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The Political State

The Record's team takes on New Jersey politics

Poll reveals success of Christie's divide-and-conquer approach to organized labor

Posted by Charles Stile on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 3:30 pm | Comments



The [Rutgers University-Eagleton Institute of Politics poll](#) released today reporting the highest job performance and favorability ratings of Governor Christie's term also reveals the success of his divide-and-conquer approach to organized labor.

Christie got predictably low marks from public employee union households – 32 percent favorable compared to 46 percent unfavorable.

Christie has openly warred with public workers the minute he took office, and his success in pushing through last year's landmark bill requiring public

employees to pay significantly higher amounts toward their health and pension benefits remains a bitter milestone in their relations with Christie.

But members of private sector unions, such as skilled construction trade workers like carpenters, laborers and teamsters, hold a much more measured view of Christie, with 46 percent holding a favorable impression of the governor, compared to 43 percent with an unfavorable view.

Christie has actively courted the construction trade unions since taking office. He has backed the construction of the Revel resort in Atlantic City, the sf the American Dream Meadowlands project, formerly known as Xanadu, and endorsed the raising of the Bayonne Bridge. These projects could provide thousands of jobs for the construction trades. It also explains why most trade unions did not join State House protests mobilized against the health and pension givebacks last year.

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