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For Immediate Release:

Sunday, November 2, 2008

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PDF version; crosstabs by district:

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## Siena New York State Senate Polls:

### Six Key Races Will Help Determine Control of Senate In '09

***Sen. Trunzo (R, 3<sup>rd</sup> SD) Down by More than 20 Points vs. Foley***  
***Sen. Stachowski (D, 58<sup>th</sup> SD) Reverses Gap; Opens 4-Point Lead***  
***Ranzenhofer (R, 61<sup>st</sup> SD) Opens 5-Point Lead Over Mesi***  
***Sen. Maltese (R, 15<sup>th</sup> SD) Remains Neck & Neck Against Addabbo***  
***Sen. Aubertine (D, 48<sup>th</sup> SD) Sees Lead vs. Renzi Down to 11 Points***  
***Sen. Hannon (R, 6<sup>th</sup> SD) Has Huge Advantage***

Loudonville, NY. As Republicans look to hold on to their majority in the State Senate, which currently stands at 31-29, and Democrats seek to gain the majority for the first time in more than 40 years, several key races remain very close heading into Election Day, according to Siena (College) Research Institute polls of likely voters in six Senate districts released today.

In three downstate races:

<b>SD 3</b>	<b>Foley (D)</b>		<b>Trunzo (R)</b>		<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Obama</b>	<b>McCain</b>
Nov. 2008	<b>56%</b>		34%		9%	45%	45%
Sept. 2008	40%		<b>46%</b>		14%	44%	<b>45%</b>
	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>		<b>Dem Senate</b>	<b>Rep Senate</b>
Nov. 2008	52%	29%	43%	37%		44%	41%
Sept. 2008	46%	16%	56%	17%		46%	40%
<b>SD 6</b>	<b>Hannon (R)</b>		<b>McElroy (D)</b>		<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Obama</b>	<b>McCain</b>
Nov. 2008	<b>56%</b>		30%		15%	<b>51%</b>	39%
	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>		<b>Dem Senate</b>	<b>Rep Senate</b>
Nov. 2008	54%	14%	13%	10%		47%	40%
<b>SD 15</b>	<b>Addabbo (D)</b>		<b>Maltese (R)</b>		<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Obama</b>	<b>McCain</b>
Nov. 2008	<b>45%</b>		43%		13%	<b>57%</b>	32%
Sept. 2008	42%		42%		16%	<b>49%</b>	31%
	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>		<b>Dem Senate</b>	<b>Rep Senate</b>
Nov. 2008	42%	30%	45%	33%		56%	31%
Sept. 2008	38%	20%	48%	16%		51%	32%

In three upstate races:

<b>SD 48</b>	<b>Aubertine (D)</b>		<b>Renzi (R)</b>		<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Obama</b>	<b>McCain</b>
Nov. 2008	49%		38%		13%	51%	39%
Sept. 2008	51%		31%		19%	40%	44%
	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>		<b>Dem Senate</b>	<b>Rep Senate</b>
Nov. 2008	54%	31%	40%	35%		38%	41%
Sept. 2008	58%	21%	34%	15%		38%	41%
<b>SD 58</b>	<b>Stachowski (D)</b>		<b>Delano (R)</b>		<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Obama</b>	<b>McCain</b>
Nov. 2008	47%		43%		10%	55%	37%
Oct. 2008	36%		49%		15%	45%	41%
	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>		<b>Dem Senate</b>	<b>Rep Senate</b>
Nov. 2008	50%	31%	53%	33%		53%	34%
Oct. 2008	39%	14%	63%	15%		49%	35%
<b>SD 61</b>	<b>Ranzenhofer (R)</b>		<b>Mesi (D)</b>		<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Obama</b>	<b>McCain</b>
Nov. 2008	47%		42%		11%	51%	42%
Sept. 2008	38%		40%		22%	40%	45%
	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>	<b>Fav</b>	<b>Unfav</b>		<b>Dem Senate</b>	<b>Rep Senate</b>
Nov. 2008	47%	26%	46%	37%		43%	41%
Sept. 2008	35%	12%	45%	18%		38%	44%

“With just two days until voters go to the polls, Democrat Brian Foley has reversed a six-point deficit and opened a wide 22-point lead over Sen. Caesar Trunzo in Suffolk County,” said Steven Greenberg, spokesman for the Siena New York Poll. “In Erie County, Democrat Sen. William Stachowski has reversed a 13-point deficit against challenger Dennis Delano and now has a four-point lead, while Republican Michael Ranzenhofer has turned a small two-point deficit into a five-point lead over Joseph Mesi in an open seat.

