

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2016

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**TRUMP, CLINTON CONTINUE TO HOLD COMMANDING LEADS IN NEW JERSEY;
RUBIO A DISTANT SECOND IN GOP RACE**

Over half of voters dissatisfied with 2016 field of candidates

Note: This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll overlapped the New Hampshire primary on Tuesday, February 9, and Gov. Christie's official end to his presidential bid on Wednesday, February 10, but was conducted prior to the South Carolina GOP primary and the Nevada Democratic caucus.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – “Trump-mentum” is at an all-time high with Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters in New Jersey, who are now more likely than ever to choose businessman Donald Trump as their presidential nominee, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

Thirty-eight percent would choose Trump if they had to cast their primary vote today. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who would receive only 11 percent of the vote, is a distant second. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz is neck and neck with Rubio, coming in third at 10 percent.

Voters interviewed for this poll leading up to the New Hampshire primary were just as likely to choose Trump as those interviewed afterward, unlike the post-primary fluctuations in support seen for other GOP candidates based on their performance in the Granite State.

Among all New Jersey voters, Trump is not overwhelmingly popular, however: 31 percent have a favorable impression of the entrepreneur, while 57 percent have an unfavorable one – almost the same as Gov. Chris Christie's numbers in the Garden State. Voters are slightly less favorable toward Rubio and Cruz, at 27 percent and 20 percent, respectively, though negativity toward these candidates is not as strong as it is toward Trump. Thirty-seven percent are unfavorable toward Rubio (another 37 percent have no opinion or do not know him), and 48 percent are unfavorable toward Cruz (another 32 percent have no opinion or do not know him).

But Trump's ratings specifically among Republican voters are solid, far surpassing his competition's. Fifty-eight percent of Republicans are favorable toward Trump (30 percent are

unfavorable), compared to 40 percent who say the same about Rubio (27 percent unfavorable), and 31 percent who say the same about Cruz (38 percent unfavorable).

On the Democratic side, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton easily beats Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders for the nomination, 55 percent to 32 percent. Yet Sanders has an edge in favorability. Forty-six percent of voters have a favorable impression of the senator, while 29 percent have an unfavorable one and another 25 percent have no opinion or are not familiar with him. Clinton, on the other hand, receives higher negative than positive ratings – 42 percent favorable versus 47 percent unfavorable, with 11 percent uncertain. This is a marked difference from Clinton’s ratings a year ago, which were 59 percent favorable to 31 percent unfavorable.

Clinton, however, excels with her own party base. Over three-quarters of Democrats are favorable toward her, versus two-thirds who feel the same about Sanders.

Although each party has a clear frontrunner, more than half of voters are dissatisfied with the current field of candidates: 30 percent are somewhat dissatisfied, and 25 percent are very dissatisfied. Just 9 percent say they are very satisfied, and another 36 percent are somewhat satisfied. Republicans are most likely to express satisfaction with the choices available, followed by Democrats, with independents least satisfied.

“New Jersey voters look like the rest of the country when it comes to the 2016 race,” said Ashley Koning, assistant director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University. “Trump and Clinton hold strong leads and garner solid majorities among their respective party bases, despite their higher negative than positive ratings statewide. Yet neither candidate does well with independents, the driving force behind dissatisfaction with the current field – a strong indication of how polarizing the 2016 race already has become.”

Results are from a statewide poll of 889 adults contacted by live callers on both landlines and cell phones from Feb. 6 to 15, 2016, including 758 registered voters reported on in this release. The registered voter sample has a margin of error of +/-3.9 percentage points. Interviews were done in English and, when requested, Spanish.

