

Poll: Christie's post-Sandy popularity continues

Primary night victory for New Jersey Governor Chris Christie

[View the Slideshow >>](#)

(Gallery by William Perlman/The Star-Ledger)

Matt Friedman/The Star-Ledger By **Matt Friedman/The Star-Ledger**

Email the author | **Follow on Twitter**

on June 12, 2013 at 6:07 AM, updated June 12, 2013 at 1:28 PM

TRENTON — Gov. Chris Christie's post-Hurricane Sandy popularity has outlasted pollsters' expectations, although voters are less enthusiastic about how he's handled key issues.

A new **Rutgers-Eagleton poll** of 888 voters shows 70 percent of voters approve of Christie's job performance – up a statistically insignificant two percentage points from a Rutgers-Eagleton poll taken in April. Even a majority of Democratic voters continue to approve of Christie.

"The post-Sandy 'rally around Christie' effect has continued much longer than we might have expected," the poll's director, David Redlawsk, said.

But when it comes to the issues voters consider most important, Christie gets mixed reviews

For instance, voters most often list the economy and taxes as their top concerns. While 41 percent approve of Christie's performance on the economy, 48 percent disapprove. Similarly, 41 percent approve of his handling of taxes, but 50 percent disapprove.

Voters overwhelmingly approve of Christie's performance on the Hurricane Sandy recovery effort 86 percent to 10 percent. They also strongly approve of his stances on crime and the state budget, although they're split on how he's handled education, with 45 percent approving and 46 percent disapproving.

By a two-to-one margin voters say New Jersey is headed in the right direction.

"Without having had the chance to show his strengths during and after Sandy, it seems clear that Christie would be back where he was before Sandy, with half the state approving and half disapproving," said Redlawsk. "Given the sizable split on nearly every specific issue we poll on, it is clearly his image as a strong leader in the aftermath of the storm that continues to make the difference. Many voters may not like the specifics of his job performance, but they appreciate his leadership."

The poll was conducted from June 3 to June 9 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

RELATED COVERAGE

• **Hillary Clinton, Chris Christie get nods from N.J. voters in 2016 presidential race, poll shows**

• **More Politics**

FOLLOW STAR-LEDGER POLITICS: [TWITTER](#) | [FACEBOOK](#)