

## **VOTERS APPROVE OF GAY MARRIAGE DECISION; BOOKER AND CHRISTIE REMAIN IN THE LEAD**

### *Gay marriage*

The recent decision by a New Jersey judge that requires the state to begin issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples is supported by almost two-thirds of registered voters in the Garden State, according to the most recent statewide poll from Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind.

Sixty-two percent of respondents say they agree with the court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage in the state, with thirty percent opposed. Similar numbers do not endorse a state attempt to appeal the decision to a higher court. Sixty-two percent say the state should end all legal action that challenges same-sex marriage, with 29 percent who endorse an appeal. The issue is being followed by a majority of voters (61%). A quarter (26%) have heard or read "a lot" about the issue, with another third (35%) who have heard or read "some."

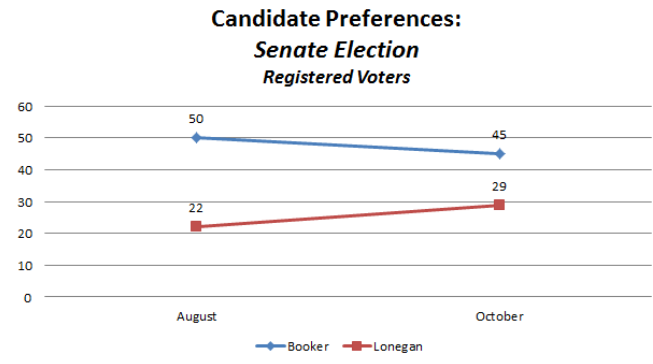
The usual partisan divide is apparent on this issue, with significantly more Democrats (75%) than Republicans (46%) and independents (61%) agreeing with the court's decision. Democrats also favor an end to legal action is appropriate (73%) as compared to Republicans (44%). A sizable gender gap separates men from women on the issue of gay marriage. Two-thirds of women support the court's decision, with a little more than half of all men (55%) who say the same.

"The timing of the decision heightens the importance of the issue at a time when the state enters the final days of the Senate, gubernatorial, and legislative elections," said Krista Jenkins, director of PublicMind and professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University. "Candidates from top of the ticket to down ballot races will undoubtedly be asked to weigh in on gay marriage for which public opinion is decisive."

### *Senate race*

Turning to the U.S. Senate race, Democrat Cory Booker maintains a solid lead over his Republican opponent, Steve Lonegan (45 to 29%, respectively) among registered voters. Fifteen percent are following the race "very closely" with another 32 percent who are following it "somewhat closely." When asked if they could provide the names of those running for the Senate, only a third (33%) named

both major party candidates, with 23 percent who identified just Booker, and 3 percent who provided only Lonegan’s name.



“The historic nature of the oddly timed Senate election makes it difficult to identify who is likely to turn out among registered voters, but these numbers reinforce the uphill battle that Lonegan has in defeating Booker,” said Jenkins. “The unresolved government shutdown and looming debt ceiling deadline could also impact the Senate race in unpredictable ways.” Jenkins went on to point out that despite the gap, “Lonegan has clearly made some inroads since the last time we asked registered voters the same question. In August, 50 percent favored Booker with 22 favoring Lonegan, or a gap favoring Booker that’s been narrowed by twelve points.”

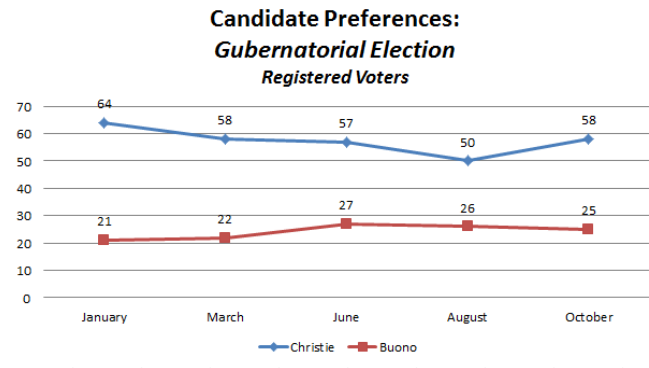
As for what voters know about the candidates on some major issues of the day, the answer seems to be “not much.” When asked whether each candidate favors or opposes the National Security Agency’s domestic surveillance program and greater restrictions on guns and ammunition –two issues the next Senator from New Jersey is likely to face once elected – a majority of voters said they were unsure where each candidate stands on these issues. Three-quarters couldn’t identify where Booker and Lonegan each stand on the issue of domestic surveillance, and 55 percent don’t know where Booker stands on more gun control, with 73 percent unsure of Lonegan’s stand on the issue. Uncertainty prevails even among those who say they are following the senate race “very closely.”

