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## **ARE GOV. CHRISTIE'S VIEWS OUT OF STEP WITH JERSEY?**

*Job rating slightly lower, but still high*

Governor Chris Christie's re-election prospects remain strong, but the *Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll* also finds a slight erosion of his post-Sandy job ratings. On the campaign front, New Jersey is divided as to whether the governor's views on hot button social issues are out of step with his constituents – which is a key line of attack from his Democratic challenger.

Currently, Gov. Christie earns a 63% approve to 26% disapprove job rating among all Garden State residents. Among registered voters, his rating stands at 65% approve to 26% disapprove. In February, his job approval rating was 70% to 17% among all residents and 70% to 16% among voters. This decline has occurred across every demographic group, but he still earns majority approval from Republicans (86%), independents (64%), and Democrats (52%) alike, as well as from the state's public workers (54%).

Nearly 6-in-10 (59%) registered voters say that Gov. Christie deserves a second term, down just slightly from his February support level (63%). Just one-third (34%) say it is time to put someone else in office and 7% are not sure whether the governor merits re-election. The slight drop in the governor's overall re-election support comes mainly from independent voters – standing at a still-solid 59%, but down from 68% in February.

State Senator Barbara Buono, the probable Democratic nominee for governor, has been focusing part of her campaign message on the charge that Chris Christie's views are out of step with most of New Jersey. On government spending – an issue which is a centerpiece of the governor's own campaign – a majority of residents (55%) say that Christie's views are in line with most of his constituents, compared to 36% who say he is out of step on this issue. New Jerseyans are divided, though, on whether the

governor sees eye to eye with them on property taxes – 44% say his views are in line with the state and 45% say they are out of step.

Garden State residents are also divided on whether Gov. Christie's views on abortion and same sex marriage are in line with majority opinion in New Jersey. Compared to the state's fiscal issues, though, a larger number are also unsure where the governor stands on these social concerns. On abortion, 33% say the governor's views are in line with most New Jerseyans, 32% say they are out of step, and 34% are unsure. On same sex marriage, 31% say the governor's views are in line with most New Jerseyans, 34% say they are out of step, and 33% are unsure.

"There may be some hay to be made over possible gaps between New Jersey's take on these issues and Chris Christie's own views. However, social issues are not particularly relevant for swing voters in the upcoming election. Property taxes, though, may be a different story, which could explain the governor's renewed call this week for a property tax credit," said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

On the issue of abortion, 42% of New Jerseyans correctly identify Gov. Christie's views as basically pro-life. Another 25% say he is pro-choice and 32% are unsure. Among the New Jersey public, a majority of 54% consider themselves pro-choice compared to 38% who are pro-life.

On the issue of same sex marriage, 48% of New Jerseyans say Gov. Christie opposes allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally. Another 23% believe he favors same sex marriage and 30% offer no opinion. Among the New Jersey public, a majority of 59% favor legalizing gay marriage and just 31% oppose it. This result marks the highest level of support for same sex marriage in ten years of this specific question being asked on New Jersey polls. The prior high was 52% favor to 34% oppose in February 2012.

The poll also revealed an interesting convergence between an individual's beliefs and their take on the governor's views relative to whether they feel he is in line with most of New Jersey. Among those who side with majority on these issues and correctly identify Chris Christie's positions, two-thirds say that the governor's views are out of step with most New Jerseyans – 66% for abortion and 67% for same sex marriage. However, if an individual feels that the governor shares their own views on these issues – regardless of which side of the issue they agree with – they are more likely to feel that the governor's – and presumably their own – views are in line with majority opinion.

Specifically, New Jerseyans who take a majority pro-choice view of abortion and say Chris Christie feels the same are more likely to see the governor as being in line with his constituents on this issue (55%) rather than out of step (21%). Similarly, 51% of those who favor same sex marriage and think the governor shares their opinion say that his views are in line with New Jersey, compared to just 15% who say they are out of step.

The same pattern is true, though, when both the individual and the governor are in the minority. Over half (51%) of pro-life New Jerseyans who also see the governor as pro-life say that these views are actually in line with most of New Jersey, compared to just 30% who say they are out of step. Similarly, nearly half (48%) of New Jerseyans who oppose gay marriage and say the governor feels the same inaccurately see these views as being in line with the state majority, compared to 35% who say they are out of step.

