



MIKE DOWNS CENTER FOR INDIANA POLITICS

NEWS RELEASE

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Poll Shows Tight Races Thompson Leads Schellinger

Who is leading in the race for the Democratic nomination for governor?

Among 578 likely Democratic primary voters, Jill Long Thompson is leading Jim Schellinger 47% to 41% with 12% undecided. Thompson's lead is strongest among respondents who identified themselves as strong Democrats (51% to 37%). Independents who lean Democratic favor Schellinger 46% to 43%. Schellinger also leads among self-identified independents and Republicans who claim they will be voting in the Democratic primary.

Schellinger has a small lead over Thompson among men (47% to 44%), but Thompson has a much larger lead among women (49% to 36%). A similar gap exists based on age. Schellinger has a slight lead among respondents who are younger than 50 (46% to 40%), but Thompson has a much larger lead among respondents who are 50 or older (53% to 37%).

Race also seems to be a factor in this race. Thompson has a slight lead among whites (47% to 42%) and a substantial lead among African Americans (51% to 27%).

While there is no discernible pattern among income categories, it should be noted that Thompson is doing much better than Schellinger among the lower-income categories.

Where is Indiana heading?

Respondents (1,500) were asked whether Indiana was heading in the right direction or if Indiana had gotten off on the wrong track. Fifty-one percent of the respondents said that Indiana was off on the wrong track.

Not surprisingly, Democrats and independents who lean Democratic were more likely than Republicans and independents who lean Republican to think that things were off on the wrong

track. Respondents who identified themselves as independent without leaning toward either major political party think Indiana has gotten off on the wrong track (56% to 34%).

The only age category with less than 50% of the respondents thinking things were off on the wrong track was 65 years of age and older (47% wrong track). The slightly more optimistic views of people 65 and older were not able to overcome the more pessimistic views of those 50 to 64 when those groups were combined.

Church attendance plays a role in the perception of where Indiana is heading. While no church attendance category had a majority of respondents thinking that Indiana was heading in the right direction, the optimism of the respondents declined with church attendance.

Exactly 50% of the white respondents think that things are on the wrong track. That percentage jumps to 64% among African Americans.

Respondents with a college degree were the most optimistic about where the state is heading (47% right direction). Respondents with a high school degree were the most pessimistic about the direction of the state (61% wrong track).

The only income category to think that Indiana was heading in the right direction was \$105,000 and higher. The most pessimistic view came from those living in a household making less than \$15,000. The three categories covering household with earnings of \$15,000 to \$75,000 were very similar with 52% of the respondents thinking Indiana was on the wrong track.

What is the most important issue in Indiana?

As was the case on the national level, the economy was by far the most important issue with 48% of the 1,254 respondents selecting that as the issue the next governor should focus on ahead of all other issues. Property taxes came in a distant second at 21%. Two issues that some thought would be important are government privatization and daylight saving time. Both of those issues were considered most important by 5% of the respondents.

What will happen in November?

All respondents (1,254) were asked to rate the performance of Mitch Daniels on a scale of 1 to 10. One meant that Daniels was doing the job worse than anyone in the office could possibly do and 10 meant he was doing the job better than anyone in the office could possibly do. His rating was 5.4. As would be expected, the rating was highest among Republicans (7.1) and lowest among Democrats (3.9). There were no significant differences regarding gender or age. There also was not much difference regarding church attendance. Respondents who go to church weekly gave Daniels the highest rating (5.8) and those who never attend gave the lowest (4.7). There was a significant difference between whites (5.5) and African Americans (4.2). There also were significant differences between those in households with incomes of less than \$15,000 (4.8) and more than \$105,000 (6.1). The central region of the state has the most comprehensive news

coverage of Daniels and it is the region that gave him the highest rating (6). The southern and northern regions rated him a 5.3 and 4.9 respectively.

When respondents (1,254) were asked who they would vote for in a race between Mitch Daniels and Jim Schellinger, 47% said Daniels and 46% said Schellinger. Seven percent were undecided. Respondents also were asked who they would vote for in a race between Daniels and Jill Long Thompson with 48% supporting Daniels, 47% supporting Thompson, and 5% undecided. The support for Daniels was very consistent regardless of which Democratic candidate was facing him.

Daniels holds the support of Republicans well with 82% of them saying they would vote for him regardless of the Democratic opponent. He does not get much support from Democrats (15%). Both Democratic candidates hold the support of Democrats well with 80% supporting Thompson and 78% supporting Schellinger. Their support among Republicans is as weak as Daniels' support among Democrats (14% for Thompson and 15% for Schellinger).

Daniels holds just over 50% of the support of the male voters and 43% of the female voters regardless of the Democratic candidate. Thompson does slightly better than Schellinger among women (50% to 47%).

There are no discernible patterns regarding age.

The more regularly a person attends church, the more likely the person is to be a supporter of Daniels. Over half of those who attend church weekly (55%) and those who attend almost every week (52%) said they would vote for Daniels regardless of the Democratic candidate. Over half of those who attend church a few times a year say they would vote for Schellinger (56%) and Thompson (51%). Those numbers increase among those who almost never attend church (Thompson 59%; Schellinger 56%).

Whites are closely divided in this race (Daniels 50% to Thompson 45%; Daniels 49% to Schellinger 44%) while African Americans are solidly behind the Democrats (Schellinger 69% to Daniels 22%; Thompson 69% to Daniels 24%).

There is an expected relationship between income and support. As income rises, so does the support for Daniels.

Given the similarities in performance between both Democratic candidates against Daniels, this election is shaping up to be a referendum on Governor Mitch Daniels.

What is the Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics?

The Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics is a non-partisan organization that helps the people of Indiana understand the role of politics and government in their daily lives. By doing this, The Mike Downs Center hopes to encourage participation in political and public processes the same

way its namesake, Professor Michael C. Downs, did for more than 34 years. The Mike Downs Center is located on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW).

Statement of Methodology: This SurveyUSA poll was conducted by telephone in the voice of a professional announcer. Respondent households were selected at random, using a registration based sample (RBS) provided by Aristotle, of Washington DC. All respondents heard the questions asked identically. The calls were conducted on April 14, 15, and 16. Calling was completed before the debate between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in Pennsylvania began on the 16th. The number of respondents who answered each question and the margin of sampling error for each question are provided. Where necessary, responses were weighted according to the voter registration database. In theory, with the stated sample size, one can say with 95% certainty that the results would not vary by more than the stated margin of sampling error, in one direction or the other, had the entire universe of respondents been interviewed with complete accuracy. There are other possible sources of error in all surveys that may be more serious than theoretical calculations of sampling error. These include refusals to be interviewed, question wording and question order, weighting by demographic control data and the manner in which respondents are filtered (such as, determining who is a likely voter). It is difficult to quantify the errors that may result from these factors. Fieldwork for this survey was done by SurveyUSA of Verona, NJ

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