



HARSTAD STRATEGIC RESEARCH, INC.

2820 N. Lakeridge Trail
Boulder, CO 80302

Tel: 303-545-0200

Fax: 303-442-9196

www.HarstadResearch.com

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: HARSTAD STRATEGIC RESEARCH
DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2008
RE: CONGRESSMAN BILL SALI ACTUALLY TRAILING WALT MINNICK IN IDAHO'S 1ST CD

Our recently conducted telephone survey in Idaho's 1st Congressional District shows Democrat Walt Minnick leading Republican incumbent Congressman Bill Sali by 43% to 38%. The survey was conducted among 405 likely voters from September 9 to 11, the week after the Republican convention.

This is the first time that Minnick has led Sali. It follows three unanswered pro-Minnick TV ads that have aired in the district over the past two months. Indeed, challenger Walt Minnick's feelings score stands at 39% favorable versus 12% unfavorable – an impressive ratio of better than 3-to-1.

Besides the glaring fact that Sali falls far short of majority-support incumbents should command, other survey findings clearly underscore Sali's serious vulnerability:

- Sali's feelings score or popularity is lousy at 37% favorable to 36% unfavorable (including just 10% very favorable versus 22% very unfavorable);
- Sali's job rating is strikingly low at 28% excellent or good vs. 52% only fair or poor;
- Sali's re-elect score is just 22% versus 26% who would consider someone else and 33% who will definitely vote to elect someone else;
- By better than 2-to-1, voters think the nation is pretty seriously off on the wrong track (63%) rather than headed in the right direction (29%).

This survey, along with others we have conducted, make it clear that Bill Sali is uniquely vulnerable. These findings occur despite the fact that in our same 1st CD survey, Republicans hold a party affiliation advantage of 48% to 29% for Democrats.

Harstad Strategic Research is a national survey research firm based in Boulder, Colorado. Its clients include five U.S. Senators: Ken Salazar of Colorado, Tom Harkin of Iowa, Claire McCaskill of Missouri, Barack Obama of Illinois, and Jack Reed of Rhode Island.