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QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in the release of February 23, 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 you about some people. 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.
[ORDER RANDOMIZED]

	BUSINESSMAN DONALD TRUMP	GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE	U.S. SEN. MARCO RUBIO	U.S. SEN. TED CRUZ
Favorable	31%	29%	27%	20%
Unfavorable	57%	59%	37%	48%
No opn/don't know person	13%	12%	37%	32%
Unwgt N=	754	752	753	753

	PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA	U.S. SEN. BERNIE SANDERS	FMR. SEC. OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON
Favorable	52%	46%	42%
Unfavorable	40%	29%	47%
No opn/don't know person	8%	25%	11%
Unwgt N=	753	753	753

BUSINESSMAN DONALD TRUMP

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	9%	32%	58%	14%	31%	50%	37%	25%	38%	14%	22%	30%	32%	37%
Unfavorable	82%	53%	30%	79%	57%	30%	48%	65%	49%	74%	66%	62%	54%	48%
Don't know	9%	15%	12%	7%	13%	20%	15%	11%	13%	12%	12%	9%	14%	15%
Unwt N=	216	379	149	172	430	140	331	423	542	192	121	162	246	225

U.S. SEN. MARCO RUBIO

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	16%	27%	40%	11%	25%	51%	31%	23%	28%	25%	20%	20%	31%	34%
Unfavorable	49%	34%	27%	57%	33%	20%	38%	35%	39%	31%	34%	45%	34%	32%
Don't know	35%	39%	33%	32%	41%	29%	31%	42%	33%	44%	46%	34%	35%	34%
Unwt N=	216	378	149	171	430	140	331	422	541	192	121	162	246	224

U.S. SEN. TED CRUZ

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	10%	22%	31%	8%	18%	45%	26%	16%	22%	18%	21%	16%	21%	25%
Unfavorable	62%	43%	38%	63%	48%	24%	48%	48%	52%	37%	44%	56%	47%	42%
Don't know	27%	35%	31%	30%	34%	30%	27%	36%	26%	45%	35%	28%	32%	33%
Unwt N=	215	379	149	171	431	139	331	422	541	192	121	162	247	223

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

	Party ID		Ideology				Gender		Race		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	88%	48%	10%	81%	53%	18%	48%	56%	42%	76%	63%	57%	49%	44%
Unfavorable	8%	41%	84%	15%	38%	75%	46%	34%	51%	16%	30%	38%	43%	46%
Don't know	4%	11%	6%	4%	9%	8%	6%	9%	8%	8%	7%	5%	9%	10%
Unwt N=	216	378	148	171	430	140	331	422	540	193	122	162	246	223

U.S. SEN. BERNIE SANDERS

	Party ID		Ideology				Gender		Race		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	67%	43%	24%	71%	45%	18%	46%	46%	43%	53%	60%	47%	45%	36%
Unfavorable	14%	29%	49%	15%	26%	55%	35%	24%	33%	20%	20%	27%	30%	36%
Don't know	20%	27%	26%	14%	29%	27%	19%	30%	24%	27%	20%	26%	25%	28%
Unwt N=	215	379	149	171	431	139	331	422	541	192	121	161	247	224

FMR. SEC. OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON

	Party ID		Ideology				Gender		Race		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	78%	35%	6%	65%	43%	12%	30%	52%	34%	61%	37%	53%	39%	40%
Unfavorable	10%	53%	86%	26%	44%	82%	61%	35%	57%	25%	50%	38%	50%	50%
Don't know	11%	12%	8%	9%	13%	7%	9%	12%	9%	14%	13%	9%	11%	10%
Unwt N=	215	379	149	171	431	139	330	423	540	193	121	162	246	224

[REPUBLICANS AND GOP-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY]

Q. Let's turn to the 2016 presidential election. I am now going to read you a list of candidates running for the Republican nomination. If the Republican presidential primary in New Jersey were held today, for whom would you vote?

[READ ALOUD; ORDER OF NAMES RANDOMIZED]

Note: Chris Christie and Carly Fiorina were dropped from the specified list of candidates after each officially ended their presidential campaign.

