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NEW JERSEY: CAVALCADE OF GOVERNORS 2018

Kean remains on top of leader board; Christie trails the field

West Long Branch, NJ – Tom Kean continues his reign as New Jersey’s most beloved governor according to the latest *Monmouth University Poll* of state residents. New Jerseyans were asked their views of the ten people alive this year who have served as the state’s chief executive since 1974. Kean is on top of the heap – as he was in surveys taken in 2010 and 2006 – with the late Brendan Byrne coming in at number two. The state’s newest former governor, Chris Christie, finds himself alone in the cellar.

Tom Kean (R; 1982-90) is viewed favorably by 45% of the New Jersey public and unfavorably by 12%, with 43% having no opinion. This is comparable to his 46% favorable and 9% unfavorable rating eight years ago. His +33 point net positive rating keeps Kean clearly at the top of the Garden State gubernatorial leader board. Kean’s predecessor, Brendan Byrne (D; 1974-82), edges into second place among the field of ten with a +18 net positive rating – 28% favorable and 10% unfavorable, with 62% who have no opinion.

Among New Jerseyans age 55 and older – i.e. those who were of voting age when Byrne was still governor – Byrne earns an even more positive +33 rating (46% favorable and 13% unfavorable). This earns him the clear number two slot among this age group, behind only Kean at +51 (64% favorable and 13% unfavorable). Importantly, Kean and Byrne are the only two governors who earn net positive ratings from Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike.

“Nearly 30 years after he left office, Tom Kean and New Jersey are still perfect together,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute. Murray added: “Sadly, we lost Brendan Byrne early this year, but he is remembered like his successor, as someone admired by New Jerseyans across the entire political spectrum.”

Two other governors also earn net positive ratings – the incumbent, Phil Murphy (D; 2018-?) at 42% favorable and 26% unfavorable with 32% undecided, and Dick Codey (D; 2004-06) at 25% favorable and 13% unfavorable with 63% undecided. Codey, who served fourteen months after Jim McGreevey’s resignation, finds his net rating basically unchanged, but the number of state residents who have no opinion of him has risen 17 points from 46% in 2010.

	NJ Gubernatorial Leader Board	Net Favorability			Among those age 55+
		Apr. '18	Feb. '10	Sep. '06	
↔	Tom Kean (R)	+33	+37	+44	+51
↔	Brendan Byrne (D)	+18	+13	+18	+33
<i>new</i>	Phil Murphy (D)	+16	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	+8
↔	Dick Codey (D)	+12	+14	+34	+15
↔	Christie Whitman (R)	0	-3	-2	-3
↔	Jim Florio (D)	-3	+2	-8	+1
↔	Donald DiFrancesco (R)	-4	-8	+1	-3
↑	Jim McGreevey (D)	-5	-28	-22	-13
↑	Jon Corzine (D)	-9	-24	+16	-19
↓	Chris Christie (R)	-49	+14	<i>n/a</i>	-35

Way down at the bottom of the leader board is Chris Christie (R; 2010-18) with a sizable net negative -49 rating of 22% favorable and 71% unfavorable with 7% having no opinion. He earns net negative ratings from Democrats (9% favorable and 86% unfavorable), independents (21% favorable and 70% unfavorable), and even Republicans (43% favorable and 48% unfavorable). Early in his term in 2010, Christie enjoyed a rosier +14 rating (31% favorable and 17% unfavorable).

“Christie is more solidly installed in last place than Kean is in first place. This marks a colossal fall from Christie’s third place showing when he premiered on this list eight years ago. It also offers a sobering warning to Phil Murphy who is sitting in the same spot right now,” said Murray, adding, “Another interesting point is that Christie is – by far – the governor who most New Jerseyans are ready to express an opinion on. This is probably fitting considering how readily he went off on his own constituents when he was in office.”

The remaining five governors on the list earn a split decision to slightly negative reviews after their time in office, but the results are actually an improvement for two of them – Jim McGreevey (D; 2002-04) and Jon Corzine (D; 2006-10). McGreevey currently has a net negative -5 rating – 29% favorable and 34% unfavorable with 37% having no opinion. In 2010, he was sitting at the bottom of the list with a -28 rating (24% favorable, 52% unfavorable, 24% no opinion). Similarly, Corzine currently has a net negative -9 rating – 32% favorable and 41% unfavorable with 27% having no opinion. His 2010 rating was slightly better than McGreevey’s at -24 (31% favorable, 55% unfavorable, 14% no opinion).

