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PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Aishwarya Ramani

[aishwarya\\_ramani@emerson.edu](mailto:aishwarya_ramani@emerson.edu)

[www.theecps.com](http://www.theecps.com)

## **REPUBLICAN TISEI MAINTAINS LEAD OVER MOULTON IN MASSACHUSETTS SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL SEAT**

Boston (Oct. 15): As election day draws closer, the race for the 6th District Congressional seat remains tight, with Republican Richard Tisei maintaining a 3-point lead over Democrat Seth Moulton (43% to 40%), in the latest Emerson College Polling Society (ECPS) survey. Tisei's lead over Moulton remains consistent from an ECPS poll late in September that had him at 41% to Moulton's 39%.

Opinion about both Moulton and Tisei remain positive. Moulton has a 55% favorable rating and a 21% unfavorable while Tisei is 55% to 26%. President Obama opinion has dropped considerably, 28% view him favorably and 63% view him unfavorably.

Tisei continues to enjoy a strong advantage among the district's large population of independent voters who favor him over Moulton 54% to 31% in the ballot test. The gender gap also favors Tisei. He has a slim lead among women (41% to 40%) and a 6-point edge (45% to 39%) with men. Trailing far behind the major candidates, Chris Stockwell earns only 2% of the vote on the ballot test.

Optimism for the election remains high, with 58% of those surveyed saying they feel more enthusiastic about voting than usual, compared to 28% who are less enthusiastic and 14% who feel about the same. Since last polled, the enthusiasm gap between Tisei and Moulton has narrowed; currently 49% of those more enthusiastic are planning on voting for Tisei, while 41% support Moulton.

Despite Tisei's narrow lead, 43% of respondents think Moulton will win while only 33% believe Tisei will prevail. However, supporters of both candidates are confident, as 81% of Moulton supporters think he will win, while 67% of Tisei supporters expect him to win.

Respondents from the southern area of the district favor Moulton in the ballot test (48% to 38%), in 2012 Tierney won this region by 18 points. Tisei has a lead in the West (47% to 30%) similar to 2012 and where he currently resides. The North, which split 50%-50% between Tierney and Tisei in 2012, is a tossup between the two candidates, with Tisei one point ahead at 42% to 41%.

When asked which issue they felt was most important in the election, pocketbook issues ranked highest, with 42% saying jobs and taxes, followed by 20% who selected Defense/ISIS and 16% health care. A majority of respondents who felt jobs/taxes were most important support Tisei (50% to 32%). While a plurality of

those who prioritized Defense/ISIS also selected Tisei on the ballot test, the gap on this issue between Moulton and Tisei has narrowed to 43% to 39% from 53% to 31%. Closer to home, a slight majority (52%) of respondents said they supported casino gambling in Massachusetts, while 48% opposed.

**Caller ID**

*This Emerson College Polling Society poll was conducted October 13 - 14. The polling sample consisted of 400 likely voters, with a margin of error of +/- 4.85% and a 95% confidence level, using an IRV (Interactive Voice Response) system. The full methodology and results can be found at [www.theecps.com](http://www.theecps.com).*