	Feb 16	<i>Open-ended recall version; names not read aloud</i>					Party ID		NH PRIMARY, 2/9	
		Dec 15	Oct 15	Aug 15	Dec 14	Aug 14	Rep	Ind	PRE	POST
Donald Trump	38%	30%	32%	21%	-	-	43%	27%	38%	38%
Marco Rubio	11%	13%	13%	5%	4%	2%	8%	15%	11%	10%
Ted Cruz	10%	10%	6%	4%	3%	3%	8%	14%	8%	11%
John Kasich	8%	2%	2%	2%	-	-	6%	14%	2%	11%
Jeb Bush	7%	2%	5%	10%	6%	5%	9%	3%	4%	8%
Chris Christie	7%	14%	5%	12%	32%	41%	8%	5%	15%	3%
Ben Carson	5%	4%	13%	5%	2%	-	4%	6%	2%	6%
Carly Fiorina	2%	2%	5%	0%	-	-	2%	1%	4%	1%
Jim Gilmore	0%	0%	0%	-	-	-	0%	0%	0%	0%
Someone else	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%	3%	3%	2%
None (vol)	0%	-	-	-	-	-	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know	11%	19%	16%	19%	31%	30%	11%	12%	12%	11%
Unwght N =	227	230	266	242	222	249	148	77*	72*	155

**Small N, results should be interpreted with caution*

[DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRAT-LEADING REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY]

Q. Let's turn to the 2016 presidential election. I am now going to read you a list of candidates running for the Democratic nomination. If the Democratic presidential primary in New Jersey were held today, for whom would you vote?

[READ ALOUD; ORDER OF NAMES RANDOMIZED]

	Feb 16	Dec 15	Oct 15	Dec 14	Aug 14	Party ID		NH PRIMARY, 2/9	
						Dem	Ind	PRE	POST
Hillary Clinton	55%	60%	49%	54%	59%	62%	41%	58%	54%
Bernie Sanders	32%	19%	19%	-	-	26%	45%	35%	31%
Someone else	0%	3%	3%	3%	4%	0%	1%	0%	0%
None	3%	-	-	-	-	2%	6%	4%	3%
Don't know	9%	17%	20%	34%	30%	10%	7%	4%	11%
Unwght N =	304	304	358	288	339	211	92*	90*	214

** Small N, results should be interpreted with caution*

Q. Overall, how satisfied are you with the current field of candidates running for president this year – very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

Very satisfied	9%
Somewhat satisfied	36%
Somewhat dissatisfied	30%
Very dissatisfied	25%
Don't know	1%
Unwgt N=	753

	Party ID		Ideology			Gender		Race		Age				
	Dem	Ind Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
Very satisfied	12%	4%	18%	14%	5%	15%	9%	9%	10%	7%	7%	10%	10%	9%
Somewhat satisfied	36%	33%	42%	31%	36%	41%	38%	34%	34%	41%	40%	31%	37%	36%
Somewhat dissatisfied	32%	32%	21%	30%	31%	26%	29%	30%	29%	30%	30%	25%	31%	33%
Very dissatisfied	19%	30%	18%	24%	27%	16%	23%	26%	26%	21%	22%	34%	21%	22%
Don't know	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Unwgt N=	216	378	150	172	430	140	332	421	542	191	121	161	246	225

	Education				Region					
	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	
Very satisfied	8%	11%	8%	9%	8%	7%	7%	10%	13%	
Somewhat satisfied	44%	36%	35%	29%	45%	34%	31%	32%	40%	
Somewhat dissatisfied	29%	32%	28%	29%	28%	30%	33%	28%	29%	
Very dissatisfied	19%	20%	28%	32%	18%	27%	29%	29%	17%	
Don't know	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	
Unwgt N=	149	207	205	190	90*	224	131	146	162	

** Small N, results should be interpreted with caution*

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live callers February 6-15, 2015 with a scientifically selected random sample of 889 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. The sample contains a subsample of 758 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 471 landline and 418 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:	19%
Dual Use, Reached on Cell:	29%
Dual Use, Reached on LL:	48%
Landline Only:	5%

Data were weighted to the demographics of registered voters 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 using a raking algorithm to several demographic variables reflecting the registered voter 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 758 registered voters is +/- 3.6 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The registered voter subsample weighting design effect is 1.2, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.9 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 46.1 and 53.9 percent (50 +/-3.9) 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			
758 New Jersey Registered Voters			
29% Democrat	46% Male	20% 18-34	70% White
51% Independent	54% Female	24% 35-49	12% Black
20% Republican		31% 50-64	13% Hispanic
		24% 65+	6% Asian/Other/Multi