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**NJ GOVERNOR'S RACE: SHERRILL LEADS CIATTARELLI BY 8 POINTS,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NEW JERSEY POLL FINDS;
TAXES & ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT TOP LIST OF MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES**

In the closely watched race for governor of New Jersey, Democrat Mikie Sherrill receives 49 percent support, Republican Jack Ciattarelli receives 41 percent support, and Libertarian Party candidate Vic Kaplan and Socialist Worker Party candidate Joanne Kuniansky each receive 1 percent support, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University New Jersey poll of likely voters released today. Six percent are either undecided (4 percent) or did not provide a response (2 percent).

Democrats (93 – 3 percent) back Sherrill, while Republicans (90 – 5 percent) back Ciattarelli. Independents are mixed, with 45 percent backing Sherrill and 41 percent backing Ciattarelli.

Men are mixed, with 48 percent backing Ciattarelli and 44 percent backing Sherrill. Women 55 – 35 percent back Sherrill.

2-WAY RACE

Without third party candidates included, Sherrill would receive 51 percent support among likely voters and Ciattarelli would receive 42 percent support. Seven percent are either undecided (5 percent) or did not provide a response (2 percent).

ENTHUSIASM

Likely voters were asked about their enthusiasm level for their chosen candidate.

Among likely voters backing Ciattarelli, 88 percent say they are either very enthusiastic (48 percent) or somewhat enthusiastic (40 percent).

Among likely voters backing Sherrill, 85 percent say they are either very enthusiastic (37 percent) or somewhat enthusiastic (48 percent).

FAVORABILITY

Likely voters were asked whether they had a favorable or unfavorable opinion of:

- Sherrill: 40 percent favorable, 29 percent unfavorable, 29 percent haven't heard enough about her;
- Ciattarelli: 40 percent favorable, 39 percent unfavorable, 21 percent haven't heard enough about him.

PERSONAL TRAITS

Likely voters were asked whether they would say that the candidates care about the needs and problems of people like them, have good leadership skills, and are honest.

Cares about the needs and problems of people like you:

- Sherrill: 50 percent say yes, 35 percent say no, 15 percent did not offer an opinion;
- Ciattarelli: 44 percent say yes, 43 percent say no, 13 percent did not offer an opinion.

Good leadership skills:

- Sherrill: 52 percent say yes, 26 percent say no, 22 percent did not offer an opinion;
- Ciattarelli: 44 percent say yes, 35 percent say no, 21 percent did not offer an opinion.

Honest:

- Sherrill: 49 percent say yes, 24 percent say no, 27 percent did not offer an opinion;
- Ciattarelli: 38 percent say yes, 37 percent say no, 26 percent did not offer an opinion.

“With just under seven weeks to go, the race for the Trenton State House leans Sherrill’s way as Ciattarelli lags on three key character issues: honesty, empathy and leadership,” said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE

Given a list of 11 issues and asked which is the most important one in deciding who to vote for in the election for governor, taxes (30 percent) top the list followed by ethics in government (14 percent), with no other issue reaching double digits.

There are wide differences along party lines.

Among Republicans, taxes (40 percent) top the list, followed by immigration (13 percent) and crime (11 percent).

Among Democrats, the top issues are ethics in government (20 percent), health care (18 percent), taxes (17 percent), and inflation (12 percent).

Among independents, taxes (37 percent) top the list followed by ethics in government (15 percent), with no other issue reaching double digits.

PROPERTY TAXES

Likely voters were asked which candidate they think would do a better job handling property taxes in New Jersey, regardless of how they intend to vote.

Forty-six percent say Ciattarelli, while 40 percent say Sherrill and 14 percent did not offer an opinion.

“With taxes topping the most important issue list, likely Garden State voters see Ciattarelli as slightly better suited to take on the perennial voter worry of property taxes,” added Malloy.

ELECTRICITY COSTS

Likely voters were asked which candidate they think would do a better job handling electricity costs in New Jersey, regardless of how they intend to vote.

Forty-two percent say Sherrill, while 40 percent say Ciattarelli and 17 percent did not offer an opinion.

