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# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

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## BRIDGEGATE TAKES ONE-YEAR TOLL ON NEW JERSEY GOV, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; 92 PERCENT SAY RAIL TUNNEL REPAIR IS IMPORTANT

One year after the Bridgegate scandal erupted, New Jersey Gov. Christopher Christie still can't get his job approval rating over the 50 percent mark as 46 percent of New Jersey voters approve of the job he's doing, while 48 percent disapprove, his worst overall score in almost four years, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Gov. Christie last topped the 50 percent mark with a 55 – 38 percent approval rating in a January 15, 2014, survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll.

Today, Republicans approve 74 – 21 percent while negative scores are 26 – 69 percent among Democrats and 43 – 50 percent among independent voters. Men are divided 48 – 47 percent, while women tip slightly negative 45 – 49 percent.

Christie gets negative grades for handling key issues:

- 42 – 52 percent for the economy and jobs;
- 40 – 53 percent for the state budget;
- 40 – 52 percent for education.

“It's the traffic nightmare that never ends for New Jersey Gov. Christopher Christie,” said Quinnipiac University Poll Assistant Director Maurice Carroll. “He was doing fine until one year ago and then, WHAM! Bridgegate hit like a 10-car pileup on the George Washington Bridge and the governor has yet to recover.”

New Jersey voters say 65 – 32 percent that Gov. Christie has strong leadership qualities, but say 50 – 46 percent that he is not honest and trustworthy and say 51 – 45 percent that he does not care about their needs and problems.

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President Barack Obama also is in the weeds in the Garden State, with a negative 45 – 52 percent job approval rating, among his lowest scores ever in the state.

Voters approve 46 – 33 percent of the job U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez is doing and give U.S. Sen. Cory Booker a 51 – 25 percent approval rating.

### **Tunnel Repairs**

While only 9 percent of New Jersey voters commute to work in New York City, a total of 92 percent of all voters say it is “very important” or “somewhat important” to repair the rail tunnel linking New Jersey and Manhattan. “Very important” responses range from 55 percent of voters in the South Jersey Philadelphia suburbs to 79 percent in the North Jersey urban areas.

A total of 62 percent of all New Jersey voters say it is “very important” or “somewhat important” to add a second rail tunnel to Manhattan.

Garden State voters, however, oppose 62 – 37 percent increasing the state’s gas tax to pay for road and transit improvements. None of the listed groups support hiking the gas tax.

“The tunnel is the only rail link between New York and New Jersey, and the rest of the west, and New Jerseyans are overwhelmingly in favor of fixing it,” Carroll said.

“There is less, but still significant, support for a new tunnel.”

### **State Worker Benefits**

Voters are divided 48 – 47 percent on reducing pension benefits for new state workers as a way to balance the budget.

But voters support 67 – 27 percent requiring state workers to pay more for their health care. Even Democrats support higher employee contributions 61 – 30 percent.

“Gov. Christie called health and pension costs ‘insatiable,’ but voters are mixed on solutions. Yes, they say, government workers should pay more for health care, but they’re mixed on cutting pension benefits.”

From January 15 – 19, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,211 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](#) @QuinnipiacPoll.**

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	46%	74%	26%	43%	48%	45%	45%	53%	42%
Disapprove	48	21	69	50	47	49	45	42	53
DK/NA	6	6	4	7	5	7	10	5	5

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

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Oct 01 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	APPROVE.....	
						High	Low
						Feb 20 2013*	Jun 21 2011**
Approve	46	48	46	49	49	74	44
Disapprove	48	47	45	47	44	22	47
DK/NA	6	6	9	5	7	4	10

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	34%	40%	36%	31%	34%	35%	41%	39%	29%
Disapprove	52	50	42	58	55	48	49	49	54
DK/NA	14	9	22	11	11	17	10	13	17

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jun 17 2010	APPROVE.....	
						High	Low
						Jan 26 2005	Jun 17 2010
Approve	34	33	30	36	19	44	19
Disapprove	52	49	52	48	62	31	62
DK/NA	14	18	17	15	19	25	19

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Cory Booker is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	51%	26%	73%	51%	47%	55%	58%	52%	49%
Disapprove	25	45	8	23	32	19	27	27	22
DK/NA	24	29	18	26	21	26	15	21	29

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Cory Booker is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 06 2014	Apr 09 2014
Approve	51	48	47	47
Disapprove	25	22	27	25
DK/NA	24	29	26	28

17. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Robert Menendez is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	46%	27%	65%	47%	45%	48%	43%	44%	49%
Disapprove	33	55	13	32	37	29	32	34	33
DK/NA	21	19	22	21	18	23	25	22	18

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Robert Menendez is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 06 2014	Apr 09 2014	Apr 24 2013	APPROVE.....	
						High Nov 28 2012	Low Feb 20 2008
Approve	46	44	45	43	44	56	30
Disapprove	33	31	34	39	32	29	31
DK/NA	21	24	21	18	24	14	39

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	45%	8%	83%	41%	39%	51%	51%	40%	46%
Disapprove	52	91	13	56	58	47	46	57	51
DK/NA	3	1	3	3	2	3	3	2	3

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 11 2014	Aug 06 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 09 2013	APPROVE.....	
						High Jun 10 2009	Low Oct 13 2011
Approve	45	46	44	49	53	68	43
Disapprove	52	50	52	48	41	25	52
DK/NA	3	4	4	4	6	7	5

22. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in New Jersey today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Very satisfied	3%	4%	1%	4%	3%	3%	1%	5%	2%
Smwht satisfied	47	64	39	42	48	46	55	49	43
Smwht dissatisfied	30	20	36	32	28	32	27	28	31
Very dissatisfied	20	12	23	21	20	19	15	18	23
DK/NA	1	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	1

TREND: In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in New Jersey today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied? (\*High also 71% Feb 1999)

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 10 2013	VERY+SMWHT SAT	
						High Dec 26 2000*	Low Jun 17 2010
Very satisfied	3	5	4	5	9	10	2
Smwht satisfied	47	42	46	45	52	61	22
Smwht dissatisfied	30	33	30	30	28	21	36
Very dissatisfied	20	19	20	19	11	7	39
DK/NA	1	1	-	1	-	1	1

23. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling - the economy and jobs?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	42%	66%	23%	43%	45%	40%	42%	51%	37%
Disapprove	52	31	70	51	50	54	53	45	56
DK/NA	6	3	8	6	5	6	5	4	7

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling the economy and jobs?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014
Approve	42	41	44	44
Disapprove	52	51	51	48
DK/NA	6	8	5	8

24. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling - the state budget?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	40%	65%	21%	37%	45%	36%	35%	46%	37%
Disapprove	53	30	70	56	51	56	60	49	54
DK/NA	7	4	9	6	5	9	5	5	9

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling the state budget?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 17 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Apr 11 2012	Low Jan 21 2015
Approve	40	42	44	46	54	58	40
Disapprove	53	48	48	45	39	35	53
DK/NA	7	10	8	9	8	7	7

25. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling - education?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	40%	62%	23%	39%	43%	37%	36%	45%	37%
Disapprove	52	31	68	52	49	54	61	50	50
DK/NA	8	7	9	9	8	9	3	5	13

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling education?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 17 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High	Low
						Mar 01 2012	Dec 10 2014
Approve	40	39	42	44	48	50	39
Disapprove	52	50	49	47	45	43	50
DK/NA	8	12	9	9	8	7	12

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	46%	74%	25%	43%	48%	44%	34%	53%	46%
No	50	23	70	51	48	51	65	42	49
DK/NA	5	3	5	6	4	5	1	4	6

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

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jan 15 2014	Jun 10 2009
No	50	46	49	50	41	20
DK/NA	5	7	5	7	8	38

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	45%	72%	23%	44%	45%	45%	41%	53%	41%
No	51	27	73	51	50	52	55	44	55
DK/NA	4	1	5	5	5	3	3	3	4

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

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jan 15 2014	Jun 10 2009
No	51	48	49	48	41	23
DK/NA	4	5	4	4	4	32

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	65%	86%	49%	62%	68%	63%	62%	76%	58%
No	32	12	47	35	30	33	35	23	38
DK/NA	3	2	5	3	2	4	3	2	4

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

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jan 15 2014	Jun 10 2009
Yes	65	66	68	69	74	48
No	32	32	30	27	23	17
DK/NA	3	2	3	3	3	36

30. Would you describe the state of New Jersey's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Excellent	1%	-	-	-	1%	1%	-	1%	1%
Good	37	50	30	35	40	34	47	42	30
Not so good	43	38	46	42	40	45	34	44	45
Poor	19	12	22	22	18	19	17	13	24
DK/NA	1	-	2	1	1	1	2	-	1

TREND: Would you describe the state of New Jersey's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor? (\*Low also 7% Feb 2009)

