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BUSBY LEADS LOBBYIST BILBRAY BY SEVEN POINTS

Busby Gains Significant Support from All Parties in CA-50

Encinitas, CA – Congressional Candidate Francine Busby today released a poll showing that she has taken the lead over Lobbyist Brian Bilbray in the 50th District race. Busby now leads Lobbyist Bilbray 47-40 with 12% of voters undecided.

“I am honored to have the support of so many voters across this district regardless of their party affiliation,” said Busby. “We can pass tough immigration reform, lower gas prices and balance the budget if representatives serve the people of their district instead of lobbyists and special interests.”

“The bottom line is that even in the face of attacks, Busby has continued to have strong support in this Republican-leaning district, and now leads Bilbray,” wrote Lake Research Partners Bob Meadow, Celinda Lake and David Mermin. The National Republican Congressional Committee has spent over \$2 million dollars attacking Busby in the 50th District race.

“A victory here will send a powerful message across the nation that it is time Congress serves the needs of the American people,” said Busby. “This election isn’t about Democrats versus Republicans, it is about changing the way Washington works.”

The poll also showed an increase in Busby’s favorability rating while Lobbyist Bilbray continues to remain stagnant. Among the most likely voters, Busby’s lead is even more significant.

“Voters understand that if you send a lobbyist to Congress, he’ll serve special interests,” said Busby. “Send me and I will serve the voters of this district.”

The poll was conducted May 12-15, 2006 and included a sample of 400 likely June run-off voters. The margin of error is +/- 4.9% and methods parallel those in the previous Lake Research poll, which showed the race in a statistical dead heat.

Paid for by Francine Busby for Congress. Authorized by Francine Busby.

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LAKE RESEARCH PARTNERS

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To: Interested Parties

ALYSIA R. SNELL
Partner

Fr: Bob Meadow, Celinda Lake and David Mermin

MICHAEL J. PERRY
Partner

Re: California 50th Congressional Run-off

DAVID MERMIN
Partner

Date: May 17, 2006

DR. ROBERT G.
MEADOW
Partner

We have completed our tracking research for California's 50th Congressional District run-off election. The poll was conducted May 12-15, 2006, with a random sample of 400 likely June run-off voters. Sampling error is +/- 4.9. Methods parallel the run-off benchmark poll of April, 2006.

DANIEL R. GOTOFF
Partner

With three weeks to go before Election Day, Francine Busby has opened up a lead over Brian Bilbray, with 47% for Busby and 40% for Bilbray, with 1% for minor candidates Libertarian Paul King and Independent William Griffith and 12% undecided. These data represent a swing from the benchmark of 9 points toward Busby from the benchmark poll, taken when Busby was the object of relentless and unanswered attack ads.

SUSAN KANNEL
Vice President

JOSHUA ULIBARRI
Vice President

There are several indicators of Busby's strength, as well as structural factors that will work to her advantage:

- Busby's favorability has increased to 53% while Bilbray's has remained stagnant at 48%. There are nearly twice as many voters with a strongly favorable opinion of Busby (33%) than Bilbray (18%). Both candidates are universally known.
- Busby leads despite the significant Republican registration advantage reflected in our sample of 50% Republican to 32% Democrat.
- A clear and expanding majority of independent voters supports Busby over Bilbray, and Bilbray's share of Republican votes has continued to deteriorate since our early polls.
- Busby holds an even wider edge among those voters deemed most likely to vote based on their past voting record.
- Attacks on the moderate Busby as being "too liberal" have failed and have limited credibility coming from a lobbyist.
- Although Republicans will clearly outnumber Democrats in the 50th CD, Democrats could form a disproportionate share of the electorate in June, as the run-off election is scheduled to be on the same ballot as the heavily contested Democratic primary for Governor.

The bottom line is that even in the face of attacks, Busby has continued to have strong support in this Republican-leaning district, and now leads Bilbray. Nonetheless, Busby has not yet reached the critical 50% mark, and we expect the race to narrow. To hold her strength with voters other than Democrats, and to win her share of the undecideds over the remaining three weeks, Busby will need the financial resources to match the Republican expenditures.

