Disability Issues for Voters in the Senate Battleground
October 1st, 2014

GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER RESEARCH

NORTH STAR OPINION RESEARCH

RESPECTABILITY
This presentation is based on a bi-partisan survey conducted by the Democratic polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner and the Republican polling firm North Star Opinion Research conducted in the Senate Battleground.

The survey of 1000 likely 2014 voters was conducted from September 20-24, 2014, in the Senate Battleground.

The Senate Battleground is comprised of AK, AR, CO, GA, IA, KY, LA, MI, MT, NH, NC, and WV.

Unless otherwise noted, margin of error= +/-3.10 percentage points at 95% confidence.

We reached 40 percent of our respondents by cell phone, in order to account for ever-changing demographics and trying to accurately sample the full American electorate.
"Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?" Yes, family member, 31 percent. Yes, close friend, 10 percent. Yes, myself, 15 percent. No, 43 percent. Don’t know, 1 percent.
Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?

- Yes, close friend
- Yes, family member
- Yes, myself
- No

**Under 50**
- Yes: 13%
- No: 40%
- Yes, close friend: 11%
- Yes, family member: 36%
- Yes, myself: 36%

**Over 50**
- Yes: 28%
- No: 44%
- Yes, close friend: 19%
- Yes, family member: 26%
- Yes, myself: 13%

“Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?” **Under 50**, yes, total, 60 percent. Under 50 yes, family member, 33 percent. Under 50, close friend, 11 percent. Under 50, myself, 16 percent. Under 50 no, 38 percent. **Over 50** yes, total, 45 percent. Over 50 yes, family member, 26 percent. Over 50 yes, close friend, 6 percent. Over 50 yes, myself, 13 percent. Over 50 no, 54 percent.
**Disabled Community Spans Partisanship**

**Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?**

- **No**
- **Yes, close friend**
- **Yes, family member**
- **Yes, myself**

**Democrat**
- Yes, total: 56 percent.
- Yes, family member: 32 percent.
- Close friend: 10 percent.
- Myself: 14 percent.
- No: 44 percent.

**Independent**
- Yes, total: 58 percent.
- Yes, family member: 32 percent.
- Close friend: 11 percent.
- Myself: 15 percent.
- No: 41 percent.

**Republican**
- Yes, total: 56 percent.
- Yes, family member: 30 percent.
- Close friend: 8 percent.
- Myself: 18 percent.
- No: 43 percent.

“Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability?” **Democrat**, yes, total, 56 percent. Democrat yes, family member, 32 percent. Democrat, close friend, 10 percent. Democrat, myself, 14 percent. Democrat no, 44 percent. **Independent** yes, total, 58 percent. Independent yes, family member, 32 percent. Independent yes, close friend, 11 percent. Independent yes, myself, 15 percent. Independent no, 41 percent. **Republican** yes, total, 56 percent. Republican yes, family member, 30 percent. Republican yes, close friend, 8 percent. Republican yes, myself, 18 percent. Republican no, 43 percent.
Neither Federal, Nor State are Doing Enough to Help People with Disabilities Work

Thinking about the current policies and programs your state government has to help people with disabilities get jobs and become independent, would you say the state government is doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help citizens in your state who have disabilities get a job and become independent?

State

- Doing enough: 28 percent
- Not doing enough: 54 percent

Thinking about the current policies and programs the federal government has to help people with disabilities get jobs and become independent, would you say the federal government is doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help citizens in your state who have disabilities get a job and become independent?

Federal

- Doing enough: 35 percent
- Not doing enough: 52 percent

Thinking about the current policies and programs the state government has to help people with disabilities get jobs and become independent, would you say the state government is doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help citizens in your state who have disabilities get a job and become independent? 

Thinking about the current policies and programs the federal government has to help people with disabilities get jobs and become independent, would you say the federal government is doing more than enough, doing enough, not doing enough, or not doing anywhere near enough to help citizens in your state who have disabilities get a job and become independent?

"(Question text above)" State, Disability Community: Doing enough, 26 percent. Not doing enough, 57 percent. State, Outside Community: Doing enough, 32 percent. Not doing enough, 52 percent. Federal, Disability Community: Doing enough, 32 percent. Not doing enough, 56 percent. Federal, Outside Community: Doing enough, 38 percent. Not doing enough, 47 percent.
The Issue Has Electoral Consequences in Battleground

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for U.S. Senate who makes enabling citizens with disabilities to get jobs and become independent a high priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?

Senator, Total: More likely, 49 percent. Less likely, 5 percent. Senator, Disability Community: More likely, 53 percent. Less likely, 4 percent.

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for governor who makes enabling citizens with disabilities to get jobs and become independent a high priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?

Governor, Total: More likely, 53 percent. Less likely, 3 percent. Governor, Disability Community: More likely, 58 percent. Less likely, 3 percent.

