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For Immediate Release

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**NEW DELAWARE STATEWIDE POLL SHOWS DEMOCRAT BEAU BIDEN LEADING CON. MIKE CASTLE FOR FIRST TIME IN HYPOTHETICAL MATCH-UP FOR 2010 US SENATE SEAT**

**(Harrisburg Pa., November 16)** – Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc., a Harrisburg, PA-based survey research and political polling firm, today released the results of an independent statewide poll testing voters' early attitudes and preferences towards the 2010 open seat election for U.S. Senate in Delaware, as well as key issues facing the state. The automated poll was conducted November 10 – 15 with 850 registered likely voters, with calls made from a statewide voter registration list exclusively among voters who cast ballots in either the 2008 or 2006 general elections. The poll has a margin of error of +/-3.36% at the 95% confidence level. Top line results are included with this release.

In a hypothetical match-up of the candidates, Democrat Beau Biden leads GOP challenger and Delaware Congressman Mike Castle by a margin of 45 to 40 percent; 8% are undecided and 6% say would vote for another candidate. This 5-point lead for Biden, which is statistically significant because it is outside the poll's 3.36% margin of error, marks the first time in publicly-released surveys that Biden has held the lead. It also represents a significant shift in support for Biden compared to our April survey which showed Castle with a 21-point lead, mainly due to Biden's increased support with critical independent voters which make up nearly 1 in 4 voters in Delaware. A second explanation for the shift away from Castle in the current poll may be a result of negative publicity he received in the state after casting a "no" vote for President Obama's health care reform bill in the U.S. Congress. The current poll was conducted 11/10 – 11/15, the week immediately following the weekend when the U.S. House of Representatives voted on this landmark legislation.

In the current poll, Castle leads 72/17 among Republicans while Biden leads 65/21 among Democrats. Among Independents however, Castle holds a much narrower 42/37 margin, compared to a more substantial 55/28 margin in the April survey. Biden's 65/21 margin over Castle with Democrats has also strengthened from a 52/36 lead in our April survey. Among traditional "super" voters, or those who vote in all elections, the race is virtually tied at 43/42 (Biden), while among more infrequent voters, or those who mainly vote in presidential years Biden's lead is stronger, at 49/38. This means Biden's chances of success are greatly improved if turnout is higher among "presidential-type" voters next year, groups which historically have lower turnout in non-presidential years like 2010. This is an important point because it is precisely this type of lower turnout among "presidential-type voters", and especially among younger voters and minorities that contributed to Democratic losses in governor races in both New Jersey and Virginia earlier this year. Therefore, regardless of which candidate eventually becomes the Democratic nominee, if the Democrats are unsuccessful replicating the kind of voter turnout that helped propel President Obama to office in 2008 then Castle will be much better positioned to win. For purposes of our cross-tabulations, "super" voters are listed as "1x" voters, while "presidential" voters are listed as "2x".

Biden leads Castle by a 50/36 margin with voters in the Democratic stronghold of New Castle County (which accounts for more than sixty percent of the vote in the state), while Castle leads Biden both in Kent (44/42) and conservative-leaning Sussex County (49/35). A traditional gender gap also exists in the poll, since Biden leads among females (49/37) while Castle leads among males (44/40).

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**Final Top Line Survey Results  
 Delaware Statewide Automated Survey  
 Sample Size: 850 Registered Voters  
 Conducted: November 10-15, 2009**

Hello, this is Voter Survey Service conducting a two minute survey in Delaware...

Q1. What is the most important problem facing Delaware? Press 1 for taxes. Press 2 for the economy and jobs. Press 3 for government spending. Press 4 for education and schools. Press 5 for healthcare. Press 6 for something else or if you are undecided...

1. Taxes	37	04%
2. Economy/jobs	424	50%
3. Government spending	115	13%
4. Education/schools	82	10%
5. Healthcare	99	12%
6. Other/Undecided	93	11%

Q2. If the next election for United States Senate were held today, would you vote for Beau Biden the Democrat, or Mike Castle the Republican?

Press 1 for Democrat Beau Biden, press 2 for Republican Mike Castle, press 3 for someone else, or press 4 if you are undecided.

			<u>4/09</u>	<u>%Ch</u>
1. Biden	383	45%	34%	+11
2. Castle	343	40%	55%	-15
3. Other	55	06%	03%	+3
4. Undecided	68	08%	08%	--

	<u>All</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Kent</u>	<u>NC</u>	<u>Sus</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Fem</u>	<u>1x</u>	<u>2x</u>
1. Biden	45%	17%	65%	37%	42%	50%	35%	40%	49%	49%	43%
2. Castle	40%	72%	21%	42%	44%	36%	49%	44%	37%	38%	42%
3. Other	06%	09%	04%	09%	09%	06%	07%	07%	06%	07%	06%
4. Undecided	08%	03%	10%	12%	06%	08%	09%	08%	08%	07%	09%

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. YOU MAY HANG UP TO END THIS CALL.**

Q3. Party (from record)

1. Republican	238	28%
2. Democrat	417	49%
3. Independent/Other	195	23%

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Q4. Age (from record)

1. 18-29	102	12%
2. 30-44	179	21%
3. 45-59	315	37%
4. 60+	255	30%

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Q5. Gender (from record)

1. Male	378	44%
2. Female	472	56%

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Q6. Area (from record)

1. Kent	145	17%
2. New Castle	518	61%
3. Sussex	187	22%

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Q7. Vote history (from record)

1X	339	40%
2X	511	60%

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The margin of error for a sample size of 850 is +/-3.36%

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© Susquehanna Polling and Research is a Harrisburg, PA-based political polling firm both for political clients (Republican only) and corporate interests. SP&R conducts surveys mainly in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Florida. Susquehanna Polling and Research also does business under the name Voter Survey Service (VSS).