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MURPHY, GUADAGNO HAVE EARLY LEAD IN GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY, BUT MOST VOTERS BEGIN THE CAMPAIGN UNSURE

Fairleigh Dickinson University, February 9, 2017 – Although most Democrats and Republicans in the state have no clue who they intend to support in the gubernatorial primaries, a few frontrunners are emerging. The most recent statewide survey of registered voters from Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind finds Phil Murphy in the lead among Democrats and Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno at the top among Republicans.

Murphy's 17 percent support among Democrats is the same as that registered for "someone else." Among other named Democrats, State Senator Raymond Lesniak earns the support of seven percent, Assemblyman John Wisniewski garners six percent, and former Treasury official Jim Johnson comes in with two percent. Collectively, however, these names are eclipsed by the uncertainty that most Democrats express with 50 percent saying they don't know who they like at this point.

"Murphy has pumped a bundle of his own money into this race and received early endorsements from power brokers across the state as well as raised a considerable sum from donors. His lead over other long term public officeholders seems to be an indication that his investment was well spent. Still, the field is fluid and a majority are taking a wait and see approach to who will be their party's standard bearer in the race to replace Governor Christie," said Krista Jenkins, professor of political science and director of PublicMind.

On the Republican side, two term Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno comes in first with 18 percent support. But not far behind her is former Saturday Night Live cast member Joe Piscopo with 12 percent. "Someone else" is preferred by 13 percent, and lesser knowns Steve Rogers and Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli each earn the support of two percent. As with Democrats, registered Republicans are largely unsure about the current field, with 52 percent who say they don't know who among the named candidates they currently support.

"Although Guadagno is leading the field, the fact that an as-yet undeclared candidate with no political experience is not too far behind is sure to garner attention," said Jenkins. "With many Republican endorsements remaining unclaimed, all contenders will need to do more to define and distinguish themselves, and capture the eye of many more Republican voters."

"At the same time, the uncertainty that voters are expressing today is not uncommon. To date, there have been few advertisements and the fragmented nature of New Jersey's media markets makes name recognition hard to achieve," said Jenkins.

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 Fairleigh Dickinson University poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone January 25-29, 2017 among a random sample of 839 registered voters in New Jersey. Results have a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.7 percentage points, including the design effect.

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.

The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, sex, race, and education. 465 interviews were conducted on landlines and 374 were conducted on cellular telephones.

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

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.

Tables

I know it’s early, but if the election for the Democratic/Republican nominee for governor was held today, which of the following would you be the most likely to support?			
	Democratic [N = 410; MoE +/- 4.8]		Republican [N = 275; MoE +/- 5.9]
Phil Murphy	17%	Kim Guadagno	18%
Someone else	17%	Someone else	13%
Raymond Lesniak	7%	Joe Piscopo	12%
John Wisniewski	6%	Steve Rogers	2%
Jim Johnson	2%	Jack Ciattarelli	2%
DK (vol)	50%	Joseph Rullo	0
Refused (vol)	2%	Don’t know	52%
		Refused (vol)	1%

Question wording and order

*US1 through US7 released February 2, 2017
 NJ1 through NJ5 released January 31, 2017
 NJ6 through NJ8 released February 6, 2017*

Changing topics...

D1 Regardless of who you might vote for, do you consider yourself a....ROTATE... Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent?

- 1 Democrat [Ask NJ11A]
- 2 Republican [Ask NJ11B]
- 3 Independent [If Independent, ask D1b]
- 4 Other [DON’T READ]
- 8 Don’t Know [DON’T READ]
- 9 Ref [DON’T READ]

D1b Which way do you lean?

- 1 Democrat [Ask NJ11A]
- 2 Republican [Ask NJ11B]
- 3 Neither
- 8 DK (Vol)

NJ11A I know it’s early, but if the election for the Democratic nominee for governor was held today,

which of the following would you be the most likely to support?[Rotate]

- 1 Phil Murphy
- 2 John Wisniewski [Wiss-NEW-ski]
- 3 Jim Johnson
- 4 Raymond Lesniak [LEZ-NE-ak]
- 5 Someone else
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

NJ11B I know it's early, but if the election for the Republican nominee for governor was held today, which of the following would you be the most likely to support?[Rotate]

- 1 Kim Guadagno [GWA-dah-no]
- 2 Jack Ciattarelli [Sit-are-elli]
- 3 Joseph Rullo
- 4 Steve Rogers
- 5 Joe Piscopo [PISS-ka-poe]
- 6 Someone else
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Gender	<i>Male</i>	48%
	<i>Female</i>	52%
Age	<i>18-34</i>	24%
	<i>35-59</i>	42%
	<i>60+</i>	32%
	<i>Refused</i>	1%
Race	<i>White</i>	65%
	<i>African American</i>	14%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	13%
	<i>Asian</i>	4%
	<i>Other/Refused</i>	4%
Party (with leaners)	<i>Dem</i>	49%
	<i>Ind/DK/Refused</i>	18%
	<i>Repub</i>	33%