

Poll: Christie gets high approval rating, but voters dislike record on jobs, economy, taxes

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Governor Christie is still enjoying a high approval rating, but voters don't support his handling of jobs and the economy, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

The poll found 73 percent of New Jerseyans approve of the overall job Christie is doing, but only 45 percent approve of his handling of jobs and the economy.

Of those polled, 35 percent said jobs and the economy are the most important issue facing the state, while 31 percent said the most pressing issue is taxes. Those polled only gave Christie a 40 percent approval rating on his handling of taxes.

As he continues to tour the state highlighting re-building efforts and will soon roll out plans to distribute \$1.8 billion in federal aid, Christie's popularity is still hinged on his handling of superstorm Sandy. The poll found 86 percent support the governor's handling of the storm. But only 11 percent of those polled said Sandy was the most important issue in the state, ranking it third overall.

"It appears that Christie's handling of Sandy has made the difference, since voters are not nearly as positive about other key issues," Rutgers-Eagleton Poll Director David Redlawsk said. "If voters begin to focus on these issues instead of the Sandy recovery, we could see a change in the governor's overall ratings over the next few months."

The divide between Christie's approval rating and voters' views on the economy, jobs and taxes, could create problems for the popular Republican governor as he seeks a second term.

While 45 percent of voters said they approve of Christie's handling of the economy and jobs, 44 percent said they disapprove.

On taxes 40 percent of voters approve of Christie's record, while 52 percent disapprove.

"Two-thirds of voters say the economy or high taxes are the most important problems facing the state. And for the most part voters are not fans of Christie's job performance in these areas. This suggests there is real risk for Christie if the effects of Sandy wear off over time," said Redlawsk. "Campaigns tend to focus voters on the issues they care about most. Whether that happens over the next few months will be something to watch very carefully."

But the poll found that Christie's budget is well-regarded, with 49 percent approving of it compared to 38 percent disapproving.

Rutgers-Eagleton surveyed 796 adults from Jan. 30 to Feb. 3, of that, 698 are registered voters.

Christie has a 70 percent favorability rating among registered voters, up three points from the November Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. Only 20 percent of voters polled said they had an unfavorable view of the governor, down five points from the last poll.

"Favorability measures how people feel about Christie as a person, and is not specifically about job performance," Redlawsk said. "The governor continues to generate very good feelings among voters of all stripes."

The poll found 59 percent of Democrats see Christie favorably — a 10 percent jump — while independents and Republicans held steady at 71 and 88 percent, respectively.

Voters opinion of the state has remained steady, with 60 percent saying New Jersey is headed in the right direction. In comparison, 33 percent said the state is headed down the wrong path.

Comments

comments



Governor Christie's handling of superstorm Sandy still has his scoring high with voters. But they don't approve of his handling of the economy, jobs and taxes.