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CHRISTIE CONTINUES TO LEAD CORZINE, BUT IT DEPENDS ON WHO WILL VOTE

Electorate remains uncertain about the choices for governor

As New Jersey's gubernatorial campaign season kicks into high gear, Republican challenger Chris Christie maintains his months-long lead over Democratic incumbent Jon Corzine. However, the gap has narrowed somewhat since the last *Monmouth University/Gannett New Jersey Poll*. Among likely voters, Christie now holds an 8 point advantage over Corzine – 47% to 39% – with 5% for independent Chris Daggett. While this is similar to the Republican's lead in July, it is down from the 14 point advantage he held in August, when Christie led Corzine by 50% to 36%.

“A Republican holding a steady poll lead is unprecedented in recent New Jersey elections and this shouldn't be discounted. But the results also indicate there is a lot of churning in this electorate. Despite the incumbent's continued unpopularity, there is still a sense that anything can happen,” said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Among GOP voters, Christie leads Corzine by a healthy 82% to 8%. The Republican also leads among independent voters by 45% to 30%, although this 15 point advantage is smaller than the 20 point lead he held in August and the 23 point lead in July. Also, the number of independents who say they are undecided in this race now stands at 17%, which is up by 5 points since August. While this finding is within the survey's margin of error for independent voters, it could be a sign of increasing uncertainty about the challenger and bears watching.

On the incumbent's side, Jon Corzine seems to be shoring up support among his base after a summer when Democratic voting groups showed little enthusiasm for their standard bearer. Corzine now has an 77% to 8% advantage among his fellow Democrats. This marks a 10 point gain in the governor's support among his partisan base since July.

Corzine has increased his support among black and Hispanic voters (68%, up from 50% in July) and urban voters (68%, up from 50% in July). He has also regained some footing among traditionally Democratic labor groups (unions, teachers, and state workers) – now holding 38% of this group’s support compared to 42% for Christie. The incumbent still has a ways to go to regain the 45% to 34% advantage he had among labor groups in July, but the current poll reading is an improvement from August, when Corzine actually trailed Christie (36% to 45%) among this group.

Another indication that this race is far from settled is how the race stands when the preferences of all registered voters are considered, including those both likely and unlikely to vote on November 3rd. Among all registered voters, the “horse race” narrows to basically a tie, 41% for Corzine and 40% for Christie. The Republican had a 4 point lead among registered voters in the August poll and a 6 point lead in July.

A note on results for all Registered Voters versus Likely Voters:

The poll results among all registered voters show the “race” as basically even compared to what is a clear lead for Christie among likely voters. This large difference between the preferences of likely and registered voters was also seen in the August poll. The *Monmouth University/Gannett New Jersey Poll* is the only poll of record currently providing results for both voting groups.

Murray described the findings this way: “We know that voters who are less likely to go to the polls tend to be somewhat more Democratic in their leanings. However, we rarely see more than a few points difference in the ballot test results for all registered voters compared with just likely voters. The fact that such a notable discrepancy has shown up in two consecutive polls indicates that there is a decided lack of enthusiasm for the incumbent among the Garden State electorate. While we acknowledge that most of these ‘unlikely’ voters will never cast a ballot in this race, if the Corzine team can bump up turnout on Election Day by just a few percentage points, their chances of victory greatly increase.

“At this point, the likely voter result is our best estimate of where the dynamics of this race stand at this time. We provide the registered voter results in the interest of furthering our understanding of the entire New Jersey electorate’s concerns and motivations. The bottom line is that turnout always matters. It just may matter more in this election than usual.”

In other poll findings, Governor Corzine’s job approval rating now stands at 37% approve to 52% disapprove among registered voters. His personal evaluations are 39% favorable to 45% unfavorable. Both of these results are similar to the job and personal ratings he has held since July.

Chris Christie’s personal standing among registered voters is now 41% favorable to 29% unfavorable. These results are nearly identical to his personal rating a month ago. Prior to the current poll, though, Christie’s unfavorable numbers had been steadily climbing. The current results indicate that last month’s slew of negative media about the Republican challenger did not have much of an impact on voter opinion.

