

## Most N.J. residents think Sandy recovery is 5 years away, poll says

By MaryAnn Spoto/The Star-Ledger  
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An aerial view of the destruction to the Ortley Beach section of Toms River two days after Hurricane Sandy (*Andrew Mills/The Star-Ledger*)

Most New Jersey residents say the state is still not back to normal after Hurricane Sandy and predict recovery could take as long as five years, according to a new Rutgers-Eagleton poll released today.

The poll, revisiting issues surveyed five and seven months ago, shows residents are growing more skeptical about recovery particularly at the Jersey Shore. In June, respondents gave Shore recovery a mark of 6.2 based on a scale of 1 to 10. In this newest poll, that mark sank to 4.7.

In this survey, 61 percent of respondents said a return to normalcy might take as many as five years. That's down from 78 percent in an April poll.

"While damage occurred throughout much of the state, most of the focus on recovery has been aimed at the Jersey Shore, since that region is so iconic," said David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and professor of political science at Rutgers University. "This has convinced many that the region's recovery lags the state's. Even the governor's supporters see a big gap between the overall state recovery and the Shore's."

The degree of the perception of recovery appears to depend on which gubernatorial candidate residents supported. Those who supported Gov. Chris Christie gave the state's overall recovery a score of 6.4. Those behind his opponent, Democratic Sen. Barbara Buono, ranked recovery 5.7.

The poll, conducted from Oct. 28 to Nov. 2, surveyed 804 registered voters statewide and has a margin of error of 3.4 percentage points.