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Contact:

Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858

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Siena New York 23rd Congressional District Poll:

Race is Too Close to Call Between Owens & Hoffman Scozzafava Campaign Appears to Collapse as She Falls Way Behind

Owens Holds 2/3 of Democrats; Hoffman Has Support from
50 Percent of Republicans and Plurality of Independent Voters

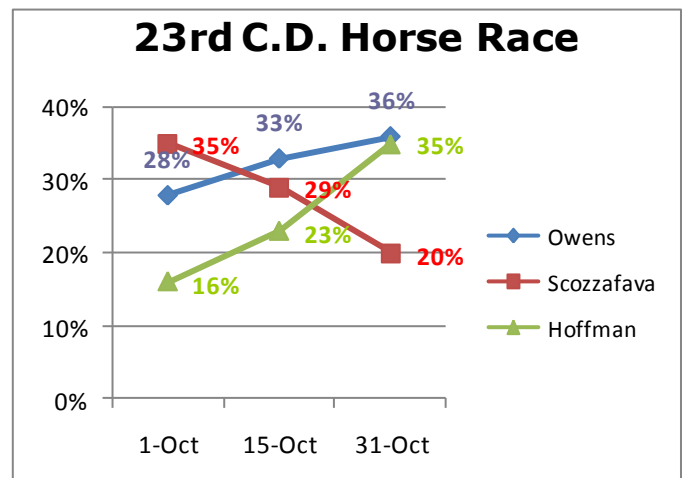
Scozzafava Strongly Unfavorable; Hoffman & Owens Slightly Favorable

Loudonville, NY. The race for the 23rd Congressional District is too close to call between Democrat Bill Owens (36 percent) and Conservative Doug Hoffman (35 percent) heading into the final days of the campaign. Republican Assembly member Dede Scozzafava has dropped to 20 percent, with nine percent of voters still undecided, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely voters.

Owens has increased his lead among Democrats, while Hoffman has taken the lead with Republicans and maintained his lead with independent voters. Hoffman has widened his lead in the southern portion of the district, as Owens' lead in the eastern part of the district has narrowed and Scozzafava's strong lead in the western portion of the district has virtually disappeared, although she maintains a narrow lead. By a 51-29 percent margin, likely voters have an unfavorable view of Scozzafava, while both Hoffman (41-37 percent) and Owens (40-36 percent) receive slightly favorable ratings from voters.

“Unfortunately for Assemblywoman Scozzafava, this has become a two person race between Owens and Hoffman,” said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg. “She now has the support of only one in five voters, having gone from 35 percent support to 20 percent support since the beginning of the month.

“While Owens has picked up three points of support over the last few weeks, Hoffman has surged going from third place and 23 percent support to now being virtually tied for the lead with 35 percent support.”



“Momentum is important in political campaigns. Heading into the final weekend of the campaign, Owens has shown slow, steady momentum, particularly with Democratic and independent voters. With the exception of Democrats, however, Hoffman has picked up considerable steam with voters of virtually every demographic, and particularly with Republican, younger and Catholic voters. He has picked up 10 points in the region he does best in, 12 points in the region Owens wins and 15 points in Scozzafava’s home territory,” Greenberg said.

If the special election were held today, who would you vote for?									
	Scozzafava			Owens			Hoffman		
	10/31	10/15	10/1	10/31	10/15	10/1	10/31	10/15	10/1
23rd CD	20%	29%	35%	36%	33%	28%	35%	23%	16%
Democrats	11%	17%	26%	66%	55%	48%	14%	10%	6%
Republicans	29%	40%	47%	13%	19%	16%	50%	27%	22%
Independents	15%	24%	26%	35%	28%	23%	40%	31%	20%
Clinton/Essex/Franklin/ Fulton/Hamilton	13%	20%	31%	46%	45%	32%	33%	21%	18%
Jefferson/Lewis/ St. Lawrence	34%	44%	53%	30%	25%	23%	28%	13%	10%
Madison/Oneida/ Oswego	12%	21%	20%	33%	31%	30%	44%	34%	20%

“Over the last five weeks, Scozzafava has gone from having one in five voters having an unfavorable view of her to now half of voters having an unfavorable view of her,” Greenberg said. “At the same time, Hoffman

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...									
	Favorable			Unfavorable			DK/NO		
	10/31	10/15	10/1	10/31	10/15	10/1	10/31	10/15	10/1
Barack Obama	59%	56%	55%	37%	40%	38%	4%	4%	6%
Doug Hoffman	41%	23%	16%	37%	15%	13%	22%	63%	71%
Bill Owens	40%	32%	23%	36%	22%	12%	24%	47%	64%
Dede Scozzafava	29%	37%	33%	51%	32%	20%	20%	31%	47%

and Owens have gone from both having roughly two-thirds of voters not knowing enough about either candidate to have an opinion to now fewer than one-quarter of voters not having

an opinion. And as the two of them are virtually tied in the horse race question, they are likewise virtually tied on their favorability ratings.”

Approximately eight in ten voters say they have seen or hear a commercial for each of the three candidates. Among those who’ve seen or heard a commercial for Scozzafava, 45 percent say it makes them less likely to support her, compared to nine percent who say it makes them more likely. Owens’ commercials have had a less negative effect with 28 percent saying it makes them less likely to support him and 20 percent saying it makes them more likely. Hoffman’s commercials have turned on as many voters, 29 percent, as they have turned off, 27 percent.

“Who will win is too close to call, however, 37 percent of voters, irrespective of who they’re supporting, say they think Owens will win, compared to 22 percent who think Hoffman will win and 20 percent who think Scozzafava will win,” Greenberg said.

“Hoffman’s voters are the most committed, with 93 percent of them saying they are absolutely (57 percent) or fairly (36 percent) certain to support their candidate on Election Day,” Greenberg said. “Eighty-four percent of Owens voters say are absolutely (53 percent) or fairly (31 percent) certain of their support. Seventy-eight percent of Scozzafava voters make the same claim, with only 39 percent saying they are absolutely certain.

“As the political eyes of the nation watch the race for Congress in northern New York, there is still a lot of time for the candidates to try to reach voters and for the campaigns to implement their get-out-the-vote operations,” Greenberg said. “In three days voters go to the polls and it is likely that whichever campaign – Owens’ or Hoffman’s – does a better job of getting their voters to the polls will be the campaign holding a victory party. Given the tightness of the race and the need to count every vote, however, including those from the military, it is certainly possible that the victory party will have to be delayed beyond Tuesday night.”

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This SRI 23rd C.D. survey was conducted October 27-29, 2009 by telephone calls to 704 likely voters. It has a margin of error of ± 3.7 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing weighted to reflect known population patterns. 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.