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Siena New York 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Poll:

## Murphy Cuts Tedisco's Lead From 12 to 4 Points

Tedisco Rated Better on 4 Issues; Murphy on 2, Including Economy

***Murphy Now Leads with Independent Voters, After Trailing 2 Weeks Ago***

Loudonville, NY. With less than three weeks until the special election in the 20<sup>th</sup> C.D., Democrat Scott Murphy has cut Republican Assembly Minority Leader James Tedisco's 12-point lead by two-thirds. Tedisco now leads the race 45-41 percent, having led two weeks ago by a 46-34 percent margin, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely voters. While two weeks ago, voters said Tedisco would do a better job than Murphy representing them on six issues, Murphy now leads on two of those issues, including the most important issue for 20<sup>th</sup> C.D. voters: the economy.

“Scott Murphy has significantly narrowed the gap against Jim Tedisco, trailing by only four points in a district that has a 15-point Republican enrollment edge,” said Steven Greenberg, spokesman for the Siena New York Poll. “Only 13 percent of voters remain undecided – down from 20 percent – and nearly 90 percent of voters say they are absolutely or fairly certain they will not change their minds.

| If the special election were held today, who would you vote for? |               |      |              |      |               |      |
|--|---------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|
|  | James Tedisco |      | Scott Murphy |      | Eric Sundwall |      |
|  | 3/12          | 2/26 | 3/12         | 2/26 | 3/12          | 2/26 |
| <b>20<sup>th</sup> CD</b>  | <b>45%</b>    | 46%  | <b>41%</b>   | 34%  | <b>1%</b>     | NA   |
| <i>Democrats</i>   | 17%           | 16%  | 72%          | 70%  | 0%            | NA   |
| <i>Republicans</i>   | 65%           | 63%  | 23%          | 18%  | 1%            | NA   |
| <i>Independents</i>  | 37%           | 45%  | 43%          | 31%  | 2%            | NA   |
| Essex/Warren/Washington  | 32%           | 36%  | 57%          | 38%  | 1%            | NA   |
| Rensselaer/Saratoga  | 51%           | 53%  | 35%          | 33%  | 1%            | NA   |
| Columbia/Delaware/Dutchess/Greene/Otsego                         | 46%           | 44%  | 39%          | 33%  | 1%            | NA   |

“Murphy continues to do a better job of holding the support of Democrats, than Tedisco does with Republicans. The big turnaround from two weeks ago, however, is among independent voters, who previously gave Tedisco a significant 45-31 percent lead, and now favor Murphy by a 43-37 percent margin,” Greenberg said. “Tedisco's leads in the Capital District and Hudson Valley fell slightly, while Murphy turned a slim two-point lead in the northern counties of the district into a now dramatic 25-point lead.”

| <b>Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...</b> |                  |             |                    |             |              |             |
|--|------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|  | <b>Favorable</b> |             | <b>Unfavorable</b> |             | <b>DK/NO</b> |             |
|  | <b>3/12</b>      | <b>2/26</b> | <b>3/12</b>        | <b>2/26</b> | <b>3/12</b>  | <b>2/26</b> |
| Kirsten Gillibrand   | 78%              | 75%         | 15%                | 15%         | 7%           | 10%         |
| Barack Obama   | 65%              | 65%         | 27%                | 22%         | 9%           | 12%         |
| Rudy Giuliani  | 63%              | NA          | 30%                | NA          | 7%           | NA          |
| James Tedisco  | 49%              | 47%         | 30%                | 20%         | 20%          | 34%         |
| David Paterson   | 41%              | 45%         | 44%                | 40%         | 15%          | 15%         |
| Scott Murphy   | 40%              | 29%         | 25%                | 10%         | 35%          | 60%         |
| Eric Sundwall  | 4%               | NA          | 7%                 | NA          | 89%          | NA          |

“Both candidates have become more known to voters over the last few weeks, as airwaves have been inundated with commercials and mailboxes have been filled with messages from both campaigns,” Greenberg said. “Tedisco remains better known, with both higher favorable and unfavorable ratings from the voters.

“Eight in ten voters have seen or heard a commercial for Murphy, while 86 percent have seen or heard a Tedisco ad. By a margin of 28-20 percent, voters say Murphy’s ads make them more likely to vote for him, with half of voters saying it has no effect on who they plan to support. Only 12 percent of those who have seen Tedisco’s commercials are more likely to support him, while 28 percent say the ads make them less likely to support Tedisco, with 58 percent saying they have had no effect,” Greenberg said.

“Voters continue to overwhelmingly think Tedisco will do a better job on homeland security. And by small margins, they also give him the edge on health care, education and bringing federal money into the district. Now, however, more voters think that Murphy will do a better job on successfully ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and on addressing the economy, which is far and away the most important issue voters want their new Member of Congress to address,” Greenberg said.

| <b>Which Candidate Would do a Better Job Representing You in the U.S. Congress on . . .</b> |                      |             |                     |             |
|---|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| <b>Issue</b>  | <b>James Tedisco</b> |             | <b>Scott Murphy</b> |             |
|   | <b>3/12</b>          | <b>2/26</b> | <b>3/12</b>         | <b>2/26</b> |
| The economy   | 38%                  | <b>34%</b>  | <b>42%</b>          | 30%         |
| Health care   | <b>39%</b>           | <b>32%</b>  | 36%                 | 28%         |
| Successfully ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan  | 29%                  | <b>29%</b>  | <b>33%</b>          | 22%         |
| Education   | <b>40%</b>           | <b>33%</b>  | 38%                 | 28%         |
| Homeland security   | <b>46%</b>           | <b>40%</b>  | 24%                 | 18%         |
| Bringing more federal money into our district   | <b>40%</b>           | <b>35%</b>  | 38%                 | 27%         |

“Nearly three weeks are left in this hard fought campaign. There’s plenty of time for voters to see more commercials and read more mail and learn more about the candidates. But this is a March 31<sup>st</sup> election and the key for the campaigns will be in identifying their voters and getting them to the polls,” Greenberg said.

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