“Queens County Republican Sen. Serph Maltese who was tied with challenger Joseph Addabbo in the last Siena poll remains neck and neck with his opponent, who has a slim two-point lead. Democrat Sen. Darrel Aubertine in northern New York has seen his lead over David Renzi slip from 20 points to a current 11-point lead. And in Nassau County, Republican Sen. Kemp Hannon has a commanding 26-point lead over Kristen McElroy,” Greenberg said.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> SD – Suffolk County – Caesar Trunzo (R, incumbent) vs. Brian Foley (D)

Foley has a 56-34 percent lead over Trunzo. Trunzo led 46-40 percent in the previous Siena New York Poll. While Foley has picked up a little more support among Democrats, he has cut Trunzo’s lead among Republican voters to 53-39 percent, down dramatically from 71-16 percent. Additionally, Foley has opened up a 63-27 percent lead among independent voters, up from 43-40 percent previously.

Foley has expanded a two-point lead in Brookhaven to a 12-point lead, and reversed 12-point deficit in Islip and turned it into 30-point lead. Where Trunzo had a nine-point lead among voters 55-years of age and older, Foley now leads with those voters 52-40 percent. Foley leads by 13 points with men and 30 points with women. The only demographic group in which Trunzo leads is among Republicans.

Trunzo has seen his previously high 56-17 percent favorable/unfavorable rating shrink to 43-37 percent, while Foley's favorable rating is now 52-29 percent, from 46-16 percent previously. Trunzo is now viewed more unfavorably than favorably by Democrats, voters in Islip and voters under 35. Foley does not have a higher unfavorable rating than favorable rating with any demographic group.

Voters are evenly divided on support between Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain, with 45 percent for each. This is virtually unchanged from the last poll where McCain led 45-44 percent.

“Foley has completely reversed this race, erasing Senator Trunzo's small early lead and opening an overwhelming 22-point lead. While McCain gets 76 percent of the Republican vote, Trunzo is only getting 53 percent of Republicans. Unless Trunzo can somehow find a quick way to bring Republican voters back into his camp and narrow the gap with independent voters, he appears to be facing a deficit that cannot be made up in the short time remaining,” Greenberg said.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> SD – Nassau County – Kemp Hannon (R, incumbent) vs. Kristen McElroy (D)**

Hannon has a commanding 56-30 percent lead, in a district that is virtually evenly enrolled between Republicans and Democrats. Hannon has the support of 80 percent of Republicans and picks up the support of nearly one-third of Democrats. McElroy only wins among Democrats 55-32 percent, while only attracting support from 10 percent of Republicans. Hannon leads among independent voters 56-21 percent.

McElroy leads among young voters and those in the Council District 1 section of the Hempstead portion of the Senate district. However, Hannon has much bigger leads in the remainder of the district and has better than 60 percent among voters who are at least 35-years old.

Hannon is viewed favorably by 54 percent of voters and unfavorably by 14 percent. McElroy has a 13-10 percent favorable rating, with three-quarters of voters not having an opinion. Obama leads McCain in this district 51-39 percent.

“Senator Hannon, with the support of 56 percent of voters and a 26-point lead over his little-known opponent, appears to be heading to a strong re-election victory,” Greenberg said.

**15<sup>th</sup> SD – Queens County – Serph Maltese (R, incumbent) vs. Joseph Addabbo, Jr. (D)**

Addabbo currently has a slim 45-43 percent lead over Maltese. In the September Siena poll, the two were tied at 42 percent, in this district that has an overwhelmingly Democratic enrollment edge. Maltese has the support of more than three-quarters of Republicans and one-quarter of Democrats. Addabbo leads 61-27 percent among Democrats and picks up the support of 20 percent of Republicans. Maltese leads among independent voters 51-31 percent. Maltese leads by four points with men, while Addabbo has a seven-point lead with women. Addabbo leads in the southern part of the district and Maltese leads in the north.

Maltese is viewed favorably by 45 percent of voters and unfavorably by 33 percent of voters, down from a 48-16 percent favorable rating previously. Addabbo's favorable rating is 42-30 percent, and was previously 38-20 percent.

Obama leads McCain in this district 57-32 percent, up from 49-31 percent.

“In this district that gives a 25-point lead to Obama over McCain and an identical 25-point lead to Democratic over Republican control of the Senate, the battle for State Senator remains neck and neck. Senator Maltese held on to win a tight race in this heavily Democratic district two years ago, and it looks like the outcome this year will again not be known until the last votes are counted Tuesday night,” Greenberg said.

**48<sup>th</sup> SD – Oswego/Jefferson/St. Lawrence – Darrel Aubertine (D, incumbent) vs. David Renzi (R)**

Aubertine, who had a 51-31 percent lead over Renzi in the last poll, has seen that lead drop to 49-38 percent. Aubertine has the support of nearly three-quarters of Democrats and more than one-third of Republicans in this district with a heavy Republican enrollment edge. Renzi leads 57-35 percent with Republicans, up from 41-37 percent previously, and only gets 13 percent of Democrats. Aubertine is winning among independent voters 49-34 percent, up from 41-37 percent previously. While Renzi has erased a 20-point Aubertine lead in Oswego County, and now leads there 44-37 percent, Aubertine has widened his leads in Jefferson (25 points, up from 16) and St. Lawrence (30 points, up from 27) Counties.

