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Poll says majority of NJ believes Christie is a "smart, strong leader" but "stubborn"

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Gov. Chris Christie

A majority of New Jersey voters describe [Governor Christie](#) as a "smart, strong leader" even though he has seen his favorability rating drop slightly, according to a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released today.

But while nearly two-thirds of those polled described the Republican, who is seeking a second term, as both "smart" and "strong" and more than half say he is also "effective" and "independent," 60 percent also said the word "stubborn" describes him very well, while another 27 percent said it describes him somewhat well.

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hit, when 54 percent said “stubborn” described Christie very well. Of those polled on the governor’s negative traits, 45 percent called Christie “arrogant” and 34 percent described him as a “bully.”

“With the exception of stubborn – which even many supporters of Christie say is the case – voters are more likely to apply positive than negative traits to the governor, as befits his high ratings,” Rutgers-Eagleton Poll Director David Redlawsk said in a statement. “But the slight uptick in most negative traits, combined with static positive traits suggests some small movement, confirming the slight declines in his overall ratings.”

More than half of the voters polled said Christie makes them “proud” and “enthusiastic,” with the later up four points since the November Rutgers-Eagleton poll. Fewer voters said the governor seemed “angry” or “worried,” with those descriptions dropping two and three points respectively to 27 percent and 30 percent. The drop in both emotions followed double-digit declines after Sandy devastated the state.

Of the 923 New Jersey voters polled from April 3 to 7, 88 percent said he was a strong leader, while only 11 percent said that term does not describe him at all. Sixty-three percent of voters said the word “smart” fits Christie well, while 27 percent said it fits him somewhat well.

About half of Democrats polled said they would also describe Christie as a strong leader and also smart. While only 19 percent of Democrats surveyed said Christie is not a strong leader and 10 percent said he is not smart. The numbers represent a five-point drop in Democrats who describe him as a strong leader, while the data held steady on those who describe Christie as “smart” since the November poll.

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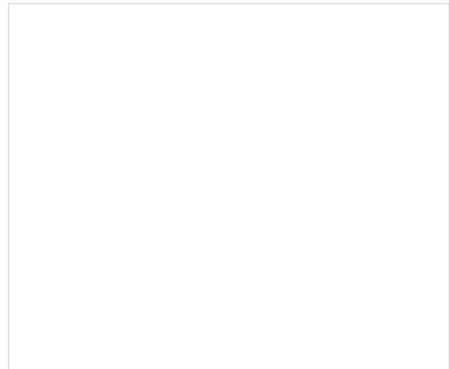
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