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NEW JERSEY: GUV HAS ABANDONED SHIP

Garden State says Christie should resign; would make a bad president

West Long Branch, N.J. – Gov. Chris Christie has officially thrown his hat into the ring, but his home state of New Jersey is not squarely behind him. The latest ***Monmouth University Poll***, taken after Christie’s presidential announcement, found that the governor’s negative job ratings have not budged from two months ago. A large majority feels that Christie has abandoned his commitment to the state and few say he is a good fit for the Oval Office.

Just 27% of New Jerseyans say Chris Christie would make a good president. More than two-thirds (69%) say he would not. A few months ago, Christie was asked on national TV about similar poll results. He responded that survey participants told pollsters he would not make a good president because “a lot of those people...want me to stay.” Monmouth followed up with the participants in our poll and found that just 5% of those who said he would not make a good president say they gave that response because they would rather have Christie stay in New Jersey. Fully 89% of this group, though, confirmed that their answer meant they really think he would make a bad president.

“I’m not sure how the governor defines ‘a lot,’ but any common sense usage of the term would have to be significantly greater than five percent,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Gov. Christie’s current job rating stands at 36% approve to 58% disapprove among all New Jersey residents and 34% approve to 60% disapprove among the state’s registered voters. These numbers are slightly more negative than a ***Monmouth University Poll*** taken two months ago which gave Christie a 35% to 54% rating among all residents and a 35% to 56% rating among voters. Fully 3-in-4 (76%) say he is more concerned about his own political future than he is with governing the state – up from 70% two months ago and 56% last September. Just 17% say he puts New Jersey first.

When Christie declined to run for president four years ago, he said, “I have a commitment to New Jersey that I simply will not abandon.” As he embarks on his run for the 2016 nomination, most New Jerseyans (56%) say he has, in fact, abandoned that commitment. Just 35% say he has fulfilled his commitment to the state.

A majority (57%) of Garden State residents say the governor should resign now that he’s thrown his hat into the ring, compared to 37% who say he should stay in office. Even more New Jerseyans (71%) feel that Christie cannot run for president and govern New Jersey effectively at the same time. Just 26% say he can do both well.

“Chris Christie may be looking for a new job. Just don’t expect his current employer to provide a good reference,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

The poll also found that New Jerseyans are not likely to be won over by the Christie campaign’s “telling it like it is” slogan. Most say the candidate’s rhetorical style is more of an attempt to get media attention (57%) than it is straightforward truth-telling (36%). Furthermore, just 36% would describe Christie as honest and trustworthy, while 58% would not.

The *Monmouth University Poll* also looked at a hypothetical match-up with Hillary Clinton and Christie, should both win their respective party’s nominations. Christie trails the Democrat by a 49% to 32% margin among registered voters in the Garden State. This 17 point gap is slightly better than his 23 point losing margin of 53% to 30% from two months ago.

Perhaps more telling is the poll finding that Christie also trails his fellow Republican contenders as a preferred candidate in the GOP field. More New Jersey voters believe Jeb Bush (37%) would make a better president than Chris Christie (29%) and a similar number prefer Marco Rubio (35%) over Christie (26%). Christie is able to draw even with Scott Walker (30% to 29%) when Garden State voters are asked who would make a better president.

The governor is expected to spend the majority of the next six months on the campaign trail accompanied by the New Jersey State Police. Fully four-fifths (82%) of the public feel that Christie’s presidential campaign should pick up the tab for his security detail when he is making appearances outside of New Jersey. Just 1% say that state government should swallow the costs and 13% say the costs should be shared.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone with 503 New Jersey adults, including 453 registered voters, from June 30 to July 1, 2015. The total sample has a margin of error of \pm 4.4 percent and the registered voter sample has a margin of error of \pm 4.6 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing as governor?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Approve	36%	34%	45%	7%	44%	65%
Disapprove	58%	60%	45%	89%	46%	33%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	6%	10%	3%	10%	2%

TREND: All adults	July 2015	May 2015	Feb. 2015	Sept. 2014	June 2014	April 2014	Feb. 2014	Jan. 2014	Dec. 2013	Sept. 2013	April 2013	Feb. 2013
Approve	36%	35%	48%	46%	50%	51%	50%	59%	65%	61%	63%	70%
Disapprove	58%	54%	44%	39%	42%	41%	44%	32%	25%	24%	26%	17%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	11%	8%	15%	9%	8%	6%	8%	10%	15%	11%	14%
Unwtd N	503	500	805	802	800	803	803	541	802	783	806	803

