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Siena College 24th Congressional District Poll:

Arcuri Continues to Lead Hanna; Race Gets Tighter

Eight-Point Lead Six Weeks Ago for Arcuri is Now Just a Five-Point Lead
Candidates Are More Well Known Now; Little Else in Race has Changed

Loudonville, NY. One week before Election Day and Representative Michael Arcuri continues to lead his Republican challenger, Richard Hanna, by 48-43 percent, down slightly from 48-40 percent six weeks ago, according to a Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely voters released today. Hanna is considerably more well known than six weeks ago, and Arcuri is more well known also. Both candidates, however, previously had two-to-one favorability ratings and now each candidate is viewed unfavorably by nearly as many voters as view them favorably.

“Michael Arcuri continues to hold a slim lead over Richard Hanna in this rematch from 2008. Hanna has cut into the eight-point lead Arcuri had in the last Siena College Poll six weeks ago. Hanna now trails by five points and Arcuri continues to stay below the magic 50 percent mark, as 10 percent of voters remain undecided,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

		If the election was tomorrow, who would you vote for?		
		Richard Hanna	Michael Arcuri	Don't Know/ Not Voting
24th CD	Oct. 27	43%	48%	10%
	Sept. 17	40%	48%	12%
<i>Democrats</i>	Oct. 27	20%	74%	6%
	Sept. 17	16%	77%	7%
<i>Republicans</i>	Oct. 27	65%	24%	11%
	Sept. 17	60%	27%	13%
<i>Independents</i>	Oct. 27	38%	50%	12%
	Sept. 17	34%	48%	18%
Oneida/Herkimer	Oct. 27	47%	45%	8%
	Sept. 17	42%	50%	8%
Broome/Chenango/ Otsego/Tioga/Tompkins	Oct. 27	40%	49%	11%
	Sept. 17	40%	45%	16%
Cayuga/Cortland/ Ontario/Seneca	Oct. 27	40%	51%	9%
	Sept. 17	36%	50%	14%
Siena College Poll, October 27, 2010				

“Both candidates do well with voters of their own party, with Arcuri doing a little better among Democrats than Hanna does with Republicans. Independent voters continue to side with Arcuri, giving him a 12-point lead, down ever so slightly from a 14-point lead six weeks ago,” Greenberg said. “Arcuri continues to lead in the Southern Tier and western portions of the district, and Hanna is now up 47-45 percent in Oneida and Herkimer Counties, where he previously trailed by eight points.”

“There continues to be a significant gender gap, with men favoring Hanna 49-42 percent and women supporting Arcuri 54-36 percent. Voters under 55 years of age give Hanna a six-point lead, while those 55 years old and older side with Arcuri by 15 points,” Greenberg said. “Fifty-six percent of Arcuri voters and 55 percent of Hanna voters say they are certain to stick with their candidate and won’t change their minds.

“The negative advertising proliferating the airwaves and mailboxes of the 24th CD is having an effect on the way both candidates are viewed by the voters.

Arcuri saw his favorability rating fall to 47-42 percent, down from 53-26 percent, while Hanna went from 36-19 percent six weeks ago to a current 43-41 percent,” Greenberg said. Not surprisingly, Democrats see Arcuri favorably and Hanna unfavorably, and the reverse is true for the

		Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...		
		Fav.	Unfav.	DK/NO
Michael Arcuri	Oct. 27	47%	42%	11%
	Sept. 17	53%	26%	21%
Richard Hanna	Oct. 27	43%	41%	15%
	Sept. 17	36%	19%	44%
Barack Obama	Oct. 27	47%	49%	4%
	Sept. 17	47%	47%	6%
Tea Party Movement	Oct. 27	44%	45%	12%
	Sept. 17	40%	39%	22%
Siena College Poll, October 27, 2010				

Republicans. Interestingly, independents give Hanna a 43-41 percent favorability rating and Arcuri a 46-42 percent favorability rating, virtually matching the overall favorability ratings for each candidate.

“President Obama continues to have about as many voters view him favorably as those who view him unfavorably. The same is true of the Tea Party. Both, however, are viewed slightly more unfavorably than six weeks ago,” Greenberg said.

“While not much has changed in Arcuri-Hanna II over the last six weeks, there is still the final week of campaigning to go and anything can happen,” Greenberg said. “Will Hanna continue to slowly close the gap? Will Arcuri find a way to hit the magic 50 percent mark? How will each of the campaigns do in getting their voters to the polls next Tuesday? A lot of unanswered questions for the voters to answer in a race being watched across the state and across the nation.”

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This Siena College 24th C.D. survey was conducted October 23-25, 2010 by telephone calls to 632 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.