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## Poll: New Jersey Mostly Shrugs at Christie's Convention Speech

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By Heather Haddon

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Associated Press

New Jersey's Chris Christie with Mitt Romney in Colorado this month.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is set to address the largest audience of his career at the Republican National Convention, but the people of New Jersey aren't much impressed by his turn on the big stage.

Nearly half of registered voters surveyed in a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll said that Christie's keynote speech on Tuesday night would do nothing to burnish the image of his home state. Just 32% felt positive about Christie's primetime speaking spot, a drop of eight percentage points from an April 2011 poll that asked if the governor's national visibility helped the state.

Mitt Romney, the soon-to-be-official Republican presidential candidate, tapped Christie for the convention's keynote speech nearly two weeks ago. Christie's prominent role might leave New Jerseyans cold, but it has elicited excitement from party delegates, among whom the New Jersey governor is seen as a rising star.

As the Journal reported at the time, Christie had already been revising a speech he planned to deliver at the GOP convention when his starring role was announced:

Mr. Christie's speech is expected to address national problems and propose solutions for moving forward, said Mike DuHaime, a top adviser to Mr. Christie who was tapped earlier this month to consult for the Romney campaign.

"He's very good at speaking hard truths that people can understand," Mr. DuHaime said.

Mr. Christie is also expected to draw on his experience in New Jersey, where he has passed major pieces of legislation by getting both parties to compromise within the Democratically controlled Legislature.

"These are no small feats," Mr. DuHaime said. "It's proof that government can work."

### About Metropolis

A blog of reporting and news from New York City. Metropolis is produced by [Aaron Rutkoff](#) and [Nikki Waller](#), with contributions from the Wall Street Journal staff. Send tips and comments to [metropolis@wsj.com](mailto:metropolis@wsj.com).



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Known for his blunt talk in a New Jersey accent, the 49-year-old governor often speaks without a script. He consults with a group of advisers for major speeches, such as those before the state legislature. The keynote group includes Robert Grady, who worked for the George H.W. Bush administration, one of the people familiar with the matter said. Mr. Grady declined to comment on his role Tuesday.

Christie's overall approval rating has remained virtually unchanged in the latest poll, with 49% of respondents in favor and 40% opposed. The uptick in apathy about his national prominence might reflect some concern over Christie's angry, unscripted moments captured on video in the last year, said David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and professor of political science at Rutgers University.

"Much of this is partisan with Republicans remaining still on board," he said. "But this shift may also reflect some of the negative 'YouTube' moments over the past year."

In another survey question from the latest poll, voters were even more indifferent that Christie wasn't selected as Romney's running mate — and this time the shrug crossed party lines. Sixty-four percent of those polled said passing over Christie didn't matter, with 66% of Republican respondents agreeing that it no big deal.

Chris Christie, New Jersey, Politics, Polls, Republican National Convention

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**LOU FROM QUEENS, NYC** wrote:

A terrific speech from one of the few politicians to "tell it like it is". Unfortunately half of our electorate seems to prefer slick hucksters guided more by public opinion polls than any real convictions. Obama has become the Nero of Washington, mouthing slogans and leading personal attacks against his rivals as the nation remains mired in recession. Having accomplished nothing but increasing our national dept by five trillion dollars he, and his party can only remain in power by dividing, distracting the public, and by distorting the truth of his

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