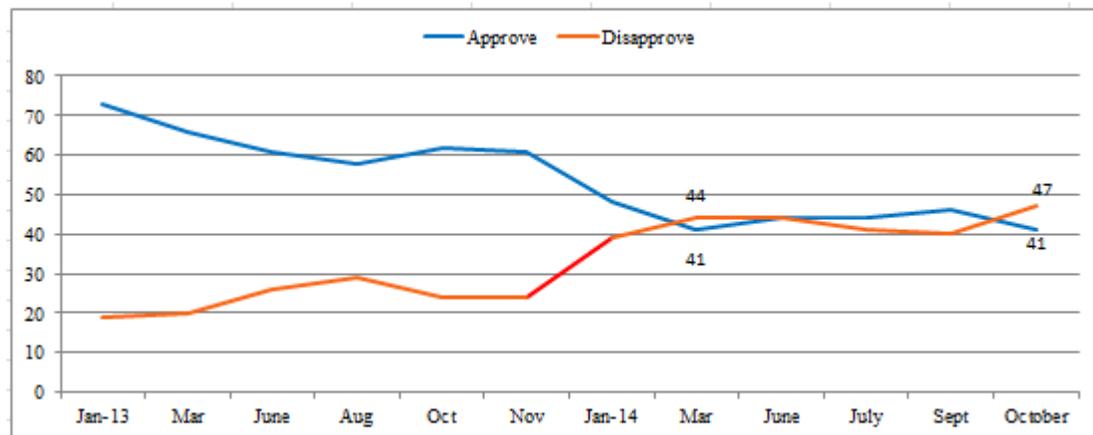


GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL NUMBERS FLIP-FLOP: MORE VOTERS DISAPPROVE THAN APPROVE

One of the most-watched governors in the country continues to struggle with a once admiring public. The most recent statewide survey of registered voters from Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind finds that Governor Christie's job approval has dropped to 41 percent, with 47 percent now disapproving, the worst ratings since March in the wake of Bridgegate. These numbers are flip-flopped from September, when 46 percent favored and 40 percent disapproved of his leadership.

"The governor faces what many second term incumbents face — voter fatigue," said Krista Jenkins, director of the poll and professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University. "But when it comes to Governor Christie, his political ambitions make any drop in his approval fodder for his critics. They'd prefer to see his post-governor years end in political retirement, rather than continue on a national stage."

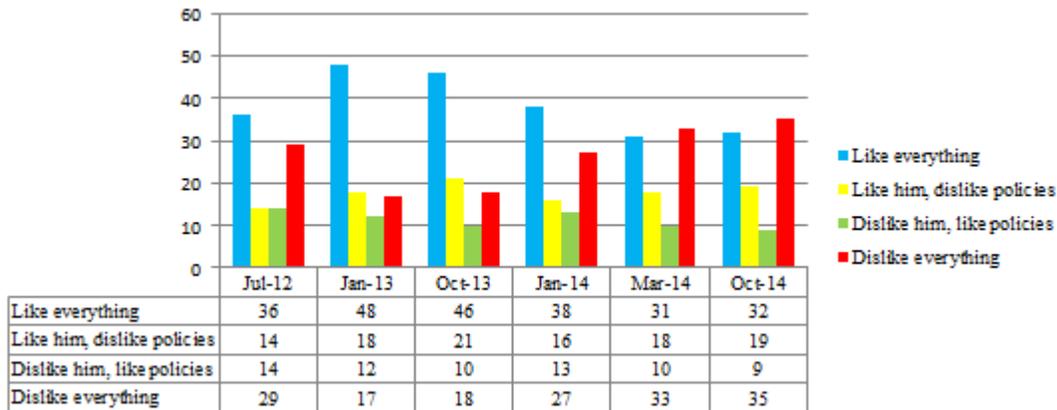
Christie Job Approval: Second Term



Digging a bit deeper, the same poll finds that Governor Christie continues to polarize more than unify registered voters. In a question that asks what people like and dislike about the governor, about equal numbers say they like everything (32%) about him as dislike everything (35%) about him. In the heady days for Christie in the post-Sandy era, when most were impressed with his leadership regardless of their party leanings, sizably more liked everything (48%) than disliked everything (17%). Since the Bridgegate allegations broke, those numbers have found more equilibrium, which is where they largely remain today.

