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For Immediate Release:

Thursday, September 13, 2012

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## Siena College 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District Poll:

# Bishop Leads Altschuler by 13 Points With 8 Weeks to Go

Voters See Bishop as Better Representing them on Most Issues

*Bishop Leads By Comparable Margins in Brookhaven & East End Towns*

Romney & Obama, Each Viewed Unfavorably by 48%, Are Tied at 47%-47%

**Loudonville, NY.** After winning by three-tenths of one percent in 2010, Democratic Representative Tim Bishop has an early 13-point lead over Republican challenger Randy Altschuler in a rematch of two years ago. Bishop has a 52-39 percent lead over Altschuler, with eight percent undecided, according to a Siena College Research Institute poll of likely 1<sup>st</sup> C.D. voters released today.

Likely voters say Bishop will do a better job than Altschuler representing them on a series of six issues, by margins of one to 19 points in the district that has a six point Republican enrollment edge. While a plurality of voters want to see Obamacare repealed, and President Obama and Governor Mitt Romney are locked in a dead even race, more voters side with Obama than Romney on women’s reproductive health issues, eliminating tax cuts for those earning more than \$250,000, Medicare, and Social Security.

“After squeaking out a tight victory two years ago, Bishop has an early 13-point lead over Altschuler. Coming within 600 votes of winning in 2010, this year Altschuler has the Independence Party line, which last time provided Bishop with more than 7,000 votes,” said Siena College pollster Steven

If the election was today, who would you vote for?			
	Tim Bishop	Randy Altschuler	Don't Know/ Not Voting
<b>1<sup>st</sup> CD</b>	<b>52%</b>	39%	9%
<i>Democrats</i>	<b>87%</b>	8%	5%
<i>Republicans</i>	25%	<b>67%</b>	9%
<i>Independents</i>	<b>49%</b>	41%	10%
Town of Brookhaven	<b>52%</b>	39%	9%
Rest of District	<b>52%</b>	40%	8%
Siena College Poll – September 13, 2012			

Greenberg. “Bishop has the support of 87 percent of Democrats, one-quarter of Republicans and an eight-point lead among independents. Bishop has 52 percent support both in Brookhaven and the East End towns.

“Bishop’s 52-39 percent lead in the horserace is virtually identical to his favorability rating and is better than his showing in the ‘generic re-elect’ question where 48 percent of voters say they are prepared to re-elect Bishop and 41 percent say they would prefer ‘someone else.’ Altschuler’s 39 percent support in the horserace matches the percentage of voters who view him favorably,” Greenberg said.

“A plurality of independent voters has a favorable view of Bishop and a plurality of independents view Altschuler unfavorably,” Greenberg said. “Fifty-eight percent of Republicans view their candidate favorably while more than three-quarters of Democrats have a favorable view of Bishop.

<b>Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...?</b>			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Tim Bishop	<b>50%</b>	39%	11%
Randy Altschuler	39%	<b>41%</b>	19%
Andrew Cuomo	<b>73%</b>	20%	6%
Barack Obama	<b>49%</b>	48%	3%
Mitt Romney	46%	<b>48%</b>	6%
Joe Biden	45%	<b>50%</b>	5%
Paul Ryan	<b>43%</b>	42%	14%
<b>Siena College Poll – September 13, 2012</b>			

<b>Which candidate would do a better job representing you in the US Congress on . . .</b>		
Issue	Bishop	Altschuler
Jobs (Most important: 43%)	<b>46%</b>	39%
Federal budget deficit (21%)	<b>42%</b>	41%
Health Care (11%)	<b>47%</b>	36%
Education (8%)	<b>50%</b>	31%
Taxes (8%)	<b>45%</b>	39%
War in Afghanistan (6%)	<b>44%</b>	28%
Representing the interests of our community in Washington	<b>51%</b>	35%
<b>Siena College Poll – September 13, 2012</b>		

“Jobs is the most important issue to voters and by seven points they say Bishop will do a better job on jobs. Voters also rate Bishop ahead of Altschuler by margins of six to 19 points, on health care, education, taxes, and Afghanistan. On the Federal budget deficit voters rate the two candidates virtually equally,” Greenberg said. “A majority say Bishop will better represent their interests in Washington.”

### **Voters with Obama on Taxing Wealthy & Women’s Reproductive Health; Want Obamacare Repealed**

“By a 49-44 percent margin, including a majority of independents, voters want Obamacare repealed. On most other issues, however, voters side with the President over Romney,” Greenberg said. “By a two-to-one margin, voters say their views on women’s reproductive health are closer to Obama’s and by small margins they say their views on Medicare and Social Security are closer to the President’s.”

### **Obama and Romney Locked in Dead Heat**

“While voters tend to side with Obama on more key issues, there are more Republicans than Democrats in the district. Those facts taken together, along with Obama and Romney having nearly identical favorability ratings, result in the two Presidential candidates being tied at 47 percent each,” Greenberg said.

“The final weeks of the Bishop v. Altschuler race two years ago saw the race tighten from a double digit Bishop lead to a fight over every vote to determine the winner. Will the race tighten dramatically again this year? Will Altschuler be able to win back the 15 percent of Romney voters who are currently supporting Bishop? Will Bishop be able to maintain his lead with the higher turnout of a Presidential election, which for the moment is tied? In one of the most closely watched races nationally, voters in the 1<sup>st</sup> C.D. can expect a hot and heavy campaign and millions of dollars spent on commercials and mail to woo them,” Greenberg said.

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This Siena College 1<sup>st</sup> C.D. survey was conducted September 5-10, 2012 by telephone calls to 624 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  $\pm 3.9$  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](http://www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY).