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# Hughes Center Poll: 1<sup>st</sup> District Voters Favor Democrats Van Drew Leads DeWeese by Wide Margin

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**Galloway, NJ**— Likely voters in the 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative District favor the incumbent Democrats over their Republican challengers, according to the Richard Stockton College/Zogby Poll commissioned by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Democratic incumbent State Senator Jeff Van Drew leads his Republican challenger David DeWeese 56% to 23% with only 19% not sure.

“Senator Van Drew’s high favorability rating, coupled with voters’ lack of familiarity with Mr. DeWeese, puts Senator Van Drew in a good position at this point in the race. However, Mr. DeWeese has over a month to campaign and raise his profile with voters,” said Daniel J. Douglas, Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Van Drew’s favorability rating is 71%, while DeWeese is unfamiliar to 70% of the likely voters.

Democratic incumbent Assemblymen Nelson T. Albano and Matthew Milam lead their Republican challengers Suzanne M. Waters and Samuel L. Fiocchi. Albano garnered the most of the voters polled with 47%, followed by Milam at 39%, Walters at 32% and Fiocchi at 28%.

“All of the Republican challengers improved considerably from the Hughes Center’s polling conducted in May 2011,” Douglas explained.

When asked about whether New Jersey was headed in the right direction or was on the wrong track, 1<sup>st</sup> District voters were split with 45% responding that the state was headed in the right direction while 44% thought New Jersey was on the wrong track.

Opinions of President Barack Obama were similarly split, with 49% viewing him favorably and 50% viewing him unfavorably.

Governor Chris Christie was viewed favorably by 52% of those polled, while 45% viewed him unfavorably.

K-12 education, healthcare, senior citizen programs and economic development were identified as the top four New Jersey state budget areas that should receive priority funding.

The Stockton-Zogby poll\* of 600 likely voters in the new 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative District was conducted from September 20 – 27. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4.1%.

1<sup>st</sup>