### ***Governor's Survey Questions***

The governor's office recently sent a mailing to Central Jersey residents that included a survey asking them to grade his performance on a number of issues. As a service to the administration, the poll replicated two of the questions from that survey to provide a representative statewide evaluation. When asked to grade the governor on his "efforts to rebuild our state in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy," 3-in-4 New Jerseyans give Chris Christie an A (44%) or B (32%). Another 15% give him a C and fewer than 1-in-10 give him a poor grade of D (4%) or F (4%).

The governor gets just slightly above average grades, though, on his "work to get our state economy moving again." Most New Jerseyans say he has earned a B (39%) or C (27%) rather than an A (16%). But just 1-in-6 say he deserves a poor grade of D (9%) or F (8%).

### ***Other Officeholder Ratings***

President Barack Obama holds a 55% approve to 42% disapprove job rating among registered voters in New Jersey. This marks a decline from the 60% to 33% voter rating he earned in February, which is similar to the size of the drop in Gov. Christie's job rating over the same period.

Senator Frank Lautenberg currently holds a 47% approve to 32% disapprove rating among Garden State voters, compared to a 44% to 27% rating in February. Senator Bob Menendez, who has been the subject of recent questions over dealings with a campaign donor, has a 44% approve to 38% disapprove rating among New Jersey voters, compared to a 41% to 31% rating in February.

New Jersey's state legislature earns a divided 41% approve to 42% disapprove rating from state voters. The legislature's February poll numbers were a net positive at 40% approve to 35% disapprove.

The *Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll* was conducted by telephone with 806 New Jersey adults from April 11 to 14, 2013. 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 Asbury Park Press and its sister publications (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 Chris Christie is doing as governor?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Approve	<b>63%</b>	65%	55%	52%	64%	86%	61%	65%	54%	66%
Disapprove	<b>26%</b>	26%	31%	39%	24%	10%	27%	26%	37%	23%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>11%</b>	10%	15%	10%	12%	5%	13%	9%	9%	11%

TREND: <i>All adults</i>	April 2013	Feb. 2013	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	63%	70%	67%	53%	52%	51%	52%	54%	48%	47%	47%	45%	44%	41%	33%
Disapprove	26%	17%	21%	35%	36%	35%	38%	38%	42%	49%	40%	38%	44%	44%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	11%	14%	12%	11%	12%	14%	10%	9%	9%	5%	12%	17%	12%	15%	52%
Unwtd N	806	803	816	805	803	804	803	817	802	807	801	801	801	804	803

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	April 2013	Feb. 2013	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	65%	70%	69%	55%	53%	50%	55%	55%	50%	46%	49%	44%	45%	42%	31%
Disapprove	26%	16%	22%	36%	35%	38%	37%	37%	41%	49%	41%	40%	43%	44%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	10%	13%	9%	10%	12%	12%	9%	8%	8%	5%	9%	16%	12%	13%	53%
Unwtd N	694	697	726	715	678	692	709	693	730	725	718	726	747	719	716

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

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Approve	<b>43%</b>	41%	51%	50%	36%	40%	38%	47%	31%	46%
Disapprove	<b>40%</b>	42%	28%	32%	48%	41%	48%	32%	49%	37%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>18%</b>	17%	21%	18%	16%	19%	14%	21%	20%	17%

TREND: <i>Registered Voters</i>	April 2013	Feb. 2013	Dec. 2012	Sept. 2012	July 2012	April 2012	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Aug. 2011	May 2011	Feb. 2011
Approve	41%	40%	43%	32%	34%	37%	34%	33%	35%	32%	29%
Disapprove	42%	35%	34%	43%	45%	41%	42%	45%	48%	48%	45%
(VOL) Don't know	17%	25%	22%	25%	21%	23%	24%	22%	17%	20%	26%
Unwtd N	694	697	726	715	678	692	709	693	730	725	718

TREND: <i>Registered Voters Continued</i>	July 2010	April 2010	Feb. 2010	July 2009	Feb. 2009	Sept. 2008	July 2008	April 2008	March 2008	Oct. 2007	Feb. 2007
Approve	25%	19%	24%	31%	23%	29%	27%	28%	25%	32%	34%
Disapprove	49%	57%	49%	48%	55%	50%	47%	55%	53%	43%	42%
(VOL) Don't know	26%	24%	27%	22%	22%	21%	26%	17%	22%	25%	23%
Unwtd N	747	719	716	792	721	709	889	720	719	688	681

### 3. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Approve	<b>58%</b>	55%	68%	89%	44%	23%	50%	64%	50%	60%
Disapprove	<b>39%</b>	42%	27%	10%	51%	76%	46%	33%	46%	38%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>3%</b>	2%	5%	1%	5%	1%	3%	3%	4%	3%

