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Questions and tables are available at:

<http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu/rutgers-eagleton-Christie-casinos-NJ-Booker-Menendez-Sept2016>.

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**RATINGS FOR CHRISTIE AND DIRECTION OF STATE FALL TO NEW LOWS;  
NEW JERSEY VOTERS DON'T WANT TO "GAMBLE" ON CASINO EXPANSION**

**Booker's favorability continues to climb, Menendez's numbers hold steady**

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – As the Bridgegate trial gets underway, Gov. Chris Christie has reached yet another all-time ratings low, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. Just 23 percent of New Jersey registered voters now have a favorable opinion of Christie – down three points since April and seven points in the past year, leaving the governor's favorability at one third of its February 2013 peak. Sixty-seven percent now view the governor unfavorably, a new high for Christie since taking office.

Christie's overall job approval has likewise taken another hit and is now at 26 percent approve (down five points) to 69 percent disapprove (up six points). Christie fares no better on a variety of individual issues. He draws his lowest approval levels ever on issues like the economy and jobs (27 percent approve, 63 percent disapprove), the state pension fund situation (15 percent approve, 67 percent disapprove), and taxes (22 percent approve, 69 percent disapprove). Christie also drops to a new low on transportation and infrastructure (25 percent approve, 65 percent disapprove) and continues to receive low marks on education and schools (31 percent approve, 61 percent disapprove).

Matching their views of the governor, voters are increasingly pessimistic about the state's overall direction: just 25 percent now believe New Jersey is headed in the right direction (down six points), while 68 percent say the state has gone off on the wrong track (up eight points). Voters have been more negative than positive about the state's direction since March 2014, but have not been this pessimistic since October 2009.

“New Jerseyans are increasingly unhappy with the state and the way it is being run,” said Ashley Koning, interim director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) at Rutgers University. “With Bridgegate unlikely to go away any time soon, the Transportation Trust Fund and gas tax unresolved, and a still-struggling economy, it's no wonder that views on Gov. Christie and the state as a whole have slipped to new lows.”

Voters’ disapproving views extend to casino expansion in the Garden State, as well – no matter how the question is posed. Among those voters asked whether casino gambling should be permitted in other parts of the state or limited to Atlantic City, 40 percent side with the former (down four points), while 50 percent side with the latter (up one point); 3 percent volunteer that they do not want gambling permitted anywhere in the state, and 7 percent are unsure. Among those voters directly asked the casino expansion question that will appear on the November ballot, just 35 percent approve the amendment, while 58 percent disapprove; 7 percent are unsure.

“Eagleton has been polling on permitting gambling in other parts of the state since 1979, and New Jerseyans across a number of demographics have never warmed to the idea,” said Koning. “If this pattern continues, there is little hope for the ballot amendment passing.”

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker’s ratings are the sole bright spot in the general negativity expressed by voters in the Garden State: 55 percent are favorable (up seven points), 18 percent are unfavorable (down five points), and another 27 percent have no opinion. Seventy-four percent of Democrats, 50 percent of independents, and even 31 percent of Republicans like Booker.

Booker’s counterpart, U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, continues to hold steady, doing better than Christie despite an ongoing federal indictment: while only 28 percent are favorable toward the senior senator, just 32 percent are outright unfavorable, and 40 percent have no opinion.

Results are from a statewide poll of 802 adults contacted by live callers on both landlines and cell phones from Sept. 6 to 10, 2016, including 735 registered voters reported on in this release. The sample has a margin of error of +/-3.8 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 September 19, 2016 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]**

	<b>GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE</b>	<b>U.S. SEN. CORY BOOKER</b>	<b>U.S. SEN. ROBERT MENENDEZ</b>
Favorable	23%	55%	28%
Unfavorable	67%	18%	32%
No opn/don't know person	9%	27%	40%
Unwgt N=	732	734	734

**GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE** ([click for trend graph](#))

	4/16	2/16	2/16	12/15	10/15	8/15	4/15	2/15	12/14	10/14	8/14	4/14	2/14	1/14	11/13	10/13	9/13
<b>Trend</b>	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV
Fav	26%	31%	29%	33%	35%	30%	38%	37%	44%	42%	49%	50%	49%	46%	65%	61%	60%
Unfav	64%	60%	59%	59%	55%	59%	48%	53%	46%	45%	40%	42%	40%	43%	27%	28%	32%
DK	10%	9%	12%	8%	10%	11%	14%	10%	11%	12%	10%	9%	11%	11%	8%	11%	8%
N=	735	708	752	698	779	756	716	694	644	730	747	727	726	754	800	798	812

	6/13	4/13	2/13	11/12	9/12	8/12	6/12	3/12	2/12	11/11	10/11	8/11	4/11	2/11
<b>Trend</b>	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV
Fav	64%	64%	70%	67%	48%	49%	50%	46%	47%	49%	49%	45%	44%	46%
Unfav	26%	26%	20%	25%	42%	40%	39%	42%	42%	37%	39%	47%	42%	44%
DK	11%	10%	10%	9%	11%	11%	11%	12%	11%	14%	12%	8%	14%	10%
N=	761	816	695	1105	787	911	1,064	514	910	752	803	613	769	810

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wh.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore
Favorable	8%	20%	57%	25%	21%	28%	15%	18%	21%	26%	26%	13%	25%	27%	16%	32%
Unfavorable	87%	69%	28%	62%	72%	64%	73%	69%	67%	66%	68%	77%	67%	66%	70%	58%
Don't know	5%	11%	14%	13%	6%	8%	12%	12%	12%	8%	6%	10%	8%	6%	14%	10%
Unwt N=	284	293	153	353	379	465	245	117	176	278	161	111	267	101	132	121

**U.S. SEN. CORY BOOKER** ([click for trend graph](#))

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wh.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore
Favorable	74%	50%	31%	54%	56%	52%	62%	49%	56%	57%	57%	70%	61%	55%	40%	47%
Unfavorable	7%	17%	42%	22%	14%	22%	11%	16%	13%	20%	23%	12%	19%	16%	18%	23%
Don't know	19%	33%	27%	23%	30%	26%	28%	35%	31%	23%	20%	18%	20%	29%	42%	29%
Unwt N=	285	294	153	354	380	467	245	118	176	279	161	112	267	101	132	122

**U.S. SEN. ROBERT MENENDEZ (click for trend graph)**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore
Favorable	39%	21%	20%	28%	28%	26%	33%	22%	27%	27%	36%	37%	27%	33%	22%	25%
Unfavorable	18%	35%	51%	38%	26%	39%	20%	18%	25%	41%	39%	16%	35%	30%	30%	44%
Don't know	43%	43%	29%	33%	46%	36%	47%	60%	48%	33%	24%	47%	38%	37%	48%	31%
Unwt N=	285	293	154	353	381	467	245	118	176	279	161	112	267	102	132	121

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

[\(Click here for trend graph\)](#)

		Christie Favorability		NJ Right/Wrong Track	
		Fav	Unfav	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Approve	26%	85%	6%	55%	16%
Disapprove	69%	10%	93%	39%	81%
Don't know	5%	5%	1%	6%	3%
Unwgt N=	730	169	493	172	501

Trend	4/16	2/16	2/16	12/15	10/15	8/15	4/15	2/15	12/14	10/14	8/14	4/14	2/14
	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV
Approve	31%	37%	33%	33%	39%	37%	41%	42%	48%	49%	52%	55%	55%
Disapprove	63%	60%	61%	62%	56%	59%	54%	52%	47%	46%	41%	41%	39%
Don't know	6%	4%	6%	4%	6%	4%	5%	6%	5%	5%	7%	4%	6%
Unwgt N=	732	709	747	689	773	749	713	690	637	730	749	724	725

Trend	1/14	11/13	10/13	9/13	6/13	4/13	2/13	11/12
	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV
Approve	53%	68%	67%	66%	70%	68%	73%	67%
Disapprove	41%	26%	29%	31%	25%	26%	23%	26%
Don't know	6%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	7%
Unwgt N=	747	795	794	809	756	810	696	533

