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Christie Leads Corzine 47%-42%

According to the most recent poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind™, Republican Chris Christie leads Democratic incumbent Jon Corzine by 47%-42% among likely voters in the race for New Jersey governor. Another 6% say they are unsure.

"The most important difference between these two candidates right now is in the support each one gets from his own party's voters," said Peter Woolley, a political scientist and director of the poll. Among Republicans, Christie is preferred by 85%. Meanwhile, Corzine gets the support of 73% of Democrats. "That is an improvement from his earlier, tepid support, but still lagging," said Woolley.

The governor has not convinced Democrats that the state is headed in the right direction: about half (49%) say it's on the wrong track while 38% say it is headed the right way. Among Democrats, 29% have an unfavorable view of their nominee, compared to 12% of Republicans who have an unfavorable view of their nominee. Just 8% of Republicans have a favorable view of Corzine, but 19% of Democrats have a favorable view of Christie and 18% say they'll vote for him. Among all voters, 37% say their view of Corzine is favorable, while 54% say their impression is unfavorable. Similarly 37% approve of the job he's doing and 52% say they disapprove.

There are some notable undercurrents working against Christie as well. Voters who have an unfavorable opinion of Christie jumped sharply to 35%, up from 25%. "This is the expected result of an increasing volume of negative advertising," said Woolley.

Moreover, Corzine has improved on secondary measures. Asked which candidate is better described as "honest, trustworthy," the candidates now essentially tie (31% Corzine, 32% Christie) but Christie had been the clear leader, 33%-24%, in the previous survey. In addition, Corzine continues to lead on the question of which candidate "has the background and experience to be a good governor," by 45%-32%, essentially unchanged from 42%-29%. He only continues to lag on the question of which candidate better "understands the concerns of the average person." He loses to Christie 30%-43% on that measure.

Independent candidate Chris Daggett is preferred by 1% in the survey which did not mention him by name, but allowed respondents to volunteer him or any other preference. Two thirds (67%) of likely voters say they've never heard of Daggett, an improvement from the nine of ten who said in early summer they had never heard of him, but another 20% say that while they've heard of him they have no opinion of him.

Similarly, 65% have not heard of Loretta Weinberg, the Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor, while another 19% have heard of her but have no opinion of her. And more than nine of ten (93%) have not heard of or have no opinion of the Republican nominee for Lieutenant Governor, Sheriff Kim Guadagno.

"The Republican appears to be in pretty good shape headed into Labor Day," said Woolley. "The question is whether he has peaked while Corzine still has voters to win over."

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 715 likely voters statewide was conducted by telephone from August 24, 2009, through August 30, 2009, and has a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points.

*Methodology, questions, and tables are available on the web at: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>
Radio actualities at 201.692.2846 For more information, please call 201.692.7032.*

Methodology, Questions, and Tables

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from August 24, 2009 through August 30, 2009 using a randomly selected sample of 715 likely voters statewide. The margin of error for a sample of 715 randomly selected respondents is +/- 4 percentage points. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling error. This kind of error, which cannot be measured, arises from a number of factors including, but not limited to, non-response (eligible individuals refusing to be interviewed), question wording, the order in which questions are asked, and variations among interviewers. PublicMind interviews are conducted by professionally trained interviewers use a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection is achieved by computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a land-line phone number (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected. Results are mathematically weighted to match known demographics.

Question: Now, turning to New Jersey... In your opinion, do you think things in New Jersey are moving in the right direction or do you think the state has gotten off on the wrong track?

	All	Party			Public employee household	
		D	I	R	Yes	no
Right direction	22%	38	10	6	22	22
Wrong track	68%	49	78	90	69	68
Unsure	10%	14	12	4	8	10

Right track/wrong track trend

	Jun 09	Apr 09	Mar 09	Jan 09	Nov 08	Oct '08	Sept '08	June '08	Apr '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Oct '07	Sep '07	Jun '07	May '07	Mar '06
Right track	21%	23	25	25	24	23	23	25	26	25	28	30	38	36	42	39
Wrong track	66%	64	59	65	65	67	67	64	66	65	61	59	49	50	44	47
Unsure	14%	13	16	10	10	10	11	12	9	10	11	12	12	14	14	15

Question: Have you heard of [rotate list]? If you haven't just tell me. [If yes, ask:] Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...? Would that be very or somewhat?

	Haven't heard of	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Unsure/ no opinion	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable
Jon Corzine (all)	--	12%	25%	9%	19%	35%
<i>Democrats only</i>		22	40	9	16	13
<i>Independents only</i>		6	17	14	24	40
<i>Republicans only</i>		1	7	7	22	64
Previous Surveys...						
<i>Corzine 07/09</i>	2%	8%	23%	13%	24%	30%
<i>Corzine 05/09</i>	1%	10%	23%	9%	18%	38%
<i>Corzine 03/09</i>	1%	10%	28%	13%	22%	26%
<i>Corzine 01/09</i>	2%	14%	28%	12%	21%	23%
<i>Corzine 11/08</i>	3%	13%	27%	14%	17%	26%

	Haven't heard of	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	No opinion	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable
Chris Christie (all)	3%	15%	23%	25%	17%	18%
<i>Republicans only</i>	1	30	36	21	8	4
<i>Independents only</i>	1	11	23	37	17	11
<i>Democrats only</i>	5	5	14	25	22	30
Previous Surveys...						
<i>Christie 07/09</i>	13%	10%	24%	28%	14%	11%
<i>Christie 04/09</i>	38%	14%	17%	20%	8%	4%
<i>Christie 03/09</i>	43%	12%	18%	22%	4%	2%
<i>Christie 01/09</i>	56%	11%	12%	15%	4%	2%
<i>Christie 09/08</i>	60%	2%	3%	14%	11%	9%

