

Thursday, August 7, 2014

CORRECTED RELEASE

August 11, 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE: Visit our website at <http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu> for all press releases and additional commentary on our blog. Follow the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll on Twitter [@EagletonPoll](https://twitter.com/EagletonPoll) and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RutgersEagletonPoll>.

NJ VOTERS NAME CHRISTIE, CLINTON TOP CHOICES FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON LEADS IN HEAD-TO-HEAD MATCH UP

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – Asked to choose their party's presidential candidate for 2016, New Jersey Republicans give top honors to Gov. Chris Christie, while Democrats overwhelmingly pick former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, according to a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. Two years ahead of the election, more than 7 in 10 Republicans and Democrats can name a preferred nominee.

Christie's name comes to mind first for 41 percent of Republicans and GOP leaners. Another 8 percent name Christie their second choice. In contrast, 59 percent of Democrats choose Clinton as their candidate. For another 7 percent, she is second choice.

No other prospective candidate from either party approaches the front-runners; nearly all others score below 10 percent as first or second choices.

"This is a hard test for voters," noted David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and professor of political science at Rutgers University. "We did not provide a list of candidates, so voters must think about who they know. Not surprisingly, Christie overwhelms other Republicans here. On the other side, lack of media coverage of Democrats other than Clinton makes it hard for Democrats to name anyone else."

When the frontrunners are matched head-to-head in a hypothetical 2016 race, Clinton holds a double-digit margin over Christie, albeit smaller than in early 2014. Just over half the state's voters (51 percent) support Clinton with 40 percent for Christie in a direct matchup. Four percent want someone else, and another 6 percent are unsure. In a January 2014 Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, as Bridgegate swirled around Christie, Clinton led 55 percent to 34 percent. That lead was cut to 10 points in March.

Clinton also holds a slight favorability edge over Christie among New Jerseyans, although her numbers have trended downward over the past six months. Fifty-four percent now view her favorably, 32 percent unfavorably, and 14 percent have no opinion. Christie's favorability has climbed to 49 percent during the same time period while 40 percent feel unfavorably and 10 percent have no opinion. In January, 65 percent felt favorable toward Clinton, 46 percent liked Christie.

Results are from a statewide poll of 871 adult New Jerseyans contacted by live callers on both

landlines and cell phones from July 28 to August 5, 2014. This release reports on a subsample of 750 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percentage points.

Christie, Clinton are their partisans' overwhelming favorites

Christie and Clinton dominate their respective New Jersey party bases as presidential candidates in 2016. "Both are constantly scrutinized with never-ending 'Will they or won't they run?' buzz," said Redlawsk. "All this media attention puts them at the top of voters' minds and thus makes them the top choices by far. But it is important to recognize that voters today are mostly responding to what they hear and see in media reports. Hearing little of other candidates, they respond accordingly when they don't get a list containing different options."

Among Republicans, 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney comes in a distant second with a combined 12 percent for first- and second-place mentions. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.) tie for third at 8 percent. Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Ted Cruz (R-Texas) are at 7 percent, while other Republicans who have been rumored to run, including Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Texas Gov. Rick Perry, do not surpass 5 percent of their party base.

Among Republican voters who name Christie as their first choice, nearly half cannot name a second choice. But eight percent identify Rubio as their fallback, while another nine percent name Ryan. Five percent tap Romney as their second choice.

Democratic voters name even fewer potential candidates. Only Vice President Joe Biden is mentioned as a first choice with some frequency, while trailing Clinton by a wide margin; he's first choice among 4 percent and first or second choice among 10 percent. Despite her objections to running, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) garners seven percent of combined first and second mentions, just behind New Jersey first-term Sen. Cory Booker's eight percent. Andrew Cuomo is second choice among 2 percent of respondents.

Sixty-nine percent of Clinton supporters do not name a second choice for president; 11 percent say Biden is their second choice, while eight percent name Booker, and seven percent pick Warren.

Clinton continues to lead Christie among most groups

"Clinton continues to top Christie in favorability for 2016, even with the Bridgewater frenzy subsiding and the backlash against the former Secretary of State during her recent book tour," said Redlawsk. "So while New Jersey voters still have a net positive feeling about Christie, they like Clinton somewhat more. And, of course, this remains a Democratic state, suggesting even Christie would have trouble winning it in 2016."

Clinton's margin against Christie in a 2016 matchup has remained steady since March, though her current advantage is only half of what it was in January. While 85 percent of Democrats and Republicans each side with their respective candidates, independents are evenly split, 43 percent Christie to 42 percent Clinton.

