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**NEW JERSEY GOV'S BULLY-METER IS DOWN,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
VOTERS BELIEVE HE WASN'T INVOLVED IN BRIDGEGATE**

New Jersey Gov. Christopher Christie is more of a leader than a bully, voters say 54 – 40 percent today, one of his lowest “bully” scores since the Quinnipiac University poll first asked the question June 17, 2010.

Gov. Christie gets positive marks on key characteristics: Voters say 51 – 41 percent that he is honest and trustworthy; 74 – 23 percent that he is a strong leader and 55 – 41 percent that he cares about their needs and problems.

Today's results show more leader and less bully than the 50 – 45 percent results in a July 17, 2012, survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

Today, men say 53 – 42 percent that Christie is more of a leader than a bully and women agree 55 – 39 percent. Opting for “leader” are Republicans 78 – 17 percent and independent voters 55 – 40 percent. Democrats say 56 – 37 percent that the governor is more of a bully.

New Jersey voters approve 55 – 38 percent of the job Gov. Christie is doing, down from his all-time high 74 – 22 percent February 20, 2013. Women approve 55 – 37 percent while men approve 54 – 39 percent. Approval among Democrats drops from 56 – 38 percent last February to a negative 36 – 55 percent today.

“New Jersey Gov. Christopher Christie is doing better with the public than with the news media. His job approval has dropped from the stratosphere, but it's still double-digit positive, pretty much where he was before his Superstorm Sandy hug with President Barack Obama,” said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“We stopped asking that ‘bully’ question 18 months ago. But we tried it again and, even with all the ‘Bridgegate’ stories, he still scores higher as a leader than as a bully. Except with Democrats. More than half of them still say ‘bully’ – and not in a good way.”

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Some 93 percent of all New Jersey voters have read or heard something about the controversy surrounding the September traffic jam on the George Washington Bridge.

Voters in that group say 66 – 22 that the governor did not personally order the traffic jam. Even Democrats say 53 – 32 percent that Christie was not involved.

Among voters who know of Bridgegate, 41 percent say Christie knew what his aides were doing while 50 percent say these aides acted without the governor's knowledge.

If Christie did order the traffic jam, or knew what his aides were doing, 33 percent of voters who know the issue say he should be removed from office and prosecuted on criminal charges, while 32 percent say he should just be removed from office and 27 percent say an apology is enough.

Aides accused of involvement should be prosecuted, 43 percent of voters say, while 45 percent say removal from office is sufficient punishment and 6 percent say a reprimand is punishment enough.

The George Washington Bridge scandal "damages" Christie's chances as a 2016 presidential contender, 49 percent of voters who know the issue say. Another 7 percent say the scandal ends those chances, while 2 percent say it helps his chances and 38 percent say the scandal will have no impact.

"If Gov. Christie ordered or knew about the deliberate mess at the bridge, 24 percent of Republicans think he should be fired and another 26 percent say he should be fired and prosecuted," Carroll said.

"But most New Jerseyans – even most Democrats – doubt that the Governor was personally involved.

"Christie for President? This scandal hurts his chances, both Democrats and Republicans think. But – maybe it's pride in having their governor tops on the list – many New Jerseyans think he's still up there."

From January 10 – 13, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,207 New Jersey voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

For more information, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Christopher Christie is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	55%	81%	36%	56%	54%	55%
Disapprove	38	16	55	37	39	37
DK/NA	7	4	9	7	7	8

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Christopher Christie is handling his job as Governor? (*High also 74% Jan 2013, **Low also 44% Jun 2010)

	APPROVE.....						
				High		Low	
	Jan 15	Jul 10	Jun 10	Apr 24	Mar 26	Feb 20	Jun 21
	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013*	2011**
Approve	55	68	69	67	70	74	44
Disapprove	38	26	27	24	23	22	47
DK/NA	7	6	5	9	7	4	10

2. Would you say that Chris Christie - is honest and trustworthy or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	51%	75%	34%	53%	50%	51%
No	41	18	58	41	43	40
DK/NA	8	6	9	6	7	9

TREND: Would you say that Chris Christie is honest and trustworthy or not?

	Jan 15	Jun 10
	2014	2009
Yes	51	42
No	41	20
DK/NA	8	38

3. Would you say that Chris Christie - cares about the needs and problems of people like you or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	55%	79%	37%	59%	55%	56%
No	41	20	58	38	42	40
DK/NA	4	1	5	3	4	4

TREND: Would you say that Chris Christie cares about the needs and problems of people like you or not?