TREND: All adults	Dec. 2012	Sept. 2012	July 2012	April 2012	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Aug. 2011	May 2011	Feb. 2011	Sept. 2010	July 2010	April 2010	Feb. 2010
Approve	67%	53%	52%	51%	52%	54%	48%	47%	47%	45%	44%	41%	33%
Disapprove	21%	35%	36%	35%	38%	38%	42%	49%	40%	38%	44%	44%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	12%	11%	12%	14%	10%	9%	9%	5%	12%	17%	12%	15%	52%
Unwtd N	816	805	803	804	803	817	802	807	801	801	801	804	803

TREND: Registered voters	July 2015	May 2015	Feb. 2015	Sept. 2014	June 2014	April 2014	Feb. 2014	Jan. 2014	Dec. 2013	Sept. 2013	April 2013	Feb. 2013
Approve	34%	35%	47%	46%	49%	51%	49%	58%	65%	63%	65%	70%
Disapprove	60%	56%	46%	42%	43%	43%	46%	35%	27%	24%	26%	16%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	9%	6%	12%	8%	6%	6%	7%	8%	13%	10%	13%
Unwtd N	453	441	712	680	717	690	690	470	698	674	694	697

TREND: Registered voters	Dec. 2012	Sept. 2012	July 2012	April 2012	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Aug. 2011	May 2011	Feb. 2011	Sept. 2010	July 2010	April 2010	Feb. 2010
Approve	69%	55%	53%	50%	55%	55%	50%	46%	49%	44%	45%	42%	31%
Disapprove	22%	36%	35%	38%	37%	37%	41%	49%	41%	40%	43%	44%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	9%	10%	12%	12%	9%	8%	8%	5%	9%	16%	12%	13%	53%
Unwtd N	726	715	678	692	709	693	730	725	718	726	747	719	716

2. Do you think Chris Christie is more concerned with governing the state of New Jersey or more concerned about his own political future? [CHOICES WERE ROTATED]

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Governing the state of NJ	17%	17%	15%	3%	18%	39%
His own political future	76%	75%	80%	96%	73%	51%
(VOL) Both equally	4%	4%	2%	1%	3%	8%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	3%	4%	0%	6%	1%

TREND:	July 2015	May 2015	February 2015	September 2014	June 2014	April 2014	February 2014	January 2014	September 2013	December 2012	February 2012
Governing the state of NJ	17%	16%	25%	33%	32%	35%	35%	42%	44%	61%	39%
His own political future	76%	70%	66%	56%	55%	54%	56%	47%	38%	30%	48%
(VOL) Both equally	4%	8%	5%	5%	7%	7%	5%	6%	12%	5%	6%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	6%	4%	7%	6%	4%	4%	5%	6%	4%	7%
Unwtd N	503	500	805	802	800	803	803	541	783	816	803

3. As you may know, Chris Christie officially announced that he is running for president. Do you think he would or would not make a good president?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Would	27%	28%	21%	5%	31%	57%
Would not	69%	68%	74%	95%	63%	40%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	4%	4%	0%	7%	3%

[The following question was asked of those who said CHRISTIE WOULD NOT MAKE A GOOD PRESIDENT: n=335, moe=+/-5.4 %]

4. Do you say that because you would rather have Governor Christie stay in New Jersey or because you really think he would make a bad president?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Would rather have Governor Christie stay in New Jersey	5%	5%	3%	2%	4%	15%
Really think he would make a bad president	89%	89%	91%	94%	88%	75%
(VOL) Other/Don't know	6%	6%	6%	4%	7%	10%

5. Do you think Chris Christie should or should not resign as governor now that he is running for president?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Should	57%	54%	71%	74%	55%	30%
Should not	37%	40%	23%	20%	39%	63%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	7%	5%	6%	6%	6%

[QUESTIONS 6 THROUGH 9 WERE ASKED ONLY OF REGISTERED VOTERS: n=453, moe=+/- 4.6%]

6. I know the 2016 presidential election is far away, but if the election for President was today, who would you vote for if the candidates were Chris Christie the Republican and Hillary Clinton the Democrat? [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

	REG VOTERS	PARTY ID		
		Dem	Ind	Rep
Chris Christie the Republican	32%	1%	39%	73%
Hillary Clinton the Democrat	49%	88%	31%	16%
(VOL) Other candidate	8%	3%	12%	7%
(VOL) Undecided / Not sure	11%	8%	17%	4%

TREND: Registered voters	July 2015	May 2015	December 2013
Chris Christie the Republican	32%	30%	46%
Hillary Clinton the Democrat	49%	53%	43%
(VOL) Other candidate	8%	8%	3%
(VOL) Undecided / Not sure	11%	9%	8%
Unwtd N	453	441	698

On the Republican side,

[QUESTIONS 7 THROUGH 9 WERE ROTATED]

