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**NEW JERSEY GOV FLIES HIGH, BURIES UNKNOWN DEM,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
CHRISTIE CLOSE TO CLINTON, LEADS CUOMO IN '16 PRES RACE**

New Jersey voters today continue Gov. Christopher Christie's record-breaking 74 – 22 percent approval rating, the highest of any New Jersey governor in 17 years of Quinnipiac University surveys. Voters also say 71 – 23 percent that Gov. Christie deserves reelection this year.

Christie's job score is currently the highest of any governor in the seven states surveyed by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

Democrats approve of the Republican governor 56 – 38 percent and say 48 – 43 percent he deserves reelection.

Christie leads his likely Democratic challenger, State Sen. Barbara Buono 62 – 25 percent, including 54 – 31 percent among women and 71 – 18 percent among men. Backing the governor are Republicans, 93 – 4 percent, and independent voters, 68 – 18 percent, while Democrats back Buono by a mediocre 51 – 31 percent.

"How high is up? New Jersey Gov. Christopher Christie keeps soaring. Most governors would kill for a 56 percent job approval rating. Republican Gov. Christie gets that from Democrats!" said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

"State Sen. Barbara Buono is going to have to introduce herself to voters; no one knows her and Christie clobbers her."

New Jersey voters give Christie a 69 – 22 percent favorability rating, including 47 – 38 percent among Democrats.

For Buono, 83 percent don't know enough about her to form an opinion.

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Having Buono at the top of the ticket will be bad for other Democratic candidates this year, 13 percent of voters say, while 8 percent say good and 77 percent offer no opinion.

But New Jersey voters say 47 – 40 percent that they want Democrats rather than Republicans to control the State Legislature.

“Coattails? The crystal ball is cloudy. Some voters think Buono would be a drag on Democratic candidates for the legislature,” Carroll said.

2016 Presidential Race

In an early look at the 2016 presidential election, New Jersey voters go 49 percent for Hillary Clinton and 45 percent for Christie. Clinton leads 60 – 34 percent among women while Christie leads 58 – 35 percent among men. He leads 90 – 7 percent among Republicans and gets 48 percent of independent voters to Clinton’s 44 percent. Democrats go to Clinton 86 – 8 percent.

The Garden State’s native son tops New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo 54 – 36 percent. Christie leads 64 – 29 percent among men and wins 45 percent of women to Cuomo’s 42 percent. Christie leads 89 – 7 percent among Republicans and 59 – 28 percent among independent voters. Democrats go to Cuomo 68 – 20 percent.

“If the 2016 presidential race shapes up to be the Battle of the Hudson, Native Son Christie tops New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on the west bank of the river, but is locked in a tight race with the Empire State’s favorite adopted daughter, Hillary Clinton,” Carroll said.

Minimum Wage

New Jersey voters support raising the minimum wage 76 – 21 percent, including 55 – 41 percent among Republicans. Support among all other party, gender, regional, age, income and education groups tops 68 percent.

The minimum wage issue should be decided by a voter referendum to amend the State Constitution rather than by the State Legislature passing a law, voters say 56 – 38 percent.

From February 13 – 17, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,149 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.9 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 and the nation as a public service and for research.

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

1. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Barbara Buono the Democrat and Christopher Christie the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Buono	25%	4%	51%	18%	18%	31%	17%	50%
Christie	62	93	31	68	71	54	72	24
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	4
DK/NA	12	3	16	13	11	13	10	20

	COLLEGE DEG		AGE IN YRS.....			ANNUAL	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Buono	24%	25%	34%	23%	22%	29%	27%	20%
Christie	63	61	51	66	63	57	56	70
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	-
DK/NA	11	13	14	9	13	13	15	9

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Buono	30%	32%	13%	31%	14%
Christie	52	56	75	53	75
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	-	-	1	2
DK/NA	17	11	11	14	9

TREND: If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Barbara Buono the Democrat and Christopher Christie the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Feb 20	Jan 23	Nov 28	Oct 17
	2013	2013	2012	2012
Buono	25	22	23	33
Christie	62	63	61	49
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	12	13	14	17

