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Syracuse Post-Standard/Siena College 25th Congressional District Poll: **Dan Maffei Has 12-Point Lead over Ann Marie Buerkle**

Maffei Rated as Better than Buerkle by Voters On All Issues *Voters Split on Health Care Law; Support Eliminating Tax Cuts for Wealthy*

Loudonville, NY. Representative Dan Maffei holds a 51-39 percent lead over Republican challenger Ann Marie Buerkle with a little more than two weeks until Election Day. By a margin of between four and 15 points, voters see Maffei as better on every issue, according to a Syracuse Post-Standard/Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely 25th CD voters released today. Voters are evenly divided on whether the recently enacted federal health care reform legislation should be implemented or repealed, however, they favor President Obama’s stimulus proposal, as well as eliminating the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy.

“Heading into the final weeks of the campaign, Maffei has a solid 12-point lead over Buerkle. Maffei does a better job keeping Democratic support – he leads among Democrats 80-14 percent – than Buerkle does holding Republican support, where she leads 65-25 percent.

If the election was today, who would you vote for?			
	Dan Maffei	Ann Marie Buerkle	Don't Know/ No Opinion
25th CD	51%	39%	10%
<i>Democrats</i>	80%	14%	6%
<i>Republicans</i>	25%	65%	10%
<i>Independents</i>	50%	39%	11%
Onondaga	51%	39%	10%
Cayuga/Monroe/Wayne	52%	39%	8%
Syracuse Post-Standard/Siena College Poll – October 17, 2010			

Independent voters favor Maffei by 11 points,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “Maffei leads by four points among men and has an overwhelming 55-33 percent advantage with women. The difference between the two candidates is virtually the same within and outside of Onondaga County.

“About 60 percent of each candidate’s supporters say they are committed to their candidate and 77 percent of voters have seen or heard a Buerkle commercial, while for Maffei, it’s 85 percent,” Greenberg said.

“When asked whether they were inclined to re-elect Maffei, 48 percent ‘yes’ and 43 percent said they ‘prefer someone else.’ When matched up against Buerkle, however, Maffei’s support increases three points from this question and by a four-point margin fewer voters who prefer someone else are willing to commit to Buerkle.”

Maffei is viewed favorably by 50 percent of voters and unfavorably by 40 percent. Buerkle has a negative favorability rating with 33 percent viewing her favorably and 41 percent unfavorably.

“Maffei has a 10-point positive favorability rating, while Buerkle is viewed unfavorably by more voters than view her favorably, even as one-quarter of voters do not know her well enough to have an opinion. Voters view President Obama favorably, and view Sarah Palin, the Tea Party, Nancy Pelosi and Congress unfavorably,” Greenberg said.

“Although this district – and the likely voters in this survey – is evenly divided between

Democrats and Republicans, Andrew Cuomo has an overwhelming 34-point lead over Carl Paladino. Cuomo gets one in three Republican votes, holding Paladino to less than 50 percent of Republicans,” Greenberg said.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Dan Maffei	50%	40%	10%
Ann Marie Buerkle	33%	41%	26%
Barack Obama	51%	45%	4%
Tea Party Movement	38%	51%	11%
Nancy Pelosi	33%	61%	6%
Sarah Palin	33%	62%	5%
US Congress	26%	67%	7%
Syracuse Post-Standard/Siena College Poll – October 17, 2010			

Which Candidate Would do a Better Job Representing You in the US Congress on . . .		
Issue	Maffei	Buerkle
Jobs	49%	36%
Federal budget deficit	45%	41%
War in Afghanistan	44%	34%
Education	49%	34%
Taxes	45%	41%
Health Care	48%	39%
Representing the interests of our community in Washington	50%	37%
Syracuse Post-Standard/Siena College Poll – October 17, 2010		

Voters rank jobs (44 percent) as by far the most important issue, followed by the federal deficit (20 percent), the Afghanistan war and education (nine percent each), and taxes and health care (seven percent each).

“Voters give the edge to Maffei on every issue, although it is tight on the deficit and taxes,” Greenberg said. “On the most important issue, jobs, voters give a 13-point advantage to Maffei. And by a 13-point margin, voters rank Maffei better than Buerkle at representing their community’s interests in Washington.

“Voters split 47-47 percent on whether the federal health care reform legislation should be implemented or repealed. Democrats are for implementation 73-21 percent. Republicans favor repeal by the same margin. A majority of voters, however, support eliminating Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy, and the President’s new stimulus package – strong support by Democrats and moderate support by independents,” Greenberg said.

“For an incumbent, Maffei remains fairly popular, and is seen as stronger on issues. Buerkle must overcome her unfavorable standing with voters, convince voters that she is stronger on key economic issues, and increase her support among Republicans and independents. A lot of work in two plus weeks,” Greenberg said.

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This Syracuse Post-Standard/Siena College 25th C.D. survey was conducted October 10-12, 2010 by telephone calls to 623 likely voters drawn from 805 registered voter households. A stringent likely voter screen was applied to the sample of registered voters that had been statistically adjusted to reflect party registration and age. It 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.