

FOR RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

**DEM HAS HUGE LEAD IN NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR'S RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
GUADAGNO'S TIES TO CHRISTIE ARE BIG NEGATIVE**

In the race for New Jersey governor, Democrat Phil Murphy leads Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno 58 – 33 percent among likely voters, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Murphy leads Guadagno among every party, gender, education, age and racial group listed, except Republicans, who back Guadagno 78 – 16 percent; white voters with no college degree, who are divided with 46 percent for Guadagno and 42 percent for Murphy, and white men who are split with 46 percent for Murphy and 45 percent for Guadagno, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds.

This survey of likely voters can not be compared to earlier surveys of registered voters.

New Jersey likely voters have a 37 – 18 percent favorable opinion of Murphy, with 43 percent who haven't heard enough about him to form an opinion. Guadagno gets a negative 25 – 33 percent favorability, with 40 percent who haven't heard enough to form an opinion.

Taxes is the most important issue in deciding their vote for governor, 30 percent of likely voters say, as 15 percent list the economy; 13 percent cite education and 11 percent say health care.

“As far as candidate qualifications go, New Jersey is holding a stealth election. Democrat Phil Murphy swamps Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, but about 40 percent of voters don't know much about either of them,” said Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“Each of them dominates among their own party's voters, but Murphy gets more Democrats and there are more of them to get in very blue New Jersey.

“Predictably, taxes are the number one voter concern.

“Working for Goldman Sachs hurts Murphy a little. Serving as lieutenant governor to Gov. Chris Christie hurts Guadagno a lot more.

“Are New Jersey voters buying a pig in a poke? It will be an interesting governorship.”

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For 47 percent of New Jersey likely voters, Guadagno's role as lieutenant governor to Gov. Christopher Christie has a negative impact on their opinion of her. Another 11 percent say it has a positive impact and 40 percent say it doesn't matter.

Murphy's 23 years at Goldman Sachs creates a negative impact on the opinion of 30 percent of likely voters. For 6 percent, it has a positive impact and 60 percent say it doesn't matter.

From September 7 – 12, Quinnipiac University surveyed 875 New Jersey likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

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

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1. 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? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Phil Murphy the Democrat or Kim Guadagno the Republican?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Murphy	58%	16%	95%	50%	51%	64%	57%	42%
Guadagno	33	78	4	36	39	28	36	46
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	-	-	5	4	-	2	1
DK/NA	7	6	1	10	6	9	5	10

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Murphy	71%	62%	58%	51%	46%	57%	51%	74%
Guadagno	25	32	33	38	45	34	40	17
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	4	2	1	1	3	-	2	2
DK/NA	-	4	8	10	5	9	7	6

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	37%	16%	59%	30%	36%	37%	39%	27%
Unfavorable	18	34	4	23	25	13	22	26
Hvn't hrd enough	43	48	36	44	38	47	38	47
REFUSED	2	2	1	4	1	3	1	-

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Favorable	35%	43%	38%	32%	32%	37%	35%	41%
Unfavorable	14	15	22	17	30	17	23	7
Hvn't hrd enough	51	37	39	49	37	46	41	46
REFUSED	-	5	1	3	-	1	1	6

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	25%	51%	11%	25%	31%	21%	32%	33%
Unfavorable	33	10	52	30	33	32	37	29
Hvn't hrd enough	40	37	36	41	33	45	30	36
REFUSED	2	2	1	3	3	2	1	2

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Favorable	21%	21%	28%	28%	38%	27%	32%	10%
Unfavorable	27	39	35	28	34	34	34	31
Hvn't hrd enough	52	38	35	40	26	39	32	56
REFUSED	-	2	2	4	2	1	2	3

12. 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, the environment, race relations, or ethics in government?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Taxes	30%	38%	20%	34%	30%	29%	25%	38%
Economy	15	23	14	12	20	11	19	16
Education	13	8	20	12	9	17	16	4
Budget	7	11	4	8	7	6	6	12
Health care	11	7	18	8	7	15	9	8
Environment	5	-	4	7	6	4	6	6
Race relations	3	1	2	3	3	2	1	1
Ethics in government	10	9	11	10	10	10	13	9
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	3	1	2	3	4	2	2	2
DK/NA	3	2	5	3	3	4	1	3

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Taxes	12%	27%	29%	37%	30%	31%	31%	25%
Economy	12	16	17	12	21	14	18	9
Education	21	21	11	7	7	15	11	19
Budget	8	9	6	7	10	7	9	3
Health care	11	7	15	10	6	12	9	18
Environment	10	4	4	8	7	5	6	4
Race relations	1	2	4	2	1	-	1	7
Ethics in government	20	12	8	9	13	10	12	8
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	-	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
DK/NA	4	-	3	7	1	3	2	5

13. As you may know, Phil Murphy worked for Goldman Sachs for 23 years. Does this have a positive impact on your opinion of Phil Murphy, a negative impact, or does it have no impact on your opinion of Phil Murphy?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Positive	6%	7%	5%	7%	7%	5%	8%	2%
Negative	30	22	26	37	33	28	35	30
No impact	60	69	65	52	56	64	55	63
DK/NA	4	2	3	4	5	3	2	4

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Positive	3%	7%	7%	5%	6%	6%	6%	7%
Negative	34	34	29	25	36	30	33	24
No impact	62	56	62	62	56	61	58	64
DK/NA	-	4	1	8	3	3	3	5

14. As you may know, Kim Guadagno has been Chris Christie's lieutenant governor for about eight years. Does this have a positive impact on your opinion of Kim Guadagno, a negative impact, or does it have no impact on your opinion of Kim Guadagno?

LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Positive	11%	30%	2%	9%	14%	8%	14%	16%
Negative	47	13	70	47	46	48	51	35
No impact	40	57	27	42	38	42	34	47
DK/NA	2	-	1	2	2	2	-	2

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Positive	14%	7%	9%	14%	18%	12%	15%	2%
Negative	53	57	48	36	44	46	45	53
No impact	33	36	41	47	38	40	39	43
DK/NA	-	-	1	3	-	2	1	2