EDITOR’S NOTE: ATTENTION POLITICAL, ASSIGNMENT EDITORS, Poll Director David Redlawsk may be contacted at 319-400-1134 (cell), 848-932-8504 (office), or redlawsk@rutgers.edu. Poll manager Ashley Koning may be contacted at 908-872-1186 or akoning@rutgers.edu. Find releases and additional blog commentary at http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. Follow the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/RutgersEagletonPoll and Twitter @EagletonPoll.

OVAL OFFICE, CHRISTIE PERFECT TOGETHER?
NEW JERSEY VOTERS DON’T SEE GOVERNOR AS GOOD FIT FOR PRESIDENT

Majority thinks he will run but 58 percent say ‘presidential’ is not apt description

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – As Gov. Chris Christie prepares to host town hall events in New Hampshire, scene of the first 2016 presidential primary, an increasing number of New Jersey registered voters think Christie would not make a good president, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. Just 24 percent think Christie would be a good president, while 69 percent say he would not, a 10-point increase in negativity since a February poll.

Voters are mixed on the likelihood of Christie becoming the Republican nominee. Forty-four percent say the governor’s chances have worsened over the past few months, 46 percent say they are about the same, but only 6 percent say they have improved.

Moreover, given a range of character traits, 58 percent of voters say “presidential” does not describe Christie “at all,” versus 28 percent who think it describes the governor “somewhat well” and 10 percent who say “very well.”

Still, most voters do not think these declining prospects will deter New Jersey’s governor: 57 percent still believe he will become a candidate, 32 percent do not, and 11 percent are unsure. In December 2014, 63 percent thought he would try for the GOP nomination and 25 percent did not.

“Voters who know Gov. Christie best simply do not see him as president,” said David Redlawsk, director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling and professor of political science at Rutgers University. “New Jerseyans have watched him in good times and bad. While his strengths were on display after the Sandy disaster, he was seen as just another politician after the Bridgegate scandal and the investigations it spawned, and he has never recovered.”

Results are from a statewide poll of 860 adults contacted by live callers on both landlines and cell phones from March 27 to April 3, including 722 registered voters reported on in this release. The registered voter sample has a margin of error of +/-4.0 percentage points. Interviews were done in English and, when requested, Spanish.

Only his staunchest supporters envision ‘President Christie’

A Christie presidency is difficult to envision for most groups. Belying Christie’s claims that he appeals to Democrats and independents, 85 percent of the former group and 68 percent of the latter say...
the governor would not make a good president. Seventy-one percent of women, 66 percent of men, 79 percent of nonwhite voters, and 72 percent of millennials (ages 18-34) feel the same. Given the governor’s attacks on public employee unions, it is not surprising that 80 percent of voters in public union households say Christie would not make a good president.

Likewise, a majority of most groups would not describe Christie as presidential. Seventy-three percent of Democrats and 58 percent of independents say this does not describe Christie at all; another 21 percent and 29 percent, respectively, say it describes him somewhat well.

A surprisingly small majority of his most likely supporters can see Christie as a good president: 53 percent of Republican voters and 55 percent of those with a favorable impression of Christie. Twenty-five percent of GOP voters think presidential describes Christie very well and another 40 percent “somewhat well.” Thirty-two percent say the word does not describe him at all.

“It does seem that Christie’s better shot at the presidency might have been in 2012,” noted Redlawsk. “While New Jersey voters were also not keen on him running when we asked in 2011, the national environment was very different, with many Republican leaders begging him to run. Four additional years in office have not helped his case, even with his near-universal support right after Superstorm Sandy. It’s a different Republican pool, and a Bridgegate-damaged Chris Christie.”

