



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/sri

For Immediate Release:

Sunday, November 4, 2012

Contact:

Steven Greenberg (518) 469-9858

PDF version; crosstabs; website:

www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY

Buffalo News/WGRZ-TV/Siena College 27th Congressional District Poll: **Collins v. Hochul Remains Neck and Neck in Final Days** Close in August, Tied in October, Razor Thin Heading to Polls *House Race Within 1 Point, Even as Romney Leads Obama by 13*

Loudonville, NY. Just days until Western New Yorkers cast their ballots, the race between Democratic Representative Kathy Hochul and her Republican challenger, Chris Collins, remains too close to call as Collins has the support of 48 percent of likely voters and Hochul has the support of 47 percent, according to a Buffalo News/WGRZ-TV/Siena College Research Institute poll of likely 27th C.D. voters released today.

Collins and Hochul were tied at 47 percent each in October and Collins had a tiny 47-45 percent advantage in August. Mitt Romney continues to lead President Obama, now 55-42 percent, up a little from 51-42 percent in September.

“Wow. Amazing. Those are the best words to describe both the closeness of this race and the consistency of the voters over the last 11 weeks, in the face of a fiercely contested campaign where millions of dollars were spent to influence their opinions and garner their support,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“Over the course of three Buffalo News/WGRZ-TV/Siena College polls, Collins’ support has gone from 47 percent to 48 percent, and Hochul’s has gone from 45 percent to 47 percent,” Greenberg

said. “In the last month Hochul’s support among Democrats inched up two points, her lead among independents was unchanged, and Collins’ support among Republicans edged up four points.”

If the election was today, who would you vote for?				
		Kathy Hochul	Chris Collins	Don't Know/ Not Voting
27th CD	Nov. 4	47%	48%	5%
	Oct. 7	47%	47%	6%
	Aug. 19	45%	47%	8%
<i>Democrats</i>	Nov. 4	79%	17%	4%
	Oct. 7	77%	19%	4%
	Aug. 19	80%	12%	8%
<i>Republicans</i>	Nov. 4	19%	77%	4%
	Oct. 7	21%	73%	5%
	Aug. 19	21%	74%	6%
<i>Independents</i>	Nov. 4	50%	42%	8%
	Oct. 7	50%	42%	8%
	Aug. 19	41%	47%	12%
Erie County	Nov. 4	46%	52%	3%
	Oct. 7	51%	45%	4%
	Aug. 19	47%	47%	6%
All other counties	Nov. 4	48%	45%	7%
	Oct. 7	44%	48%	8%
	Aug. 19	44%	46%	10%
Siena College Poll – November 4, 2012				

“In Erie County, where Hochul had led by six points last month, Collins now has a six-point lead. And in the other counties of the district, Hochul has a slim three-point lead, where Collins had previously led by four points,” Greenberg said. “A small but noticeable gender gap remains with Collins leading among men by nine points – it was seven – and Hochul leading with women by six points, up one point from last month.

Hochul is viewed favorably by 47 percent of voters and unfavorably by 48 percent, down from last month’s 47-39 percent and 52-33 percent in August. Collins’ favorability rating remains positive and has moved less than Hochul’s. He has a 50-43 percent favorability rating, compared to 46-40 percent last month and 48-33 percent in August.

Only 45 percent of voters say they want to re-elect Hochul, while a majority, 51 percent would prefer ‘someone else.’ That’s down from 44-44 percent last month and 45-40 percent in August.

“Hochul has taken a bigger hit from voters over the course of the campaign, having started with a better favorability rating than Collins and now it’s weaker,” Greenberg said. “However, both candidates’ favorability ratings are equally strong with their own party and nearly evenly split among independents.”

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of?				
		Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Kathy Hochul	Nov. 4	47%	48%	5%
	Oct. 7	47%	39%	14%
	Aug. 19	52%	33%	15%
Chris Collins	Nov. 4	50%	43%	8%
	Oct. 7	46%	40%	14%
	Aug. 19	48%	33%	19%
Andrew Cuomo	Nov. 4	69%	27%	4%
	Oct. 7	NA	NA	NA
	Aug. 19	66%	29%	5%
Mitt Romney	Nov. 4	57%	41%	3%
	Oct. 7	51%	44%	5%
	Aug. 19	51%	44%	5%
Bill Clinton	Nov. 4	55%	43%	3%
	Oct. 7	NA	NA	NA
	Aug. 19	NA	NA	NA
Barack Obama	Nov. 4	44%	55%	2%
	Oct. 7	44%	52%	4%
	Aug. 19	42%	56%	2%
Siena College Poll – November 4, 2012				

Romney Extends Lead Over Obama to 13 Points

“In this district with an eight-point Republican enrollment edge, Romney extended his lead over Obama to 55-42 percent, up from 51-42 percent last month,” Greenberg said. “Romney’s favorability rating also improved from seven points net positive to 16 points, as Obama’s fell from eight to 11 points net negative.”

“For those who like a Bills game with lots of action, heavy hitting and a nail-biting finish, this race is right up your alley. And we’re down to the two-day warning. Both campaigns are looking for that final Hail Mary pass to help them reach their goal. And both campaigns are aiming for a strong end game to get their voters to the polls on Tuesday. Voting won’t go into overtime but it wouldn’t shock me if counting does,” Greenberg said.

###

This Buffalo News/WGRZ-TV/Siena College 27th C.D. survey was conducted October 31 – November 1, 2012 by telephone calls to 636 likely voters. A 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. 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.



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/sri

Buffalo News/WGRZ-TV/Siena College 27th CD Poll Trends – 11/4/12

Q. 2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 4	47	48	5
October 7	47	39	14
August 19	52	33	15

Q. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chris Collins?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 4	50	43	8
October 7	46	40	14
August 19	48	33	19

Q. 10 If the election for Member of Congress from the 27th Congressional district was held today, who would you vote for?

DATE	HOCHUL	COLLINS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NOT VOTING
November 4	47	48	5
October 7	47	47	6
August 19	45	47	8

Q. 9 Kathy Hochul is running for re-election to be a Member of Congress. As things stand now, would you vote to re-elect her or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 4	45	51	5
October 7	44	44	12
August 19	45	40	14

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 4	44	55	2
October 7	44	52	4
August 19	42	56	2

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mitt Romney?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 4	57	41	3
October 7	51	44	5
August 19	51	44	5

Q. 8 If the 2012 election for President was held today, who would you vote for?

DATE	OBAMA	ROMNEY	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NOT VOTING
November 4	42	55	3
October 7	42	51	7
August 19	41	53	5

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 4	69	27	4
August 19	66	29	5

Q. 1 Is the United States on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

DATE	RIGHT TRACK	WRONG DIRECTION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 4	38	56	5
October 7	35	58	7
August 19	31	64	6