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OBAMA AND CHRISTIE GET SIMILAR LOVE; ROMNEY'S UPHILL BATTLE AMONG WOMEN

According to the latest poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind™, 50 percent of New Jersey voters say they approve of the way the president is handling his job, while 42 percent disapprove. These numbers mirror the support expressed by New Jerseyans for their Republican governor, Chris Christie, as [reported yesterday](#): 56 percent approve of the job Christie is doing, compared to 33 percent who disapprove.

"What's interesting is the fact that these men are from different parties, during a time of sharp partisan division, and yet they garner about the same support," said FDU political scientist and poll analyst Krista Jenkins. "Obama's popularity in the Garden State doesn't detract from Christie's, and vice versa. Both clearly bring something to the table that works for New Jerseyans."

When it comes to the all-important horserace, Obama bests the presumptive Republican nominee, Mitt Romney, by fourteen points (50-36 percent). And behind those numbers, the gender gap is a sizable obstacle for Romney to overcome. Although men are about equally divided in their support for the candidates (45% Obama; 42% Romney), the majority of women say they'd vote for Obama if the election were held today (54%-31%). Women are also significantly more likely to approve of Obama's job performance (55%) than men (45%).

"What we're seeing in New Jersey confirms what's going on nationally," said Jenkins. "Judging by the size of Romney's deficit with women voters, gender is going to play a sizable role in the outcome of this election."

However, the gender gap doesn't hold up when the question turns to perceptions of the direction in which the country is headed. The majority of respondents (56%) believe the country is on the wrong track, and men (57%) and women (55%) are about equally pessimistic.

"When we step back and look at what these numbers are telling us, it's that New Jersey women are just as unhappy with where this country is headed, but draw a completely different conclusion than men about the choice of candidates and the solutions they're offering," said Jenkins.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 797 registered voters statewide was conducted by telephone using both landlines and cell phones from April 30th through May 6th, 2012, and has a margin of error of +/-3.5 percentage points.

*Methodology, questions, and tables 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 April 30th through May 6th 2012, using a randomly selected sample of 797 registered voters statewide. The margin of error for a sample of 797 randomly selected respondents is +/- 3.5 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies by the size of that subgroup. 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 Opinion America of Cedar Knolls, NJ, with professionally trained interviewers using 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. Landline households are supplemented with a separate, randomly selected sample of cell-phone-only-households, interviewed in the same time frame. The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, race and gender.

In your opinion, do you believe that the country is moving in the right direction or do you believe it has gotten off on the wrong track?

	All	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Men	Women
Right direction	33%	52	24	13	34	32
Wrong track	56%	36	62	80	57	55
Unsure/mixed	10%	11	11	7	9	12

Right/wrong direction trend

	2012			2011							2010				
	Mar	Jan	Oct	Sep	May	Apr	Feb	Jan	Nov	Oct	Aug	May	Mar 30	Mar 3	Jan
Right	37	28	22	18	34	32	39	35	31	30	33	34	42	38	35
Wrong track	53	61	67	71	51	57	49	52	58	60	54	52	51	52	53
Unsure/mixed	9	10	10	11	15	11	12	13	11	10	13	13	8	10	12

	2009							2008
	Oct 30	Oct 9	Sep	July	Apr	Mar	Jan	Oct
Right direction	41	41	44	49	51	51	34	13
Wrong track	50	49	46	41	37	37	52	78
Unsure/mixed	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	9

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	All	Men	Women	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Approve	50%	45	55	82	40	11
Disapprove	42%	49	35	11	48	84
Unsure/mixed	7%	5	9	7	10	5

Obama approval trend

	2012			2011							2010			
	Mar	Jan	Oct	Sep	May	Apr	Feb	Jan	Nov	Oct	Aug	May	Mar	Jan
Approve	51	46	44	44	55	47	54	47	51	47	49	49	53	48
Disapprove	42	45	47	47	36	42	36	41	40	43	40	40	38	41
unsure	7	9	9	9	9	11	10	12	9	10	11	11	9	11

2009					
Oct	Sep	Jun	Apr	Mar	Jan*
52	56	61	66	66	72
37	36	29	22	21	10
10	8	10	12	13	18

*January 2009 question asked how Obama was handling his transition to the presidency.

In November, there will be an election for President of the United States. I know it's early, but let me ask...In a race for president between...and...Who would you vote for?

	All	Democrat	Political Party		Gender		Presidential Approval		
			Independent	Republican	Men	Women	Approve	Unsure	Disapprove
Barack Obama	50%	85	34	11	45	54	88	43	6
Mitt Romney	36%	7	34	81	42	31	5	13	77
Don't know	14%	8	32	8	13	15	7	44	17

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1. *In your opinion, do you believe the country is moving in the right direction or has it gotten off on the wrong track?*

Right direction

Wrong track

DK/Unsure [DON'T READ]

Ref. [DON'T READ]

US2. *In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?*

Approve

Disapprove

DK/Unsure/mixed [DON'T READ]

Ref. [DON'T READ]

US3. *In November, there will be an election for President of the United States. I know it's early, but let me ask....*

In a race for president between ... and Who would you vote for?

ROTATE ORDER WITHIN QUESTION

Barack Obama, the Democrat

Mitt Romney, the Republican

DK [vol. ASK: "which way to you lean?"]

REMAINING QUESTIONS WITHHELD FOR LATER RELEASE

Sample Characteristics (%)**Gender**

Male 49

Female 51

Age

18-29 13

30-44 23

45-59 31

60+ 29

Refused 4

In addition to being American, would you say you are...?

White 67

Black 14

Hispanic or Latino 11

Asian 3

Other/Refused 5

Public Employee Household?

Yes 22

No 75

Not sure/Refused 2

Party ID

Democrat/Lean Democrat 45

Independent/Unsure/Refused 23

Republican/Lean Republican 32

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