3. If the election for President were being held today, and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo the Democrat and Christopher Christie the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Cuomo	36%	7%	68%	28%	29%	42%	28%	60%
Christie	54	89	20	59	64	45	64	23
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1
DK/NA	9	3	10	12	7	11	7	14
COLLEGE DEG AGE IN YRS..... ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME								
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Cuomo	39%	34%	41%	35%	34%	39%	38%	33%
Christie	50	56	49	57	53	50	49	59
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	-
DK/NA	9	9	10	7	10	8	11	7

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Cuomo	48%	43%	26%	38%	21%
Christie	37	49	67	50	67
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	1	1	1	-
DK/NA	15	6	6	11	11

4. If the election for President were being held today, and the candidates were Hillary Clinton the Democrat and Christopher Christie the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Clinton	49%	7%	86%	44%	35%	60%	37%	88%
Christie	45	90	8	48	58	34	56	6
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	-
DK/NA	5	3	5	7	5	5	4	6
COLLEGE DEG AGE IN YRS..... ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME								
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Clinton	51%	47%	51%	51%	46%	54%	51%	46%
Christie	43	46	41	44	47	38	44	50
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	2	2	1	1	3	-	-
DK/NA	5	5	5	4	6	6	4	3

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Clinton	61%	55%	40%	53%	32%
Christie	31	40	57	39	57
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	1	-	3	2
DK/NA	7	3	3	5	9

5. Is your opinion of Christopher Christie favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	69%	93%	47%	72%	76%	63%	78%	42%
Unfavorable	22	5	38	19	17	26	17	37
Hvn't hrd enough	6	1	10	6	5	7	3	18
REFUSED	3	1	5	3	3	4	3	4

	COLLEGE Yes	DEG No	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	ANNUAL <50K	HOUSEHOLD 50-100	INCOME >100K
Favorable	69%	69%	53%	74%	71%	63%	68%	75%
Unfavorable	24	20	31	20	20	23	22	20
Hvn't hrd enough	2	8	10	5	4	12	4	2
REFUSED	5	3	5	2	5	2	6	4

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Favorable	59%	65%	76%	63%	81%
Unfavorable	24	25	18	26	14
Hvn't hrd enough	9	7	4	8	2
REFUSED	8	3	2	3	3

TREND: Is your opinion of Christopher Christie favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him? (*High also 69% Jan 2013)

	FAVORABLE.....							
							High	Low
	Feb 20	Jan 23	Nov 28	Sep 05	May 16	Feb 20	Feb 20	Aug 12
	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2013*	2013*	2008
Favorable	69	69	67	52	53	69	69	21
Unfavorable	22	21	22	42	39	22	22	7
Hvn't hrd enough	6	6	7	4	7	6	6	69
REFUSED	3	4	4	2	2	3	3	2

6. Is your opinion of Barbara Buono favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	8%	2%	16%	5%	6%	10%	7%	10%
Unfavorable	8	14	2	9	13	5	10	2
Hvn't hrd enough	83	84	81	84	81	84	82	86
REFUSED	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1

	COLLEGE Yes	DEG No	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	ANNUAL <50K	HOUSEHOLD 50-100	INCOME >100K
Favorable	8%	8%	9%	6%	9%	9%	8%	6%
Unfavorable	9	8	2	9	11	6	9	9
Hvn't hrd enough	82	83	89	84	78	83	82	84
REFUSED	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	1

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Favorable	5%	11%	7%	8%	7%
Unfavorable	5	8	13	5	9
Hvn't hrd enough	89	80	80	85	83
REFUSED	-	1	1	1	1

TREND: Is your opinion of Barbara Buono favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Feb 20 2013	Jan 23 2013	Nov 28 2012
Favorable	8	8	8
Unfavorable	8	9	7
Hvn't hrd enough	83	82	84
REFUSED	1	-	1

10. Is your opinion of Andrew Cuomo favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	45%	26%	66%	44%	43%	48%	43%	58%
Unfavorable	23	43	8	21	31	16	27	7
Hvn't hrd enough	31	30	26	34	26	35	29	35
REFUSED	1	2	-	1	1	1	1	1

