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Siena College 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Poll:

## Buerkle v. Maffei – the Rematch:

### Dead Even in September – Dead Even in November

So Much Campaigning; So Much Money; So Little Movement

### *Obama Maintains Double Digit Lead Over Romney*

Loudonville, NY. The rematch between Republican Representative Ann Marie Buerkle and former Democratic Representative Dan Maffei remains as tight as their first contest two years ago, and as tight as this race was seven weeks ago. Days before Election Day, both candidates have the support of 44 percent of likely voters, with Green Party candidate Ursula Rozum having the support of eight percent, and only three percent of voters still undecided, according to a Siena College Research Institute poll of likely 24<sup>th</sup> C.D. voters released today.

Buerkle and Maffei are each viewed unfavorably by slightly more voters than view them favorably. President Obama continues to lead Mitt Romney, 53-42 percent, down from 55-36 percent in September.

“Seven weeks and millions of dollars later, each candidate has picked up a single point. What was a dead even race in September is still a dead even race three days before voters go to the polls,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“Buerkle and Maffei each have the support of

76 percent of the voters from their party. While Buerkle has a small three-point lead among independents in a district virtually evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats, this race is tied because Maffei gets slightly more support from Republicans than Buerkle gets from Democrats,” Greenberg said.

If the election was today, who would you vote for?					
		Ann Marie Buerkle	Dan Maffei	Ursula Rozum	Don't Know/ Not Voting
24 <sup>th</sup> CD	Nov. 3	44%	44%	8%	4%
	Sept. 13	43%	43%	7%	7%
Democrats	Nov. 3	13%	76%	7%	3%
	Sept. 13	16%	72%	6%	6%
Republicans	Nov. 3	76%	19%	4%	1%
	Sept. 13	66%	22%	6%	7%
Independents	Nov. 3	43%	40%	13%	4%
	Sept. 13	45%	36%	10%	8%
Syracuse	Nov. 3	26%	60%	11%	3%
	Sept. 13	30%	60%	8%	3%
Rest of Onondaga	Nov. 3	46%	44%	7%	3%
	Sept. 13	45%	44%	7%	5%
Cayuga/Oswego /Wayne	Nov. 3	49%	37%	9%	5%
	Sept. 13	45%	33%	8%	13%
Siena College Poll – November 3, 2012					

Maffei leads in Syracuse 60-26 percent, compared to 60-30 percent in September. Buerkle edges out Maffei in the rest of Onondaga County 46-44 percent, virtually unchanged from 45-44 percent. Buerkle leads 49-37 percent in the rest of the district, compared to 45-33 percent in September.

“A gender gap has developed,” Greenberg said. “Maffei now leads with women by 12 points after previously trailing by one point, and Buerkle leads among men by 13 points, up from one point in September.

“Virtually every Buerkle and Maffei supporter is locked in and committed to their candidate, with about eight in ten supporters of each saying there’s no chance they will change,” Greenberg said. “However, only one-third of Rozum supports say they will not change their minds, which means that both candidates are fighting for the last few undecided voters and to pick up support from current Rozum supporters. While 25 percent of Rozum voters view Maffei favorably, only nine percent have a favorable view of Buerkle.”

Buerkle is viewed favorably by 45 percent of voters and unfavorably by 52 percent. Maffei has a comparable 46-50 percent favorability rating.

“Maffei’s favorability rating has taken more of a hit than Buerkle’s over the course of the campaign,

although Buerkle has fallen more with independents than Maffei, which may help explain the tightening of the race among independents,” Greenberg said.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...?				
		Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Dan Maffei	<b>Nov. 3</b>	46%	<b>50%</b>	4%
	Sept. 13	<b>49%</b>	37%	14%
Ann Marie Buerkle	<b>Nov. 3</b>	45%	<b>52%</b>	3%
	Sept. 13	<b>44%</b>	<b>44%</b>	11%
Ursula Rozum	<b>Nov. 3</b>	23%	24%	<b>53%</b>
	Sept. 13	7%	12%	<b>81%</b>
Andrew Cuomo	<b>Nov. 3</b>	<b>72%</b>	23%	5%
	Sept. 13	<b>75%</b>	19%	5%
Barack Obama	<b>Nov. 3</b>	<b>56%</b>	43%	1%
	Sept. 13	<b>57%</b>	41%	2%
Mitt Romney	<b>Nov. 3</b>	44%	<b>55%</b>	1%
	Sept. 13	39%	<b>56%</b>	5%
Siena College Poll – November 3, 2012				

### Obama Continues to Lead Romney by Double Digits, Although Down from September

“Obama continues to maintain a solid 53-42 percent lead over Romney,” Greenberg said. “While down from a 19-point lead in September, this district remains solidly blue in the race for president.”

“Voters know both Buerkle and Maffei well, and voters remain evenly divided between the two camps. This race comes down to four simple words: ‘get out the vote.’ Whichever campaign does the better job of getting their voters to the polls is likely to be the campaign that ekes out a victory,” Greenberg said. “The cliché that every vote counts may very well have been written with this race in mind.”

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This Siena College 24<sup>th</sup> C.D. survey was conducted October 31 – November 2, 2012 by telephone calls to 670 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  $\pm 3.8$  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).