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For Immediate Release

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RICK RENZI LEADS CD 1 RACE; DISTRICT LEANS REPUBLICAN

Incumbent Rick Renzi has a 13 point lead over challenger Ellen Simon in the race to represent Arizona's First Congressional District in Washington. According to results from a recent telephone survey, 45 percent of likely voters say they would vote for Republican Rick Renzi and 32 percent would vote for Democrat Ellen Simon if the election were held today. Two percent of likely voters support David Schlosser, the Libertarian candidate. More than one-in-five likely voters (22%) remain undecided.

The telephone survey was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University with 403 likely voters living in the First Congressional District. The margin of error is +/- 5 percent. Calling took place between September 15 and September 17, 2006.

SIMON THOUGHT OF FAVORABLY

Likely voters in the First Congressional District were asked how much they know about each of the candidates competing for Congress. Eighty percent of likely voters surveyed know something about incumbent Rick Renzi. Forty-one percent know something about Ellen Simon and eight percent know something about David

Schlosser. Among people familiar with the candidates, Simon is thought of more favorably than Renzi or Schlosser. Sixty percent of people familiar with Ellen Simon hold a favorable impression of her. Fifty-five percent of people familiar with Rick Renzi have a favorable impression of him. Twenty-three percent of people familiar with David Schlosser think of him favorably.

Conversely, a larger proportion of likely voters surveyed hold an unfavorable impression of Rick Renzi than of the other candidates. Among survey respondents familiar with Rick Renzi, more than one-in-three (36%) hold an unfavorable impression of the incumbent representative. In contrast, 20 percent of people familiar with Ellen Simon hold an unfavorable impression of her and 17 percent of people familiar with David Schlosser have an unfavorable impression of him.

RENZI LEADS RACE

Incumbent Rick Renzi leads the First Congressional District race with 45 percent of the vote. Ellen Simon, Democrat, is supported by 32 percent of likely voters and David Schlosser is supported by two percent of likely voters. Twenty-two percent of likely voters remain undecided. This 13 point lead mirrors Renzi's 11 point lead over Paul Babbitt immediately following the 2004 primary election.

Rick Renzi is holding on to his Republican base with 76 percent of Republican voters saying they will vote to reelect him to office. Sixty-three percent of Democratic Party voters say they will vote for Simon. Independents lean toward supporting Simon. She is supported by 40 percent of Independent voters. Twenty-nine percent of Independents support Renzi and one percent support Schlosser. Thirty percent of Independents are undecided.

Conservatives support Renzi (75%), while liberals support Simon (69%). Voters who self-identify as falling in-between conservative and liberal are divided in their vote preferences. Thirty-four percent of in-between voters support Renzi, 38 percent support Simon, and 28 percent are undecided. Almost three-quarters of people who voted for George Bush in 2004 support Renzi (74%) and almost three-quarters (73%) of people who voted for John Kerry support Simon.

Fred Solop, director of the Social Research Laboratory, commented on the results: "CD 1 leans toward reelecting Rick Renzi to office, but the election is not over yet. With support under 50 percent, a large pool of undecided voters, and a higher unfavorability rating than his opponents, Congressman Renzi has to work hard if he wants to remain in office. He needs to convince voters that he has been doing an excellent job representing the district in Washington and, if reelected, will continue to do an excellent job representing the district's interests. Ellen Simon, on the other hand, faces an uphill struggle to become known throughout the district and to define herself as the best candidate for the position. Because CD 1 can no longer be considered a safe Republican seat, I expect the race to capture national attention as Democrats challenge the Republican Party for control of the House of Representatives."

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

September 2006

The *Arizona Congressional District One Survey* was conducted between September 15 and 17, 2006. A random sample of 403 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 +/- 5 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. 'Totals' may deviate from 100% due to rounding.

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

	A lot	Some	A little	Nothing	Total
Rick Renzi	19%	31%	30%	19%	99%
Ellen Simon	4%	14%	23%	59%	100%
David Schlosser	1%	1%	6%	92%	100%

Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of (Rick Renzi, Ellen Simon, David Schlosser) [people who know something about the candidates]?

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't know	Total
Rick Renzi	55%	36%	9%	100%
Ellen Simon	60%	20%	20%	100%
David Schlosser	23%	17%	59%	99%

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]?

	Total Vote
Rick Renzi	45%
Ellen Simon	32%
David Schlosser	2%
Don't Know	22%
Total	101%

	Rick Renzi	Ellen Simon	David Schlosser	Don't Know	Total
Total Vote	45%	32%	2%	22%	101%
Party					
Republicans	76%	5%	2%	17%	100%
Democrats	18%	63%	1%	19%	101%
Independents	29%	40%	1%	30%	100%
Ideology					
Conservatives	75%	9%	2%	13%	99%
In-Between	34%	38%	1%	28%	101%
Liberals	10%	69%	6%	16%	101%
2004 Vote					
John Kerry	8%	73%	2%	17%	100%
George Bush	74%	5%	2%	19%	100%