



Please attribute this information to:

Monmouth University Poll

West Long Branch, NJ 07764

www.monmouth.edu/polling

For immediate release:
Thursday, October 14, 2010

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PENNSYLVANIA CD08: MURPHY v. FITZPATRICK

Republican leads in bid to retake seat

In a rematch of the 2006 election for Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, Republican Mike Fitzpatrick holds a 5 point lead over incumbent Democrat Patrick Murphy. The *Monmouth University Poll* finds Fitzpatrick leading Murphy by 51% to 46% among likely voters in this district.

Murphy has served two terms in the House and originally attained the seat by defeating the then-freshman incumbent Fitzpatrick by just 1,500 votes. Murphy went on to win re-election by 15 points in 2008.

"This district has a history of bringing back formerly defeated Congressmen. Democrat Peter Kostmayer did it in 1982 and Republican Mike Fitzpatrick may do it again in 2010," said Patrick Murray [MURRAY], director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

When 8th District likely voters are asked who did a better job as their Congressman, 43% choose Fitzpatrick, 40% choose Murphy, and 14% say both did equally well in the job. However, Fitzpatrick is better liked among voters. Just over half (51%) have a favorable view of the Republican to 32% who have an unfavorable opinion. In comparison, 47% of voters have a favorable view of the incumbent Murphy, while 42% have an unfavorable one. When asked specifically about Representative Murphy's job performance, the results are 43% approve to 47% disapprove.

Overall, 65% of voters in Pennsylvania's 8th District think the country is on the wrong track compared with 31% who say it is headed in the right direction.

President Barack Obama won this district by 9 points in 2008. Today, though, 8th District voters give him a negative job performance rating of 40% approve to 55% disapprove. Among those who voted for Obama two years ago, 81% say they will vote for Democrat Murphy, but 16% will cast their ballots for Fitzpatrick on November 2. By comparison, 93% of John McCain voters from 2008 will support GOP nominee Fitzpatrick, versus just 7% who will vote for Murphy.

District voters are somewhat more likely to prefer having the Republicans (47%) rather than the Democrats (40%) in control of Congress next year. They split on their overall view of the Republican

Party – 44% favorable to 47% unfavorable – but have a dimmer opinion of the Democratic Party – 39% favorable to 54% unfavorable. The Tea Party movement is also viewed negatively by voters in general – 42% favorable to 49% unfavorable.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by automated telephone interviewing with 646 likely voters from October 11 to 13, 2010. This sample has a margin of error of ± 3.9 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 Congress from Pennsylvania’s 8th Congressional District were today, would you vote for Mike Fitzpatrick the Republican, Patrick Murphy the Democrat, or some other candidate? [At this moment, do you lean toward Mike Fitzpatrick or lean toward Patrick Murphy?] *[NAMES WERE ROTATED]*

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Mike Fitzpatrick	51%	11%	58%	89%	58%	45%	57%	52%	47%
Patrick Murphy	46%	88%	36%	10%	41%	51%	41%	46%	49%
Other - Undecided	3%	1%	7%	1%	2%	4%	2%	2%	4%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

[QUESTIONS 2 AND 3 WERE ROTATED]

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

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	51%	18%	56%	82%	56%	46%	58%	49%	49%
Unfavorable	32%	60%	25%	8%	29%	34%	28%	33%	33%
No opinion	17%	22%	19%	10%	15%	20%	14%	18%	19%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

3. Is your general opinion of Patrick Murphy favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of Patrick Murphy?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	47%	85%	34%	18%	41%	53%	39%	48%	51%
Unfavorable	42%	7%	56%	67%	50%	34%	48%	43%	37%
No opinion	11%	8%	9%	15%	9%	13%	12%	8%	12%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Patrick Murphy is doing as your Congressman?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Approve	43%	82%	32%	11%	37%	49%	36%	44%	47%
Disapprove	47%	9%	59%	78%	54%	40%	51%	49%	42%
Not sure	10%	9%	10%	11%	8%	12%	13%	7%	11%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

5. Who did a better job during their term as 8th district Congressman Patrick Murphy, Mike Fitzpatrick, or did they do equally as well?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Patrick Murphy	40%	77%	30%	9%	35%	45%	32%	40%	45%
Mike Fitzpatrick	43%	10%	47%	75%	49%	37%	51%	43%	38%
Equally as well	14%	11%	19%	13%	14%	14%	16%	14%	13%
Not Sure	3%	2%	4%	4%	2%	4%	2%	3%	4%
Unwtd N	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

6. Are things in the United States going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Right direction	31%	60%	28%	4%	27%	36%	27%	33%	33%
Wrong track	65%	35%	69%	92%	71%	59%	69%	64%	63%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	4%	2%	5%	4%	3%	4%
Unwtd N	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

7. 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	40%	78%	34%	6%	34%	46%	34%	41%	43%
Disapprove	55%	17%	61%	90%	61%	49%	62%	53%	52%
Not sure	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%
Unwtd N	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

8. 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	40%	82%	30%	4%	34%	45%	32%	41%	43%
Republicans	47%	6%	48%	89%	55%	39%	51%	48%	44%
No difference	13%	12%	22%	7%	11%	15%	17%	11%	13%
Unwtd N	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

[QUESTIONS 9 AND 10 WERE ROTATED]

9. Is your general opinion of the Democratic party favorable or unfavorable?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	39%	80%	27%	5%	32%	45%	32%	39%	43%
Unfavorable	54%	14%	63%	90%	64%	46%	60%	54%	52%
No opinion	7%	5%	11%	5%	4%	9%	9%	7%	5%
Unwtd N	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

10. Is your general opinion of the Republican party favorable or unfavorable?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	44%	11%	41%	82%	49%	39%	50%	43%	41%
Unfavorable	47%	82%	48%	10%	45%	50%	42%	48%	50%
No opinion	8%	7%	11%	7%	6%	11%	9%	8%	8%
Unwtd N	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

11. Is your general opinion of the Tea Party movement favorable or unfavorable?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	42%	8%	44%	76%	50%	34%	45%	43%	38%
Unfavorable	49%	85%	46%	15%	44%	55%	44%	51%	51%
No opinion	9%	7%	10%	10%	6%	11%	10%	6%	11%
Unwtd N	646	211	200	235	405	241	131	200	315

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, New Jersey. The poll was conducted on October 11-13, 2010 with a random sample of 646 likely voters in Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District. 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. The voter list was obtained from Aristotle, Inc. and automated voice interviewing services were provided by Survey USA in Clifton, New Jersey.

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 3.9 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)				
Household Registration	Self-Reported Party ID	Gender	Age	Race
42% Democrat	36% Democrat	49% Male	24% 18-44	91% White, non-Hispanic
45% Republican	35% Republican	51% Female	38% 45-59	9% Other
13% Other	29% Independent		38% 60+	

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