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**FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 10, 2013**

**CHRISTIE HOLDS ALMOST 2-1 LEAD IN NEW JERSEY GOV RACE,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
VOTERS SAY OVERRIDE GOV VETO ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

Despite strong support for same-sex marriage, which New Jersey Gov. Christopher Christie is blocking, likely voters back the Republican governor 62 – 33 percent over State Sen. Barbara Buono, his Democratic challenger, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This is little changed from Christie’s 64 – 30 percent lead in a September 25 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

In today’s survey, women back Christie 59 – 36 percent, while men back him 64 – 30 percent. Christie leads 91 – 7 percent among Republicans and 71 – 22 percent among independent voters, while Democrats go to Sen. Buono 67 – 28 percent.

Only 4 percent of likely voters are undecided and 7 percent of those who name a candidate say there’s a “good chance” they will change their mind in the next four weeks.

New Jersey likely voters give Christie a 63 – 31 percent favorability rating. Buono gets a negative 29 – 35 percent favorability, with 34 percent who haven’t heard enough about her to form an opinion.

“Is sisterhood kaput in this election? Sen. Barbara Buono has been out front on women’s issues long before she was a candidate, but Gov. Christopher Christie has a huge 23-point lead among women voters, part of his 2-1 dominance overall,” said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“Maybe their debate will boost her recognition, but one third of New Jersey voters still don’t know enough about Sen. Buono to make an up-or-down decision.”

**-more-**

## **Quinnipiac University Poll/October 10, 2013 – page 2**

New Jersey likely voters say 61 – 32 percent that Gov. Christie should drop his appeal of a state judge’s ruling that same-sex couples have the right to marry in the Garden State. Republican voters support Christie’s appeal 49 – 42 percent. Opposition to the appeal is 79 – 17 percent among Democrats and 58 – 33 percent among independent voters.

Women say drop the appeal 67 – 26 percent and men agree 54 – 39 percent.

Voters also say 59 – 33 percent that the State Legislature should override Christie’s veto of a bill allowing same-sex marriage in New Jersey. Supporting an override are Democrats, 79 – 18 percent, and independent voters, 57 – 35 percent. Republicans oppose the override 52 – 39 percent.

“New Jersey likely voters support same-sex marriage any way they can get it. By almost 2-1, including a lot of Republicans, they want Gov. Christie to drop his appeal of a judge’s ruling so same-sex couples can marry in the Garden State,” Carroll said.

“And if Christie won’t get out of the way, voters say, the State Legislature should push him aside by overriding his veto of legislation which passed both houses in February 2012.”

From October 5 – 7, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,144 New Jersey likely voters in the election for governor, 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 Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia 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](#).**

2. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Barbara Buono the Democrat and Chris Christie the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Buono or Christie? (Table includes leaners) (\* Subgroup size less than 75, additional caution should be taken when interpreting findings of this group because of the large margin of error)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk*
Buono	33%	7%	67%	22%	30%	36%	29%	70%
Christie	62	91	28	71	64	59	67	23
SOMEONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	2	1	-	1	4
DK/NA	4	1	4	5	4	5	3	3

TREND: If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Barbara Buono the Democrat and Chris Christie the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Buono or Christie? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 10 2013	Sep 25 2013
Buono	33	30
Christie	62	64
SOMEONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1
DK/NA	4	5

2a. (If candidate chosen q2) Will you definitely vote for (Candidate of choice), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for (Candidate not chosen)? IF CHANGE MIND: Would you say there's a good chance you'll change your mind, or would you say it's pretty unlikely?

	LIKELY VOTERS. ....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q2.....		
	Tot	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q2	
Buono		Christie	
Def vote for cand	87%	88%	86%
Unlikely to change	6	6	6
Good chance change	7	6	7
DK/NA	1	1	1

TREND: (If candidate chosen) Will you definitely vote for (Candidate of choice), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for (Candidate not chosen)? IF CHANGE MIND: Would you say there's a good chance you'll change your mind, or would you say it's pretty unlikely?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 10 2013	Sep 25 2013
Def vote for cand	87	86
Unlikely to change	6	5
Good chance change	7	8
DK/NA	1	1

2b. (If candidate chosen q2b) 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 Q2.....		
	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q2		
	Tot	Buono	Christie
Very enthusiastic	48%	39%	53%
Somewht enthusiastic	41	47	38
Not so enthusiastic	7	8	6
Not enthus at all	3	5	3
DK/NA	-	1	-

TREND: (If candidate chosen) Would you say you are very enthusiastic about supporting (Candidate of choice), somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 10	Sep 25
	2013	2013
Very enthusiastic	48	50
Somewht enthusiastic	41	37
Not so enthusiastic	7	8
Not enthus at all	3	4
DK/NA	-	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	63%	89%	36%	71%	66%	61%
Unfavorable	31	11	56	23	31	31
Hvn't hrd enough	2	-	3	2	1	3
REFUSED	4	-	5	3	2	5

TREND: Is your opinion of Chris Christie favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 10	Sep 25
	2013	2013
Favorable	63	67
Unfavorable	31	27
Hvn't hrd enough	2	2
REFUSED	4	4

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	29%	5%	56%	21%	27%	30%
Unfavorable	35	61	10	39	38	32
Hvn't hrd enough	34	32	33	38	33	36
REFUSED	2	2	1	2	2	2

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

	LIKELY VOTERS	
	Oct 10 2013	Sep 25 2013
Favorable	29	23
Unfavorable	35	36
Hvn't hrd enough	34	40
REFUSED	2	1

12. As you may know, a state judge recently ruled that same-sex couples have the right to marry in New Jersey. Governor Christie opposes same-sex marriage and is appealing the decision to the State Supreme Court. Do you think Governor Christie should appeal the decision or drop his appeal and allow same-sex couples to get married in New Jersey?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Should Appeal	32%	49%	17%	33%	39%	26%
Drop Appeal	61	42	79	58	54	67
DK/NA	7	8	4	9	7	8

13. As you may know, the state legislature has passed a bill that would allow same-sex couples to get married in New Jersey. Governor Christie has vetoed that bill. Do you think the state legislature should override Governor Christie's veto so that same-sex couples are allowed to get married in New Jersey or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Override veto	59%	39%	79%	57%	54%	64%
No	33	52	18	35	39	28
DK/NA	8	9	3	8	7	8