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NEW JERSEY: CHRISTIE RATING AT RECORD LOW

Trump endorsement seen as attempt to get a DC job

West Long Branch, NJ – In case you didn't know it already, New Jersey's governor is really unpopular at home. The latest ***Monmouth University Poll*** finds Chris Christie's job rating at an all-time low – even worse than the negative ratings earned by the state legislature. By a 2-to-1 margin, residents think the state is worse off for Christie's time in office and the vast majority believe he endorsed Donald Trump primarily in the hope of getting a federal appointment.

Currently, just 27% of New Jersey adults approve of the job Christie is doing as governor while 63% disapprove. Among registered voters specifically, his rating is 26% approve and 65% disapprove. These ratings reflect a record low for the governor. Moreover, for the first time in Christie's six-plus years in office, the state legislature actually enjoys a relatively better rating – 30% approve and 49% disapprove among all residents; 29% approve and 53% disapprove among voters.

“It's really saying something when the legislature, which rarely manages to get its rating above water, is seen as more effective than the governor,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

For the record, Christie does manage to eke out a net positive rating among his fellow Republicans (51% approve and 41% disapprove). This is more than offset, however, by dismal ratings from independents (23% approve and 65% disapprove) and Democrats (17% approve and 76% disapprove).

The poll found that twice as many New Jerseyans say that the state is currently worse off (41%) because of Christie's time as governor than say it is better off (21%). Another 34% say the state is in about the same condition as when he took office from the somewhat more popular Jon Corzine, whose approval rating was in the mid to upper 30s when Christie defeated him in 2009.

Nearly 8-in-10 Garden State residents (79%) say Christie is more concerned with his own political future than he is with governing the state (13%) – marking the highest level of public skepticism about Christie’s public service commitment in more than four years of asking this question. In fact, the vast majority of New Jerseyans (68%) say the main reason that Christie threw his presidential endorsement to “The Donald” shortly after ending his own presidential bid was his desire to get some type of appointment in the Trump administration. Another 9% say this consideration was a minor reason for Christie’s endorsement, and just 15% say that getting a job in D.C. was the furthest thing from Christie’s mind when he decided to back Trump.

“Despite his statements to the contrary, the vast majority of New Jerseyans seem to believe that Christie’s main concern right now is figuring how to get out of the state as soon as possible,” said Murray.

The *Monmouth University Poll* also asked residents to rate the job being done by Barack Obama and the state’s two U.S. senators. All three get significantly more public opinion “love” than Christie. Obama’s rating now stands at 56% approve and 39% disapprove among all adults and 53% approve and 41% disapprove among registered voters. These numbers are somewhat more positive than they were a year ago.

The state’s junior senator, Cory Booker, earns a 49% approve and 21% disapprove rating among all residents and a 53% approve and 21% disapprove rating among voters. The state’s senior senator, Bob Menendez, who is currently under indictment, earns a 40% approve and 29% disapprove rating from all adults and a 41% approve and 31% disapprove rating from registered voters.

The poll also found that just over 6-in-10 state residents give New Jersey a positive rating as a place to live – 16% excellent and 46% good. This is a slight uptick from July of last year, when positive ratings stood at 55%, but is in line with positive ratings in the low 60s measured over the two years prior to that.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone with 806 New Jersey adults, including 703 registered voters, from May 23 to 27, 2016. The total sample has a margin of error of ± 3.5 percent and the registered voter sample has a margin of error of ± 3.7 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.)

