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Poll: High Approval for Christie, But Marks Lower on Economy

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By Heather Haddon

Gov. Chris Christie continues to enjoy high overall approval ratings in New Jersey, but partisan divides have started to open up on his stewardship of state issues such as the economy, according to a new poll.



Associated Press
New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie answers a question during a news conference in June.

The Republican governor received an overall approval rating of 70% in a survey of 888 New Jersey residents, the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released Wednesday found. Eighty-six % of those surveyed approved of Mr. Christie's handling of superstorm Sandy, praise that hasn't remained as sharp for New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, in contrast, said David Redlawsk, poll director.

"The post-Sandy 'rally around Christie' effect has continued much longer than we might have expected," said Redlawsk, a professor of political-science at Rutgers University.

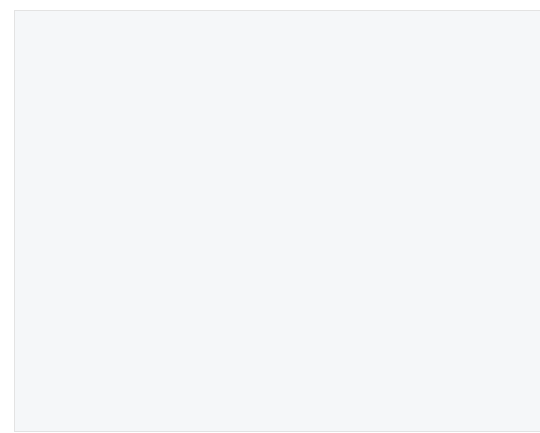
Still, fissures have emerged in Mr. Christie's approach to issues, with 50% of those surveyed against his stance on taxes and 48% disapproving of his handling of the economy and jobs. Those polled were nearly evenly split on his approach to schools and education, with 45% for and 46% against.

"Many voters may not like the specifics of his job performance, but they appreciate his leadership," Mr. Redlawsk said.

Party alliances made a difference in his approval on specific issues. Nearly two-thirds of Democrats surveyed were against his approach to taxes, for example, while 62% of Republicans were supportive and independents were split.

The telephone poll was conducted earlier this month with a margin of error of 3.3 percentage points.

Chris Christie, New Jersey, Politics



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