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**Siena New York 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Poll:  
James Tedisco Has Early 46%-34% Lead Over Scott Murphy  
Voters Rate Tedisco Slightly Better on 5 Issues & Much Better on 1  
*Tedisco Strongest in Capital Region; Murphy Strongest in North Country***

**Loudonville, NY.** With nearly five weeks to go until the special election in the 20<sup>th</sup> C.D., Republican Assembly Minority Leader James Tedisco has a 46-34 percent lead over Democrat Scott Murphy, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely voters. Tedisco scores better on six specific issues, although his lead over Murphy on five issues – including the economy, the most important issue voters want their next Member of Congress to address – is in single digits. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who represented the district for more than two years, up until five weeks ago, enjoys strong support from voters of all parties.

“Jim Tedisco currently has a 12-point lead over Scott Murphy in a district that has a 15-point Republican enrollment edge,” said Steven Greenberg, spokesman for the Siena New York Poll. “And one of every five likely voters says that they have not yet made a choice in this special election. Voters from either the southern (Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Otsego Counties) or northern (Essex, Warren, Washington Counties) parts of the district, as well as independents and young voters are most likely to be currently undecided.

“So far, Murphy has done a better job of garnering the support of Democrats, 70-16 percent, than Tedisco has done with Republicans, among whom he leads 63-18 percent. Tedisco, however, has a significant 45-31 percent lead among independent voters,” Greenberg said. “While Murphy has a slim two-point lead in the northern part of the district, Tedisco has an 11-point lead in the southern part of the district and Tedisco leads by 20 points in Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties, the largest portion of the Congressional district.”

Tedisco is viewed favorably by 47 percent of voters and unfavorably by 20 percent, with 34 percent not having an opinion, while Murphy has a 29-10 percent favorable rating, with 60 percent of voters undecided.

The most important issue voters want their new Member of Congress working on in Washington is the economy (61 percent). Health care is the most important issue of 11 percent of voters, followed by successfully ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (nine percent), homeland security (seven percent), education (six percent), and bringing more Federal money into the district (three percent).

More than half of voters, 54 percent, say how the candidate will vote on key issues is the most important factor in deciding which candidate to support. The candidate’s past experience is most important to 34 percent of voters, and the candidate’s party enrollment is most important to nine percent of voters.

Voters think Tedisco will be better at representing them than Murphy on six issues by margins ranging from four percent on the economy and health care to 22 percent on homeland security.

“The economy is far and away the most important issue voters are looking to their new Congressman to address,” Greenberg said. “And when it comes to the economy,

<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>
The economy	<b>34%</b>	30%
Health care	<b>32%</b>	28%
Successfully ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan	<b>29%</b>	22%
Education	<b>33%</b>	28%
Homeland security	<b>40%</b>	18%
Bringing more federal money into our district	<b>35%</b>	27%

voters are closely divided, with 34 percent believing that Tedisco will be better and 30 percent saying Murphy will be better. Not surprisingly, on this and all the issues, Republicans are more likely to think Tedisco will be the better representative and Democrats think it will be Murphy. Independent voters believe Tedisco will be better on all of the issues, except the economy, where they rate the candidates almost evenly.”

<b>Does an endorsement from ____ make you more likely to support that candidate, less likely, or have no impact on who you support?</b>			
<b>Person/Organization</b>	<b>More Likely</b>	<b>Less Likely</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
Kirsten Gillibrand	40%	9%	49%
Barack Obama	35%	14%	49%
National Rifle Association (NRA)	21%	22%	55%
Your local newspaper	14%	14%	71%

Gillibrand, who has a 75-15 percent favorability rating, including 69-20 percent among Republicans, is the endorsement that more voters say matters most to them.

“An endorsement from the local newspaper or the NRA is very much a mixed bag, turning off as many voters as it turns on,” Greenberg

said. “A plurality of voters, however, says that a candidate endorsed by Senator Gillibrand or President Obama is more likely to help that candidate earn their support.

“Five weeks of campaigning is a long time when both candidates appear to have the resources to run very active campaigns. There are many dynamics yet to play out in this race, which is being watched by political insiders across the nation. Identifying supporters and getting those voters to the polls is key in any election where turnout is expected to be low, and it is certainly true in this special election,” Greenberg said.

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