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	April 2013	February 2013	December 2012	April 2012	February 2012	October 2011	August 2011	May 2011	September 2010	July 2010	April 2010	February 2010	October 2009	July 2009
Approve	55%	60%	58%	54%	51%	47%	52%	60%	47%	51%	54%	53%	54%	59%
Disapprove	42%	33%	35%	41%	42%	46%	39%	36%	44%	42%	41%	38%	33%	29%
(VOL) Don't know	2%	7%	6%	5%	6%	7%	9%	4%	9%	6%	5%	9%	14%	12%
Unwtd N	694	697	726	692	709	693	730	725	726	747	719	716	785	792

[QUESTIONS 4 AND 5 WERE ROTATED]

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Frank Lautenberg is doing as United States Senator?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Approve	<b>46%</b>	47%	40%	63%	35%	31%	40%	51%	47%	45%
Disapprove	<b>32%</b>	32%	28%	14%	40%	48%	41%	22%	32%	32%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>23%</b>	21%	31%	22%	25%	21%	19%	26%	20%	23%

TREND: Registered voters only	April 2013	February 2013	April 2012	February 2012	October 2011	August 2011	May 2011	July 2010	October 2008	July 2008	April 2008	January 2008
Approve	47%	44%	41%	39%	43%	41%	48%	47%	48%	45%	48%	43%
Disapprove	32%	27%	32%	33%	31%	32%	30%	33%	28%	33%	31%	28%
(VOL) Don't know	21%	29%	27%	28%	27%	26%	21%	21%	24%	22%	21%	30%
Unwtd N	694	697	692	709	693	730	725	747	900	874	720	698

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bob Menendez is doing as United States Senator?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Approve	<b>44%</b>	44%	45%	67%	34%	21%	37%	51%	41%	45%
Disapprove	<b>36%</b>	38%	27%	17%	43%	57%	45%	27%	38%	36%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>20%</b>	18%	29%	16%	22%	22%	17%	22%	22%	19%

TREND: Registered voters only	April 2013	February 2013	April 2012	February 2012	October 2011	August 2011	May 2011	July 2010	October 2008	April 2008	January 2008
Approve	44%	41%	40%	41%	43%	38%	46%	38%	34%	41%	37%
Disapprove	38%	31%	25%	26%	29%	33%	28%	33%	25%	31%	25%
(VOL) Don't know	18%	28%	35%	33%	28%	29%	26%	29%	41%	28%	37%
Unwtd N	694	697	692	709	693	730	725	747	900	720	698

6. Looking ahead to November's election for Governor, do you think that Chris Christie should be re-elected, or do you think that it is time to have someone else in office?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Should be re-elected	<b>56%</b>	59%	46%	41%	59%	84%	59%	54%	49%	59%
Time for someone else	<b>36%</b>	34%	45%	52%	32%	12%	33%	39%	45%	33%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>8%</b>	7%	8%	7%	9%	4%	8%	7%	6%	8%

TREND: Registered voters only	April 2013	February 2013	December 2012	September 2012
Should be re-elected	59%	63%	61%	50%
Time for someone else	34%	29%	29%	45%
(VOL) Don't know	7%	8%	10%	5%
Unwtd N	694	697	726	715

7. I'd like you to grade Governor Christie on some issues using a letter grade of A, B, C, D or F for failing. What grade would you give Governor Christie's efforts to rebuild our state in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
A - Highest grade	<b>44%</b>	46%	35%	37%	44%	59%	44%	44%	40%	45%
B	<b>32%</b>	31%	37%	33%	33%	26%	32%	32%	34%	31%
C	<b>15%</b>	14%	19%	20%	13%	9%	13%	16%	18%	14%
D	<b>4%</b>	4%	4%	6%	3%	3%	5%	4%	5%	4%
F - Failing grade	<b>4%</b>	4%	4%	4%	5%	2%	4%	3%	2%	4%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>1%</b>	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%

8. What grade would you give Governor Christie's work to get our state economy moving again?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
A - Highest grade	16%	16%	14%	8%	15%	31%	15%	16%	10%	17%
B	39%	38%	39%	31%	42%	48%	38%	39%	42%	38%
C	27%	27%	27%	38%	23%	14%	27%	28%	23%	28%
D	9%	10%	9%	13%	10%	3%	11%	8%	17%	8%
F - Failing grade	8%	8%	8%	9%	8%	4%	8%	8%	7%	8%
(VOL) Don't know	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%

9. I would like your opinion on how Governor Christie's views line up with most New Jerseyans based on what you know or have heard. Are Governor Christie's views on [READ ITEM] generally in line or out of step with most New Jerseyans? [ITEMS WERE ROTATED]

