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New Jersey's Blue Voters

Polling over the past 11 days by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind™ shows that Democratic incumbent Jon Corzine and Republican challenger Chris Christie continued down to the wire in a close contest in the race for New Jersey governor. Reporting 1119 interviews of likely voters from Oct. 22 through Nov. 1 shows Corzine maintaining 43% support including leaners, against 41%, including leaners, for Christie, with 8% for independent Chris Daggett, 2% preferring other candidates, and 5% undecided, with a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points.

"Whether Corzine wins or loses," said Peter Woolley, a political scientist and director of the poll, "it's the blue voters who will tell the tale." Beyond the topline, the key numbers in this otherwise Blue State are:

- Better than 4 of 5 Democrats (84%) approve of the job President Obama is doing, but just 3 of 5 Democrats (61%) approve of the job Governor Corzine is doing.
- Two-thirds of Democrats (68%) say the *country* is headed in the right direction but just one third (34%) say the *state* is headed in the right direction.
- Just 3 of 4 Democrats (75%) say they'll vote for their ticket leader, Jon Corzine.

Democrats often have a significant advantage among women, offsetting a Republican advantage among men, but this year white women split evenly between Corzine and Christie (42-42) while white men prefer Christie by a large margin (55-29).

Among all likely voters just 1 in 5 (21%) say the state is on the right track compared to two-thirds 68% who say it's on the wrong track: 37% approve of the job the governor is doing, while 52% disapprove. Just 40% of voters say their opinion of the governor is favorable, against 52% who have an unfavorable opinion, including 1 in 4 Democrats (25%). "Actually, most of New Jersey's voters seem to have the blues," concluded Woolley.

Nonetheless, more than half of voters (56%) say they think Corzine will win the election, against 28% who think that Christie will win. One percent say Daggett will win, and 15% say they don't know who will pull this one out.

Methodology, questions, and tables are available on the web at: http://publicmind.fdu.edu
Radio actualities at 201.692.2846 For more information, please call 201.692.7032.

Question: Now, turning to New Jersey... In your opinion, do you think things in New Jersey are moving in the right direction or do you think the state has gotten off on the wrong track?

| | All | Party | | | Vote preference | | |
|-----------------|-----|-------|----|----|-----------------|----------|---------|
| | | D | I | R | Corzine | Christie | Daggett |
| Right direction | 21% | 34 | 14 | 4 | 44 | 2 | 2 |
| Wrong track | 68% | 49 | 79 | 90 | 36 | 94 | 91 |
| Unsure | 12% | 17 | 7 | 6 | 20 | 4 | 7 |

Question: Have you heard of [rotate list]? If you haven't just tell me. [If yes, ask:] Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...? Would that be very or somewhat?

| | Haven't heard of | Very Favorable | Somewhat Favorable | Unsure/ no opinion | Somewhat Unfavorable | Very Unfavorable |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Jon Corzine (all) | | 16% | 24% | 7% | 17% | 35% |
| Democrats only | | 28 | 38 | 9 | 15 | 10 |
| Independents only | | 9 | 21 | 8 | 15 | 48 |
| Republicans only | | 3 | 7 | 4 | 20 | 66 |

| | Haven't heard of | Very favorable | Somewhat favorable | No opinion | Somewhat unfavorable | Very unfavorable |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Chris Christie (all) | 1% | 16% | 23% | 14% | 19% | 26% |
| Republicans only | | 32 | 45 | 9 | 9 | 4 |
| Independents only | 4 | 17 | 21 | 22 | 12 | 24 |
| Democrats only | 1 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 28 | 42 |

| | Haven't heard of | Very Favorable | Somewhat Favorable | No opinion | Somewhat Unfavorable | Very Unfavorable |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Chris Daggett | 17% | 7% | 22% | 32% | 13% | 8% |
| Democrats only | 22 | 6 | 22 | 33 | 12 | 5 |
| Independents only | 7 | 16 | 25 | 34 | 11 | 7 |
| Republicans only | 12 | 6 | 23 | 29 | 17 | 13 |

Question: On Tuesday, November 3rd there will be an election for governor. If the election were held today who would you vote for ... or ...? [ROTATE NAMES] [If "don't know" ASK: "at this moment, which way do you lean?" If "other" ASK: "who would that be?"]

| | All | Dem | Ind | Rep | white | Race AfrAm | Oct. 6 | Sept |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------------|--------|------|
| Jon Corzine, the Democrat | 42 | | | | | | 42 | 41 |
| Lean Corzine | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 1 |
| Total Corzine | 43% | 75 | 29 | 8 | 36 | 80 | 44% | 42% |
| Chris Christie, the Republican | 39 | | | | | | 40 | 45 |
| Lean Christie | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Total Christie | 41% | 11 | 41 | 81 | 48 | 7 | 43% | 47% |
| Daggett (vol.) | 8% | 8 | 18 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4% | 1% |
| Neither/other (vol.) | 2% | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4% | 4% |
| Don't know (vol.) | 5% | 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5% | 6% |

Question: Now, regardless of which candidate you <u>want</u> to win, if you had to guess, who would you say is <u>going</u> to win the election for governor in November... or ...?

| | • | | _ | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|------|------|--------|-------|------|
| Rotate names | All | Dem | Ind. | Rep. | Oct. 6 | Sept. | July |
| Jon Corzine | 56% | 75 | 44 | 35 | 49% | 45% | 46% |
| Chris Christie | 28% | 12 | 33 | 47 | 37% | 41% | 38% |
| Neither/Dagget/other | 1% | | 4 | 1 | 1% | | |
| Don't Know (vol.) | 15% | 12 | 19 | 17 | 13% | 15% | 15% |

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jon Corzine is doing as governor?

| | All | Dem | Ind | Rep | | Vote preference | ce |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----------------|---------|
| | | | | | Corzine | Christie | Daggett |
| Approve | 37% | 61 | 25 | 8 | 75 | 4 | 8 |
| Disapprove | 52% | 25 | 65 | 85 | 11 | 90 | 76 |
| Mixed/unsure | 12% | 14 | 10 | 8 | 15 | 6 | 16 |

US1: 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?

| 8 | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|------|
| | All | Men | Women | Dem | Ind | Rep. |
| Right direction | 42% | 37 | 47 | 68 | 30 | 11 |
| Wrong track | 49% | 54 | 44 | 22 | 60 | 82 |
| Unsure/Refused | 9% | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 7 |

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

| | | Party | | | | Vote for Governor | | | |
|------------|------|-------|-----|-----|--|-------------------|----------|---------|--|
| | A 11 | · · | | | | | | | |
| | All | Dem | Ind | Rep | | Corzine | Christie | Daggett | |
| Approve | 53% | 84 | 45 | 16 | | 85 | 19 | 59 | |
| Disapprove | 37% | 9 | 43 | 72 | | 8 | 70 | 30 | |
| Unsure | 10% | 7 | 12 | 12 | | 6 | 11 | 11 | |