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**Siena College 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District Poll:**

**Close Race Between Owens & Doheny Tightens Up More Hoffman at 15 Percent is a ‘Wild Card’ as He Remains on Ballot**

**Loudonville, NY.** Although Doug Hoffman has suspended his campaign, he remains on the ballot and just days before Election Day he has the support of 15 percent of likely voters, leaving the two major party candidates – Democratic Representative Bill Owens and Republican Matt Doheny, in a neck-and-neck race with Owens slightly ahead 40-37 percent, according to a Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely 23<sup>rd</sup> CD voters released today. When Hoffman supporters were told that he suspended his campaign, he continues to have the support of four percent of voters and Owens and Doheny are tied at 42 percent each.

“In the final days, the race in the 23<sup>rd</sup> CD is tightening. No matter how you measure the impact of Doug

Hoffman remaining on the ballot, Matt Doheny has tightened the gap against Bill Owens,” said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg.

“Will voters know or won’t they know that Hoffman has suspended his campaign? That question will determine how many votes are siphoned away on the Conservative Party line from the two major party candidates,” Greenberg said.

<b>If the election was today, who would you vote for?</b>						
		<b>Bill Owens</b>	<b>Matt Doheny</b>	<b>Doug Hoffman</b>	<b>Not Voting</b>	<b>DK/NO</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> CD – (Voters not told Hoffman suspended campaign)</b>	<b>Oct. 28</b>	<b>40%</b>	37%	15%	1%	8%
	Oct. 13	<b>42%</b>	31%	15%	1%	10%
<i>Democrats</i>	<b>Oct. 28</b>	<b>71%</b>	14%	8%	1%	5%
	Oct. 13	<b>72%</b>	12%	8%	1%	7%
<i>Republicans</i>	<b>Oct. 28</b>	21%	<b>52%</b>	20%	0%	7%
	Oct. 13	20%	<b>47%</b>	22%	1%	10%
<i>Independents</i>	<b>Oct. 28</b>	35%	<b>41%</b>	14%	2%	9%
	Oct. 13	<b>43%</b>	29%	14%	1%	13%
Clinton/Essex/Franklin/Fulton/Hamilton	<b>Oct. 28</b>	<b>38%</b>	35%	16%	0%	11%
	Oct. 13	<b>38%</b>	29%	22%	1%	10%
Jefferson/Lewis/St. Lawrence	<b>Oct. 28</b>	<b>48%</b>	33%	13%	0%	5%
	Oct. 13	<b>52%</b>	29%	10%	2%	8%
Madison/Oneida/Oswego	<b>Oct. 28</b>	34%	<b>41%</b>	15%	2%	8%
	Oct. 13	35%	<b>36%</b>	15%	1%	13%
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> CD – Hoffman voters told he suspended campaign/endorsed Doheny</b>	<b>Oct. 28</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>42%</b>	4%	2%	11%
	Oct. 13	<b>44%</b>	39%	1%	3%	13%
<b>Siena College Poll – October 28, 2010</b>						

“Either way, it appears likely that Hoffman will get enough votes to ensure that either Owens or Doheny will be elected with the support of less than 50 percent of the voters.

“When voters are not told anything other than the names of the three men on the ballot and their party affiliations, Owens has a narrow 40-37 percent lead over Doheny,” Greenberg said.

“When Hoffman voters are told he suspended his campaign, the race becomes an out-and-out draw,” Greenberg said. “It is very surprising that this many voters are still unsure of Hoffman’s status this close to the election. And it works to Owens’ advantage and Doheny’s disadvantage.”

“Irrespective of whether voters know about Hoffman, Owens has the support of nearly three-quarters of Democrats and trails Doheny among independents by six or seven points. When voters don’t know about Hoffman, Doheny has the support of only 52 percent of Republicans, and when told about Hoffman he has the support of 60 percent of Republicans,” Greenberg said. “Clearly, informing voters – particularly Republicans – that Hoffman is out is crucial to the success or failure of Doheny’s campaign heading into the closing days.

“Doheny has a seven-point lead in the southwestern portion of the district that had previously been virtually dead even. Owens continues to have a strong lead in the northwestern portion of the district, although it’s down a little. Owens’ previous nine-point lead in the eastern part of the district is down to three points,” Greenberg said. “Men give Doheny a five-point edge and women support Owens by 13 points. Voters under 55 years old and Protestants are with Doheny, while those 55 years old and older and Catholics favor Owens.

“When voters are asked if they are inclined to re-elect Owens, or would prefer ‘someone else,’ 39 percent say re-elect and 49 percent say someone else,” Greenberg said. “Interestingly, that corresponds very closely to the horserace question where Owens has the support of 40 percent and 52 percent are backing another candidate.”

Doheny has an evenly split 40-40 percent favorability rating.

Owens is viewed favorably by 44 percent of voters and unfavorably by 41 percent. Hoffman is viewed favorably by 35 percent and unfavorably by 49 percent.

“Owens won the special election over Hoffman a year ago by a very narrow margin after the Republican dropped out in the final weekend. Now Conservative candidate Hoffman dropped out and Owens finds himself in a squeaker against Doheny.

How much of the final vote will Hoffman claim? Who will do a better job – Doheny or Owens – of getting supporters to come out and vote next Tuesday? In this heavily Republican district, no Democrat should ever expect to have an easy election, and it looks like it’s going to be a late night counting every last vote in New York’s North Country Tuesday night before either Doheny or Owens is declared the winner,” Greenberg said.

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This Siena College 23<sup>rd</sup> C.D. survey was conducted October 23-26, 2010 by telephone calls to 623 likely voters drawn from registered voter households. A stringent multi-question 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 + 3.9 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).

<b>Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...</b>				
		<b>Fav.</b>	<b>Unfav.</b>	<b>DK/NO</b>
Bill Owens	<b>Oct. 28</b>	<b>44%</b>	41%	15%
	Oct. 13	<b>46%</b>	35%	19%
Matt Doheny	<b>Oct. 28</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>40%</b>	20%
	Oct. 13	<b>36%</b>	34%	30%
Doug Hoffman	<b>Oct. 28</b>	35%	<b>49%</b>	16%
	Oct. 13	28%	<b>55%</b>	18%
Tea Party Movement	<b>Oct. 28</b>	42%	<b>44%</b>	14%
	Oct. 13	<b>45%</b>	41%	14%
Barack Obama	<b>Oct. 28</b>	41%	<b>52%</b>	6%
	Oct. 13	44%	<b>52%</b>	4%
<b>Siena College Poll – October 28, 2010</b>				