

Senators Supporting Kagan May Face Difficulty With Voters

Resurgent Republic Survey Indicates Independents Would be Less Likely to Support a Senator Who Votes for Confirmation Based on Kagan's Past Stands

Washington, D.C. (June 24, 2010) – Undecided voters overwhelmingly state they would be less likely to support a senator who voted to confirm Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan based on her past positions on Harvard military recruitment and the District of Columbia's handgun ban according to a newly released Resurgent Republic national survey.

“Less than half of likely voters support Kagan's confirmation to the Supreme Court (46 to 28 percent), and her past stands on military recruitment and the second amendment are trouble signs and could erode support of those who vote in favor of confirmation,” said Ed Gillespie, Resurgent Republic Board Member.

Kagan's denial of full access to recruit students at Harvard Law School because of the military's policy regarding homosexuals makes 47 percent of voters less likely to support a senator who votes to confirm her and makes 31 percent more likely to support a senator who votes to confirm her. By a two-to-one margin, Independents would be less likely to support a senator knowing this (50 to 25 percent, compared to 70 to 11 percent of Republicans). Democrats say this information makes them more likely to support a senator who votes to confirm her by a 53 to 25 percent margin.

Similar results are found regarding Kagan not being sympathetic to claims that the District of Columbia's handgun ban violated the constitutional rights of residents. Voters would be less likely to support a senator who votes to confirm Kagan in light of her position on the DC handgun ban by a 49 to 28 percent margin, including a 49 to 24 percent margin among Independents and a 71 to 13 percent margin among Republicans (46 to 29 percent more likely to support among Democrats).

Other findings from the survey include:

- Voters say the country is on the wrong track by a 64 to 27 percent margin, including 69 to 24 percent among absolutely certain voters. Independents say the country is on the wrong track, 72 to 18 percent (a widening from 65 to 25 percent in April).
- President Obama's job approval remains below 50 percent (49 to 48 percent), including majority disapproval among Independents, 44 to 51 percent. Independents view the President unfavorably by a 47 to 45 percent margin.
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi's favorable to unfavorable rating is currently 32 to 50 percent, while Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's rating is 19 to 36 percent.
- Both parties in Congress hold a net unfavorable rating, with a 36 to 49 percent rating for Republicans in Congress (31 to 51 percent among Independents) and a 40 to 49 percent rating for Democrats in Congress (28 to 57 percent among Independents).

This survey of 1000 likely voters was conducted June 20-23, 2010. The margins of error for responses with an even split – 50 percent for one response and 50 percent for another response – is ± 3.10 percent.

Through a steady stream of national polls and focus groups, Resurgent Republic helps policy makers, think tanks, interest groups and others advocate for policies that are consistent with conservative principles. More information, including the key findings and survey memo, can be found at www.resurgentrepublic.com.

###

Contact:

Jim Dyke, 843.722.9670
Jim Dyke & Associates
jim@dykeassociates.com