

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASE IN PART
B6

September 6, 2010

For: Hillary

From: Sid

Re: GOP unpopularity, Boehner unpopularity, stealth agenda for campaign and beyond

1. The Republican Party, despite everything, remains deeply unpopular. (See the second Ohio poll below.)
2. The Republicans have made the election a referendum on Obama and the Democrats, succeeding beyond their wildest dreams. (See the first poll below on Obama-Bush matchup and question 12 in second poll on Ohio voters' recall on who they voted for in 2008, giving McCain a three point margin.)
3. The Republicans have managed to hide their own negatives through the negative campaign against Obama.
4. The campaign is not being conducted as a contest. The Republicans have succeeded in making it only about approval of Obama.
5. The GOP is hiding John Boehner, who is unpopular in his home state of Ohio, where he's best known. To the extent he is known, he is disliked.
6. The Republicans are pretending they offer something new and not really the same old Republicans, to the extent they make any sort of offer.
7. The Tea Party is deliberately trying to hide its extremism behind a mask of novelty and now religious rhetoric. (The right wing strategy has been spelled out in detail to a friend of mine,)
8. So far, there is no Democratic campaign to focus on the Republicans and, therefore, no contest. Republicans are not being exposed for their increasing dependence on extremists. They are not being pressed for their refusal to denounce extremism. Nor is the Tea Party being revealed as an extremist takeover movement. Nor is the Republicans' motive for smearing Obama being identified as a cynical strategy to put Boehner in power.
9. Whatever issue ginned up by Republicans—from illegal immigration to the “ground zero mosque”—is not about the issue itself. Everything, but everything, is about making John Boehner, that old scandal ridden hack Republican, the Speaker. No matter what the Republicans say, the ultimate issue is the Boehner power-grab.

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10. The Republican Party is the same old party. It's unreformed. It hasn't learned anything. It can't control its extremists.

<http://publicpolicypolling.blogspot.com/2010/08/previewing-ohio.html>

Tuesday, August 31, 2010

Previewing Ohio

We'll start rolling out our Ohio poll results tomorrow but there's one finding on the poll that pretty much sums it up: by a 50-42 margin voters there say they'd rather have George W. Bush in the White House right now than Barack Obama.

Independents hold that view by a 44-37 margin and there are more Democrats who would take Bush back (11%) than there are Republicans who think Obama's preferable (3%.)

A couple months ago I thought the Pennsylvanias and Missouris and Ohios of the world were the biggest battlegrounds for 2010 but when you see numbers like this it makes you think it's probably actually the Californias and the Wisconsin and the Washingtons.

There's not much doubt things are getting worse for Democrats...and they were already pretty bad. Somehow the party base needs to get reinvigorated over the next two months or there's going to be a very, very steep price to pay.

http://www.publicpolicypolling.com/pdf/PPP_Release_OH_903.pdf

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 3, 2010

INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

GOP Leads OH Generic Ballot, Boehner Not Popular

Raleigh, N.C. – Despite expanding their lead to 47-41 over Democrats in the generic Congressional ballot, only 29% of likely Ohio voters approve of the direction of the Republican Party, with 55% disapproving, suggesting that their preference for the GOP is simply a vote for change, not a vote of affirmation or a mandate. Also supporting that notion: a 43% plurality finds the GOP to be too conservative, with only 29% seeing their views as “about right.”

And in bad news for Minority Leader John Boehner, only 28% of his home-state voters

want him to become Speaker if Republicans take back the U.S. House, with 44% preferring "someone else." GOP voters do support Boehner for Speaker, but only by a 54-15 margin. Democrats, who would not vote for a Republican majority anyway, oppose him, 73-6, and independents, 41-22.

In June, Republicans were favored for Congress only 44-43 among registered voters, but the six-point shift in the partisan makeup of the likely electorate corresponds almost exactly with the shift in the generic ballot. On top of that, Republicans are united around their party's candidates 94-1, versus Democrats at 89-6. Democrats have actually improved slightly among independents, though Republicans still lead 36-23. There is considerable room for Democratic House candidates to make up ground by appealing to the 41% of unaffiliateds who are undecided and by boosting turnout among their voters.

