For Immediate Release
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National Poll: Americans express wide range of opinions on the direction of the nation, covering ambivalence to the role of government, to high accolades and disillusions about progress that is rooted in ideological frames of reference, to opposing points of view on what are the key indicators of the quality of life.

- Two-fifths suggest U.S. Heading in the Right Direction and Cite Unemployment, Gas Prices and Economy as Reasons
- Three-quarters See Federal Government Having Ability to Positively Impact National Direction
- Three-quarters also See Federal Government as Too Big
- Half of Americans See Federal Government Remaining as Best Safety Net for Those in Need

Jackson – The Polling Center at Jackson State University's Institute of Government has released a national survey of 904 adults. The Poll on the nation's direction, quality of life, standard of living, factors considered when determining the nation’s direction, perceptions of the federal government and giving credit or blame for the nation’s direction. The national poll was conducted April 3 – 9, 2015.

A large majority of Americans, 88.2%, indicated their quality of life was very good or good. Some, 10.9%, suggested their quality of life was poor or very poor. The percent suggesting very good or good was lower among those earning $40,000 or less annually 74.3%.

A similarly large percentage, 82.6%, suggested their standard of living today was “improved” or “unchanged but good”. Another 15.3% suggested their own standard of living was “unchanged and poor” or has “declined”. The percent of those earning less than $40,000 annually suggesting their standard of living was improved or good was 68.6% compared to those earning $100,000 or more annually at 97.3%.

On the nation’s direction, 57.9% indicated the nation is moving in the wrong direction or there's no movement and things are not so good. Nearly two-fifths, 37.8%, indicated the
nation is moving in the right direction or there’s no movement but things are currently
good.

The research was designed to discover the reasons Americans conclude the nation is
moving in the right direction. In declining order, these leading reasons or factors included:
unemployment levels are declining, the price of gas is lower, the economy is improving,
interest rates are low, the respondent owns their own home, quality of life is good and the
stock market is up.

Similarly, the top reasons cited by respondents who believe the nation is moving in the
wrong direction included, in declining order: unemployment levels are still high, terrorism
is on the rise, tax rates are too high, rights as Americans are under pressure, levels of crime,
a stagnant economy and no privacy.

When the nation is moving in the right direction, most Americans surveyed credit a
moderate or conservative political philosophy or approach – 33.5% and 31.2% respectively.
Others suggested they credit a liberal philosophy or were unsure – 13.4% and 21.9%
respectively.

When the nation is moving in the wrong direction, most Americans (35.8%) surveyed
blamed a liberal political philosophy compared to 28.8% and 10.8% blaming a conservative
or moderate philosophy respectively.

When considering their own political philosophy, 40.7% suggested they were very or
somewhat conservative followed by those (33.0%) who considered themselves to be
moderate. Another one-fifth, 21.6%, indicated they were very or somewhat liberal.

While 74.9% of all respondents agreed that the Federal Government “has the ability to
positively impact the direction of the nation”, 71.1% also agreed that the Federal
Government is currently “too big to manage effectively”.

Nearly two-thirds of all Americans surveyed, 62.2%, agreed that the private sector and
American businesses are better equipped to improve the direction of this nation than the
Federal Government.

Nearly one-half of all respondents, 49.0%, suggested the Federal Government remains the
best safety net for those in need.

ABOUT THE POLL: The Poll was conducted by The Polling Center at Jackson State University’s
Institute of Government. Polling by the Center is conducted on a regular basis and may also include
spontaneous polling on occurring events.

METHODOLOGY: The Poll sampled opinions of 904 approximately proportional to state
population contribution nationwide. The survey was conducted April 3 – 9, 2015. All surveys were
conducted using an online survey instrument. The poll has a +/- 3.5 percent margin of error at a 95
percent confidence level on a composite basis.

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National Poll: There’s No Such Thing as “Delete” Online According to 77.9% of Americans Surveyed

- One-quarter, 23.2%, of Americans Don’t Believe the Claim: “Sign In Using Our Secure Network”
- Large Percent, 28.3%, Know Someone Who Missed Job Opportunity Due to Online Posts
- One-Fifth, 20.8%, Surprised to See Personal Photos Online
- Many, 20.2%, Made Mistakes By Posting Whereabouts or Vacation Plans Online
- 86.7% Agree Government Employees Should Use Government Emails on Official Servers

Jackson, MS – The Polling Center at Jackson State University’s Institute of Government has released a national survey of 904 adults. The Poll included questions regarding online / internet security, belief in the accuracy of “secure networks”, theft of online images, requiring government personnel to use official sanctioned email addresses and servers. The Poll was conducted on April 3 – 9, 2015.

Poll questions were designed to collect current perceptions among Americans about the security of online data and personal privacy. Online survey respondents reported accessing the internet in a variety of ways. These included, in declining order, laptops (73.0%), computers (68.8%), smartphones (62.8%), pads/tablets (49.1%), televisions (24.8%) and watches (1.4%).

A large percentage of Americans surveyed, 30.9%, suggested they believed their personal data and information when using the internet was “not very” or “not at all secure”. However, 65.4%, indicated they believed their data was “very or somewhat secure”.

One-quarter, 23.2%, of all respondents suggested they don’t believe “Sign in Using our Secure Network” when they see this posted or claimed at the websites of their banks or
favorite stores and vendors. Others, 70.9%, find such a claim very (12.3%) or somewhat believable (58.6%).

More Americans surveyed believed their internet browsing and browsing history was somewhat public or public at 52.8% than those who believe their browsing was very or somewhat private at 41.4%.

