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April 20, 2006 - Nelson Opens 29-Point Lead Over Harris In Florida, Quinnipiac University Poll Finds; Voters Divided On Citizenship For Immigrants

Democratic incumbent U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson has opened a 56 - 27 percent lead over U.S. Rep. Katherine Harris, his leading Republican challenger, with 14 percent undecided. Even 58 percent of Republicans expect Nelson to win, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. This compares to a 53 - 31 percent lead for Sen. Nelson in a February 24 poll by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN uh-pe-ack) University.

Today's survey also shows Florida voters are conflicted about how to handle illegal immigration, with opinions shifting based on how questions are asked.

In this latest survey, Democrats back Nelson 83 - 8 percent, while Republicans back U.S. Rep. Harris 57 - 25 percent, down from 62 - 22 percent, and independent voters go with the Democrat 57 - 17 percent.

Nelson gets a 40 - 10 percent favorability, with 19 percent mixed and 31 percent who haven't heard enough to form an opinion. Harris gets a negative 17 - 37 percent favorability, with 15 percent mixed and 30 percent who haven't formed an opinion.

"Sen. Nelson has widened his lead by another 7 points over U.S. Rep. Harris since February and the reality is that there are now even fewer undecided voters for her to convert," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "Given the Herculean effort that would be needed to close such a gap, even six months from election, time is running short for her to show progress."

"The fact that more than twice as many Floridians have an unfavorable opinion of Harris as have a favorable one makes her task even more formidable," Brown added.

In an open-ended question, where voters can give any answer, 13 percent of Florida voters now rank immigration as the most important problem facing the state, second only to education-related issues, listed by 24 percent.

Voters oppose 54 - 41 percent making it easier for illegal immigrants to become U.S. citizens. But voters split 48 - 47 percent making it easier for illegal immigrants to become legal workers.

And when voters are asked to choose between two approaches to the illegal immigration problem currently being considered by Congress:

- 72 percent support a long-term process where an immigrant gets a temporary work visa, pays a fine and back taxes, learns English and ultimately becomes a citizen;
- 24 percent support making illegal immigration a crime and barring illegal immigrants from the U.S.

Recent pro-immigrant demonstrations have left 38 percent of voters less sympathetic to the demonstrators' goals, while 17 percent are more sympathetic.

"Immigration has caught the attention of Florida voters and the issue's complexity is reflected in voter ambivalence. Public opinion is all over the map, especially on the key issue of citizenship," Brown said.

In an early look at the 2008 presidential race, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton is the pick of 43 percent of Florida Democrats, while former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani leads the Republican pack with 42 percent, followed by Arizona Sen. John McCain with 26 percent. In general election matchups, Giuliani beats Sen. Clinton 52 - 41 percent and McCain tops Clinton 48 - 42 percent in Florida.

From April 11 - 17, Quinnipiac University surveyed 951 Florida registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percentage points. The survey includes 383 Democratic voters and 385 Republicans, each group with a margin of error of +/- 5 percentage points.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and the nation as a public service and for research. For additional data-www.quinnipiac.edu and quicklinks

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Nelson is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	50%	41%	55%	55%	54%	48%
Disapprove	19	25	15	16	19	19
DK/NA	30	33	29	29	27	33

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Approve	47%	48%	45%	56%	56%
Disapprove	19	18	25	19	16
DK/NA	33	35	30	25	27

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Nelson is handling his job as United States Senator? (*Also hit 50% on 4/14/05 & 2/25/05)

	Highest Lowest						
	Approve Approve						
	Apr 20	Feb 24	Nov 15	Aug 31	Jun 29	Apr 20	Aug 12
	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2006*	2004
Approve	50	49	49	49	46	50	42
Disapprove	19	20	18	20	23	19	18
DK/NA	30	32	33	30	31	30	40

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mel Martinez is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	43%	62%	31%	36%	45%	41%
Disapprove	31	17	41	34	29	32
DK/NA	26	21	28	30	26	27

	North/ PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Approve	54%	47%	43%	43%	33%
Disapprove	20	30	34	25	38
DK/NA	26	23	23	32	30

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mel Martinez is handling his job as United States Senator?

