

Editor [Bryan Littel](#) [bryan.littel@patch.com](mailto:bryan.littel@patch.com)

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# Stockton Poll: Runyan-Adler Race Closer than Advertised

Runyan leads in the independent poll, but the results show the race six points closer than a disputed internal poll claimed last month.

By [Anthony Bellano](#) and [Bryan Littel](#) [Email the authors](#) | October 6, 2012

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Less than two weeks after a disputed internal poll showed Jon Runyan with a big advantage over challenger and former Cherry Hill Democratic councilwoman Shelley Adler, the first independent poll in the 3rd District House of Representatives race indicates it's closer than Runyan's pollsters indicated.

While Runyan still has a double-digit lead, according to the poll from the [Richard Stockton College of New Jersey](#) Polling Institute, it's just 10 points, rather than the [16-point gap found by private polling firm McLaughlin & Associates](#).

Runyan, the freshman Republican, polled 49 percent to Adler's 39 percent, with 12 percent of those polled still undecided.

"Candidate Adler still has an opportunity to close the lead on Runyan, though Runyan is clearly in a better position," said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

The poll of 614 likely voters, conducted from Sept. 28-Oct. 2 showed voters in the 3rd favored Runyan, President Barack Obama and U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez.

The poll indicates a 51 percent very or somewhat favorable rating for Runyan and a 26 percent somewhat or very unfavorable rating, while 21 percent of those surveyed were unsure or were unfamiliar with him.

Adler saw a very or somewhat favorability rating of 39 percent, while 26 percent of those surveyed have a somewhat or very unfavorable opinion. One-third of those surveyed are unfamiliar with Adler, or are unsure.

While only 10 percent of voters approve of Congress' job performance and 87 percent disapprove, 43 percent view Runyan's individual performance as excellent or good and 37 percent rate his performance as fair or poor.

Adler faces an uphill battle after redistricting carved Cherry Hill—her decidedly Democratic home base—out of the 3rd. The resulting district, which now includes Republican-majority Brick Township, is split close to even in registered Republicans and Democrats, but leans Republican overall.

While Monmouth University political scientist and pollster Patrick Murray told [PolitickerNJ](#) the race is the closest of all those in the state this year, it's not looking like the 50-47 split it was when Runyan defeated Adler's late husband in 2010.

"It's not anywhere near the tight race of two years ago," [Murray told PolitickerNJ](#).

In the other races, Democratic incumbent Menendez leads Republican challenger Joseph Kyrillos by a margin of 46 to 38 percent in the district, and

Democratic incumbent Obama leads Republican challenger Mitt Romney by a margin of 49 to 41 percent.

Those surveyed also rated Gov. Chris Christie's job performance, with 50 percent rating it as excellent or good and 48 percent rating his performance as fair or poor, but his overall favorability rating remains over 50 percent, at 51 percent. Fifty-seven percent of those surveyed viewed him somewhat or very favorably, and 40 percent view him somewhat or very unfavorably.

The poll was conducted via both cell phone and landline, and has a margin of error of +/- 4 percent, the college said. Those conducting the polls called from the Stockton College campus, the college said. All households on the source calling list have the same opportunity of being called because of the random digital dialing system (RDD).

Data were weighted based on United States Census demographic data.

The 3rd district is made up of Burlington and Ocean counties.

Last week, the institute released its first poll, showing [voters in the 2nd congressional district](#) favored incumbent Congressman Frank LoBiondo, Obama and Menendez.

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