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Stockton Poll of South Jersey Voters Has Corzine and Christie Seven Points Apart

Issue of Most Concern to Voters Is Taxes

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Galloway Township, NJ- Ask likely voters in much of southern New Jersey what the most important issue is in the November gubernatorial race, and more than two-thirds will tell you it is taxes, according to a Hughes Center of Public Policy at Stockton College poll. Jobs and the economy came in a distant second place at 37%.

Zogby International was commissioned by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College to conduct a telephone survey of 600 likely voters in Southern New Jersey (Legislative Districts 1-4, and 9) from September 14 to 15.

"With so many voters still undecided, we are looking at elections that are still, in many cases, unsettled," said Sharon Schulman, the Hughes Center's Executive Director.

In the race for governor 37% would vote for Chris Christie, 30% for Jon Corzine, and 9% for Chris Daggett, but a fifth of the voters are still unsure who they would vote for. Corzine does best in the 1st and 4th legislative districts (36%) and Christie's greatest support is in the 9th (46%).

When subgroups of likely voters are looked at, men favor Christie over Corzine (41% to 26%) while women split almost evenly between the two. Age also plays a factor. Corzine gets most of his support from seniors and Christie does best with 50-64 year-olds.

The poll also asked respondents questions on what may influence their choice.

One question measured the impact of the choice of lieutenant governor. 64% of likely voters said the lieutenant governor pick had little or no impact. Respondents were also asked how big impact negative campaign ads had on their choices and 65% again said they had little impact.

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When asked how much influence political corruption allegations had on their choices, the respondents were almost evenly split with 36% saying they had little or no influence and 39% saying corruption allegations had a big or huge influence. Those in the 2nd (46%) and 9th (43%) legislative districts were more likely than those in the 1st, 3rd, and 4th legislative districts. Those over 65 (43%) had a higher tendency to say that political corruption allegations influenced them than those between 30 and 64.

The poll looked at the races for General Assembly in these districts also. The margin of error is greater, however, because of the smaller subgroup size. Most notable in these results is the large per cent of people still undecided.

1st District: Albano (D) 53%, Milam (D) 37%, McCann (R) 24%, Donohue (R) 23%, Not Sure 25%.

2nd District: Polistina (R) 36%, Amodeo (R) 33%, Martinez (D) 25%, Floyd (D) 23%, Not Sure 34%.

3rd District: Burzichelli (D) 42%, Villare (R) 24%, Lucas (R) 21%, Riley (D) 21%, Not Sure 34%

4th District: Moriarity (D) 45%, DiCicco (R) 37%, Collins (D) 37%, Lawrence (R) 27%. Not Sure 22%.

9th District: Rumpf (R) 33%, Gove (R) 28%, Visotcky (D) 24%, Rue (D) 24%, Not Sure 42%.

Methodology:

The sample is 601 interviews with approximately 20 questions asked from September 14 to 15. Samples are randomly drawn from purchased lists of registered voters. Zogby International surveys employ sampling strategies in which selection probabilities are proportional to population size within area codes and exchanges. Cooperation rates are calculated using one of AAPOR's approved methodologies and are comparable to other professional public-opinion surveys conducted using similar sampling strategies. Weighting by *district, age, race and gender* is used to adjust for non-response. Margin of error is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

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