The number of New Jerseyans who have no opinion of each of these two governors has risen by 13 percentage points in the past eight years as their unfavorable ratings have fallen.

Other governors have seen no significant changes in their ratings since 2010, including Christie Whitman at an even net rating (R; 1994-2001: 35% favorable, 35% unfavorable, 29% no opinion), Jim Florio at -3 (D; 1990-94: 26% favorable, 29% unfavorable, 46% no opinion), and Donald DiFrancesco at -4 (R; 2001-02: 9% favorable, 13% unfavorable, 78% no opinion). DiFrancesco, who served the final months of Whitman’s term after she became EPA Administrator, shares a distinction with Chris Christie by earning a net negative rating from residents in all three political party groups. But that is offset by the fact that he is the least remembered ex-governor, with nearly 8-in-10 having no opinion of him.

Among Garden State residents age 55 and older, Dick Codey earns the number three slot, after Kean and Byrne, with a +15 rating (29% favorable, 14% unfavorable, 57% no opinion), followed by Murphy at +8 (37% favorable, 29% unfavorable, 33% no opinion). Grouped together in the next three positions among this age cohort are Florio at +1 (37% favorable, 36% unfavorable, 27% no opinion), Whitman at -3 (40% favorable, 43% unfavorable, 18% no opinion), and DiFrancesco at -3 (10% favorable, 13% unfavorable, 77% no opinion). Places 8 and 9 on the list are taken by McGreevey at -13 (31% favorable, 44% unfavorable, 25% no opinion) and Corzine at -19 (31% favorable, 50% unfavorable, 19% no opinion). Bringing up the rear in the gubernatorial ratings among New Jerseyans age 55 and older is Christie at -35 (30% favorable, 65% unfavorable, 6% no opinion). *[Note: Despite never having been elected to the office, both DiFrancesco and Codey are statutorily permitted to use the title “Governor.”]*

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from April 6 to 10, 2018 with 703 New Jersey adults. The results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.7 percentage points for the full sample. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

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

[Q1, Q7 held for future release.] [Q2-6, Q8-11 previously released.]

12. Now, I’d like to get your overall impression of the individuals who have served as governor over the past few years. As I read each name, please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you don’t really have an opinion.

Phil Murphy

	April 2018
Favorable	42%
Unfavorable	26%
No opinion	32%
(n)	(703)

[THE FOLLOWING NAMES WERE ROTATED]

Chris Christie

	April 2018	February 2010
Favorable	22%	31%
Unfavorable	71%	17%
No opinion	7%	52%
(n)	(703)	(803)

Jon Corzine

	April 2018	February 2010	September 2006
Favorable	32%	31%	45%
Unfavorable	41%	55%	29%
No opinion	27%	14%	27%
(n)	(703)	(803)	(800)

Dick Codey

	April 2018	February 2010	September 2006
Favorable	25%	34%	50%
Unfavorable	13%	20%	16%
No opinion	63%	46%	34%
(n)	(703)	(803)	(389)

Jim McGreevey

	April 2018	February 2010	September 2006
Favorable	29%	24%	31%
Unfavorable	34%	52%	53%
No opinion	37%	24%	15%
(n)	(703)	(803)	(411)

Donald DiFrancesco

	April 2018	February 2010	September 2006
Favorable	9%	10%	18%
Unfavorable	13%	18%	17%
No opinion	78%	72%	65%
(n)	(703)	(803)	(411)

Christie Whitman

	April 2018	February 2010	September 2006
Favorable	35%	35%	42%
Unfavorable	35%	38%	44%
No opinion	29%	27%	14%
(n)	(703)	(803)	(389)

Jim Florio

	April 2018	February 2010	September 2006
Favorable	26%	29%	29%
Unfavorable	29%	27%	37%
No opinion	46%	45%	34%
(n)	(703)	(803)	(389)

Tom Kean

	April 2018	February 2010	September 2006
Favorable	45%	46%	55%
Unfavorable	12%	9%	11%
No opinion	43%	44%	34%
(n)	(703)	(803)	(411)

Brendan Byrne

	April 2018	February 2010	September 2006
Favorable	28%	25%	31%
Unfavorable	10%	12%	13%
No opinion	62%	63%	56%
(n)	(703)	(803)	(411)

[Q13-31, Q36-39 previously released.] [Q32-35 held for future release.]

