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Rutgers-Eagleton Poll: Christie scores more A's and B's on job performance

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BY MELISSA HAYES



A Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released today shows Gov. Christie getting more 'A' and 'B' grades from New Jersey voters.

Governor Christie is getting a higher grade from New Jersey voters, particularly among women, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

Asked to assign the Republican governor a letter grade for his job performance, 18 percent of registered voters polled gave him an 'A,' while 29 percent gave him a 'B,' compared with 15 percent awarding him an 'A' grade and 30 percent a 'B' grade, in the results released last month.

"This poll marks the highest percentage of A's and B's we've seen since we introduced the Christie jobs report card in February 2011," poll Director David Redlawsk, a Rutgers University political science professor, said in a statement.

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, released today, questioned 790 registered voters statewide between Sept. 27 and 30. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

This is the first Rutgers-Eagleton poll conducted since Christie delivered they keynote address at the Republican National Convention in late August.

Overall Christie has a 48 percent favorability rating, down slightly from 49 percent in the last poll and his un-favorability rating is at 42 percent, up 2 percentage points.

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But 49 percent of New Jerseyans say the state is headed in the right direction, adding one point from last month's results. In comparison, 41 percent – the same as the last poll – say New Jersey is going in the wrong direction. More than half of the voters, 55 percent, who think the state is going in the right direction say it's because things are changing for the better, while 40 percent saying it's because things are not getting worse.

“Republicans are more positive, and Democrats are more negative, as we might expect from Christie's convention speech,” Redlawsk said in the statement. “Favorability among women did not change, but job performance ratings became more polarized. Yes, many more women give A grades this month, but we also see an increase in D's.”

Of the 389 women polled, 18 percent gave Christie an 'A,' 25 percent a 'B,' 20 percent a 'C,' 18 percent a 'D,' and 17 percent an 'F.' Two percent said they did not know what to grade him. In comparison, 10 percent of the 457 women polled from Aug. 23 to 25 gave Christie an 'A,' 29 percent a 'B,' 27 percent a 'C,' 13 percent a 'D,' 19 percent an 'F,' and 2 percent did not grade him.

While Christie's job performance grades are up, there's a slight slip in his support for a second term. Christie is up for re-election in 2013, though he has not yet announced whether he will run.

A drop in support among Democrats and independents outweighs gains among Republicans, according to the poll. Overall 44 percent of those polled said they would like him to serve again, down from 47 percent. And 47 percent said they would like some new, up one percentage point.

Among Democrats, 71 percent want him out of office, up three percentage points from the last poll and 19 percent said they would give him another term, down three points. Of the independents questioned, 44 percent would give him another term, down from 49 percent and 43 percent want someone new, down two points. The number of undecided independents is up 5 percentage points to 12 percent.

Republicans support Christie with 85 percent giving him another term, up five percentage points, and 12 percent saying they want someone new, down from 14 percent.

Christie fares the worse among the youngest registered voters, with 59 percent of those ages 18 to 29 saying they want someone new. He does the best with voters over age 65, with only 35 percent saying they want someone new and 53 percent saying they'd like him to serve another four years.

He also saw a drop in support among voters earning between \$100,000 and \$150,000, with 43 percent saying they'd like him to get another term, down from 60 percent, while 51 percent say they want someone new, up from 34 percent.

“New Jersey voter remain evenly split over the governor, as they have been consistently since he's been in office,” Redlawsk said in the statement. “While we see small moves up and down, opinions on Christie remain pretty settled.”



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