“Voters just don’t know much about these candidates. This is clear from their uncertainty over what they think each candidate believes about domestic surveillance and gun control, as well as the inability of many voters to identify who’s running next week,” said Jenkins. “Party identification is clearly standing in as a proxy for voters rather than familiarity with a candidate’s issue stands.”

### *Gubernatorial election*

With less than a month to go, Democrat Barbara Buono been unable to chip away at the sizable lead Governor Christie has had over her in past surveys. Among registered voters, Christie attracts the

support of 58 percent to Buono’s 25 percent, a gap that is even greater than when the same question was asked in August. At that time, Christie led Buono 50 to 26 percent. Unlike Christie, she continues to struggle to garner the support of Democrats. Although 44 percent of Democrats support Buono, more than a third (38%) say they will vote for Christie. The governor, on the other hand, has the support of nine-in-ten Republicans, and 53 percent of independents.



“Senator Buono has an opportunity to make some inroads in the two scheduled gubernatorial debates on October 8 and October 15,” said Jenkins, “but she’ll need more than good debate performances to close a gap of this magnitude,” said Jenkins.

Unlike the senate race, voters are more aware of who is running for governor. Almost half (46%) could name both Buono and Christie, although attentiveness to the governor’s race is comparable to that for the Senate race.

As for what voters know about where each candidate stands on important issues in the state – raising the minimum wage, gay marriage, and gun control – a good amount of uncertainty prevails, although this is less true than when the focus was on the senate candidates. For example, when asked whether Christie and Buono favor or oppose gay marriage, 57 percent correctly identified Christie as being opposed, and 36 percent correctly identified Buono as in favor. Greater uncertainty prevails when the question turns to gun control, however, with over half (53%) unsure where Christie stands on the issue and 64 percent unable to discern what Buono thinks about the issue of more gun restrictions. The same is true for raising the state’s minimum wage. Most don’t know where either candidate stands, even though the issue will be before voters on November’s ballot.

“The debates this week and next will give the governor an opportunity to clarify his position on gay marriage, something that the public perceives to be at odds with him on, and Senator Buono will have an opportunity to clarify her positions as well, particularly those like gay marriage that bring her into alignment with a majority of voters,” said Jenkins.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 702 registered voters in New Jersey was conducted by telephone with both landline and cell phones from September 30 through October 5, 2013, and has a margin of error of +/-3.7 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**

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University’s PublicMind was conducted by telephone from September 30 through October 5, 2013 using a randomly selected sample of 702 registered voters who reside in New Jersey. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of +/- 3.7 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 landline 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 respondents interviewed in the same time frame. The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, race and gender.

**Tables**

**Gay marriage decision**

<i>Recently, a New Jersey judge ruled that the state must begin issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples. How much have you heard or read about this issue?</i>								
		<b>PID</b>			<b>Gender</b>		<b>Race</b>	
	<b>All</b>	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white
A lot	26%	33	21	22	27	26	28	24
Some	35%	31	38	39	32	37	35	35
Just a little	25%	24	28	27	28	22	26	21
Nothing at all	13%	12	13	10	13	12	10	19
DK/Ref (vol)	1%	1	0	1	0	2	1	1

<i>Do you agree or disagree with the court’s decision to legalize same sex marriage in the state? [Randomize agree/disagree]</i>								
		<b>PID</b>			<b>Gender</b>		<b>Race</b>	
	<b>All</b>	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white
Agree	62%	75	61	46	55	67	65	55
Disagree	30%	18	31	44	34	26	27	37
DK/Ref. (vol)	9%	6	8	10	11	7	8	8

<i>In your opinion, should the state appeal the decision to a higher court or should the state end all legal action that challenges same sex marriage?</i>								
		PID			Gender		Race	
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white
Should appeal	<b>29%</b>	19	26	45	31	27	28	30
Should not appeal	<b>62%</b>	73	68	44	59	64	64	59
DK/Ref. (vol)	<b>10%</b>	8	6	11	10	9	7	12

### Senate election

<i>How closely are you following the election for Senate?</i>				
		PID		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub
Very closely	<b>15%</b>	16	11	16
Somewhat closely	<b>32%</b>	31	35	34
Just a little	<b>27%</b>	27	30	27
Not at all	<b>24%</b>	24	23	22
DK/Refused (vol)	<b>1%</b>	1	1	1

<i>Do you know the names of those running?</i>				
		PID		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub
Just Booker	<b>23%</b>	29	20	16
Just Lonegan	<b>3%</b>	1	3	5
Both	<b>33%</b>	27	39	40
Other names	<b>2%</b>	2	5	1
DK/Refused (vol)	<b>40%</b>	41	33	37

