
FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 15, 2025

**NJ GOVERNOR'S RACE: SHERRILL 50%, CIATTARELLI 44%,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NEW JERSEY POLL FINDS;
CIATTARELLI HOLDS EDGE ON ENTHUSIASM**

Less than three weeks until Election Day, in the New Jersey gubernatorial race, Democrat Mikie Sherrill holds a slight lead over Republican opponent Jack Ciattarelli as 50 percent of likely voters back Sherrill, 44 percent back Ciattarelli, and 1 percent each back Libertarian Party candidate Vic Kaplan and Socialist Worker Party candidate Joanne Kuniansky, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University New Jersey poll of likely voters released today.

This compares to Quinnipiac University's September 17 poll when Sherrill received 49 percent support, Ciattarelli received 41 percent support, and Kuniansky and Kaplan each received 1 percent support.

In today's poll, Democrats 92 – 4 percent back Sherrill, while Republicans 94 – 5 percent back Ciattarelli. Among independents, 48 percent back Ciattarelli and 42 percent back Sherrill.

Women 57 – 36 percent back Sherrill, while men 53 – 42 percent back Ciattarelli.

“While Jack Ciattarelli holds a fairly solid eleven percentage point lead among male voters, Mikie Sherrill has nearly double that lead with female voters,” said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

ENTHUSIASM

Among likely voters backing Ciattarelli, 91 percent say they are either very enthusiastic (55 percent) or somewhat enthusiastic (36 percent) about supporting him.

Among likely voters backing Sherrill, 86 percent say they are either very enthusiastic (42 percent) or somewhat enthusiastic (44 percent) about supporting her.

“The raucous debates are done, the attack ads are everywhere, and the race is close, with Sherrill holding a slight advantage. As the clock ticks down to Election Day, voter enthusiasm will translate into turnout. For the moment, in that category, Ciattarelli has an edge,” added Malloy.

FAVORABILITY

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

- Sherrill: 43 percent favorable, 38 percent unfavorable, 18 percent haven't heard enough about her;
- Ciattarelli: 39 percent favorable, 46 percent unfavorable, 13 percent haven't heard enough about him.

This compares to Quinnipiac University's September 17 poll:

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

PROPERTY TAXES

Likely voters were asked whether they think property taxes will go up, go down, or stay about the same if either Ciattarelli or Sherrill is elected governor.

If Ciattarelli is elected governor, 37 percent think property taxes will go up, 14 percent think property taxes will go down, and 40 percent think property taxes will stay about the same.

If Sherrill is elected governor, 44 percent think property taxes will go up, 5 percent think property taxes will go down, and 45 percent think property taxes will stay about the same.

HANDLING OF ISSUES

Likely voters were asked, regardless of how they intend to vote, who they think would do a better job of...

- Handling the state's schools: 50 percent say Sherrill, 41 percent say Ciattarelli, with 9 percent not offering an opinion;
- Handling New Jersey Transit: 48 percent say Sherrill, 38 percent say Ciattarelli, with 14 percent not offering an opinion;
- Keeping you and your family safe: 45 percent say Sherrill, 45 percent say Ciattarelli, with 10 percent not offering an opinion;
- Growing the state's economy: 44 percent say Sherrill, 47 percent say Ciattarelli, with 8 percent not offering an opinion.

HONESTY & EMPATHY

Likely voters were asked, regardless of how they intend to vote, who do they think is more honest:

- 45 percent say Sherrill, 38 percent say Ciattarelli, with 17 percent not offering an opinion.

Likely voters were asked, regardless of how they intend to vote, who do they think better understands the problems of people like them:

- 49 percent say Sherrill, 41 percent say Ciattarelli, with 10 percent not offering an opinion.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUNDS

Likely voters were asked about the candidates' backgrounds and whether each item listed makes them think more favorably about the candidate, less favorably, or does not have an impact on their view.

Sherrill:

She served nine years in the U.S. Navy, retiring with the rank of lieutenant:

- 61 percent say it makes them think more favorably of her, while 6 percent say it makes them think less favorably of her, and 32 percent say it doesn't have an impact on their view of her.

She is a lawyer and worked as a federal prosecutor in New Jersey:

- 46 percent say it makes them think more favorably of her, while 13 percent say it makes them think less favorably of her, and 40 percent say it doesn't have an impact on their view of her.

