.

Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

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](#) @QuinnipiacPoll.**

33a. (FL only) If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Patrick Murphy the Democrat and Carlos Lopez-Cantera the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot
Murphy	40%
Lopez-Cantera	28
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	5
DK/NA	27

33b. (FL only) If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Alan Grayson the Democrat and Carlos Lopez-Cantera the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot
Grayson	37%
Lopez-Cantera	31
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	5
DK/NA	26

33c. (FL only) If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Patrick Murphy the Democrat and Ron DeSantis the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot
Murphy	39%
DeSantis	31
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3
DK/NA	26

33d. (FL only) If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Alan Grayson the Democrat and Ron DeSantis the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot
Grayson	38%
DeSantis	32
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	4
DK/NA	25

33e. (FL only) Is your opinion of Patrick Murphy favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot
Favorable	22%
Unfavorable	6
Hvn't hrd enough	71
REFUSED	1

33f. (FL only) Is your opinion of Carlos Lopez-Cantera favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot
Favorable	12%
Unfavorable	10
Hvn't hrd enough	77
REFUSED	-

33g. (FL only) Is your opinion of Alan Grayson favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot
Favorable	21%
Unfavorable	16
Hvn't hrd enough	62
REFUSED	1

33h. (FL only) Is your opinion of Ron DeSantis favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot
Favorable	11%
Unfavorable	7
Hvn't hrd enough	81
REFUSED	1

33i. (OH only) If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Ted Strickland the Democrat and Rob Portman the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot
Strickland	46%
Portman	40
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3
DK/NA	10

33j. (OH only) If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were P.G. Sittenfeld the Democrat and Rob Portman the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot
Sittenfeld	24%
Portman	49
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	5
DK/NA	20

33k. (OH only) Is your opinion of Ted Strickland favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot
Favorable	47%
Unfavorable	29
Hvn't hrd enough	23
REFUSED	1

33l. (OH only) Is your opinion of Rob Portman favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot
Favorable	43%
Unfavorable	21
Hvn't hrd enough	35
REFUSED	1

33m. (OH only) Is your opinion of P.G. Sittenfeld favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot
Favorable	7%
Unfavorable	7
Hvn't hrd enough	85
REFUSED	-

33n. (PA only) If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Joe Sestak the Democrat and Pat Toomey the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot
Sestak	36%
Toomey	47
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2
DK/NA	14

33o. (PA only) If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Ed Pawlowski the Democrat and Pat Toomey the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot
Pawlowski	28%
Toomey	52
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3
DK/NA	16

33p. (PA only) Is your opinion of Pat Toomey favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot
Favorable	47%
Unfavorable	24
Hvn't hrd enough	28
REFUSED	1

33q. (PA only) Is your opinion of Joe Sestak favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot
Favorable	26%
Unfavorable	15
Hvn't hrd enough	58
REFUSED	1

33r. (PA only) Is your opinion of Ed Pawlowski favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot
Favorable	6%
Unfavorable	8
Hvn't hrd enough	85
REFUSED	1

34. Do you approve or disapprove of the way - (FL) Rick Scott / (OH) John Kasich / (PA) Tom Wolf - is handling his job as Governor?

	FL	OH	PA
	Scott	Kasich	Wolf
Approve	39%	60%	47%
Disapprove	49	30	32
DK/NA	12	10	21

35. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	FL	OH	PA
Approve	33%	42%	28%
Disapprove	50	41	53
DK/NA	17	17	19

36-37. Do you approve or disapprove of the way - (FL) Bill Nelson, Marco Rubio / (OH) Sherrod Brown, Rob Portman / (PA) Bob Casey Jr., Pat Toomey - is handling his job as United States Senator?

	FL.....		OH.....		PA.....	
	Nelson	Rubio	Brown	Portman	Casey Jr.	Toomey
Approve	48%	50%	50%	49%	48%	51%
Disapprove	27	38	31	28	29	28
DK/NA	26	12	18	23	22	21

38. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	FL	OH	PA
Approve	43%	40%	42%
Disapprove	51	56	55
DK/NA	5	3	3