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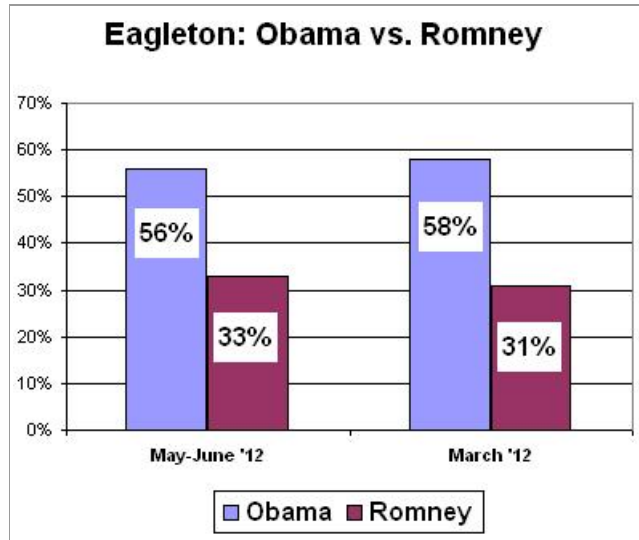
The Political State

The Record's team in Trenton takes on New Jersey politics



Poll: Obama well ahead of Romney, despite slippage

Posted by Herb Jackson on Thursday, June 14, 2012 12:01 am | Comments



President Barack Obama is still comfortably ahead of Republican nominee Mitt Romney in a head-to-head matchup, but a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released Thursday shows the Democrat's numbers slipping and the Republican's rising.

The poll found 55 percent of registered voters had a favorable opinion of Obama, which is down 5 percentage points from February. Obama's unfavorability rating was 33 percent.

Some 32 percent of New Jersey voters have a favorable impression of Romney, up 4 percentage points

since February. A larger number, 46 percent, have an unfavorable view of him.

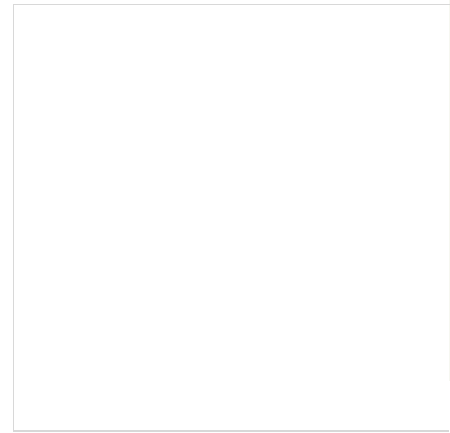
If the election were held today, 56 percent would support Obama and 33 percent would support Romney. A poll in March showed Obama winning 58 percent to 31 percent.

Women in New Jersey prefer Obama 58 percent to 30 percent; for men, it's 53 percent to 36 percent.

Eagleton Poll Director David Redlawsk said the state "is simply not competitive."

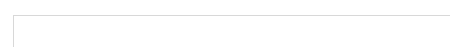
"While Obama's numbers have slipped slightly, mirroring some national trends, Romney is not yet getting enough traction here to catch up," he said.

The poll of 1,065 registered voters was taken May 31 to June 4, and has a margin of error of plus or



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minus 2.9 percentage points.

Asked about character traits they want in a candidate, voters clearly preferred Obama in every category except “strong leader,” where 46 percent preferred Romney and 45 percent Obama.

Given the choice, “strong leader” was chosen as most important by Romney voters, over a candidate to “share my values,” “care about people like me,” have “high moral character,” be “consistent in his beliefs” and “bring people together.”

Democrats, Republicans and independents said “the economy and jobs” was the most important issue. It got 61 percent support among those surveyed, followed by health care (11 percent), education (9 percent), the federal budget deficit (8 percent), homeland security and terrorism (4 percent), and immigration (1 percent). Obama was seen as best on the economy by a 53 percent to 36 percent margin.



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