7. Would Chris Christie or Scott Walker make a better president? [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

	REG VOTERS	PARTY ID		
		Dem	Ind	Rep
Chris Christie	30%	12%	33%	53%
Scott Walker	29%	34%	30%	20%
(VOL) Same/both equally	0%	0%	1%	0%
(VOL) Neither	19%	32%	15%	4%
(VOL) Don't know	21%	21%	20%	23%

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	July 2015	May 2015	February 2015
Chris Christie	30%	24%	36%
Scott Walker	29%	34%	28%
(VOL) Same/both equally	0%	2%	1%
(VOL) Neither	19%	15%	16%
(VOL) Don't know	21%	25%	20%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	453	441	712

8. Would Chris Christie or Jeb Bush make a better president? [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

	REG VOTERS	PARTY ID		
		Dem	Ind	Rep
Chris Christie	29%	11%	36%	46%
Jeb Bush	37%	39%	40%	32%
(VOL) Same/both equally	1%	0%	1%	4%
(VOL) Neither	25%	43%	16%	10%
(VOL) Don't know	8%	7%	8%	9%

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	July 2015	May 2015	February 2015
Chris Christie	29%	27%	38%
Jeb Bush	37%	42%	38%
(VOL) Same/both equally	1%	1%	1%
(VOL) Neither	25%	18%	16%
(VOL) Don't know	8%	11%	7%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	453	441	712

9. Would Chris Christie or Marco Rubio make a better president? [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

	REG VOTERS	PARTY ID		
		Dem	Ind	Rep
Chris Christie	26%	12%	30%	41%
Marco Rubio	35%	39%	33%	32%
(VOL) Same/both equally	2%	0%	3%	4%
(VOL) Neither	17%	30%	11%	5%
(VOL) Don't know	20%	19%	22%	18%

[ASKED OF EVERYONE]

10. Do you think Chris Christie is able to run for president and govern New Jersey effectively at the same time, or is he not able to do both effectively?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
		Is able to	26%	28%	15%	9%
Is not able to	71%	69%	84%	89%	70%	45%
(VOL) Don't know	3%	3%	1%	3%	3%	2%

11. When Chris Christie decided not to run for president back in 2012, he said he had made a commitment to New Jersey that he would not abandon. Looking back over the past four years, do you feel Governor Christie has fulfilled his commitment to New Jersey or has he abandoned his commitment?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
		Fulfilled	35%	35%	37%	14%
Abandoned	56%	58%	48%	80%	51%	33%
(VOL) Both, mixed	5%	4%	11%	4%	5%	5%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	4%	4%	2%	4%	4%

12. Would you say Chris Christie is honest and trustworthy or not?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Yes	36%	37%	30%	9%	43%	69%
No	58%	59%	56%	88%	50%	29%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	4%	13%	3%	6%	2%

13. Governor Christie said that he will always tell it like it is, even if it is not the popular thing to say or if it sometimes makes people cringe. Do you see these types of statements more as straight forward truth-telling or more as Christie trying to say things designed mainly to get media attention?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Straight forward truth-telling	36%	38%	26%	14%	41%	67%
Trying to say things that will get media attention	57%	55%	69%	81%	50%	30%
(VOL) Mixed, some of both	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%
(VOL) Don't know	3%	3%	2%	1%	5%	1%

14. Who should pay for Governor Christie's security detail while he is campaigning for president out of state – New Jersey state government or Christie's campaign, or should the costs be shared?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
New Jersey state government	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Christie's campaign	82%	80%	90%	84%	83%	75%
Costs should be shared	13%	14%	8%	11%	12%	18%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	5%	1%	3%	4%	6%

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from June 30 to July 1, 2015 with a statewide random sample of 503 adult residents, including 377 contacted via live interview on a landline telephone and 126 via live interview on a cell phone, in English. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey questionnaire design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>			
35% Dem	48% Male	28% 18-34	63% White
45% Ind	52% Female	38% 35-54	13% Black
20% Rep		34% 55+	15% Hispanic
			9% Asian/Other
<i>Registered Voter Sample (weighted)</i>			
36% Dem	48% Male	21% 18-34	65% White
43% Ind	52% Female	42% 35-54	13% Black
21% Rep		36% 55+	14% Hispanic
			8% Asian/Other

	<i>MARGIN OF ERROR</i>					
	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>REGISTERED VOTER</i>		<i>PARTY ID</i>		
		<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
<i>Unweighted N</i>	503	453	50	156	218	119
<i>moe</i>	4.4%	4.6%	13.9%	7.9%	6.6%	9.0%

It is the Monmouth University Polling Institute's policy to conduct surveys of all adult residents, including voters and non-voters, on issues that affect them. Specific voter surveys are conducted when appropriate during election cycles.

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