

## Poll: Chris Christie at 70 percent favorability



By [KEVIN ROBILLARD](#) | 2/8/13 6:04 AM EST

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie remains astoundingly popular, but he heads into his reelection bid with weak approval ratings on New Jersey residents' top two issues, according to a poll released Friday.

Seven out of every 10 registered voters have a favorable opinion of Christie, **according to the Rutgers-Eagleton poll** (<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/%7Eredlawsk/EP/Tables2013/EmbargoRelease.html>) . That number is an all-time high in the poll and includes 62 percent of Democrats, who outnumber Republicans in the Garden State by 700,000 voters and will be

critical if Christie is to win reelection in November. Only two out of every 10 voters has a negative opinion of the Republican. Sixty percent said the state is on the right track, and one-third said it is heading in the wrong direction.

**(Also on POLITICO: Poll: Christie struggles with politics of his weight** (<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/02/chris-christie-struggles-with-politics-of-his-weight-87351.html>) )

Much of that approval is linked to his handling of the recovery from Superstorm Sandy. Eighty-six percent of voters approve of his handling of the storm's aftermath, and only 11 percent disapprove. But only 11 percent said Sandy recovery is the most important issue facing the state.

Christie is much weaker when it comes to voters' top two concerns — the state's economy and high tax rates — providing potential avenues of attack for Democrats. Only 40 percent approve of his handling of taxes, and 52 percent disapprove. Forty-five percent like Christie's efforts to improve the economy and create jobs, while 46 percent do not. Two-thirds of voters polled say one of those issues is their top concern.

**(PHOTOS: Chris Christie's career** (<http://www.politico.com/gallery/2012/07/chris-christies-career/000291-003787.html>) )

The governor's likely opponent, Democratic state Sen. Barbara Buono, is little-known. A full two-thirds of New Jerseyans didn't have an opinion on her. Among those who did, 20 percent approved and 13 percent disapproved.

The poll of 796 adults and 698 registered voters was conducted from Jan. 30 to Feb. 3. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.7 percent.

---

### Also on POLITICO