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## Siena College 25<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Poll:

# Louise Leads Maggie by 10 Points (52-42%) in New 25<sup>th</sup> CD

### Voters Say Slaughter Better on Health, Ed., War; Close on Others

### *Brooks Leads in Western Monroe, Slaughter Leads Big in Rochester*

### Obama Leads Romney by 14 Points; Voters Side with President on Major Issues

**Loudonville, NY.** Thirteen-term Democratic Representative Louise Slaughter has a 10-point lead over her Republican challenger, Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks less than six weeks until Election Day. Slaughter is supported by 52 percent of likely voters compared to 42 percent for Brooks, according to a new Siena College Research Institute poll of likely 25<sup>th</sup> C.D. voters released today.

Slaughter has a four-to-one lead in Rochester and a narrow four-point lead in the eastern part of Monroe County, while Brooks has a 10-point lead in the western part of Monroe. Brooks leads by six points in the new portion of the C.D., which is two-thirds of the district, while Slaughter has a huge 43-point lead in the part of the district she currently represents. Voters say Slaughter will do a better job in Washington representing them on health care, education and the war in Afghanistan, and they are more closely divided on who would be better on jobs, taxes and the Federal budget deficit. President Obama has a large 53-39 percent lead over Governor Mitt Romney. Likely voters side with Obama over Romney on key issues, including Obamacare, eliminating tax cuts for those earning more than \$250,000, Medicare, and women’s reproductive health.

“In this fascinating race between two popular, well known women – both known to voters by their first names – Louise has a 10-point lead over Maggie in this newly drawn district, all within Monroe County, that has a nine-point enrollment edge for the Democrats,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

If the election was today, who would you vote for?			
	Louise Slaughter	Maggie Brooks	Don't Know/ Not Voting
<b>25<sup>th</sup> CD</b>	<b>52%</b>	42%	6%
<i>Democrats</i>	<b>86%</b>	11%	3%
<i>Republicans</i>	21%	<b>76%</b>	3%
<i>Independents</i>	39%	<b>50%</b>	11%
Rochester	<b>75%</b>	19%	6%
Western Monroe County	43%	<b>53%</b>	4%
Eastern Monroe County	<b>49%</b>	45%	6%
<b>Siena College Poll – September 27, 2012</b>			

“Brooks has the support of three-quarters of Republicans and an 11-point lead with independents, while Slaughter is supported by 86 percent of Democrats and has a commanding 69-26 percent lead among voters she currently represents. Women give Louise a 17-point advantage and she has a slim four-point edge with men.”

“Slaughter is viewed favorably by 59 percent of voters and unfavorably by 36 percent,” Greenberg said. “Brooks’ favorability rating is not as strong but is still positive at 51-42 percent. Brooks has a stronger favorability rating among independents than does Slaughter, while Slaughter does better with voters of her own party than does Brooks.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ?			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Louise Slaughter	<b>59%</b>	36%	5%
Maggie Brooks	<b>51%</b>	42%	6%
Andrew Cuomo	<b>79%</b>	15%	7%
Barack Obama	<b>55%</b>	43%	2%
Joe Biden	<b>50%</b>	45%	5%
Mitt Romney	40%	<b>55%</b>	4%
Paul Ryan	39%	<b>44%</b>	17%
Siena College Poll – September 27, 2012			

Which candidate would do a better job representing you in the US Congress on . . .		
Issue	Slaughter	Brooks
Jobs (Most important: 38%)	<b>47%</b>	42%
Federal budget deficit (23%)	44%	<b>45%</b>
Health Care (14%)	<b>51%</b>	39%
Education (10%)	<b>49%</b>	37%
War in Afghanistan (6%)	<b>49%</b>	30%
Taxes (5%)	<b>47%</b>	44%
Representing the interests of our community in Washington	<b>51%</b>	42%
Siena College Poll – September 27, 2012		

“On health care, education and Afghanistan, voters give Slaughter a substantial edge. They favor her slightly on jobs and even so slightly on taxes. Voters are divided on who is better on the Federal budget deficit. When it comes to better representing the community’s interests in Washington, voters give Slaughter a nearly identical edge as they do in the horse race,” Greenberg said.

**Voters Side with Obama on Obamacare, Tax Cuts for Wealthy, Medicare, Women’s Reproductive Health**

“Although a majority of independents and nearly three-quarters of Republicans want Obamacare repealed, overall the district supports implementing Obamacare, thanks to the support of 80 percent of Democrats,” Greenberg said. “Voters overwhelmingly side with the President on eliminating tax cuts for the wealthy and on issues such as Medicare, Social Security, and women’s reproductive health.”

**Obama Has Large 14-Point Lead Over Romney**

“Obama leads Romney 53-39 percent, supported by 88 percent of Democrats and 17 percent of Republicans. Independents are evenly divided with 44 percent each supporting Romney and Obama. Obama is viewed favorably by 55 percent of voters and Romney is viewed unfavorably by the same percentage,” Greenberg said.

“After 26 years in Congress, Louise remains very popular with the voters of Monroe County. And Maggie, the County Executive, is also viewed favorably by the voters, but not quite as favorably. Slaughter has a 10-point lead and is above 50 percent. She also has other advantages – party enrollment, support for her candidate at the top of the ticket, and support for the Democrats’ positions on major issues. With millions being spent by the campaigns and the parties to woo voters and nearly six weeks left, this race is far from over but Brooks will not have an easy job in trying to unseat a popular incumbent,” Greenberg said.

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This Siena College 25<sup>th</sup> C.D. survey was conducted September 24-26, 2012 by telephone calls to 634 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](http://www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY).