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**CHRISTIE'S COATTAILS SHORT IN TRENTON RACES;
MAJORITY OF VOTERS FAVOR MINIMUM WAGE HIKE**

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J – Despite giving Gov. Chris Christie a 20-point lead over state Sen. Barbara Buono, half of likely voters want Democrats to retain control of the New Jersey Legislature in November, according to a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. Only 38 percent want to give Republicans a chance to take charge in Trenton.

In another sign that the GOP governor's legislative coattails seem short, voters say they will choose Democratic candidates for Assembly and Senate seats by double-digit margins. Nearly 50 percent are voting or leaning Democratic for their local Assembly races, while 32 percent support Republicans. Results are similar for state Senate races.

At the same time, voter impressions of the Democrat-controlled Legislature are nearly evenly split: 33 percent have a favorable impression, 32 percent an unfavorable impression and 34 percent have no opinion or remain unsure.

"The statewide ballot tests do not address individual races," said David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and professor of political science at Rutgers University. "But they do give us a sense of how the voters are feeling. Right now they seem to be quite happy to split their tickets, supporting a Republican governor and a Democratic Legislature."

Voters continue to overwhelmingly favor a constitutional amendment raising the state's minimum wage. By a 76 percent to 22 percent margin, likely voters support the November ballot question to increase the minimum wage by \$1 to \$8.25 per hour. Over half of Republicans plan to vote for the increase, despite Christie's earlier veto of a similar measure.

"This level of support for a minimum wage increase has been unwavering since the Legislature defied Christie and placed the question on the ballot," noted Redlawsk. "Even the governor's supporters are more likely than not to want the measure passed."

Results are from a sample of 568 likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points, part of a poll of 925 adult New Jerseyans conducted statewide from Sept. 3-9, with both landline and cell phone households. Included were 814 registered voters, with a margin of error of +/-3.4 percentage points, from which the likely voter sample is taken.

Christie coattails seem short

Since April, Democrats have held a wide lead over Republicans in a statewide test of November's Assembly and Senate races. Likely voters now prefer Democrats for Assembly by a 46 percent to 30 percent margin (49-32, when "leaners" are included) and 48 percent to 33 percent for the Senate (50-35, with leaners.)

At a similar point two years ago, Democrats held a 10- to 12-point advantage over Republicans, going on to hold all their Senate seats and gain one in the Assembly.

Even among those with a favorable impression of the governor, Christie's sway is limited: 42 percent of these voters will vote GOP for the Assembly, but 30 percent will vote for Democrats. Those who dislike Christie are more united: 75 percent plan to support Democratic Assembly candidates, while only 10 percent will support Republicans.

Among those committed to voting for Christie, Republicans do better – leading 50 percent to 22 percent – but those voting for Buono overwhelmingly choose Democrats, 82 percent to 5 percent.

"While some individual races will be highly competitive and seats could change hands, Democrats seem to be where they need to be statewide," noted Redlawsk. "History suggests the GOP needs to be much closer in this generic ballot test to make major inroads across the state."

Since Democrats significantly outnumber Republicans among likely voters here, GOP chances are hurt in statewide ballot tests because most plan to vote their party. In Assembly races, 86 percent of Democrats and 76 percent of Republicans will not cross party lines. More importantly, despite their strong support for Christie, independents are less certain when it comes to the Assembly: 34 percent favor Republicans, 26 percent Democrats and 35 percent are undecided or do not plan to cast a ballot. A few plan to split their votes.

Among likely voters with a favorable impression of the Legislature, Democrats lead Republicans by 37 points. Among the Legislature's detractors, likely Republicans voters hold a nine-point lead. While the large number of undecided independents could still sway things toward the GOP, Redlawsk noted that historically, this has not been the case, with many simply not voting.

A similar story plays out for the Senate, where voters with a favorable impression of Christie are 15 points more likely to vote for a Republican; those who say they will vote for the governor are 31 points more likely to do so. But 78 percent of his detractors and 85 percent of Buono voters will vote for a Senate Democrat, compared to only 11 percent and 6 percent, respectively, of those groups who say they will go for the GOP.

As with the Assembly, voters will stick with their party for the Senate. Independents lean toward the GOP, 35 percent to 28 percent, but the difference is not enough to swing the test ballot.

Voters' preferences for control the Legislature play out like the vote itself. Democrats and leaners in either the Assembly or Senate races overwhelmingly want Democrats to remain in control, while Republicans and their leaners strongly want their party to be the majority. Independents are 14

points more likely to side with the GOP, but again, this is not a large enough margin to overcome the much greater number of Democrats than Republicans in the state.

While those voting for Christie prefer Republican control of the Legislature by 2 to 1, about eight in 10 Buono supporters want Democrats in control, showing again that Buono supporters are more likely to stick with the party line than are Christie voters.

Minimum wage gets support across partisan divide

With 76 percent of all likely voters favoring the minimum wage constitutional amendment, support is strong and widespread. More than 60 percent of Christie supporters favor the amendment despite the governor's opposition, while 94 percent of Buono backers favor the increase. Majority support for the amendment crosses party lines, though at different levels: 93 percent of Democrats, 67 percent of independents and 58 percent of Republicans want to see the amendment passed.

Women are much stronger supporters, 82 percent to 68 percent. Support decreases as income increases, though 68 percent in the highest income bracket still support the measure. In comparison, 83 percent in the lowest income bracket would vote for the amendment.

“While those working in minimum-wage jobs could certainly be expected to support this amendment, people at all economic levels seem to have sympathy for how hard it is to make ends meet in a low-wage job,” said Redlawsk. “Women may be the most affected by this proposal, since nationally they hold more than 60 percent of minimum-wage jobs. But support is not all about self-interest. Otherwise, it would be far lower than it actually is.”

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QUESTIONS AND TABLES BEGIN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in the release of September 23, 2013 are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are New Jersey Gubernatorial Election Likely Voters unless otherwise indicated; all percentages are of weighted results.

Q. 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.

	The New Jersey State Legislature						June 2013 Reg Voters		April 2013 Reg Voters					
Favorable	33%						30%		41%					
Unfavorable	32%						26%		20%					
No Opn/Don't Know (vol)	34%						43%		39%					
Unwgt N=	563						760		816					

	Party ID						Ideology			Gender		Race		Age		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-44	45-64	65+			
Favorable	44%	25%	30%	40%	35%	22%	32%	35%	30%	43%	36%	31%	34%			
Unfavorable	21%	42%	38%	25%	31%	45%	37%	28%	36%	22%	24%	39%	33%			
DK/No Opn	36%	34%	32%	35%	34%	33%	31%	37%	34%	35%	41%	31%	33%			
Unwt N=	216	206	131	151	263	141	259	304	435	111	104	260	199			

	Income					Education					
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	> 150K		HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work		
Favorable	28%	33%	42%	36%	28%	35%	30%	41%			
Unfavorable	29%	36%	28%	30%	42%	34%	28%	29%			
DK/No Opn	43%	31%	30%	34%	30%	32%	42%	30%			
Unwt N=	105	173	88	76	93	136	174	153			

	Region						Union Household	
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore		Public	No Union
Favorable	45%	32%	32%	38%	22%	29%	35%	
Unfavorable	21%	32%	30%	35%	43%	39%	29%	
DK/No Opn	34%	37%	38%	27%	35%	32%	35%	
Unwt N=	72	174	115	112	90	100	412	

[Questions on evaluations of Gov. Christie, the special U.S. Senate election, and the NJ governor's race directly preceded the following questions. Results of those questions were released on September 11, 2013, September 13, 2013, and September 16, 2013.]

Q. There will also be elections for the New Jersey state legislature in November. Please think about the election for your representatives to the General Assembly. Do you plan to vote for [ROTATE: Democrats or Republicans] for the General Assembly, or do you plan to skip the election this time?

[ASK ONLY IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW OR REFUSED]

Q. Are you leaning toward voting for [ROTATE] Democrats for the New Jersey Assembly or for Republicans?

	Likely Voters Sept 2013		Registered Voters			
	Without Leaners	With Leaners	June 2013		April 2013	
			Without Leaners	With Leaners	Without Leaners	With Leaners
Democrat	46%	49%	40%	42%	38%	44%
Republican	30%	32%	24%	27%	23%	26%
Other (vol)	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Some Dems/some Reps (vol)	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Not vote (vol)	5%	6%	12%	13%	9%	9%
Don't know/not sure (vol)	15%	10%	19%	13%	26%	16%
Unwgt N=	562	566	750	751	811	814

Likely Voters Without Leaners

	Christie Fav		Buono Favorability			NJ Leg Favorability			Christie v Buono	
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	No Opn/ DK	Fav	Unfav	No Opn/ DK	Christie	Buono
Democrat	30%	75%	72%	20%	42%	59%	34%	45%	22%	82%
Republican	42%	10%	10%	64%	26%	22%	43%	26%	50%	5%
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Some Ds/some Rs	2%	3%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%
Not vote	7%	3%	3%	2%	9%	6%	4%	6%	7%	3%
Don't know/not sure	18%	8%	13%	11%	19%	10%	16%	19%	19%	8%
Unwgt N=	342	194	179	148	234	182	189	186	315	196

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race		Age		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Cons	Male	Female	White	Non- white	18-44	45-64	65+
Democrat	86%	26%	7%	79%	45%	10%	43%	49%	39%	66%	51%	41%	49%
Republican	2%	34%	76%	7%	26%	70%	35%	26%	37%	12%	28%	30%	32%
Other	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Some D/some R	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%	3%
Not vote	4%	5%	9%	3%	7%	3%	6%	5%	5%	6%	8%	6%	3%
Don't know	7%	30%	4%	9%	17%	15%	13%	16%	15%	15%	12%	19%	13%
Unwgt N=	218	206	130	150	266	138	258	304	436	109	104	260	198

	Income				Education				
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work	
Democrat	53%	49%	45%	37%	42%	49%	41%	53%	
Republican	27%	29%	28%	41%	31%	25%	35%	28%	
Other	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%	
Some D/some R	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	
Not vote	1%	7%	4%	8%	6%	5%	7%	4%	
Don't know	17%	13%	20%	11%	18%	18%	14%	12%	
Unwgt N=	104	173	89	75	93	137	172	153	

**2013 NJ Ballot September
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Region					Union Household	
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	Public	No Union
Democrat	57%	47%	38%	53%	36%	52%	46%
Republican	15%	25%	42%	27%	43%	22%	32%
Other	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%
Some D/some R	1%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Not vote	9%	5%	3%	4%	7%	7%	5%
Don't know	17%	19%	14%	13%	10%	17%	14%
Unwt N=	72	174	116	111	89	101	412

Q. Now think about the election for your representative to the *State Senate*. Do you plan to vote for [ROTATE: the Democrat or the Republican] for the New Jersey Senate or do you plan to skip the election this time?

[ASK ONLY IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT KNOW OR REFUSED]

Q. Are you leaning toward voting for [ROTATE] the Democrat for the New Jersey State Senate or for the Republican?

	Likely Voters Sept 2013		Registered Voters			
	Without Leaners	With Leaners	June 2013		April 2013	
			Without Leaners	With Leaners	Without Leaners	With Leaners
Democrat	48%	50%	42%	44%	43%	46%
Republican	33%	35%	26%	29%	26%	28%
Other (vol)	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	4%
Not vote (vol)	4%	4%	11%	11%	6%	6%
Don't know/not sure (vol)	13%	9%	19%	13%	22%	17%
Unwgt N=	563	567	750	751	809	813

Likely Voters Without Leaners

	Christie Fav		Buono Fav			NJ Leg Favorability			Christie v Buono	
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	No Opn/ DK	Fav	Unfav	No Opn/ DK	Christie	Buono
Democrat	32%	78%	72%	21%	47%	59%	37%	49%	24%	85%
Republican	47%	11%	14%	67%	28%	26%	46%	28%	55%	6%
Other	0%	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%
Not vote	6%	%	2%	1%	7%	5%	1%	5%	5%	1%
Don't know	15%	7%	10%	10%	17%	9%	14%	16%	16%	6%
Unwgt N=	342	195	179	148	235	183	189	186	315	197

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race		Age		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Cons	Male	Female	White	Non- white	18-44	45-64	65+
Democrat	91%	28%	5%	81%	46%	14%	41%	55%	42%	68%	56%	44%	47%
Republican	4%	35%	84%	10%	30%	71%	41%	27%	41%	13%	33%	32%	35%
Other	0%	4%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%	3%	1%
Not vote	2%	6%	3%	1%	5%	2%	4%	4%	3%	6%	5%	3%	3%
Don't know	3%	27%	8%	7%	16%	13%	12%	13%	13%	12%	6%	17%	14%
Unwgt N=	218	207	130	149	267	139	259	304	437	109	105	260	198

**2013 NJ Ballot September
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Income				HS or Less	Education		
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+		Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Democrat	56%	52%	48%	42%	37%	50%	47%	56%
Republican	26%	28%	30%	48%	37%	32%	35%	29%
Other	3%	2%	2%	0%	4%	1%	0%	2%
Not vote	3%	6%	0%	3%	6%	4%	4%	3%
Don't know	12%	12%	20%	7%	15%	12%	13%	11%
Unwgt N=	104	174	89	76	93	136	174	153

	Region					Union Household	
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	Public	No Union
Democrat	58%	49%	41%	51%	45%	58%	48%
Republican	23%	31%	45%	28%	40%	28%	35%
Other	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Not vote	5%	4%	4%	4%	2%	1%	4%
Don't know	13%	14%	8%	17%	11%	12%	12%
Unwt N=	72	174	116	111	90	101	412

Q. Democrats currently control both houses of the New Jersey legislature. Do you think Democrats should remain in control or is it time to give control of the legislature to the Republicans?

Democrats Remain	50%
Give control to Republicans	38%
Don't care/doesn't matter who controls (vol)	6%
Don't know	6%
Unwgt N=	561

	General Assembly Election		State Senate Election	
	Democrats	Republicans	Democrat	Republican
Democrats	86%	7%	86%	7%
Republicans	7%	87%	6%	86%
Don't Care	5%	5%	4%	6%
Don't know	3%	1%	3%	0%
Unwgt N=	245	177	257	192

	Christie Fav		Buono Fav			NJ Leg Favorability			Christie v Buono	
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	No Opn/ DK	Fav	Unfav	No Opn/ DK	Christie	Buono
Democrats	32%	79%	75%	25%	46%	58%	36%	56%	25%	84%
Republicans	53%	14%	15%	68%	38%	32%	51%	30%	60%	9%
Don't Care	8%	2%	4%	5%	8%	3%	8%	7%	9%	3%
Don't know	6%	5%	6%	2%	9%	6%	5%	7%	6%	4%
Unwgt N=	342	195	179	148	233	182	191	184	316	197

**2013 NJ Ballot September
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race		Age		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Cons	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-44	45-64	65+
Democrats	87%	32%	8%	86%	46%	15%	45%	54%	44%	65%	52%	46%	55%
Republicans	6%	46%	84%	9%	38%	74%	44%	33%	42%	27%	36%	40%	36%
Don't Care	4%	9%	5%	4%	8%	4%	6%	6%	7%	3%	7%	6%	5%
Don't know	3%	12%	3%	2%	9%	6%	5%	7%	6%	5%	5%	9%	4%
Unwgt N=	218	201	132	150	262	141	257	304	435	109	104	257	200

	Income				Education			
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Democrats	54%	53%	44%	40%	42%	52%	48%	56%
Republicans	39%	35%	39%	50%	47%	36%	37%	35%
Don't Care	2%	7%	8%	7%	5%	5%	7%	6%
Don't know	5%	5%	9%	3%	5%	8%	8%	3%
Unwgt N=	104	172	89	75	94	135	172	153

	Region					Union Household	
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	Public	No Union
Democrats	61%	49%	43%	55%	44%	62%	48%
Republicans	30%	35%	48%	32%	45%	28%	39%
Don't Care	5%	8%	4%	4%	8%	3%	7%
Don't know	4%	7%	5%	9%	3%	6%	6%
Unwt N=	72	172	115	112	90	98	414

Q. In November, New Jersey voters will vote on an amendment to the state constitution to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$8.25 with automatic annual cost of living increases. If the election were today, would you support or oppose this constitutional amendment?

	Likely Voters September 2013	Registered Voters	
		June 2013	April 2013
Support	76%	77%	76%
Oppose	22%	18%	20%
Don't know	2%	5%	4%
Unwgt N=	566	759	816

Likely Voters

	Christie Favorability		Buono Favorability			Christie v Buono	
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	No Opn/DK	Christie	Buono
Support	67%	92%	92%	54%	76%	62%	94%
Oppose	30%	7%	7%	41%	22%	34%	5%
Don't know	3%	1%	0%	4%	3%	3%	1%
Unwgt N=	345	195	178	149	238	318	198

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race		Age		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-44	45-64	65+
Support	93%	67%	58%	90%	83%	44%	68%	82%	73%	85%	82%	71%	75%
Oppose	6%	29%	39%	9%	15%	52%	31%	14%	25%	13%	16%	26%	22%
Don't know	1%	3%	3%	0%	3%	4%	1%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Unwt N=	219	206	131	151	266	141	259	307	440	109	104	261	201

**2013 NJ Ballot September
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Income				Education			
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	> 150K	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Support	83%	81%	75%	68%	73%	80%	73%	77%
Oppose	16%	19%	23%	30%	24%	18%	26%	19%
Don't know	2%	1%	3%	1%	3%	2%	1%	4%
Unwt N=	106	175	89	76	94	138	175	153

	Region					Union Household	
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	Public	No Union
Support	79%	79%	61%	84%	74%	80%	74%
Oppose	20%	19%	34%	13%	25%	18%	23%
Don't know	1%	2%	5%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Unwt N=	72	174	117	112	91	101	415

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll September 3-9, 2013

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone September 3-9, 2013 with a scientifically selected random sample of 925 New Jersey adults. Of these, 814 were registered voters. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey registered voter population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to US Census Bureau data. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 782 landline and 143 cell phone adults, all acquired through random digit dialing.

This release reports on 568 LIKELY VOTERS for the November 5, NJ Gubernatorial election. To determine likely voters, we ask registered voters about attention to the election, the last time they voted, and intent to vote in this election. Potential voters are also given the chance to say they will not vote when asked who they support. Likely voters are those who score in roughly the top 70% of registered voters on the resulting scale. No additional weighting is applied to likely voters; the registered voter weight is used.

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. The sampling error for 568 LIKELY voters is +/-4.1 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey likely voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 45.9 and 54.1 percent (50 +/-4.1) if all New Jersey registered voters were interviewed, rather than just a sample.

The sampling error for 814 registered voters is +/- 3.4 percentage points.

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 by Braun Research Incorporated and 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 814 New Jersey Registered Voters			
41% Democrat	47% Male	13% 18-29	68% White
38% Independent	53% Female	32% 30-49	14% Black
21% Republican		30% 50-64	8% Hispanic
		25% 65+	10% Asian/Other/Multi

Weighted Sample Characteristics 568 Likely Gubernatorial Voters			
41% Democrat	47% Male	19% 18-39	73% White
36% Independent	53% Female	55% 40-64	14% Black
23% Republican		27% 65+	6% Hispanic
			7% Asian/Other/Multi