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THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF COMMUNITY AND THE ECONOMY

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## Sherwood Trails Carney, Lycoming College Poll Finds

**WILLIAMSPORT, Pa.** - Representative Don Sherwood, the Republican incumbent in the 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district, trails Democratic challenger Christopher Carney 38 to 47 percent, according to a Lycoming College poll released today.

“Sherwood appears to be facing an uphill battle to retain his seat,” said Dr. Jonathan Williamson, chair of the Department of Political Science at Lycoming and director of the College’s Center for the Study of Community and the Economy. “Although with 15 percent of voters undecided, he still has an outside shot.”

Political science students under the direction of Dr. Williamson surveyed 804 likely voters from September 24-28. The district extends from Williamsport in the west to sections of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, excluding the cities of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. The poll’s margin of error is +/- 3.5 percent.

Sherwood received support from 60 percent of Republicans, 28 percent of Independents and 10 percent of Democrats. Carney received the support of 80 percent of Democrats, 48 percent of Independents and 26 percent of Republicans. 13 percent of Republicans, 22 percent of independents and 9 percent of Democrats remain undecided.

“Normally, a Republican incumbent should have an easy time in this district,” said Williamson. “Sherwood’s recent troubles combined with Republican difficulties nationally have weakened his position considerably, even among the Republican base.”

Respondents were also asked to indicate whether their impression of each candidate was favorable or unfavorable. Only 37 percent viewed the congressman favorably, while 48 percent viewed him unfavorably and 16 percent offering no opinion or indicated they did not know enough to rate him. 41 percent viewed Carney favorably compared to 17 percent who viewed him unfavorably and 42 percent of respondents offered no opinion or did not know enough to rate the Democratic candidate.

“Sherwood has struggled to overcome the bad taste scandal has left in the mouth of voters,” said Williamson. “Carney’s challenge is different. Many voters still do not know who he is, much less anything about him.”

In other news from the Lycoming College poll of the 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district, Governor Ed Rendell leads Republican challenger Lynn Swann 45 to 38 percent in that part of the state. Senator Rick Santorum holds a close lead of 45 to 42 percent over Democratic challenger Bob Casey among voters in the 10<sup>th</sup>.

“For Republican candidates to be successful statewide, they need to do well in rural Pennsylvania,” said Williamson. “Swann and Santorum should both be concerned by a weak showing in this normally Republican area.”

Question: If the election for United States House of Representatives were held today, would you vote for Don Sherwood, the Republican incumbent or Christopher Carney, the Democratic challenger to represent the 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district of Pennsylvania?

	<b>All Respondents</b>	<b>Republicans (Party Self-identified)</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Democrats</b>
<b>Sherwood</b>	38.2%	60.4%	28.4%	10.3%
<b>Carney</b>	46.7	26.0	48.1	80.4
<b>Other</b>	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.0
<b>Undecided</b>	14.7	13.4	22.2	9.4
<b>Percent of Total</b>	100%	48.7%	21.5%	29.8%