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PRESS RELEASE

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Emerson College Poll: Democrat Keating Takes Lead in MA 9 Congressional District, Republican Chapman down 3 points

Boston (Oct. 20): Congressman Bill Keating (D) has erased a 5 point deficit over the last two weeks to take a 3 point lead 47% to 44% over first time candidate John Chapman (R) in Massachusetts 9 Congressional district according to a new Emerson College Polling Society survey. The district encompasses the Southeastern corner of the state, Cape Cod and the Islands.

Keating holds a 9 point lead among women 49% to 40% and Chapman holds a 4 point lead among men 49% to 45%. Independent voters are breaking for Chapman 55% to 34% for Keating.

President Obama's overall opinion is still weak in the district with a 55% unfavorable opinion versus a 41% favorable opinion. Seventy-five percent (75%) of those polled who have an unfavorable opinion of President Obama are supporting Chapman; 18% of those with an unfavorable opinion of the President support Keating.

There remains a shrinking but still sizable enthusiasm gap between supporters in favor of Chapman. Among voters who said they were more enthusiastic about this election, 56% plan on voting for Chapman, as compared to 40% who plan to vote for Keating. This enthusiasm for Keating has increased 9 points from 31% in the prior poll two weeks ago.

Chapman continues to hold a 6-point lead in Plymouth County (50%-44%) while Keating has extended his lead in Bristol County to 23 points (56%-33%). Barnstable County is split 46%-45% in favor of Chapman.

Caller ID

These Emerson College Polling Society poll was conducted October 17-19. The sample for the 9th District Congressional District consisted of 302 likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 5.6% with a 95% confidence level, and were conducted using an Interactive Voice Response (IRV) system using registered voting lists. The full methodology and results can be found at www.theecps.com.