

Christie's travels wearing thin with some

CAPITOL QUICKIES BLOG



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(Photo: Associated Press)

Republican Gov. Chris Christie is done with state business this week until Thursday, when he visits Ocean City for a town hall. In the meantime he'll be out-of-state campaigning for Gov. Paul LePage in Maine, Gov. Robert Brantley in Alabama, and Gov. Phil Bryant in Mississippi.

A new poll shows Christie's travel schedule is wearing thin with residents — but not if you're asking registered Republicans.

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll found that more than a third of independents and 45 percent of Democrats say Christie's travels have hurt his ability to govern effectively, but 75 percent of Republicans say the trips have had

no effect.

David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and professor of political science at Rutgers University, in a press release said Christie's travelling and fundraising for the Republican Governors Association has "conveniently taken him to some must-visit locations for 2016," referring to a potential Christie bid for the GOP presidential nomination.

The poll shows Christie's overall job approval hovering in minimally positive territory at 52 percent, well below his post-superstorm Sandy high of 73 percent. The new number is a slight dip from his 55 percent approval in April. Forty-one percent disapprove and 7 percent are unsure.

"As Gov. Christie clearly lays the groundwork for a possible presidential run, the results in New Jersey are a mixed bag," Redlawsk said. "While Christie gets a positive overall rating — one that is pretty good for a Republican in an otherwise Democratic state — concerns about specific issues are quite high and have the potential to drive down his overall support over time."

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