More than half (55%) of the state’s electorate would characterize the tone of this year’s race as negative. Only 33% say it has been positive. Among those who see the campaign as negative, 34% blame Corzine more compared to 13% who blame Christie. However, a majority of 52% say both candidates are equally to blame for the negative tone of the race.

“Negative campaigning in New Jersey is nothing new, but past polling tells us that voters usually don’t notice that negative tone until October. Getting the electorate to register its disapproval of the campaign’s conduct immediately after Labor Day is truly an accomplishment,” said Murray.

Turning to issues and awareness, a majority of voters say that both Corzine (57%) and Christie (52%) have given them at least some idea of what they would do in their 2010-2014 term as governor, although few voters say either candidate has given them a “clear idea” – 21% for Corzine and 14% for Christie. Moreover, about 4-in-10 voters say they have little or no idea what either candidate – 37% for Corzine and 42% for Christie – would do in the next four years as governor.

Despite this lack of awareness on issue positions, the challenger continues to be seen as better equipped to handle most of the important issues of the day. Registered voters see Christie (43%) rather than Corzine (24%) doing a better job on property taxes, an issue which continues to be Garden State voters’ top concern. Nearly half (46%) name property taxes as one of the most important issues they want the candidates to address.

Christie also has the decided advantage over Corzine on handling corruption (40% to 25%) and a small edge on the state budget (40% to 35%) and the economy and jobs (38% to 34%). The two candidates run basically even among registered voters on improving New Jersey’s cities (35% Christie to 36% Corzine), while Corzine has a slight edge on health care (35% to 31%). However, Christie gets the edge on these last two issues among likely voters.

The governor leads his challenger when it comes to dealing with the environment (41% to 24%) and education (44% to 33%). The poll found some slight shifts in these issue advantages compared to a month ago. Corzine gained 8 points on handling education, while Christie lost 6 to 7 points on handling corruption and the environment.

The poll also found that independent Chris Daggett, his running mate, and the running mates of the two major party candidates are barely registering a blip in voter awareness. More than 8-in-10 voters say they have formed no opinion of Daggett (82%) or any of the lieutenant governor candidates, including Democrat Loretta Weinberg (84%), Republican Kim Guadagno (90%), and independent Frank Esposito (91%).

The *Monmouth University/Gannett New Jersey Poll* was conducted by telephone with 752 New Jersey registered voters from September 8 to 10, 2009. This sample has a margin of error of ± 3.6 percent. This report also includes analysis on a smaller group of 531 “likely voters” with a ± 4.3 percent margin of error. 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. If the election for governor was held today, would you vote for Jon Corzine the Democrat, Chris Christie the Republican, Chris Daggett the independent, or some other candidate? [If undecided: At this moment do you lean more towards Corzine or more towards Christie?] [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

	Registered Voters		Likely Voters		PARTY ID		
					Dem	Ind	Rep
Corzine	41%	39%	77%	30%	8%		
Christie	40%	47%	8%	45%	82%		
Daggett	6%	5%	7%	5%	4%		
Other candidate	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%		
(VOL) Don't know	11%	7%	7%	17%	4%		
Unwtd N	752	531	239	278	221		

TREND:	September 2009		August 2009		July 2009	
	Reg voters	Likely voters	Reg voters	Likely voters	Reg voters	Likely voters
Corzine	41%	39%	39%	36%	37%	37%
Christie	40%	47%	43%	50%	43%	45%
Daggett	6%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%
Other candidate	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%
(VOL) Don't know	11%	7%	10%	8%	15%	13%
Unwtd N	752	531	723	484	792	527

Support among Democratic voter groups				
Vote choice	Democrats	Black & Hispanic	Urban	Union/ Teacher/ State worker households
September 2009				
Corzine	77%	68%	68%	38%
Christie	8%	15%	12%	42%
Other	9%	8%	9%	10%
Undecided	7%	10%	11%	9%
August 2009				
Corzine	73%	65%	51%	36%
Christie	14%	19%	37%	45%
Other	5%	8%	6%	9%
Undecided	8%	8%	7%	10%
July 2009				
Corzine	67%	50%	50%	45%
Christie	17%	24%	30%	34%
Other	4%	8%	4%	9%
Undecided	11%	18%	15%	12%
Margin of error	±6%	±10%	±10%	±6%

Composite Table: Strength of Vote Choice

If the election for governor was held today, would you vote for [ROTATE]: Jon Corzine the Democrat, Chris Christie the Republican, Chris Daggett the independent, or some other candidate? [If undecided: At this moment do you lean more towards Corzine or more towards Christie?] [If answered Corzine or Christie to Q1: Are you very sure about voting for [NAME]; or might you change your mind before Election Day?]