While Republicans approve of the direction of their party, 59-20, independents disapprove, 61-13. 31% of Republicans and 20% of independents find the GOP too liberal, but 76% of Democrats and 43% of independents find it too conservative.

There has been no change in the race for Attorney General. Mike DeWine leads Democrat Richard Cordray 44-40 after leading 44-41 in June.

PPP surveyed 475 likely Ohio voters from August 27th to 29th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.5%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

June 26-27, 2010

Survey of 482 Ohio voters
 3020 Highwoods Blvd.
 Raleigh, NC 27604
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Ohio Survey Results

Q1 The candidates for Attorney General are Democrat Richard Cordray and Republican Mike DeWine. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Richard Cordray..... 40%
Mike DeWine 44%
Undecided..... 16%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike DeWine?

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 33%
Not sure 32%

Q3 Will you vote Democratic or Republican for US House this fall?

Democratic..... 41%
Republican..... 47%
Undecided..... 12%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Boehner?

Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 31%
Not sure 42%

Q5 If Republicans take control of Congress, would you like John Boehner to be Speaker of the House, or would you rather it was someone else?

John Boehner..... 28%
Someone else 44%
Not sure 28%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the direction of the Republican Party?

Approve..... 29%
Disapprove..... 55%
Not sure 17%

Q7 Do you think the Republican Party is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal 21%
Too conservative..... 43%
About right 29%
Not sure 7%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of LeBron James?

Favorable..... 19%
Unfavorable 34%
Not sure 47%

Q9 Do you consider yourself to be a Cleveland Cavaliers fan?

Yes..... 37%
No 63%

Q10 Do you think John Boehner spends too much, not enough, or about the right amount of time working on his tan?

Too much 30%
Not enough 4%
About the right amount of time..... 14%
Not sure 51%

Q11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Boehner's tan?

Favorable..... 8%
Unfavorable 27%
Not sure 64%

Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 48%
Barack Obama..... 45%
Someone else/Don't remember 7%

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Q13 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal 16%
Moderate..... 44%
Conservative..... 40%

Q14 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q15 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 40%
Republican..... 40%
Independent/Other..... 20%

Q16 If you are white, 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 87%
African-American 10%
Other..... 3%

Q17 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 8%
30 to 45..... 21%
46 to 65..... 44%
Older than 65..... 27%

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Email from [redacted] 9/6/10, on interview [redacted]

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Off the record: I had long conversation yesterday with [redacted] very scary. His prediction: "a wave of Biblical proportions" in November. the House is gone; he sees a new bloc of up to 10 true conservative senators, joining Coburn and DeMint, and creating a virtual third party in Senate holding balance of power. He says their polling suggests Tea Party candidates well ahead in Ky., Colo., senate races (NYT disputes that today) , and Nevada still a tossup..I went to the Glenn Back rally, and [redacted] largely agreed with my assessment that its purpose in part was to inoculate the movement against public concern over extremism and

racism leading up to election. (Thus theme of Faith, Hope, Charity.) Americans for Prosperity (Koch group) made sure there were no signs, etc.

No love lost for post-1996 Republican hacks, among whom he numbered Gingrich, DeLay, Hastert -- and Rove who is on the outs with his people.

Oversight committees will take lead in House after GOP victory, with a particular focus on Holder and Justice Dept. and KSM decision. Purpose will be to keep Democrats on defensive for whole 2 years leading up to 2012 election. (Obama, you recall, nixed investigations of Bush administration because he wanted to unite the country.) Would there be an investigation of Obama citizenship?? couldnt say b ecause he is now totally focused on the election, not what comes after.

My take: Of course House will vote to repeal health care reform (despite no chance of senate passage) ; funding dozens of EPA initiatives in Appropriations Committee, and there will be stand-alone vote to block EPA from implementing carbon rules (even though EPA is only acting as a result of a Supreme Court decision); and budget legislation that adopts part of the Ryan plan (tho not privatization of SS)..

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