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**U.S. VOTERS DISLIKE POLITICIANS WHO CHEAT
LESS THAN THOSE WHO ABUSE POWER,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS**

American voters dislike a politician who abuses official power more than an elected official caught in an extra-marital affair, according to a Quinnipiac University National Poll released today.

The independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University presented voters with a theoretical congressman – James Miller – whose “main concern in office is developing policies to help middle-class, working families.” Miller was described as 53, married, with two children.

While he is not identified as Republican or Democrat, 83 percent of voters have a “very favorable” or “somewhat favorable” opinion of him, and 65 percent say they “definitely” or “probably” would vote for his reelection.

Some voters were told that Miller was “unfaithful to his wife with another woman.” Among those voters, only 36 percent have a “very favorable” or “somewhat favorable” opinion, with 58 percent “somewhat unfavorable” or “very unfavorable.” A total of 39 percent say they definitely or probably would vote for him, while 49 percent say they definitely or probably would not vote for him.

Another group of voters were told “Miller created a new, well-paid position on his staff in order to hire an unqualified family member as a favor.” In that group, 22 percent have a very or somewhat favorable view, with 75 percent somewhat or very unfavorable. Only 24 percent definitely or probably would vote for him, with 67 percent who definitely or probably would not.

“Voters clearly see a difference between personal and official scandals. Committing adultery is far less damaging to a politician than abusing their office,” said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

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“Whether it was adultery or abuse of power, our scandal-ridden politician was unable to secure a majority for reelection, reflecting an underlying reluctance on the part of American voters to support transgressors,” Malloy added.

Voters have less tolerance for Miller when hypocrisy is added as a factor in the sex scandal. In a scenario where a Miller priority is “promoting moral values,” and then the extramarital affair is mentioned, overall favorability drops to 25 percent, with 68 percent unfavorable. Only 28 percent say they are likely to vote for him, down from 39 percent in the neutral or non-hypocritical scenario.

In a scenario where a Miller priority is “cleaning up government,” followed by the fact that he hired a family member, favorability is at 24 percent, compared to 22 percent in the neutral scenario. Only 21 percent say they definitely or probably would vote for him, compared to 24 percent in the neutral scenario.

An official scandal also affects voter judgment of the politician’s ability to do the job: 43 percent of voters describe the Miller who hired a family member as unlikely to do a good job in office, but only 31 percent describe the adulterer version that way.

When it comes to personal integrity, however, the script flips: 57 percent say the unfaithful Miller lacks personal integrity, compared to 49 percent who say so about the power-abusing version.

From March 26 – 31, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,578 registered voters nationwide with a margin of error of +/- 2.5 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

37. (INTRO Q37-42) I'd like to read you the description of a hypothetical candidate for political office, and get your opinion on him.

Split sample scenarios presented:

CONTROL: James Miller is 53 years old and is a member of Congress running for re-election this year. He is married and has two children. His main concern in office is developing policies to help middle class, working families.

PERSONAL/HYPOCRITICAL: James Miller is 53 years old and is a member of Congress running for re-election this year. He is married and has two children. His main concerns in office are promoting moral values, and developing policies to help middle class, working families. Recently it was discovered that Mr. Miller has been unfaithful to his wife with another woman.

PERSONAL/NEUTRAL: James Miller is 53 years old and is a member of Congress running for re-election this year. He is married and has two children. His main concern in office is developing policies to help middle class, working families. Recently it was discovered that Mr. Miller has been unfaithful to his wife with another woman.

OFFICIAL/HYPOCRITICAL: James Miller is 53 years old and is a member of Congress running for re-election this year. He is married and has two children. His main concerns in office are cleaning up government, and developing policies to help middle class, working families. Recently it was discovered that Mr. Miller created a new, well-paid position on his staff in order to hire an unqualified family member as a favor.

OFFICIAL/NEUTRAL: James Miller is 53 years old and is a member of Congress running for re-election this year. He is married and has two children. His main concern in office is developing policies to help middle class, working families. Recently it was discovered that Mr. Miller created a new, well-paid position on his staff in order to hire an unqualified family member as a favor.

From what you have heard, would you say your opinion of James Miller is very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable?

	Control	PERSONAL...		OFFICIAL...	
		Hypcrt	Ntrl	Hypcrt	Ntrl
Very favorable	22%	2%	6%	3%	4%
Somewhat favorable	61	23	30	21	18
Somewhat unfavorable	5	47	40	40	49
Very unfavorable	1	21	18	32	26
DK/NA	11	7	5	4	4

38. How likely would you be to vote for James Miller if he were running in your district; do you think you would definitely vote for him, probably vote for him, probably not vote for him, or definitely not vote for him?

	Control	PERSONAL...		OFFICIAL...	
		Hypcrt	Ntrl	Hypcrt	Ntrl
Definitely	6%	2%	3%	1%	2%
Probably	59	26	36	20	22
Probably not	15	47	36	44	52
Definitely not	2	12	13	24	15
DK/NA	18	12	11	10	9

39. How much would you say "cares about the needs and problems of working families" describes James Miller; does it describe him a great deal, a good amount, somewhat, not so much or not at all?

	Contrl	PERSONAL...		OFFICIAL...	
		Hypcrt	Ntrl	Hypcrt	Ntrl
A great deal	18%	4%	10%	7%	12%
A good amount	23	19	23	19	15
Somewhat	32	42	31	31	32
Not so much	11	14	15	21	15
Not at all	5	9	10	11	15
DK/NA	10	12	12	12	11

40. How much would you say "would do a good job in office if re-elected" describes James Miller; does it describe him a great deal, a good amount, somewhat, not so much or not at all?

	Contrl	PERSONAL...		OFFICIAL...	
		Hypcrt	Ntrl	Hypcrt	Ntrl
A great deal	5%	2%	4%	1%	3%
A good amount	19	7	12	9	17
Somewhat	33	36	39	37	27
Not so much	12	23	20	22	26
Not at all	14	16	11	20	17
DK/NA	17	16	14	10	11

41. How much would you say "has personal integrity" describes James Miller; does it describe him a great deal, a good amount, somewhat, not so much or not at all?

	Contrl	PERSONAL...		OFFICIAL...	
		Hypcrt	Ntrl	Hypcrt	Ntrl
A great deal	9%	7%	6%	7%	7%
A good amount	12	6	6	5	10
Somewhat	33	24	24	26	26
Not so much	16	32	37	31	28
Not at all	12	24	20	25	21
DK/NA	17	7	7	7	7

42. How much would you say "has strong leadership qualities" describes James Miller; does it describe him a great deal, a good amount, somewhat, not so much or not at all?

	Contrl	PERSONAL...		OFFICIAL...	
		Hypcrt	Ntrl	Hypcrt	Ntrl
A great deal	4%	4%	4%	3%	2%
A good amount	15	5	12	7	8
Somewhat	34	35	33	32	33
Not so much	15	28	23	26	26
Not at all	15	14	14	19	18
DK/NA	17	14	14	12	12