



OBAMA UP, CHRISTIE CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE

Fairleigh Dickinson University, June 30, 2016 – As New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and President Barack Obama enter the homestretch of their administrations, it is a tale of two leaders. President Obama continues to experience a slight resurgence in support among registered voters in the Garden State, while Governor Christie continues to experience stagnant and historically low approval ratings.

The most recent statewide survey of registered voters from Fairleigh Dickinson University’s PublicMind finds 54 percent who say they approve of the job performance of President Obama. This continues the slight upswing in support he has experienced since November 2015. Governor Christie’s job approval remains the same as it was in May of 2016, with 26 percent who approve of his leadership, while almost two-thirds (62%) disapprove of the governor’s job performance.

“Both men are facing the concerns of many regarding the health of the nation and the state. But voters are obviously evaluating the approach of Christie and Obama differently when it comes to how they’re trying to fix what’s broken,” said Krista Jenkins, professor of political science and director of PublicMind.

Two-thirds (67%) say the state is on the wrong track, and half (50%) say the same about the health of the nation.

Differences in partisan support are also apparent for President Obama and Governor Christie. While Obama enjoys the approval of 80 percent of Democrats, the same cannot be said for Republican appraisals of Christie. About half of Republican voters (48%) approve of Governor Christie, with 38 percent who say they disapprove.

“Republicans moving away from endorsing Christie’s leadership continues to be a trend we’re observing. ‘Telling it like it is,’ endorsing Trump, and time spent outside of the state are likely things that have contributed to Christie’s erosion of support among Republicans,” said Jenkins.

Evaluations of both the president and governor reveal patterns of support in the 2016 presidential contest. Those who think the governor is doing a good job are significantly more likely to say they support Republican Donald Trump in November, whereas support for President Obama is related to a preference for Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Seventy-eight percent of those who disapprove of Governor Christie say Clinton will be their chosen candidate in November, compared with eighty-two percent of those who approve of Christie say they will vote for Trump.

The numbers are starker when it comes to opinions about Obama and the 2016 race. Nine-in-ten who approve of Obama are supporting Clinton, and virtually the same number applies to those who disapprove of Obama and who intend to support Trump.

<i>Vote for president</i>		
	Approve of Christie job performance	Disapprove of Christie job performance
Clinton	28%	78%
Trump	82%	22%

<i>Vote for president</i>		
	Approve of Obama job performance	Disapprove of Obama job performance
Clinton	93%	6%
Trump	7%	94%

PublicMind recently received an “A” rating from statistician Nate Silver’s FiveThirtyEight blog. The ratings measure both accuracy and bias for all major polling services in the United States, providing an update to similar research the poll watchers conducted in 2014. PublicMind’s “A” rating puts it in the top 14 of the more than 380 polling institutes reviewed and graded from A+ through F. PublicMind was found to have a 94 percent accuracy rate for predicting election results, and is one of only two A-rated polling institutes with zero bias to their rankings.

Methodology

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University’s PublicMind was conducted by telephone from June 22-26, 2016 using a randomly selected sample of 712 self-identified registered voters in New Jersey. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of +/-3.8 percentage points, including the design effect. 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 gender, age, education, and race. 396 interviews were conducted on landlines and 316 were conducted on cellular telephones.

The sample was purchased from Marketing Systems Group and the research was funded by Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Tables

<i>First, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is doing as President? [Randomize approve/disapprove]</i>													
	PID				Gender		Race		Education		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white	HS/Some college	College+	18-34	35-59	60+
Approve	54%	85	36	13	49	59	43	78	55	54	64	54	48
Disapprove	37%	10	40	81	40	34	47	16	35	38	25	39	43
DK/Both (vol)	8%	5	21	5	9	6	8	6	8	7	10	6	8
2Refused (vol)	1%	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	2		2

<i>And turning to New Jersey, do you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing as governor? [Randomize approve/disapprove]</i>													
	PID				Gender		Race		Education		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white	HS/Some college	College+	18-34	35-59	60+
Approve	26%	13	29	48	27	25	29	20	28	25	29	24	27
Disapprove	62%	79	54	38	62	62	60	69	60	65	61	63	63
Neither/Neutral (vol)	8%	5	13	11	7	9	8	8	7	9	7	9	7
DK/Both (vol)	2%	2	0	3	2	2	2	2	4	1	3	2	2
Refused (vol)	1%	1	4	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	2	1

<i>In your opinion, do you believe the country is moving in the right direction or is it on the wrong track? [Rotate right direction/wrong track]</i>													
	PID				Gender		Race		Education		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white	HS/Some college	College+	18-34	35-59	60+
Right direction	40%	63	27	9	38	41	32	57	37	42	43	41	35
Wrong track	50%	25	61	84	51	49	58	33	52	49	43	51	54
DK (vol)	9%	11	10	6	9	9	9	10	9	9	13	7	10
Refused (vol)	1%	2	2	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	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? [Rotate right direction/wrong track]</i>													
	PID				Gender		Race		Education		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white	HS/Some college	College+	18-34	35-59	60+
Right direction	23%	20	18	31	24	22	24	21	27	21	36	19	20
Wrong track	67%	73	70	56	66	68	67	67	60	73	51	72	71
DK (vol)	9%	6	9	13	9	8	8	10	12	6	13	7	8
Refused (vol)	1%	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	2