- Overall, how would you rate New Jersey as a place to live – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

TREND:	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	(VOL) Don't know	(n)
May 2016	62%	16%	46%	28%	10%	0%	(806)
July 2015	55%	12%	43%	30%	15%	0%	(503)
May 2015	63%	13%	50%	27%	10%	1%	(500)
February 2015	63%	15%	48%	25%	11%	1%	(805)
September 2014	61%	13%	48%	25%	13%	1%	(802)
June 2014	62%	15%	47%	26%	11%	0%	(800)
April 2014	64%	15%	49%	26%	10%	0%	(803)
February 2014	63%	15%	48%	26%	11%	0%	(803)
December 2013	65%	20%	45%	26%	9%	0%	(802)
September 2013	65%	19%	46%	25%	10%	1%	(783)
April 2013	61%	15%	46%	27%	11%	0%	(806)
February 2013	68%	18%	50%	24%	7%	1%	(803)
December 2012	72%	20%	52%	21%	5%	1%	(816)
September 2012	65%	15%	50%	23%	11%	0%	(805)
July 2012	69%	17%	52%	23%	8%	0%	(803)
April 2012	70%	20%	50%	23%	7%	0%	(804)
February 2012	62%	15%	47%	26%	11%	1%	(803)
October 2011	67%	15%	52%	24%	8%	0%	(817)
August 2011	57%	14%	43%	31%	11%	1%	(802)
May 2011	59%	14%	45%	29%	11%	0%	(807)
December 2010	63%	17%	46%	26%	10%	1%	(2864)
October 2007	63%	17%	46%	25%	12%	1%	(1001)
August 2004	68%	22%	46%	21%	10%	1%	(800)
May 2003	72%	20%	52%	23%	5%	0%	(1002)
April 2001	76%	23%	53%	19%	4%	1%	(802)
March 2000	76%	25%	51%	17%	6%	0%	(800)
May 1999	76%	22%	54%	19%	5%	0%	(800)
February 1994	71%	18%	53%	22%	7%	0%	(801)
March 1990	68%	21%	47%	25%	6%	1%	(800)
February 1988	78%	27%	51%	17%	4%	1%	(800)
February 1987	84%	31%	53%	11%	4%	0%	(800)
May 1985	81%	29%	52%	14%	3%	1%	(500)
October 1984	80%	29%	51%	15%	4%	1%	(1000)
January 1981	66%	16%	50%	26%	7%	1%	(1003)
July 1980	68%	18%	50%	23%	7%	2%	(1005)

[Q2-5 previously released.]

- Do you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing as governor?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Approve	27%	26%	28%	51%	23%	17%
Disapprove	63%	65%	51%	41%	65%	76%
(VOL) Don't know	10%	8%	21%	9%	12%	7%

TREND: All adults	May 2016	July 2015	May 2015	Feb. 2015	Sept. 2014	June 2014	April 2014	Feb. 2014	Jan. 2014	Dec. 2013	Sept. 2013	April 2013	Feb. 2013
Second term													
Approve	27%	36%	35%	48%	46%	50%	51%	50%	59%	65%	61%	63%	70%
Disapprove	63%	58%	54%	44%	39%	42%	41%	44%	32%	25%	24%	26%	17%
(VOL) Don't know	10%	6%	11%	8%	15%	9%	8%	6%	8%	10%	15%	11%	14%
Unwtd N	806	503	500	805	802	800	803	803	541	802	783	806	803

TREND: <i>All adults</i>	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
<i>First term</i>	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010
Approve	67%	53%	52%	51%	52%	54%	48%	47%	47%	45%	44%	41%	33%
Disapprove	21%	35%	36%	35%	38%	38%	42%	49%	40%	38%	44%	44%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	12%	11%	12%	14%	10%	9%	9%	5%	12%	17%	12%	15%	52%
Unwtd N	816	805	803	804	803	817	802	807	801	801	801	804	803

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	May 2016	July 2015	May 2015	Feb. 2015	Sept. 2014	June 2014	April 2014	Feb. 2014	Jan. 2014	Dec. 2013	Sept. 2013	April 2013	Feb. 2013
<i>Second term</i>	2016	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013
Approve	26%	34%	35%	47%	46%	49%	51%	49%	58%	65%	63%	65%	70%
Disapprove	65%	60%	56%	46%	42%	43%	43%	46%	35%	27%	24%	26%	16%
(VOL) Don't know	8%	6%	9%	6%	12%	8%	6%	6%	7%	8%	13%	10%	13%
Unwtd N	703	453	441	712	680	717	690	690	470	698	674	694	697