Property taxes

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
In line	44%	45%	42%	31%	47%	65%	48%	41%	41%	45%
Out of step	45%	46%	43%	58%	41%	31%	41%	50%	51%	44%
(VOL) Neither	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
(VOL) Don't know	10%	9%	15%	10%	11%	4%	10%	10%	7%	11%

Government spending

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
In line	55%	58%	46%	45%	57%	77%	59%	53%	53%	56%
Out of step	36%	35%	38%	46%	34%	20%	33%	38%	43%	34%
(VOL) Neither	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
(VOL) Don't know	8%	7%	14%	9%	8%	3%	7%	9%	5%	9%

Abortion

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
In line	33%	33%	29%	28%	29%	50%	37%	29%	27%	35%
Out of step	32%	31%	33%	40%	31%	17%	32%	32%	33%	31%
(VOL) Neither	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%
(VOL) Don't know	34%	33%	35%	31%	37%	31%	30%	37%	38%	32%

Gay marriage

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
In line	31%	32%	29%	25%	32%	42%	34%	28%	25%	33%
Out of step	34%	34%	30%	43%	31%	20%	32%	36%	39%	32%
(VOL) Neither	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
(VOL) Don't know	33%	32%	39%	30%	34%	36%	32%	34%	34%	33%

10. On the issue of abortion, would you call Governor Christie pro-choice or pro-life?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Pro-choice	25%	23%	35%	29%	26%	19%	25%	26%	18%	27%
Pro-life	42%	44%	36%	44%	38%	48%	45%	40%	47%	41%
(VOL) Don't know	32%	33%	29%	26%	35%	33%	31%	34%	35%	32%

TREND:	April 2013	February 2011
Pro-choice	25%	16%
Pro-life	42%	44%
(VOL) Don't know	32%	40%
Unwtd N	806	801

11. Do you think Governor Christie favors or opposes allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favors	23%	21%	30%	22%	24%	21%	24%	21%	17%	24%
Opposes	48%	50%	35%	54%	43%	46%	48%	47%	54%	46%
(VOL) Don't know	30%	29%	34%	24%	32%	33%	27%	32%	29%	30%

12. On the issue of abortion, would you consider yourself pro-choice or pro-life?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Pro-choice	54%	56%	49%	63%	53%	45%	53%	56%	65%	52%
Pro-life	38%	37%	45%	32%	38%	51%	38%	38%	31%	40%
(VOL) Mixed, neither	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	4%	2%	3%	3%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	4%	4%	2%	5%	2%	5%	3%	1%	5%

13. Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally? [PROBE: Do you favor/oppose it strongly or somewhat?]

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favor, strongly	37%	38%	36%	51%	35%	19%	32%	43%	44%	36%
Favor, somewhat	22%	21%	28%	19%	25%	24%	20%	23%	22%	22%
Opposes, somewhat	8%	9%	4%	4%	7%	19%	10%	7%	7%	9%
Oppose, strongly	23%	23%	23%	17%	26%	29%	27%	20%	22%	23%
(VOL) Don't know	9%	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	11%	7%	5%	10%

TREND:	April 2013	February 2012	February 2009	October 2007*	June 2006*	September 2003*
Favor	59%	52%	48%	48%	50%	43%
Oppose	31%	34%	43%	45%	44%	50%
(VOL) Don't know	9%	15%	10%	8%	6%	7%
Unwtd N	806	803	402	1002	803	802

\* Source: Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

The Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute on April 11 to 14, 2013 with a statewide random sample of 806 adult residents, including 606 contacted on a landline telephone and 200 on a cell phone. Live interviewing services were provided by Braun Research, Inc. and the telephone sample was obtained from Survey Sampling International. 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 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.

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)			
39% Dem	48% Male	28% 18-34	64% White
39% Ind	52% Female	38% 35-54	12% Black
22% Rep		34% 55+	15% Hispanic
			9% Asian/Other
Registered Voter Sample (weighted)			
39% Dem	48% Male	21% 18-34	69% White
38% Ind	52% Female	40% 35-54	11% Black
23% Rep		38% 55+	13% Hispanic
			7% Asian/Other

	MARGIN OF ERROR									
	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Unweighted N	806	694	112	304	308	161	391	415	214	580
moe	3.5%	3.7%	9.3%	5.6%	5.6%	7.7%	5.0%	4.8%	6.7%	4.1%

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 that affect the state. Specific voter surveys are conducted when appropriate during election cycles.

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