

Maurice Carroll, Assistant Director,
Quinnipiac University Poll
(203) 582-5334

Rubenstein Associates, Inc.
Public Relations
Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026



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**NEW JERSEY VOTERS WANT RAIL TUNNEL, BUT NO GAS TAX HIKE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
CHRISTIE APPROVAL RATING STUCK IN TRAFFIC**

New Jersey voters support 53 – 37 percent building a new rail tunnel between the Garden State and Manhattan, with support from every region in the state, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Support for a new rail tunnel ranges from 47 – 44 percent among voters in the Philadelphia suburbs to 60 – 33 percent among suburban voters. Support is 62 – 30 percent among Democrats, 51 – 40 percent among independent voters and 47 – 41 percent among Republicans. Among the 11 percent of New Jersey voters who commute to New York City for work, support for the tunnel is 68 – 27 percent.

The rail tunnel is “very important” or “somewhat important” to the New Jersey-New York regional economy, 62 percent of voters say.

Voters oppose 58 – 39 percent increasing the gasoline tax to finance road and mass transit improvements, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds.

Opposition to a gas tax hike ranges from 53 – 41 percent among voters in the Philadelphia suburbs to 62 – 35 percent among urban voters.

“Last time, Gov. Christopher Christie didn’t want New Jersey to be stuck for most of the cost of a rail tunnel that ‘ended in Macy’s basement.’ This time, voters support the tunnel and say it will be good for the economy. We’ll have to see what sort of plan the governor will go for,” said Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“The other transportation issue, how to bail out the broke transportation trust fund, crosses the double white line for a head-on collision with a cardinal rule of New Jersey politics: Don’t hike the gas tax.”

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Opposition is 69 – 27 percent among Republicans and 59 – 39 percent among independent voters. Democrats support a tax hike 51 – 46 percent. Opposition to the gas tax hike is 54 – 46 percent among commuters and 58 – 38 percent among those who don't commute.

Gov. Christie's Approval

New Jersey voters give Gov. Christopher Christie a mixed job approval rating, as 48 percent approve and 47 percent disapprove. This compares to a 46 – 45 percent approval rating October 1 and continues an 11-month slump which began when the Bridgegate scandal broke.

Approval is 82 – 12 percent among Republicans and 51 – 45 percent among independent voters, while Democrats disapprove 74 – 20 percent.

The governor gets negative grades for handling key issues:

- 41 – 51 percent for handling the economy and jobs;
- 42 – 48 percent for handling the state budget;
- 39 – 50 percent for handling education.

“Gov. Christie's job approval numbers continue on the tepid track that started with the Bridgegate story, a dramatic contrast with the heady 2013 days when he was swooping to re-election,” Carroll said.

U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez gets a 44 – 31 percent job approval rating, with 48 – 22 percent for U.S. Sen. Cory Booker.

Sports Betting

There are large gender and age gaps as voters approve 51 – 43 percent allowing Garden State casinos and race tracks to take bets on professional and college sports. Men approve sports betting 64 – 31 percent, while women oppose it 54 – 39 percent.

Support is 63 – 31 percent among voters 18 to 34 years old, dropping to 55 – 40 percent among voters 35 to 54 years old. Voters over 55 years old are opposed 50 – 45 percent.

New Jersey should allow sports betting because of the economic benefits, 49 percent of voters say, while 44 percent say ban sports betting because it will compromise the integrity of professional and college sports.

From December 3 – 8, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,340 registered voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 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 Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado 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](#).

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	48%	82%	20%	51%	50%	45%	44%	52%	46%
Disapprove	47	12	74	45	46	48	51	44	47
DK/NA	6	6	6	4	4	7	5	4	6

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling his job as Governor? (*High also 74% Jan 2013, **Low also 44% Jun 2010)

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	APPROVE.....	
							High	Low
							Dec 10 2014	Oct 01 2014
Approve	48	46	49	49	55	74	44	
Disapprove	47	45	47	44	38	22	47	
DK/NA	6	9	5	7	7	4	10	

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	33%	37%	34%	31%	30%	35%	41%	33%	31%
Disapprove	49	45	48	52	55	43	44	51	48
DK/NA	18	18	19	18	15	21	16	15	20

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	APPROVE.....	
							High	Low
							Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014
Approve	33	30	36	19	26	44	19	
Disapprove	49	52	48	62	61	31	62	
DK/NA	18	17	15	19	13	25	19	

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	48%	23%	68%	47%	46%	50%	51%	49%	48%
Disapprove	22	46	8	21	23	22	22	24	22
DK/NA	29	32	24	32	31	28	28	28	30

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

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 06 2014	Apr 09 2014
Approve	48	47	47
Disapprove	22	27	25
DK/NA	29	26	28

