



MIKE DOWNS CENTER FOR INDIANA POLITICS

NEWS RELEASE

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Souder Holds Six-Point Lead Over Thomas

Republican House Primary Election

A plurality of Hoosier voters likely to vote in the May 4th Republican primary (N=400) prefer incumbent Mark Souder to three other candidates. Souder received 35% of the support. Bob Thomas received 29% and Phil Troyer received 19%. Greg Dickman received 2%. While Souder's lead is outside the margin of error (+/-5), 16% were undecided.

	If the Republican primary for United States House of Representatives were today, who would you vote for?
Greg Dickman	2%
Mark Souder	35%
Bob Thomas	29%
Phil Troyer	19%
Undecided	16%

Souder enjoyed leads in many demographic categories. He had a sizable advantage among voters 18-34 years of age (Souder 49%; Thomas 20%; Troyer 15%), among self-identified strong Republicans (Souder 48%; Thomas 22%; Troyer 14%), and among college graduates (Souder 51%; Thomas 16%; Troyer 17%). Thomas enjoyed leads among voters 35-49 (Thomas 32%; Souder 26%; Troyer 20%), self-identified Republicans (Thomas 39%; Souder 27%; Troyer 16%), voters with graduate degrees (Thomas 34%; Souder 24%; Troyer 24%), and high school graduates (Thomas 35%; Souder 27%; Troyer 17%). The only category where Troyer led was among self-identified independents who lean Republican (Troyer 30%; Souder 26%; Thomas 24%).

If the Republican primary for United States House of Representatives were today, who would you vote for?					
	Greg Dickman	Mark Souder	Bob Thomas	Phil Troyer	Undecided
Independents	8%	11%	29%	26%	26%
Independents leaning Republican	5%	26%	24%	30%	15%
Republicans	1%	27%	39%	16%	16%
Strong Republicans	1%	48%	22%	14%	15%
Voted for Obama in 2008	7%	20%	45%	14%	14%

Tea Party Movement

The general anti-incumbent culture of the Tea Party Movement has not, at least at the time of this study, translated into a threat to Mark Souder. Bob Thomas' success is not directly related to the Tea Party Movement. Among Third District likely Republican primary voters who identified with the Tea Party Movement, Souder maintained the same relative level of support (34%) as he received generally, with 29% supporting Thomas and 23% supporting Troyer. The margin of error is 5%.

Respondents were asked two questions about the Tea Party Movement. The first asked if their opinion of the Tea Party Movement was favorable, unfavorable, neutral, or if they had no opinion of the Movement. The second asked if the respondent identified with the Tea Party Movement. Favorable views were held by 41% of the respondents while 21% had unfavorable views. Almost one in four (23%) of the respondents had a neutral view and 15% had no opinion. Although 41% had a favorable view of the Tea Party Movement, only 28% identified with the movement.

Among Republican primary voters, the percentage holding a favorable view of the Tea Party Movement jumped to 69%. This is a large majority, but it is almost ten points lower than what was seen statewide. Just over a third of those voters (34%) supported Souder with 27% supporting Thomas and 24% supporting Troyer.

Among Republican primary voters, the percentage identifying with the Tea Party Movement jumps to 49%. Souder maintained his support (34%) with 29% supporting Thomas and 23% supporting Troyer.

If the Republican primary for United States House of Representatives were today, who would you vote for?					
	Greg Dickman	Mark Souder	Bob Thomas	Phil Troyer	Undecided
Favorable View of Tea Party Movement	1%	34%	27%	24%	13%
Unfavorable View of Tea Party Movement	11%	27%	44%	5%	12%
Neutral View of Tea Party Movement	4%	45%	20%	10%	21%
Identify with Tea Party Movement	2%	34%	29%	23%	11%
Do not identify with Tea Party Movement	4%	36%	33%	11%	17%

Issue Evaluations

Not surprisingly, the economy was the most important issue (53%). In almost every demographic category, a majority of respondents cited that as the most important issue. Only two other issues had more than 10% of the respondents citing them as the most important. Thirteen percent (13%) cited the federal deficit as the most important issue and 11% cited health care as the most important issue. The deficit received more mention as the most important issue among those identifying with The Tea Party Movement (23%). The margin of error is 2.8%.

Direction of the Country and Evaluation of President Obama

Third District voters did not view the country as heading in the right direction. Only 23% thought the U.S. was headed in the right direction, which was five points lower than the rest of the state. Respondents also were asked if they approve or disapprove of the job President Barack Obama is doing as president. A majority (59%) disapproved while a third (32%) approved. Eight percent (8%) were unsure. Almost three quarters (73%) of the respondents who claimed to have voted for Obama in 2008 approved of his performance. Eighteen percent (18%) of those voters disapprove of his performance. Ninety-one percent (91%) of those claiming to have voted for McCain in 2008 disapproved of his performance.

Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics

The Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics is a non-partisan organization that helps the people of Indiana understand the role of politics and government in their daily lives. By doing this, The Mike Downs Center hopes to encourage participation in political and public processes the same way its namesake Dr. Michael C. Downs did for more than 34 years. The Mike Downs Center is located on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW).

Statement of Methodology

This SurveyUSA poll was conducted by telephone in the voice of a professional announcer. Respondent households were selected at random, using a registration based sample (RBS) provided by Aristotle, of Washington DC. All respondents heard the questions asked identically. The calls were conducted from April 22 through 26. The number of respondents who answered each question and the margin of sampling error for each question are provided. Where necessary, responses were weighted according to the voter registration database. In theory, with the stated sample size, one can say with 95% certainty that the results would not vary by more than the stated margin of sampling error, in one direction or the other, had the entire universe of respondents been interviewed with complete accuracy. There are other possible sources of error in all surveys that may be more serious than theoretical calculations of sampling error. These include refusals to be interviewed, question wording and question order, weighting by demographic control data and the manner in which respondents are filtered (such as, determining who is a likely voter). It is difficult to quantify the errors that may result from these factors. Fieldwork for this survey was done by SurveyUSA of Clifton, NJ

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