

Memorandum:

Date: October 14, 2019

Subject: New Hampshire Pre-Ohio Debate Presidential Primary Poll

From: R.Kelly Myers
Fellow, Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication, Franklin Pierce University

Portsmouth, NH – A recent poll of registered “likely presidential primary voters” in the state of New Hampshire finds modest shifting support among Democratic voters, while Republicans are largely standing firm with President Trump.

Among likely Republican primary voters, President Donald Trump’s approval rating remains virtually unchanged since the last poll conducted in early September. Trump’s overall approval rating among Republicans was 83 percent in early September and is 81 percent today. And the percentage of Republicans who strongly approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as president was 54 percent a month ago, and 55 percent today. Only 19 percent of Republican primary voters disapprove of the job President Trump is doing as president in the most recent poll.

However, the percentage of Republican voters who would vote for Trump if the primary were held today was 88 percent a month ago, and 71 percent today, a 17-point decline. Former Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld’s support increased from 3 percent in early September to 14 percent today. The poll included questions speculating about what would happen if other Republicans were to enter the race, including former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, former Ohio Governor John Kasich and Utah Senator Mitt Romney. Relatively few Republican primary voters indicate that they would vote for any of these 3 candidates if they were to enter the race. Haley would attract 9 percent of the vote, Kasich would attract 9 percent and Romney would attract 12 percent.

Among Democratic primary voters, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders (30%) was leading his two primary rivals, former Vice President Joe Biden (21%) and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth



Warren (17%) in the September poll. Today, the Democratic race is a statistical dead-heat between Warren (24%), Biden (24%) and Sanders (22%).

The poll included questions speculating as to what would happen if other Democrats were to enter the race, including former First Lady Michelle Obama and Disney CEO Bob Iger. Iger remains largely unknown among Democratic voters and only 4 percent indicated that they would vote for him if he were to enter the race. But if Michelle Obama were to enter the race, it would change things dramatically. Twenty-six percent of Democrats would vote for her, making her the new front-runner. Under this scenario, Obama (26%) would lead Warren (20%), Biden (20%) and Sanders (15%). She would take away 4 points from Warren, 4 points from Biden and 7 points from Sanders.

Going into the Democratic debate at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio, on Tuesday, October 15, 84 percent of Democratic primary voters said that they definitely (42%) or probably (42%) will watch it, which means it could have a significant impact on the race. Nearly one-half of likely Republican primary voters said that they definitely (12%) or probably (36%) will watch it.

For more information about the survey please contact:

R. Kelly Myers.

Office: 603.319.4269

www.rkm-research.com

