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NEW JERSEY: GUV IS NOT PREZ MATERIAL

Garden State prefers Clinton, Bush, and Walker over Christie

West Long Branch, N.J. – Few New Jerseyans believe Gov. Christie has the right temperament to be president and just 1-in-4 give him a decent shot at winning his party’s nomination, according to the latest **Monmouth University Poll**. Garden State residents actually prefer to see the Oval Office occupied by Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush, or Scott Walker rather than their own governor.

In a hypothetical match-up with Hillary Clinton, Chris Christie trails the Democrat 53% to 30% among registered voters in the Garden State. Christie also trails his fellow Republican contenders as a preferred candidate. More New Jersey voters believe Jeb Bush (42%) would make a better president than Chris Christie (27%). Similarly, more Garden State voters believe Scott Walker (34%) would make a better president than Christie (24%).

Just three months ago, Christie was tied with Bush on this question 38% to 38% and he led Walker by a 36% to 28% margin among New Jersey voters. New Jersey Republicans still prefer Christie (47%) over Bush (34%), which is similar to the 46% to 37% edge Christie held in February. However, the state’s GOP base has flipped when it comes to Walker. More New Jersey Republicans now prefer Wisconsin’s governor (44%) over their own (30%), which is a reversal of the 51% to 30% advantage Christie held among his fellow partisans just three months ago.

“The message from New Jersey voters seems to be as simple as ABC – anybody but Christie,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Just 29% of Gov. Christie’s Garden State constituents believe he has the right temperament to be president, while 67% say he does not. Large majorities of Democrats (78%) and independents (64%) – as well as a majority (54%) of Republicans – say Christie does not have the right temperament to lead the

country. Just three months ago, a solid majority (66%) of Republicans believed Christie did have the proper disposition for the presidency.

Only 1-in-4 New Jerseyans give Christie a decent shot at winning the GOP nomination in 2016, including just 7% who think he can win the general election and 18% who say he could win the nomination but not the White House. Another 31% say that he is a long shot for the GOP nomination but could still pull it off and fully 40% feel there is no way he will win his party's nomination. There are no significant partisan differences in the results to this question.

“The state's presidential preferences may stem from public resentment that governing New Jersey has become an afterthought for Christie,” said Murray.

Fully 7-in-10 New Jerseyans (70%) believe that Gov. Christie is more concerned with his own political future and just 16% say that governing the state is a higher priority. Those saying Christie is looking out for himself include majorities of Democrats (75%), independents (73%), and even Republicans (54%). Back in September, 56% of state residents felt that Christie was more focused on his own ambitions while 33% said he was concentrating on New Jersey issues.

Chris Christie has spent a significant amount of time traveling outside of the state in preparation for a possible presidential campaign. Nearly half (47%) of New Jerseyans believe that their governor actually hurts New Jersey's image around the country. Just 17% say he helps the state's image and 33% say he makes no difference to how New Jersey is seen by other Americans. Democrats (57% hurts to 9% helps), independents (44% hurts to 19% helps), and Republicans (39% hurts to 26% helps) are all more likely to say the governor hurts rather than helps the state's image.

“The recent Bridgegate indictments do not shine a positive light on the state and many New Jerseyans put Chris Christie right at the center of these negative perceptions,” said Murray.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone with 500 New Jersey adults, including 441 registered voters, from May 1 to 3, 2015. The total sample has a margin of error of ± 4.4 percent and the registered voter sample has a margin of error of ± 4.7 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 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	16%	16%	17%	10%	15%	31%
His own political future	70%	70%	72%	75%	73%	54%
(VOL) Both equally	8%	8%	7%	5%	9%	10%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	6%	5%	9%	4%	5%

TREND:	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	16%	25%	33%	32%	35%	35%	42%	44%	61%	39%
His own political future	70%	66%	56%	55%	54%	56%	47%	38%	30%	48%
(VOL) Both equally	8%	5%	5%	7%	7%	5%	6%	12%	5%	6%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	4%	7%	6%	4%	4%	5%	6%	4%	7%
Unwtd N	500	805	802	800	803	803	541	783	816	803