TREND:	September 2009		August 2009		July 2009	
	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Sure Corzine	26%	26%	23%	24%	24%	25%
Weak Corzine	11%	10%	10%	7%	8%	8%
Lean Corzine	5%	3%	6%	5%	5%	4%
Undecided-Other	18%	13%	17%	14%	21%	18%
Lean Christie	4%	3%	9%	8%	9%	8%
Weak Christie	9%	10%	9%	11%	10%	8%
Sure Christie	27%	34%	25%	31%	24%	29%
Unwtd N	752	531	723	484	792	527

2. Please tell me if your general impression of the following candidates is favorable or unfavorable, or if you don't have an opinion. [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

Jon Corzine

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Favorable	39%	37%	69%	29%	10%	87%	3%	26%
Unfavorable	45%	53%	15%	50%	79%	4%	90%	27%
No opinion/Don't recognize	16%	10%	16%	21%	11%	10%	7%	48%
Unwtd N	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: Registered voters	September 2009	August 2009	July 2009	April 2009	January 2009	July 2008	September 2006
Favorable	39%	39%	38%	43%	49%	43%	46%
Unfavorable	45%	46%	46%	47%	38%	44%	30%
No opinion/Don't recognize	16%	15%	16%	9%	12%	12%	24%
Unwtd N	752	723	792	690	413	889	630

Chris Christie

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Favorable	41%	48%	15%	44%	72%	10%	90%	15%
Unfavorable	29%	30%	49%	22%	11%	55%	2%	20%
No opinion/Don't recognize	30%	22%	35%	34%	16%	34%	9%	64%
Unwtd N	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: Registered voters	September 2009	August 2009	July 2009	April 2009	January 2009	July 2008
Favorable	41%	42%	43%	41%	42%	30%
Unfavorable	29%	30%	24%	16%	12%	9%
No opinion/Don't recognize	30%	28%	34%	43%	46%	62%
Unwtd N	752	723	792	690	413	889

Chris Daggett

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Favorable	10%	11%	10%	10%	11%	4%	8%	5%
Unfavorable	7%	6%	8%	7%	5%	11%	5%	4%
No opinion/Don't recognize	82%	83%	82%	83%	85%	85%	86%	91%
Unwtd N	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: Registered voters	September 2009	August 2009	July 2009	April 2009
Favorable	10%	9%	6%	5%
Unfavorable	7%	9%	9%	6%
No opinion/Don't recognize	82%	82%	86%	89%
Unwtd N	752	723	792	690

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jon Corzine is doing as governor?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Approve	37%	34%	67%	26%	12%	80%	3%	30%
Disapprove	52%	58%	21%	60%	84%	8%	93%	48%
(VOL) Don't know	11%	9%	12%	14%	4%	13%	4%	23%
Unwtd N	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND:	Sept 2009	Aug 2009	July 2009	April 2009	Feb 2009	Jan 2009	Oct 2008	Sept 2008	July 2008	April 2008	March 2008	Jan 2008	Oct 2007	July 2007	April 2007	Feb 2007	Sept 2006	July 2006	April 2006
Registered voters	37%	38%	38%	40%	34%	43%	38%	40%	39%	36%	34%	42%	47%	46%	52%	44%	44%	40%	33%
Approve	37%	38%	38%	40%	34%	43%	38%	40%	39%	36%	34%	42%	47%	46%	52%	44%	44%	40%	33%
Disapprove	52%	54%	51%	49%	51%	40%	45%	49%	47%	53%	55%	46%	34%	36%	30%	36%	41%	41%	38%
(VOL) Don't know	11%	8%	12%	11%	15%	17%	18%	11%	14%	11%	11%	12%	19%	17%	17%	20%	16%	19%	29%
Unwtd N	752	723	792	690	721	413	900	709	889	720	719	698	688	678	668	681	663	670	652

