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## Siena College 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Poll:

# Turner Holds 6-Point Lead over Weprin with 4 Days To Go

## Voters View Turner Favorably & Are Evenly Divided on Weprin; Say Turner's Campaign is More Positive & Weprin's is More Negative

**Loudonville, NY.** Heading into the final days of the special election for New York's 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District seat, Republican Robert Turner has taken a 50-44 percent lead over Democrat David Weprin, according to a Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely 9<sup>th</sup> CD voters released today. In Siena College's previous poll on August 10<sup>th</sup> Weprin had led Turner 48-42 percent.

Turner is viewed favorably by 48 percent of likely voters and unfavorably by 34 percent, while Weprin has a 41-41 percent favorability rating. By a 43-32 percent margin, likely voters say Turner is running the more positive campaign, and by a similar 39-30 percent margin, they say Weprin's is the more negative campaign.

"Republican Turner heads into the final days of the campaign with a six-point lead in this heavily Democratic district after having trailed

Democrat Weprin by six points just four weeks ago," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"Turner holds a small five-point lead in the

Queens portion of the district, where he was trailing by 10 points in the previous Siena College Poll, and he has increased his lead in Brooklyn from six points previously to a now healthy 12-point bulge.

"While Turner has an overwhelming 90-6 percent lead among Republicans, Weprin has only a 63-32 percent lead among Democrats, and Turner has a 38-point lead among likely independent voters," Greenberg said.

"Currently, Turner enjoys a slightly larger lead among independent voters than Weprin has with Democrats. Weprin needs to find a way to win a larger share of Democratic and independent voters if he's going to turn the race back around in the final days."

If the election was today, who would you vote for?						
	Siena College Poll September 9			Siena College Poll August 10		
	David Weprin	Robert Turner	Don't Know/ No Opinion	David Weprin	Robert Turner	Don't Know/ No Opinion
<b>9<sup>th</sup> CD</b>	44%	<b>50%</b>	6%	<b>48%</b>	42%	9%
<i>Democrats</i>	<b>63%</b>	32%	5%	<b>61%</b>	30%	9%
<i>Republicans</i>	6%	<b>90%</b>	4%	14%	<b>80%</b>	6%
<i>Independents</i>	27%	<b>65%</b>	7%	42%	<b>46%</b>	12%
Queens	44%	<b>49%</b>	7%	<b>50%</b>	40%	10%
Brooklyn	42%	<b>54%</b>	5%	43%	<b>49%</b>	8%

Siena College Poll – September 9, 2011

“Turner leads among men by 16 points, while the two candidates are tied among women,” Greenberg said. “In a big turnaround over the last four weeks, Turner leads among voters under 55-years-old by 11 points, after having trailed among those voters by 15 points. There was smaller movement among voters 55-years-old and older, who now support Turner 49-45 percent and had supported Weprin 46-45 percent. Weprin’s lead among Jewish voters, about one-third of likely voters, fell from 21 points to six points.

“Weprin voters are slightly more committed to their candidate, with 82 percent saying there is no chance they will change their mind, while 76 percent of Turner voters say they are absolutely certain to stick with him,” Greenberg said.

“Turner and Weprin had virtually identical favorability ratings in the last Siena Poll, however, now, with both

<b>Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...</b>						
	<b>Siena College Poll September 9</b>			<b>Siena College Poll August 10</b>		
	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Don't Know/ No Opinion</b>	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Don't Know/ No Opinion</b>
David Weprin	<b>41%</b>	<b>41%</b>	18%	31%	24%	<b>45%</b>
Robert Turner	<b>48%</b>	34%	19%	31%	20%	<b>49%</b>
Andrew Cuomo	<b>75%</b>	19%	7%	<b>69%</b>	26%	5%
Barack Obama	43%	<b>54%</b>	3%	45%	<b>52%</b>	3%
John Boehner	30%	<b>45%</b>	25%	32%	<b>42%</b>	26%
<b>Siena College Poll – September 9, 2011</b>						

candidates known to more than three-quarters of likely voters, Turner is viewed favorably by a plurality of voters and voters are evenly

divided on their opinion of Weprin,” Greenberg said. “Weprin has a two-to-one favorable rating with Democrats and a six-to-one unfavorable rating with Republicans. Turner is viewed unfavorably by a plurality of Democrats, however, he has a 10-to-one favorability rating with Republicans. More than half of independent voters view Turner favorably and a similar number view Weprin unfavorably.”

“A plurality of likely voters – including three-quarters of Republicans – thinks Turner is running the more positive campaign, while by a similar margin, a plurality of voters – including nearly two-thirds of Republicans – thinks Weprin is waging the more negative campaign. Although pluralities of Democrats say Weprin is running the more positive campaign and Turner the more negative, it is well below a majority in each case. And independents see Turner as more positive and Weprin as more negative,” Greenberg said.

By a 49-38 percent margin, voters – irrespective of which candidate they support – say that Weprin is likely to win the election. Four weeks ago, voters thought Weprin would beat Turner by a margin of 56-31 percent.

“Eight percent of voters supporting Weprin believe Turner is going to win the race and 23 percent of Turner voters believe Weprin will win,” Greenberg said. “While Turner voters are less convinced that their candidate will win, Weprin winning is not seen by all voters as the inevitability it was earlier in the campaign.”

One-third of voters, including nearly half of Turner supporters, say that the candidate's position on economic recovery was the single most important factor in choosing which candidate to support. Twenty-eight percent, including nearly half of Weprin's supporters, said the candidate's position on federal entitlements, such as Social Security and Medicare, was the most important factor. The candidate's party was identified by 18 percent of voters (21 percent of Democrats and 11 percent of Republicans) as the most important factor, followed by endorsement of the candidate by a trusted source at eight percent, and the candidate's position on Israel, at only seven percent.

“While a plurality of voters says New York State is on the right track, nearly three-quarters of voters say the country is headed in the wrong direction,” Greenberg said. “The voters' mood on the direction of the country, coupled with the unfavorable rating of President Obama – particularly among Republicans and independents – makes this a tougher election for Weprin, or for any Democrat running in this district or a district like it.

“With four days until election day, this race is going down to the wire. While Turner leads and has momentum on his side, this is still a heavily Democratic district and in a low turnout special election, the campaigns' get-out-the-vote operations are going to be key. There's still a lot of campaigning yet to happen,” Greenberg said.

“Will Weprin's labor endorsements result in turning out more Weprin supporters on Tuesday? Will the endorsements by former Mayors Koch and Giuliani rev up Turner's base? Will the late infusion of national money and advertising change voters' minds or move voters who hadn't been planning on voting to come out and cast a ballot? These are all questions that will not be answered until Tuesday at 9pm,” Greenberg said

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**This Siena College 9<sup>th</sup> C.D. survey was conducted September 6-8, 2011 by telephone calls to 886 likely voters drawn from 1,543 registered active 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. The poll has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.3$  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](http://www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY).**