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FOR RELEASE: MAY 3, 2017

**MURPHY TOPS GUADAGNO, PISCOPO IN NEW JERSEY GOV RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
MOST VOTERS UNDECIDED IN JUNE 6 PRIMARIES**

Democrat Phil Murphy has hit the magic 50 percent mark in the 2017 New Jersey governor's race, leading Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno 50 – 25 percent in what is still a battle of the unknowns, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

In a three-way general election race, with comedian Joe Piscopo running as an independent candidate, Murphy gets 41 percent, with 21 percent for Guadagno and 14 percent for Piscopo, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

In the June 6 primary, 52 percent of Democratic voters remain undecided. Murphy gets 26 percent, with 7 percent for former U.S. Treasury Under Secretary Jim Johnson, 5 percent for Assembly member John Wisniewski, 4 percent for State Sen. Raymond Lesniak, 3 percent for activist Bill Brennan and 1 percent for Tenafly Councilman Mark Zinna.

In a Republican primary, 51 percent of voters are undecided. Guadagno leads with 23 percent, followed by 12 percent for Assembly member Jack Ciattarelli, 5 percent for Nutley Commissioner Steve Rogers and 3 percent for entrepreneur Joseph Rullo.

In the Murphy-Guadagno faceoff, women back the Democrat 53 – 20 percent and men back him 47 – 30 percent.

With Piscopo in the race, women go 45 percent for Murphy, 18 percent for Guadagno and 11 percent for Piscopo. Men go 36 percent for Murphy, 24 percent for Guadagno and 18 percent for Piscopo.

“The news that they’re supposed to elect a governor this year doesn't seem to have gotten through to a lot of New Jersey voters,” said Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“Kim Guadagno has been lieutenant governor. Phil Murphy has spent a zillion dollars on campaign ads. Both have sewed up county organization support.”

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Quinnipiac University Poll/May 3, 2017

“But more than half of the voters don’t know enough about either of them to give a favorable-or-unfavorable judgment,” Carroll added.

“Even fewer people have an opinion of Joe Piscopo. Has the news gotten around that he’s thinking of running?”

“In a general election matchup, Murphy trounces Guadagno, just hitting the 50 percent mark.”

New Jersey voters know little about the candidates for governor, as 57 percent haven’t heard enough about either Murphy or Guadagno to form an opinion of them. For Piscopo, 64 percent say they don’t know enough to form an opinion.

Taxes are the most important issue in deciding how they will vote for governor, 25 percent of New Jersey voters say, while 19 percent list the economy; 18 percent list education; 15 percent cite health care and 13 percent say ethics in government.

President Trump’s Approval Rating

With a more than 2-1 disapproval from women, President Donald Trump gets a negative 35 – 56 percent job approval rating in the Garden State, compared to a negative 34 – 59 percent score in a March 15 Quinnipiac University poll.

Today, women give Trump a negative 28 – 63 percent approval rating. The president has a negative 43 – 49 percent among men.

Booker for President

New Jersey voters approve 57 – 33 percent of the job U.S. Sen. Cory Booker is doing, but say 54 – 33 percent that he should not run for president in 2020.

Booker’s presidential possibility gets a lukewarm 54 – 30 percent endorsement from Democrats, with every other listed party, gender, education, age or racial group saying no.

Voters give U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez a split 41 – 41 percent job approval rating.

From April 26 – May 1, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,209 New Jersey voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points. The survey includes 519 Democrats with a margin of error of +/- 4.3 percentage points and 331 Republicans with a margin of error of +/- 5.4 percentage points. Live interviewers call landlines 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.

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1. (If Registered Republican) If the Republican primary for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Kim Guadagno, Jack Ciattarelli, Joe Rullo, Steve Rogers, and Hirsh Singh, for whom would you vote?

	REGISTERED REPUBLICANS.....					
	POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY					
	Tot	CONSERVATIVE		Mod/	Men	Wom
Very		Smwht	Lib			
Guadagno	23%	24%	17%	30%	27%	19%
Ciattarelli	12	13	17	9	12	13
Rullo	3	2	2	5	5	1
Rogers	5	6	11	1	6	5
Singh	-	-	-	-	-	-
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	1	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	4	4	1	6	5	4
DK/NA	51	50	51	47	44	58

2. (If Registered Democrat) If the Democratic primary for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Phil Murphy, John Wisniewski, Ray Lesniak, Bill Brennan, Jim Johnson, and Mark Zinna, for whom would you vote?

	REGISTERED DEMOCRATS.....					
	POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY					
	Tot	LIBERAL.....		Mod/	Men	Wom
Very		Smwht	Cons			
Murphy	26%	33%	27%	23%	27%	25%
Wisniewski	5	10	5	4	6	5
Lesniak	4	6	2	3	4	3
Brennan	3	5	1	3	4	3
Johnson	7	4	7	7	8	5
Zinna	1	-	-	1	2	-
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	3	3	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	4	1	1	2	1
DK/NA	52	37	56	55	43	57

3. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Phil Murphy the Democrat and Kim Guadagno the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	Yes
Murphy	50%	10%	83%	37%	47%	53%	49%	36%
Guadagno	25	68	3	28	30	20	30	33
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	2	2	5	3	3	2	4
DK/NA	21	19	12	29	19	23	17	26

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Murphy	44%	55%	54%	48%	40%	47%	43%	62%
Guadagno	21	22	27	31	37	27	31	14
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	5	2	2	4	2	3	3
DK/NA	32	18	16	18	18	24	21	20

4. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Phil Murphy the Democrat, Kim Guadagno the Republican, and Joe Piscopo running as an independent candidate, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Murphy	41%	6%	72%	28%	36%	45%	43%	30%
Guadagno	21	59	2	23	24	18	23	29
Piscopo	14	15	8	21	18	11	14	16
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	1	4	2	2	1	2
DK/NA	21	18	17	25	20	22	18	22

	AGE IN	YRS.....	YRS.....	YRS.....	YRS.....	WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
						18-34	35-49		
Murphy	33%	46%	45%	43%	33%	41%	37%	48%	
Guadagno	20	18	21	26	28	24	26	13	
Piscopo	11	18	18	11	20	11	15	13	
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	
DK/NA	34	16	15	20	18	22	20	23	

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	28%	7%	43%	24%	30%	27%	30%	20%
Unfavorable	12	24	4	14	15	9	13	12
Hvn't hrd enough	57	68	52	57	53	62	54	66
REFUSED	3	1	1	5	3	2	2	2

	AGE IN	YRS.....	YRS.....	YRS.....	YRS.....	WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
						18-34	35-49		
Favorable	26%	34%	30%	25%	29%	22%	26%	33%	
Unfavorable	13	12	10	7	16	9	13	10	
Hvn't hrd enough	55	53	58	66	52	67	60	53	
REFUSED	6	1	3	1	3	2	2	3	

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	18%	37%	4%	24%	23%	14%	22%	26%
Unfavorable	23	9	35	18	24	22	34	16
Hvn't hrd enough	57	52	60	54	51	62	41	57
REFUSED	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	1

	AGE IN	YRS.....	YRS.....	YRS.....	YRS.....	WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
						18-34	35-49		
Favorable	15%	11%	22%	21%	30%	19%	24%	8%	
Unfavorable	12	29	27	23	26	26	26	17	
Hvn't hrd enough	71	57	48	54	42	54	48	72	
REFUSED	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	

7. Is your opinion of Joe Piscopo favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	Yes
Favorable	19%	25%	13%	23%	23%	15%	20%	24%
Unfavorable	15	17	18	10	16	14	20	13
Hvn't hrd enough	64	56	67	64	59	69	57	61
REFUSED	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	2
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Favorable	12%	22%	25%	16%	26%	18%	22%	14%
Unfavorable	7	15	19	16	16	18	17	11
Hvn't hrd enough	81	63	53	66	55	63	59	73
REFUSED	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	1

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	Yes
Approve	35%	86%	5%	41%	43%	28%	35%	52%
Disapprove	56	7	89	48	49	63	57	40
DK/NA	9	7	6	11	8	9	7	8
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	36%	27%	34%	42%	53%	34%	43%	20%
Disapprove	49	64	60	51	42	56	50	70
DK/NA	16	8	6	7	5	10	8	11

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	Yes
Approve	21%	22%	25%	17%	22%	20%	21%	21%
Disapprove	60	59	55	64	63	57	62	57
DK/NA	19	19	20	20	15	23	17	22
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	23%	18%	21%	22%	22%	21%	21%	20%
Disapprove	49	71	61	59	65	55	60	61
DK/NA	28	11	18	19	14	24	19	19

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	57%	23%	85%	45%	53%	61%	58%	45%
Disapprove	33	64	8	41	39	27	35	43
DK/NA	10	13	7	14	8	12	6	12
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	50%	61%	60%	56%	47%	57%	52%	66%
Disapprove	34	30	32	34	45	33	39	21
DK/NA	16	10	8	10	8	10	9	12

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	41%	20%	59%	35%	40%	43%	41%	34%
Disapprove	41	66	24	45	48	34	44	48
DK/NA	18	14	17	19	13	23	14	19
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	30%	43%	47%	47%	36%	40%	38%	49%
Disapprove	36	40	43	40	54	39	46	31
DK/NA	34	18	10	13	11	21	16	20

14. Would you like to see the Democrats or the Republicans control the New Jersey state legislature?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Democrats	51%	4%	91%	38%	46%	57%	47%	36%
Republicans	32	88	3	35	38	27	40	47
DK/NA	16	8	7	27	16	17	13	16
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Democrats	48%	57%	56%	46%	36%	48%	42%	69%
Republicans	31	30	31	37	51	35	43	13
DK/NA	21	13	14	17	13	16	15	18

15. Which of these is the most important issue to you in deciding how to vote for governor this year: taxes, the economy, education, the budget, health care, or ethics in government?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Taxes	25%	44%	12%	29%	27%	22%	27%	34%
Economy	19	18	16	23	22	16	18	14
Education	18	5	26	16	17	19	14	12
Budget	7	10	6	5	8	5	10	6
Health care	15	9	23	10	9	21	13	15
Ethics in government	13	12	13	14	13	13	14	16
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	-	2	1	2	1	2	2
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Taxes	15%	20%	28%	31%	33%	28%	30%	14%
Economy	25	17	21	16	17	15	16	26
Education	30	34	7	9	12	14	13	29
Budget	3	4	8	10	11	6	8	3
Health care	13	11	18	16	9	18	14	17
Ethics in government	12	11	15	15	14	16	15	10
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	1
DK/NA	-	1	1	3	1	2	2	1

16. Do you think Cory Booker should run for President in 2020 or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes/Should	33%	7%	54%	25%	26%	40%	34%	24%
No	54	81	30	65	62	45	54	63
DK/NA	13	12	16	11	12	15	12	13

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Yes/Should	36%	38%	34%	27%	23%	36%	29%	41%
No	44	55	54	58	67	51	58	44
DK/NA	20	6	11	15	11	14	12	14