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Siena College 19th Congressional District Poll:

Gibson Has Early, Large 16-Point Lead Over Schreibman

By Double Digit Margins, Voters Give Edge to Gibson on Issues

Schreibman Within Two Points in Ulster/Dutchess; Trails Big in Rest of District

Obama Over Romney By 4 Points; Voters with Dems on Most Issues, Not Obamacare

Loudonville, NY. Republican Representative Chris Gibson, seeking his first re-election, in a new district which encompasses less than half of his current district, has a 16-point lead over his Democratic challenger, Julian Schreibman. Less than seven weeks until the election, Gibson has the support of 52 percent of likely voters compared to Schreibman’s 36 percent, with 11 percent still undecided, according to a new Siena College Research Institute poll of likely 19th C.D. voters released today.

Gibson has a commanding 35-point lead in the counties surrounding Albany, a 14-point lead in the western section of the district and a tiny two-point edge in the Ulster and Dutchess Counties portion of the district. By margins of between 13 and 22 points, voters say Gibson will do a better job in Washington representing them on all issues. 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 favor repeal of Obamacare by 50-46 percent.

“With 46 days until Election Day, Gibson has a strong 16-point lead over Schreibman as he tries to win re-election in a district where he does not currently represent a majority of the voters. In the portion of the district that he now represents he has nearly a two-to-one lead, and leads by five points in the new portion of the district,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

If the election was today, who would you vote for?			
	Chris Gibson	Julian Schreibman	Don't Know/ Not Voting
19th CD	52%	36%	12%
<i>Democrats</i>	21%	69%	10%
<i>Republicans</i>	83%	8%	8%
<i>Independents</i>	50%	34%	14%
Ulster/Dutchess	44%	42%	14%
Sullivan/Broome/Delaware/Otsego	51%	37%	10%
Montgomery/Schoharie/Greene/Columbia/Rensselaer	63%	28%	8%
Siena College Poll – September 21, 2012			

“Gibson has solidified his base, garnering the support of 83 percent of Republicans in this district with a small Republican enrollment edge, and leads by 16 points with independents. Schreibman is ahead by 69-21 percent among Democrats but needs to do a better job with his own party to make the race closer,” Greenberg said.

“Schreibman is unknown to nearly two-thirds of voters, including more than half who currently say they are voting for him. Those who do have an opinion are evenly divided between viewing him favorably and unfavorably,” Greenberg said. “Gibson has a 15-point net positive favorability rating, including 56-29 percent favorability in the portion of the district he now represents.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...?			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/No Opinion
Chris Gibson	43%	28%	29%
Julian Schreibman	18%	18%	63%
Andrew Cuomo	67%	26%	7%
Barack Obama	49%	49%	2%
Joe Biden	47%	48%	5%
Mitt Romney	45%	52%	3%
Paul Ryan	41%	46%	13%
Siena College Poll – September 21, 2012			

“On every issue, including the most important issues to voters – jobs and the Federal budget deficit – as well as issues traditionally seen as Democratic strengths – education and health care – voters by margins of between 13 and 22 points say Gibson will do a better job than Schreibman,” Greenberg said.

Which candidate would do a better job representing you in the US Congress on . . .		
Issue	Gibson	Schreibman
Jobs (Most important: 35%)	48%	26%
Federal budget deficit (26%)	45%	27%
Health Care (12%)	44%	31%
War in Afghanistan (9%)	43%	25%
Education (8%)	42%	28%
Taxes (6%)	45%	29%
Representing the interests of our community in Washington	46%	29%
Siena College Poll – September 21, 2012		

By Small Margin, Voters Say Repeal Obamacare; Support Obama on Most Other Issues

“With the overwhelming support of Republicans and a majority of independents, likely voters favor repealing Obamacare by a narrow 50-46 percent margin. However, voters strongly side with the President on eliminating the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and addressing women’s reproductive health issues. And by smaller margins, they also side with Obama’s positions on Medicare and Social Security,” Greenberg said.

Obama Leads Romney by 4 Points

“Obama, with the support of 88 percent of Democrats, has a small 49-45 percent lead over Romney, who has support from 78 percent of Republicans. Independents, nearly evenly divided, favor Obama 48-46 percent. Half of voters view Obama favorably and half view him unfavorably, while Romney is viewed unfavorably by a 52-45 percent margin,” Greenberg said.

“In 2010, challenger Gibson trailed the incumbent by 17 points in an early Siena poll and was up by nine points in a late Siena poll, before winning by 10 points. With less than 40 percent of voters having seen a Gibson commercial and only 12 percent having seen a Schreibman commercial, this race clearly has a long way to go,” Greenberg said. “That said, Gibson is in a very strong position, better known, viewed far more favorably, and with a huge advantage among voters he currently represents. And even at this early point and even with so many new voters, Gibson crosses the ‘magic’ 50 percent mark, supported by 52 percent of likely voters.”

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This Siena College 19th C.D. survey was conducted September 17-18, 2012 by telephone calls to 635 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.