

February 2, 2012

The Senate Conservatives Fund commissioned Basswood Research to conduct two statewide surveys of likely Republican primary voters in Nebraska regarding the 2012 U.S. Senate election. Both surveys interviewed 500 respondents who passed multiple screens as likely GOP primary voters. The margin of error in each survey is +/- 4.4% at a 95% confidence level. The first survey was conducted June 11-12, 2011. The second was done just a few days ago, on January 23-24, 2012.

	June 2011		January 2012	
John Bruning				
Favorable/Unfavorable	59%-12%		58%-17%	
Don Stenberg				
Favorable/Unfavorable	53%-13%		59%-14%	
Deb Fischer				
Favorable/Unfavorable	20%-6%		27%-8%	
U.S. Senate ballot test	Bruning	39.8%	Bruning	31.8%
	Stenberg	16.8%	Stenberg	26.4%
	Fischer	9.4%	Fischer	11.0%
	Flynn	1.6%	Flynn	1.4%
	Undecided	32.4%	Undecided	29.4%

Both Attorney General John Bruning and Treasurer Don Stenberg are well-known and well-liked by Nebraska Republicans. However, they are wearing very differently on the campaign trail. In the seven months between the two surveys, Bruning has seen his favorability decline by a net of six points, and his ballot support drop by eight points. At the same time, Stenberg has seen his favorability grow by a net of five points, and his ballot support increase by nearly ten points.

The primary election is quite close now, and the two leading candidates are clearly heading in opposite directions. It appears that the longer Nebraska Republicans examine the two candidates, the more Bruning's support fades and Stenberg's rises.