



**From:** Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling  
**To:** Interested Parties  
**Subject:** Nevada Senate Race Tight; Clinton Well Positioned in State  
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A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that the open race for the Senate in Nevada is a toss up, with Democrat Catherine Cortez Masto leading Republican Joe Heck by a single point. Meanwhile Hillary Clinton is well positioned in the Presidential race, leading the top Republicans by 5-12 points in the state.

Key findings from the survey include:

-For now the Senate race is about as close as it can be, with Cortez Masto leading Heck 42/41. There are indications within the numbers of Cortez Masto having more room for growth though- the undecideds voted for Barack Obama by 24 points in 2012 and they support Hillary Clinton over the trio of Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, and Scott Walker by an average of 11 points. Those folks are likely to end up voting Democratic for the Senate too in the end.

-Hillary Clinton is the clear favorite for President in Nevada, and her coattails are likely to benefit Cortez Masto in the Senate race as well. Clinton's up 48/43 on Marco Rubio, 48/42 on Donald Trump, 48/41 on Scott Walker, and 49/37 on Jeb Bush. If Clinton's winning the state by those kinds of margins, she's likely to bring Cortez Masto along with her.

-One issue that gives Cortez Masto a decided advantage over Heck is increasing the federal minimum wage. 59% of voters support doing that to only 34% who are opposed. Heck's conservative stance on that issue may prove untenable in a state that's becoming increasingly Democratic in Presidential elections.

The Nevada Senate race starts out about as tight as it can be. But Hillary Clinton's strength in the state and the continued growth of voters in Democratic friendly demographic groups leave Catherine Cortez Masto pretty well positioned for next year.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 677 Nevada voters on July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> on behalf of Senator Majority PAC. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.8%. 39% of those surveyed were Democrats, 34% were Republicans, and 27% were independents or members of other parties.

