



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, December 16, 2013

CONTACT: Fred Shumate
fshumate@magellanbr.com

MERKLEY REELECTION BID LAGGING EXPECTATIONS

Only 33% of Likely Voters Believe Oregon Senator Deserves Another Term

Baton Rouge, La. – Magellan Strategies BR’s statewide Oregon survey results show U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley’s reelection campaign may have to make a stronger than expected push with Oregon voters next fall. When asked if Merkley had performed his job well enough to deserve another term, only 33% of likely midterm voters supported his reelection (25% definitely reelect), while 43% felt that it is time to give a new person a chance (34% definitely new person). Although most political prognosticators rate the state as a relatively safe hold for Democrats next year, Merkley’s troubles could be a sign of voter frustration with the Obamacare rollout and a signal of trouble for Democrat incumbents nationwide.

“Despite winning this seat with less than a majority in 2008, most pundits believe that Jeff Merkley is headed to an easy victory in 2014,” said John Diez, Jr., Principal of Magellan Strategies BR. “These survey results paint a different picture. Although the election is still eleven months away and a Republican opponent has not yet been chosen, the incumbent obviously has some repair work to do with the electorate.”

Merkley’s reelect numbers seem to be weighed down by his support of key pieces of President Obama’s agenda. In particular, his vote against an amendment to the 2009 Affordable Care Act that would have guaranteed people the choice to keep their current healthcare insurance plan is causing problems for the first term U.S. Senator (54% less likely to support). After being read a series of statements about Merkley’s support for some of the President’s initiatives, respondents were asked again whether he deserved reelection. Fifty-four percent of respondents felt that it is time give a new person a chance.

In addition, the survey shows that a majority of likely Oregon voters (54%) disapprove of the job that Barack Obama is doing as President. Republicans also enjoy a slight 4-point advantage on the generic ballot in the state.

Magellan Strategies BR surveyed 2,039 likely Oregon voters between December 9th and December 10th, 2013. The margin of error was 2.1% at a 95% confidence interval. The results were weighted based on historic turnout percentages according to data maintained by the Oregon Secretary of State. This survey was not authorized or paid for by any campaign or political organization. The survey was conducted using automated telephone technology.

Survey toplines are included below.

###



Follow us on twitter - @MagellanBR



OREGON STATEWIDE
U.S. SENATE SURVEY

MAGELLAN ID#:ORSTW_120513
Field Dates: 12/09-10/2013

Sample Size=2,039 n
MOE: +/- 2.1%

Q 1. How likely are you to vote in the 2014 elections for Congress and United States Senate in the fall of next year?

EXTREMELY LIKELY TO VOTE	92.8%
VERY LIKELY TO VOTE	5.2%
SOMEWHAT LIKELY TO VOTE	2.1%

Q 2. Would you say things in country are going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

RIGHT DIRECTION	31.2%
WRONG TRACK	68.8%

Q 3-Q 5. If the election for U.S Senate was being held today, and all you knew about the two candidates was that one was a Democrat and the other was a Republican, for whom would you vote?

TOTAL REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE	43.9%
TOTAL DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE	39.6%

DEFINITELY REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE	31.6%
PROBABLY REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE	12.3%
PROBABLY DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE	8.4%
DEFINITELY DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE	31.2%
UNDECIDED	16.5%



Follow us on twitter - @MagellanBR

Q 6. And do you approve or disapprove of the job that Barack Obama is doing as President?

APPROVE	39.3%
DISAPPROVE	53.7%
UNSURE/NO OPINION	7.0%

And changing topics for a second...

Q 7 – Q10. Do you believe that Jeff Merkley has performed his job as US Senator well enough to deserve to be re-elected or do you think it is time to give a new person a chance?

TOTAL RE-ELECT	33.1%
TOTAL NEW PERSON	42.9%
DEFINITELY RE-ELECT	25.1%
PROBABLY RE-ELECT	8.0%
PROBABLY NEW PERSON	8.5%
DEFINITELY NEW PERSON	34.3%
DEPENDS	10.3%
UNDECIDED	13.7%

Now I am going to read you some more information about Jeff Merkley's positions on various issues. After hearing each statement, please tell me if you are more likely to support him, less likely to support him, or if it makes no difference in your opinion...

Q 10. Jeff Merkley has voted in support of President Obama's agenda more the 95% of the time.

MORE LIKELY	34.6%
LESS LIKELY	50.8%
NO DIFFERENCE	9.2%
UNDECIDED	5.4%



Follow us on twitter - @MagellanBR

Q 11. Jeff Merkley voted against an amendment that would guarantee people the choice to keep their current health insurance plan. Now because of Obamacare, a projected 150,000 Oregonians will have their healthcare coverage canceled.

MORE LIKELY	21.5%
LESS LIKELY	53.7%
NO DIFFERENCE	14.5%
UNDECIDED	10.3%

Q 12. Jeff Merkley supported President Obama's stimulus plan, which increased government spending by 1 trillion dollars.

MORE LIKELY	33.4%
LESS LIKELY	53.2%
NO DIFFERENCE	8.0%
UNDECIDED	5.4%

Now that you have heard some more information...

Q 13. Do you believe that Jeff Merkley has performed his job well enough to deserve to be re-elected or do you think it is time to give a new person a chance?

RE-ELECT	33.8%
NEW PERSON	53.9%
DEPENDS	7.3%
UNDECIDED	5.1%

Q 14. And thinking back to the 2012 election for President of the United States, did you vote for Mitt Romney, the Republican candidate or Barack Obama, the Democrat candidate?

MITT ROMNEY	49.0%
BARACK OBAMA	43.0%
SOMEONE ELSE	6.0%
CAN'T REMEMBER DID NOT VOTE	2.1%



Q 15. These last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

MALE	46.2%
FEMALE	53.8%

Q 16. Regardless of how you feel today, with which party are you registered to vote?

REPUBLICAN	35.7%
DEMOCRAT	43.0%
INDEPENDENT OR OTHER	21.3%

Q 17. Regardless of your party registration, which party do you feel best represents your political point of view?

REPUBLICAN	37.2%
DEMOCRAT	37.0%
INDEPENDENT/OTHER	25.7%

Q 18. Which of the following age group applies to you?

18-34	11.9%
35-44	13.2%
45-54	18.1%
55-64	23.8%
65 PLUS	33.0%

Q 19. For statistical purposes only, to what racial or ethnic group do you belong?

WHITE	87.9%
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	2.7%
HISPANIC OR LATINO	2.1%
SOME OTHER ETHNIC GROUP	7.4%

