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Siena College 23rd Congressional District Poll:
Owens Has 5-Point Lead over Doheny – Even with Hoffman Out
Voters: Owens Stronger on Most Issues; Doheny Beats Owens on Deficit
Hoffman on Ballot is a Wildcard as Owens Falls Short of 50% Mark

Loudonville, NY. With less than three weeks until Election Day, Representative Bill Owens has a slim five-point lead, 44-39 percent, over Republican challenger Matt Doheny once potential voters of Conservative Party candidate Doug Hoffman are informed that he has suspended his campaign and endorsed Doheny. On a series of six issues, voters give Owens the edge on four – two by double digits – and slightly favor Doheny on two, according to a Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely 23rd CD voters released today.

"When voters are initially asked which candidate they support among Owens, Doheny and Hoffman, Owens holds an 11-point lead over Doheny, with Hoffman garnering 15 percent of the vote. When Hoffman voters are told, however, that their candidate has suspended his campaign and urged his supporters to back Doheny, nearly half of his voters move

If the election was today, who would you vote for?					
	Bill Owens	**Matt Doheny**	**Doug Hoffman**	**Not Voting**	**DK/ NO**
23rd CD – Hoffman voters told he suspended campaign/endorsed Doheny	**44%**	39%	1%	3%	13%
Democrats	**73%**	15%	0%	4%	8%
Republicans	23%	**60%**	2%	2%	14%
Independents	**47%**	32%	1%	3%	18%
Clinton/Essex/Franklin/Fulton/Hamilton	**42%**	41%	2%	3%	13%
Jefferson/Lewis/St. Lawrence	**53%**	33%	2%	4%	9%
Madison/Oneida/Oswego	38%	**41%**	1%	1%	18%
23rd CD – Voters not told Hoffman suspended campaign	**42%**	31%	15%	1%	10%
Siena College Poll – October 13, 2010					

in that direction, while only 16 percent of Hoffman's supporters move to Owens," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "When voters know Hoffman is backing Doheny, Owens' lead shrinks to 44-39 percent.

"Two regions of the district – the southern portion and the northeastern portion – are nearly evenly divided between Doheny and Owens. The northwestern portion of the district, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties, however, provide Owens with a 20-point lead. Owens holds the support of nearly three-quarters of Democrats and has a 15-point lead among independent voters, while Doheny has the support of 60 percent of Republicans. Voters less than 55 years-old lean slightly toward Doheny, while those 55 and older favor Owens by 11 points. Owens has the support of Catholics, while Protestants favor Doheny," Greenberg said.

Owens is viewed favorably by 46 percent of voters and unfavorably by 35 percent. Doheny has a nearly evenly split 36-34 percent favorability rating. Hoffman is viewed unfavorably two-to-one, 28-55 percent.

"By a five-point margin, voters would prefer 'someone else' rather than re-electing Owens. The fact that Owens is viewed more favorably by likely voters than Doheny may explain how he turns a five-point deficit on the re-elect question into a five-point edge when the candidates are matched against each other,"

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...			
	Favorable	**Unfavorable**	**Don't Know/ No Opinion**
Bill Owens	**46%**	35%	19%
Matt Doheny	**36%**	34%	30%
Doug Hoffman	28%	**55%**	18%
Tea Party Movement	**45%**	41%	14%
Barack Obama	44%	**52%**	4%
Sarah Palin	39%	**54%**	7%
Nancy Pelosi	27%	**63%**	10%
US Congress	27%	**66%**	7%
		Siena College Poll – October 13, 2010	

Greenberg said. "Neither candidate, however, has locked up their supporters. Only about half of each candidate's supporters say they are absolutely certain to stick with their current choice."

Which Candidate Would do a Better Job Representing You in the US Congress on . . .		
Issue	**Owens**	**Doheny**
Jobs	**41%**	37%
Federal budget deficit	35%	**41%**
Health Care	**42%**	36%
Taxes	38%	**40%**
War in Afghanistan	**41%**	31%
Education	**45%**	32%
Representing the interests of our community in Washington	**44%**	35%
Siena College Poll – October 13		

Voters rank jobs (39 percent) as the most important issue, followed by the federal deficit (21 percent), health care and taxes (10 percent each), and the Afghanistan war and education (nine percent each).

"On voters' two most important issues, they give Owens a slight edge on jobs and Doheny a small edge on the deficit. Owens is given the edge on three of the other four issues, and by a nine-point margin, voters say Owens would do a better job of representing their community in Washington," Greenberg said.

"These voters are unfavorable to President Obama and even more unfavorable toward Congress and Speaker Pelosi. They are divided on the Tea Party. They support repealing the federal health care reform law but at the same time favor eliminating the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and support a new $50 billion stimulus program. While overwhelmingly Republican, they strongly support Andrew Cuomo over Carl Paladino," Greenberg said. "It appears that voters in the 23rd CD have no problem crossing party lines to support issues, positions, candidates, and officials irrespective of party identification. Given that and the close special election Owens won a year ago, it is not surprising that this race is tight heading into the final weeks. And it won't be surprising if it stays tight through the Election Day count."

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