<i>If the election for Senate was held today, for whom would you vote? Republican Steve Lonegan or Democrat Cory Booker? [Randomize names]</i>								
		PID			Gender		Race	
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white
Cory Booker	<b>45%</b>	74	33	14	43	46	63	76
Steve Lonegan	<b>29%</b>	4	26	67	35	24	11	0
Someone else (vol)	<b>3%</b>	4	2	0	3	3	3	2
Unsure/Ref	<b>23%</b>	17	39	18	18	27	23	22

<i>Do you happen to know if Cory Booker/Steve Lonegan favors or opposes the National Security Agency's practice of collecting the phone and Internet records of millions of Americans under a classified surveillance program, or do you not know? [Randomize names &amp; favors/opposes]</i>									
			PID			Following senate race			
		All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Just a little	Not at all
Booker	Favors	<b>11%</b>	9	9	15	23	14	7	4
	Opposes	<b>12%</b>	14	14	11	18	16	9	7
	Unsure/Ref	<b>76%</b>	76	77	75	58	70	83	90
Lonegan	Favors	<b>8%</b>	9	8	8	13	10	4	7
	Opposes	<b>17%</b>	11	18	23	33	17	14	7
	Unsure	<b>75%</b>	80	74	69	54	72	81	86

*Do you happen to know if Cory Booker/Steve Lonegan favors or opposes greater restrictions on guns and ammunitions, or do you not know? [Randomize names & favors/opposes]*

		PID				Following senate race			
		All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Just a little	Not at all
Booker	Favors	<b>35%</b>	37	29	38	51	44	34	14
	Opposes	<b>9%</b>	10	9	8	14	11	4	10
	Unsure	<b>55%</b>	53	61	54	34	45	63	76
Lonegan	Favors	<b>6%</b>	6	6	8	11	7	5	4
	Opposes	<b>21%</b>	18	18	26	41	26	13	8
	Unsure	<b>73%</b>	76	75	66	47	67	82	89

### Gubernatorial election

*How closely are you following the election for governor?*

		PID			
		All	Dem	Ind	Repub
Very closely		<b>19%</b>	19	13	25
Somewhat closely		<b>34%</b>	33	38	34
Just a little		<b>24%</b>	25	26	24
Not at all		<b>22%</b>	24	20	16
DK/Refused (vol)		<b>1%</b>	0	2	0

*Do you know the names of those running?*

		PID			
		All	Dem	Ind	Repub
Just Christie		<b>27%</b>	23	30	33
Just Buono		<b>2%</b>	1	2	4
Both		<b>46%</b>	44	48	51
Other names		<b>2%</b>	2	3	1
DK/Refused (vol)		<b>23%</b>	31	18	11

*If the election for governor was held today, for whom would you vote? Republican Chris Christie or Democrat Barbara Buono? [Randomize names]*

		PID			Gender		Race		
		All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white
Chris Christie		<b>58%</b>	38	53	90	67	50	65	44
Barbara Buono		<b>25%</b>	44	21	3	20	30	21	36
Someone else (vol)		<b>2%</b>	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
Unsure/Ref		<b>15%</b>	16	24	6	12	18	12	19

*Do you happen to know if Chris Christie/Barbara Buono favors or opposes greater restrictions on guns and ammunitions, or do you not know? [Randomize names & favors/opposes]*

		PID				Following gov. race			
		All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Just a little	Not at all
Christie	Favors	<b>18%</b>	15	22	20	20	18	23	9
	Opposes	<b>29%</b>	31	18	34	38	35	20	22
	Unsure	<b>53%</b>	54	60	47	42	47	57	69
Buono	Favors	<b>27%</b>	28	18	31	39	31	24	14
	Opposes	<b>9%</b>	10	9	9	12	10	7	7
	Unsure	<b>64%</b>	63	73	60	49	60	69	80

<i>Do you happen to know if Chris Christie/Barbara Buono favors or opposes gay marriage, or do you not know?</i> <i>[Randomize names &amp; favors/opposes]</i>									
			PID			Following gov. race			
		All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Just a little	Not at all
Christie	Favors	<b>11%</b>	10	12	12	8	12	9	14
	Opposes	<b>57%</b>	62	53	56	76	60	56	36
	Unsure	<b>32%</b>	28	35	31	16	28	35	50
Buono	Favors	<b>36%</b>	37	33	40	54	42	33	16
	Opposes	<b>2%</b>	3	3	1	1	1	4	4
	Unsure	<b>61%</b>	60	64	59	45	57	63	80

