



LoBiondo Maintains Lead in 2nd Congressional District Race

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Galloway Township, NJ – The Stockton Polling Institute released its second poll of the 2nd Congressional District showing Republican incumbent Frank LoBiondo leading Democratic challenger Cassandra Shober by a margin of 54 percent to 34 percent. In the September poll, Congressman LoBiondo had a similar lead of 55 percent to 34 percent.

In the race for the United States Senate seat, incumbent Democratic Senator Robert Menendez still leads Republican challenger Joseph Kyrillos by a 56 to 33 percent margin in the 2nd Congressional District. The margin is the same as the first poll conducted in September.

“The Senate and the Congressional races show remarkable stability over the course of a month with Senator Menendez and Congressman LoBiondo holding on to the same leads they had in the previous Stockton Polling Institute poll,” said Daniel J. Douglas, Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Of all those surveyed, 64 percent have a favorable opinion of the LoBiondo, while 18 percent have a unfavorable opinion, with 18 percent unsure or unfamiliar with him. This was similar to his 62 percent favorable to 19 percent unfavorable ratings from the previous 2nd Congressional District poll.

Cassandra Shober improved her recognition in that 49 per cent had an opinion of her while only 44 percent had an opinion of her in the last poll. In this poll, 32 percent had a favorable opinion of her and 17 percent had an unfavorable opinion. That is somewhat improved from the previous 31 percent favorable and 13 percent unfavorable in the previous poll.

LoBiondo's job performance in this poll (56 percent excellent or good) and (35 percent fair or poor) is essentially the same as in the last poll (57 percent excellent or good and 36 percent fair or poor).

Only 18 percent of the voters approve of the job performance of Congress (up from 14 percent), while 81 percent disapprove (down from 84 percent).

In the presidential race, incumbent Democratic President Barack Obama leads Republican challenger Mitt Romney by 52 to 39 percent in this southern New Jersey congressional district. This represents substantial movement from the 57 to 35 percent margin that President Obama held over Governor Romney in the earlier September poll.

The Stockton Polling Institute again asked likely voters their opinion of Governor Chris Christie. Voters in the 2nd Congressional District rated his job performance essentially the same with 48 percent of likely voters rating Governor Christie's job performance as excellent or good, while 51 percent rate his performance fair or poor. In the previous poll, the margin was 47 to 51, a statistically insignificant difference.

However his favorability ratings are slightly better and improved, with 51 percent viewing him favorably, while 44 percent view him unfavorably. In the previous poll, Governor Christie had a 51 percent favorable and 46 percent unfavorable margin.

New Jersey's 2nd Congressional District includes all of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem counties, and parts of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Ocean counties.

Methodology

Interviews are conducted at the Stockton Polling Institute by live interviewers calling from the Stockton College campus. The poll was conducted with 609 likely voters from October 20 – 24, 2012. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. The previous poll referenced was conducted with 624 likely voters from September 19 – 24, 2012. All prospective respondent households in the source telephone list have the same chance of joining the sample because of the random digital dialing system (RDD). Data were weighted based on United States Census demographic data. The survey has a margin of error of +/-4.0 percent.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter) 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, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College.

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