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Strong Demand for Change in Texas' 7th Congressional District

Democrat Michael Skelly Has Opportunity to Defeat Rep. Culberson

To: Interested Parties

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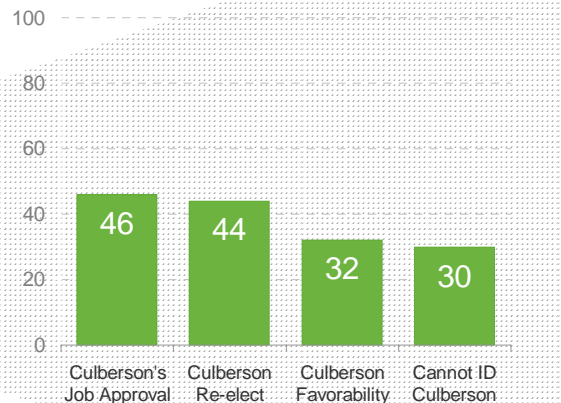
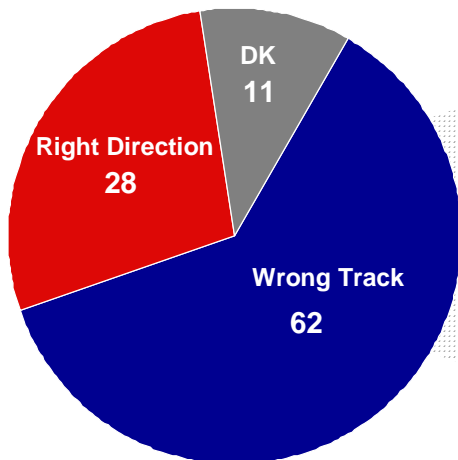
The time is ripe for change, according to voters from the greater Houston area. A recent survey of 600 likely voters in Texas' 7th Congressional District reveals a dissatisfaction with the status quo. Coupled with a low approval rating for President Bush and the War in Iraq, voters are not sold on Congressman John Culberson's re-election as the incumbent draws only mediocre ratings and is vulnerable. With this context shaping the mood for the election, the congressional race presents a real opportunity for Democratic challenger and wind energy businessman Michael Skelly.

Mood of Discontent

Nearly two in three voters (62%) believe the country is moving in the wrong direction, presenting a unique opportunity for change from "business as usual." The popularity of President George W. Bush is a key indicator of voter discontent with the current administration. Even in his home state of Texas, in a district which his father formerly represented in Congress, voters have turned against the current president as more voters now dislike the president personally than like him (38% favorable rating to 48% unfavorable) and a solid majority disapproves of the job he is doing as president (45% job approval to 54% disapproval).

Voters are Looking for Change

Generally speaking, do you think that things in the country are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?



Culberson is Vulnerable

This negative mood in the district carries over into how voters perceive their incumbent Congressman. Only one in three voters (32%) holds a favorable opinion of Culberson. This is a low number for a long-time incumbent in a Republican district who has not faced a serious opponent in several election cycles. Even worse for Culberson, his positives are only marginally higher than the 30% that cannot identify the Congressman. Furthermore, nearly a quarter of voters (23 percent) have an unfavorable opinion of Culberson as many Democrats and independents have already formulated strongly negative opinions of the Republican incumbent.

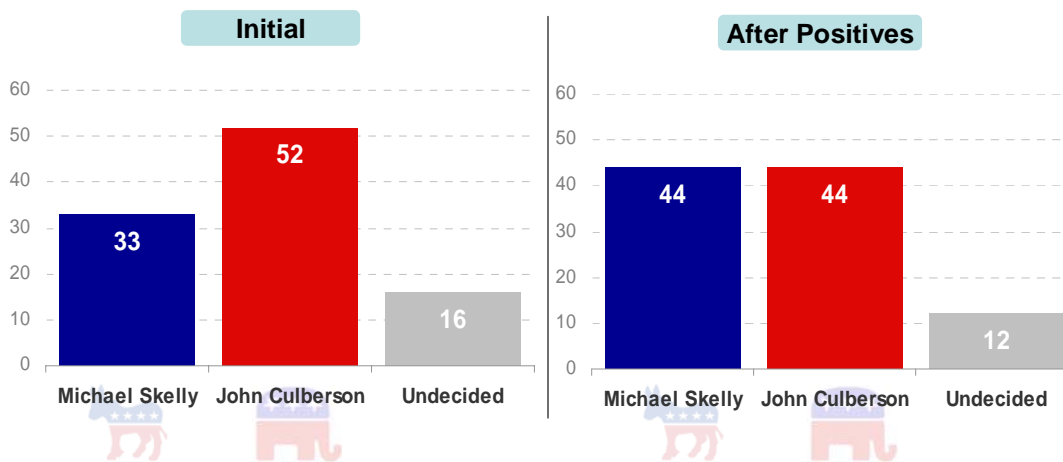
Voters' assessment of Culberson in other areas is not much better and provides additional evidence of his potential vulnerability. The incumbent's job approval (46%) and re-election (44% re-elect to 34% who favor someone else) ratings are both below 50%--signaling an opening for a challenger that can lead voters in a new direction.

The Vote: Initially Down, Michael Skelly draws even after positives

Given the Republican leanings of Texas' 7th Congressional District, it is no surprise that in an initial congressional match-up, Culberson starts off with a lead. The real story, however, is that once voters hear positive biographies of both Culberson and Michael Skelly, the race draws to a dead heat. Initially down by 19 points, Skelly and Culberson both receive 44% in the re-vote. This is a clear sign that Michael Skelly has the ability to make this race competitive and beat John Culberson.

Vote for Congress: Michael Skelly Trails Initially But Pulls Even After Positive Biographies of Both Candidates

If the election for U.S. Congress were held today and the candidates were John Culberson, the Republican, and Michael Skelly, the Democrat, for whom would you vote?



Once voters hear about Skelly's background as a successful wind energy businessman and his message of change, Skelly closes the gap and draws even with the incumbent – an impressive performance given the nature of the district. Skelly taps into voters' strong discontent with Washington as he wins over most of the voters who believe the country is headed in the wrong direction. More importantly, Skelly draws overwhelmingly support from Democrats (91%), as these voters are most anxious for change. In addition, Skelly wins independents by a nearly two-to-one margin (51% to 28%) and has the ability to attract enough Republican votes to win.

Michael Skelly vs. John Culberson (After Positives)

	Michael Skelly	John Culberson	Undecided
Democrats	91%	4%	6%
Independents	51%	28%	21%
White	38%	50%	12%
Latino	60%	25%	16%
African American	93%	7%	0%
Cannot ID Culberson	55%	29%	10%
Right Direction	18%	74%	8%
Wrong Track	58%	29%	13%

Across region, race, and ideology, voters open the door to Michael Skelly's message of working hard to achieving the American dream and bringing change to Washington, especially for our energy policy, economy, and providing accountability to the War in Iraq. Tellingly, of the voters who believe the country is headed in the wrong track, nearly three in five (58%) support Skelly after the re-vote. That is a two-to-one margin over the 29% of wrong track voters that support John Culberson. Voters clearly see Michael Skelly as the candidate for change, and that is why he has the potential to defeat Republican Congressman John Culberson.

Survey Methodology:

Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research conducted a telephone survey among 600 likely general election voters in Texas' 7th Congressional district from December 5-12, 2007. The survey has a margin of error +/- 4.1 percent.