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1. *First, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?*

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

	1/09	3/09	4/09	7/09	9/09	10/09	11/09	1/10	3/10	5/10	8/10	10/10	11/10	1/11
Approve	72	66	66	61	56	52	53	48	53	49	49	47	51	47
Disapprove	10	21	22	29	36	35	37	41	38	40	40	43	40	41

	2/11	3/11	4/11	5/11	6/11	9/11	10/11	12/11	1/12	3/12	5/12	8/12	9/12	11/12*
Approve	54	44	47	55	47	44	44	45	46	51	50	49	53	48
Disapprove	36	48	42	36	45	47	47	46	45	42	42	41	38	47

*Pre-election; **Post-election

	11/12**	1/13	3/13	6/13	8/13	10/13	1/14	3/14	6/14	7/14	8/14	10/14	1/15	2/15	4/15
Approve	53	57	49	51	49	45	44	44	45	40	36	38	45	44	44
Disapprove	39	32	40	37	37	39	42	42	43	43	49	50	40	41	45

	6/15	11/15	1/16	2/16	5/16	6/16
Approve	44	48	47	50	53	54
Disapprove	43	43	42	50	39	37

US2. *In your opinion, do you believe the country is moving in the right direction or is it on the wrong track?*

- 1 Right direction
- 2 Wrong track
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

	1/09	3/09	4/09	7/09	9/09	10/09	11/09	1/10	3/10	5/10	8/10	10/10	11/10	1/11
Right direction	34	51	51	49	44	41	42	35	38	34	33	30	31	35
Wrong track	52	37	37	41	46	49	49	53	52	52	52	60	58	52

	2/11	3/11	4/11	5/11	6/11	9/11	10/11	12/11	1/12	3/12	5/12	8/12	9/12	11/12*
Right direction	39	27	32	34	28	18	22	20	28	37	33	33	48	46
Wrong track	49	59	57	51	61	71	67	70	61	53	56	54	43	49

*Pre-election; **Post-election

	11/12**	1/13	3/13	6/13	8/13	10/13	1/14	3/14	6/14	7/14	8/14	10/14	1/15	2/15	4/15
Right direction	50	43	40	41	40	30	35	33	37	34	31	28	40	37	36
Wrong track	42	45	48	47	47	57	54	54	52	53	55	52	46	52	55

	6/15	11/15	1/16	2/16	5/16	6/16
Right direction	33	39	36	37	39	40
Wrong track	52	52	56	53	52	50

NJ1. *And turning to New Jersey, do you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing as governor?*

[Randomize approve/disapprove]

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

	1/10	3/3/10	3/30/10	5/10	8/10	10/10	11/10	1/11	2/11	4/11	5/11	9/11	10/11	1/12
Approve	48	52	43	44	47	51	49	53	51	51	44	54	51	53
Disapprove	31	21	32	42	36	37	39	36	39	41	44	36	36	37

	3/12	5/12	8/12	9/12	11/12*	11/12**	1/13	3/13	6/13	8/13	10/13	11/13	1/14	3/14
Approve	54	56	55	51	56	77	73	66	61	58	62	61	48	41
Disapprove	34	33	35	35	33	17	19	20	26	29	35	24	39	44

*Pre-election; **Post-election

	6/14	7/14	9/14	10/14	1/15	2/15	4/15	6/15	11/15	1/16	2/16	5/16	6/16
Approve	44	44	46	41	39	35	36	30	34	31	30	26	26
Disapprove	44	41	40	47	47	51	50	55	56	59	61	66	62

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

- 1 Right direction
- 2 Wrong track
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

	1/10	3/3/10	3/30/10	5/10	8/10	10/10	11/10	1/11	2/11	4/11	5/11	9/11	10/11	1/12
Right direction	27	32	33	35	42	44	40	44	44	44	36	45	46	44
Wrong track	55	49	55	55	48	48	51	48	47	57	55	47	43	47

	3/12	5/12	8/12	9/12	11/12*	11/12**	1/13	3/13	6/13	8/13	11/13	1/14	3/14
Right direction	51	50	49	52	58	69	61	57	57	49	56	51	41
Wrong track	39	41	40	34	30	19	26	26	28	34	28	39	45

*Pre-election; **Post-election

	6/14	7/14	9/14	10/14	1/15	2/15	4/15	6/15	11/15	1/16	2/16	5/16	6/16
Right direction	40	39	40	37	36	33	35	28	32	30	29	23	23
Wrong track	48	46	44	49	49	52	54	57	59	60	59	69	67

Sample characteristics (weighted)

Gender	<i>Male</i>	48%
	<i>Female</i>	52%
Age	<i>18-34</i>	23%
	<i>35-59</i>	44%
	<i>60+</i>	33%
	<i>Refused</i>	1%
Race	<i>White</i>	66%
	<i>African American</i>	13%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	13%
	<i>Asian</i>	5%
	<i>Other/Refused</i>	4%
Party (with leaners)	<i>Dem</i>	51%
	<i>Ind/DK/Refused</i>	18%
	<i>Repub</i>	31%