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## Siena College 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Poll:

### Gibson Takes 9-Point Lead over Murphy into Final Week

### Murphy Trails among Independents, After Having an Early 2:1 Lead *Voters Have Favorable View of Gibson; Divided About Murphy*

Loudonville, NY. Entering the final week of the campaign, Republican Chris Gibson has reversed an early campaign deficit and turned it into a 51-42 percent lead over Democratic Representative Scott Murphy, who is seeking his first re-election, according to a Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely voters released today. Gibson has become much more known to voters over the last six weeks, with a positive three-to-two favorability rating. Murphy remains known to more voters, however, they are evenly divided between those who view him favorably and those who view him unfavorably.

“Chris Gibson has completely erased a 17-point deficit and now takes a strong nine-point lead into the final week of the campaign against incumbent Scott Murphy,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “Republican voters have come home to Gibson. He had led by only 27 points and now leads by nearly 60 points among Republicans. He has also won over independents, who had previously sided with Murphy by a nearly two-to-one margin, and now give Gibson a seven-point lead.

If the election was tomorrow, who would you vote for?				
		Chris Gibson	Scott Murphy	DK/NO
20 <sup>th</sup> CD	Oct. 26	51%	42%	6%
	Sept. 17	37%	54%	10%
Democrats	Oct. 26	17%	77%	5%
	Sept. 17	11%	82%	7%
Republicans	Oct. 26	76%	18%	5%
	Sept. 17	59%	32%	9%
Independents	Oct. 26	49%	42%	6%
	Sept. 17	30%	58%	13%
Essex/Warren/Washington	Oct. 26	55%	39%	5%
	Sept. 17	31%	59%	11%
Rensselaer/Saratoga	Oct. 26	54%	41%	4%
	Sept. 17	36%	58%	6%
Columbia/Delaware/Dutchess/Greene/Otsego	Oct. 26	45%	44%	9%
	Sept. 17	41%	46%	13%

Siena College Poll, October 26, 2010

“Six weeks ago, Murphy led in the northern part of the district by 28 points and he now trails there by 16 points. He had led in Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties by 22 points and he now trails there by 13 points. He had a slim lead with men and a 26-point lead with women. Gibson now leads men by 12 points and women by seven points,” Greenberg said.

“Murphy had led among those voters under 55 years of age by 22 points and he now trails Gibson among those voters by 18 points. There was a less dramatic shift among voters 55 years of age and older, who had favored Murphy by 14 points and now are nearly evenly divided, giving Gibson a slim two-point lead,” Greenberg said.

“Murphy continues to be better known than Gibson. However, over the last six weeks the percentage of voters who view Murphy favorably has fallen from 56 percent to 45 percent, while those who view him unfavorably increased dramatically from 27 percent to 45 percent,” Greenberg said. “At the same time, Gibson has become more well known and has seen his favorability rating rise to 46-30 percent, up from 22-13 percent six weeks ago.

“Murphy had a split favorability rating with Republicans six weeks ago and they now view him nearly three-to-one unfavorably,” Greenberg said. “The Gibson campaign has certainly been more successful in creating a negative view of Murphy than the Murphy campaign has been in trying to create a negative image of Gibson.

<b>Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...</b>				
		<b>Fav.</b>	<b>Unfav.</b>	<b>DK/NO</b>
<b>Scott Murphy</b>	Oct. 26	<b>45%</b>	<b>45%</b>	10%
	Sept. 17	<b>56%</b>	27%	17%
<b>Chris Gibson</b>	Oct. 26	<b>46%</b>	30%	24%
	Sept. 17	22%	13%	<b>65%</b>
<b>Kirsten Gillibrand</b>	Oct. 26	<b>61%</b>	34%	5%
	Sept. 17	<b>62%</b>	32%	6%
<b>Tea Party Movement</b>	Oct. 26	43%	<b>46%</b>	11%
	Sept. 17	37%	<b>48%</b>	15%
<b>Barack Obama</b>	Oct. 26	41%	<b>56%</b>	3%
	Sept. 17	<b>51%</b>	44%	5%
<b>Siena College Poll, October 26, 2010</b>				

“The fierce campaign in the district has taken a toll on President Obama’s favorability rating in the district as well, falling to 41-56 percent, down from 51-44 percent,” Greenberg said. “Conversely, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who formerly represented this district, remains very popular with voters, maintaining a better than 60 percent favorability rating. She is universally liked by Murphy voters but is also viewed favorably by one-third of Gibson voters. While those unfavorable to Gillibrand support Gibson 90-5 percent, those favorable to Gillibrand support Murphy 64-29 percent.”

“There is still a week to campaign, including an appearance by Bill Clinton for Murphy. Is that enough to turn the tide back in Murphy’s favor in this heavily Republican district? Can Gibson, who is barely above the magic 50 percent mark continue to build upon the momentum he has, and close the deal with voters? This has been a high profile race, with lots of advertising and national attention. It’s clearly going to remain hotly contested with the ‘air wars’ raging for voters’ attention over the final week,” Greenberg said.

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This Siena College 20<sup>th</sup> C.D. survey was conducted October 23-25, 2010 by telephone calls to 676 likely voters drawn from registered voter households. A stringent likely voter screen was applied to all respondents in order to determine those most likely to vote. This survey has a margin of error of + 3.8 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](http://www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY).