



Obama and Menendez Lead In New Jersey

Christie Job Performance at 50%

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Galloway Township, NJ – President Barack Obama leads his Republican challenger Mitt Romney in New Jersey by a margin of 53 percent to 38 percent according to a poll released by the Stockton Polling Institute based on a survey of 811 likely voters.

In the race for the United States Senator from New Jersey, incumbent Democratic Senator Robert Menendez leads his Republican challenger Joseph Kyrillos by a margin of 52 to 30 percent. Kyrillos is a state senator serving in the New Jersey legislature.

Although President Obama leads Governor Mitt Romney by 15 percent, only 45 percent rate his job performance as excellent or good, while 54 percent rate his job performance as fair or poor. By comparison, only 10 percent rate the job performance of the United States Congress as excellent or good, and 88 percent as fair or poor.

“New Jersey voters currently support President Obama for re-election while still dissatisfied with his job performance. Apparently, Governor Romney has not yet made the case he is a viable alternative to President Obama,” explained Daniel J. Douglas, Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

In the Senate race, U.S. Senator Menendez is viewed favorably by 54 percent and unfavorably by 26 percent. State Senator Kyrillos is viewed favorably by 34 percent and unfavorably by 25 percent.

“Overall, Democratic incumbent Menendez benefits from having greater name recognition than his Republican challenger Kyrillos,” said Douglas. Menendez is recognized by 80 percent of the respondents while Kyrillos is only recognized by 59 percent of respondents.

When asked about the “Build Our Future Bond Act,” 72 percent of likely voters support the public question, 21 percent oppose and 8 percent are not sure/don’t know/refuse to answer.

Proponents of the “Build Our Future Bond Act” say the \$750 million will be invested in academic and research facilities in colleges and universities in New Jersey. Institutions receiving funds must provide 25 percent match of the capital funding for projects by the Bond Act.

“Certainly opinions can change, but with the less than three weeks to election day, likely New Jersey voters have expressed their strong support for the higher education bond act,” said Douglas.

By a majority, but by a lesser margin, likely New Jersey voters favor the Public Question that allows changes in compensation for judges with 62 percent favoring the change in the New Jersey Constitution, 30 percent opposed and 9 percent not sure/don’t know/refuse to answer.

Although New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is not on the ballot this year, respondents were asked about his job performance as Governor. Half of the respondents rated his job performance as excellent or good, 48 percent rated his job performance as fair or poor. Two percent responded as not sure/don’t know/refuse to answer.

Governor Christie’s favorability ratings were slightly better than his job performance numbers with 52 percent viewing him favorably, 42 percent viewing him unfavorably and 5 percent responded as not sure/don’t know/refuse to answer/unfamiliar.

Methodology

Interviews are conducted at the Stockton Polling Institute by live interviewers calling from the Stockton College campus. The poll was conducted with 811 likely voters from October 12th to October 18th. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. All prospective respondent households in the source telephone list have the same chance of joining the sample because of the random digital dialing system (RDD). The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percent at 95% confidence level. Data is weighted according to United States Census Bureau demographics for New Jersey voter age population.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for Ambassador William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College. The Hughes Center can be found at www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College and can be followed on Twitter [@hughescenter](https://twitter.com/hughescenter).