[QUESTIONS 4 AND 5 WERE ROTATED]

4. Has Jon Corzine given you a clear idea, some idea, not much of an idea, or no idea at all about what he would do in his second term as governor?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Clear idea	21%	25%	22%	20%	19%	26%	25%	7%
Some idea	36%	33%	49%	33%	21%	53%	19%	39%
Not much of an idea	17%	16%	13%	16%	24%	11%	21%	19%
No idea at all	20%	22%	10%	23%	32%	5%	31%	22%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	3%	6%	7%	4%	4%	4%	14%
Unwtd N	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: Registered voters	September 2009	July 2009
Clear idea	21%	25%
Some idea	36%	35%
Not much of an idea	17%	14%
No idea at all	20%	19%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	6%
Unwtd N	752	792

5. Has Chris Christie given you a clear idea, some idea, not much of an idea, or no idea at all about what he would do as governor?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Clear idea	14%	16%	9%	13%	21%	9%	25%	5%
Some idea	38%	42%	26%	41%	53%	23%	60%	30%
Not much of an idea	21%	20%	27%	20%	15%	27%	10%	27%
No idea at all	21%	18%	30%	21%	10%	33%	4%	27%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	3%	7%	5%	1%	7%	1%	11%
Unwtd N	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: Registered voters	September 2009	July 2009
Clear idea	14%	13%
Some idea	38%	42%
Not much of an idea	21%	16%
No idea at all	21%	21%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	7%
Unwtd N	752	792

6. In your opinion, what are the most important one or two issues that the candidates for governor should talk about? [Note: Results add to more than 100% because multiple responses were accepted]

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Property taxes	46%	50%	36%	51%	54%	31%	60%	43%
Income tax	7%	8%	3%	8%	11%	2%	11%	9%
Sales tax	2%	3%	0%	2%	3%	1%	4%	2%
Other tax	6%	8%	6%	6%	6%	5%	8%	4%
Jobs	15%	15%	20%	14%	10%	20%	12%	13%
Cost of living/affordability	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	3%	0%	3%
The economy/downturn in general	20%	21%	21%	20%	21%	26%	16%	15%
Development/building boom	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Roads/traffic/congestion	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%
Health care/prescription drug costs	20%	16%	28%	13%	17%	29%	12%	12%
Environment	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	5%	1%	1%
Same-sex/Gay marriage	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Immigration	1%	1%	0%	3%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Corruption/government ethics	8%	9%	2%	11%	10%	3%	14%	2%
Education/schools	18%	19%	28%	10%	15%	26%	10%	23%
State Budget/Govt spending	10%	11%	8%	10%	13%	8%	14%	7%
Crime, safety, police	3%	2%	5%	3%	2%	6%	1%	1%
Abortion	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	0%	2%	0%
Other	3%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	2%	4%	7%	2%	3%	3%	13%
Unwtd N	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: Registered voters	September 2009	August 2009	July 2009	April 2009	January 2009
Property taxes	46%	43%	45%	48%	38%
Income tax	7%	7%	7%	12%	6%
Sales tax	2%	3%	4%	7%	4%
Other tax	6%	6%	5%	6%	2%
Jobs	15%	16%	18%	14%	19%
Cost of living/affordability	2%	2%	4%	3%	3%
The economy/downturn in general	20%	21%	23%	33%	35%
Development/building boom	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Roads/traffic/congestion	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Health care/prescription drug costs	20%	17%	18%	13%	14%
Environment	2%	1%	2%	5%	2%
Same-sex/Gay marriage	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Immigration	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%
Corruption/government ethics	8%	13%	4%	4%	6%
Education/schools	18%	10%	12%	18%	18%
State Budget/Govt spending	10%	13%	18%	5%	6%
Crime, safety, police	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Energy/fuel/gas prices	0%	0%	1%	n/a	n/a
Abortion	1%	1%	1%	n/a	n/a
Other	3%	3%	3%	6%	5%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	7%	3%	4%	5%
Unwtd N	752	723	792	690	413

