

Poll: Voters think Christie is a smart, stubborn and strong leader

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TRENTON —The most popular ways to describe Gov. Chris Christie are “strong leader,” “smart,” “independent,” “effective” and “stubborn,” according to a Rutgers-Eagleton poll released this morning.

[The poll found](#) 64 percent of voters said “strong leader” describes Christie very well, while 63 percent said the same for “smart,” 60 percent for “stubborn,” 55 percent for “independent” and 51 percent for “effective.”

The most popular negative word used to describe Christie is “arrogant,” which 45 percent of voters said describes him very well.

“These questions allow us to better understand why people do or do not support Governor Christie,” poll director David Redlawsk said in a statement. “Leadership is clearly a key element for most voters and perceptions of Christie as a leader were greatly enhanced by his hand ling of Sandy. That impression continues strong, and probably accounts for much support from his pre-Sandy opponents.”

Whether the word is positive or negative, in each case majorities of voters said they apply to Christie either very or somewhat well. For instance, 90 percent said “smart” applies to Christie either very or somewhat well. Seventy-seven percent said the same for “arrogant” and 62 percent for “bully.”

The poll found 52 percent feel “pride” and 51 percent feel “enthusiasm” when they hear or read about Christie, while 30 percent feel “worried” and 27 percent feel “angry.”

Rutgers-Eagleton surveyed 819 voters from April 3 to April 7. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.7 percentage points.

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