“Governors and presidents are unique in that they’re among the few, or in the case of the president, the only, elected official with a statewide or national constituency. Unity is therefore a good trait to demonstrate to prospective voters. The governor would no doubt much rather have numbers on this question from before Bridgegate than after,” said Jenkins. “That said, with a preponderance of Democrats in the state, the fact that he’s still pulling in a third of voters who like everything about him is a fairly respectable showing.”

Likes and Dislikes about Christie - Trend



Finally, voter confidence in the health of the state continues to drop. In September, right direction/wrong track numbers were also upside down. Forty percent of respondents were optimistic and 44 percent said the state was headed down the wrong track. Those lines now diverge even more, with 37 percent optimistic and almost half concerned (49%).

“Continual downgrades in the state’s bond ratings, concern over the inability of elected officials to work together to solve big problems like the growing pension fund shortfall, roads and bridges in disrepair — the list goes on. People are clearly looking around and not liking what they see,” said Jenkins.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 1107 registered voters in New Jersey was conducted by telephone with both landline and cell phones from October 13 through October 19, 2014, and has a margin of error of +/-2.9 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 October 13 through October 13, 2014 using a randomly selected sample of 1107 registered voters who reside in New Jersey. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of +/-2.9 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.

The following tables are based on all registered voters in the sample.

Tables

And turning to New Jersey, do you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing as governor?

<i>And turning to New Jersey, do you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing as governor?</i>											
		PID			Gender		Race		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-59	60+
Approve	41%	25	35	67	44	39	46	31	39	43	42
Disapprove	47%	67	49	22	46	48	44	54	48	46	48
Neither (vol)	9%	7	11	9	8	9	8	11	10	8	8
DK/Ref (vol)	1%	2	4	3	3	4	2	4	3	4	2

<i>In your opinion, do you think things in New Jersey are moving in the right direction or are they on the wrong track?</i>											
		PID			Gender		Race		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-59	60+
Right direction	37%	28	36	51	38	37	39	34	43	37	35
Wrong track	49%	60	50	36	50	49	48	47	44	51	51
Neither (vol)	13%	12	14	13	12	14	12	18	13	12	13
DK/Ref (vol)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

I'm going to read you four statements about Chris Christie. Please tell me which comes closest to your own views: 1) I like him, AND I like his policies; 2) I like him, BUT I don't like his policies; 3) I don't like him, BUT I like his policies; 4) I don't like him, AND I don't like his policies.

	PID				Gender		Race		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Nonwhite	18-34	35-59	60+
Like him & policies	32%	12	27	60	35	29	37	19	26	33	35
Like him, not policies	19%	22	16	15	19	18	16	25	19	18	19
Dislike him, like policies	9%	9	9	10	9	10	8	12	11	11	7
Don't like him or policies	35%	54	38	11	33	37	34	38	38	35	35
DK/Ref. (vol)	5%	3	10	4	5	5	4	6	6	4	5

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1 and US2 released October 21

SEN1 and SEN2 released October 21

ID released October 21

BAIL1 and BAIL2 released October 21

GS1 and GS2 released October 21

ISSUES1 through ISSUES3 released October 21

NJ1. Do you approve or disapprove [rotate] of the job Chris Christie is doing as governor?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 3 Neither/neutral (vol)
- 8 DK/Refused (vol)

NJ2. In your opinion, do you think things in New Jersey are moving in the right direction or are they on the wrong track? [rotate]

- 1 Right direction
- 2 Wrong track
- 8 DK/Unsure (vol)

NJ3 I'm going to read you four statements about Chris Christie. Please tell me which comes closest to your own views: 1) I like him, AND I like his policies; 2) I like him, BUT I don't like his policies; 3) I don't like him, BUT I like his policies; 4) I don't like him, AND I don't like his policies.

RANDOMIZE BUT KEEP 1 AND 2, 3 AND 4 TOGETHER

- 1 I like him, AND I like his policies
- 2 I like him, BUT I don't like his policies
- 3 I don't like him, BUT I like his policies
- 4 I don't like him, AND I don't like his policies
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Sample Characteristics

		Registered voters N = 1107; MoE = +/- 2.9
Gender	<i>Male</i>	49%
	<i>Female</i>	51%
Age	<i>18-34</i>	22%
	<i>35-59</i>	45%
	<i>60+</i>	31%
	<i>Refused</i>	2%
Race	<i>White</i>	68%
	<i>African American</i>	12%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	12%
	<i>Asian</i>	3%
	<i>Other/Refused</i>	4%
Party (with leaners)	<i>Dem</i>	46%
	<i>Ind/DK/Refused</i>	18%
	<i>Repub</i>	36%