



Sweeney also suggested the timing of the poll was a bit early in that "there is no campaign" when the election is six months away.

Sharon Shulman, executive director for the Hughes Center, acknowledged the poll was conducted a bit early in the political campaign.

The poll "gives us benchmarks for what (those in) the new districts are thinking," she suggested. "We can see a lot of movement in the numbers as the campaigns get in gear in the summer and into the fall."

Shulman said those taking the poll were asked if they were aware of redistricting in the state.

"We were surprised to know that 56 percent were aware," Shulman said.

"Then we asked their opinion of their district," she continued. Some "68.5 percent said they were not familiar enough."

"People do not know what it means," Shulman said of redistricting, adding "I do not know how to educate them."

Burzichelli suggested the "internal" polling taken by the Democrats places both himself and Riley comfortably ahead of DiCicco and Villare who has previously run for Assembly.

How are the Democrats faring based on their polling compared to the Stockton commissioned study?

"Much better," Burzichelli replied.

The poll also suggested those in the district have a favorable view of President Barack Obama and a mixed view of the policies of Gov. Chris Christie.

Respondents generally support a number of Christie's policies, such as increasing the amount public employees contribute to health care and pensions. However, 79 percent do not support increasing deductibles and co-pays for senior citizen health programs.

Although his favorability ratings are positive in the third district (48 percent favorable and 45 percent unfavorable), only 42 percent would vote for Christie's re-election in 2013 and 51 percent are opposed.

In a hypothetical election contest for president, Obama would beat Christie, 50 to 37 percent, according to the poll.

©2011 Gloucester County Times

© 2011 NJ.com All Rights Reserved.