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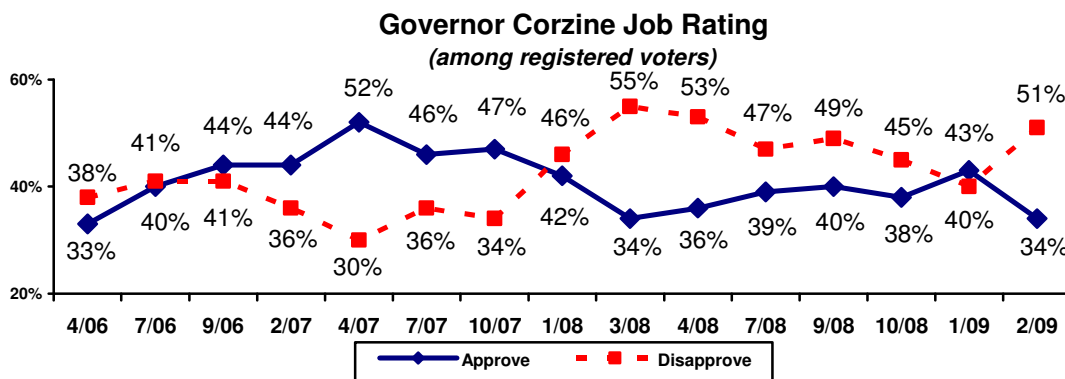
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## CORZINE REPORT CARD: APPROVALS DROP

*Nearly 3-in-4 say New Jersey is on the wrong track*

Governor Jon Corzine’s brief flirtation with positive job performance ratings last month has ended, according to the latest *Monmouth University/Gannett New Jersey Poll*. His semi-annual report card continues to average a “C-” from the New Jersey public, while his grades for cutting waste and his level of effort have declined.

Currently, only 34% of all New Jersey adults approve of how their governor is handling his job, compared to 48% who disapprove. Among registered voters, his ratings stand at 34% approve to 51% disapprove. Just last month, slightly more voters approved (43%) than disapproved (40%) of the Jon Corzine’s performance. The governor’s current 34% approval number marks a return to the low public ratings he held last spring.



Governor Corzine has net positive job ratings only among his fellow Democrats – 49% approve to 32% disapprove. He receives poor ratings from majorities of both independents (55% disapprove to 27% approve) and Republicans (69% disapprove to 19% approve).

While negative, the governor’s rating remains slightly better than the state legislature’s. Only 25% of New Jerseyans approve of the job their legislature is doing, while 52% disapprove.

The poll also found that nearly 3-in-4 (72%) residents believe the state is generally on the wrong track. Only 21% say it is going in the right direction. The 72% “wrong track” number is the highest recorded by the *Monmouth University/Gannett New Jersey Poll* since Governor Corzine took office.

“The public is looking for strong leadership in this volatile time, but they are unsure of Jon Corzine’s hand on the tiller,” commented Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute. “Independent voters, a critical group for the governor’s re-election prospects, have become particularly doubtful over the past few months.”

When asked to grade Corzine on a number of key issues that formed the basis of his 2005 campaign for governor, the public continues to give him low C’s and D’s. His overall average grade continues to be a low “C-”. Broken down by partisanship, he averages a “C” among Democrats and a “D+” among Republicans, which are identical to the grades he received in the last report card issued in July 2008. He also receives a “D+” average from independents, which is down from a “C-” in the last report card.

<b>Jon Corzine, Governor Semi-Annual Report Card</b>						
<b>Subject</b>	<b>February 2009</b>	<i>Prior Grades</i>				
		<i>July 2008</i>	<i>Jan 2008</i>	<i>July 2007</i>	<i>Sept 2006</i>	<i>April 2006</i>
Cost-Cutting	<b>D+</b>	C-	C-	C-	C-	C-
Property Taxes	<b>D+</b>	D+	C-	C-	D+	D+
Government Ethics	<b>C-</b>	C-	C	C	C	C
Cost of Living	<b>D</b>	D	D	D+	D+	D+
Schools	<b>C</b>	C	C	C	C	C
Level of Effort	<b>C</b>	C+	C+	B-	B-	C+
<b>Overall grade</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>

According to state residents, Governor Corzine’s performance is below average on providing property tax relief (D+) and making New Jersey a more affordable place to live (D), both of which were key themes in his 2005 campaign. He also averages a D+ for controlling costs and cutting waste, which is down a half grade from July.

