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For Immediate Release:

Thursday, September 13, 2012

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Siena College 24th Congressional District Poll:

Buerkle v. Maffei Rematch as Tight as 2010 Election

Maffei Leads 2-to-1 in Syracuse; Buerkle Up 12 Points in West & North

Voters Lean Toward Maffei on Issues; Want Dems to Control the House

Obama (Viewed Favorably) Tops Romney (Viewed Unfavorably) by 19 Points

Loudonville, NY. Less than eight weeks until Election Day, Republican Representative Ann Marie Buerkle and former Democratic Representative Dan Maffei are locked in a tied race with each candidate receiving the support of 43 percent of voters, with seven percent for Green Party candidate Ursula Rozum and six percent undecided, according to a Siena College Research Institute poll of likely 24th C.D. voters released today.

Likely voters lean toward thinking Maffei will do a better job than Buerkle on five issues and lean toward Buerkle on one issue. President Obama has a commanding 55-36 percent lead over Governor Mitt Romney and on issues from Obamacare to eliminating tax cuts for those earning more than \$250,000, as well as Medicare, Social Security, immigration, and women’s reproductive health issues, voters say their views are closer to Obama’s than to Romney’s.

“In 2010, Buerkle defeated Maffei by less than 700 votes or three-tenths of one percent. This year’s rematch between the Congresswoman and the former Congressman looks like it will be another barnburner in a district that is virtually

evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“While Maffei gets more support from Democrats than Buerkle gets from Republicans, she holds a nine-point lead with independent voters. Syracuse voters support Maffei two-to-one, however, the candidates are nearly tied in the remainder of Onondaga County, the largest portion of the district, and Buerkle leads by 12 points outside of Onondaga,” Greenberg said. “Interestingly, while the district has slightly more Republicans than Democrats, Obama has a huge lead in the presidential race but is not providing any coattails for Maffei. In fact, only 70 percent of Obama supporters are with Maffei, while 88 percent of Romney supporters are with Buerkle.

If the election was today, who would you vote for?				
	Ann Marie Buerkle	Dan Maffei	Ursula Rozum	Don't Know/ Not Voting
24th CD	43%	43%	7%	7%
<i>Democrats</i>	16%	72%	6%	6%
<i>Republicans</i>	66%	22%	6%	7%
<i>Independents</i>	45%	36%	10%	8%
Syracuse	30%	60%	8%	3%
Rest of Onondaga	45%	44%	7%	5%
Cayuga/Oswego/Wayne	45%	33%	8%	13%
Siena College Poll – September 13, 2012				

“Nearly half of likely voters have a favorable view of Maffei, who has a 12-point net positive favorability rating, compared to Buerkle’s evenly divided 44-44 percent favorability rating,” Greenberg said.

“Overall, likely voters have a more favorable view of Maffei than they do of Buerkle, and by small margins

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...?			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Dan Maffei	49%	37%	14%
Ann Marie Buerkle	44%	44%	11%
Ursula Rozum	7%	12%	81%
Andrew Cuomo	75%	19%	5%
Barack Obama	57%	41%	2%
Joe Biden	53%	42%	5%
Mitt Romney	39%	56%	5%
Paul Ryan	36%	48%	15%
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Which candidate would do a better job representing you in the US Congress on . . .		
Issue	Maffei	Buerkle
Jobs (Most important: 40%)	43%	40%
Federal budget deficit (19%)	41%	43%
Health Care (15%)	44%	41%
Education (13%)	46%	38%
Taxes (6%)	45%	40%
War in Afghanistan (5%)	38%	36%
Representing the interests of our community in Washington	44%	42%
Siena College Poll – September 13, 2012		

they

think that Maffei will do a better job than Buerkle on most issues representing them in Washington,” Greenberg said. “By an 11-point margin, including a plurality of independents, voters would prefer to see Democrats retake control of the House of Representatives. Despite all that, and despite the district’s overwhelming tilt toward Obama and his position on the issues, the race between Buerkle and Maffei is currently tied with 43 percent for each candidate.”

Voters Closer to Obama on Issues from Obamacare and Medicare to Women’s Reproductive Health

“By an 11-point margin voters want Obamacare implemented and they overwhelmingly support Obama’s proposal to eliminate tax cuts for those earning more than \$250,000,” Greenberg said. “And by margins of between 18 and 26 points, voters say their views on Medicare, Social Security and women’s reproductive health are close to Obama’s position than they are to Romney’s.”

Obama Has Commanding Lead Over Romney

“With the support of nearly nine in ten Democrats, three in ten Republicans and a plurality of independents, Obama has a 55-36 percent lead over Romney,” Greenberg said. “Voters give Obama a net positive 16-point favorability rating, while they give Romney a net negative 17-point unfavorability rating.”

“Voters in the 24th C.D. should brace themselves for an eight week barrage of television and radio commercials – positive and negative – paid for by the candidates, the parties and independent expenditure groups. They may even need to get bigger mailboxes. Ranked by many national pundits as one of the top ten most competitive House races in the country, this is clearly living up to expectations. This race looks like it’s going to be as exciting and as close as the heartbreaking Syracuse Orange last minute loss to Northwestern,” Greenberg said.

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This Siena College 24th C.D. survey was conducted September 5-10, 2012 by telephone calls to 625 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 ± 3.9 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.