Clinton wins among both men and women, but is supported by the latter by a wider margin (53 percent to 36 percent), compared to men (48 percent to 43 percent). She loses among white voters, while

winning across minority voters.

While Clinton's favorability ratings have slipped from her high of 65 percent in January, she is still viewed quite favorably across the board. Eighty-three percent of voters from Clinton's own party hold a favorable impression of her, as do 47 percent of independents; 19 percent of Republicans feel the same. Fifty-nine percent of women are favorable toward her compared to 47 percent of men. She is viewed more favorably than unfavorably among all other major demographic groups.

Christie's favorability ratings have climbed slightly since Bridgegate broke, but remain steady over the past few months. Seventy-nine percent of Republicans and 52 percent of independents view the governor favorably, but Christie continues to be viewed negatively by more than half of Democrats. Half of men and women have a positive view of the governor. Minorities and millennial voters are more likely than most to have unfavorable impressions of Christie, while their counterparts are more likely to have favorable ones.

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Advisory: This release is a corrected version of the release of August 7, 2014. Due to an inadvertent error in calculating weights, some results were reported incorrectly. Most results were correct; while a few numbers used in the original release changed less than one percentage point. However, because of rounding to the nearest percentage point some results moved up or down one or two points. Key changes include revising the Clinton-Christie match-up from 50%-40% to 51% to 40%, an 11-point lead. Clinton's favorable rating should have been reported at 54% favorable instead of 53%, while Christie's favorable rating should have been reported at 49% instead of 50%. In addition the reported weighted demographics of the sample have changed slightly, including increasing the rounded share of Democrats by 2 points to 33%, and decreasing the share of independents by 2 points to 48% and Republicans by one point to 19%. Women should have been reported as 54% of the sample instead of 52% and men 46% instead of 48%. These corrected demographics actually better represent NJ voters than did the original reports. No substantive changes occurred that changes the analysis of the results. For more details see our blog at <http://eagletonpollblog.wordpress.com>.

QUESTIONS AND TABLES BEGIN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions in the release of August 7, 2014 are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are NJ Registered Voters unless otherwise indicated; percentages are of weighted results.

Q. First, I'd like to ask about some people and groups. Please tell me if your general impression of each one is favorable or unfavorable, or if you do not have an opinion. If you do not know the name, just say so. [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

Registered Voters

	FMR. SEC. OF GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE	STATE HILLARY CLINTON
Favorable	49%	54%
Unfavorable	40%	32%
No opn/don't know person	10%	14%
Unwgt N=	747	750

GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Age				Race	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Non-white
Favorable	28%	52%	79%	28%	49%	72%	50%	49%	41%	51%	53%	51%	54%	40%
Unfavorable	59%	37%	16%	61%	40%	21%	40%	41%	44%	41%	42%	34%	38%	46%
DK/No Opn	13%	10%	5%	11%	11%	11%	10%	10%	15%	8%	5%	15%	8%	14%
Unwt N=	241	346	152	153	407	167	343	404	135	133	230	249	518	193

FMR. SEC. OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Age				Race	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Non-white
Favorable	83%	47%	19%	79%	56%	21%	47%	59%	51%	63%	53%	48%	47%	68%
Unfavorable	8%	34%	69%	10%	28%	66%	38%	27%	24%	25%	36%	40%	40%	14%
DK/No Opn	10%	19%	12%	11%	17%	13%	15%	14%	25%	12%	11%	12%	13%	18%
Unwt N=	242	348	152	155	408	167	343	407	135	133	231	251	521	193

[ADDITIONAL APPROVAL QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AT THIS POINT – HELD FOR LATER RELEASE]

Q. The 2016 presidential election is far away, but thinking ahead to the Republican primary for president, who would be your first choice for the Republican candidate? Just tell me a name.

Republicans and Republican-leaning registered voters only

Chris Christie	41%	Rand Paul	2%	Bobby Jindal	*
Mitt Romney	6%	Marco Rubio	1%	Rudy Giuliani	*
Jeb Bush	5%	Rick Perry	1%	Sarah Palin	*
Scott Walker	2%	Ron Paul	1%	Other	3%
Ted Cruz	3%	Mike Huckabee	1%	Don't know	30%
Paul Ryan	1%	Newt Gingrich	*		
				Unwgt N=	255

**Mentions are fewer than one percent.*

Q. And who would be your second choice for the 2016 Republican candidate? Just tell me a name if you have a second choice.

Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters only

Chris Christie	8%	Ron Paul	2%	Bobby Jindal	*
Paul Ryan	6%	Rand Paul	2%	Newt Gingrich	*
Mitt Romney	5%	Rudy Giuliani	1%	Scott Walker	*
Marco Rubio	5%	Rick Perry	1%	Mike Huckabee	*
Ted Cruz	3%	Michael Bloomberg	1%	Other	4%
Jeb Bush	3%	Sarah Palin	1%	Don't know	54%
				Unwgt N=	252

**Mentions are fewer than one percent.*

	Christie as first choice		Christie as first choice
Paul Ryan	10%	Michael Bloomberg	2%
Marco Rubio	8%	Sarah Palin	2%
Mitt Romney	5%	Rand Paul	2%
Ron Paul	4%	Scott Walker	1%
Rudy Giuliani	3%	Newt Gingrich	1%
Jeb Bush	5%	Other	6%
Ted Cruz	4%	Don't know	49%
Rick Perry	2%		
		Unwgt N=	102

Q. The 2016 presidential election is far away, but thinking ahead to the Democratic primary for president, who would be your first choice for the Democratic candidate? Just tell me the name.

Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters only

Hillary Clinton	59%
Joe Biden	3%
Elizabeth Warren	3%
Cory Booker	2%
Other	4%
Don't know	30%
Unwgt N=	331

**2016 Presidential Race August 2014
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

Q. And who would be your second choice for the 2016 Democratic candidate? Just tell me the name if you have a second choice.

Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters only

		Clinton as first choice
Hillary Clinton	7%	-
Joe Biden	7%	11%
Cory Booker	6%	8%
Elizabeth Warren	4%	7%
Andrew Cuomo	1%	1%
Martin O'Malley	*	*
Other	2%	5%
Don't know	74%	69%
Unwgt N=	326	189

**Mentions are fewer than one percent.*

Q. If the election for president were today, and the candidates were [ROTATE ORDER: Republican Chris Christie and Democrat Hillary Clinton], for whom would you vote?

Registered Voters

Clinton	51%
Christie	40%
Someone else (vol)	3%
Don't know	7%
Unwgt N=	720

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Age				Race	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Non-white
Clinton	85%	42%	9%	80%	52%	16%	48%	53%	57%	51%	48%	47%	42%	69%
Christie	8%	43%	85%	12%	37%	74%	46%	36%	28%	39%	43%	44%	47%	22%
Someone else (vol)	1%	6%	3%	2%	5%	2%	2%	3%	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	2%
Don't know	6%	9%	3%	6%	7%	7%	5%	9%	10%	7%	6%	4%	7%	7%
Unwgt N=	240	322	152	150	386	165	334	386	127	130	223	240	500	186

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll July 28 – August 5, 2014

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live callers July 28 – August 5, 2014 with a scientifically selected random sample of 871 New Jersey adults, including 750 registered voters. This telephone poll included 543 landline and 328 cell phone adults, all acquired through random digit dialing. Distribution of household phone use in this sample is:

Cell Only:	24%
Dual Use, Reached on Cell:	14%
Dual Use, Reached on LL:	57%
Landline Only:	5%

**2016 Presidential Race August 2014
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

Data for registered voters (N=750) and all adults (N=871) were weighted separately to the demographics of registered voters and adults in New Jersey, respectively. Both weights account for the probability of being selected within the sample frame and the probability of being sampled within a household, based on the number of individuals living in the household and the phone composition (cell, landline) of the household. The samples were weighted to several demographic variables reflecting the population parameters of the state of New Jersey: gender, race, age, and Hispanic ethnicity. The final weight, which combined all of the parameters mentioned, was trimmed at the 5th and 95th percentile so as to not accord too much weight to any one case or subset of cases. All results are reported with these weighted data.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. Sampling error should be adjusted to recognize the effect of weighting the data to better match the population. In this poll, the simple sampling error for the 871 adults is +/-3.3 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The adult sample weighting design effect is 1.40, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.9 percentage points for the adult sample. The simple sampling error for 750 registered voters is +/-3.5 percentage points. The weighting design effect for the registered voter sample is 1.25, making the adjusted margin of error +/-4.0 percentage points for the registered voter sample.

Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey registered voters in this sample favor a position, we would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 46.0 and 54.0 percent (50 +/-4.0) if all New Jersey voters had been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, a non-partisan academic center for the study of politics and the political process.

Weighted Sample Characteristics 750 New Jersey Registered Voters			
33% Democrat	46% Male	9% 18-24	68% White
47% Independent/Other	54% Female	27% 25-44	12% Black
19% Republican		40% 45-64	11% Hispanic
		24% 65+	9% Asian/Other/Multi