	COLLEGE DEG		AGE IN YRS.....			ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME		
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Favorable	55%	39%	41%	48%	45%	41%	45%	48%
Unfavorable	21	24	17	24	24	17	24	29
Hvn't hrd enough	22	36	41	27	29	41	29	22
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Favorable	56%	51%	42%	36%	39%
Unfavorable	21	22	33	14	26
Hvn't hrd enough	24	27	24	49	31
REFUSED	-	1	1	-	4

11. Is your opinion of Hillary Clinton favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	67%	32%	94%	67%	57%	74%	60%	97%
Unfavorable	29	63	4	29	37	23	37	1
Hvn't hrd enough	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2
REFUSED	1	3	-	1	2	1	2	-

	COLLEGE DEG		AGE IN YRS.....			ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME		
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Favorable	68%	66%	68%	70%	64%	69%	66%	65%
Unfavorable	28	30	25	26	33	26	32	30
Hvn't hrd enough	2	3	5	3	1	3	1	4
REFUSED	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Favorable	76%	67%	65%	72%	54%
Unfavorable	19	29	30	27	40
Hvn't hrd enough	3	2	4	-	4
REFUSED	2	1	1	1	2

TREND: Is your opinion of Hillary Clinton favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	FAVORABLE.....						
						High	Low
	Feb 20	Jun 12	Feb 21	Dec 13	Sep 26	Feb 20	Dec 13
	2013	2008	2008	2007	2007	2013	2007
Favorable	67	51	50	43	51	67	43
Unfavorable	29	45	43	42	41	29	42
Hvn't hrd enough	3	2	5	11	6	3	11
REFUSED	1	2	3	4	2	1	4

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	74%	94%	56%	77%	82%	67%	82%	48%
Disapprove	22	5	38	19	15	28	14	46
DK/NA	4	1	6	4	3	5	4	6

	COLLEGE DEG		AGE IN YRS.....			ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME		
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Approve	74%	74%	61%	77%	77%	68%	73%	80%
Disapprove	22	21	35	20	17	26	23	18
DK/NA	4	4	4	3	5	6	4	2

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Approve	63%	70%	82%	69%	86%
Disapprove	32	27	15	24	10
DK/NA	5	3	4	6	4

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
	Feb 20	Jan 23	Nov 27	Oct 17	Sep 05	Feb 20	Jun 21
	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2013*	2011**
Approve	74	74	72	56	53	74	44
Disapprove	22	21	21	38	42	22	47
DK/NA	4	5	7	7	5	4	10

16. Do you feel that Christopher Christie deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes/Deserves	71%	94%	48%	77%	80%	64%	79%	46%
No/Does not	23	5	43	18	17	28	16	45
DK/NA	6	1	9	5	3	8	4	10

	COLLEGE DEG		AGE IN YRS.....			ANNUAL	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Yes/Deserves	73%	70%	59%	74%	74%	66%	67%	79%
No/Does not	22	23	34	21	20	26	26	17
DK/NA	5	7	6	4	6	8	7	4

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Yes/Deserves	64%	67%	79%	63%	84%
No/Does not	26	29	16	27	12
DK/NA	10	4	5	9	4

TREND: Do you feel that Christopher Christie deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Feb 20	Jan 23	Nov 28	Oct 17
	2013	2013	2012	2012
Yes/Deserves	71	68	67	52
No/Does not	23	24	25	40
DK/NA	6	7	9	8

17. 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	Wht	Blk
Very satisfied	8%	19%	4%	6%	9%	8%	10%	3%
Smwht satisfied	53	54	50	54	54	53	56	48
Smwht dissatisfied	28	18	38	27	27	28	24	38
Very dissatisfied	10	9	8	13	10	11	9	12
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	COLLEGE DEG		AGE IN YRS.....			ANNUAL	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Very satisfied	8%	9%	8%	7%	9%	7%	6%	10%
Smwht satisfied	55	52	58	50	54	53	52	54
Smwht dissatisfied	28	27	22	36	24	28	29	29
Very dissatisfied	9	11	12	7	12	11	13	6
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Very satisfied	6%	9%	10%	8%	8%
Smwht satisfied	51	55	55	47	56
Smwht dissatisfied	34	25	29	30	24
Very dissatisfied	8	10	6	14	13
DK/NA	-	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)