2. Thinking nationally, does Chris Christie help or hurt New Jersey's image around the country, or does he make no difference to the state's image?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Help	17%	17%	12%	9%	19%	26%
Hurt	47%	50%	35%	57%	44%	39%
No difference	33%	30%	48%	29%	35%	33%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	3%	5%	5%	3%	3%

TREND:	May 2015	April 2014	January 2014	July 2012
Help	17%	29%	36%	41%
Hurt	47%	33%	21%	29%
No difference	33%	34%	40%	25%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	3%	3%	5%
Unwtd N	500	803	541	803

3. Do you think Chris Christie does or does not have the right temperament to be president?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Does	29%	30%	26%	17%	32%	43%
Does not	67%	66%	69%	78%	64%	54%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%

TREND:	May 2015	February 2015	February 2014	January 2014	September 2013
Does	29%	44%	41%	44%	56%
Does not	67%	52%	54%	49%	34%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	4%	4%	6%	10%
Unwtd N	500	805	803	541	783

4. How would you rate Christie's chances in 2016? Would you say (1) that he has a decent shot to become President, (2) that he has a decent shot to win the Republican nomination but not the general election, (3) that he is a long shot to win the Republican nomination but he could still pull it off, or (4) that there is no way he will win the Republican nomination?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Decent shot to become President	7%	6%	10%	5%	8%	8%
Decent shot to win the nomination but not the general election	18%	17%	18%	16%	19%	16%
Long shot to win the nomination	31%	31%	29%	32%	31%	32%
No way he will win the nomination	40%	41%	31%	46%	35%	39%
(VOL) He will not run	2%	1%	7%	0%	4%	2%
(VOL) Don't know	3%	2%	5%	2%	2%	3%

5. 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]

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Chris Christie the Republican	29%	30%	28%	7%	30%	68%
Hillary Clinton the Democrat	53%	53%	55%	85%	48%	16%
(VOL) Other candidate	7%	8%	1%	1%	11%	8%
(VOL) Undecided / Not sure	10%	9%	15%	7%	11%	9%

On the Republican side,
[QUESTIONS 6 & 7 WERE ROTATED]

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

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Chris Christie	25%	24%	29%	21%	27%	30%
Scott Walker	35%	34%	39%	25%	39%	44%
(VOL) Same/both equally	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%
(VOL) Neither	16%	15%	16%	24%	13%	6%
(VOL) Don't know	23%	25%	15%	28%	20%	19%

TREND:	May 2015	February 2015
Chris Christie	25%	38%
Scott Walker	35%	26%
(VOL) Same/both equally	2%	1%
(VOL) Neither	16%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	23%	20%
Unwtd N	500	805

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

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep
Chris Christie	29%	27%	38%	19%	29%	47%
Jeb Bush	40%	42%	29%	47%	39%	34%
(VOL) Same/both equally	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	3%
(VOL) Neither	18%	18%	19%	22%	21%	6%
(VOL) Don't know	11%	11%	10%	11%	11%	9%

TREND:	May 2015	February 2015
Chris Christie	29%	40%
Jeb Bush	40%	36%
(VOL) Same/both equally	2%	1%
(VOL) Neither	18%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	11%	8%
Unwtd N	500	805

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from May 1 to 3, 2015 with a statewide random sample of 500 adult residents, including 375 contacted via live interview on a landline telephone and 125 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>			
34% Dem	50% Male	28% 18-34	63% White
46% Ind	50% Female	39% 35-54	13% Black
20% Rep		33% 55+	15% Hispanic
			9% Asian/Other
<i>Registered Voter Sample (weighted)</i>			
36% Dem	45% Male	21% 18-34	67% White
42% Ind	55% Female	41% 35-54	13% Black
22% Rep		38% 55+	14% Hispanic
			6% 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>	500	441	59	153	226	111
<i>moe</i>	4.4%	4.7%	12.8%	7.9%	6.5%	9.3%

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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