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PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE RACE FOR SENATOR MARKEY'S SEAT REMAINS WIDE OPEN: CLARK AND KOUTOUJIAN LEAD THE FIELD

September 18th, 2013---A new Emerson College Polling Society (ECPS) survey of likely voters finds State Senator Katherine Clark (24%) and Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian(19%) the front runners in the Democratic primary for the Massachusetts' 5th congressional district special Election on October 15. Karen Spilka is in third at 16% followed by Will Brownsberger at 11% according to the poll, the first poll to study the U.S House seat left open by Senator Ed Markey's election to the Senate (D).

When asked who likely Democrat voters expected to win regardless of whom they supported, Peter Koutoujian led the pack with 19% . Clark was a close second with (18%), Spilka (15%) and Brownsberger (13%) Thirty-two percent (32%) of voters were unsure who would win the October election.

The four leading Democrat candidates all have positive ratings among likely voters: Clark 37% with 12% unfavorable; Koutoujian: 35% with 10% unfavorable; Spilka: a28% favorable with 11% unfavorable; Brownsberger at 23% favorable and 13% unfavorable. The other three Democrat candidates are hindered by a lack of name recognition. 45% had no recognition of Carl Sciortino, 53% no recognition of Paul Maisano and 56% no recognition of Martin Long

Tom Tierney leads the Republican Primary, capturing 25% percent of the vote, followed by Frank Addivinola at 11%, and Mike Stopa at 9%. Driving Tierney's lead is his high name recognition in the district. This is contrasted to Addivinola and Stopa who have very low name recognition at 53% each. Tierney may have problems as the nominee as 42% of likely Republican voters have an unfavorable opinion as compared to 20% with favorable viewpooints.

Both primary contests are still wide-open - large percentages of voters are still unsure as whom to vote for in the election.. In the Democrats primary, nearly one fourth of the voters (23%)are undecided with twice as many - Fifty-six percent - of Republicans undecided at the time of the poll

Pocketbook issues of jobs and taxes are ranked the most important by half the respondents (50%); healthcare is the second most important issue at 14%.

A lone bright spot for the underfunded and outnumbered Republican nominee to gain some traction for the general election is that 47% of all likely voters said the country was headed in the wrong direction, as compared to 36% who believe the US is headed in the right direction.

Caller ID: Data was collected between September 13-17, 2013, using an automated data collection system. The survey sample consisted of 587 likely registered voters with a margin of

error of +/- 4% with a 95% confidence level. (Democrat subset, 310 MOE 5%; Republican subset 107 MOE 9%) The full survey and results are available at the group's website: <http://www.emersoncollegepollingsociety.com/>.

About Emerson College Polling Society

Emerson College Polling Society is a student organization at Emerson College dedicated to formulating, administering, and analyzing public opinion polls. The results and analysis of this release are the sole views of Emerson College Polling Society and do not reflect the views of Emerson College as a whole.

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