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Hughes Center at Richard Stockton College Polls South Jersey on U.S. Senate Primary

Support Mixed in Congressional Districts 1 through 4

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Galloway Twp., NJ – Based on results of an April 22 to 24 survey of 1,005 likely Democratic voters in Congressional Districts 1 through 4 conducted by Zogby International on behalf of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Richard Stockton College, Southern New Jersey Congressman Rob Andrews outpolls Senator Frank Lautenberg, 37% to 28% (with a margin of error of + 3.2 percent).

“This really comes as no surprise,” says Hughes Center Director Sharon Schulman. “After all, Congressman Andrews is a South Jersey guy from Camden County.”

However, many surprises did emerge in the survey released today. When the Congressional Districts are looked at individually, Andrews is supported approximately 4 to 1 in his home district as well as the 4th Congressional District. The results of the 2nd and 3rd Congressional Districts still have Andrews slightly ahead but within the margin of error of the poll.

When looked at by the larger counties, Lautenberg holds a substantial lead in Ocean County and a small lead in Burlington County. Andrews flips this around in his home counties of Camden and Gloucester.

Both candidates have positive job ratings. Half believe it is time for someone else to take over Lautenberg’s senate seat, but 37% believe he should be re-elected. Similarly, half said that if they knew he was going to be 85 when his new term started it would make them less likely to vote for him. Yet 34% said it would make no difference.

Both Andrews and Lautenberg hold overwhelming support compared to the third Democratic candidate, Donald Cresitello.

When matched to the Republican candidates, Dick Zimmer, Joe Pennachio and Murray Sabrin, it is no surprise that both Democratic candidates receive immense support from Democrats (more than 70%). This changes when the Independent/Unaffiliated people who identified themselves as likely Democratic voters are polled and the percentages drop to 40 to 58, depending upon the combination.

Similar to other recent polls, likely southern NJ Democratic voters believe the top two issues facing the country today are jobs and the economy (60%) followed by the war in Iraq (50%). A strong third are the 27% who rank health care very highly. And 83% believe the country is on the wrong track.

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