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**SCePoll One Year Out
From 2010 Elections**

**New Democrats Want Massive Change Now ...
And Concerned About Winning**

Innovative Online Chat and Straw Poll Set for Tuesday Debate

Charleston - An ePoll of over 900 Democratic activists released today by the SC New Democrats shows activist believe that big and dramatic change is needed in the state but are concerned about their chances of winning in 2010.

While generally optimistic by 75 –25% about the direction of the country, when it comes to South Carolina, by a huge margin of 96 to 4 % activists believe that the state is headed in the wrong direction. Further, when ask whether our state government needs “major economic and social reform” or “just better people involved” they chose major reform by 87 to 13%

“The most troubling result was the ‘American Dream’ question,” said Phil Noble, President of the SC New Democrats. “Only 20y% said they believed their children will be better off than they are. We as a state are better than this and we can’t be the generation that let the American Dream die for our children.”

What ever it takes to win

And, though more than 65% are skeptical that Democrats will win in 2010 and 91% saying Democrats “need to do things fundamentally different to win”, most of those polled are prepared to do what they need to do to make it happen.

In 2008, more than 70% of those polled gave money to a candidate up for election—with at least 14% of those giving for the first time. More than 55% of those polled are willing to actively participate in a campaign depending on the candidates, with most indicating that they already plan to get involved with candidates in their area in 2010.

“For Democrats in 2010, it’s like the Chinese symbol that is both crisis and opportunity. Our state is in a crisis and this is the opportunity for Democrats to present bold, new innovative solutions and win,” said Noble. “The question is do we have the courage to strike out in a new direction and come together to turn this crisis into an opportunity and win?”

Debate Night: "Watch, Chat & Vote"

During the debate televised at 8:00pm Tuesday night among Democratic and Republican candidates, the SC New Democrats will host Watch, Chat & Vote, an innovative online chat session about what the candidates are saying followed by a straw poll rating the candidates and their performance.

"We want to find new ways to give everyone a chance to participate and have their voice heard," said Noble. "The *good old boy* system of closed politics is broken and corrupt and we need to get new people involved and that's what this is all about."

Other ePoll Results

The full results of the ePoll are available here:

<http://www.questionpro.com/akira/ShowResults?id=1397469>

ON ISSUES: "In South Carolina, what is the most important issue facing us today? (Rank 1 as most important, 2 as second most important, etc.)"

Issue	Rank
Unemployment	1
Economy	2
Education	3
Health care	4
Environmental Issues	5
Budget shortages	6
Corruption in gov't	7

ON OBAMA: "After nearly a year since Barack Obama's election, how much of a difference do you think he has made?"

Answer	Percent
He has made a big positive difference	38.2
He has made some positive difference	52.9
Things are about the same	3.9
Things have gotten worse	4.4
Don't know	0.4

More than three-fourths of respondents see Barack Obama's 2008 campaign as a model for change in SC—as a chance for Democrats to learn from Obama's organizational proficiency in their own organizations and campaigns. Nearly 90% indicated that recruiting better candidates and developing and communicating the message more effectively should be top priorities for SC Democrats.

SC New Democrats surveyed 912 Democratic activists online from across South Carolina from October 19-October 29, 2009. While the results are not scientific, they are generally indicative of the attitudes of the participants.

About SC New Democrats

SC New Democrats is an independent reform group started by former US Sect. of Education and Gov. Richard Riley. Our goal is to bring new ideas and new people into the political process, change 'politics as usual' and develop new progressive polices for our state so we can be competitive in the global economy of the 21st century.