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	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
<i>First term</i>	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010
Approve	69%	55%	53%	50%	55%	55%	50%	46%	49%	44%	45%	42%	31%
Disapprove	22%	36%	35%	38%	37%	37%	41%	49%	41%	40%	43%	44%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	9%	10%	12%	12%	9%	8%	8%	5%	9%	16%	12%	13%	53%
Unwtd N	726	715	678	692	709	693	730	725	718	726	747	719	716

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

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Approve	30%	29%	38%	36%	27%	32%
Disapprove	49%	53%	35%	48%	53%	49%
(VOL) Don't know	20%	19%	27%	16%	21%	19%

TREND: <i>Registered Voters</i>	May 2016	July 2015	May 2015	Feb. 2015	Sept. 2014	June 2014	April 2014	Feb. 2014	Jan. 2014	Dec. 2013	Sept. 2013	April 2013	Feb. 2013	Dec. 2012	Sept. 2012	July 2012
Approve	29%	32%	33%	37%	35%	36%	38%	38%	47%	44%	38%	41%	40%	43%	32%	34%
Disapprove	53%	51%	48%	46%	46%	48%	46%	47%	35%	38%	36%	42%	35%	34%	43%	45%
(VOL) Don't know	19%	17%	19%	17%	19%	17%	15%	14%	18%	19%	27%	17%	25%	22%	25%	21%
Unwtd N	703	453	441	712	680	717	690	690	470	698	674	694	697	726	715	678

TREND: <i>Registered Voters Continued</i>	April 2012	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Aug. 2011	May 2011	Feb. 2011	July 2010	April 2010	Feb. 2010	July 2009	Feb. 2009	Sept. 2008	July 2008	April 2008	March 2008	Oct. 2007	Feb. 2007
Approve	37%	34%	33%	35%	32%	29%	25%	19%	24%	31%	23%	29%	27%	28%	25%	32%	34%
Disapprove	41%	42%	45%	48%	48%	45%	49%	57%	49%	48%	55%	50%	47%	55%	53%	43%	42%
(VOL) Don't know	23%	24%	22%	17%	20%	26%	26%	24%	27%	22%	22%	21%	26%	17%	22%	25%	23%
Unwtd N	692	709	693	730	725	718	747	719	716	792	721	709	889	720	719	688	681

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

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Approve	56%	53%	67%	19%	47%	86%
Disapprove	39%	41%	27%	79%	43%	12%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	6%	6%	2%	10%	2%

TREND: <i>Registered Voters - Second Term</i>	May 2016	July 2015	May 2015	Feb. 2015	Sept. 2014	June 2014	April 2014	Feb. 2014	Jan. 2014	Dec. 2013	Sept. 2013	April 2013	Feb. 2013
Approve	53%	52%	48%	54%	41%	45%	49%	49%	44%	47%	50%	55%	60%
Disapprove	41%	46%	46%	42%	54%	51%	47%	47%	50%	47%	41%	42%	33%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	3%	6%	4%	5%	4%	3%	5%	6%	6%	8%	2%	7%
Unwtd N	703	453	441	712	680	717	690	690	470	698	674	694	697

TREND: <i>Registered voters - First Term</i>	Dec. 2012	April 2012	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Aug. 2011	May 2011	Sept. 2010	July 2010	April 2010	Feb. 2010	Oct. 2009	July 2009
Approve	58%	54%	51%	47%	52%	60%	47%	51%	54%	53%	54%	59%
Disapprove	35%	41%	42%	46%	39%	36%	44%	42%	41%	38%	33%	29%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	5%	6%	7%	9%	4%	9%	6%	5%	9%	14%	12%
Unwtd N	726	692	709	693	730	725	726	747	719	716	785	792

[QUESTIONS 9 AND 10 WERE ROTATED]

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

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Approve	40%	41%	32%	41%	34%	48%
Disapprove	29%	31%	19%	35%	34%	21%
(VOL) Don't know	31%	28%	49%	24%	32%	31%