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore
Approve	10%	23%	63%	31%	22%	31%	19%	26%	21%	29%	28%	16%	29%	26%	18%	40%
Disapprove	88%	70%	30%	63%	74%	64%	76%	67%	74%	66%	70%	80%	68%	72%	74%	52%
Don't know	2%	7%	7%	6%	4%	5%	5%	7%	5%	6%	3%	4%	3%	3%	8%	8%
Unwt N=	284	292	152	353	377	465	243	118	174	276	162	112	264	101	131	122

**Q. I am going to list some specific areas where I would like you to tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing as Governor. First: [RANDOMIZE ORDER]**

[\(Click here for trend graph\)](#)

	NJ's economy and jobs	Taxes	Education and schools	State pension fund situation	Transportation
Approve	27%	22%	31%	15%	25%
Disapprove	63%	69%	61%	67%	65%
DK	10%	9%	8%	18%	10%
Unwgt N=	728	727	730	727	730

	NJ's Economy and Jobs	Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Job Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Approve	27%	64%	15%	63%	13%
Disapprove	63%	28%	76%	27%	79%
Don't know	10%	8%	9%	10%	8%
Unwgt N=	728	166	493	185	504

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non- wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore
	Approve	14%	30%	47%	32%	23%	29%	26%	35%	25%	27%	22%	20%	29%	35%	23%
Disapprove	78%	60%	43%	59%	67%	63%	64%	56%	63%	65%	68%	69%	62%	58%	67%	63%
Don't know	8%	11%	10%	9%	10%	8%	10%	9%	12%	7%	10%	12%	10%	7%	10%	8%
Unwt N=	285	290	152	351	377	464	243	118	175	276	159	111	264	102	130	121

	Taxes	Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Job Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Approve	22%	52%	12%	54%	11%
Disapprove	69%	45%	78%	44%	79%
Don't know	9%	2%	10%	2%	11%
Unwgt N=	727	166	492	184	504

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non- wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore
	Approve	11%	22%	45%	29%	17%	25%	17%	26%	21%	25%	17%	13%	25%	28%	21%
Disapprove	79%	67%	54%	63%	73%	66%	72%	64%	70%	67%	73%	78%	66%	58%	71%	74%
Don't know	10%	11%	2%	8%	10%	8%	11%	10%	9%	7%	10%	10%	9%	15%	8%	4%
Unwt N=	284	292	150	349	378	462	243	118	174	278	157	112	263	102	130	120

Education and Schools		Christie Overall Approval			
		Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Approve	31%	71%	14%	68%	15%
Disapprove	61%	23%	78%	26%	76%
Don't know	8%	6%	8%	6%	9%
Unwgt N=	730	170	491	188	504

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore
Approve	19%	28%	59%	37%	25%	35%	26%	26%	33%	34%	29%	19%	33%	38%	23%	38%
Disapprove	75%	62%	31%	54%	67%	56%	68%	65%	61%	59%	60%	74%	60%	55%	65%	53%
Don't know	6%	11%	9%	9%	8%	9%	6%	9%	6%	7%	11%	8%	7%	7%	13%	9%
Unwt N=	283	292	153	352	378	466	244	118	174	277	161	112	264	101	131	122

The state pension fund situation		Christie Overall Approval			
		Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Approve	15%	38%	7%	38%	6%
Disapprove	67%	41%	79%	38%	80%
Don't know	18%	21%	14%	23%	14%
Unwgt N=	727	165	493	183	505

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore
Approve	5%	17%	31%	19%	12%	17%	11%	13%	14%	21%	11%	6%	18%	18%	12%	18%
Disapprove	82%	63%	48%	65%	70%	67%	68%	64%	67%	68%	70%	69%	66%	67%	70%	65%
Don't know	13%	20%	21%	17%	18%	16%	21%	23%	20%	11%	19%	24%	16%	14%	18%	17%
Unwt N=	283	289	153	349	378	462	243	117	173	277	160	111	265	101	130	120

Transportation		Christie Overall Job Approval			
		Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Job Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Approve	25%	55%	14%	53%	13%
Disapprove	65%	34%	77%	37%	79%
Don't know	10%	11%	8%	10%	8%
Unwgt N=	730	168	494	186	506

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore
Approve	17%	24%	43%	30%	21%	24%	28%	31%	20%	28%	21%	25%	25%	20%	23%	31%
Disapprove	74%	67%	44%	64%	67%	66%	64%	59%	68%	63%	72%	68%	64%	74%	62%	62%
Don't know	9%	9%	13%	7%	12%	10%	9%	10%	12%	9%	7%	7%	11%	6%	14%	6%
Unwt N=	285	292	151	352	378	464	244	118	174	278	160	112	264	102	132	120

**Q. Would you say the state of New Jersey is currently going in the right direction or has it gone off on the wrong track?**

[\(Click here for trend graph\)](#)

		Christie		Christie Overall	
		Favorability		Job Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Going in the right direction	25%	51%	15%	52%	14%
On the wrong track	68%	43%	79%	41%	80%
Don't know	7%	6%	7%	7%	6%
Unwgt N=	731	169	492	188	504

	Party ID			Gender		Race			Age				Region			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore
Right direction	17%	24%	39%	26%	24%	25%	23%	40%	23%	24%	14%	25%	24%	30%	24%	21%
Wrong track	74%	70%	52%	68%	68%	67%	70%	56%	70%	69%	76%	66%	70%	60%	69%	71%
Don't know	8%	6%	9%	6%	8%	8%	7%	4%	7%	8%	10%	10%	5%	10%	8%	7%
Unwgt N=	283	293	153	351	380	466	244	118	176	276	161	111	267	101	132	120

[VERSION A]

**Q. Right now, casino gambling is only allowed in Atlantic City. Do you think casino gambling should be [ROTATE: permitted in other parts of New Jersey], or should it be [limited to just Atlantic City]?**

	Sept 2016	March 2016	Oct 2014	Jan 1999	Jan 1979
Permitted in other parts of New Jersey	40%	44%	47%	35%	27%
Limited to just AC	50%	49%	43%	54%	57%
Not permitted anywhere (vol)	3%	2%	3%	3%	7%
Don't know	7%	5%	7%	8%	3%
Unwgt N=	371	796	831	800	1004

	Party ID (w/ leaners)		Gender		Race	
	Dem	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white
Permitted in other parts of New Jersey	39%	37%	45%	36%	36%	45%
Limited to just AC	52%	51%	44%	54%	53%	45%
Not permitted anywhere (vol)	4%	2%	3%	3%	4%	1%
Don't know	5%	9%	8%	7%	7%	9%
Unwgt N=	187	124	181	190	244	119

[VERSION B]

**Q. Right now, casino gambling is only allowed in Atlantic City. Do you approve or disapprove amending the New Jersey state constitution to permit casino gambling in two additional counties in the state that are at least 72 miles from Atlantic City?**

Approve	35%
Disapprove	58%
Don't know	7%
Unwgt N=	362

	Party ID (w/ leaners)		Gender		Race	
	Dem	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white
Approve	33%	40%	37%	34%	32%	43%
Disapprove	59%	54%	59%	57%	59%	55%
Don't know	8%	6%	4%	9%	9%	2%
Unwgt N=	204	95	172	190	222	126

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live callers September 6-10, 2016 with a scientifically selected random sample of 802 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. The sample contains a subsample of 735 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 441 landline and 361 cell phone adults, all acquired through random digit dialing. Distribution of household phone use in this sample is:

Cell Only:	21%
Dual Use, Reached on Cell:	25%
Dual Use, Reached on LL:	51%
Landline Only:	4%

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 5<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> 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 735 registered voters is +/-3.5 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. In this poll, the simple sampling error for the 735 registered voters is +/-3.6 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The registered voter subsample weighting design effect is 1.13, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.8 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 46.2 and 53.8 percent (50 +/- 3.8) 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 by Braun Research, Inc. The questionnaire was developed in partnership with the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP). 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 through our archives at [eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu](http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu). For more information, please contact [eagleton.poll@rutgers.edu](mailto:eagleton.poll@rutgers.edu).

<b>Weighted Sample Characteristics</b>			
<b>735 New Jersey Registered Voters</b>			
38% Democrat	46% Male	21% 18-34	63% White
41% Independent	54% Female	23% 35-49	12% Black
21% Republican		32% 50-64	15% Hispanic
		24% 65+	10% Asian/Other/Multi