						Highest Approve	Lowest Approve
	Apr 20 2006	Feb 24 2006	Nov 15 2005	Aug 31 2005	Jun 29 2005	Feb 24 2006	Nov 15 2005
Approve	43	46	41	45	45	46	41
Disapprove	31	30	29	29	29	30	29
DK/NA	26	25	29	26	26	25	29

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	35%	70%	10%	27%	37%	33%
Disapprove	60	24	85	70	60	61
DK/NA	5	6	5	3	4	5

	North/ PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Approve	53%	39%	38%	46%	16%
Disapprove	43	56	56	45	81
DK/NA	4	5	7	9	3

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

						Highest	Lowest
						Approve	Approve
	Apr 20	Feb 24	Nov 16	Aug 31	Jun 30	Sep 23	Apr 20
	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2004	2006
Approve	35	46	37	42	45	50	35
Disapprove	60	50	61	54	51	47	60
DK/NA	5	4	2	4	4	3	5

14. Is your opinion of United States Senator Bill Nelson favorable, unfavorable, mixed, or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	40%	32%	48%	38%	40%	39%
Unfavorable	10	15	5	7	13	7
Mixed	19	19	12	26	19	18
Hvn't hrd enough	31	33	33	28	27	35
REFUSED	1	1	1	-	2	-

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Favorable	41%	39%	38%	33%	41%
Unfavorable	14	6	14	14	5
Mixed	16	21	20	18	18
Hvn't hrd enough	29	33	28	32	34
REFUSED	-	1	-	3	2

TREND: Is your opinion of United States Senator Bill Nelson favorable, unfavorable, mixed, or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Apr 20	Feb 24	Aug 31
	2006	2006	2005

Favorable	40	37	35
Unfavorable	10	11	8
Mixed	19	17	24
Hvn't hrd enough	31	34	31
REFUSED	1	2	1

15. Is your opinion of Congresswoman Katherine Harris favorable, unfavorable, mixed, or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	17%	30%	8%	13%	19%	16%
Unfavorable	37	20	47	43	37	37
Mixed	15	20	10	16	15	15
Hvn't hrd enough	30	29	35	28	29	32
REFUSED	-	1	-	-	-	1

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Favorable	23%	20%	18%	27%	9%
Unfavorable	30	39	33	41	42
Mixed	17	16	17	25	9
Hvn't hrd enough	30	24	31	6	40
REFUSED	-	1	-	1	-

TREND: Is your opinion of Congresswoman Katherine Harris favorable, unfavorable, mixed, or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Apr 20	Feb 24	Aug 31
	2006	2006	2005

Favorable	17	26	22
Unfavorable	37	27	30
Mixed	15	13	15
Hvn't hrd enough	30	32	32
REFUSED	-	1	1

16. If the 2006 election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Bill Nelson the Democrat and Katherine Harris the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Nelson	56%	25%	83%	57%	54%	58%
Harris	27	57	8	17	30	24
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	3	-	4	3	1
DK/NA	14	14	9	21	11	17

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Nelson	43%	52%	54%	42%	71%
Harris	38	28	26	38	17
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	1	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	4	4	1	-	2
DK/NA	14	15	18	20	10

TREND: If the election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Bill Nelson the Democrat and Katherine Harris the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Apr 20	Feb 24	Nov 15	Aug 31	Jun 29
	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005

Nelson	56	53	55	57	50
Harris	27	31	31	33	38
SMONE ELSE	1	1	1	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE	2	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	14	14	12	9	10

17. Would you like to see Bill Nelson re-elected Senator, or would you rather see someone else elected Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Re-elected	44%	24%	65%	41%	44%	45%
No/Someone else	32	54	15	31	38	28
DK/NA	23	21	20	28	18	28

	North/ PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Yes/Re-elected	40%	42%	39%	34%	54%
No/Someone else	38	32	38	38	23
DK/NA	21	26	23	28	23

TREND: Bill Nelson will be up for re-election in 2006. Would you like to see Bill Nelson re-elected Senator, or would you rather see someone else elected Senator?

