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Siena College 9th Congressional District Poll:

Weprin Leads Turner by 6 Points in Tight Special Election

By 2-to-1 Voters Wanted Their Representative to Vote for Debt Ceiling Law
Koch, Cuomo, Schumer Endorsements Have Impact; Newspapers Don't

Loudonville, NY. In the special election for New York's 9th Congressional District seat, Democrat David Weprin leads Republican Robert Turner 48-42 percent with five weeks until Election Day, according to a Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely 9th CD voters released today.

By a two-to-one majority, likely voters would have wanted their representative to vote for the recently passed law to increase the debt ceiling approved by Congress and the President. Voters in this Queens/Brooklyn district also overwhelmingly support (65-33 percent) raising taxes on those who earn at least \$250,000, overwhelmingly oppose (72-24percent) cuts to entitlements such as Medicare and Social Security, and they are nearly evenly divided on whether last year's federal health care legislation should be repealed, which is supported by a slim 47-44 percent margin.

When it comes to the impact of endorsements, roughly twice as many voters say an endorsement by Senator Charles Schumer, Governor Andrew Cuomo and former Mayor Ed Koch would make them more likely to support a candidate as say it would make them less likely. Endorsements by three of New York City's daily newspapers would not appear to be a help for the candidate those newspapers endorse.

"Democrat Weprin holds a small six-point lead over Republican Turner in a district where there are more than three times as many Democrats as Republicans,"

said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"While Weprin holds a two-to-one advantage over Turner with Democrats, Turner has a nearly six-to-one lead among Republicans and a slim four-point lead with independent voters. Queens

voters favor Weprin by 10 points, while Brooklyn voters, who account for about one-third of the district, support Turner by a six-point margin."

If the election was today, who would you vote for?			
	David Weprin	Robert Turner	Don't Know/ No Opinion
9th CD	48%	42%	9%
<i>Democrats</i>	61%	30%	9%
<i>Republicans</i>	14%	80%	6%
<i>Independents</i>	42%	46%	12%
Queens	50%	40%	10%
Brooklyn	43%	49%	8%

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“Men are currently evenly divided, and women give Weprin an 11-point advantage. While voters under 55-years-of-age give Weprin a big lead, voters 55 and older – a crucial voting bloc, particularly in a special election – are virtually evenly divided. Catholic voters give a big edge to Turner, while Jewish voters give an equally big edge to Weprin. At the moment, Turner voters appear to be more committed to their candidate, with 60 percent saying they are absolutely certain to support him. Only 47 percent of Weprin voters say there is no chance they will change their mind,” Greenberg said.

“Turner and Weprin have virtually identical favorability ratings, with nearly half of likely voters not knowing

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
David Weprin	31%	24%	45%
Robert Turner	31%	20%	49%
Ed Koch	69%	23%	8%
Andrew Cuomo	69%	26%	5%
Charles Schumer	62%	35%	3%
Barack Obama	45%	52%	3%
Michael Bloomberg	44%	53%	3%
John Boehner	32%	42%	26%
Anthony Weiner	27%	68%	4%
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enough about either candidate to have an opinion.

Each is viewed favorably by 31 percent of voters, with Weprin having a slightly higher unfavorable rating, 24 percent, than Turner, 20 percent,”

Greenberg said. “Weprin has a two-to-one favorable rating with Democrats and a two-to-one unfavorable rating with Republicans. More independent voters view him unfavorably than favorably. Turner is viewed favorably by a

plurality of Democrats and independents and has a four-to-one favorability rating with Republicans.

“Koch, Cuomo and Schumer have strong favorability ratings of more than 60 percent, and endorsements of candidates by those three also have the largest impact on likely voters,” Greenberg said. “Turner already has Koch’s endorsement and Weprin would like to counter that with endorsements from popular Democrats Schumer and Cuomo.

“Endorsements from the fourth estate do not appear to help the candidate being endorsed. While Democrats will be more likely to support a candidate endorsed by *The New York Times*, Republicans will be more likely to oppose that candidate. The tables are reversed when it comes to an endorsement by the *New York Post*, and voters in both parties would be unmoved by a

Would an endorsement by ____ make you more/less likely to support a candidate?			
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Effect
Charles Schumer	40%	23%	36%
Andrew Cuomo	39%	17%	43%
Ed Koch	38%	15%	45%
Barack Obama	33%	29%	37%
Michael Bloomberg	26%	23%	49%
Anthony Weiner	15%	34%	49%
New York Times	28%	23%	47%
Daily News	16%	20%	61%
New York Post	16%	27%	54%
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Daily News endorsement,” Greenberg said. “Republicans, Democrats and independents all agree, however, that an endorsement by former Congressman Anthony Weiner – who is viewed unfavorably by more than two-thirds of voters – will make them less likely to support the candidate he endorses.”

“Although voters in the 9th CD were unrepresented in the House when the vote was taken to raise the nation’s debt ceiling, by a two-to-one margin they would have wanted their representative to vote in favor of the bill. Although most New York City Democrats in Congress voted against the bill, Democratic voters here supported it by a 67-26 percent margin, while Republican voters opposed it by 39-50 percent margin. Voters supporting Turner were evenly divided, while Weprin voters overwhelmingly supported it,” Greenberg said.

“Likely voters in this district are nearly evenly divided on whether last year’s federal health care reform legislation should be repealed, with Democrats opposing repeal, independents strongly supporting repeal and Republican voters overwhelmingly supporting repeal,” Greenberg said. “Democrats, Republicans and independents are all strongly opposed to cutting entitlements to help reduce the federal deficit, however, they differ on increasing taxes on wealthier Americans to reduce the deficit, with Republicans opposing that idea and Democrats and independents strongly supporting it.

“Far and away the single most important issue likely voters want their new Member of Congress to work on when he gets to Washington is jobs, with 45 percent of voters identifying it as the top issue, including a majority of Democrats and a plurality of Republicans and independents,” Greenberg said.

“While voters here are closely divided on the direction of New York State, more than three-quarters of voters say the country is headed in the wrong direction,” Greenberg said.

“Five weeks until Election Day, and this special election is a wide open race with both candidates trying to become more known to the voters of the district and earn their support,” Greenberg said. “With a low turnout expected and limited media exposure in the nation’s most expensive media market, the test of both campaigns will be to mount strong voter identification efforts and effective get-out-the vote operations. The campaign that does a better job on those crucial campaign tasks will likely produce a victory for their candidate.

“In a district with far more Democrats than Republicans, Turner is garnering the support of nearly one-third of Democrats. He will have to do at least that well on Election Day to have a chance to win, while Weprin will need to bring Democrats ‘back home’ if he wants to crack the 50 percent mark. This figures to be an interesting five weeks, so stay tuned. Siena will take another look as Election Day nears,” Greenberg said.

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This Siena College 9th C.D. survey was conducted August 3-8, 2011 by telephone calls to 501 likely voters drawn from 1,002 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, gender and age. It has a margin of error of ± 4.4 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.