

Polling confirms expectations

By: DAVID LEVINSKY Burlington County Times

An independent poll predicts incumbent Congressman Rob Andrews will cruise to victory in next week's congressional election.

Released Monday, the Stockton/Zogby poll had Andrews leading Republican Dale Glading 63 percent to 22 percent among voters in the 1st Congressional District, which is made up of large parts of Camden and Gloucester counties and the towns of Maple Shade, Palmyra and Riverton in Burlington County.

Andrews, a Democrat from Haddon Heights, is seeking a 12th term representing the district. Glading, a Baptist minister and executive director of the Moorestown-based Saints Prison Ministry, is making his second bid to unseat him. Glading was defeated by a large margin two years ago.

The poll results were based on a survey of 400 voters in the district between Oct. 18 and 22. It has a 5 percent margin of error.

A September Stockton poll in the district had Andrews leading Glading 59 percent to 24 percent.

The district is traditionally Democratic-leaning and the poll found that 69 percent of district voters have a favorable opinion of President Barack Obama, while only 45 percent view Republican Gov. Chris Christie favorably.

By comparison, in the 3rd District, which is made up of large parts of Burlington and Ocean counties along with Cherry Hill in Camden County, Obama was viewed favorably by 52 percent of those surveyed, Christie by 59 percent.

In that district, Democratic incumbent John Adler was polling slightly behind Republican challenger Jon Runyan.

In the 2nd District, which is made up largely of Atlantic, Cumberland, Salem and Cape May counties; parts of Gloucester County; and Washington and Shamong in Burlington County, Republican incumbent Frank LoBiondo leads Democrat Gary Stein 57 percent to 20 percent.

Sharon Schulman, executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, said the poll results aren't surprising considering the districts' political leanings.

"Despite the potential upheaval in elections across the country, South Jersey's three congressional districts are actually following traditional voting patterns," Schulman said. "Longtime incumbents Congressmen LoBiondo and Andrews look likely to be returned to Congress by voters in what are considered safe districts. Fi