



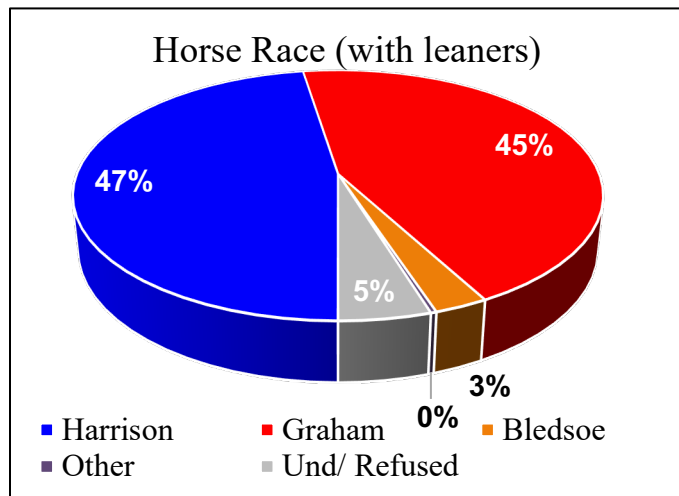
October 16, 2020

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FR:** Cornell Belcher, brilliant corners Research & Strategies  
**RE:** Harrison well positioned in the Palmetto state 11 days into early voting

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Our new polling<sup>1</sup> shows Jaime Harrison ahead of the long-time incumbent Senator Lindsey Graham. Though within the margin of error; momentum in South Carolina is clearly on the side of Harrison. Harrison remains well-positioned to flip this Senate seat in a race that Cook Political report deems a toss-up.

Harrison leads Graham inside the margin of error, 47% to 45%.



**Key findings:**

- Harrison receives strong support from the Black community in South Carolina outpacing Lindsey Graham 88 percent to 4 percent. Our polling suggests Obama level turnout among Black voters in 2020. Just 11 days into early voting more than 14 percent of Black registered voters have voted<sup>2</sup>. Our polling also shows, Black voters are less inclined to share who they voted for after they have cast their ballot.
- Strong headwinds are working against the incumbent as the vast majority (58 percent) of voters are dissatisfied with the direction of the country. Furthermore, only a minority (39 percent) of voters believe that Lindsey Graham deserves re-election while a 54 percent majority say it's time for someone new.
- South Carolina has a long history of protest voting and Constitution Party candidate Bill Bledsoe is still the first name on the ballot. In 2014 Nikki Haley outperformed Graham despite facing a stronger Democratic challenger. And today, Senator Graham underperforms Trump among Republicans in Job approval and thermometer. In fact, about 1 in 5 self-identified Republicans do not believe that Graham deserves re-election.

**Harrison clearly has the momentum and voters are increasingly finding him a favorable alternative to Lindsey Graham — whom they feel has changed for the worse.**

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<sup>1</sup> Survey conducted by brilliant corners Research & Strategies via land line and cell phone from October 11<sup>st</sup> to October 16<sup>th</sup>. The sample was 525 likely voters in South Carolina and includes an African American voter oversample. The margin of error for this poll is +/- 4.6% at a 95 percent confidence interval. Those who already voted are asked who they voted for and included in the horse race.

<sup>2</sup> Elect Project Early vote tracker: <https://electproject.github.io/Early-Vote-2020G/SC.html>