



September 23, 2008

TO: Interested Parties

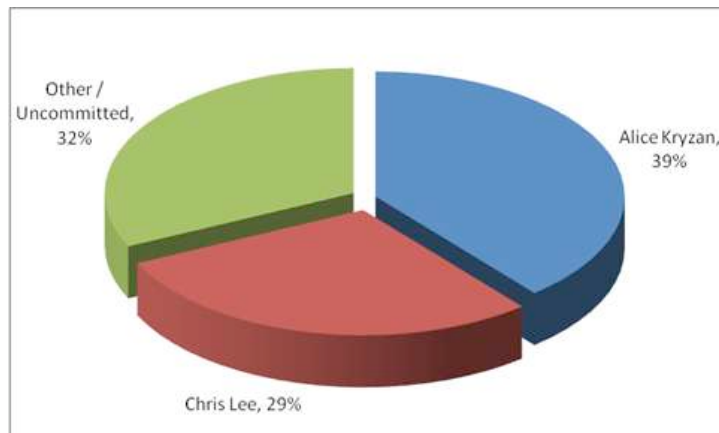
FR: Cornell Belcher

RE: Recent polling data in New York's 26th CD

The following findings are from our recent survey of likely general election voters in New York's 26th Congressional District.

Alice Kryzan is the front runner in New York 26

After pulling off a stunning insurgent victory in the Democratic primary, Alice Kryzan is leading Republican Chris Lee in this open Republican seat. Kryzan currently leads Lee 39 percent to 29 percent. Kryzan's lead is particularly striking given that Lee has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars already on positive television commercials, and yet fails to garner even a third of the vote. Clearly, voters are not buying Lee as an agent for change. And while party registration still favors Republicans, voters in the district are currently just as likely to identify themselves as Democrat as they are to identify as Republican. This is a result of eight years of disastrous Bush economic policies, which have impacted the GOP brand in Western New York. But Democrats can't get



comfortable if they want to take this seat back from Republicans this fall. Though Kryzan currently leads by 10 points, the electorate is still fluid at this time, with a significant number of undecided voters. From a partisan standpoint, this is a competitive seat for an independent Democrat right now: 33 percent of voters ID as Democrats, 32 percent ID as Republicans, and 25 percent ID as Independents.

Kryzan's profile and voice for the forgotten middle class appeal to voters in Western New York anxious about their economic future

Kryzan is an environmental attorney with over 30 years of experience in civic activities and leadership in the 26th district.

A 65 percent majority of voters in the district are dissatisfied with the direction of the country, and protecting jobs and improving the economy are by far the top issues on voters' minds (40 percent). These anxious middle-class voters are hungry for change and ready for a break from the Bush years – a break that Chris Lee cannot credibly offer.

While neither candidate is currently well-known district-wide, Kryzan's history and basic messages of standing up for the middle class and making the government work for them have a ready audience in this blue collar district, particularly with working women and Independent voters. She begins this contest with favorable to unfavorable ratio of over four-to-one.

Moreover, Republican Chris Lee has some serious negatives around trade issues, Iraq, and his failure to stand up for the middle class that make him a tough sell this year given the heightened economic angst of these western New York voters. Before these issues are even brought up with voters, Lee is viewed favorably by only 19 percent of voters--while 11 percent view him unfavorably. Once voters hear more about Lee's record on central pocketbook issues impacting the district's middle class, he quickly loses all but the most partisan Republican support, and Independent voters are greatly troubled about supporting him as well.

Given the current political and economic environment, along with a Republican candidate with serious negatives when it comes to addressing the concerns of working families, Kryzan can take this district for Democrats. However, she will need the resources to tell her story to the voters of this district as well as messages of fighting for the middle class and making Washington work for ordinary people, not powerful special interests.