



Social Research Laboratory

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For Immediate Release

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RENZI CONTINUES TO LEAD IN CD 1 RACE

Representative Rick Renzi from the First Congressional District continues to lead Democratic challenger Ellen Simon 45 percent to 32 percent, according to results from a recent telephone survey of likely voters conducted by the Social Research Laboratory (SRL) at Northern Arizona University. With just two weeks to go before the election, Libertarian David Schlosser is supported by two percent of likely voters and 21 percent of likely voters remain undecided. These figures are virtually the same as figures from a CD1 study conducted by the SRL one month ago.

Ellen Simon is having difficulty getting her message out. One third of likely voters (34%) say they know "nothing at all" about Simon. Eighty-two percent of district voters have seen or heard Rick Renzi ads, compared to 62 percent having seen or heard Ellen Simon ads. While Renzi is holding on to his base with 74 percent of Republicans saying they will vote for him, only 54 percent of Democrats say they will vote for Simon. Independents remain divided with 32 percent supporting Renzi, 37 percent supporting Simon, and five percent supporting Schlosser.

The telephone survey was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University with 497 likely voters living in the First Congressional District. The margin of error is +/- 4.4 percent. Calling took place between October 20 and October 22, 2006.

RENZI APPROVAL RATING LOW; VOTERS LACK INFORMATION ABOUT SIMON

Representative Rick Renzi has a 40 percent approval rating among likely voters in Arizona's First Congressional District. Eleven percent of likely voters say he is doing an "excellent" job representing the district and 29 percent say he is doing a "good" job. Forty-four percent of likely voters say he is doing either a "fair" or "poor" job representing the district.

As expected, incumbent Rick Renzi is better known in the district than challengers Ellen Simon and David Schlosser. Eighty-nine percent of likely voters know "a lot" or "some" about Renzi. In contrast, 65 percent say they know "a lot" or "some" about Simon and 23 percent say they know "a lot" or "some" about Schlosser.

Among people who know something about the respective candidates, 58 percent have a positive impression of Renzi, 50 percent have a positive impression of Simon, and 45 percent have a positive impression of Schlosser.

Eighty-two percent of likely voters in the district say they have seen or heard ads for Rick Renzi. Almost two-thirds of likely voters (63%) have received a Renzi mailing at their home. Sixty-two percent have seen or heard an ad for Ellen Simon and 31 percent have received a Simon at their home. Only 14 percent have seen or heard a Schlosser ad and seven percent of likely voters say they have received a Schlosser mailing at their home.

RENZI LEADS SIMON BY 13 POINTS

Forty-five percent of likely voters in Arizona CD 1 say they would vote for Rick Renzi if the election was held today. Thirty-two percent of likely voters would vote for Democrat Ellen Simon and two percent would vote for Libertarian candidate David Schlosser. One-fifth of likely voters (21%) still remain undecided in this election.

While 74 percent of registered Republicans in the district say they would vote for Renzi, 54 percent of Democrats say they would vote for Simon, the Democratic Party candidate. Twenty-four percent of Democrats say they would vote to reelect Rick Renzi to office. Independents remain divided with 32 percent supporting Renzi, 37 percent supporting Simon, and 27 percent remaining undecided.

Seventy-eight percent of conservative voters support Renzi and 68 percent of liberal voters support Simon. Voters "in-between" are divided with 33 percent supporting Renzi, 38 percent supporting Simon, and 26 percent undecided.

Fred Solop, Social Research Laboratory director, commented on the results: "This year's election dynamic is very interesting. While Renzi continues to lead the First Congressional District race, the district is not a "safe" Republican seat. Renzi's support remains below 50 percent with just two weeks to go before the election and one-in-five voters are undecided. Even though Simon is having difficulty getting her message out, I expect the race to tighten between now and Election Day since late deciders tend to favor challengers. Both Renzi and Simon need to work hard in the next two weeks to convince voters to support their campaigns."

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**NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY**

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**ARIZONA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SURVEY
BACKGROUND MEMO**

October 2006

The *Arizona Congressional District One Survey* was conducted between October 20 and 22, 2006. A random sample of 497 likely voters in Arizona's First Congressional District was asked questions about the upcoming Congressional election. Survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/- 4.4 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample of the population. Sampling error does not take into account additional sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The data referred to in this release are presented below. Total percents may not equal 100% due to rounding. Data for September come from a previous survey conducted September 15-17, 2006, with 403 likely voters in the First Congressional District, with a margin of error of +/- 5 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.

Rick Renzi has represented your congressional district for the last four years. Do you think he has been doing an excellent job, a good job, a fair job, or a poor job representing your district?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know	Total
11%	29%	26%	18%	16%	100%

How much do you know about (Rick Renzi, Ellen Simon, David Schlosser): a lot, some, or nothing at all?

	A Lot	Some	Nothing At All	Don't Know	Total
Renzi	29%	60%	11%	--	100%
Simon	12%	53%	34%	1%	100%
Schlosser	2%	21%	77%	--	100%

Overall, do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative impression of (Rick Renzi, Ellen Simon, David Schlosser)? [asked of people who know something about the candidates]

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know	Total
Rick Renzi	16%	42%	21%	16%	5%	100%
Ellen Simon	11%	39%	23%	16%	11%	100%
David Schlosser	7%	38%	21%	4%	32%	102%

Have you seen any television commercials or heard any radio ads for (Renzi, Simon, Schlosser)? [candidate names presented in random order]

Have you received any mailings at your home supporting (Renzi, Simon, Schlosser)? [candidate names presented in random order]

	Yes, TV / radio	Yes, mailings
Rick Renzi	82%	63%
Ellen Simon	62%	31%
David Schlosser	14%	7%

If the congressional election were held today, would you vote for Rick Renzi, the Republican candidate for Congress; Ellen Simon, the Democratic candidate; or, David Schlosser, the Libertarian candidate? [candidate names presented in random order]

	October	September
Rick Renzi	45%	45%
Ellen Simon	32%	32%
David Schlosser	2%	2%
Don't Know	21%	22%
Total	100%	101%

October results by demographics:

	Renzi	Simon	Schlosser	Don't know	Total
Total Vote	45%	32%	2%	21%	100%
Party					
Republicans	74%	8%	1%	18%	101%
Democrats	24%	54%	3%	19%	100%
Independents	32%	37%	5%	27%	101%
Ideology					
Conservatives	78%	10%	1%	12%	101%
In-Between	33%	38%	3%	26%	100%
Liberals	10%	68%	2%	20%	100%
2004 Vote					
John Kerry	12%	69%	3%	17%	101%
George Bush	77%	5%	1%	17%	100%