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Siena College 1st Congressional District Poll: **Bishop Holds Double Digit Lead over Altschuler** Voters See Bishop as Stronger On All Issues

Support for Repeal of Health Care Law; Divided on Bush Tax Cuts

Loudonville, NY. Likely East End Long Island voters give Representative Tim Bishop a 51-39 percent lead over Republican challenger Randy Altschuler three weeks from Election Day. By a margin of between five and 20 points, voters see Bishop as better on every issue, according to a Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely 1st CD voters released today. Overall, district voters support repealing federal health care reform legislation, support the President’s stimulus proposal, and divide equally on Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy.

“Bishop has a solid 12-point lead heading into the final weeks of the campaign. He has the support of nearly nine in ten Democrats and a narrow three-point lead among independent voters.

Altschuler, however, is currently only holding on to two-thirds of Republicans, and Bishop gets the vote of one in four Republicans,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “Bishop has a seven-

point lead with men and a 16-point lead with women. He leads by nine points in Brookhaven, the largest part of the district, and by 16 points in the six other towns at least partially in the district. Bishop has a 15-point lead among voters 55 and older and leads by seven points among voters less than 55 years of age.

“More than 60 percent of each candidate’s supporters say they are committed to their candidate and about three-quarters of voters say they have seen or heard Altschuler and/or Bishop commercials,” Greenberg said. “When asked whether they were inclined to re-elect Bishop, 48 percent ‘yes’ and 45 percent said they ‘prefer someone else.’ When matched against Altschuler, however, Bishop’s support increases three points and by a six-point margin fewer voters who prefer someone else are willing to commit to Altschuler.”

Bishop is viewed favorably by 50 percent of voters and unfavorably by 41 percent. Altschuler has a negative favorability rating with 33 percent viewing him favorably and 44 percent unfavorably.

If the election was today, who would you vote for?			
	Tim Bishop	Randy Altschuler	Don't Know/ No Opinion
1st CD	51%	39%	9%
<i>Democrats</i>	88%	6%	6%
<i>Republicans</i>	25%	65%	9%
<i>Independents</i>	46%	43%	11%
Town of Brookhaven	50%	41%	9%
Non-Brookhaven	53%	37%	9%
Siena College Poll – October 13, 2010			

“Voters view Bishop favorably, and he’s the only one. They have an unfavorable view of President Obama, Sarah Palin and the Tea Party, Nancy Pelosi and Congress, as well as candidate Altschuler,” Greenberg said.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Tim Bishop	50%	41%	9%
Randy Altschuler	33%	44%	23%
Barack Obama	43%	54%	3%
Tea Party Movement	39%	49%	12%
Sarah Palin	35%	58%	7%
Nancy Pelosi	30%	64%	6%
US Congress	29%	65%	7%
Siena College Poll – October 13, 2010			

“Despite the fact that there are slightly more Republicans than Democrats in this district, Andrew Cuomo has a huge 22-point lead over Carl Paladino, twice the lead Bishop maintains over Altschuler. Cuomo gets one in three Republican votes, holding Paladino to 50 percent of Republicans,” Greenberg said.

Which Candidate Would do a Better Job Representing You in the US Congress on . . .		
Issue	Bishop	Altschuler
Jobs	50%	38%
Federal budget deficit	45%	40%
War in Afghanistan	47%	33%
Taxes	47%	40%
Education	53%	33%
Health Care	50%	38%
Representing the interests of our community in Washington	53%	36%
Siena College Poll – October 13		

Voters rank jobs (38 percent) as the most important issue, followed by the federal deficit (19 percent), the Afghanistan war (12 percent), taxes (10 percent), education (nine percent), and health care (eight percent).

“On every issue, voters see Bishop doing a better job in Congress. While he only holds single digit leads on the budget deficit and taxes, on jobs, the war, health care and education, Bishop is seen as far stronger,” Greenberg said. “And by a 17-point margin, voters say Bishop

would be better than Altschuler representing their community’s interests in Washington.

“By a 52-44 percent margin, largely along party lines, with independents siding with Republicans, voters would prefer to see the recently enacted health care reform law repealed. Voters are evenly divided on whether to keep or eliminate the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy, also along party lines, with independents nearly evenly divided. By a 51-43 percent margin, voters support the President’s new stimulus package,” Greenberg said.

“Bishop is better known and better liked than Altschuler, and he is seen by voters as better on all the issues,” Greenberg said. “There is still a lot of time before voters go to the polls, but at the moment, Bishop has a solid lead as he seeks re-election. And it appears that Altschuler will not get any help from the top of his ticket.”

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This Siena College 1st C.D. survey was conducted October 6-11, 2010 by telephone calls to 615 likely voters drawn from 804 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. It has 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.