

Christie leads Buono by 40 percentage points in Stockton poll

BY WALLACE McKELVEY, Staff Writer | Posted: Saturday, June 15, 2013 10:19 am

Gov. Chris Christie leads his opponent Barbara Buono by 40 percentage points, according to a poll released Saturday by the Stockton Polling Institute.

About 64 percent of those intending to vote in November's election support the Republican governor, while 24 percent say they plan to vote for Buono, a state senator from Middlesex County. Ten percent reported they are not sure or plan to vote for another candidate.

"Governor Christie's appearances with President (Barack) Obama, and his handling of Sandy, clearly have boosted Christie's campaign for re-election," said Daniel J. Douglas Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Douglas said that relationship helps Christie most with Democrats and independents, with 30 percent of the former and 27 percent of the latter saying it made them more likely to vote for Christie.

Only 3 percent of Republicans said they are less likely to vote for Christie because of his ties to the Democratic president.

The pair most recently appeared together during a tour of the Jersey Shore last month.

Christie also received strong support for his handling of Hurricane Sandy, with 94 percent of those polled viewing him as showing effective leadership during the recovery.

Buono, meanwhile, showed a lack of name recognition, with more than half of those surveyed reporting no opinion of her. Of those who were familiar, 24 percent had unfavorable opinions and 21 percent had favorable ones.

Pollsters surveyed 741 likely voters from June 8-13 via both cellphones and land lines. The survey has a margin of error of 3.6 percent.

Spokesmen for Buono and Christie did not respond to requests for comment.

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