



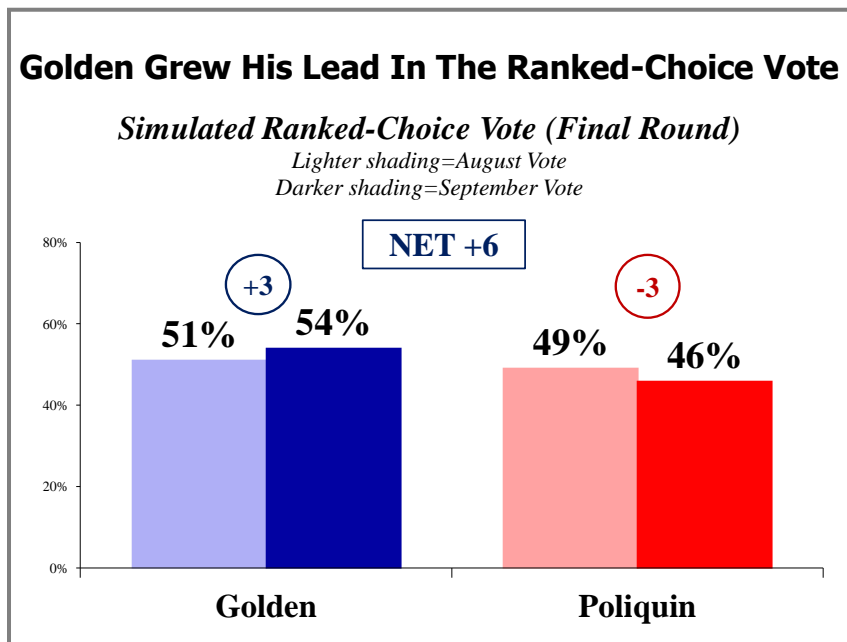
**TO:** Jared Golden for Congress  
**FROM:** The Mellman Group  
**DATE:** September 12, 2018  
**RE:** Golden Has Increased His Lead And His Image Advantage Over Poliquin

*This analysis represents the findings of a survey of 400 voters representing the likely November 2018 electorate in Maine’s 2nd Congressional District. Interviews were conducted by telephone from September 4-7, 2018 using a registration-based sample of cellphones and landlines. The margin of error for this survey is +/-4.9 percentage points at a 95% level of confidence. The margin of error is higher for subgroups.*

Our just-completed poll shows Democratic state legislator and Marine combat veteran Jared Golden increasing his lead over incumbent Bruce Poliquin in the race for Maine’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District seat. Poliquin’s image remains weak while Golden’s has improved.

### GOLDEN’S LEAD HAS GROWN

Golden now leads by 8 points. Incorporating Maine’s new “instant run-off,” voting system into our polling, we find Golden ahead by 54% to 46% in the final round—an increase of 6 points in the margin since our August poll.



In the first-choice vote, Golden leads by close to 7 points now, compared to being down by 1 point in August.

### POLIQUIN REMAINS WEAK

Voters continue to offer negative assessments of Poliquin’s performance. Just 35% offer positive evaluations of his performance, while 57% express negative views.

### MEANWHILE, GOLDEN HAS BOLSTERED HIS POSITIVE PROFILE

At the same time, Golden’s hard ID increased by 20 points, with voters still overwhelmingly favorable, despite thousands of points of negative ads directed against him. Today 40% hold favorable views of Golden while just 20% are unfavorable. Importantly, Golden continues to hold an impressive double-digit net favorable image among independents – with room for additional growth.