						Highest	Lowest
	Apr 20	Nov 15	Aug 31	Jun 29	Apr 14	Apr 20	Apr 14
	2006	2005	2005	2005	2005	2006	2005
Re-elected	44	37	38	38	35	44	35
Someone Else	32	33	35	37	37	32	37
DK/NA	23	29	27	25	28	23	28

18. Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think would win the Senate election - Bill Nelson or Katherine Harris?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Nelson	70%	58%	83%	68%	72%	68%
Harris	16	27	7	13	18	14
DK/NA	15	15	10	19	11	18

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Nelson	60%	71%	71%	62%	76%
Harris	25	19	14	18	9
DK/NA	15	10	16	20	15

TREND: Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think would win the Senate election - Bill Nelson or Katherine Harris?

	Apr 20	Aug 31
	2006	2005
Nelson	70	56
Harris	16	24
DK/NA	15	20

19. (If registered Democrat) Who would you most like to see the Democrats nominate for President in 2008 if the candidates were New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold, former Virginia Governor Mark Warner, Delaware Senator Joseph Biden, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, former North Carolina Senator John Edwards and Indiana Senator Evan Bayh?

Registered

Democrats

Clinton	43%
Feingold	2
Warner	4
Biden	8
Kerry	12
Edwards	16
Bayh	2
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	1
DK/NA	11

TREND: Who would you most like to see the Democrats nominate for President in 2008 if the candidates were; New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold, former Virginia Governor Mark Warner, Delaware Senator Joseph Biden, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, former North Carolina Senator John Edwards, and Indiana Senator Evan Bayh? (na = not asked)

REGISTERED DEMOCRATS

Apr 20 Feb 24

2006 2006

Clinton	43	41%
Feingold	2	2
Warner	4	5
Biden	8	8
Kerry	12	14
Edwards	16	14
Bayh	2	na
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	2
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	1	2
DK/NA	11	12

20. (If registered Republican) Who would you like to see the Republicans nominate for President in 2008 if the candidates were Arizona Senator John McCain, Virginia Senator George Allen, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney?

Registered
 Republicans

McCain	26%
Allen	9
Frist	6
Giuliani	42
Romney	4
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	1
DK/NA	9

TREND: Who would you most like to see the Republicans nominate for President in 2008 if the candidates were Arizona Senator John McCain, Virginia Senator George Allen, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney? (na = not asked)

REGISTERED REPUBLICANS

Apr 20 Feb 24
 2006 2006

McCain	26	29
Allen	9	6
Frist	6	8
Giuliani	42	47
Romney	4	na
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	1	-
DK/NA	9	9

21. If the election for President were being held today, and the candidates were Hillary Rodham Clinton the Democrat and Rudolph Giuliani the Republican for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Clinton	41%	6%	76%	37%	37%	44%
Giuliani	52	90	19	51	58	47
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	2	2	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	6	3	3	9	3	8

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Clinton	37%	36%	36%	21%	54%
Giuliani	59	55	55	75	38
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	2	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	1	-	1	1
DK/NA	2	7	6	4	6

TREND: If the election for President were being held today and the candidates were Hillary Rodham Clinton the Democrat and Rudolph Giuliani the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Apr 20	Feb 24
	2006	2006

Clinton	41	41
Giuliani	52	50
SMONE ELSE	1	2
WLDN'T VOTE	1	2
DK/NA	6	5

22. If the election for President were being held today and the candidates were Hillary Rodham Clinton the Democrat and John McCain the Republican for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Clinton	42%	9%	78%	36%	36%	48%
McCain	48	82	15	50	54	43
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	2	-	2	3	1
WLDN ' T VOTE (VOL)	2	3	2	1	1	2
DK/NA	6	3	5	10	6	7