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	44%	19%	62%	46%	44%	44%	48%	45%	45%
Disapprove	31	53	12	35	34	28	20	30	34
DK/NA	24	28	26	19	22	27	32	25	20

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

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 06 2014	Apr 09 2014	Apr 24 2013	Mar 27 2013	APPROVE.....	
						High	Low
						Nov 28 2012	Feb 20 2008
Approve	44	45	43	44	40	56	30
Disapprove	31	34	39	32	37	29	31
DK/NA	24	21	18	24	22	14	39

20. 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?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Very satisfied	5%	11%	3%	3%	5%	5%	7%	5%	5%
Smwht satisfied	42	61	30	45	44	41	46	44	40
Smwht dissatisfied	33	19	43	32	31	34	31	35	33
Very dissatisfied	19	9	23	20	19	19	16	15	21
DK/NA	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1

TREND: 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? (*High also 71% Feb 1999)

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 10 2013	Apr 24 2013	VERY+SMWHT SAT	
						High	Low
						Dec 26 2000*	Jun 17 2010
Very satisfied	5	4	5	9	7	10	2
Smwht satisfied	42	46	45	52	52	61	22
Smwht dissatisfied	33	30	30	28	27	21	36
Very dissatisfied	19	20	19	11	13	7	39
DK/NA	1	-	1	-	1	1	1

21. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling - the economy and jobs?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	41%	73%	19%	41%	42%	39%	44%	43%	38%
Disapprove	51	20	74	51	51	51	48	50	53
DK/NA	8	7	7	8	7	10	8	7	9

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling the economy and jobs?

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014
Approve	41	44	44
Disapprove	51	51	48
DK/NA	8	5	8

22. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling - the state budget?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	42%	74%	17%	44%	48%	37%	34%	49%	40%
Disapprove	48	21	73	45	45	51	53	46	47
DK/NA	10	5	10	12	7	13	13	5	13

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling the state budget?

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 17 2012	May 17 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Apr 11 2012	Low Dec 10 2014
Approve	42	44	46	54	54	58	42
Disapprove	48	48	45	39	38	35	48
DK/NA	10	8	9	8	8	7	10

23. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling - education?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	39%	64%	17%	44%	43%	35%	30%	40%	42%
Disapprove	50	23	76	44	46	53	58	50	46
DK/NA	12	13	8	12	12	11	13	10	12

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling education?

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 17 2012	May 17 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Mar 01 2012	Low Dec 10 2014
Approve	39	42	44	48	48	50	39
Disapprove	50	49	47	45	41	43	50
DK/NA	12	9	9	8	11	7	12

24. Would you say that Chris Christie - is honest and trustworthy or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	47%	79%	20%	52%	46%	48%	39%	46%	52%
No	46	15	73	42	47	45	51	50	41
DK/NA	7	6	6	6	7	7	10	4	7

TREND: Would you say that Chris Christie is honest and trustworthy or not?

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jan 15 2014	Jun 10 2009
Yes	47	46	43	51	42
No	46	49	50	41	20
DK/NA	7	5	7	8	38

25. Would you say that Chris Christie - cares about the needs and problems of people like you or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	47%	78%	24%	51%	47%	47%	46%	50%	46%
No	48	16	70	46	49	47	49	47	47
DK/NA	5	6	6	3	4	6	5	3	6

TREND: Would you say that Chris Christie cares about the needs and problems of people like you or not?

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jan 15 2014	Jun 10 2009
Yes	47	47	48	55	44
No	48	49	48	41	23
DK/NA	5	4	4	4	32

26. Would you say that Chris Christie - has strong leadership qualities or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	66%	90%	49%	68%	67%	65%	70%	70%	64%
No	32	8	49	30	31	32	26	30	34
DK/NA	2	2	2	2	1	3	4	1	3

TREND: Would you say that Chris Christie has strong leadership qualities or not?

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jan 15 2014	Jun 10 2009
Yes	66	68	69	74	48
No	32	30	27	23	17
DK/NA	2	3	3	3	36

27. Would you describe the state of New Jersey's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Excellent	1%	2%	1%	-	2%	-	-	2%	1%
Good	35	51	26	34	35	34	41	41	29
Not so good	44	33	48	49	44	44	38	44	48
Poor	19	12	23	16	18	20	19	13	20
DK/NA	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	-	2

TREND: Would you describe the state of New Jersey's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor? (*Low also 7% Feb 2009)

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 10 2013	Aug 12 2009	EXCLNT+GOOD...	
						High Oct 18 2001	Low Aug 12 2009*
Excellent	1	1	-	1	-	3	-
Good	35	33	35	38	7	54	7
Not so good	44	46	47	44	46	37	46
Poor	19	19	16	15	45	5	45
DK/NA	2	1	2	2	1	2	1

28. Do you think New Jersey's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Better	20%	27%	18%	18%	25%	15%	21%	23%	18%
Worse	20	10	25	20	14	25	19	17	20
The same	59	59	55	60	59	58	58	58	61
DK/NA	2	3	2	1	2	3	2	3	2

TREND: Do you think New Jersey's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same? (* Would you say that New Jersey's economy ...)

