Results from Follow-up Southern New Jersey poll

Methodology

Zogby International was commissioned by Richard Stockton College to conduct a telephone survey of likely voters in Southern New Jersey (Legislative Districts 1-4, and 9).

The sample is 801 interviews with approximately 20 questions asked from 10/19/09 to 10/21/09. 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. Up to six calls are made to reach a sampled phone number. Cooperation rates are calculated using one of AAPOR's approved methodologies[1] and are comparable to other professional public-opinion surveys conducted using similar sampling strategies.[2] Weighting by *district, age, race and gender* is used to adjust for non-response. Margin of error is +/- 3.5 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Narrative Summary

4. If the election for governor was held today and the candidates were Republican Chris Christie and Democrat Jon Corzine for whom would you vote?

Christie	38%
Corzine	34
Someone else	14
Not sure	14

When Daggett is taken out of the equation, Christie receives 38% of the vote and Corzine receives 34% for a difference of four percentage points. This question was not asked in September.

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[1] See COOP4 (p.38) in Standard *Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates of Surveys.* The American Association for Public Opinion Research, (2000).

[2] *Cooperation Tracking Study: April 2003 Update*, Jane M. Sheppard and Shelly Haas. The Council for Marketing & Opinion Research (CMOR). Cincinnati, Ohio (2003).

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Christie has large leads over Corzine in the 1st (45% to 27%) and 9th (40% to 28%) legislative districts, but Corzine has slight advantages in the 2nd (38% to 34%), 3rd (37% to 32%), and 4th (40% to 38%) legislative districts.

Christie is ahead big with 30-49 year-olds (43% to 29%), while Corzine has a slight advantage with 50-64 year-olds (41% to 38%). The two are about even with the senior vote (36% for Christie and 35% for Corzine).

Christie has a large lead among those making over $100K a year (45% to 29%), and also leads with those making $75-100K (43% to 37%), and $50-75K (38% to 32%); while Corzine has a big advantage with those making under $25K (42% to 27%) and also leads with those making $35-50K (34%to 30%).

5. If the election for governor was held today and the candidates were Republican Chris Christie, Democrat Jon Corzine, and independent Christopher Daggett for whom would you vote?

	October	September
Christie	34	37
Corzine	31	30
Daggett	18	9
Someone else	2	4
Not sure	15	21

While Christie still maintains a slight lead over Corzine (34% to 31%), we see his advantage has shrunk since September when he was up 37% to 30%. We also see that Daggett's support has doubled since the last poll from 9% to 18%.

It appears Christie's Republican base may be eroding as his support among GOPers dropped from 73% in September to 60% in October. Daggett is also pulling Republican votes away from Christie as we find that his support among them has jumped from 7% to 19%.

Corzine has solidified his base, actually increasing support among Democrats from 52% in September to 59% in October, but he did lose some votes to Daggett (7% in September to 13% currently). Most of the shift came over from the undecideds which dropped from 22% last month to 13% this month.

Independents appear to be breaking for Daggett as his support doubled from 13% in September to 27% in October. He is now nearly even with Christie among this group (29% Christie, 27% Daggett). Corzine's support among the independents has remained about the same (23% in September to 21% in October). Again the shift can be attributed to the undecided voters who nearly halved from last time (30% to 19%).

When looking at the individual legislative districts we see that Corzine lost his lead over Christie in the 1st. Whereas he was leading 36% to 28% in September, Christie is now up 41% to 28%. The shift appears to come from Daggett supporters who increased from 9% to 15%, and undecided voters who fell from 26% to 14%.

In the 2nd LD, Corzine snatched the lead from Christie 34% to 29%. Last poll he was down 35% to 29%. Daggett's support doubled in this district from 7% to 17%, and undecided voters decreased from 24% to 16%.

Things have really tightened up in the 3rd LD as Christie's previous sizeable lead of 38% to 25% has evaporated. Corzine now garners 33% of the vote to Christie's 31%, and Daggett jumped from 11% to 21%. Undecided voters dropped from 20% to 13%.

Corzine has also pulled ahead in the 4th LD (36% to 31%). The two were about even in September with 37% going to Christie and 36% to Corzine. That shift can be directly attributed to the dramatic increase in support for Daggett from 4% to 17%, since the number of undecided voters changed only slightly (19% to 16%).

Christie maintains a solid lead over Corzine in the 9th LD (37% to 25%), but Daggett's gaining support has cut into that margin. Christie was leading Corzine 46% to 22% in September, but Daggett's nearly doubled his support from 12% to 23%. The number of undecided voters remained about the same (15% to 14%).

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6. The lieutenant governor candidates are Republican Kim Guadagno, Democrat Loretta Weinberg, and independent Frank Esposito. On a scale of one to five with one being no impact at all and five being a huge impact how much of an impact does the lieutenant governor's race have on you vote for governor?

	No impact (1+2)	3	Impact (4+5)	Not sure
October	66	18	12	4
September	64	17	15	5

The impact of the lieutenant governor's race has remained about the same since the September poll.

(Only asked of those in the 1st Legislative District)
7. If the 1st Legislative District election was held today and the candidates were Republican Michael Donohue, Republican John McCann, Democrat Matthew Milam, and Democrat Nelson Albano, for which two would you vote? (**Pick two**)

	October	September
McCann	49	24
Albano	44	53
Donohue	44	23
Milam	30	37
Someone else	3	2
Not sure	10	25

McCann currently garners the largest percentage of the vote with 49%, doubling the support he had last month. September's leader Albano dropped nine percentage points to 44% and is now tied with Donohue who jumped 21 percentage points since the last poll. Milam, who was leading in the race for the second seat last time around, dropped seven percentage points and now trails all the other candidates. The number of undecided voters more than halved.

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(Only asked of those in the 2nd Legislative District)
*8. If the 2nd Legislative District election was held today and the candidates were Republican John Amodeo, Republican Vincent Polistina, Democrat Jimmy Martinez, and Democrat Reginald Floyd, for which two would you vote? (**Pick two**)*

	October	September
Amodeo	44	33
Polistina	41	36
Floyd	30	23
Martinez	28	25
Someone else	6	3
Not sure	20	34

The two leaders from the last poll remain the same put have flip flopped. Amodeo jumped 11 points to receive the largest percentage of the vote with 44%. Polistina, who garnered the most support last poll, gained five percentage points, but is now second place with 41%. Floyd gained support (23% to 30%) and passed Martinez who gained three percentage points (25% to 28%). The amount of undecided voters dropped from 34% to 20%.

(Only asked of those in the 3rd Legislative District)
*9. If the 3rd Legislative District election was held today and the candidates were Republican Lee Lucas, Republican Robert Villare, Democrat John Burzichelli, and Democrat Celeste Riley, for which two would you vote? (**Pick two**)*

	October	September
Burzichelli	47	42
Riley	39	21
Villare	26	24
Lucas	24	21
Someone else	5	12
Not sure	24	34

Burzichelli solidified the lead he held last month, gaining five percentage points and now has almost half the vote (47%). Riley made a huge jump from 21% last month to 39% this month

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and now holds a solid lead on the second seat. Villare who was vying for the second seat in the last poll gained two percentage points, but now finds himself on the outside looking in as does Lucas who is pretty much in the same boat. The number of undecided voters dropped from 34% to 24%.

(Only asked of those in the 4th Legislative District)
*10. If the 4th Legislative District election was held today and the candidates were Republican Eugene Lawrence, Republican Domenick DiCicco, Democrat Paul Moriarty, and Democrat William Collins, for which two would you vote? (**Pick two**)*

	October	September
Moriarty	47	45
Collins	41	37
DiCicco	29	37
Lawrence	28	27
Someone else	4	1
Not sure	22	22

Moriarty remains in the lead picking up two percentage points and now garners nearly half the vote (47%). Collins picked up four percentage points (41%) and now maintains a sizeable lead over DiCicco who dropped eight percentage points to 29% after being tied with Collins last month 37% to 37%. Lawrence's support and position remain the same as does the number of undecided voters.

(Only asked of those in the 9th Legislative District)
*11. If the 9th Legislative District election was held today and the candidates were Republican Brian Rumpf, Republican DiAnne Gove, Democrat Richard Visotcky, and Democrat Robert Rue, for which two would you vote? (**Pick two**)*

	October	September
Rumpf	45	33
Gove	43	28
Visotcky	24	24
Rue	22	24
Someone else	3	3
Not sure	30	42

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Rumpf and Gove maintain their positions but the gap has narrowed between the two (45% to 43%). Rumpf picked up 12 percentage points since September, but Gove grabbed 15 points to close the gap from five percentage points to two.

Meanwhile the support for Vistocky and Rue remained the same as did their positions in the race. The number of undecided voters dropped from 42% to 30%.

*12. What are the two top issues facing New Jersey today? (**Choose up to two**)*

	October	September
Taxes	71	67
Jobs and the economy	39	37
Health care/insurance/ Prescription drugs	25	22
Education/Schools	17	13
Budget/Spending/Deficit	13	20
Political/government corruption	12	23
Crime/Drugs/Violence	5	6
Environment	4	2
Gas prices	2	2
Terrorism/Security	1	1
*Other	3	2
Not sure	1	1

*(Number in parentheses denotes frequency of similar response)
October:
Auto insurance (5); Seniors/Social Security (4); Infrastructure (3); Homestead rebate (2); Immigration (2)
<u>One each:</u> Farm land preservation; Fraud; Gay marriage; Abortion; Overpopulation; State pensions; The war; Unfunded mandates; Union salaries
September:
Senior care (2); <u>One each:</u> Abortion; Social Security; Water/Sewer; Illegal Immigrants; State Supreme Court; Veteran's rights

Taxes and jobs and the economy remain the top two issues facing New Jersey in this poll.

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13. On a scale of one to five, with one being no influence at all and five being a huge influence, how much do negative campaign ads influence who you vote for?

	No influence				Influence			
	1	2	Overall (1+2)	3	4	5	Overall (4+5)	NS
October	56	10	**65**	14	6	14	**20**	2
September	58	7	**65**	15	6	13	**19**	1

The influence that negative campaign ads have had on the vote remained the same from month to month.

14. On a scale of one to five, with one being no influence at all and five being a huge influence, how much do allegations of political corruption influence who you vote for?

	No influence				Influence			
	1	2	Overall (1+2)	3	4	5	Overall (4+5)	NS
October	30	11	**41**	18	12	26	**39***	2
September	29	7	**36**	24	13	26	**39**	2

*(Not all numbers add up evenly due to rounding)

There was a slight increase of five percentage points in the number of people who say that the allegations of political corruption do not influence their vote.

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