



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/sri

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

Contact:

Steven Greenberg (518) 469-9858

PDF version; crosstabs; website:

www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY

Siena College 11th Congressional District Poll:

Grimm Has 48-38 Percent Lead Over Murphy

Voters See Grimm As Better on Issues, Most by Double Digits
Murphy Trails in Brooklyn & Staten Island; Catholics Give Huge Edge to Grimm
Obama Over Romney by 4 Points; Voters Nearly Evenly Divided on Obamacare

Loudonville, NY. Freshman Republican Representative Michael Grimm has a 10-point lead over his Democratic challenger, Mark Murphy six weeks from Election Day. Grimm has the support of 48 percent of likely voters compared to 38 percent for Murphy, and six percent for Green Party candidate Hank Bardel, according to a new Siena College Research Institute poll of likely 11th C.D. voters released today.

Grimm leads by 12 points on Staten Island, the largest portion of the district, and he has a nine-point lead in the Brooklyn section of the district. Voters say Grimm will do a better job in Washington representing them on a series of issues. While Murphy holds Grimm’s lead to single digits on education and health care, on all other issues, including the two most important to voters, Grimm has the advantage by 12 to 14 points. President Obama has a narrow 49-45 percent lead over Governor Mitt Romney. Likely voters side with Obama over Romney on most issues, although they are divided on Obamacare, with 49 percent seeking its implementation and 48 percent wanting it repealed. Voters also favor eliminating Bush-era tax cuts for those earning more than \$250,000 by a narrow 50-45 percent margin.

“With six weeks of campaigning left, Grimm has the clear advantage, leading by 10 points in a district where Democrats have a huge enrollment edge, at least in name,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“Grimm has solidified his Republican base, about one-quarter of voters, and is currently supported by nearly one-third of Democrats and a plurality of independents.

“While Murphy is running even with Grimm in the new portion of this district, that’s only about 11 percent of voters. There is no real gender gap as Grimm leads among men by 13 points and with women by nine points. Grimm has a huge 56-31 percent lead with Catholics, more than half of likely voters,” Greenberg said.

If the election was today, who would you vote for?				
	Michael Grimm	Mark Murphy	Hank Bardel	Don't Know/ Not Voting
11th CD	48%	38%	6%	8%
<i>Democrats</i>	31%	56%	5%	8%
<i>Republicans</i>	85%	8%	3%	4%
<i>Independents</i>	44%	35%	11%	10%
Staten Island	50%	38%	7%	6%
Brooklyn	46%	37%	6%	11%
Siena College Poll – September 25, 2012				

“Grimm is viewed favorably by one-half of voters and unfavorably by one-third,” Greenberg said. “Murphy is largely unknown to almost half of the voters and among those who have an opinion about him they are virtually evenly divided between viewing him favorably and unfavorably.

“By strong margins, voters say that Grimm will do a better

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ?			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Michael Grimm	50%	33%	17%
Mark Murphy	27%	28%	45%
Hank Bardel	5%	12%	82%
Andrew Cuomo	76%	19%	5%
Barack Obama	51%	47%	3%
Joe Biden	48%	48%	4%
Mitt Romney	46%	50%	4%
Paul Ryan	44%	42%	13%
Siena College Poll – September 25, 2012			

Which candidate would do a better job representing you in the US Congress on . . .		
Issue	Grimm	Murphy
Jobs (Most important: 36%)	46%	34%
Federal budget deficit (24%)	47%	33%
Health Care (13%)	45%	37%
Education (11%)	41%	36%
War in Afghanistan (9%)	46%	32%
Taxes (5%)	46%	34%
Representing the interests of our community in Washington	47%	35%
Siena College Poll – September 25, 2012		

job than Murphy on the issues, particularly the two most important to voters – jobs and the Federal budget deficit,” Greenberg said. “Only on health care and education do voters put Murphy within eight points of Grimm. Murphy is seen as stronger by between 45 and 53 percent of Democrats on issues, while Grimm gets the nod from 69 to 80 percent of Republicans, as well as a plurality of independents.”

Voters Divided on Obamacare; Narrowly Support Eliminating Tax Cuts for Wealthy

“Although more than two-thirds of Democrats support implementing Obamacare, 80 percent of Republicans and a majority of independents want it repealed. And when all the voters are looked at together, the district is almost evenly divided on this issue,” Greenberg said. “By a 50-45 percent margin, there is only small support for eliminating the Bush-era tax cuts on wealthy Americans, as the President has proposed. More voters side with Obama over Romney on Medicare, Social Security and women’s reproductive health issues.

Obama Leads Romney by 4 Points

“Despite the enrollment advantage for Democrats and more voters siding with Obama over Romney on many issues, Obama only has a small 49-45 percent lead over Romney. Obama has a slightly positive 51-47 percent favorability rating, while Romney is viewed unfavorably by a small 50-46 percent margin,” Greenberg said.

“Although Congressman Grimm has been in the news lately for issues unrelated to his campaign, he is viewed favorably by voters, they are inclined to re-elect him and he leads his Democratic challenger by 10 points. All in a district with far more Democrats than Republicans,” Greenberg said. “However, Murphy has an opening as Grimm has not hit the ‘magic’ 50 percent mark to close the deal with voters. But to tighten the race Murphy must become more familiar to voters and give them a reason to support him or oppose Grimm – in six weeks.”

###

This Siena College 11th C.D. survey was conducted September 19-23, 2012 by telephone calls to 621 likely voters. A likely voter screen was applied to the sample of registered voters that had been statistically adjusted to reflect party registration, gender and age. It has a margin of error of ± 3.9 percentage points. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social and cultural research primarily in New York State. SRI, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For more information, please call Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858. Survey cross-tabulations and frequencies can be found at: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY.