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Poll shows dead heat in N.J. Third District congressional race

By Cynthia Burton

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No wonder the combatants in the Third District congressional race are snapping at each other almost daily.

> A new poll has Republican candidate Chris Myers at 39 percent to Democrat John Adler's 37 percent – a statistical dead heat considering the margin of error is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

> According to a poll done for Richard Stockton College and the Press of Atlantic City released yesterday, about a fifth of the likely voters in the Third District – which includes Cherry Hill and much of Burlington and Ocean counties – remain undecided. That leaves plenty of room for Adler and Myers to fight for votes.

> Adler, a state senator from Camden County, and Myers, the mayor of Medford, have been running hard in a race that has Democrats and Republicans around the country focused on South Jersey. President Bush arrived last week to raise money for Myers. This weekend, Myers had planned a rally in Ocean County with Senate Minority Leader John Boehner (R., Ohio) as a headliner. Boehner cancelled because Congress worked through the weekend on the \$700 billion financial industry bailout.

> Adler has had his share of political stars raising money for him as well and more are expected.

> The seat was opened with the retirement last November of U.S. Rep. James Saxton (R., N.J.) in a district long held by Republicans. Adler thinks he has a chance because the demographics have changed, making the district a potential pick-up seat.

> The poll of 1,200 likely voters was conducted for Stockton's William J. Hughes Center from Sept. 18 to Sept. 20 by Zogby International. It covered three congressional districts in South Jersey.

> Results for the Second District, covering the southeast end of the state, have incumbent

Republican U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo at 62 percent and his Democratic opponent Dave Kurkowski at 26 percent. In the First District, covering Camden and parts of Burlington and Gloucester Counties, U.S. Rep. Robert E. Andrews leads Republican Dale Glading 73 percent to 16 percent.

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