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## Poll: Riley widens lead over Baxley

**The Associated Press**

October 9, 2006

A statewide poll released Sunday showed Republican Gov. Bob Riley with a wide lead over Democratic Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley about a month before the Nov. 7 election.

Democrat Jim Folsom Jr. and Republican Luther Strange were tied at 43 percentage points each in the polling results on the lieutenant governor race.

*The Press-Register/University of South Alabama* survey of 612 likely or registered voters showed Riley ahead by 57 percent to 32 percent for Baxley. The survey conducted Sept. 30 through Tuesday had a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points. In a June poll after the party primaries, Riley had 53 percent support to Baxley's 25 percent.

In other races:

- Republican incumbent Troy King was 2 percentage points ahead of Democrat John Tyson Jr., the Mobile County district attorney, in the race for attorney general.
- Secretary of State Nancy Worley, a Democrat seeking re-election, had a 1 point lead over Republican Beth Chapman, the state auditor.
- Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks in a bid for re-election drew 49 percent points to 21 for Republican Albert Lipscomb.
- Sparks and Worley were the only Democrats to run ahead of their Republican opponents in the poll that sampled voter preferences in major state races.
- State Treasurer Kay Ivey, a Republican seeking re-election, had a lead of 11 percentage points on Democrat Steve Segrest. Samantha Shaw, the Republican candidate for state auditor, had a 7 point edge on Democrat Janie Baker Clark.

Forty-five percent of those polled said they identified more closely with the Republican Party, while 35 percent leaned toward the Democrats. Twenty percent did not answer or said they identified with neither party.

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