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HEADING INTO FIRST FACE-OFF, BLUMENTHAL HAS SOLID LEAD OVER MCMAHON
Rumors of Attorney General's Demise May Be Premature

HARTFORD, CT (October 4, 2010) - Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Richard Blumenthal has 52.4 percent to Republican Linda McMahon's 44.7 percent according to the CT Capitol Report poll released today. The two candidates will participate in a live, televised debate for the first time tonight.

The poll, commissioned by CT Capitol Report and conducted by the Merriman River Group, surveyed 1,623 likely voters on October 3, 2010 with a margin of error of +/- 2.4 percent points.

"With a month to go, Richard Blumenthal enjoys a competitive advantage stronger than the relatively close poll numbers would suggest," says the poll's Executive Director Matthew Fitch. "He has crossed the 50% threshold, and his supporters appear committed, with 87.5% of them saying they will definitely vote for him. Linda McMahon has run a strong campaign, and also enjoys a strong commitment from her supporters, with 83% of her followers saying they will definitely vote for her.

"Because the two candidates represent such a clear choice from each other, there is an usually low number of undecided voters in this race with four weeks to go. Although there is no incumbent, McMahon is clearly perceived as the challenger. Unlike most challengers, however, she enjoys better than equal footing in name recognition and financing. While most successful challengers peak in the last days of the election, she may have already reached her peak with limited potential for further upside.

McMahon struggles most among seniors and women. Unfortunately, those are the two groups most likely to vote, and her current message is not one that is well suited to those groups. Barring a late October surprise, this race appears to strongly favor Blumenthal."

CT Capitol Report Editor and Publisher Tom Dudchik commissioned the poll: "We feel it's important to add another credible poll to the current Connecticut mix. In years past, certain media outlets in Connecticut produced reliable polling information during election years. Now online publications such as CT Capitol Report are stepping up to fill the void."

A poll on the Connecticut Governor's race will be released Tuesday, October 5.

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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f5 * f16 Crosstabulation

			f16					
			1. Party:Democrat	2. Party:Republican	3. Party:Independent	99. Party:Not Reported	Party:Unsure	Total
f5	Senator:Blumenthal	Count	510	54	231	45	10	850
		% within f16	85.3%	13.5%	45.7%	47.4%	41.7%	52.4%
	Senator:McMahon	Count	79	340	256	44	7	726
		% within f16	13.2%	84.8%	50.7%	46.3%	29.2%	44.7%
	Senator:Unsure	Count	9	7	18	6	7	47
		% within f16	1.5%	1.7%	3.6%	6.3%	29.2%	2.9%
Total		Count	598	401	505	95	24	1623
		% within f16	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

f16 * f5 Crosstabulation

			f5			
			Senator:Blumenthal	Senator:McMahon	Senator:Unsure	Total
f16	1. Party:Democrat	Count	510	79	9	598
		% within f5	60.0%	10.9%	19.1%	36.8%
	2. Party:Republican	Count	54	340	7	401
		% within f5	6.4%	46.8%	14.9%	24.7%
	3. Party:Independent	Count	231	256	18	505
		% within f5	27.2%	35.3%	38.3%	31.1%
	99. Party:Not Reported	Count	45	44	6	95
		% within f5	5.3%	6.1%	12.8%	5.9%

Party:Unsure	Count	10	7	7	24
	% within f5	1.2%	1.0%	14.9%	1.5%
Total	Count	850	726	47	1623
	% within f5	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

f5 * f15 Crosstabulation

			f15				Total
			1. TeaParty:Yes	2. TeaParty:No	9. TeaParty:Unsure	99. TeaParty:Not Reported	
f5	Senator:Blumenthal	Count	27	734	47	42	850
		% within f15	10.5%	65.2%	31.5%	46.2%	52.4%
	Senator:McMahon	Count	227	365	91	43	726
		% within f15	88.0%	32.4%	61.1%	47.3%	44.7%
	Senator:Unsure	Count	4	26	11	6	47
		% within f15	1.6%	2.3%	7.4%	6.6%	2.9%
Total		Count	258	1125	149	91	1623
		% within f15	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

f15 * f5 Crosstabulation

			f5			Total
			Senator:Blumenthal	Senator:McMahon	Senator:Unsure	
f15	1. TeaParty:Yes	Count	27	227	4	258
		% within f5	3.2%	31.3%	8.5%	15.9%
	2. TeaParty:No	Count	734	365	26	1125
		% within f5	86.4%	50.3%	55.3%	69.3%

9. TeaParty:Unsure	Count	47	91	11	149	
	% within f5	5.5%	12.5%	23.4%	9.2%	
99. TeaParty:Not Reported	Count	42	43	6	91	
	% within f5	4.9%	5.9%	12.8%	5.6%	
Total	Count	850	726	47	1623	
	% within f5	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

f5 * f9 Crosstabulation

			f9					Total
			1. Obama:Approve strongly	2. Obama:Approve somewhat	3. Obama:Disapprove somewhat	4. Obama:Disapprove strongly	9. Obama:Unsure	
f5	Senator:Blumenthal	Count	461	246	73	51	19	850
		% within f9	94.1%	82.3%	37.6%	8.5%	45.2%	52.4%
	Senator:McMahon	Count	22	45	111	539	9	726
		% within f9	4.5%	15.1%	57.2%	90.1%	21.4%	44.7%
	Senator:Unsure	Count	7	8	10	8	14	47
		% within f9	1.4%	2.7%	5.2%	1.3%	33.3%	2.9%
Total		Count	490	299	194	598	42	1623
		% within f9	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

f5 * VAR00001 Crosstabulation

			VAR00001			Total
			Obama:Approve	Obama:Disapprove	Obama:Unsure	
f5	Senator:Blumenthal	Count	707	124	19	850

			89.6%	15.7%	45.2%	52.4%
	% within VAR00001					
Senator:McMahon	Count		67	650	9	726
	% within VAR00001		8.5%	82.1%	21.4%	44.7%
Senator:Unsure	Count		15	18	14	47
	% within VAR00001		1.9%	2.3%	33.3%	2.9%
Total	Count		789	792	42	1623
	% within VAR00001		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

f9 * f5 Crosstabulation

			f5			
			Senator:Blumenthal	Senator:McMahon	Senator:Unsure	Total
f9	1. Obama:Approve strongly	Count	461	22	7	490
		% within f5	54.2%	3.0%	14.9%	30.2%
	2. Obama:Approve somewhat	Count	246	45	8	299
		% within f5	28.9%	6.2%	17.0%	18.4%
	3. Obama:Disapprove somewhat	Count	73	111	10	194
		% within f5	8.6%	15.3%	21.3%	12.0%
	4. Obama:Disapprove strongly	Count	51	539	8	598
		% within f5	6.0%	74.2%	17.0%	36.8%
	9. Obama:Unsure	Count	19	9	14	42
		% within f5	2.2%	1.2%	29.8%	2.6%
Total		Count	850	726	47	1623
		% within f5	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

VAR00001 * f5 Crosstabulation

			f5			Total
			Senator:Blumenthal	Senator:McMahon	Senator:Unsure	
VAR00001	Obama:Approve	Count	707	67	15	789
		% within f5	83.2%	9.2%	31.9%	48.6%
	Obama:Disapprove	Count	124	650	18	792
		% within f5	14.6%	89.5%	38.3%	48.8%
	Obama:Unsure	Count	19	9	14	42
		% within f5	2.2%	1.2%	29.8%	2.6%
Total		Count	850	726	47	1623
		% within f5	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%