	Jan 15	Jun 10
	2014	2009
Yes	55	44
No	41	23
DK/NA	4	32

4. Would you say that Chris Christie - has strong leadership qualities or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	74%	90%	62%	76%	76%	73%
No	23	9	34	21	22	24
DK/NA	3	1	4	2	2	3

TREND: Would you say that Chris Christie has strong leadership qualities or not?

	Jan 15 2014	Jun 10 2009
Yes	74	48
No	23	17
DK/NA	3	36

5. Would you describe Governor Christie as being more of a bully or more of a leader?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Bully	40%	17%	56%	40%	42%	39%
Leader	54	78	37	55	53	55
DK/NA	6	5	6	5	6	7

TREND: Would you describe Governor Christie as being more of a bully, or more of a leader?

	Jan 15 2014	Jul 17 2012	Apr 11 2012	Nov 09 2010	Aug 19 2010	Jun 17 2010
Bully	40	45	39	42	39	43
Leader	54	50	54	50	51	44
DK/NA	6	4	7	8	11	13

6. Do you believe Governor Christie can work with Democrats in the state legislature to get things done or don't you think so?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	67%	84%	54%	68%	68%	66%
No	28	14	39	27	26	30
DK/NA	5	2	7	4	6	4

7. Have you heard or read anything about the controversy surrounding the September traffic jam on the George Washington Bridge?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	93%	96%	92%	95%	93%	93%
No	7	4	7	5	7	6
DK/NA	-	-	1	-	-	-

8. (If heard or read q7) Do you believe aides to Governor Christie deliberately caused this traffic jam as retribution because a local mayor would not endorse the governor for reelection or don't you think so?

	HEARD/READ ABOUT TRAFFIC JAM Q7.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	62%	53%	69%	65%	67%	57%
No	23	30	18	21	21	24
DK/NA	15	17	13	14	12	18

9. (If heard or read q7) Do you believe Christie personally ordered the traffic jam or not?

	HEARD/READ ABOUT TRAFFIC JAM Q7.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	22%	11%	32%	20%	25%	20%
No	66	83	53	69	66	66
DK/NA	12	6	15	10	9	14

10. (If heard or read q7) Do you believe Christie was aware that his aides were causing this traffic jam or do you believe his aides were acting without his knowledge?

	HEARD/READ ABOUT TRAFFIC JAM Q7.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Christie was aware	41%	20%	57%	39%	42%	40%
Aides acted alone	50	71	32	52	49	50
DK/NA	10	9	10	9	9	10

11. (If heard or read q7) Do you believe Democratic state legislators are conducting a legitimate investigation or do you believe they are conducting a political witch hunt?

	HEARD/READ ABOUT TRAFFIC JAM Q7.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Legitimate investgtn	52%	31%	70%	50%	50%	54%
Political witch hunt	39	59	21	41	41	36
DK/NA	9	10	9	9	9	10

12. (If heard or read q7) What do you think should happen to aides accused of involvement in the traffic jam: they should be reprimanded, they should be dismissed from office, or they should be dismissed from office and prosecuted on criminal charges?

	HEARD/READ ABOUT TRAFFIC JAM Q7.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Reprimanded	6%	8%	4%	6%	4%	7%
Dismissed	45	54	40	45	44	45
Dismissed/Prosecuted	43	32	50	42	45	41
DK/NA	7	5	7	8	7	7

13. (If heard or read q7) What should happen to Christie if it is proven that he ordered the traffic jam or knew what his aides were doing: he should apologize, he should be removed from office, or he should be removed from office and prosecuted on criminal charges?

	HEARD/READ ABOUT TRAFFIC JAM Q7.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Apologize	27%	42%	17%	28%	28%	25%
Removed from office	32	24	38	32	32	32
Removed/Prosecuted	33	26	39	31	33	33
DK/NA	8	8	7	9	7	10

14. (If heard or read q7) Do you think the George Washington Bridge scandal ends Christie's chances as a 2016 presidential contender, damages his chances, helps his chances or has no impact?

	HEARD/READ ABOUT TRAFFIC JAM Q7.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Ends chances	7%	3%	9%	7%	7%	7%
Damages chances	49	40	61	45	51	47
Helps chances	2	1	1	3	2	1
No impact	38	53	25	40	36	40
DK/NA	4	2	5	5	4	5