Aubertine is viewed favorably by 54 percent of voters and unfavorably by 31 percent of voters, down from 58-21 percent previously. Renzi has a 40-35 percent favorability rating; previously it was 34-15 percent.

While McCain had a four-point lead in the last poll, Obama now leads 51-39 percent.

“Senator Aubertine continues to have a double digit lead and a significantly better favorability rating than his opponent. Despite the overwhelming Republican enrollment advantage and the desire of a small plurality of voters to see the Senate remain in Republican control, Aubertine has a considerable lead as this campaign draws to a close,” Greenberg said.

**58<sup>th</sup> SD – Erie County – William Stachowski (D, incumbent) vs. Dennis Delano (R)**

Stachowski now has a 47-43 percent lead over Delano, after trailing 49-36 percent in the previous Siena poll in this district where Democrats have a better than two-to-one enrollment edge. Stachowski has increased his lead among Democrats to 62-30 percent (up from 51-34 percent). Delano maintains a 63-25 percent lead among Republicans (virtually unchanged from 64-23 percent) and has seen his lead among independent voters fall to 54-36 percent, down from 67-19 percent.

Whereas Delano led in all three sections of the district previously, Stachowski now leads 47-37 percent in Buffalo/Lackawanna, 48-45 percent in Cheektowaga, and 47-44 percent in the southern suburbs. Stachowski has a 12-point lead with men, while Delano has a two-point lead with women. Delano has a significant lead with Protestants. Stachowski leads with Catholics, and has a big lead among younger voters.

Stachowski has a 50-31 percent favorable rating. It had been 39-14 percent. Delano's favorable rating, 53-33 percent, is down from 63-15 percent. Delano continues to have a positive favorable rating with voters of every party, while Stachowski has increased his favorability among Democrats but lost ground with independent voters and saw his favorability among Republicans drop from 35-12 percent to 29-50 percent.

More than half of voters would like to see the Senate controlled by Democrats, and Obama has opened 55-37 percent lead over McCain, up from 45-41 percent previously.

“Senator Stachowski has turned this race around. In four weeks he has erased a 13-point deficit and turned it into a tight four-point lead. Where Delano previously had a much better favorable rating with voters, the two are now viewed by voters in virtually the same light. We will have to wait until Election Day to see if Stachowski continues his momentum to win re-election, or if Delano can turn this race back around again and defeat a 27-year incumbent in this overwhelmingly Democratic district,” Greenberg said.

**61<sup>st</sup> SD – Erie and Genesee Counties – Michael Ranzenhofer (R) vs. Joseph Mesi (D)**

Ranzenhofer has a 47-42 percent lead over Mesi, who had a slimmer 40-38 percent lead in the previous Siena poll, in this district where Republicans have a very small enrollment edge over Democrats. Ranzenhofer leads among Republicans 69-25 percent, up from 59-21 percent. Mesi leads among Democrats 62-29 percent, closer than the previous 63-19 percent. Mesi leads among independent voters 42-37 percent, although Ranzenhofer closed the gap from 43-28 percent. Mesi leads in Tonawanda by seven points (down from 10). Ranzenhofer leads in the Clarence/Newstead/Genesee County portions of the district by 15 points (up from two points), and in Amherst by three points (up a tick from two points).

Ranzenhofer has a 47-26 percent favorable rating, compared to 35-12 percent previously. Mesi's favorable rating is 46-37 percent, compared to 45-18 percent in the previous Siena poll.

While the race has shifted seven points from Mesi to Ranzenhofer, a reverse trend occurred on the question of who voters support to control the Senate. Previously, voters supported Republican control by a 44-38 percent margin, while now a slim plurality, 43-41 percent, support Democratic control. The presidential race also flipped, with McCain's 45-40 percent lead now becoming a 51-42 percent lead for Obama.

“This district is close in enrollment between Republicans and Democrats. The voters are close in their view on which party should control the Senate. The voters have switched their support from McCain to Obama over the last few weeks. And a small Mesi lead has turned into a slightly wider Ranzenhofer lead. Which party's voters turn out in larger numbers on Tuesday may well determine the outcome of this race. Either way, it figures to be a late night as the votes get counted in this race,” Greenberg said.

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**These SRI surveys were conducted from October 29 – November 1, 2008 by telephone calls to likely registered voters in each State Senate district. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> SD, 401 voters were called, with a margin of error of  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points. For the 6<sup>th</sup> SD, 410 voters were called, margin of error  $\pm 4.8$ . For the 15<sup>th</sup> SD, 405 voters were called, margin of error  $\pm 4.9$ . For the 48<sup>th</sup> SD, 454 voters were called, margin of error  $\pm 4.6$ . For the 58<sup>th</sup> SD, 405 voters were called, margin of error  $\pm 4.9$ . For the 61<sup>st</sup> SD, 408 voters were called, margin of error  $\pm 4.9$ . Data was statistically adjusted by respondent age to match likely voters. For more information, please call Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858. Cross-tabulations and frequencies for these six polls can be found at: [www.Siena.edu/SRI](http://www.Siena.edu/SRI).**