

New Jersey Voters Cool to a Christie Bid for the White House, Poll Says

By Terrence Dopp - Apr 14, 2011

While New Jersey Governor [Chris Christie](#) may be a rising star in the [Republican Party](#), just one-fifth of the state's voters say they'd support any bid for the White House in 2012, according to [Rutgers-Eagleton](#) poll.

Only 22 percent of registered voters said they back a potential presidential run by the 48-year-old first-term Republican, the Eagleton Institute of Politics at [Rutgers University](#) said in a report today. Almost two-thirds said they oppose a Christie candidacy.

"The governor continues to deny any interest in running for president in 2012," said David Redlawsk, director of the poll and professor of political science at Rutgers, based in [New Brunswick](#), New Jersey. "Given these numbers, that's a pretty good thing. Every time we've asked about a presidential run, [New Jersey](#) voters have overwhelmingly opposed the idea."

The findings come three days after a Gallup [survey](#) showed more than half of Americans said they had no opinion of him at all. Christie has made national headlines for battling government unions and slashing spending to close a \$10.7 billion deficit without raising taxes.

The governor, speaking yesterday before the Rutgers-Eagleton poll's release, told reporters he won't run for the presidency in 2012.

"I have probably said more than a hundred times, I am not a candidate for president of the [United States](#) in 2012 and I'm not a candidate for vice president," Christie said at a press conference in Trenton, the capital. "If any of you can find any wiggle room on that, suggest to me how you do it, because I will nail the door the rest of the way shut."

Thirty-six percent of voters in the Eagleton poll said having a governor on the national stage helps New Jersey's image, while 21 percent say it hurts the state. A Christie presidential run has the backing of 44 percent of Republicans and 8 percent of Democrats.

The poll surveyed 773 registered voters by phone March 28- April 4, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

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