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THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton College/Zogby Poll Shows Two Incumbent South Jersey Congressmen Lead Challengers

For Immediate Release

Monday, October 25, 2010

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Galloway Township, NJ- Incumbent Republican Congressman Frank LoBiondo and Incumbent Democratic Congressman Robert Andrews are both holding comfortable leads a week before the election, according to the Richard Stockton College/Zogby Poll commissioned by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Second District Congressman LoBiondo has the support of 57 percent of likely voters against Democratic challenger Gary Stein with 20 percent of the vote. LoBiondo is down two percentage points from the September 21-23 poll and Stein is down five percentage points from the same poll. Undecided voters actually increased over the month from 13 percent to 20 percent.

First District Congressman Robert Andrews has a similar lead in his district race where he leads 63 percent – 22 percent over his Republican challenger Dale Glading. Both Andrews and Glading saw their numbers move from the September poll where Andrews went from 59 percent to 63 percent and Glading went from 24 percent to 22 percent.

The Third Congressional District contest between Incumbent Democrat John Adler and Republican Challenger John Runyan is in a statistical tie with Runyan leading Adler by three points, 40 percent to 37 percent.

“Despite the potential upheaval in elections across the country, South Jersey’s three congressional districts are actually following traditional voting patterns. Longtime incumbents, Congressman LoBiondo and Andrews, look likely to be returned to Congress by voters in what are considered safe districts. First term Congressman John Adler, in a traditionally Republican district, finds himself in a toss-up race as he tries for his second term in the House of Representatives,” explained Sharon Schulman, executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

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In all three congressional districts, President Barack Obama's favorability rating is higher than it is reported nationally. In District 1, Obama's favorables are up seven percentage points from 62 percent to 69 percent. In the September poll, Obama's favorables were 55 percent in both districts two and three. In the latest poll, Obama's favorables have slipped slightly to 53 percent in the second district and 52 percent in the third district.

Governor Chris Christie's favorability ratings remain essentially unchanged from the September poll to the October poll in each of the congressional districts. Christie went from 46 percent to 45 percent favorable in the first district and from 54 percent to 52 percent in the second district. In the third district, Christie did show improvement from 54 percent to 59 percent over the course of the month.

In addition, support for Christie's positions on the gaming industry is fairly stable. When likely voters were asked, "Do you agree or disagree with Governor Christie's decision to end subsidies to horse racing in New Jersey?" 60 percent to 63 percent agreed with Christie's position in both the September and October polls and across the three congressional districts.

When asked "Do you agree or disagree with Governor Christie's plan to invest in and promote Atlantic City?" respondents in the first district agreeing with the Governor went from 54 percent to 59 percent. In the second district, which includes Atlantic City, support declined slightly from 72 percent to 67 percent. In the third district, support moved from 56 percent to 54 percent.

Methodology

The results from each congressional district are based on three separate samples of likely voters. In all cases, the telephone survey of likely voters were conducted from October 18 -22. The polling results of the first congressional district and the second congressional district each had a margin of error +/- 5.0 percentage points, based on a survey of 400 likely voters in each district.

The previously reported third congressional district was administered to 600 likely voters in that district between October 18 and 22 and has a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percent.

Interviews are conducted at Zogby International by professional interviewers trained on a computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) computer system. A policy requiring one supervisor to no more than twelve interviewers is used. The sample management module of the CATI system gives all prospective respondent households in the source telephone list the same chance of joining the sample. More information on methodology can be found at <http://www.stockton.edu/hughescenter>.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for Ambassador William J. Hughes of Ocean City, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and teaching as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the College.

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