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Siena College 19th Congressional District Poll: **Nan Hayworth & John Hall Are Running Neck-and-Neck** Voters Rate Hayworth as Stronger than Hall on Fiscal Issues **Support for Repealing Health Care Law & Keeping Tax Cuts for Wealthy**

Loudonville, NY. Three weeks until Election Day sees Representative John Hall and Republican challenger Nan Hayworth waging a neck-and-neck race, as 46 percent of likely voters are currently backing Hayworth and 43 percent favor Hall. While voters are nearly evenly divided between the two candidates on most issues, Hayworth is viewed as stronger on taxes and the federal budget deficit in a district that favors repealing health care and retaining tax cuts for the wealthy, according to a Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely 19th CD voters released today.

“Hall and Hayworth are dividing the voters in the 19th Congressional District nearly evenly. Hall has the support of more than three-quarters of

Democrats, while Hayworth has the support of more than three-quarters of Republicans and a seven-point lead among independent voters,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “Hayworth leads by 16 points with men and Hall has a 12-point lead with

If the election was today, who would you vote for?			
	John Hall	Nan Hayworth	Don't Know/ No Opinion
19th CD	43%	46%	10%
<i>Democrats</i>	78%	15%	6%
<i>Republicans</i>	14%	77%	9%
<i>Independents</i>	39%	46%	13%
Orange	34%	55%	11%
Dutchess/Putnam	46%	43%	11%
Rockland/Westchester	49%	42%	8%
Siena College Poll – October 13, 2010			

women. Hayworth’s 21-point lead in Orange County offsets Hall’s seven-point lead in Westchester and Rockland Counties and his small three-point lead in Dutchess and Putnam Counties. Hall has a slight edge among voters 55 and older, while Hayworth has a 10-point lead among voters less than 55 years of age.

“Voters favorable to the Tea Party movement (45 percent) back Hayworth 81-10 percent, while those unfavorable to the Tea Party (42 percent) favor Hall by a similar 81-12 percent. Hall has a small advantage in commitment of support with 64 percent of his backers saying there is no chance they will change their mind, compared to 56 percent of Hayworth’s supporters,” Greenberg said. “When initially asked whether they are inclined to re-elect Hall, 40 percent said yes, however, 48 percent – including 21 percent of Democrats and 50 percent of independents – said they would ‘prefer someone else.’ ”

Hall is viewed favorably by 44 percent of voters and unfavorably by 41 percent. Hayworth has a 40-28 percent favorability rating.

“Voters here have a moderately unfavorable view of President Obama and Sarah Palin. They have a decidedly unfavorable view of Congress and Speaker Pelosi. They are divided with a slight tilt to favorable for the Tea Party movement and Hall. With a 12-point margin on the favorable side, Hayworth has the strongest favorability rating,” Greenberg said.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/No Opinion
John Hall	44%	41%	14%
Nan Hayworth	40%	28%	32%
Tea Party Movement	45%	42%	12%
Barack Obama	43%	53%	5%
Sarah Palin	40%	51%	9%
Nancy Pelosi	27%	66%	7%
US Congress	26%	66%	8%
Siena College Poll – October 13, 2010			

“District enrollment and likely voters are both nearly evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans, Andrew Cuomo has a 48-40 percent lead over Carl Paladino, even as Hall trails Hayworth by three points. Unlike Hall, Cuomo has a lead among independent voters,” Greenberg said.

Which Candidate Would do a Better Job Representing You in the US Congress on . . .		
Issue	Hall	Hayworth
Jobs	41%	44%
Federal budget deficit	35%	48%
Taxes	39%	49%
Education	43%	40%
War in Afghanistan	40%	39%
Health Care	42%	46%
Representing the interests of our community in Washington	43%	44%
Siena College Poll – October 13		

Voters rank jobs (42 percent) as the most important issue, followed by the federal deficit (20 percent), taxes (11 percent), education (10 percent), the Afghanistan war (eight percent), and health care (six percent).

“On the top three issues, all economic issues, voters say Hayworth would do a better job, including double digit advantages on addressing the federal budget deficit and taxes. On every other issue, including which candidate would better represent their community in Washington,

voters are closely divided, putting the two within four points of each other,” Greenberg said.

“Small majorities of voters favor repealing the federal health care reform law, keeping in place the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, and enacting the President’s recently proposed stimulus bill,” Greenberg said. “This is a classic political battle with voters nearly evenly divided on the issues, on their partisan makeup and on their choice of which candidate to support for Congress. It’s a tight race now and likely to remain that way for the next three weeks. This race will most likely be decided by which campaign does a better job of wooing undecided voters and then getting their supporters to the polls on Election Day.”

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This Siena College 19th C.D. survey was conducted October 5-10, 2010 by telephone calls to 610 likely voters drawn from 801 registered voter households. A stringent likely voter screen was applied to the sample of registered voters that had been statistically adjusted to reflect party registration and age. The likely voter results have a margin of error of ± 4.0 percentage points. 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.