

Christie approval numbers high despite jobs, taxes

Most voters have a favorable impression of Republican [Governor Christie](#) less than two weeks before he faces reelection, even though he gets negative ratings for his handling of the top two issues of jobs and taxes, a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll shows.

A key reason is that Christie's Democratic opponent, state Sen. Barbara Buono of Middlesex County, is largely unknown.

Some 43 percent of those polled had no impression of Buono, while 29 percent had a favorable view and 28 percent unfavorable. "Christie could have been vulnerable on the issues voters care about, but not without the presence of a visible, viable alternative," pollster David Redlawsk said.

Some 61 percent had a favorable opinion of Christie, while 28 percent had an unfavorable view. Christie's favorable rating surged from 48 percent to 67 percent in November 2012 after Superstorm Sandy and never got lower than 60 percent afterward, the poll showed.

Nevertheless, more voters disapprove than approve of Christie's handling of the issues the poll found are most important to the electorate. On the No. 1 issue of the economy and jobs, voters gave Christie a 42 percent approval to 47 percent disapproval rating. On taxes, it was 38 percent to 57 percent.

The poll of 799 registered voters was taken Oct. 7 to 13 using live interviewers calling land lines and cellphones. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.