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

## **Rehberg, Tester close in early 2012 Montana Senate look**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Jon Tester, who was elected in the Democratic wave of 2006 and is among the most vulnerable members of that class up for re-election in two years, has very strong job approval numbers two-thirds of the way through his first Senate term. But in an early look at possible 2012 matchups, he trails his most likely opponent, at-large Congressman Denny Rehberg, as well as another potential Republican nominee, former Governor Marc Racicot.

Tester posts a 50-40 job performance mark, putting him in the top ten among the senators PPP has measured this year. That is particularly impressive, considering that Republicans outnumber Democrats by nine points in this sample, and even independents are more prevalent. Tester accomplishes this by earning the favor of 54% of independents, with only 34% disapproving. To boot, almost three times as many Republicans (17%) like the job he is doing as Democrats (6%) who dislike it.

Despite his favor with voters, the Republican-heavy electorate puts Tester in some trouble if he does face a viable challenger in Rehberg or Racicot. Rehberg, who has a similarly strong 49-37 favorability rating, tops Tester only 48-46. But Racicot, with a 45-26 personal grade, leads the incumbent 49-42. Against Rehberg, Tester accomplishes what Democrats in more favorable electorates would only dream of: a more unified base than the Republican (92-6 versus 88-8) and a double-digit lead (49-39) with independents. Racicot performs better because of a slight party unity advantage (90-4 versus Tester's 86-7) and a closer gap with unaffiliateds, 40-46.

Tester does do well at this point against two essentially unknown opponents, former lieutenant governor nominee Steve Daines (48-37) and national security wonk Neil Livingstone (46-35). 76% of voters are unaware of Daines, and they break 7-17 against him. 85% have no opinion of Livingstone, and those who do fall 4-11 in disfavor.

“Jon Tester benefited from a blue tide and displeasure with ethically challenged Senator Conrad Burns to beat him by less than a point in 2006, but he still looks viable in this more Republican environment because he holds his base and has strong appeal to independents,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 1,176 Montana voters from November 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



## Montana Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Max Baucus' job performance?

*Approve* ..... 38%  
*Disapprove*..... 53%  
*Not sure* ..... 9%

**Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jon Tester's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 50%  
*Disapprove*..... 40%  
*Not sure* ..... 10%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Denny Rehberg?

*Favorable* ..... 49% *Not sure* ..... 14%  
*Unfavorable*..... 37%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve Daines?

*Favorable* ..... 7% *Not sure* ..... 76%  
*Unfavorable*..... 17%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Neil Livingstone?

*Favorable* ..... 4% *Not sure* ..... 85%  
*Unfavorable*..... 11%

**Q6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Marc Racicot?

*Favorable* ..... 45% *Not sure* ..... 30%  
*Unfavorable*..... 26%

**Q7** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Democrat Jon Tester and Republican Denny Rehberg, who would you vote for?

*Jon Tester*..... 46%  
*Denny Rehberg*..... 48%  
*Undecided*..... 6%

**Q8** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Democrat Jon Tester and Republican Steve Daines, who would you vote for?

*Jon Tester*..... 48%  
*Steve Daines* ..... 37%  
*Undecided*..... 14%

**Q9** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Democrat Jon Tester and Republican Neil Livingstone, who would you vote for?

*Jon Tester*..... 46%  
*Neil Livingstone* ..... 35%  
*Undecided*..... 19%

**Q10** If the candidates for US Senate in 2012 were Democrat Jon Tester and Republican Marc Racicot, who would you vote for?

*Jon Tester*..... 42%  
*Marc Racicot*..... 49%  
*Undecided*..... 9%

**Q11** Who did you vote for President in 2008?

*John McCain*..... 47%  
*Barack Obama*..... 43%  
*Someone else/Don't remember* ..... 10%

**Q12** If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 18%  
*Moderate*..... 40%  
*Conservative*..... 42%

**Q13** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 52%  
*Man*..... 48%





**Q14** 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* ..... 29%  
*Republican*..... 38%  
*Independent/Other*..... 32%

