

Stockton Poll: Christie Leads Buono By Wide Margin for Governor

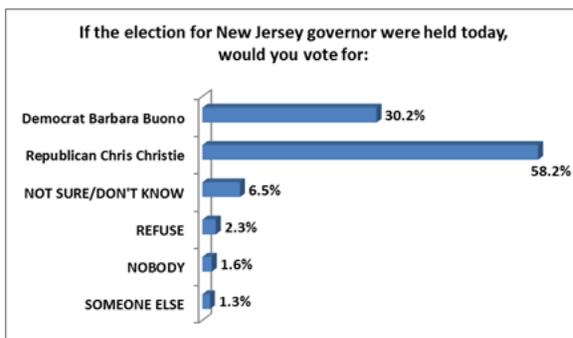
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Galloway Township, NJ - Republican Gov. Chris Christie holds a 28-point lead over his Democratic challenger, state Sen. Barbara Buono, according to a Stockton Polling Institute poll released today.

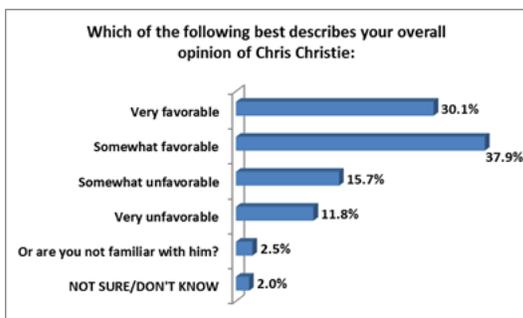
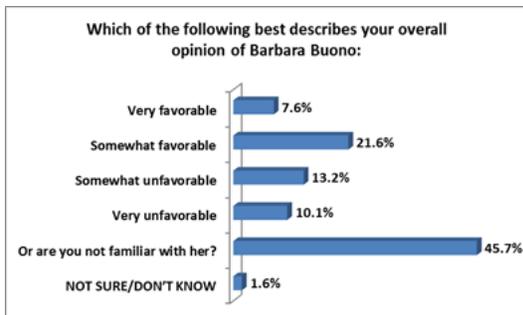
With seven weeks to go until the Nov. 5 general election, the governor has the support of 58 percent of likely voters surveyed, while Sen. Buono has 30 percent. Nine percent are undecided or refuse to express a preference.



The statewide poll was conducted with 812 likely New Jersey voters from Sept. 15-21.

Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. The survey has a margin of error of +/-3.4 percent. The Stockton Polling Institute is part of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Christie enjoys high ratings, with 68 percent holding a very favorable or somewhat favorable opinion of him, and 28 percent having unfavorable views. Buono, who represents parts of Middlesex County, is viewed favorably by 29 percent and unfavorably by 23 percent. Nearly half of the electorate – 46 percent – is not familiar with the candidate.



Sixty percent of the respondents say the governor is doing a good or excellent job, with 39 percent rating him as doing a fair or poor job.

By contrast, only 28 percent rate the New Jersey Legislature as good or excellent and 64 percent rate them fair or poor. Still it is better than the view of the United States Congress, which receives only 13 percent positive ratings and 84 percent negative.

The poll found 42 percent rating President Barack Obama's job performance as good or excellent, and 56 percent as fair or poor.

While Christie gets high marks, the poll finds limited ability for the governor to pull fellow Republicans into office on coattails. Asked what effect a Senate or Assembly endorsement by Christie would have on their votes, 29 percent say it would make them more likely to vote for that candidate and 29 percent say it would make them less likely. More than a third (35 percent) says a Christie endorsement would have no effect.

Meanwhile, large percentages of voters support the public questions on New Jersey's ballot. Seventy-seven percent support raising the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$8.25 an hour and providing annual cost of living increases. Nineteen percent are opposed and 4 percent are undecided/refuse to answer. Thirty-one percent of the opponents and undecideds would support the minimum wage increase if the annual COLAs were not part of the proposal.

Sixty-six percent supports a proposal to allow veterans groups to use money raised in raffles and games of chance to fund their operating expenses, while 23 percent are opposed and 10 percent are unsure.

Methodology

Interviews were conducted at the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy's Stockton Polling Institute by live interviewers calling from the Stockton College campus. The poll was conducted with 812 likely voters from Sept. 15-21. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. All prospective respondent households in the state have the same chance of joining the sample because of random selection. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.4 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. MOE is higher for subsets. Data are weighted based on United States Census Bureau demographics for the New Jersey population.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College. The Hughes Center can be found at www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.



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