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DELAWARE: O'DONNELL CUTS COONS' EDGE

Senate margin now 10 points; Little change in House race

In the past two weeks, Republican Christine O'Donnell has narrowed Democrat Chris Coons' lead in Delaware's U.S. Senate race from 19 points to 10 points. The latest *Monmouth University Poll* finds Coons has the support of 51% of likely voters to 41% for O'Donnell. Two weeks ago, this race stood at 57% to 38%.

O'Donnell has actually pulled into a 49% to 43% lead in the southern part of the state (i.e. Kent and Sussex counties). Two weeks ago, this region of the state was divided at 47% for O'Donnell and 46% for Coons. The Democrat continues to hold a sizable advantage in New Castle County, but the current 56% to 36% margin is down from the 63% to 33% edge he held earlier this month.

O'Donnell has also made gains among independent voters, now leading Coons 47% to 42% among this voting bloc. Two weeks ago, she trailed in the independent vote by 51% to 41%.

"While Coons still has the advantage, it has to be uncomfortable knowing that O'Donnell was able to shave 9 points off his lead in just two weeks. The interesting thing is that while her vote total has risen, the majority of Delaware voters still say she is unqualified for the post," said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

The poll found that just 35% of likely voters in Delaware feel that Christine O'Donnell is qualified to be a U.S. Senator, while 56% say she is unqualified. That contrasts with their opinion of Chris Coons, who 65% say is qualified for the U.S. Senate to 25% unqualified. These qualification results for O'Donnell and Coons are basically identical to the Monmouth University Poll results from two weeks ago.

However, O'Donnell has seen some improvement in voters' opinion of her personally, while Coons' rating has dropped. O'Donnell is now viewed favorably by 34% of the electorate and unfavorably by 51%. Two weeks ago, this stood at 31% favorable to 58% unfavorable. Coons has a 45% favorable to 39% unfavorable rating, compared to a 50% favorable to 33% unfavorable rating two weeks ago.

While the Senate election has experienced some movement, there has been little change in the race for Delaware's at-large House seat. The poll finds Democrat John Carney holding a 51% to 44% lead over Republican Glen Urquhart in the race to fill the vacant House seat. That marks a slight narrowing of the gap from Carney's 53% to 44% margin two weeks ago.

Delaware voters' personal ratings for the two major party House candidates have remained fairly stable. Carney has a 46% favorable to 28% unfavorable rating, with 26% offering no opinion. Urquhart has a 38% favorable to 27% unfavorable rating, with 35% offering no opinion.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone with 1171 likely voters from October 25 to 27, 2010. This sample has a margin of error of ± 2.9 percent.

DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

1. If the election for United States Senator from Delaware were today, would you vote for Christine O'Donnell the Republican, Chris Coons the Democrat, or some other candidate? [At this moment, do you lean toward Christine O'Donnell or lean toward Chris Coons?] [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Christine O'Donnell	41%	10%	47%	71%	48%	34%	35%	43%	42%
Chris Coons	51%	85%	42%	19%	43%	57%	52%	50%	51%
Other	4%	2%	6%	5%	5%	4%	8%	4%	2%
Undecided	4%	3%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	2%	6%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

2. If the election for United States House of Representatives from Delaware were today, would you vote for Glen Urquhart the Republican, John Carney the Democrat, or some other candidate? [At this moment, do you lean toward Glen Urquhart or John Carney?] [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Glen Urquhart	44%	9%	47%	82%	51%	37%	45%	42%	44%
John Carney	51%	88%	46%	12%	45%	57%	47%	54%	51%
Other	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	5%	1%	2%
Undecided	3%	2%	4%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%	4%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

[QUESTIONS 3 AND 4 WERE ROTATED]

3. Is your general opinion of Christine O'Donnell favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of Christine O'Donnell?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	34%	10%	34%	63%	40%	28%	31%	36%	34%
Unfavorable	51%	76%	49%	24%	45%	57%	51%	51%	51%
No opinion	15%	14%	17%	14%	15%	15%	18%	13%	15%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

4. Is your general opinion of Chris Coons favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of Chris Coons?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	45%	76%	37%	18%	40%	50%	39%	47%	46%
Unfavorable	39%	12%	45%	65%	46%	32%	35%	40%	39%
No opinion	16%	13%	19%	17%	14%	18%	26%	13%	15%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

[QUESTIONS 5 AND 6 WERE ROTATED]

5. Is your general opinion of Glen Urquhart favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of Glen Urquhart?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	38%	11%	41%	70%	46%	31%	34%	39%	41%
Unfavorable	27%	46%	22%	9%	23%	30%	22%	30%	26%
No opinion	35%	43%	38%	21%	31%	38%	45%	32%	33%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

6. Is your general opinion of John Carney favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of John Carney?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	46%	74%	41%	17%	42%	50%	34%	51%	46%
Unfavorable	28%	8%	31%	48%	35%	21%	29%	26%	29%
No opinion	26%	18%	28%	35%	23%	29%	37%	23%	25%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

7. Is your general opinion of Mike Castle favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of Mike Castle?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	57%	65%	57%	47%	54%	59%	55%	58%	56%
Unfavorable	29%	15%	29%	45%	35%	23%	26%	30%	29%
No opinion	15%	20%	14%	8%	11%	18%	18%	12%	15%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

[QUESTIONS 8 AND 9 WERE ROTATED]

8. Is Christine O'Donnell qualified or unqualified to be a United States Senator?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Qualified	35%	11%	37%	60%	41%	28%	35%	34%	35%
Unqualified	56%	84%	51%	29%	50%	63%	55%	56%	57%
Not sure	9%	5%	11%	11%	9%	9%	10%	9%	8%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

9. Is Chris Coons qualified or unqualified to be a United States Senator?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Qualified	65%	85%	64%	44%	63%	68%	69%	67%	63%
Unqualified	25%	8%	25%	45%	29%	21%	22%	24%	27%
Not sure	10%	6%	11%	12%	8%	11%	9%	9%	10%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Approve	43%	79%	36%	9%	37%	50%	40%	46%	43%
Disapprove	49%	14%	56%	85%	56%	42%	52%	47%	50%
Not sure	7%	7%	9%	6%	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

11. Who would you rather see in control of Congress next year – the Democrats, the Republicans, or does it make no difference?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Democrats	38%	77%	26%	5%	31%	45%	33%	42%	36%
Republicans	40%	7%	40%	82%	49%	32%	40%	39%	42%
No difference	22%	16%	34%	13%	20%	24%	26%	19%	21%
Unwtd N	1171	436	389	342	672	499	201	344	621

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, New Jersey. The poll was conducted on October 25-27, 2010 with a random sample of 1,171 likely voters in Delaware. The sample was drawn from a list of households with voters who cast ballots in at least two of the last four general elections and further screened for those who say they are either “certain” or “likely” to vote in this November’s election. Interviews were conducted using both automated voice interviewing services provided by Survey USA (n=769) and live interviews provided by Braun Research, Inc. (n=402). The voter list was obtained from Aristotle, Inc.

For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported by gender or party identification, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS				
Likely Voter Sample (weighted)				
Party Registration	Self-Reported Party ID	Gender	Age	Race
43% Democrat	36% Democrat	49% Male	20% 18-44	87% White, non-Hispanic
37% Republican	30% Republican	51% Female	38% 45-59	13% Other
20% Other	34% Independent		42% 60+	

Note: self-reported identification may differ from party of registration

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