<i>Do you happen to know if Chris Christie/Barbara Buono favors or opposes raising the minimum wage in New Jersey, or do you not know?</i> <i>[Randomize names &amp; favors/opposes]</i>									
			PID			Following gov. race			
		All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Just a little	Not at all
Christie	Favors	<b>11%</b>	8	12	14	9	14	10	8
	Opposes	<b>38%</b>	43	40	31	47	42	35	28
	Unsure	<b>51%</b>	48	48	55	44	44	55	64
Buono	Favors	<b>37%</b>	38	34	37	50	45	30	19
	Opposes	<b>3%</b>	4	3	2	4	2	4	5
	Unsure	<b>60%</b>	57	63	61	45	52	67	76

### Exact Question Wording and Order

LVSCR6      *How closely are you following the upcoming race for the US Senate in New Jersey?*

- 1      Very closely
- 2      Somewhat closely
- 3      Just a little
- 4      Not at all
- 9      DK

LVSCR7      *Do you know the names of those running? [open ended – precodes]*

- 1      Just Booker
- 2      Just Lonegan
- 3      Both
- 4      Other
- 8      DK/Refused

LVSCR8      *How closely are you following the upcoming race for the governor in New Jersey?*

- 1      Very closely
- 2      Somewhat closely
- 3      Just a little
- 4      Not at all
- 9      DK

LVSCR9      *Do you know the names of those running? [open ended – precodes]*

- 1      Just Christie
- 2      Just Buono
- 3      Both
- 4      Other
- 8      DK/Refused

US1 and US2 withheld for future release  
NJ1 through NJ3 withheld for future release

*NJ4 If the election for Senate was held today, for whom would you vote? Republican Steve Lonegan or Democrat Cory Booker? [Randomize names]*

- 1 Republican Steve Lonegan
- 2 Democrat Cory Booker
- 3 Someone else
- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused(vol)

*NJ5 If the election for governor was held today, for whom would you vote? Republican Chris Christie or Democrat Barbara Buono? [Randomize names]*

- 1 Republican Chris Christie
- 2 Democrat Barbara Buono
- 3 Someone else
- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused(vol)

NJ6 through NJ8 withheld for future release

*NJ9 Do you happen to know if Cory Booker/Steve Lonegan favors or opposes the National Security Agency's practice of collecting the phone and Internet records of millions of Americans under a classified surveillance program? [Randomize NJ79A/NJ9B; RANDOMIZE FAVORS/OPPOSES]*

- NJ9A Cory Booker
- NJ9B Steve Lonegan
- 1 Favors
- 2 Opposes
- 8 DK/Refused [DON'T READ]

*NJ10 Do you happen to know if Chris Christie/Barbara Buono/Cory Booker/Steve Lonegan favors or opposes greater restrictions on guns and ammunitions, or do you not know? [Randomize NJ10A through NJ10D; RANDOMIZE FAVORS/OPPOSES]*

- NJ10A Chris Christie
- NJ10B Barbara Buono
- NJ10C Cory Booker
- NJ10D Steve Lonegan
- 1 Favors
- 2 Opposes
- 8 DK/Refused [DON'T READ]

*NJ11 Do you happen to know if Chris Christie/Barbara Buono favors or opposes gay marriage, or do you not know? [Randomize NJ11A/NJ11B; RANDOMIZE FAVORS/OPPOSES]*

- NJ11A Chris Christie
- NJ11B Barbara Buono
- 1 Favors
- 2 Opposes
- 8 DK/Refused [DON'T READ]



*NJ12 Do you happen to know if Chris Christie/Barbara Buono favors or opposes raising the minimum wage in New Jersey, or do you not know? [Randomize NJ12A/NJ12B; RANDOMIZE FAVORS/OPPOSES]*

NJ12A Chris Christie

NJ12B Barbara Buono

- 1 Favors
- 2 Opposes
- 8 DK/Refused [*DON'T READ*]

NJ13 through NJ16 withheld for future release

*NJ17 Recently, a New Jersey judge ruled that the state must begin issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples. How much have you heard or read about this issue?*

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Just a little
- 4 Nothing at all
- 9 DK/Refused (vol)

*NJ18 Do you agree or disagree with the court's decision to legalize same sex marriage in the state? [Randomize agree/disagree]*

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 8 DK/Refused [vol]

*NJ19 In your opinion, should the state appeal the decision to a higher court or should the state end all legal action that challenges same sex marriage?*

- 1 Appeal the decision
- 2 End all legal action
- 8 DK/Refused [vol]

## Sample characteristics – Registered voters

### Gender

Male	49
Female	51

### Age

18-29	12
30-44	26
45-59	32
60+	27
Refused	3

### Race/Ethnicity

White	68
Black/African-American	12
Latino or Hispanic	10
Asian	5
Other/refused	5

### Public employee household

Yes	23
No	75
Unsure/refused	2

### Party identification

Democrat/Lean Democrat	46
Independent/DK/refused	19
Republican/Lean Republican	35