The governor averages a C- for bringing ethics and honesty back to state government. He scores a C for improving our schools and for the level of effort he puts into working for New Jersey. Corzine’s level of effort average has dropped a half grade since July.

The *Monmouth University/Gannett New Jersey Poll* was conducted by telephone with 803 New Jersey adults from February 2 to 8, 2009. This sample has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.5$  percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute and originally published by the Gannett New Jersey newspaper group (Asbury Park Press, Courier-Post, Courier News, Daily Journal, Daily Record, and Home News Tribune).

### 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 Jon Corzine is doing as governor?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER	PARTY ID		
			Dem	Ind	Rep
Approve	<b>34%</b>	34%	49%	27%	19%
Disapprove	<b>48%</b>	51%	32%	55%	69%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>18%</b>	15%	18%	19%	12%
Unwtd N	<b>803</b>	721	261	309	178

TREND: All Adults	February 2009	January 2009	October 2008	Sept 2008	July 2008	April 2008	March 2008	January 2008	October 2007	July 2007	April 2007	February 2007	Sept 2006	July 2006	April 2006
Approve	34%	n/a	n/a	40%	39%	34%	37%	40%	46%	46%	51%	44%	42%	37%	34%
Disapprove	48%	n/a	n/a	46%	46%	52%	52%	44%	32%	36%	29%	34%	38%	43%	37%
(VOL) Don't know	18%	n/a	n/a	15%	16%	14%	11%	16%	22%	18%	20%	22%	20%	20%	29%
Unwtd N	803	n/a	n/a	808	1004	803	805	804	801	800	804	801	800	802	803

TREND: Registered voters only	February 2009	January 2009	October 2008	Sept 2008	July 2008	April 2008	March 2008	January 2008	October 2007	July 2007	April 2007	February 2007	Sept 2006	July 2006	April 2006
Approve	34%	43%	38%	40%	39%	36%	34%	42%	47%	46%	52%	44%	44%	40%	33%
Disapprove	51%	40%	45%	49%	47%	53%	55%	46%	34%	36%	30%	36%	41%	41%	38%
(VOL) Don't know	15%	17%	18%	11%	14%	11%	11%	12%	19%	17%	17%	20%	16%	19%	29%
Unwtd N	721	413	900	709	889	720	719	698	688	678	668	681	663	670	652

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the state legislature is doing?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER	PARTY ID		
			Dem	Ind	Rep
Approve	<b>25%</b>	23%	33%	19%	18%
Disapprove	<b>52%</b>	55%	40%	59%	69%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>23%</b>	22%	27%	23%	14%
Unwtd N	<b>803</b>	721	261	309	178

TREND: All Adults	February 2009	July 2008	April 2008	March 2008	October 2007	February 2007
Approve	25%	27%	29%	28%	33%	35%
Disapprove	52%	45%	53%	50%	41%	40%
(VOL) Don't know	23%	28%	18%	22%	26%	25%
Unwtd N	803	1004	803	805	801	801

3. Would you say things in New Jersey are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER	PARTY ID		
			Dem	Ind	Rep
Right direction	21%	18%	28%	12%	14%
Wrong track	72%	74%	63%	81%	83%
(VOL) Depends	3%	4%	5%	4%	1%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	4%	5%	3%	1%
Unwtd N	803	721	261	309	178

TREND: All Adults	February 2009	September 2008	July 2007	April 2007	February 2007	September 2006	July 2006	April 2006	September 2005
Right direction	21%	26%	39%	33%	34%	29%	27%	30%	31%
Wrong track	72%	64%	50%	51%	55%	58%	62%	55%	54%
(VOL) Depends	3%	4%	6%	8%	6%	6%	4%	9%	5%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	6%	6%	8%	6%	7%	7%	6%	10%
Unwtd N	803	808	800	804	801	800	802	803	800

4. I'd like you to grade the Corzine administration on how it has handled specific issues. For each one I read, please give a letter grade of A, B, C, D or F for failing. What grade would you give the Corzine administration for ... ?