She has served for six years in the United States Congress:

- 46 percent say it makes them think more favorably of her, while 17 percent say it makes them think less favorably of her, and 36 percent say it doesn't have an impact on their view of her.

Ciattarelli:

He held local political offices dating back to 1990, including seven years in the state assembly:

- 34 percent say it makes them think more favorably of him, while 9 percent say it makes them think less favorably of him, and 55 percent say it doesn't have an impact on their view of him.

He is the former owner of a medical publishing company:

- 15 percent say it makes them think more favorably of him, while 18 percent say it makes them think less favorably of him, and 64 percent say it doesn't have an impact on their view of him.

He ran two previous campaigns for governor:

- 17 percent say it makes them think more favorably of him, while 23 percent say it makes them think less favorably of him, and 58 percent say it doesn't have an impact on their view of him.

“How important is the resume? While both candidates have had varied, successful, and impactful careers, Mikie Sherrill's military service as a naval aviator seems to hit home with voters most,” added Malloy.

1,327 New Jersey likely voters were surveyed from October 9th – 13th with a margin of error of +/- 3.6 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.

Visit poll.qu.edu or www.facebook.com/quinnipiacpoll
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 ALREADY VOTED AND LEANERS)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Sherrill	50%	5%	92%	42%	42%	57%
Ciattarelli	44	94	4	48	53	36
Kaplan	1	1	-	1	1	-
Kuniansky	1	-	1	1	1	1
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDECIDED (VOL)	2	-	1	6	3	2
REFUSED	2	-	2	2	1	3

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	47%	42%	55%
Smwht enthusiastic	41	44	36
Not so enthusiastic	8	9	6
Not enthous at all	4	5	2
DK/NA	1	1	1

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	2%	2%	2%
Somewhat likely	6	5	5
Not so likely	13	14	11
Not likely at all	79	79	81
DK/NA	1	1	-

1c. If the only candidates were Mikie Sherrill the Democrat and Jack Ciattarelli the Republican, for whom would you vote? (INCLUDES ALREADY VOTED AND 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%	93%	43%	42%	58%
Ciattarelli	44	94	4	49	54	36
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNDECIDED (VOL)	2	-	1	6	3	2
REFUSED	2	-	2	2	1	3

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	43%	9%	79%	33%	36%	48%
Unfavorable	38	78	5	41	46	32
Hvn't hrd enough	18	12	16	25	17	18
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	39%	86%	4%	40%	44%	35%
Unfavorable	46	6	81	41	41	50
Hvn't hrd enough	13	8	14	17	14	13
REFUSED	2	1	1	2	1	2

4. Is your opinion of the Republican party favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about it?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	39%	90%	5%	36%	46%	34%
Unfavorable	52	7	91	50	48	56
Hvn't hrd enough	6	2	4	10	4	8
REFUSED	2	1	-	4	2	2

5. Is your opinion of the Democratic party favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about it?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	41%	4%	84%	28%	31%	49%
Unfavorable	50	93	10	57	62	40
Hvn't hrd enough	7	2	5	12	6	8
REFUSED	2	1	1	3	2	3

6. If Mikie Sherrill is elected governor, do you think property taxes will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Go up	44%	70%	17%	48%	50%	38%
Go down	5	4	6	6	5	5
Stay about the same	45	22	69	38	39	50
DK/NA	7	4	8	8	5	8

7. If Jack Ciattarelli is elected governor, do you think property taxes will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Go up	37%	12%	59%	31%	30%	44%
Go down	14	31	2	13	16	12
Stay about the same	40	49	29	47	45	36
DK/NA	9	7	10	9	10	8

8. Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think would do a better job of - growing the state's economy: Jack Ciattarelli or Mikie Sherrill?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Ciattarelli	47%	93%	9%	52%	56%	40%
Sherrill	44	4	85	35	35	52
DK/NA	8	3	6	13	9	8

9. Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think would do a better job of - handling the state's schools: Jack Ciattarelli or Mikie Sherrill?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Ciattarelli	41%	88%	5%	44%	49%	35%
Sherrill	50	8	89	43	42	57
DK/NA	9	4	6	13	10	8

10. Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think would do a better job of - keeping you and your family safe: Jack Ciattarelli or Mikie Sherrill?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Ciattarelli	45%	90%	5%	51%	52%	38%
Sherrill	45	5	87	35	37	52
DK/NA	10	5	8	14	11	10

11. Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think would do a better job of - handling New Jersey Transit: Jack Ciattarelli or Mikie Sherrill?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Ciattarelli	38%	85%	5%	37%	45%	32%
Sherrill	48	5	87	43	41	54
DK/NA	14	10	9	19	14	14

12. Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think - is more honest: Jack Ciattarelli or Mikie Sherrill?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Ciattarelli	38%	80%	6%	37%	43%	33%
Sherrill	45	6	84	37	37	52
DK/NA	17	14	10	25	20	15

13. Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think - better understands the problems of people like you: Jack Ciattarelli or Mikie Sherrill?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Ciattarelli	41%	89%	4%	44%	48%	35%
Sherrill	49	6	91	42	38	59
DK/NA	10	6	5	14	13	6

14. Have you seen any of Jack Ciattarelli's television or social media advertisements for this year's election for governor, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	85%	89%	86%	82%	84%	87%
No	13	9	13	18	15	12
DK/NA	1	1	1	-	1	1

14a. Have you seen any of Jack Ciattarelli's television or social media advertisements for this year's election for governor, or not? COMBINED WITH: (If yes q14) Do they make you more likely to vote for Jack Ciattarelli, less likely to vote for Jack Ciattarelli, or don't they make a difference?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More likely	18%	42%	2%	17%	19%	18%
Less likely	28	3	53	22	21	33
No difference	39	45	31	42	44	36
Have not seen	13	9	13	18	15	12
DK/NA	2	1	1	-	1	2

15. Have you seen any of Mikie Sherrill's television or social media advertisements for this year's election for governor, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	86%	86%	87%	86%	85%	87%
No	13	13	12	14	15	13
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	-

15a. Have you seen any of Mikie Sherrill's television or social media advertisements for this year's election for governor, or not? COMBINED WITH: (If yes q15) Do they make you more likely to vote for Mikie Sherrill, less likely to vote for Mikie Sherrill, or don't they make a difference?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More likely	17%	2%	36%	11%	13%	21%
Less likely	24	52	4	23	27	21
No difference	44	31	48	49	43	44
Have not seen	13	13	12	14	15	13
DK/NA	2	2	-	3	2	1

16. (Intro q16-18: I'm going to mention a few items about Mikie Sherrill's background. For each, please tell me if it makes you think more favorably of her, less favorably of her, or doesn't it have an impact on your view of her?) She served nine years in the U.S. Navy, retiring with the rank of lieutenant.

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More favorably	61%	40%	77%	62%	61%	61%
Less favorably	6	11	2	4	7	5
No impact	32	47	21	33	30	34
DK/NA	1	2	-	1	2	-

17. (Intro at q16) She is a lawyer and worked as a federal prosecutor in New Jersey.

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More favorably	46%	16%	71%	44%	39%	52%
Less favorably	13	25	3	13	17	10
No impact	40	57	26	41	41	38
DK/NA	1	2	-	1	2	-

18. (Intro at q16) She has served for six years in the United States Congress.

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More favorably	46%	14%	79%	39%	37%	53%
Less favorably	17	31	2	21	24	12
No impact	36	52	19	40	37	35
DK/NA	1	3	-	-	2	-

19. (Intro q19-21: I'm going to mention a few items about Jack Ciattarelli's background. For each, please tell me if it makes you think more favorably of him, less favorably of him, or doesn't it have an impact on your view of him?) He held local political offices dating back to 1990, including seven years in the state assembly.

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More favorably	34%	48%	22%	38%	37%	32%
Less favorably	9	3	12	10	10	8
No impact	55	47	65	50	52	58
DK/NA	2	2	2	2	2	1

20. (Intro at q19) He is the former owner of a medical publishing company.

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More favorably	15%	24%	8%	16%	16%	14%
Less favorably	18	2	30	17	16	20
No impact	64	69	61	65	65	64
DK/NA	2	5	1	1	3	2

21. (Intro at q19) He ran two previous campaigns for governor.

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More favorably	17%	36%	4%	17%	19%	16%
Less favorably	23	4	39	23	20	26
No impact	58	57	55	59	58	58
DK/NA	1	2	1	1	3	-