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 10 2013	EXCLNT+GOOD...	
						High Oct 18 2001	Low Aug 12 2009*
Excellent	1	1	1	-	1	3	-
Good	37	35	33	35	38	54	7
Not so good	43	44	46	47	44	37	46
Poor	19	19	19	16	15	5	45
DK/NA	1	2	1	2	2	2	1

31. Do you think New Jersey's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Better	23%	32%	20%	20%	25%	21%	32%	26%	17%
Worse	19	13	21	23	19	20	13	17	23
The same	57	55	58	55	55	58	53	56	59
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	2

TREND: Do you think New Jersey's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 10 2013	BETTER.....	
						High Jul 10 2013	Low Mar 11 2009
Better	23	20	20	19	33	33	3
Worse	19	20	23	17	14	14	61
The same	57	59	56	61	51	51	35
DK/NA	1	2	1	3	2	2	2

32. To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose - reducing pension benefits for new state workers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Support	48%	70%	30%	48%	53%	44%	45%	49%	48%
Oppose	47	26	63	47	44	49	51	47	45
DK/NA	5	4	7	5	4	7	4	4	7

TREND: To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose reducing pension benefits for new state workers?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Apr 10 2014	Apr 21 2011	Feb 10 2011
Support	48	46	55	63	66
Oppose	47	45	40	32	29
DK/NA	5	9	5	6	5

33. To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose - more state employee contributions for health care?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Support	67%	75%	61%	68%	67%	68%	70%	69%	65%
Oppose	27	22	30	27	29	24	24	27	28
DK/NA	6	2	9	6	4	8	5	4	8

TREND: To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose more state employee contributions for health care?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014
Support	67	65
Oppose	27	27
DK/NA	6	8

34. To help finance road improvements and mass transportation, would you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Support	37%	29%	44%	38%	39%	34%	38%	31%	41%
Oppose	62	70	54	61	59	64	62	68	57
DK/NA	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly		COMMUTE TO NYC	
				land	Shore	Yes	No
Support	37%	39%	39%	37%	31%	47%	36%
Oppose	61	58	61	62	68	52	63
DK/NA	2	3	1	-	1	1	2

TREND: To help finance road improvements and mass transportation, would you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax? (\*High also 39% Jan 2010, Jan 2005)

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 11 2014	Nov 10 2010	Jan 20 2010	SUPPORT.....	
						High Dec 10 2014*	Low Dec 11 2007
Support	37	39	36	35	39	39	24
Oppose	62	58	63	63	59	58	74
DK/NA	2	3	1	2	2	3	2

35. There is currently one rail tunnel carrying Amtrak and NJ Transit trains between New Jersey and Manhattan. How important do you think it is to repair the existing rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan; very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Very important	63%	56%	71%	62%	58%	67%	59%	59%	68%
Somewhat important	29	35	22	28	32	26	30	35	24
Not so important	4	5	5	3	4	4	7	2	4
Not important at all	2	3	1	3	3	1	1	2	3
DK/NA	2	1	2	3	3	1	3	2	2

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly		COMMUTE TO NYC	
				land	Shore	Yes	No
Very important	79%	66%	58%	55%	56%	84%	61%
Somewhat important	17	28	34	31	34	11	31
Not so important	1	3	5	8	4	2	4
Not important at all	1	1	1	5	3	2	2
DK/NA	2	2	1	1	4	2	2

36. How important do you think it is to add a second rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan; very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Very important	32%	19%	47%	30%	33%	31%	32%	29%	33%
Somewhat important	30	33	25	33	30	31	29	30	32
Not so important	22	28	16	22	22	22	21	26	20
Not important at all	10	15	8	10	11	10	15	11	9
DK/NA	5	5	5	6	5	6	3	4	7

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly		COMMUTE TO NYC	
				land	Shore	Yes	No
Very important	50%	35%	24%	24%	24%	44%	30%
Somewhat important	24	31	35	28	34	30	31
Not so important	15	17	29	30	22	19	22
Not important at all	9	10	6	14	13	5	11
DK/NA	2	8	5	4	6	2	6

37. Do you commute to New York City for work or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	9%	8%	8%	10%	11%	7%	13%	11%	5%
No	91	92	92	90	89	93	87	89	95
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly	
				land	Shore
Yes	13%	13%	7%	5%	4%
No	87	86	93	95	96
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-

TREND: Do you commute to New York City for work or not?

	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Nov 17 2011	Dec 21 2010	Nov 10 2010
Yes	9	11	10	11	11
No	91	89	89	89	89
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-