**Voters still expect a Christie Campaign**

Despite declining job ratings at home and his apparent status as an also-ran in national Republican polls, a majority of respondents – 58 percent of Democrats, 55 percent of independents, and 63 percent of Republicans – still expect Christie to run for president. Age and levels of education are more significant variables than political affiliation. Expectations that Christie will run decrease with age: 68 percent of voters, 18 to 34, say he will, compared to 41 percent of voters 65 and older. Belief that Christie will run increases among more educated voters: 49 percent among those with a high school education or less to 66 percent of those with graduate work.

Those who say Christie would make a good president are slightly more likely to say he will run, 65 percent compared to 55 percent who say he would not make a good president. Voters who believe “presidential” aptly describes Christie are also more likely than those who do not to believe he will seek the Republican nomination.

**Mixed views on Christie’s presidential chances**

Given relatively little positive press for the governor’s presidential efforts over the past few months, the vast majority of New Jersey voters do not think Christie has made any further gains towards 2016. Only Republicans (at 12 percent) and supporters of Christie and the job he is doing (at 10 percent) reach double-digits in believing that his presidential chances have improved.

Instead, voters are mostly split between whether Christie’s chances have worsened or remained the same. About the same share of independents (44 percent), Democrats (48 percent) and Republicans (48 percent) think his chances have not changed in the past few months. But 46 percent of Democrats
and 47 percent of independents say Christie’s chances have worsened, along with 38 percent of Republicans.

Even voters with a favorable impression of Christie do not think things have improved for him in terms of 2016. Fifty-seven percent of his supporters say that Christie’s chances remain unchanged; another 26 percent say they have worsened. But the large majority of those unfavorable toward Christie see his chances declining: 60 percent think they have gotten worse, while 37 percent say his chances are holding steady. Only 2 percent think things have gotten better for the governor.

Voters who believe Christie will run in 2016 are more evenly split on his chances – 44 percent say they have worsened, 47 percent say they remain about the same. Voters who think Christie will not run are slightly more likely to say things have gotten worse: 51 percent to 46 percent who say his chances have not changed. Even those who believe Christie would make a good president and consider him “presidential” are squarely in the “unchanged” camp.

###

QUESTIONS AND TABLES BEGIN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE
Questions and Tables

The questions covered in the release of April 14, 2015 are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are New Jersey Registered Voters; all 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.

[OTHER NAMES ALSO GIVEN; ORDER RANDOMIZED; MENENDEZ ALL ADULTS RESULTS RELEASED 4-7-15; CHRISTIE REGISTERED VOTERS RESULTS RELEASED 4-9-15]

Registered Voters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Favorable</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfavorable</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opn/don’t know person</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwgt N=</td>
<td>716</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[QUESTIONS ON OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES LOCATED HERE; MENENDEZ JOB APPROVAL RELEASED 4-9-15]

Q. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling his job as governor?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approve</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disapprove</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwgt N=</td>
<td>713</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[QUESTIONS ON CHRISTIE INDIVIDUAL ISSUE APPROVALS LOCATED HERE; RELEASED 4-9-15]

Q. Now, let's turn to the 2016 presidential election, even though it is still a long way away. There is a lot of talk about Governor Christie running for president. Do you think he will run in 2016, or not?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwgt N=</td>
<td>719</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Apr 2015 RV</th>
<th>Christie Favorability</th>
<th>Christie Job Approval</th>
<th>Would Christie Make a Good President</th>
<th>Christie’s Presidential Chances</th>
<th>“Presidential” Describes Christie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td></td>
<td>Favor</td>
<td>Unfavor</td>
<td>Approve</td>
<td>Disapprove</td>
<td>Would</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>57%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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</table>

Unwgt N= 719

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<th>Race</th>
<th>Age</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>Mod</td>
</tr>
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<td>58%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unwgt N= 247 321 140 156 417 131 334 385 493 198 116 143 245 215

* Small N, results should be interpreted with caution
### Q. Do you think Governor Christie would or would not make a good president?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apr 2015</th>
<th>Feb 2015</th>
<th>Christie Favorability</th>
<th>Christie Job Approval</th>
<th>Will Christie Run for President</th>
<th>Christie's Presidential Chances</th>
<th>“Presidential” Describes Christie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RV</td>
<td>RV</td>
<td>Fav</td>
<td>Unfav</td>
<td>fav</td>
<td>unfav</td>
<td>app</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would not</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unwgt N= 720 690 270 349 291 383 401 242 326 328 72* 199 417

