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NJ GOV: CHRISTIE LEADS BUONO BY 24

Incumbent's views seen as basically in step with constituents

Chris Christie's sizable re-election margin has increased in the most recent *Monmouth University Poll*. New Jersey voters dismiss challenger Barbara Buono's portrait of the incumbent as being out of step with his constituents on key issues.

Garden State voters likely to participate in the November election give Gov. Chris Christie a 59% to 35% lead over state Sen. Barbara Buono. This 24 point margin is an increase from the 19 to 20 point leads he held in prior Monmouth University polls released earlier this month and in August.

Buono garners support from 63% of Democrats in the current poll, which is significantly lower than the 90% support Christie holds among his fellow Republicans. Independents give the incumbent a significant 65% to 26% advantage. These are the same basic dynamics as the past two Monmouth University polls.

Christie maintains a significant advantage over Buono among both men (61% to 34%) and women (57% to 35%). He trails among black voters – 34% to 55% for Buono – but leads among both white (64% to 31%) and Hispanic (50% to 44%) voters.

“We are looking at a potential 20 point margin in a blue state and an outright win among Hispanic voters. What more could a 2016 GOP presidential contender ask for?” said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Barbara Buono's campaign message has tried to paint Chris Christie's views on key issues as being outside the mainstream. It does not appear that her message has taken hold. Currently, 62% of likely voters say that Christie's views on the issues are generally in line with most New Jerseyans, while only 28% say they are out of step. On the other hand, a slight plurality of 40% say that Buono's views are out of step compared to 34% who say they are generally in line with most Garden State residents.

Most likely voters (59%) continue to have a favorable opinion of Christie, while just 29% hold an unfavorable view. Buono's personal ratings are a net negative of 28% favorable and 34% unfavorable. A

sizable number of likely voters (38%) continue to express no opinion of the Democratic nominee with just three weeks to go before the election.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from October 10 to 12, 2013 with 1,606 New Jersey voters likely to vote in the November general election. This sample has a margin of error of ± 2.5 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

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

1. If the election for New Jersey Governor was today, would you vote for Chris Christie, the Republican, Barbara Buono, the Democrat or some other candidate? [NAMES WERE ROTATED] [IF UNDECIDED: At this moment, do you lean toward Chris Christie or lean toward Barbara Buono?]

<i>(with leaners)</i>	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			GENDER		REGION		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	North	Central	South
Chris Christie	59%	30%	65%	90%	61%	57%	56%	59%	64%
Barbara Buono	35%	63%	26%	7%	34%	35%	37%	35%	30%
Other candidate	2%	2%	4%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Undecided	4%	5%	5%	2%	4%	5%	5%	3%	4%

TREND:	October 2013	September 2013	August 2013	June 2013
Chris Christie	59%	56%	56%	61%
Barbara Buono	35%	37%	36%	31%
Other	2%	3%	3%	4%
Undecided	4%	4%	6%	4%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	1606	615	777	626

[QUESTIONS 2 AND 3 WERE ROTATED]

2. Is your general opinion of Chris Christie favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of him?

	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			GENDER		REGION			VOTE INTENT		Undecided/ May change mind
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	North	Central	South	Christie	Buono	
Favorable	59%	34%	62%	89%	62%	57%	56%	61%	63%	93%	11%	39%
Unfavorable	29%	51%	23%	8%	27%	31%	31%	29%	27%	2%	78%	26%
No opinion	12%	15%	15%	3%	10%	13%	13%	10%	10%	5%	11%	35%

TREND:	October 2013	September 2013	August 2013
Favorable	59%	55%	59%
Unfavorable	29%	35%	33%
No opinion	12%	9%	8%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	1606	615	777

3. Is your general opinion of Barbara Buono favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of her?

	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			GENDER		REGION			VOTE INTENT		Undecided/ May change mind
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	North	Central	South	Christie	Buono	
Favorable	28%	48%	22%	9%	30%	26%	28%	30%	26%	6%	72%	18%
Unfavorable	34%	11%	38%	60%	35%	32%	30%	34%	40%	55%	3%	19%
No opinion	38%	40%	41%	32%	35%	42%	42%	36%	34%	39%	25%	64%

TREND:	October 2013	September 2013	August 2013
Favorable	28%	32%	27%
Unfavorable	34%	35%	25%
No opinion	38%	32%	48%
Unwtd N	1606	615	777

[QUESTIONS 4 AND 5 WERE ROTATED]

4. Are Chris Christie's views on the issues generally in line or out of step with most New Jerseyans?

	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			GENDER		REGION			VOTE INTENT		Undecided/ May change mind
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	North	Central	South	Christie	Buono	
In line	62%	41%	66%	86%	63%	61%	60%	63%	63%	90%	20%	49%
Out of step	28%	47%	24%	9%	27%	29%	28%	28%	28%	5%	69%	28%
Not sure	10%	12%	10%	5%	10%	10%	11%	9%	9%	5%	11%	22%

5. Are Barbara Buono's views on the issues generally in line or out of step with most New Jerseyans?

	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			GENDER		REGION			VOTE INTENT		Undecided/ May change mind
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	North	Central	South	Christie	Buono	
In line	34%	55%	28%	14%	36%	33%	36%	39%	28%	12%	79%	26%
Out of step	40%	18%	47%	65%	42%	39%	37%	39%	46%	63%	6%	27%
Not sure	25%	27%	25%	21%	22%	28%	27%	23%	25%	25%	15%	47%

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from October 10 to 12, 2013 with a statewide random sample of 1,606 likely voters drawn from a list of registered voters who voted in at least two of the last four general elections, including 824 contacted by interactive voice response (IVR) on a landline telephone, 447 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 335 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey questionnaire design, data weighting and analysis. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported by gender or party identification, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. 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.

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted) LIKELY VOTERS			
38% Dem	47% Male	9% 18-34	74% White
34% Ind	53% Female	21% 35-49	12% Black
28% Rep		36% 50-64	9% Hispanic
		34% 65+	5% Asian/Other

	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			GENDER		REGION			VOTE INTENT		Undecided/ May change mind
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	North	Central	South	Christie	Buono	
Unweighted N	1606	536	641	414	762	844	672	454	480	931	491	298
moe	2.5%	4.2%	3.9%	4.8%	3.6%	3.4%	3.8%	4.6%	4.5%	3.2%	4.4%	5.7%

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