SATISFACTION

Likely voters in New Jersey are split on their satisfaction with the way things are going in the state.

Forty-nine percent of likely voters are either very satisfied (8 percent) or somewhat satisfied (41 percent) with the way things are going in New Jersey today, while 49 percent are either somewhat dissatisfied (22 percent) or very dissatisfied (27 percent).

PRESIDENT TRUMP

Forty-one percent of likely voters in New Jersey approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president, while 55 percent disapprove.

When it comes to issues affecting New Jersey, 50 percent of likely voters would like to see the next governor mainly stand up to President Trump, while 47 percent would like to see the next governor mainly work with President Trump.

JOB APPROVALS

Forty-eight percent of likely voters approve of the way Phil Murphy is handling his job as governor, while 44 percent disapprove.

Forty-six percent of likely voters approve of the way Cory Booker is handling his job as United States Senator, while 43 percent disapprove.

Forty-six percent of likely voters approve of the way Andy Kim is handling his job as United States Senator, while 27 percent disapprove and 27 percent did not offer an opinion.

1,238 New Jersey likely voters were surveyed from September 11th – 15th with a margin of error of +/- 3.9 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are based on probability-based samples using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.

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Email poll@qu.edu or follow us on X [@QuinnipiacPoll](https://twitter.com/QuinnipiacPoll).

1. If the election for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Mikie Sherrill the Democrat, Jack Ciattarelli the Republican, Vic Kaplan the Libertarian Party candidate, and Joanne Kuniansky the Socialist Worker Party candidate, for whom would you vote? (INCLUDES LEANERS)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Sherrill	49%	5%	93%	45%	44%	55%
Ciattarelli	41	90	3	41	48	35
Kaplan	1	1	-	3	2	-
Kuniansky	1	-	2	1	1	1
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDECIDED (VOL)	4	2	1	8	4	5
REFUSED	2	3	1	2	1	3

	MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE TO YOUR VOTE Q9				
	Taxes	Infla- tion	Immig- ration	Health Care	Ethics InGovt
Sherrill	29%	58%	39%	80%	78%
Ciattarelli	65	20	57	7	17
Kaplan	1	2	3	-	2
Kuniansky	-	-	-	9	1
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	1	-	-	-
UNDECIDED (VOL)	3	9	2	2	1
REFUSED	1	10	-	2	2

1a. (If candidate chosen q1) Would you say you are very enthusiastic about supporting (candidate of choice), somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....		
	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1...		
	Tot	Sherrill	Ciattarelli
Very enthusiastic	41%	37%	48%
Smwht enthusiastic	45	48	40
Not so enthusiastic	8	8	6
Not enthous at all	4	4	3
DK/NA	2	2	2

1b. (If candidate chosen q1) How likely is it that you will change your mind about your choice for governor before the election; very likely, somewhat likely, not so likely, or not likely at all?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....		
	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1...		
	Tot	Sherrill	Ciattarelli
Very likely	1%	1%	1%
Somewhat likely	10	9	8
Not so likely	16	18	15
Not likely at all	71	72	74
DK/NA	1	1	2

1c. If the only candidates were Mikie Sherrill the Democrat and Jack Ciattarelli the Republican, for whom would you vote? (INCLUDES LEANERS) (Results based on total sample, only asked of respondents who did not choose Sherrill or Ciattarelli q1. Respondents who named Sherrill or Ciattarelli in q1 assigned to initial preference.)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Sherrill	51%	5%	95%	46%	45%	56%
Ciattarelli	42	90	3	44	50	35
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDECIDED (VOL)	5	2	1	9	4	6
REFUSED	2	3	1	2	1	3

	MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE TO YOUR VOTE Q9				
	Taxes	Infla- tion	Immig- ration	Health Care	Ethics InGovt
Sherrill	29%	58%	39%	89%	79%
Ciattarelli	66	22	60	7	17
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	1	-	-	-
UNDECIDED (VOL)	3	9	2	2	2
REFUSED	1	10	-	2	2

2. Is your opinion of Mikie Sherrill favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	40%	6%	74%	36%	34%	45%
Unfavorable	29	66	4	25	32	27
Hvn't hrd enough	29	28	21	37	33	26
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	1	2