7. Regardless of who you may support for governor... Who would do a better job on [READ ITEM] – Jon Corzine or Chris Christie? [ITEMS WERE ROTATED]
The economy and jobs

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Corzine better	34%	35%	61%	25%	10%	78%	2%	17%
Christie better	38%	46%	10%	44%	72%	5%	85%	20%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%	4%
(VOL) Neither	9%	8%	8%	11%	6%	4%	3%	19%
(VOL) Don't know	17%	9%	18%	20%	11%	12%	8%	40%
Unwtd N	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	ECONOMY & JOBS*		
	September 2009	August 2009	January 2009
Corzine better	34%	35%	38%
Christie better	38%	40%	33%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%	1%
(VOL) Neither	9%	8%	4%
(VOL) Don't know	17%	15%	23%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	723	413

* Jan. 09 wording was "The economy"

Property taxes

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Corzine better	24%	25%	44%	18%	6%	57%	1%	15%
Christie better	43%	49%	16%	47%	75%	11%	88%	21%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%
(VOL) Neither	11%	10%	13%	12%	6%	10%	2%	20%
(VOL) Don't know	20%	14%	26%	21%	10%	21%	7%	41%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	PROPERTY TAXES		
	September 2009	August 2009	January 2009
Corzine better	24%	27%	32%
Christie better	43%	45%	36%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%	1%
(VOL) Neither	11%	9%	4%
(VOL) Don't know	20%	18%	27%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	723	413

The state budget

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Corzine better	35%	32%	61%	27%	10%	78%	3%	19%
Christie better	40%	48%	12%	45%	72%	4%	89%	19%
(VOL) Both equally	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	3%
(VOL) Neither	9%	8%	9%	9%	6%	5%	1%	17%
(VOL) Don't know	15%	11%	16%	19%	11%	11%	6%	41%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	STATE BUDGET		
	September 2009	August 2009	January 2009
Corzine better	35%	32%	37%
Christie better	40%	44%	34%
(VOL) Both equally	1%	2%	1%
(VOL) Neither	9%	7%	4%
(VOL) Don't know	15%	15%	24%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	723	413

Education

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Corzine better	44%	43%	75%	33%	14%	85%	7%	36%
Christie better	33%	38%	13%	36%	59%	5%	74%	14%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	3%	1%	2%	5%	1%	3%	3%
(VOL) Neither	6%	5%	4%	5%	8%	1%	4%	11%
(VOL) Don't know	15%	11%	7%	24%	14%	8%	12%	36%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	EDUCATION		
	September 2009	August 2009	January 2009
Corzine better	44%	36%	39%
Christie better	33%	36%	29%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%	1%
(VOL) Neither	6%	6%	3%
(VOL) Don't know	15%	20%	28%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	723	413

Reducing corruption

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Corzine better	25%	24%	47%	17%	6%	56%	3%	15%
Christie better	40%	46%	14%	45%	70%	7%	84%	24%
(VOL) Both equally	3%	3%	4%	2%	1%	4%	1%	3%
(VOL) Neither	15%	15%	15%	17%	10%	16%	7%	19%
(VOL) Don't know	17%	13%	20%	17%	12%	17%	5%	38%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	CORRUPTION		
	September 2009	August 2009	January 2009
Corzine better	25%	28%	25%
Christie better	40%	46%	43%
(VOL) Both equally	3%	2%	1%
(VOL) Neither	15%	10%	5%
(VOL) Don't know	17%	13%	26%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	723	413

The environment

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Corzine better	41%	41%	68%	30%	20%	77%	14%	23%
Christie better	24%	30%	8%	24%	47%	3%	56%	9%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	3%	2%
(VOL) Neither	9%	9%	8%	9%	8%	5%	6%	13%
(VOL) Don't know	24%	19%	14%	36%	23%	13%	21%	53%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	ENVIRONMENT	
	September 2009	August 2009
Corzine better	41%	37%
Christie better	24%	31%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%
(VOL) Neither	9%	7%
(VOL) Don't know	24%	22%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	723