* Small N, results should be interpreted with caution

### Q. Do you think Governor Christie’s presidential chances have improved over the past few months, worsened, or have they remained about the same?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HS or Less</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Grad Work</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Union HH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS or Less</td>
<td>Some Coll</td>
<td>Coll Grad</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Suburb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unwgt N= 160 179 205 170 99 224 114 145 137 102 550

### Q. Do you think Governor Christie would or would not make a good president?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HS or Less</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Grad Work</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Union HH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS or Less</td>
<td>Some Coll</td>
<td>Coll Grad</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Suburb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unwgt N= 160 179 205 170 99 224 114 145 137 102 550

* Small N, results should be interpreted with caution
Next, I am going to read a list of words that might describe Governor Chris Christie. For each word, tell me if it describes him very well, somewhat well, or not at all.

### Presidential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Ind</th>
<th>Rep</th>
<th>Lib</th>
<th>Mod</th>
<th>Con</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Nonwhite</th>
<th>18-34</th>
<th>35-49</th>
<th>50-64</th>
<th>65+</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Christie Favorability</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christie Job App Disapp</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Christie Run for President</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Would Christie Make a Good President</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christie’s Presidential Chances</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
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</table>

### Demographic Variables

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<th>Con</th>
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<th>Female</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Nonwhite</th>
<th>18-34</th>
<th>35-49</th>
<th>50-64</th>
<th>65+</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Party ID</td>
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<td>8%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<td>11%</td>
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<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideology</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>29%</td>
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<td>22%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<td>36%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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<td>57%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race</td>
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<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[QUESTIONS ON OTHER POLITICAL ISSUES LOCATED HERE; FOLLOWING QUESTION WAS PART OF A LARGER CHRISTIE TRAITS BATTERY WITH A RANDOMIZED LIST, TO BE REPORTED ON IN A FUTURE RELEASE]
The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live callers March 27 – April 3, 2015 with a scientifically selected random sample of 860 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. The sample contains a subsample of 722 registered voters. Respondents within a household are selected by asking randomly for the youngest adult male or female currently available. If the named gender is not available, the youngest adult of the other gender is interviewed. The poll was available in Spanish for respondents who requested it. This telephone poll included 545 landline and 315 cell phone adults, all acquired through random digit dialing using a sample obtained from Survey Sampling International. Distribution of household phone use in this sample is:

- Cell Only: 15%
- Dual Use, Reached on Cell: 21%
- Dual Use, Reached on LL: 58%
- Landline Only: 6%

Data were weighted to the demographics adults in New Jersey. 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 860 adults is +/−3.2 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The adult sample weighting design effect is 1.27, making the adjusted margin of error +/− 3.8 percentage points for the adult sample.

The simple sampling error for the 722 registered voters is +/−3.6 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The registered voter subsample weighting design effect is 1.21, making the adjusted margin of error +/− 4.0 percentage points for the registered voter subsample.

Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey registered voters in this sample favor a particular 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 registered voters had been interviewed, rather than just a 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. Full questionnaires are available on request, and can also be accessed at the Eagleton Poll archive at www.eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. For more information, please contact eagleton.poll@rutgers.edu.

### Weighted Sample Characteristics
#### 722 New Jersey Registered Voters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33% Democrat</td>
<td>46% Male</td>
<td>21% 18-34</td>
<td>69% White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47% Independent</td>
<td>54% Female</td>
<td>23% 35-49</td>
<td>12% Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% Republican</td>
<td></td>
<td>32% 50-64</td>
<td>10% Hispanic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24% 65+</td>
<td>8% Asian/Other/Multi</td>
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</tbody>
</table>