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Clinton	39%	36%	35%	24%	57%
McCain	53	54	54	62	34
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	3	1	1
WLDN ' T VOTE (VOL)	2	3	2	3	1
DK/NA	5	7	6	10	7

TREND: If the election for President were being held today and the candidates were Hillary Rodham Clinton the Democrat and John McCain the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Apr 20	Feb 24
	2006	2006

Clinton	42	38
McCain	48	53
SMONE ELSE	2	1
WLDN' T VOTE	2	1
DK/NA	6	7

23. If the election for President were being held today and the candidates were Hillary Rodham Clinton the Democrat and George Allen the Republican for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Clinton	46%	10%	81%	44%	40%	52%
Allen	40	79	10	34	46	34
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	2	2	1	5	3	2
WLDN'T VOTE(VOL)	2	1	1	3	2	1
DK/NA	10	9	6	15	10	11

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Clinton	39%	44%	41%	23%	61%
Allen	52	41	42	55	27
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	1	3	4	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE(VOL)	3	1	2	2	1
DK/NA	6	11	11	21	10

25. What do you think is the most important problem facing Florida today?

	Tot
Education Total	24%
Education general	18
Teachers	1
Funding education	3
School choice/Vouchers	1
Education other	1
Immigration	13%
Economy Total	10%
Economy general	3
Unemployment/jobs	3
Minimum wage too low	1
Cost of living	3
Healthcare Total	6%
Healthcare/Costs/ Insurance/HMO's	4
Medical malpractice	1
Medicare	1
Hurricanes	5%
Overcrowding/Over population	5%
Politicians Total	4%
Politicians/ Campaigns general	1
Political corruption	1

TREND: What do you think is the most important problem facing Florida today?

	Apr 20	Feb 22	Nov 23	Feb 24	Dec 07
	2006	2006	2005	2005	2004
Crime Total	3%	6%	3%	4%	2%
Crime/Violence general	2	4	1	2	-
Gangs/Youth crime	-	1	-	1	-
Drugs	1	1	1	1	2
Crime other	-	-	1	-	-
Economy Total	10%	10%	9%	9%	11%
Economy general	3	2	2	2	3
Unemployment/jobs	3	4	3	4	7
Stock market	-	-	-	-	-
Minimum wage too low	1	1	2	1	1
Cost of living	3	3	2	1	-
Businesses leaving/Outsourcing	-	-	-	1	-
Education Total	24%	21%	16%	31%	18%
Education general	18	15	12	21	11
Teachers	1	1	1	2	1
Funding education	3	4	3	7	5
School choice/Vouchers	1	1	-	1	1
Education other	1	-	-	-	-
Energy costs Total	4%	2%	5%	-	1%
Energy costs general	1	1	1	-	-
Gas prices	3	1	3	-	1
Oil prices	-	-	1	-	-
Environment/Pollution	4%	3%	4%	5%	3%
Healthcare Total	6%	4%	5%	5%	8%
Healthcare/Costs/Insurance/HMO's	4	4	4	4	6
Medical malpractice	1	-	-	-	-
Medicare	1	-	1	1	1
Prescription costs	-	-	-	-	1
Hurricanes	5%	5%	5%	-	7%
Immigration	13%	6%	6%	4%	7%
Open space/Urban sprawl/Overdev	2%	3%	5%	2%	3%
Overcrowding/Over population	5%	7%	4%	6%	3%
Politicians/Campaigns Total	4%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Politicians/Campaigns general	1	1	1	1	1
Political corruption	1	-	1	-	1

29. Do you support or oppose making it easier for illegal immigrants to become citizens?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	41%	38%	44%	40%	40%	42%
Oppose	54	58	50	53	57	51
DK/NA	5	4	6	7	4	7

