

Is Chris Christie a Bully?

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More than a few people have accused Governor Christie of being a bully. The governor describes himself as a fighter.

According to a recent Rutgers-Eagleton poll, a large number of registered New Jersey voters agree with him.

Rutgers Today [reports](#) that 72 percent of those surveyed said Christie's own description as a fighter "fits very well," and better than bully. Two-thirds of the respondents called Christie a "smart," "strong leader." "This perception of Christie as a strong leader has not only driven his high overall ratings, but has sustained their heights much longer than expected," said David Redlawsk, poll director.

Not everyone agrees. "Governor Christie represents the worst combination of bully and bossism," said Republican gubernatorial candidate and Christie opponent Barbara Buono said, [according](#) to Philly.com. Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman added, "Christie is a classic school-yard bully."

Christie spoke about the matter on CBS Sunday Morning in September. "No, I am not a bully. But what I am is a fighter," Christie said, [according](#) to The Washington Post. "I think a bully is abusive. And a fighter is someone who's willing to mix it up to defend his or her point of view."

A poll from last year found that 45 percent of state voters called Christie a bully, so his numbers there have improved. [According](#) to Politicker NJ, half of New Jersey's voters in the poll called him "effective" and "independent," characteristics, while 43 percent used "trustworthy," 40 percent said "fair" and 30 percent called him a "reformer."

Results came from 799 registered New Jersey voters, and the poll was taken between October 7 and 13.

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