

September 7, 2010

To: Interested Parties

Fr: Jeff Liszt / Brian Stryker

Re: Summary of General Election Polling Results in Illinois CD-10

The 10th District is one the top two or three Democratic pickup opportunities in the country. Dan Seals has led since May, and currently holds a 13-point lead over Republican Robert Dold. The district (which Barack Obama won with 61% of the vote in 2008) is competitive from a partisan standpoint, but Seals has strong name identification and his ability to win cross-over votes gives him a strong path to victory.

Dan Seals leads Republican Robert Dold by 13 points

- Dan Seals currently leads Robert Dold 49% to 36% – a slightly bigger margin than Seals' 46% to 38% lead in May.
- Seals has stronger name identification (73%) than Robert Dold (47%), which gives him a broader base of support right now – Seals leads in both Cook and Lake Counties, and leads with almost every demographic subgroup.
- In a year when the independents in many swing districts are leaning Republican, Dan Seals leads by 5 points with self-identified independents (39% Seals / 34% Dold).

The 10th District is still good territory for Democrats

- Although the generic ballot is competitive (40% Democrat / 39% Republican), Democrats in Congress (43% favorable / 51% unfavorable) receive much stronger ratings than Republicans in Congress (35% favorable / 59% unfavorable).
- Barack Obama retains his popularity in this suburban Chicago district: 59% of voters view him favorably and only 40% view him unfavorably.

Seals' support from Mark Kirk voters shows the breadth of his coalition

- Seals is winning 22% of voters who say they voted for Mark Kirk in the 2008 race for Congress.
- Dan Seals takes 16% of voters who are currently supporting Kirk for U.S. Senate, and dominates Dold 58% to 12% among voters who are undecided in that race.

Anzalone Liszt Research conducted N=500 live telephone interviews with likely 2010 General Election voters in IL CD-10. Interviews were conducted between August 30–September 2, 2010. Respondents were selected at random, with interviews apportioned geographically based on past voter turnout. Expected margin of sampling error for n=500 interviews is ±4.4% with a 95% confidence level.