

[Home](#) [Opinion](#) [Editorials](#)

Christie can't be trusted anymore

■ Editorial | Voter confidence might still be strong but approval ratings low

[Story](#) [Comments](#)

Share Print Font Size: - +

Posted: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 12:00 am

By The Daily Targum | 0 comments

The Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics released the results of a new poll yesterday, and surprise, surprise — everyone's favorite New Jersey Governor is still dropping in the approval ratings. Gov. Chris Christie's reputation has spiraled downward over the last few months, and this statewide poll of New Jersey voters confirms that his public image is already ruined. In the unfortunate revelation that Christie was using money for Hurricane Sandy by coercing endorsements from government officials in exchange for money — in what cannot be called anything else but bullying — he revealed himself to be just as much of a bully behind the scenes, as he appeared to be in the public political arena. Every since he was voted into office in 2009, the public has recognized his strong presence and his confidence. The ratings among voters had a lot to do with his assertive and blunt personality. Frankly, people appreciate that kind of honesty in a politician.

6
 Tweet
 5
 Like

With a growing presence in American politics, which until now seemed to be gaining more and more momentum, it really wasn't too hard to see Christie as a realistic presidential candidate. Christie is not old. At 51, he seems like an inevitable candidate for a presidential run in the future. Before the revelations of the last few months, he could have had a long and successful career as a politician ahead of him, but maybe he still does.

Charisma isn't enough to maintain continued support from the public when it comes to politics. It's true that President Barack Obama won many of voters over with his eloquent and convincing style of speaking, but his actual deliverance of the promises he made are highly debatable. Many found Christie's blunt approach refreshingly honest, which is why regardless of his current reputation, we anticipate he will continue with an influential political career in the future.

From the get-go, Christie was seen as a man who, despite his political viewpoints, could be relied on as a strong and confident leader. Even though approval ratings weren't as high — polls have consistently shown that voters consider him to be "arrogant" and "a bully"— he still wins votes.

Since the recent chaos surrounding the revelations of the misallocation of Hurricane Sandy relief money and the Bridgegate scandal, Christie is hanging onto his approval ratings by a thread. But voters tend to have an already-cynical view of politics, so the threshold of tolerance is surprisingly high. Many speculate that in the long run, this will just be another forgettable mark on his record. After all, politicians like former President Bill Clinton have been forgiven for their scandalous pasts.

When Christie defeated incumbent Jon Corzine in the 2009 election, he took office during a very difficult time, particularly for our country's economy. Obama was also assuming the Oval Office, and both newly-elects were handed the overwhelming responsibility of a country dangerously close to the brink of another economic depression. Despite his low approval ratings, many still saw Christie as capable of helping to repair the state of New Jersey because of his tough personality — which is why he continues to have the support of many voters.

The fact remains that many still view Christie as a potential presidential candidate in 2016. Although other successful politicians may have "done worse" than the mess Christie is currently in, they still carried on to have a successful career. But with Christie, things are probably going to be different for a long time. Dwindling approval ratings are one thing, but what Christie really lost is the trust of many New Jersey voters, which cannot be easily replaced.

BUSY SEMESTER

Print Editions

Open publication - Free publishing

Open publication - Free publishing