



Hughes Center Poll Says Obama Still Strong in NJ Voters Don't Want Gov. Christie to Run for President

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POMONA, NJ – Likely voters have a 65.6% favorable or somewhat favorable opinion of President Barack Obama, according to a Stockton/Zogby* poll commissioned by the William J. Hughes Center of Public Policy at Stockton College.

“When we asked about a hypothetical campaign between President Obama and Gov. Christie, voters favored Obama over Christie by 51% to 33.5%,” said Hughes Center Executive Director Sharon Schulman. “We also asked if they agreed or disagreed that Christie should run for President in 2012, 68.8% of the voters somewhat or strongly disagreed with him running.”

NJ voters were slightly positive on their overall opinion of Christie in general (48.8% favorable vs. 45.4% unfavorable). When asked if the election for NJ governor was held today would they vote to re-elect Christie, voters were evenly split at 44.6% “yes” and 44.1% “no.”

“We explored reasons as to why those with an unfavorable opinion of the Governor felt that way,” said Schulman. “79.2% of the respondents did not like the way he treats the NJEA and teachers. This was evenly split among Democrats and Republicans. Other strong reasons were his policies, handling of the state budget and the way he treats unions. These results split along party lines with Democrats having more unfavorable opinions than Republicans.

Slightly more than half the respondents --Democrats, Republicans and Independents --gave Christie's confrontational style as a reason for having an unfavorable opinion of him.

Respondents agreed strongly with Christie's stance on increasing the amount local and state employees, teachers and firefighters/police contribute to pensions and healthcare. 72% disagree with increasing deductibles and co-pays on senior citizen health programs. This was strong among all age groups.

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Methodology

Interviewing

Interviews are conducted at Zogby International by professional interviewers trained on our computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) computer system. A policy requiring one supervisor to no more than twelve interviewers is used. The sample management module of the CATI system gives all prospective respondent households in the source telephone list the same chance of joining the sample.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for Ambassador William J. Hughes of Ocean City, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and teaching as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the College.