
MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: MATT GAMMON, VICE PRESIDENT, WPA RESEARCH
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SUBJECT: SANDOVAL'S VP VIABILITY

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2015

WPA Research conducted a survey from November 2-3rd, 2015 among 401 likely Republican primary voters in New Hampshire. The survey concluded that Governor Sandoval's viability as a candidate for the Vice-Presidency decreases drastically when likely Republican Primary voters learn about his past appointing NV Energy regulators that create legislation that impact NV Energy and his inability to take a leadership role and save 6,000 solar jobs in Nevada.

Sandoval lacks Republican primary voters' support

When likely Republican primary voters were asked if they would vote for Nevada Governor Sandoval as Vice President of the United States, one-quarter (26%) said they would not.

Vote for Sandoval	Yes	No	Don't Know or Refused	Difference
Overall	2%	26%	43%	24%

Nearly half of likely Republican primary voters are not yet aware of who Governor Sandoval is. This shows that his image can still largely be molded as either positive or negative.

Sandoval's relationship with NV Energy hurts him

Over one-quarter of likely Republican Primary voters would not vote for Governor Sandoval as Vice President; however, once they learned that Sandoval appoints NV Energy's regulators and decides on legislation that impacts NV Energy, the amount of people unwilling to elect him as Vice President doubled:

4. NV Energy is the largest utility in Nevada. It is widely acknowledged that two NV Energy lobbyists are also some of Governor Sandoval's closest political advisors. Despite this relationship, Sandoval appoints NV Energy's regulators and decides on legislation that impacts NV Energy. Knowing this, would you vote for Brian Sandoval for Vice President of the United States in 2016?

Vote for Sandoval	Don't Know or Refused	Initial No	Informed No	Change
Overall	43%	26%	53%	+27
Men 55+	38%	27%	59%	+32
Tea Party	51%	14%	46%	+32
Traditional Republicans	39%	25%	56%	+31
Fiscal Conservatives	43%	23%	53%	+30

Groups that changed their minds the most when learning about Sandoval's relationship with NV Energy are men ages 55 and older, both Tea Party supporters and traditional Republicans, as well as fiscal conservatives.

Sandoval's Failure to Take Action on 6,000 Jobs Hurts Him

When likely Republican Primary voters learned that Governor Sandoval failed to take a leadership position and protect six thousand solar jobs against attacks from NV Energy, his support as a viable Vice President candidate decreased by an additional three points:

5. Nevada is a national leader in solar job growth. If you knew that Governor Sandoval failed to take a leadership position and protect six thousand solar jobs against attacks from NV Energy, would you vote for Brian Sandoval for Vice President of the United States in 2016?

Vote for Sandoval	Initial No	Informed No	Change
Overall	26%	56%	+30
Traditional Republicans	25%	63%	+38
Social Moderates	30%	66%	+36
Men 55+	27%	61%	+34
Women 55+	29%	60%	+31

Two other key demographic groups come into focus when likely Republican primary voters learn of Sandoval's decision not to protect 6,000 jobs: social moderates and women ages 55 and older. These two groups' support for Governor Sandoval as a nominee for the Vice Presidency decreased by over thirty points.

Conclusion

Governor Sandoval's relationship with NV Energy and his inability to make decisive actions on protecting 6,000 solar jobs in Nevada against attacks from NV Energy will greatly hurt his chances of receiving the nomination for the Vice Presidency of the United States. Key groups that will not vote for him, when learning about his past are: traditional Republicans, fiscal conservatives, as well as men and women ages 55 and older. Any chance Governor Sandoval may have at becoming the Vice President of the United States may be greatly hindered if individuals were to learn of his decision to appoint NV Energy regulators to make decisions on key solar legislation or his inability to take a leadership position and protect 6,000 solar jobs against attacks from NV Energy.

Methodology

Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research conducted research among likely voters in New Hampshire. WPA selected a random sample of likely Republicans primary voters from the New Hampshire voter file using Registration Based Sampling (RBS). The sample for this survey was stratified based on geography, age, party registration, and gender. This methodology allows us to avoid post-survey "weighting" which can reduce the reliability of survey results. Respondents were contacted by phone via a live telephone operator interview November 2-3, 2015. The study has a sample size of n=401 likely Republican primary voters and a margin of error is equal to $\pm 4.9\%$ in 95 out of 100 cases.

About Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research

Since 1998, WPA Opinion Research has been a leading provider of political polling for campaigns from Mayor and City Council to Governor and U.S. Senate in 47 states and several foreign countries. In 2009-2010 alone, WPA conducted polling in nearly 200 races for campaigns, caucuses and independent expenditures efforts.

In addition to our political and policy research, WPA Opinion Research provides donor research to Christian and other not-for-profits and alumni research to colleges and universities. More than 200 Christian and other not-for-profit organizations around the country and dozens of large and small colleges and universities have relied on WPA's data and analysis.

WPA's corporate research arm has provided market research to more than 100 of the Fortune 500 and to hundreds of small and medium businesses nationwide.