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from April 6 to 10, 2018 with a random sample of 703 New Jersey adults age 18 and older, in English. This includes 421 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 282 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Troidahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey 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 3.7 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>DEMOGRAPHICS</i>
<i>Self-Reported</i>
<i>21% Republican</i>
<i>41% Independent</i>
<i>38% Democrat</i>
<i>48% Male</i>
<i>52% Female</i>
<i>28% 18-34</i>
<i>36% 35-54</i>
<i>36% 55+</i>
<i>60% White</i>
<i>13% Black</i>
<i>17% Hispanic</i>
<i>10% Asian/Other</i>

MARGIN OF ERROR		unweighted sample	moe (+/-)
TOTAL		703	3.7%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	632	3.9%
	No	71	11.6%
SELF-REPORTED PARTY ID	Republican	152	8.0%
	Independent	276	5.9%
	Democrat	262	6.1%
GENDER	Male	342	5.3%
	Female	361	5.2%
AGE	18-34	142	8.2%
	35-54	231	6.5%
	55+	320	5.5%
RACE	White non-Hispanic	473	4.5%
	Other	201	6.9%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	310	5.6%
	4 year degree	389	5.0%
INCOME	<\$50K	163	7.7%
	\$50 to <100K	202	6.9%
	\$100K+	285	5.8%
REGION	North	323	5.5%
	Central	185	7.2%
	South	189	7.1%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 4/24/18

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q12A. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Phil Murphy	Favorable	42%	41%	47%	19%	35%	64%	41%	43%	54%	39%	37%
	Unfavorable	26%	28%	16%	55%	27%	9%	32%	20%	19%	28%	29%
	[VOL] Dont Know	32%	31%	38%	26%	38%	27%	27%	37%	28%	33%	33%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q12A. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Phil Murphy	Favorable	38%	48%	41%	45%	45%	43%	42%	45%	46%	33%
	Unfavorable	31%	19%	26%	26%	22%	24%	31%	23%	28%	30%
	[VOL] Dont Know	31%	33%	34%	29%	34%	33%	26%	32%	26%	37%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q12B. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Chris Christie	Favorable	22%	21%	24%	43%	21%	9%	26%	18%	18%	16%	30%
	Unfavorable	71%	72%	63%	48%	70%	86%	67%	75%	79%	72%	65%
	[VOL] Dont Know	7%	6%	13%	9%	9%	4%	7%	7%	3%	12%	6%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q12B. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Chris Christie	Favorable	27%	14%	23%	19%	25%	22%	17%	22%	23%	21%
	Unfavorable	66%	79%	70%	74%	73%	69%	73%	73%	67%	72%
	[VOL] Dont Know	7%	7%	7%	7%	2%	9%	10%	5%	11%	8%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q12C. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Jon Corzine	Favorable	32%	33%	24%	20%	32%	36%	36%	27%	25%	37%	31%
	Unfavorable	41%	42%	35%	63%	42%	29%	46%	36%	29%	42%	50%
	[VOL] Dont Know	27%	25%	42%	17%	26%	34%	18%	36%	46%	21%	19%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q12C. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Jon Corzine	Favorable	28%	37%	32%	31%	32%	37%	29%	33%	27%	34%
	Unfavorable	49%	29%	38%	46%	32%	37%	48%	37%	52%	38%
	[VOL] Dont Know	24%	34%	30%	23%	36%	26%	23%	30%	21%	28%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 4/24/18