Improving our cities

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Corzine better	36%	34%	65%	26%	11%	78%	4%	20%
Christie better	35%	41%	13%	35%	65%	6%	76%	15%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%
(VOL) Neither	8%	8%	5%	12%	6%	3%	5%	14%
(VOL) Don't know	19%	15%	15%	25%	17%	11%	12%	48%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	IMPROVING CITIES	
	September 2009	August 2009
Corzine better	36%	35%
Christie better	35%	38%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%
(VOL) Neither	8%	7%
(VOL) Don't know	19%	18%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	723

Health care

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Corzine better	35%	34%	66%	24%	10%	78%	3%	21%
Christie better	31%	36%	7%	34%	58%	5%	71%	11%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
(VOL) Neither	10%	11%	8%	11%	10%	6%	7%	12%
(VOL) Don't know	22%	17%	17%	29%	19%	10%	17%	53%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	HEALTH CARE	
	September 2009	August 2009
Corzine better	35%	36%
Christie better	31%	35%
(VOL) Both equally	2%	2%
(VOL) Neither	10%	9%
(VOL) Don't know	22%	18%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	723

8. So far, would you characterize the governor's race as being generally positive or negative?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Positive	33%	30%	44%	28%	26%	48%	25%	26%
Negative	55%	62%	46%	57%	63%	43%	66%	53%
(VOL) Both positive and negative	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%	5%	2%	4%
(VOL) Neither	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%
(VOL) Don't know	6%	3%	4%	10%	5%	4%	6%	15%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

[The following question was asked only of those who said "Negative" or "Both" to Q8 moe= ± 4.5%]

9. Who has been more negative – Corzine or Christie, or both equally?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Corzine	34%	35%	13%	42%	45%	7%	62%	25%
Christie	13%	12%	21%	11%	8%	26%	3%	13%
Both equally	52%	52%	65%	47%	46%	65%	34%	62%
(VOL) Don't know	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	481	361	140	181	147	137	213	80

10. I'm going to name the lieutenant governor candidates. Please tell me if your general impression of each is favorable or unfavorable, or if you don't really have an opinion. [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

Loretta Weinberg

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Favorable	8%	9%	12%	7%	6%	10%	5%	4%
Unfavorable	8%	11%	7%	9%	9%	6%	14%	3%
No opinion/Don't recognize	84%	80%	81%	84%	84%	83%	80%	92%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	September 2009	August 2009
	Favorable	8%
Unfavorable	8%	7%
No opinion/Don't recognize	84%	79%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	723

Kim Guadagno

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Favorable	8%	8%	6%	10%	9%	3%	13%	3%
Unfavorable	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%
No opinion/Don't recognize	90%	89%	91%	87%	87%	95%	83%	95%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	September 2009	August 2009
	Favorable	8%
Unfavorable	3%	2%
No opinion/Don't recognize	90%	90%
<i>Unwtd N</i>	752	723

Frank Esposito

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	PARTY ID			VOTE CHOICE		
			Dem	Ind	Rep	Corzine	Christie	Undecided
Favorable	6%	5%	8%	6%	4%	7%	4%	6%
Unfavorable	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	6%
No opinion/Don't recognize	91%	91%	90%	90%	93%	91%	95%	88%
Unwtd N	752	531	239	278	221	243	311	131

TREND: Registered voters	September 2009	August 2009
Favorable	6%	7%
Unfavorable	3%	2%
No opinion/Don't recognize	91%	91%
Unwtd N	752	723

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 September 8-10, 2009 with a statewide random sample of 752 registered voters. 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 3.6 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			
Registered Voter Sample (weighted)			
38% Dem	48% Male	21% 18-34	74% White
37% Ind	52% Female	44% 35-54	12% Black
26% Rep		35% 55+	12% Hispanic
			3% Asian/Other
Likely Voter Sample (weighted)			
35% Dem	49% Male	15% 18-34	77% White
36% Ind	51% Female	47% 35-54	9% Black
29% Rep		38% 55+	10% Hispanic
			4% Asian/Other

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