TREND: Registered voters only	May 2016	July 2015	May 2015	Feb. 2015	Sept. 2014	June 2014	April 2014	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2013	April 2013	Feb. 2013	April 2012	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Aug. 2011	May 2011	July 2010	Oct. 2008	April 2008	Jan. 2008
Approve	41%	38%	42%	49%	45%	47%	51%	49%	47%	44%	41%	40%	41%	43%	38%	46%	38%	34%	41%	37%
Disapprove	31%	38%	38%	27%	30%	34%	31%	30%	27%	38%	31%	25%	26%	29%	33%	28%	33%	25%	31%	25%
(VOL) Don't know	28%	23%	20%	24%	26%	19%	18%	21%	26%	18%	28%	35%	33%	28%	29%	26%	29%	41%	28%	37%
Unwtd N	703	453	441	712	680	717	690	690	698	694	697	692	709	693	730	725	747	900	720	698

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Cory Booker is doing as United States Senator?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Approve	49%	53%	32%	36%	43%	65%
Disapprove	21%	21%	21%	34%	24%	10%
(VOL) Don't know	30%	27%	47%	30%	33%	25%

TREND: Registered voters only	May 2016	July 2015	May 2015	Feb. 2015	Sept. 2014	June 2014	April 2014	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2013
Approve	53%	45%	51%	51%	42%	48%	47%	47%	37%
Disapprove	21%	24%	21%	21%	23%	25%	23%	20%	21%
(VOL) Don't know	27%	31%	27%	27%	35%	27%	30%	32%	43%
Unwtd N	703	453	441	712	680	717	690	690	698

Turning back to New Jersey,

11. 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	Rep	Ind	Dem
Governing the state of NJ	13%	13%	13%	23%	12%	8%
His own political future	79%	79%	76%	65%	79%	87%
(VOL) Both equally	3%	3%	5%	6%	4%	1%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	5%	7%	6%	4%	4%

TREND:	May 2016	July 2015	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	13%	17%	16%	25%	33%	32%	35%	35%	42%	44%	61%	39%
His own political future	79%	76%	70%	66%	56%	55%	54%	56%	47%	38%	30%	48%
(VOL) Both equally	3%	4%	8%	5%	5%	7%	7%	5%	6%	12%	5%	6%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	4%	6%	4%	7%	6%	4%	4%	5%	6%	4%	7%
Unwtd N	806	503	500	805	802	800	803	803	541	783	816	803

12. Do you think New Jersey is currently better off or worse off because of Christie's time as governor, or is it about the same as it was before he took office?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Better off	21%	20%	22%	46%	20%	9%
Worse off	41%	44%	29%	21%	39%	57%
About the same	34%	33%	39%	32%	37%	31%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	2%	10%	0%	4%	3%

13. Do you think Chris Christie endorsed Donald Trump for president because he hopes to get a position in the Trump administration or was this not a reason for his endorsement? [If YES: Was this the main reason for his endorsement or a secondary reason?]

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Yes, the main reason	68%	69%	62%	55%	69%	76%
Yes, a secondary reason	9%	8%	14%	10%	9%	9%
No, not a reason	15%	15%	15%	26%	15%	8%
(VOL) Don't know	8%	8%	9%	9%	7%	7%

[Q14-18 held for future release. Q19-27 previously released.]

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from May 23 to 27, 2016 with a statewide random sample of 806 adult residents, including 566 contacted via live interview on a landline telephone and 240 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 3.5 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.

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)			
21% Rep	49% Male	28% 18-34	62% White
42% Ind	51% Female	40% 35-54	13% Black
37% Dem		33% 55+	16% Hispanic
			9% Asian/Other
Registered Voter Sample (weighted)			
22% Rep	47% Male	23% 18-34	66% White
40% Ind	53% Female	40% 35-54	13% Black
38% Dem		37% 55+	12% Hispanic
			8% Asian/Other

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Unweighted N	806	703	103	184	334	266
moe	3.5%	3.7%	9.7%	7.2%	5.4%	6.0%

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