3. Is your opinion of Jack Ciattarelli favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	40%	84%	5%	39%	44%	36%
Unfavorable	39	4	76	31	33	44
Hvn't hrd enough	21	11	20	28	23	19
REFUSED	1	1	-	1	1	1

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Phil Murphy is handling his job as governor?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	48%	9%	84%	46%	43%	52%
Disapprove	44	83	9	47	49	39
DK/NA	8	8	7	7	8	8

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	46%	6%	83%	42%	41%	51%
Disapprove	43	86	9	44	51	36
DK/NA	11	8	8	14	8	13

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Andy Kim is handling his job as United States Senator?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	46%	20%	72%	44%	43%	49%
Disapprove	27	53	7	27	32	23
DK/NA	27	27	21	30	26	28

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	41%	90%	2%	40%	48%	34%
Disapprove	55	8	97	52	48	61
DK/NA	5	2	1	8	4	5

8. 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?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very satisfied	8%	4%	14%	6%	4%	12%
Smwht satisfied	41	13	66	40	38	43
Smwht dissatisfied	22	28	12	27	28	17
Very dissatisfied	27	54	6	26	29	26
DK/NA	2	1	1	2	1	2

9. Which of these is the most important issue to you in deciding who to vote for in the election for governor: taxes, inflation, immigration, crime, unemployment, health care, schools, electricity costs, affordable housing, mass transit, or ethics in government?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Taxes	30%	40%	17%	37%	35%	25%
Inflation	9	7	12	8	6	12
Immigration	8	13	6	7	8	9
Crime	5	11	2	4	7	3
Unemployment	1	-	2	1	1	2
Health care	9	1	18	7	6	12
Schools	6	5	8	5	4	7
Electricity costs	4	6	3	3	4	4
Affordable housing	6	4	8	6	5	8
Mass transit	1	-	2	1	2	-
Ethics in government	14	7	20	15	16	13
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	2	1	3	3	2
DK/NA	3	3	2	3	2	4

10. Would you say that Mikie Sherrill - cares about the needs and problems of people like you, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	50%	21%	82%	43%	44%	55%
No	35	66	9	36	39	31
DK/NA	15	13	9	21	17	14

11. Would you say that Jack Ciattarelli - cares about the needs and problems of people like you, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	44%	87%	8%	46%	47%	40%
No	43	8	78	37	38	47
DK/NA	13	5	14	17	14	12

12. Would you say that Mikie Sherrill - has good leadership skills, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	52%	23%	82%	48%	48%	55%
No	26	55	6	23	30	23
DK/NA	22	22	12	29	21	22

13. Would you say that Jack Ciattarelli - has good leadership skills, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	44%	81%	15%	46%	48%	41%
No	35	10	61	29	29	40
DK/NA	21	8	24	26	23	19

14. Would you say that Mikie Sherrill - is honest, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	49%	21%	78%	44%	44%	54%
No	24	47	6	23	30	19
DK/NA	27	32	16	32	26	27

15. Would you say that Jack Ciattarelli - is honest, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	38%	71%	13%	36%	42%	33%
No	37	12	62	34	33	40
DK/NA	26	18	26	30	25	27

16. Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think would do a better job handling - electricity costs in New Jersey: Mikie Sherill or Jack Ciattarelli?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Sherrill	42%	8%	79%	35%	37%	47%
Ciattarelli	40	77	7	44	44	37
DK/NA	17	15	14	20	19	16

17. Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think would do a better job handling - property taxes in New Jersey: Mikie Sherill or Jack Ciattarelli?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Sherrill	40%	7%	77%	30%	33%	46%
Ciattarelli	46	86	10	52	55	39
DK/NA	14	7	13	18	12	15

18. When it comes to issues affecting New Jersey, would you like to see the next governor mainly stand up to President Trump or would you like to see the next governor mainly work with President Trump?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Stand up to	50%	8%	91%	43%	42%	57%
Work with	47	91	6	53	53	42
DK/NA	3	2	2	4	5	1