**Q15** If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

*White* ..... 95%  
*Other*..... 5%

**Q16** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 15%  
*30 to 45*..... 30%  
*46 to 65*..... 33%  
*Older than 65*..... 22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Baucus Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	38%	13%	66%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	53%	80%	24%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	7%	10%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Tester Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	50%	20%	84%	41%
<b>Disapprove</b>	40%	68%	9%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	12%	7%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Rehberg Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	49%	76%	20%	52%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	37%	14%	65%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	14%	10%	15%	26%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Daines Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	7%	9%	5%	3%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	17%	13%	22%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	76%	78%	73%	82%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Livingstone Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	3%	6%	2%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	11%	7%	14%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	85%	89%	80%	87%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Racicot Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	59%	28%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	11%	42%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	29%	30%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Tester/Rehberg</b>				
<b>Jon Tester</b>	46%	11%	87%	28%
<b>Denny Rehberg</b>	48%	84%	7%	58%
<b>Undecided</b>	6%	5%	5%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Tester/Daines</b>				
<b>Jon Tester</b>	48%	12%	89%	41%
<b>Steve Daines</b>	37%	69%	5%	31%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	19%	6%	28%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Tester/Livingstone</b>				
<b>Jon Tester</b>	46%	10%	87%	41%
<b>Neil Livingstone</b>	35%	64%	5%	28%
<b>Undecided</b>	19%	26%	9%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Tester/Racicot</b>				
<b>Jon Tester</b>	42%	7%	81%	33%
<b>Marc Racicot</b>	49%	85%	11%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	8%	9%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Baucus Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	38%	62%	54%	14%
<b>Disapprove</b>	53%	23%	38%	79%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	15%	8%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Tester Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	50%	83%	69%	18%
<b>Disapprove</b>	40%	7%	22%	71%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	9%	9%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Rehberg Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	49%	18%	38%	73%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	37%	65%	48%	15%
<b>Not sure</b>	14%	17%	14%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Daines Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	7%	7%	5%	9%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	17%	22%	19%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	76%	71%	76%	78%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Livingstone Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	5%	5%	3%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	11%	12%	15%	6%
<b>Not sure</b>	85%	83%	81%	90%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Racicot Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	25%	43%	54%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	41%	33%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	34%	24%	33%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Tester/Rehberg</b>				
Jon Tester	46%	91%	63%	11%
Denny Rehberg	48%	5%	31%	83%
Undecided	6%	5%	6%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Tester/Daines</b>				
Jon Tester	48%	89%	69%	12%
Steve Daines	37%	4%	18%	70%
Undecided	14%	8%	13%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Tester/Livingstone</b>				
Jon Tester	46%	87%	66%	11%
Neil Livingstone	35%	5%	16%	65%
Undecided	19%	8%	18%	25%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Tester/Racicot</b>				
Jon Tester	42%	83%	57%	9%
Marc Racicot	49%	8%	33%	82%
Undecided	9%	8%	9%	9%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Baucus Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	<b>38%</b>	41%	35%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>53%</b>	48%	58%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tester Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	<b>50%</b>	55%	45%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>40%</b>	33%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	13%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Rehberg Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>49%</b>	48%	51%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>37%</b>	38%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	14%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Daines Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>7%</b>	7%	7%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>17%</b>	14%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>76%</b>	79%	72%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Livingstone Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	4%	4%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	11%	7%	15%
<b>Not sure</b>	85%	89%	81%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Racicot Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	44%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	23%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	34%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tester/Rehberg</b>			
<b>Jon Tester</b>	46%	49%	42%
<b>Denny Rehberg</b>	48%	45%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tester/Daines</b>			
<b>Jon Tester</b>	48%	50%	47%
<b>Steve Daines</b>	37%	34%	41%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	16%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tester/Livingstone</b>			
<b>Jon Tester</b>	46%	48%	45%
<b>Neil Livingstone</b>	35%	32%	38%
<b>Undecided</b>	19%	20%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Tester/Racicot</b>			
<b>Jon Tester</b>	42%	42%	42%
<b>Marc Racicot</b>	49%	47%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Baucus Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	38%	70%	13%	40%
<b>Disapprove</b>	53%	21%	79%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	9%	9%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Tester Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	50%	87%	17%	54%
<b>Disapprove</b>	40%	6%	71%	34%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	7%	11%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Rehberg Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	49%	16%	78%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	37%	69%	12%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	14%	15%	11%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Daines Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	7%	5%	11%	4%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	17%	22%	12%	18%
<b>Not sure</b>	76%	73%	77%	78%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Livingstone Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	4%	4%	4%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	11%	14%	8%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	85%	82%	88%	84%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Racicot Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	27%	60%	43%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	46%	9%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	27%	31%	31%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Tester/Rehberg</b>				
<b>Jon Tester</b>	46%	92%	8%	49%
<b>Denny Rehberg</b>	48%	6%	88%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	6%	2%	4%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Tester/Daines</b>				
<b>Jon Tester</b>	48%	94%	8%	54%
<b>Steve Daines</b>	37%	3%	75%	24%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	3%	16%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Tester/Livingstone</b>				
<b>Jon Tester</b>	46%	91%	7%	52%
<b>Neil Livingstone</b>	35%	3%	70%	21%
<b>Undecided</b>	19%	5%	23%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Tester/Racicot</b>				
<b>Jon Tester</b>	42%	86%	4%	46%
<b>Marc Racicot</b>	49%	7%	90%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	8%	6%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Baucus Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	<b>38%</b>	38%	44%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>53%</b>	53%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	9%	13%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Tester Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	<b>50%</b>	49%	60%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>40%</b>	40%	34%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	10%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Rehberg Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>49%</b>	50%	42%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>37%</b>	36%	49%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	14%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Daines Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>7%</b>	7%	14%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>17%</b>	17%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>76%</b>	77%	60%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Livingstone Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	4%	4%	10%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	11%	10%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	85%	86%	69%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Racicot Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	45%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	26%	25%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	30%	25%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Tester/Rehberg</b>			
<b>Jon Tester</b>	46%	45%	62%
<b>Denny Rehberg</b>	48%	49%	38%
<b>Undecided</b>	6%	6%	-