	Feb 20	Jan 23	Nov 27	Sep 05	Jul 17	VERY+SMWHT SAT High Dec 26	Low Jun 17
	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2000*	2010
Very satisfied	8	6	8	6	5	10	2
Smwht satisfied	53	52	57	50	43	61	22
Smwht dissatisfied	28	30	26	30	32	21	36
Very dissatisfied	10	11	9	13	19	7	39
DK/NA	-	1	1	1	1	1	1

18. Which party would you like to see control the New Jersey State Legislature after the elections in November 2013, the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Democratic Party	47%	4%	93%	36%	38%	55%	37%	82%
Republican Party	40	94	2	39	50	32	50	5
DK/NA	13	2	5	25	12	14	12	13
	COLLEGE DEG Yes	DEG No	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	ANNUAL <50K	HOUSEHOLD INCOME 50-100	>100K
Democratic Party	48%	46%	61%	47%	41%	53%	50%	42%
Republican Party	41	39	30	42	43	32	39	49
DK/NA	11	15	9	11	16	16	11	9
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore			
Democratic Party	62%	50%	37%	54%	34%			
Republican Party	28	36	53	34	49			
DK/NA	10	14	10	13	17			

TREND: Which party would you like to see control the New Jersey State Legislature after the elections in November 2013, the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

	Feb 20	Jan 23	Nov 28
	2013	2013	2012
Democratic Party	47	48	45
Republican Party	40	39	38
DK/NA	13	13	17

19. Do you think that having Barbara Buono as the Democratic nominee for Governor will be good or bad for Democratic legislative candidates running for office this year, or don't you have an opinion on that?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Good	8%	8%	16%	3%	8%	9%	7%	16%
Bad	13	16	9	15	16	11	15	7
No opinion	77	74	74	79	73	79	77	76
NO DIFF (VOL)	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	-
REFUSED	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1

	COLLEGE Yes	DEG No	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	ANNUAL <50K	HOUSEHOLD 50-100	INCOME >100K
Good	7%	9%	15%	8%	7%	11%	7%	6%
Bad	15	12	9	15	13	11	14	15
No opinion	75	78	74	76	78	77	76	77
NO DIFF (VOL)	3	-	1	1	1	1	1	2
REFUSED	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Good	6%	13%	7%	8%	4%
Bad	15	10	13	16	15
No opinion	79	74	78	75	80
NO DIFF (VOL)	-	2	1	1	1
REFUSED	-	1	-	1	-

25. Would you support or oppose raising the minimum wage in New Jersey, which is now \$7.25 an hour?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Support	76%	55%	94%	76%	68%	83%	71%	99%
Oppose	21	41	4	20	30	13	26	1
DK/NA	3	5	1	4	2	3	4	-

	COLLEGE Yes	DEG No	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	ANNUAL <50K	HOUSEHOLD 50-100	INCOME >100K
Support	74%	78%	77%	79%	74%	83%	77%	70%
Oppose	23	19	19	20	22	13	20	28
DK/NA	2	3	4	1	4	3	3	2

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Support	82%	80%	68%	81%	69%
Oppose	18	18	30	16	25
DK/NA	-	3	2	2	6

TREND: Would you support or oppose raising the minimum wage in New Jersey, which is now \$7.25 an hour?

	Feb 20 2013	Jan 24 2013
Support	76	82
Oppose	21	16
DK/NA	3	2

26. Do you think the issue of raising the minimum wage should be decided by the State Legislature passing a law, or the voters enacting a constitutional amendment in a referendum?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Legislature/Law	38%	32%	41%	40%	37%	39%	39%	32%
Voters/Amendment	56	63	54	53	57	55	54	66
DK/NA	6	4	5	7	6	6	7	3

	COLLEGE Yes	DEG No	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-54	55+	ANNUAL <50K	HOUSEHOLD 50-100	INCOME >100K
Legislature/Law	48%	31%	33%	38%	42%	34%	35%	47%
Voters/Amendment	45	63	66	56	50	60	59	47
DK/NA	6	6	1	6	8	7	5	6

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Legislature/Law	40%	43%	41%	33%	30%
Voters/Amendment	55	52	54	62	60
DK/NA	5	5	6	5	10