

# Chris Christie 'will be a candidate' in 2016, former McCain adviser predicts

## Gov. Chris Christie

by Matt Arco | October 16, 2014



Gov. Chris Christie will likely toss his hat in the ring in 2016, a senior advisor to U.S. Sen. John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign predicted Wednesday evening. (*Andre Malok/NJ Advance Media*)

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Gov. Chris Christie may not have made up his mind on 2016, but Steve Schmidt, a senior adviser to U.S. Sen. John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign, has a firm prediction.

The governor will run for the White House in 2016.

Schmidt, speaking to an audience at Rutgers' Eagleton Institute of Politics Wednesday evening, left little doubt about his thoughts on whether Christie will throw his hat in the ring. The governor says he's yet to make up his mind and will announce his decision sometime early next year.

"Obviously Chris Christie, the governor of this state, will be a candidate for president," said Schmidt.

The former McCain adviser argued the next person to win the GOP nomination for president will be a governor.

In addition to Christie, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and possibly New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez will also likely mount a presidential campaign, he said.

But before Republicans can retake the White House, the GOP needs to broaden its appeal to new voting demographics, including women and Latino voters.

"I'm not advocating for a more moderate Republican Party. I'm for a more reality-based Republican Party," Schmidt said.

Republicans will likely take control of the U.S. Senate and gain additional seats in the House of Representatives, Schmidt predicted. However, the GOP will witness losses in a few of the 36 gubernatorial races across the country, he said.

Christie, who's been stumping for GOP gubernatorial candidates as chairman of the Republican Governors Association, has been raising money and crisscrossing the country in recent months in an attempt to prevent such an outcome.

But anti-incumbent sentiment will likely claim some Republican governors, Schmidt said, including Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett, Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback, and possibly Walker.

“We’re going to see Republican governors lose a couple of seats,” he said.

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