



Winners and Losers: Week of 'The Decision'

By Politicker Staff | October 7th, 2011 - 12:38pm

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WINNERS

Chris Christie

The governor commanded the national stage as he tantalized GOP power brokers with a presidential run before finally announcing this week that he is absolutely out. In the process, Christie remained consistent with repeated past statements that he wasn't ready for president, again raised his national profile, and kept New Jersey in the running as a hotspot for Republicans intent on turning blue states to red.

Mitt Romney

Jeff Van Drew

The LD 1 State Senator from Dennis clubs GOP challenger David DeWeese, 56% to 23% in their head-to-head, according to a Stockton College/Zogby Poll. "Senator Van Drew's high favorability rating, coupled with voters' lack of familiarity with Mr. DeWeese, puts Senator Van Drew in a good position at this point in the race..." said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, which commissioned the poll.

Marcia Silva

East Brunswick Democratic Mayor David Stahl formally endorsed attorney Marcia Silva, a Republican Assembly candidate, in the 18th Legislative District.

Ben Dworkin

The director of Rider University's Rebovich Institute of NJ Politics produced two well-attended, back-to-back events this week. First, he hosted South Jersey Democratic Leader George Norcross. A day later he welcomed former presidential candidate Howard Dean of Vermont. Last month, Dworkin received Gov. Ch(9) 196(5) 4th

office announcement that he would not run for president. "I myself turned to NJTV to view their live coverage, but you know what I got – the 'Angelina Ballerina' cartoon," complained Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan (D-18). "Every news outlet in New Jersey and several across the nation were covering this event, yet New Jersey's own television station was showing a cartoon."

Democrats

No, the majority party didn't drag a podium in front of the Statehouse and endorse Christie to run for president, but in private conversations many of them cackled at the prospect of getting rid of him by watching him go national. It didn't happen, and the governor might have well swapped out his proudly parochial declaration, "New Jersey, you're stuck with me," for a dagger-twisting, "New Jersey Democrats, you're stuck with me."

Audrey Walker Bey

The former clerk for the Newark WIC Program pleaded guilty Tuesday afternoon to a charge of first-degree money laundering before a Superior Court judge. Bey conspired to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars from the federally funded Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program by means of fraudulent vouchers.

Celeste Riley

It was state Sen. Loretta Weinberg (D-37) who said once that spouses of elected officials are mostly better off staying out of firefights. They may get overly emotional in a political context and end up doing more harm than good when all they sought in the first place is protection for their public office spouses. Such was the case when LD 3 Assemblywoman Riley's husband confronted a Republican rival and allegedly threatened to give him a knuckle sandwich for writing a critical assessment of Riley for the Gloucester County Times. Riley reportedly watched the sidewalk episode unfold from behind a hedgerow.

Rick Perry

The tough-talking Texan might have enjoyed facing two Northeast establishment players in Romney and Christie, but Christie's declaration this week that he's not a candidate deprived Perry of that division. The argument can be made that Sarah Palin's announcement that she also will not run for prez sets up the potential for Perry to absorb her loyalist support. But we have already seen concrete evidence that would-be Christie financial backers are going to back Roms. That's the situation right now, but it could change if Perry reverses the perception he can't handle himself in a debate, while also effectively cornering the primary market as the angry regular guy who Christie would have embodied alongside the other candidates had he run.

Sharon Caldwell

Like

So Sweeney is up by 19 points against a candidate with ZERO money and who hasn't sent ONE mailer. shocking? NO. What is shocking is the 21% UNDECIDED. Sweeney has ruled this neighborhood for how long? 21% undecided, seriously? You know most if not all will break the other way (or not vote) and even with that supposedly huge lead, Big Steve is actually vulnerable (he's pissed off a LOT of people). Will the Republicans be able to mount the campaign it will take to take the big guy down. Popular wisdom says no. I say, check these numbers again about 7 - 10 days out, it could actually get interesting.

I'm surprised anyone did a poll.

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