



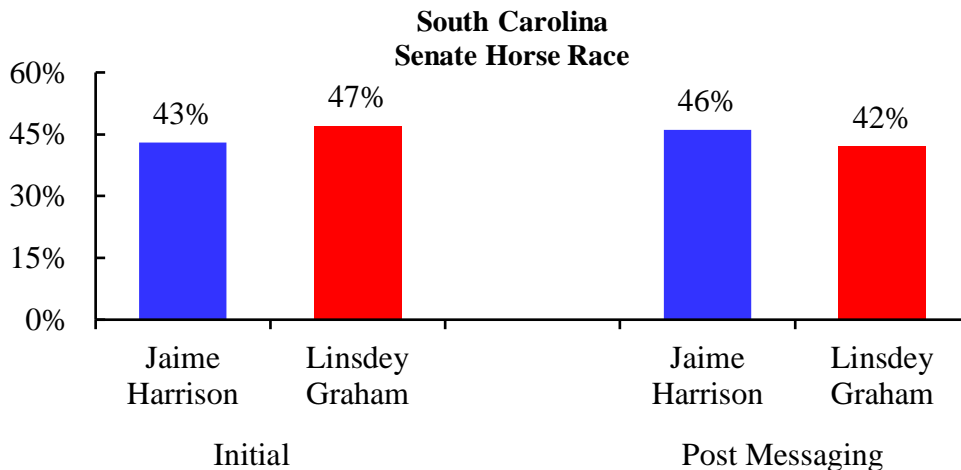
TO: Interested Parties
DA: March 23, 2020
FR: brilliant corners Research & Strategies
RE: New Polling: South Carolina Senate Race is up for Grabs in 2020

A Tossup Race in Surprising Territory

New polling shows Lindsey Graham is a vulnerable incumbent in a state that is changing. Currently, just one-third¹ (33 percent) of likely voters believe Lindsey Graham deserves to be re-elected to the Senate while a solid 58 percent majority think it’s time for someone new.

Graham’s job approval is underwater; only 45 percent of voters approve of the job Graham is doing. Graham’s weak numbers in the context of the tremendous recent turnout for the Democratic primary, particularly in the coastal suburbs, points to an electorate in the Palmetto state that is changing and behaving differently than it has in the past.

Jaime Harrison has Lindsey Graham on his heels, despite Graham’s advantage in name recognition as a longtime incumbent and Fox News regular: 43 percent of voters support Harrison and 47 percent support Graham. This is a competitive race.



South Carolina is a Changing State

There are cracks emerging in this once-solidly Republican Southern state. Democrats were able to flip a longtime Republican seat in the coastal suburbs in the 2018 midterms. In our poll, conducted

¹ Survey conducted by brilliant corners Research & Strategies via land line and cell phone on March 3rd - 11th, 2020 of 804 likely voters in South Carolina. Voters were called from the voter file, and are 72% white, 22% Black, and 6% Latino or other. The margin of error for this poll is +/- 3.8%. Horse race presented with leaners.

prior to the widespread concerns about the COVID-19 crisis, nearly half (47 percent) of likely voters disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing as President.

As we witnessed in the 2018 midterms, Trump's weakening job approval matters a great deal to the political fortunes of Republican incumbents running. Across the 2018 battleground states, statewide Republicans struggled to run more than two or three points above Trump's approval. These are not good signs for Graham and Republicans heading into 2020.

Voters Turned Off by Lindsey Graham's Record

After learning more about Graham's voting record, voters prefer Jaime Harrison by a margin of 46 percent to 42 percent. Graham's track record of voting against raising the minimum wage and lowering prescription drug costs while supporting cuts to Social Security doesn't help him with most voters. The movement away from Graham comes from the same voters Republicans lost ground with most in 2018: moderates and college educated voters, particularly college educated women. These voters are particularly displeased with Graham's voting record.

Voters in South Carolina are engaged and ready to make changes. With the proper resources to tell his uniquely American story and to make the case against Graham, Jaime Harrison can put this Senate seat in play for Democrats. With increased voter turnout there is an ascending winning coalition here for Harrison of disgruntled white college women, African American voters and Millennials, the same cohort that propelled Democrats' success in the 2018 midterms.