



Stockton Poll: Close Race in Belgard – MacArthur Match-up in Key 3rd Congressional District

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Galloway Township, NJ – In New Jersey's key 3rd Congressional District race, Democrat Aimee Belgard and Republican Tom MacArthur are tied in an early poll conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute.

The poll of 606 likely New Jersey 3rd District voters found that MacArthur and Belgard each have 42.2 percent support of those surveyed. Undecideds made up 12.8 percent. The balance, 2.9 percent, indicated they supported someone else, "nobody," or refused to answer.

The poll was conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. Live interviewers on the Stockton campus called both landlines and cell phones from Sept. 12-14, 2014. The poll's margin of error is +/- 4.0 percentage points.

"A congressional race this close will continue to draw national attention to New Jersey," said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center.

"The candidates will be fighting over a relatively small number of undecided voters from now to Election Day," explained Douglas.

The seat being vacated by retiring Congressman Jon Runyan has been targeted by both the national Republican and Democratic parties. The congressional district stretches through parts of Burlington and Ocean counties in New Jersey. It has been considered a district that "leans Republican."

MacArthur is viewed favorably by 40.6 percent of likely voters while 38.1 percent view Belgard favorably. Belgard is rated unfavorably by 26.1 percent and MacArthur is rated unfavorably by 21.1 percent.

MacArthur is slightly more unfamiliar than Belgard, with 36.6 percent unable to identify him, while Belgard is unfamiliar to 33.5 percent of those surveyed.

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Each candidate is stronger in his or her own geographic base, with Belgard leading with 45 percent to MacArthur's 39 percent in Burlington County and MacArthur leading in Ocean County, 47 percent to 38 percent.

Methodology

The survey was conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter). Live interviewers on the Stockton campus called both landlines and cell phones from Sept. 12-14, 2014. The poll was conducted with 606 adults who are likely voters in New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District. The poll's margin of error is +/- 4.0 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. MOE is higher for subsets. Data are weighted based on United States Census Bureau demographics for the 3rd District population.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College. The Hughes Center can be found at www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.



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