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q12D. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Dick Codey	Favorable	25%	26%	16%	20%	28%	25%	32%	18%	17%	25%	29%
	Unfavorable	13%	13%	8%	21%	13%	7%	17%	9%	9%	15%	14%
	[VOL] Dont Know	63%	61%	76%	59%	59%	68%	52%	73%	74%	61%	57%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q12D. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Dick Codey	Favorable	26%	21%	23%	28%	19%	25%	28%	28%	27%	16%
	Unfavorable	12%	13%	13%	11%	13%	14%	10%	15%	12%	9%
	[VOL] Dont Know	62%	65%	64%	61%	69%	61%	62%	57%	61%	75%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q12E. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Jim McGreevey	Favorable	29%	30%	22%	18%	26%	40%	32%	27%	27%	30%	31%
	Unfavorable	34%	35%	23%	51%	38%	19%	36%	31%	20%	33%	44%
	[VOL] Dont Know	37%	34%	55%	31%	35%	41%	32%	42%	54%	37%	25%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q12E. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Jim McGreevey	Favorable	24%	38%	29%	30%	33%	34%	25%	29%	31%	27%
	Unfavorable	43%	19%	32%	36%	28%	30%	39%	33%	38%	31%
	[VOL] Dont Know	34%	43%	40%	33%	39%	37%	36%	38%	31%	41%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q12F. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Donald DiFrancesco	Favorable	9%	9%	12%	7%	9%	10%	12%	7%	10%	7%	10%
	Unfavorable	13%	13%	12%	16%	14%	11%	16%	11%	14%	13%	13%
	[VOL] Dont Know	78%	78%	76%	78%	76%	79%	73%	83%	75%	80%	77%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q12F. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Donald DiFrancesco	Favorable	8%	10%	8%	10%	9%	6%	12%	12%	9%	3%
	Unfavorable	12%	15%	15%	9%	18%	10%	11%	14%	14%	12%
	[VOL] Dont Know	80%	75%	76%	81%	73%	84%	78%	74%	78%	84%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 4/24/18

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q12G. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Christie Whitman	Favorable	35%	37%	25%	46%	35%	31%	42%	29%	29%	36%	40%
	Unfavorable	35%	37%	24%	35%	39%	32%	36%	34%	22%	37%	43%
	[VOL] Dont Know	29%	26%	51%	19%	26%	37%	22%	36%	49%	27%	18%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q12G. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Christie Whitman	Favorable	39%	31%	33%	40%	30%	33%	40%	35%	36%	35%
	Unfavorable	36%	32%	35%	34%	33%	38%	35%	32%	38%	36%
	[VOL] Dont Know	25%	37%	32%	26%	37%	29%	24%	32%	26%	29%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q12H. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Jim Florio	Favorable	26%	27%	16%	21%	27%	28%	29%	23%	17%	22%	37%
	Unfavorable	29%	30%	18%	44%	31%	19%	34%	24%	16%	30%	36%
	[VOL] Dont Know	46%	42%	66%	35%	43%	53%	37%	53%	67%	48%	27%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q12H. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Jim Florio	Favorable	26%	26%	26%	25%	25%	34%	21%	20%	25%	37%
	Unfavorable	33%	22%	29%	28%	25%	23%	35%	28%	38%	21%
	[VOL] Dont Know	42%	52%	45%	47%	50%	43%	45%	52%	37%	42%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q12I. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Tom Kean	Favorable	45%	46%	37%	58%	43%	43%	51%	40%	25%	41%	64%
	Unfavorable	12%	12%	11%	7%	15%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	13%
	[VOL] Dont Know	43%	42%	52%	35%	42%	46%	37%	48%	63%	46%	24%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q12I. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Tom Kean	Favorable	53%	34%	45%	46%	40%	44%	46%	43%	43%	50%
	Unfavorable	10%	15%	13%	9%	15%	10%	11%	13%	12%	10%
	[VOL] Dont Know	37%	51%	42%	45%	44%	45%	42%	44%	45%	39%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 4/24/18

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q12J. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Brendan Byrne	Favorable	28%	28%	22%	35%	25%	27%	31%	24%	15%	19%	46%
	Unfavorable	10%	11%	6%	12%	13%	5%	10%	10%	9%	8%	13%
	[VOL] Dont Know	62%	61%	72%	52%	62%	68%	59%	66%	76%	74%	41%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q12J. Please tell me if your opinion is favorable or unfavorable, or you dont really have an opinion - Brendan Byrne	Favorable	34%	17%	27%	30%	24%	29%	27%	27%	28%	27%
	Unfavorable	9%	12%	10%	9%	11%	9%	10%	11%	11%	9%
	[VOL] Dont Know	57%	71%	63%	61%	65%	62%	63%	62%	61%	64%