	Haven't heard of	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	No opinion	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable
Chris Daggett	67%	1%	8%	20%	3%	1%
<i>Democrats only</i>	68	2	7	19	4	1
<i>Independents only</i>	61	1	9	25	3	--
<i>Republicans only</i>	67	1	10	20	2	1
Previous Surveys...						
<i>Daggett 07/08</i>	89%	--	1%	9%	--	--

	Haven't heard of	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	No opinion	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable
Loretta Weinberg	65%	4%	6%	19%	2%	3%
<i>Democrats only</i>	64	7	7	18	2	1
<i>Independents only</i>	61	2	6	25	2	5
<i>Republicans only</i>	69	1	5	19	2	4

	Haven't heard of	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	No opinion	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable
Kim Guadagno	85%	1%	3%	8%	1%	2%
<i>Democrats only</i>	87	1	1	7	2	2
<i>Independents only</i>	82	1	2	12	1	2
<i>Republicans only</i>	83	2	7	7	1	--

Question: Next November there will be an election for governor. I know it's early but if the election were held today who would you vote for ... or ...? [ROTATE NAMES] [If "don't know" ASK: "at this moment, which way do you lean?" If "other" ASK: "who would that be?"]

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	Public Pension household		July
					yes	no	
Jon Corzine, the Democrat	41						35
Lean Corzine	1						4
Total Corzine	42%	73	25	7	48	39	39%
Chris Christie, the Republican	45						42
Lean Christie	2						3
Total Christie	47%	18	52	85	41	49	45%
Daggett (vol.)	1%	--	1	1	1	1	N/A
Neither/other (vol.)	4%	3	10	4	5	4	1%
Don't know (vol.)	6%	5	11	4	5	7	15%

Corzine v. Christie trend

	July	April	March	Jan
Total Corzine	39%	33%	32%	40%
Total Christie	45%	42%	41%	33%
Don't know/neither/other	16%	25%	27%	26%

Question: Which candidate for New Jersey governor... or ... is better described by...?								
<i>rotate names, rotate order</i>								
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	men	women	July	
Honest, trustworthy								
Jon Corzine	31%	53	18	10	32	31	24%	
Chris Christie	32%	12	28	62	34	30	33%	
neither (vol)	20%	20	28	15	19	21	18%	
both (vol)	2%	2	5	2	3	2	5%	
don't know (vol)	14%	13	21	11	11	16	20%	
Understands the concerns of the average person								
Jon Corzine	30%	52	16	5	28	31	28%	
Chris Christie	43%	21	44	75	45	41	40%	
neither (vol)	15%	15	22	10	15	14	11%	
both (vol)	3%	2	5	2	4	2	2%	
don't know (vol)	10%	10	12	8	7	12	18%	
Has the background and experience to be a good governor								
Jon Corzine	45%	72	29	14	45	44	42%	
Chris Christie	32%	12	27	62	34	30	29%	
neither (vol)	8%	5	20	9	9	8	7%	
both (vol)	4%	3	10	3	4	4	4%	
don't know (vol)	11%	9	13	12	8	14	18%	

Question: Now, regardless of which candidate you <u>want</u> to win, if you had to guess, who would you say is <u>going</u> to win the election for governor in November... or ...?					
<i>Rotate names</i>	All	Dem	Ind.	Rep.	July
Jon Corzine	45%	60	36	27	46%
Chris Christie	41%	25	45	62	38%
Don't Know (vol.)	15%	15	19	11	15%

Job rating, current

Question: How would you rate the job Jon Corzine is doing as governor...
[READ]?

	All	Party			Public Pension household	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Yes	No
Excellent	3%	5	2	1	4	3
Good	22%	39	13	5	20	23
Only fair	40%	42	41	36	42	39
Poor	33%	13	43	58	33	33
unsure (vol)	2%	1	2	1	1	2

Job rating, previous measures

	2009				2008				2007				2006						
	Jul	Ap	Mar	Ja	No	Oc	Se	Jun	Ap	Fe	Ja	Oc	Sep	Jun	Mar	Ja	No	Oc	Se
Excellent	2%	3	2	4	6	4	3	4	3	5	6	5	7	5	6	4	10	11	9
good	24%	24	28	28	28	27	28	27	29	28	29	37	37	37	39	34	40	40	33
only fair	39%	36	40	41	39	41	41	41	36	38	39	38	39	36	39	38	30	32	33
poor	31%	35	28	25	24	25	25	24	30	27	23	17	15	14	12	17	17	14	20
unsure	3%	2	3	2	4	3	4	4	2	2	3	3	3	8	4	7	3	3	5

Approve/disapprove Current

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jon Corzine is doing as governor?

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	Public Pension Household	
					Yes	No
Approve	37%	62	23	9	38	36
Disapprove	52%	26	64	85	50	53
Mixed/unsure	12%	13	13	7	12	11

Approve/disapprove, previous surveys

	2009				2008								2007					2006		
	Jy	Ap	Mar	Ja	No	Oc	Sep	Jun	Ap	Fe	Ja 30 th	Ja 7 th	Oc	Se	Jun	Mar	Ja	No	Oc	Se
Approve	36%	40	40	46	46	45	41	40	44	42	41	48	51	54	50	55	51	58	56	51
Disapprove	49%	49	46	40	37	39	43	41	45	43	39	32	29	25	27	25	29	27	28	31
mixed/DK	15%	11	13	14	17	17	16	19	11	16	20	20	20	21	23	20	19	15	16	18

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