



LYCOMING COLLEGE

POLLING INSTITUTE

A PART OF

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF COMMUNITY AND THE ECONOMY

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Carney and Marino in Close Race, New Lycoming College Poll Finds

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. - Representative Christopher Carney, the Democratic incumbent in the 10th congressional district, narrowly leads Republican challenger Thomas Marino 43 to 40 percent with 16 percent undecided, according to a Lycoming College poll released today.

“Carney and Marino are statistically tied. The poll results fall well within the survey’s margin of error,” said Dr. Jonathan Williamson, chair of the Department of Political Science at Lycoming and director of the College’s Center for the Study of Community and the Economy (CSCE)

Political science students, under the direction of Williamson, surveyed 370 likely voters from Sept. 26-30. The 10th district extends from Williamsport in the west to sections of Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, excluding the cities of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. The poll’s margin of error is +/- 5.1 percent.

Carney received support from 86 percent of Democrats, 42 percent of Independents and 13 percent of Republicans. Marino received the support of 69 percent of Republicans, 40 percent of Independents and 4 percent of Democrats. Eleven percent of Democrats, 18 percent of Independents and 17 percent of Republicans remain undecided.

“Carney’s votes for important portions of the Democratic legislative agenda appear to have eroded some of his support in this Republican-leaning district when compared to his twelve

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point victory two years ago,” said Williamson “His support among the district’s independents is down about ten percentage points compared to similar polling we conducted two years ago.”

Carney enjoys a more sizable advantage over Marino when respondents are asked whether they view each candidate favorably or unfavorably. Fifty-two percent of respondents were favorable towards Carney with 33 percent unfavorable and 16 percent without an opinion. By comparison 37 percent hold a favorable opinion towards Marino with 28 percent unfavorable and 35 percent without an opinion.

“Even though this is a favorable year for the Republicans, many people in the district still don’t know Marino,” said Williamson, “When they do, it appears that Democrats have had success defining who he is.”

If the election for United States House of Representatives were held today, would you vote for Christopher Carney, the Democratic incumbent; Thomas Marino, the Republican challenger; OR someone else to represent the 10th congressional district of Pennsylvania?

	Carney	Marino	Undecided
All Respondents	43.4%	40.4%	16.1%
Republicans (Self identified, 43.7% of respondents)	13.3	69.3	17.3
Independents (19.5% of respondents)	41.8	40.3	17.9
Democrats (32.4% of respondents)	85.6	3.6	10.8

Next, I’d like to read you a short list of names. For each name, could you please indicate whether your impression of that person is favorable or unfavorable? If you have never heard of someone, or don’t know enough to rate that person, please let me know and we will move on.

	Carney	Marino
Favorable	51.7%	36.8%
Unfavorable	32.5	28.0
Undecided	15.7	35.2

Background

Center for the Study of Community and the Economy

This survey was conducted by the Lycoming College Polling Institute, a part of the College’s Center for the Study of Community and the Economy (CSCE). In operation since 2003, CSCE is a public service, applied research organization with a mission to conduct research and provide data analysis and planning on issues related to community and economic development and public policy. In addition to serving the broader needs of the center, the Polling Institute provides periodic polling

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information on political issues of importance to the broader community. The interdisciplinary nature of faculty and staff involved in the Center provides an unbiased and complementary approach to the study of the region the Center serves. The Center also provides students with special opportunities to work with faculty in producing original, applied research. As future leaders, students involved in the Center's activities work in a real world laboratory, honing their understanding of the challenges and opportunities they and their communities face.

Polling Methodology

The findings summarized in this release are based on a telephone survey of 370 likely voters living in the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania conducted between Sept. 26 and 30, 2010. The survey's margin of error for the complete sample is +/- 5.1 percent; the margin of error is larger among subgroups of respondents. Respondents were randomly selected based on voter registration lists. The final sample included 54.7 percent registered Republicans, 37.8 percent registered Democrats and 7.5 percent registered as Independents or with another party. The results were weighted to adjust for variation in the sample relating to geographic distribution, gender and age. Additional questions were asked of respondents than those released here. For information about those results, please arrange for an interview with Jonathan Williamson, Ph.D.