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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Buffalo News/WGRZ-TV/Siena College 27th Congressional District Poll:

Collins v. Hochul: Tied at 47 Percent Each

Tight Race in August Becomes Even Tighter in October *Race Even Despite District Favoring Romney & Rep. Control of House*

Loudonville, NY. With just over four weeks until Election Day, Democratic incumbent Representative Kathy Hochul and her Republican challenger Chris Collins are in a dead-even tie, with 47 percent of likely voters saying they plan to vote for each, according to a Buffalo News/WGRZ-TV/Siena College Research Institute poll of likely 27th C.D. voters released today.

Mitt Romney leads President Obama 51-42 percent (little changed from 53-41 percent in August). By a margin of 53-41 percent (virtually unchanged from 54-40 percent), voters want to see Republicans control the House of Representatives.

“In seven weeks since the last Buffalo News/WGRZ-TV/Siena College poll, the race for Congress is largely unchanged,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “What was a 47-45 percent race favoring Collins is now a dead-even contest with 47 percent of likely voters supporting each candidate.

“Both candidates continue to do well with voters in their own party, however, independent voters have flipped, now giving Hochul an eight-point lead after previously favoring

Collins by six points. Erie County provides Hochul with a six-point edge after being even, while the other counties favor Collins 48-44 percent, up slightly from 46-44 percent. The gender gap has narrowed as Collins had led men by 16 points and now leads by seven, and Hochul had led women by 12 points and now leads by five,” Greenberg said.

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

Hochul is viewed favorably by 47 percent of voters and unfavorably by 39 percent, down from 52-33 percent in August. Collins favorability rating is very similar at 46-40 percent, down from 48-33 percent in August.

On the generic re-elect question, 44 percent of voters say they want to re-elect Hochul and 44 percent would prefer ‘someone else.’ That’s down a little from 45-40 percent in August.

“Both candidates have taken a little bit of a hit from the campaign and have seen their favorability ratings drop, although they both remain in positive territory – at least for the moment,” Greenberg said. “When it comes to who to blame for negative campaigning, voters are closely divided with 34 percent saying Collins has been waging the more negative campaign, 30 percent saying it’s Hochul and 11 percent blaming both.”

Voters Continue to Favor Collins on Most Issues

“By double digit margins, voters say Collins will do a better job than Hochul on fixing the economy, jobs and the federal budget deficit,” Greenberg said. “Voters are divided between the two candidates on who would be better on health care, taxes and representing the community in Washington. And voters evenly split between Hochul and Collins – 43 percent for each – on who to trust to do the ‘right thing’ on Medicare.”

Romney Lead Over Obama Tightens, Ever so Slightly

“Romney leads Obama 51-42 percent, little changed from 53-41 percent in August,” Greenberg said.

“Romney’s favorability rating is unchanged, 51-44 percent, while Obama’s remains negative, 52-44 percent, although it is slightly improved from a negative 56-42 percent in August.”

Voters Less Negative About Obamacare and Direction of Country

“Voters still prefer repeal of Obamacare rather than implementation but the margin has tightened. Repeal currently beats implementation by a 51-42 percent margin, down from 56-40 percent in August,” Greenberg said. “And while voters here still see the country headed in the wrong direction by a 58-35 percent margin that too is down, from 64-31 percent in August.

“For those who felt the race for Congress couldn’t get any closer from where it was in August, this new poll proves them wrong. Now it’s fair to say the race cannot get any closer. And it looks like independent voters are going to be the key to this race. They were with Collins. Now they’re with Hochul. Who will they be with on Election Day? The answer to that question may very well determine the winner. One thing seems certain: the race is going to be neck-and-neck for the next four weeks until Election Day,” Greenberg said.

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This Buffalo News/WGRZ-TV/Siena College 27th C.D. survey was conducted October 1-4, 2012 by telephone calls to 633 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.



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Buffalo News/WGRZ-TV/Siena College 27th CD Poll Trends – 10/7/12

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
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
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
October 7	44	44	12
August 19	45	40	14

Q. 15 Who would do a better job representing you in the United States Congress on health care – Hochul or Collins?

DATE	HOCHUL	COLLINS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NOT VOTING
October 7	44	45	11
August 19	42	44	13

Q. 17 Who would do a better job representing you in the United States Congress on jobs – Hochul or Collins?

DATE	HOCHUL	COLLINS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NOT VOTING
October 7	40	50	10
August 19	41	48	11

Q. 18 Who would do a better job representing you in the United States Congress on taxes – Hochul or Collins?

DATE	HOCHUL	COLLINS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NOT VOTING
October 7	42	46	12
August 19	39	49	12

Q. 19 Who would do a better job representing you in the United States Congress on the Federal budget deficit – Hochul or Collins?

DATE	HOCHUL	COLLINS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NOT VOTING
October 7	37	49	14
August 19	35	52	13

Q. 20 Who would do a better job representing the interests of our community in Washington – Hochul or Collins?

DATE	HOCHUL	COLLINS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NOT VOTING
October 7	47	42	11
August 19	46	42	12

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
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
October 7	42	51	7
August 19	41	53	5

Q. 13 Looking at the issue of health care and the Federal health care legislation enacted two years ago, which of the following two choices is closest to your point of view: Although it may not go far enough, I'd like to see the health care reform legislation fully implemented as soon as possible, OR I'm in favor of repealing the health care reform legislation?

DATE	IMPLEMENT	REPEAL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 7	42	51	7
August 19	40	56	4

Q. 21 Currently the Republicans have a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. Every seat is up for election in November. Would you like to see the Republicans retain control of the House or would you prefer to see the Democrats take control of the House?

DATE	REPUBLICANS	DEMOCRATS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 7	53	41	7
August 19	54	40	6

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
October 7	35	58	7
August 19	31	64	6