"(Question text above)" Senator, Total: More likely, 49 percent. Less likely, 5 percent. Senator, Disability Community: More likely, 53 percent. Less likely, 4 percent. Governor, Total: More likely, 53 percent. Less likely, 3 percent. Governor, Disability Community: More likely, 58 percent. Less likely, 3 percent.
Swing Voters in Disability Community Take Issue Seriously

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for U.S. Senate who makes enabling citizens with disabilities to get jobs and become independent a high priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?

Senator: More likely, 54 percent. Less likely, 10 percent.

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for governor who makes enabling citizens with disabilities to get jobs and become independent a high priority, or would it make no difference to your vote?

Governor: More likely, 61 percent. Less likely, 4 percent.

“(Question text above)” Swing Voters Among Disabled Community. Senator: More likely, 54 percent. Less likely, 10 percent. Governor: More likely, 61 percent. Less likely, 4 percent.
“(Question text above)” **Independent**: More likely, 41 percent. Less likely, 6 percent. **Independent Women**: More likely, 45 percent. Less likely, 5 percent. **Married Women**: More likely, 51 percent. Less likely, 4 percent. **Non-College Women**: More likely, 57 percent. Less likely, 5 percent. **Suburbs**: More likely, 53 percent. Less likely, 8 percent.
Today, 70 percent of people with disabilities don't have jobs, even though most of them would prefer to work. Of the following reasons, which do you believe is the most important reason why unemployment is so high among people with disabilities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People with disabilities could lose government benefits if they work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employers are unwilling to hire someone with a disability</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employers are worried about lawsuits if they hire someone with a disability</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health or medical issues</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation issues</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>People with disabilities cannot do the job as well as those without disabilities</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>People with disabilities have not tried hard enough</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>3</td>
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Government and Discrimination Responsible for High Unemployment among People with Disabilities

“Today, 70 percent of people with disabilities don't have jobs, even though most of them would prefer to work. Of the following reasons, which do you believe is the most important reason why unemployment is so high among people with disabilities?”

People with disabilities could lose government benefits if they work, 27 percent. Employers are unwilling to hire someone with a disability, 20 percent. Employers are worried about lawsuits if they hire someone with a disability, 14 percent. Health or medical issues, 12 percent. Transportation issues, 7 percent. People with disabilities cannot do the job as well as those without disabilities, 6 percent. People with disabilities have not tried hard enough, 4 percent. None of the above, 3 percent.
Overwhelming Majority Willing to Work with and Employ People With Disabilities

As a customer, how important is it to you that the companies you do business with do not discriminate against qualified people with disabilities: very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?

- Not very important: Not at all important
- Somewhat Important
- Very important

- Not very important: Not at all important
- Somewhat Important
- Very important

If you were an employer, manager or small business owner, how willing would you be to hire a qualified person with a disability: very willing, somewhat willing, not very willing or not at all willing?

- Not at all willing
- Somewhat willing
- Very willing

Customer: Very important, 61 percent. Total important, 89 percent. Not at all important, 3 percent. Total not important, 9 percent. Employer: Very willing, 78 percent. Total willing, 98 percent. Not at all willing, 1 percent. Not willing, 1 percent.

"(Question text above)"
Bi-Partisan Consensus on Reforming Work/Asset Rules to Allow People with Disabilities to Work

Under current law, people with disabilities who receive Medicaid and other payments from federal and state government have a cap or limit of 1,070 dollars per month in income and 2,000 dollars in total assets before they lose their benefits. Would you favor or oppose changing the law to increase these caps and allow people with disabilities to earn more without risking their benefits?

"(Question text above)" **Total:** Favor, 78 percent. Oppose, 16 percent. **Democrat:** Favor, 88 percent. Oppose, 9 percent. **Independent:** Favor, 76 percent. Oppose, 14 percent. **Republican:** Favor, 68 percent. Oppose, 26 percent.
Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for U.S. Senate who supports changing this law to increase these caps and allow people with disabilities to earn more without risking their benefits or would it make no difference to your vote?

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, also known as the Disability Treaty, is an international human rights treaty of the United Nations modeled after the Americans with Disabilities Act. This Treaty encourages the adoption of laws around the world that promote accessibility, equal opportunities and end abuse and discrimination of people with disabilities. The Treaty will not change existing U.S. law or add additional costs to its budget. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. Senate ratifying this treaty?

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<th>Somewhat oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
<th>Somewhat favor</th>
<th>Strongly favor</th>
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<td><strong>Favor</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td><strong>Oppose</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Democrat</strong></td>
<td>83</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Independent</strong></td>
<td>61</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Republican</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
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*(Question text above)* **Democrat**: Favor, 83 percent. Oppose, 10 percent. **Independent**: Favor, 61 percent. Oppose, 27 percent. **Republican**: Favor, 50 percent. Oppose, 32 percent.