



Hughes Center Poll: 1st District Voters Still Favor Democrats Van Drew Leads DeWeese by 18%

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Galloway, NJ— Likely voters in the 1st Legislative District still 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.

The State Senate race between Democrat Jeff Van Drew and Republican challenger David DeWeese is now somewhat closer than the latest Stockton College/Zogby Poll in September when Van Drew led DeWeese 56 percent to 23 percent with only 19 percent unsure. In the current poll, Van Drew leads DeWeese 49 percent to 30.5 percent, with 17 percent not sure and 3 percent supporting someone else.

“Mr. DeWeese has managed to make the race somewhat closer over the course of the last five weeks. He is still faced with the daunting task of converting every ‘not sure’ or ‘someone else’ to get the race close,” said Daniel J. Douglas, Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Democratic incumbent Assemblymen Nelson T. Albano and Matthew Milam lead their Republican challengers Suzanne M. Waters and Samuel L. Fiocchi. Albano garnered the largest percentage of the voters polled with 50 percent, followed by Milam at 42 percent, Walters at 29.5 percent and Fiocchi at 31 percent.

Albano, Milam and Fiocchi all moved up by slightly more than 3 percent, while Walters went down 3 percent. All the movement was in the margin of error, leaving the Assembly races largely unchanged from the previous poll.

When asked about whether New Jersey was headed in the right direction or was on the wrong track, 1st District voters were slightly more optimistic with 48 percent responding that the state was headed in the right direction and 38 percent thinking New Jersey was on the wrong track. In the September poll, 1st District voters were split 45 percent / 44 percent on the same question.

President Barack Obama improved his standing slightly with 51 percent viewing him favorably and 48 percent viewing him unfavorably. In the last poll, President Obama was split 49 percent favorable and 50 percent unfavorable.

Gov. Chris Christie also gained ground and was viewed favorably by 57 percent of those polled, while 41 percent viewed him unfavorably. This is an improvement of the 52 percent favorable to 45 unfavorable ratings from the poll conducted in late September.

The Stockton-Zogby poll* of 600 likely voters in the new 1st Legislative District was conducted from Oct. 30 – Nov. 2, 2011. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percent.

1st LD Senate Race				1st LD Assembly Race			
Candidate	May	Sept	Nov	Candidate	May	Sept	Nov
	%	%	%		%	%	%
Jeff Van Drew	59	56	49.2	Nelson T. Albano	46	47	50.1
David DeWeese	11	23	30.5	Matthew Milam	36	39	42.4
Someone else	1	2	3.3	Suzanne M. Walters	13	32	29.5
Not sure	25	19	17.0	Samuel Fiocchi	9	28	31
				Someone else	1	2	3.8
				Not sure	36	21	16.3

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the political, economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey.

** IBOPE Zogby International is a non-partisan, premier global public opinion polling and market research firm that offers timely, accurate results and in-depth analysis and insights. IBOPE Zogby International was formed in January 2010 following the acquisition of Zogby International by IBOPE Inteligencia of Brazil, a subsidiary of IBOPE Group. Please visit www.ibopezogby.com for more information on IBOPE Zogby International.*