	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	Jul 10 2013	Apr 22 2009	Mar 11 2009	Jun 22 2004*
Better	20	20	19	33	8	3	21
Worse	20	23	17	14	42	61	18
The same	59	56	61	51	47	35	58
DK/NA	2	1	3	2	3	2	2

29. To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose - reducing pension benefits for new state workers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Support	46%	68%	29%	49%	51%	41%	28%	52%	47%
Oppose	45	22	64	41	42	48	61	39	44
DK/NA	9	10	7	10	7	11	11	8	9

TREND: To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose reducing pension benefits for new state workers?

	Dec 10 2014	Apr 10 2014	Apr 21 2011	Feb 10 2011
Support	46	55	63	66
Oppose	45	40	32	29
DK/NA	9	5	6	5

30. To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose - more state employee contributions for health care?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Support	65%	74%	56%	68%	67%	63%	62%	67%	66%
Oppose	27	17	37	25	28	27	29	26	27
DK/NA	8	9	7	7	6	10	8	7	8

31. To help finance road improvements and mass transportation, would you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Support	39%	27%	51%	39%	43%	36%	38%	35%	45%
Oppose	58	69	46	59	55	60	60	63	52
DK/NA	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	3

	AREA.....						
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore	COMMUTE TO NYC Yes No	
Support	35%	41%	38%	41%	39%	46%	38%
Oppose	62	56	60	53	58	54	58
DK/NA	3	2	2	6	3	-	3

TREND: To help finance road improvements and mass transportation, would you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax? (*High also 39% Jan 2010, Jan 2005)

	SUPPORT.....						
	Dec 10 2014	Aug 11 2014	Nov 10 2010	Jan 20 2010	Nov 24 2009	High Dec 10 2014*	Low Dec 11 2007
Support	39	36	35	39	37	39	24
Oppose	58	63	63	59	62	58	74
DK/NA	3	1	2	2	2	3	2

32. Do you support or oppose the building of a new railway tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Support	53%	47%	62%	51%	57%	50%	61%	53%	51%
Oppose	37	41	30	40	35	39	31	40	37
DK/NA	10	12	8	10	8	11	8	7	12

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly		COMMUTE TO NYC	
				land	Shore	Yes	No
Support	57%	60%	49%	47%	48%	68%	51%
Oppose	35	33	39	44	38	27	38
DK/NA	8	7	12	9	14	5	10

33. How important do you think it is to the regional economy of New Jersey and New York that a new railway tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan be built; very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Very important	31%	22%	38%	31%	36%	25%	27%	31%	31%
Somewhat important	31	34	32	29	29	34	26	30	35
Not so important	20	26	12	23	17	22	26	20	17
Not important at all	14	14	13	13	15	12	19	15	11
DK/NA	5	4	5	4	3	6	3	4	6

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly		COMMUTE TO NYC	
				land	Shore	Yes	No
Very important	36%	37%	26%	21%	27%	57%	27%
Somewhat important	25	34	29	31	34	18	33
Not so important	23	14	31	25	14	14	20
Not important at all	13	12	12	17	16	11	14
DK/NA	2	4	3	7	8	1	5

34. Do you commute to New York City for work or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	11%	11%	11%	11%	16%	7%	10%	19%	6%
No	89	89	88	89	84	93	90	81	94
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly	
				land	Shore
Yes	18%	14%	9%	4%	9%
No	82	86	91	96	91
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-

TREND: Do you commute to New York City for work or not?

	Dec 10 2014	Nov 17 2011	Dec 21 2010	Nov 10 2010
Yes	11	10	11	11
No	89	89	89	89
DK/NA	-	-	-	-

35. Do you support or oppose allowing betting on professional and college sports at New Jersey casinos and racetracks?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Support	51%	51%	51%	51%	64%	39%	63%	55%	45%
Oppose	43	43	44	43	31	54	31	40	50
DK/NA	6	5	5	6	4	7	5	5	5

36. Some people say there should be sports betting in New Jersey because of the economic benefits. Others say there should not be sports betting in New Jersey because it could compromise the integrity of professional and college sports. Which comes closer to your point of view?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Allow betting	49%	48%	46%	52%	62%	38%	58%	54%	44%
No betting	44	45	48	43	33	55	38	42	48
DK/NA	6	7	6	5	5	7	5	4	8