



Hughes Center Poll: Toss-up in 2nd District Senate Race Whelan and Polistina are Tied

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Galloway, NJ— Likely voters in the have not made up their minds in the competitive 2nd Legislative District State Senate race, according to the Richard Stockton College/Zogby Poll commissioned by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Democratic incumbent State Senator Jim Whelan and Republican challenger Assemblyman Vince Polistina are in a virtual tie with likely voters favoring Whelan with 40.0% and Polistina with 40.6%. The difference is within the margin of error of +/- 4.1 %

“The 2nd Legislative District race was touted as the most competitive race in New Jersey. It can’t get any closer than this,” stated Daniel J. Douglas, Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

“With 17.8% not sure who they would vote for, both candidates are left with over a month to persuade voters,” continued Douglas.

When respondents were asked who they would vote for if the choices were Senator Jim Whelan, Assemblyman Vince Polistina and Mayor Lorenzo Langford, Whelan had 37.0%, Polistina 39.0% and Langford 7.6%, with 15.0% still unsure. The difference between Whelan and Polistina slightly favored Polistina, but remained within the margin of error of +/- 4.1 %.

The Assembly race has quite different results with Republican incumbent Assemblyman John Amodeo and his new running mate, Chris Brown, leading the Democratic Assembly candidates, Freeholder Alisa Cooper and running mate, Damon Tyner. Amodeo led all the candidates with 48.1%, followed by Brown with 46.7%, Cooper with 29.1% and Tyner with 25.6%.

When asked about whether New Jersey was headed in the right direction or was on the wrong track, 53.7% responded that the state was headed in the right direction while 37.1% thought New Jersey was on the wrong track.

President Barack Obama was viewed favorably by 46.2% and unfavorably by 52.0% of likely voters.

Governor Chris Christie was viewed favorably by 65.8% of those polled, while 31.6% viewed him unfavorably.

K-12 education, healthcare, senior citizen programs and economic development were identified as the top four New Jersey state budget areas that should receive priority funding.

The Stockton-Zogby poll* of 600 likely voters in the new 2nd Legislative District was conducted from September 20 – 27. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4.1 %.

2nd LD Senate Race			2nd LD Assembly Race		
Candidate	May	Sept	Candidate	May	Sept
	%	%		%	%
Jim Whelan	47	40.0	John F. Amodeo	46	48.1
Vince Polistina	37	40.6	Chris Brown	40	46.7
Someone else	1	1.7	Alisa Cooper	26	29.1
Not sure	15	17.8	Damon Tyner	13	25.6
			Someone else	2	1.7
			Not sure	23	19.4

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the political, economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey.

** IBOPE Zogby International is a non-partisan, premier global public opinion polling and market research firm that offers timely, accurate results and in-depth analysis and insights. IBOPE Zogby International was formed in January 2010 following the acquisition of Zogby International by IBOPE Inteligencia of Brazil, a subsidiary of IBOPE Group. Please visit www.ibopezogby.com for more information on IBOPE Zogby International.*