	North/ PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Support	31%	48%	30%	43%	49%
Oppose	64	48	66	51	44
DK/NA	4	4	4	6	7

30. Do you support or oppose making it easier for illegal immigrants to become legal workers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	48%	46%	51%	49%	48%	49%
Oppose	47	49	44	47	50	44
DK/NA	5	5	5	4	2	7

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Support	36%	47%	44%	61%	57%
Oppose	59	47	51	35	38
DK/NA	5	6	5	4	5

31. Two different approaches have been suggested to deal with illegal immigrants. Please tell me which comes closest to your view - A) Make illegal immigration a crime and not allow anyone who entered the country illegally to work or stay in the United States under any circumstances. OR B) Allow illegal immigrants to get temporary work visas, and allow them to earn permanent residence and eventual citizenship after a certain number of years if they learn English, pay a fine, pay any back taxes, and have no criminal record.

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
A)Make it a crime	24%	29%	18%	24%	27%	22%
B)Allow earning citizenship	72	65	79	74	70	73
DK/NA	4	6	3	2	3	5

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
A)Make it a crime	26%	27%	32%	20%	16%
B)Allow earning citizenship	69	70	63	74	81
DK/NA	5	3	4	6	3

32. As you may know, recently there have been large demonstrations around the country by people who want Congress to change the law to make it possible for illegal immigrants to become legal residents and become citizens. Have those demonstrations made you more sympathetic or less sympathetic to their goals, or have they not affected your opinion on the issue at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More sympathetic	17%	11%	22%	19%	14%	20%
Less sympathetic	38	47	29	40	42	35
Not effected opinion	42	40	48	40	43	42
DK/NA	2	2	2	2	2	3

	North/ PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
More sympathetic	10%	17%	14%	16%	24%
Less sympathetic	45	37	45	44	29
Not effected opinion	44	43	38	40	44
DK/NA	2	3	2	-	2

33. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	34%	70%	7%	25%	38%	30%
Disapprove	63	26	88	72	60	65
DK/NA	4	4	5	3	2	5

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Approve	47%	38%	40%	46%	15%
Disapprove	45	60	55	54	82
DK/NA	7	3	5	-	2

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

	Apr 20	Feb 24	Nov 16	Aug 31
	2006	2006	2005	2005
Approve	34	41	31	39
Disapprove	63	54	64	55
DK/NA	4	5	5	6

34. Do you think going to war with Iraq was the right thing for the United States to do or the wrong thing?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Right thing	36%	66%	14%	30%	40%	33%
Wrong thing	58	25	85	61	53	62
DK/NA	6	9	1	9	7	5

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Right thing	52%	42%	43%	42%	16%
Wrong thing	41	54	49	54	78
DK/NA	7	4	8	5	6

TREND: Do you think going to war with Iraq was the right thing for the United States to do or the wrong thing?

	Apr 20	Feb 24	Aug 31	Oct 28	Oct 21	Oct 7	Sep 23
	2006	2006	2005	2004	2004	2004	2004
Right thing	36	42	41	48	48	46	46
Wrong thing	58	51	53	44	45	49	49
DK/NA	6	6	6	8	7	5	5

35. From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Iraq, what should the United States do? Should the U.S. -- A)increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, B)keep the same number of U.S. troops in Iraq as there are now, C)decrease the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, or D)remove

all its troops from Iraq?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Increase troops	12%	18%	5%	15%	14%	11%
Keep same amount	22	38	8	19	24	20
Decrease troops	24	22	28	22	26	22
Remove all troops	35	14	53	34	29	39
DK/NA	8	7	5	10	7	8

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Increase troops	16%	9%	12%	21%	10%
Keep same amount	27	24	23	25	14
Decrease troops	26	20	19	27	28
Remove all troops	26	38	35	23	40
DK/NA	5	9	10	4	7