

## FL Senate: Crist and Rubio are tied

Wed, 12/16/2009 - 12:02pm | posted by Jason Pye

Rasmussen is out with [new polling from Florida](#) that shows [Marco Rubio](#) pulling even with Gov. Charlie Crist in the primary for the Republican nomination for United States Senate:

*A new Rasmussen Reports telephone survey of likely GOP Primary voters finds Crist and Rubio each with 43% of the vote. Five percent (5%) prefer another candidate, and nine percent (9%) are undecided.*

*Crist's support has fallen from 53% in August to 49% in October. Rasmussen Reports noted at the time, "The fact that Crist has fallen below 50% in a primary against a lesser known opponent suggests potential vulnerability."*

*Rubio's name recognition has grown in recent months and he is now viewed Very Favorably by 34% of Likely Primary Voters. That's up from 18% in August. As his name recognition increased, Rubio's support in the polls has jumped from 31% in August to 43% today.*

*Crist, well known throughout the state, has seen his ratings go in the opposite direction. Just 19% now have a Very Favorable opinion of him, a figure that represents a double digit decline since August.*

This is huge considering that Crist held a 30+ point lead [just a few months ago](#). Crist's [support of the stimulus bill](#) has caused fiscal conservatives, specifically the Club for Growth [to target him](#) and [endorse Rubio](#). His defense of his fiscal record, previously given good marks from the Cato Institute, has [fallen flat in light of recent actions](#).

Questions remain as to whether Rubio can win a general election, but he has been impressive thus far in the GOP primary.

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I like Rubio's chances at this point—he's got Crist under 50% and he has him running scared. Crist has tried to smear Rubio on several occasions since he's become a threat to take the nomination from him without success.

Crist also has absolutely no support from the Florida GOP rank-and-file as he's only being held up by the NRSC and the old guard in the FL GOP who support him because he got them there. With luck, his remaining support will fade and his support will crater. At that time, conservatives will have one less RINO to fight to get their message across.

Hopefully, Kay Bailey Hutchinson will resign from the Senate, get crushed by Perry in the Texas Governor's race and she'll be another RINO that bites the dust.

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**Marcus Adams** on *Wed, 12/16/2009 - 3:53pm.*

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