



# MOORE INFORMATION

OPINION RESEARCH • STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

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TO: Citizens for Watkins  
FROM: Hans Kaiser  
RE: Survey Results

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Results of our recent survey in Washington's First Congressional District show clearly that Massachusetts is not the only place where Democrat fortunes have turned wildly since the 2008 elections. Voters in the First Congressional District are negative about the direction of the country despite their strong support for Barack Obama and Jay Inslee during the 2008 election. In fact, after six terms in office Inslee scores well below 50% on every standard measure of political strength. Furthermore, in this district which Inslee carried in 2008 with 68% of the vote, the generic ballot now shows the parties in a statistical dead heat in the race for Congress with the Democrat candidate getting 34% and the Republican candidate 32%.

Inslee now finds his favorable rating at just 39%, his approval rating at 40% (just 17% strongly approve) and his reelection score at an anemic 37%. Almost as many voters (33%) say it's time for a new person. To top it off Inslee barely gets over 40% in a head to head test against his challenger James Watkins, a political newcomer with almost no name identification. **Once respondents hear a brief bio description of each candidate, the race becomes a statistical dead heat, with Watkins at 44% and Inslee at 42%.** Here's what we found:

<b>Direction of country:</b>	<b>Right direction</b>	<b>Wrong track</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
	42%	47%	12%

<b>Generic Congressional ballot test:</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democratic</b>	<b>Neither/don't know</b>
	32%	34%	33%

<b>Inslee vote to reelect:</b>	<b>Deserves reelection</b>	<b>New person</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
	37%	33%	29%

<b>Ballot test:</b>	<b>James Watkins</b>	<b>Jay Inslee</b>	<b>Neither/don't know</b>
	27%	41%	32%

Part of the dramatic change here can almost certainly be attributed to the fact that fully 64% of voters in the District describe themselves as fiscal conservatives (42% are "strong fiscal conservatives"). Concerns about the mounting federal debt and Congress' perceived inability to do anything about it has undoubtedly impacted these numbers.

Finally, we asked an open ended question to gauge what voters see as Inslee's greatest accomplishments as a Congressman. The top answer -- offered by 66% of respondents -- was "don't know." No other response was in double digits and the highest response other than "don't know" was a negative one: "he hasn't done anything." After 12 years in Washington Jay Inslee appears to have left the proverbial footprints in the sand.

***Methodology***

*This memo contains the results of a telephone survey conducted among voters in Washington's First Congressional District. A total of 300 interviews were conducted March 23-24, 2010, by Moore Information, Inc. The sampling error associated with this survey is plus or minus 6% at the 95% confidence level.*