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Tester/Daines</b>			
<b>Jon Tester</b>	48%	48%	59%
<b>Steve Daines</b>	37%	37%	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	15%	5%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Tester/Livingstone</b>			
<b>Jon Tester</b>	<b>46%</b>	46%	54%
<b>Neil Livingstone</b>	<b>35%</b>	35%	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>19%</b>	19%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Tester/Racicot</b>			
<b>Jon Tester</b>	<b>42%</b>	41%	64%
<b>Marc Racicot</b>	<b>49%</b>	50%	35%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>9%</b>	9%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Baucus Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>38%</b>	49%	39%	36%	33%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>53%</b>	39%	49%	59%	59%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	12%	12%	6%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tester Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>50%</b>	55%	48%	48%	51%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>40%</b>	36%	43%	42%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	9%	9%	10%	13%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Rehberg Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>49%</b>	37%	52%	51%	51%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>37%</b>	43%	32%	38%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>14%</b>	19%	16%	10%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Daines Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>7%</b>	9%	5%	7%	8%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>17%</b>	16%	16%	16%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>76%</b>	75%	79%	76%	73%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Livingstone Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>4%</b>	6%	3%	4%	5%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>11%</b>	13%	6%	12%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>85%</b>	81%	91%	84%	81%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Racicot Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>45%</b>	49%	47%	47%	35%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>26%</b>	28%	15%	27%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>30%</b>	22%	39%	26%	28%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tester/Rehberg</b>					
Jon Tester	46%	55%	45%	44%	44%
Denny Rehberg	48%	36%	50%	52%	49%
Undecided	6%	9%	6%	5%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tester/Daines</b>					
Jon Tester	48%	55%	49%	45%	48%
Steve Daines	37%	34%	37%	41%	33%
Undecided	14%	10%	13%	13%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tester/Livingstone</b>					
Jon Tester	46%	54%	45%	44%	47%
Neil Livingstone	35%	33%	36%	37%	31%
Undecided	19%	13%	19%	19%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Tester/Racicot</b>					
Jon Tester	42%	46%	40%	40%	44%
Marc Racicot	49%	42%	53%	52%	44%
Undecided	9%	12%	6%	8%	12%

