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MURPHY, HIMES BOTH IN HORSERACES *Debicella 48, Himes 46 – Caligiuri 47, Murphy 46*

HARTFORD, CT (October 29, 2010) - Democratic U.S. Representatives Jim Himes and Chris Murphy trail their Republican opponents, Dan Debicella and Sam Caligiuri, according to a poll released today by CT Capitol Report. In the survey, Representative Himes has 46.1 percent to Debicella's 48.0 percent and Representative Murphy has 45.5 percent to Caligiuri's 46.9 percent.

The poll was commissioned by CT Capitol Report and conducted by the Merriman River Group on October 24-26, 2010. In the fourth congressional district, 571 voters were surveyed of which 4.6 percent are still unsure of whom they will support. There is a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percent.

In the fifth congressional district, 595 voters were surveyed and 3.7 percent are still unsure of whom they will support. There is a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percent.

"The fourth congressional district continues to be a tight fight within our margin of error," says the poll's Executive Director, Matthew Fitch. "Representative Himes fares well among women and the highly educated. He is struggling to win over male voters, and people who identify with the Tea Party are giving Himes the most trouble. Dan Debicella is winning Tea Party voters by a 10-1 margin, while Himes leads everyone else 56-39. One troubling sign for Himes is his poor showing among Catholic voters.

They are apt to be a swing group with a slight Republican lean in most races this year and they are breaking heavily for DeBicella by a 60-34 margin.

“With the President coming to Bridgeport for Representative Himes on Saturday, the question continues to focus on turnout. It is clear that Representative Himes will win Bridgeport by a large percentage, but he may need at least 30,000 people to come out to vote from that city to offset expected losses in the rest of the district. This is one election where the hourly turnout numbers may tell us the story before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

“With less than a week to go the fifth Congressional district is up for grabs,” Fitch added. “It appears that Representative Chris Murphy has closed the gap in recent days. That's a difficult feat for an incumbent to do, but he has yet to break 50% at any point in our polling and time is running out. There are some encouraging signs for Representative Murphy: as with most Democrats, he holds a sizable lead among the most educated voters, but he is also winning those voters with a high school education or less, and this is a district where blue collar voters are essential to a Democratic coalition. On a negative note, he doesn't enjoy the sizable lead among women voters that many Democrats are seeing this year. He leads Sam Caligiuri by a relatively close 7.5 points among women. Further, he won't get much help at the top of the ticket: the fifth is the only district where McMahon leads Blumenthal and it is by far Malloy's worst district. The President's approval rating remains the clearest indicator: supporters of the President are backing Murphy 86-6, while opponents are supporting Caligiuri 84-10. We will continue to track this race on a nightly basis through Election Day.”

[About CTCapitolReport.com](#)

[CT Capitol Report](#) is published and edited by veteran political professional Tom Dudchik. Since its launch in 2009 its readership has grown exponentially and it is widely considered the most comprehensive website for Connecticut political news.

[About Merriman River Group](#)

With offices in Hamden, CT and Los Angeles, CA, Merriman River Group is a full service consulting organization specializing in election supervision and administration, public opinion research, and communication services. In 2010, Merriman River Group

launched their NexGen IVR polling system, which offers professional grade polling and analysis with reduced costs and faster completion time. NexGen IVR has been used in public and private polling from New England to Hawaii this year, with accuracy far exceeding traditional polling methods. For more information on Merriman River Group, please visit www.merrimanriver.com.

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