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Siena College 18th Congressional District Poll:

Hayworth Has 13-Point Lead Over Maloney 7 Weeks Out

Voters Give Edge to Hayworth as Better Representing Them on Issues

No Gender Gap as Hayworth Leads in Every Region and with Independents

Romney Up By 4 Points; Voters Lean to Obama on Taxes, Romney on Obamacare

Loudonville, NY. Republican Representative Nan Hayworth currently leads her Democratic challenger, Sean Patrick Maloney, by 13 points. With seven weeks until Election Day, Hayworth has the support of 46 percent of likely voters and Maloney is supported by 33 percent, with 10 percent for Larry Weissmann (the Working Families Party candidate as certified by the New York State Board of Elections) and 11 percent undecided, according to a Siena College Research Institute poll of likely 18th C.D. voters released today.

Hayworth has a 13-point lead with men, a 14-point lead with women, a two-to-one edge among independents, and leads in every region of the district that is virtually evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans.

Likely voters rate Hayworth as better on six issues by margins of between two and eight points. Governor Mitt Romney leads President Obama 49-45 percent, the exact same margin by which voters support both the repeal of Obamacare and eliminating tax cuts for those earning more than \$250,000.

“Hayworth, a freshman who defeated a Democratic incumbent by five points in 2010, is seeking her first re-election and is currently in a strong position against a still largely unknown challenger,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

If the election was today, who would you vote for?				
	Nan Hayworth	Sean Patrick Maloney	Larry Weissmann	Don't Know/ Not Voting
18th CD	46%	33%	10%	11%
<i>Democrats</i>	15%	65%	9%	11%
<i>Republicans</i>	74%	9%	8%	9%
<i>Independents</i>	49%	25%	14%	12%
Orange County	40%	34%	13%	13%
Putnam/Westchester	51%	33%	6%	10%
Dutchess County	53%	31%	8%	7%
Siena College Poll – September 18, 2012				

“Hayworth has the support of nearly three-quarters of Republicans while Maloney has the support of nearly two-thirds of Democrats, and nearly twice as many independents side with Hayworth over Maloney. Hayworth leads in every region of the district and she leads by 16 points in the portion of the district she currently represents and four points in the area new to the congressional district. There is no gender gap, with women and men favoring the Republican by nearly identical margins,” Greenberg said.

“While Maloney is viewed favorably by more voters than view him unfavorably, a majority of voters, including a majority of Republicans and independents, don’t know enough about him to have an opinion,” Greenberg said. “Hayworth is viewed favorably by two-thirds of Republicans and half of independents, and she is viewed unfavorably by a two-to one margin among Democrats.”

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...?			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Nan Hayworth	48%	37%	15%
Sean Patrick Maloney	27%	19%	54%
Larry Weissmann	6%	14%	81%
Andrew Cuomo	70%	24%	6%
Mitt Romney	49%	46%	5%
Barack Obama	47%	50%	2%
Paul Ryan	45%	42%	13%
Joe Biden	45%	49%	6%
Siena College Poll – September 18, 2012			

“Jobs and the Federal budget deficit are the two most important issues to likely voters and by solid margins, they say Hayworth will be better on both issues. By nine points, voters say Hayworth will do a better job than Maloney representing their community in Washington.”

Which candidate would do a better job representing you in the US Congress on . . .		
Issue	Hayworth	Maloney
Jobs (Most important: 37%)	41%	34%
Federal budget deficit (24%)	42%	34%
Health Care (14%)	41%	37%
Education (9%)	37%	35%
War in Afghanistan (7%)	34%	32%
Taxes (6%)	42%	35%
Representing the interests of our community in Washington	44%	35%
Siena College Poll – September 18, 2012		

While Closely Divided, Voters Want Obamacare Repealed & Tax Cuts for Wealthy Eliminated

“By a narrow 49-45 percent margin, including Republicans overwhelmingly and a majority of independents, voters want Obamacare repealed. By the same 49-45 percent margin, with Democrats strongly supportive and independents evenly divided, voters want to see the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans eliminated,” Greenberg said. “While closely divided between Romney’s position and Obama’s position on Medicare, Social Security and immigration, voters strongly side with Obama’s position on women’s reproductive health issues.”

Romney Has Small Lead Over Obama

“With independent voters making the difference, Romney has a small 49-45 percent lead over Obama. Romney and running mate Paul Ryan are both viewed favorably by slightly more voters than view them unfavorably, while the opposite is true for Obama and Vice President Joe Biden,” Greenberg said.

“A majority of voters say they have seen or heard a Hayworth commercial, while only 18 percent say the same about Maloney. She is well known throughout the district while he is largely unknown to a majority of voters,” Greenberg said. “Maloney has lots of catching up to do in seven weeks – becoming better known and liked, and providing voters, particularly independents, with a reason to not support Hayworth, which they are currently inclined to do. Hayworth has a strong lead but does not hit the ‘magic’ 50 percent mark. Maloney has room to close the gap in yet another nationally-watched New York seat but he certainly has his work cut out for him.”

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This Siena College 18th C.D. survey was conducted September 12-16, 2012 by telephone calls to 628 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.