A large percentage of those surveyed, 82.4%, have installed virus protection software on the majority of the devices used when connecting to the internet.

Interestingly, 77.9% of those surveyed agreed that there is no such thing as “delete” when it comes to the internet.

Americans polled agreed with a number of additional statements….

- Would support more government oversight if it meant more online privacy – 40.2%
- Have posted personal information including contact and employment details – 40.1%
- Know someone who missed a job opportunity or promotion because of online posts – 28.3%
- Subscribe to an Identity Theft Protection Service – 24.6%
- Have been a victim of online theft of personal photos, data or information – 24.6%
- Been surprised to see own personal photos online – 20.8%
- Made mistakes by posting vacation plans or whereabouts online – 20.2%

A large majority of Americans surveyed, 86.7%, strongly or somewhat agreed that government employees, for security and accountability reasons, should be required to use government issued emails addresses housed on government servers.

While a large majority, 81.7% of those surveyed had heard of the recent hacking of Sony Picture Studio servers in which confidential employee emails were released publically, 32.7% took no action to secure or remove their own personal online data as a result of such events. Another 44.0% reported taking moderate action to secure and remove personal data and 12.8% made “every effort” to remove personal online information.

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National Poll: Americans Say Ethnicity, Race and Gender Play a Role When Females are Held Back in Public Sector Leadership Roles

- Less than One-Third of Americans (30.2%) Agree that Women in the U.S. Receive Equal Pay for Equal Work
- Two-Thirds Agree Employers See Women Needing Less Pay than Men
- Women Rated Higher on Leadership Characteristics than Men
- Two-Fifths, 43.6%, See Too Few Women on Town Councils, State Houses and in the U.S. Congress
- More than One-Half, 52.6%, See Unconscious Bias Against Women in Public Sector Leadership Advancement

Jackson, MS – The Polling Center at Jackson State University’s Institute of Government has released a national survey of 904 adults. The Poll covered impressions of the women holding elected or appointed leadership positions, views on the number of women in public sector leadership, where respondents see “too few” women in public sector leadership roles, views on reasons why women don’t advance in the public sector or win some elections, ratings of women and men on leadership attributes and characteristics and perceptions of women receiving equal pay for equal work covering issues surrounding public infrastructure issues. The poll was conducted April 3 – 9, 2015.

Women holding leadership roles in the public sector – either elected or appointed – are viewed favorably by 84.3% of all poll respondents. Just 11.1% held somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable impressions of public sector female leaders.

A large majority of Americans surveyed, 88.7%, see the number of women in the public leadership roles as either flourishing or on a slow, steady increase. Just 5.5% see a slow or significant decline in the numbers.
When extrapolated on the total population, large percentages of Americans surveyed see too few women…

- In elected positions from town councils, to State Houses, to U.S. Congress – 43.6%
- As heads of local, state and federal agencies – 42.3%
- In economic development – 31.3%
- In banking – 24.1%
- Physicians in public health care facilities such as clinics, hospitals or VA facilities – 19.9%
- As Governors and Lt. Governors – 12.8%
- In law enforcement – 11.7%
- As State’s Attorney Generals – 9.4%
- As Court Judges – 8.7%
- On State Supreme Courts – 8.7%
- In K-12 and higher education roles – 8.3%

Respondents were asked to report the reasons they believed legitimate for why some women don’t advance in the public sector or perhaps win elections. Over one-half, 52.6%, see an unconscious bias against women as the leading reason. The percent is higher among women than men – 54.9% to 50.3% respectively. The top reasons cited are presented here…

- There is an unconscious bias against women – 52.6%
- Those in a position to promote see men as stronger leaders – 44.7%
- Family and home needs become barriers to advancing – 42.3%
- Women are perceived to be less likely to play hardball – 39.7%
- Many office cultures are exclusionary – 35.7%

The average overall positive rating for female leaders was 66.8% on the leadership characteristics such as skills, problem solving, encouraging employees and being empathetic/compassionate. The positive rating for female leaders was higher among females surveyed than males surveyed – 74.0% to 58.6% respectively.

Interestingly, the average overall positive rating for male leaders on the same four characteristics was significantly lower at 55.7%. The positive rating for male leaders was higher among females than males surveyed – 58.2% to 53.3% respectively.
Ethnicity or race and gender appear to play an important role when a female is blocked or not considered for leadership advancement in a public sector role because of bias. Respondents were asked to indicate if the bias is mostly related to her ethnicity/race or gender.

- Results indicate that when a white female is held back, it is significantly more likely due to gender. When an African-American or Hispanic female is held back, respondents suggest it is more likely due to both ethnicity and gender.

- Results, based on national results are presented here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN A FEMALE IS:</th>
<th>Her Ethnicity</th>
<th>Her Gender</th>
<th>Both Gender and Ethnicity</th>
<th>Doubt this would occur</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Neither</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Female</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Female</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Female</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Female</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less than one-third of all respondents, 30.2%, agreed that women in the U.S. receive equal pay for equal work. Just 25.7% of women surveyed agreed while 34.6% of males agreed. Those agreeing (strongly or somewhat) with other related statements include:

- Women are perceived to be more polite and view the act of negotiation differently than men -- 70.6% agree
- Women are perceived to be less likely to negotiate for initial salaries – 64.9% agree
- Most employers see women as not needing pay that is equal to male counterparts – 63.0% agree
- Jobs and title being equal, women are promoted as frequently as men – 32.4% agree

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