A. Controlling costs and cutting waste

TREND:	February 2009	July 2008	January 2008	July 2007	September 2006	April 2006
A - Highest grade	4%	6%	6%	7%	7%	5%
B	16%	17%	19%	21%	19%	20%
C	29%	25%	29%	31%	31%	29%
D	19%	15%	15%	15%	13%	14%
F - Failing grade	28%	28%	24%	20%	21%	20%
(VOL) Don't know	3%	9%	7%	6%	9%	13%
Unwtd N	803	1004	804	800	800	803

B. Providing property tax relief

TREND:	February 2009	July 2008	January 2008	July 2007	September 2006	April 2006
A - Highest grade	5%	7%	6%	8%	5%	5%
B	10%	12%	18%	20%	15%	12%
C	26%	25%	28%	24%	25%	21%
D	20%	21%	14%	16%	14%	15%
F - Failing grade	35%	28%	28%	26%	31%	35%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	7%	5%	6%	9%	13%
Unwtd N	803	1004	804	800	800	803

C. Bringing ethics and honesty back to state government

TREND:	February 2009	July 2008	January 2008	July 2007	September 2006	April 2006
A - Highest grade	6%	7%	10%	8%	11%	8%
B	18%	19%	25%	26%	25%	27%
C	30%	28%	28%	28%	28%	24%
D	18%	16%	11%	15%	13%	12%
F - Failing grade	24%	22%	20%	18%	15%	17%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	7%	6%	5%	7%	11%
Unwtd N	803	1004	804	800	800	803

D. Making New Jersey a more affordable place to live

<b>TREND:</b>	<b>February</b>	July	January	July	September	April
<b>2009</b>	2008	2008	2007	2006	2006	2006
A - Highest grade	<b>5%</b>	4%	5%	7%	7%	5%
B	<b>9%</b>	10%	10%	16%	10%	10%
C	<b>18%</b>	24%	20%	20%	24%	23%
D	<b>20%</b>	17%	18%	21%	17%	14%
F - Failing grade	<b>45%</b>	41%	44%	33%	38%	40%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>2%</b>	5%	2%	3%	3%	9%
Unwtd N	<b>803</b>	1004	804	800	800	803

E. Improving our schools

<b>TREND:</b>	<b>February</b>	July	January	July	September	April
<b>2009</b>	2008	2008	2007	2006	2006	2006
A - Highest grade	<b>8%</b>	9%	6%	7%	10%	8%
B	<b>18%</b>	19%	25%	26%	21%	19%
C	<b>34%</b>	31%	28%	31%	30%	28%
D	<b>15%</b>	15%	14%	12%	15%	14%
F - Failing grade	<b>17%</b>	15%	18%	14%	12%	16%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>8%</b>	11%	9%	10%	13%	15%
Unwtd N	<b>803</b>	1004	804	800	800	803

5. What grade would you give the governor for the level of effort he puts into working for New Jersey?

<b>TREND:</b>	<b>February</b>	July	January	July	September	April
<b>2009</b>	2008	2008	2007	2006	2006	2006
A - Highest grade	<b>12%</b>	17%	18%	18%	22%	16%
B	<b>26%</b>	26%	30%	33%	28%	26%
C	<b>28%</b>	26%	27%	27%	27%	29%
D	<b>14%</b>	9%	9%	9%	9%	11%
F - Failing grade	<b>15%</b>	15%	12%	9%	8%	11%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>4%</b>	5%	4%	4%	5%	8%
Unwtd N	<b>803</b>	1004	804	800	800	803

The *Monmouth University/Gannett New Jersey Poll* was conducted and analyzed by the Monmouth University Polling Institute research staff. The telephone interviews were collected by Braun Research on February 2-8, 2009 with a statewide random sample of 803 adult residents. 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 3.5 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.

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

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