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For Immediate Release:

Friday, October 19, 2012

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Siena College 18th Congressional District Poll:

Hayworth Leads By 7 Points as Maloney Narrows Gap

Plurality of Voters View Hayworth Favorably, Maloney Unfavorably

Romney Still Has Small Lead; Little Movement Over Last Month

Loudonville, NY. With less than three weeks until Election Day, Republican Representative Nan Hayworth leads Democratic challenger Sean Patrick Maloney by seven points, 49-42 percent, down from a 13-point lead one month ago, according to a Siena College Research Institute poll of likely 18th C.D. voters released today.

Hayworth continues to be viewed favorably by more voters, 48 percent, than those that view her unfavorably, 43 percent (48-37 percent last month). Maloney is now viewed unfavorably, with a negative 33-38 percent favorability rating (27-19 percent last month). The race for president is virtually unchanged with Mitt Romney having a small 49-46 percent lead over President Obama (49-45 percent last month).

“One month ago, Hayworth had a 13-point lead over Maloney in what was then a three person race. Today, with Maloney having secured the Working Families Party line, Hayworth leads Maloney by seven points, as she edges closer to the all-important 50 percent mark,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“Maloney has made significant progress in garnering support from Democrats, while Hayworth has improved her standing with

Republicans. In a district nearly evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats, Hayworth maintains her overall lead due to the strong support of independent voters who side with her 53-34 percent. Hayworth continues to lead in Orange County and in the Westchester/Putnam portion of the district, however, Maloney has turned a large deficit in Dutchess County previously, into a small lead there today,” Greenberg said.

If the election was today, who would you vote for?					
		Nan Hayworth	S.P. Maloney	WFP Candidate	Don't Know /Not Voting/ Other
18 th CD	Oct. 19	49%	42%	NA	9%
	Sept. 18	46%	33%	10%	11%
Democrats	Oct. 19	17%	78%	NA	4%
	Sept. 18	15%	65%	9%	11%
Republicans	Oct. 19	81%	13%	NA	6%
	Sept. 18	74%	9%	8%	9%
Independents	Oct. 19	53%	34%	NA	13%
	Sept. 18	49%	25%	14%	12%
Orange County	Oct. 19	50%	41%	NA	9%
	Sept. 18	40%	34%	13%	13%
Westchester/Putnam	Oct. 19	52%	40%	NA	8%
	Sept. 18	51%	33%	6%	10%
Dutchess County	Oct. 19	44%	48%	NA	8%
	Sept. 18	53%	31%	8%	7%

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“In the first Siena poll, there was no gender gap as Hayworth led by 14 points with women and 13 points with men,” Greenberg said. “Today, Hayworth continues to lead by 13 points with men, however, Maloney has pulled to within one point among women.

“Nearly half of voters continue to have a favorable view of Hayworth, while the number of voters viewing her unfavorably is up a little. The good news for Maloney is that he has become better known to voters in the district. The bad news is that more voters view him unfavorably than favorably, while nearly one-third still don’t know enough about him to have an opinion,” Greenberg said.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of?				
		Fav	Unfav	Don't Know /No Opinion
Nan Hayworth	Oct. 19	48%	43%	10%
	Sept. 18	48%	37%	15%
Sean Patrick Maloney	Oct. 19	33%	38%	30%
	Sept. 18	27%	19%	54%
Andrew Cuomo	Oct. 19	69%	25%	5%
	Sept. 18	70%	24%	6%
Mitt Romney	Oct. 19	52%	46%	2%
	Sept. 18	49%	46%	5%
Barack Obama	Oct. 19	50%	49%	1%
	Sept. 18	47%	50%	2%
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Obamacare & Tax Cuts for Wealthy Continue to Closely Divide Voters

“Over the last month, likely voters have not changed their minds on Obamacare or the President’s proposal to eliminate Bush-era tax cuts for high earning taxpayers,” Greenberg said. “Voters favor repeal of Obamacare by a 50-46 percent margin, virtually unchanged from 49-45 percent last month. And by a narrow 48-45 percent margin they support Obama on the tax cuts, essentially unchanged from 49-45 percent last month. Democrats are strongly with Obama on both, Republicans are strongly opposed to the President on both and independents favor Obamacare repeal and are nearly evenly divided on the tax cuts.

Despite Two Debates, Voters Views on Romney & Obama Have Barely Moved

“Romney has a narrow 49-46 percent lead over Obama – with independents favoring Romney by 13 points – virtually unchanged from 49-45 percent last month. Both are viewed favorably by about half of the voters, with each seeing their favorable rating rise three points since the last Siena poll,” Greenberg said.

“Four weeks of campaigning and one less candidate have certainly tightened this race enough to make the next two and a half weeks very interesting,” Greenberg said. “Maloney has cut the gap nearly in half even as Hayworth has moved closer to having the support of a majority of voters. Only seven percent of voters are undecided and another eight percent support one of the candidates but say they might change their mind. If Maloney is to tighten the race further or come out on top at the end, he will have to win the lion’s share of those non-committed or barely committed voters.”

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This Siena College 18th C.D. survey was conducted October 16-17, 2012 by telephone calls to 615 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 ± 4.0 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. SRL, 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.