



Stockton Poll: LoBiondo Leads Hughes 44% to 38% in 2nd Congressional District Race

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Galloway Township, NJ - Incumbent Republican Congressman Frank LoBiondo leads Democratic challenger William Hughes 44 percent to 38 percent in the 2nd Congressional District, with 18 percent undecided or not expressing a choice, according to a poll commissioned by The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

"The poll captures a snapshot in time of an important race for South Jersey," said Sharon Schulman, Chief Executive Officer of External Affairs and Institutional Research.

"With a month to Election Day on Nov. 4, there are a large number of undecided voters," Schulman said.

The poll was conducted by Survey Technology & Research Center (STR). Live interviewers called both landlines and cell phones from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, 2014. The poll was conducted with 604 adults who are likely voters in New Jersey's 2nd District. The poll's margin of error is +/- 4.0 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. MOE is higher for subsets.

When respondents who are leaning toward one candidate or the other are included, LoBiondo is leading Hughes 47 percent to 42 percent.

Sixty-one percent have a favorable view of LoBiondo, with 28 percent unfavorable and 10 percent unfamiliar with him or unsure. Fifty-two percent rate the incumbent's job performance as excellent or good, and 45 percent rate it as fair or poor.

Only 9 percent rate the job performance of the U.S. Congress as a whole as good or excellent. Thirty-two percent rate it as fair, and 58 percent rate it as poor.

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Forty-six percent have a favorable view of Hughes, with 21 percent unfavorable. Nearly one in four (24 percent) are not familiar with the challenger, and 9 percent are unsure.

LoBiondo draws the most support from men and senior citizens, while Hughes is strongest among voters younger than 30 and African-American voters. LoBiondo enjoys the backing of 83 percent of Republican voters, and Hughes is backed by 71 percent of Democrats. A large 44 percent of unaffiliated respondents did not back either major-party candidate at this time.

In the race for U.S. Senate, 49 percent of 2nd District voters support incumbent Democrat Cory Booker while 40 percent support Republican challenger Jeff Bell when respondents leaning toward either candidate are included. Seventeen percent are undecided or not expressing an opinion.

Fifty-six percent hold a favorable view of Booker and 30 percent have an unfavorable view. Fifteen percent are unsure, unfamiliar with him or not expressing a choice. Forty-six percent say Booker is doing an excellent or good job, and 48 percent rate his performance as fair or poor.

Twenty-eight percent in the 2nd District are unfamiliar with Bell, and another 10 percent are unsure or refuse to answer. Thirty-eight percent hold a favorable view and 24 percent hold an unfavorable view of Bell.

Opinions on Gov. Chris Christie are almost evenly split, with 49 percent holding a favorable view and 48 percent holding an unfavorable view. Forty-five percent rate his job performance as excellent or good, and 55 percent rate it as fair or poor.

Twenty-six percent identified jobs as the most important issue facing New Jersey. Struggling Atlantic City casinos have laid off thousands of workers in the 2nd District. The issue of property taxes was named by 16 percent as most important, and 13 percent cited the economy.

A proposed state Constitutional amendment that would allow judges to deny bail to defendants who are flight risks or who pose a danger to the community is favored by 81 percent, while 14 percent oppose it.

However, respondents are split over a second proposed Constitutional amendment that would increase the portion of the existing Corporation Business Tax dedicated to environmental programs from 4 percent to 6 percent on July 1, 2019. Forty-nine percent support the proposal, while 42 percent oppose it and 10 percent are unsure.

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