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EDITOR'S NOTE: ATTENTION POLITICAL, ASSIGNMENT EDITORS, Poll Assistant Director Ashley Koning may be contacted at 908-872-1186 (cell), 848-932-8940 (office), or akoning@rutgers.edu. Poll Director David Redlawsk may be reached at 319-400-1134 (cell) or redlawsk@rutgers.edu. Questions and tables are available at <http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu/rutgers-eagleton-christie-ratings-2016-dec2015>. Find all releases at <http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu>, and visit our blog at <http://eagletonpollblog.wordpress.com> for additional commentary. Follow the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RutgersEagletonPoll> and Twitter [@EagletonPoll](https://twitter.com/EagletonPoll).

**CHRISTIE'S JOB APPROVAL HITS NEW LOW,
RATINGS ACROSS THE BOARD CONTINUE TO SLIP**

Trump still leads 2016 GOP field in New Jersey, Christie reclaims second

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – Gov. Chris Christie may be on the rise in New Hampshire, but his numbers continue to fall with voters back home, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. Christie's overall job approval has slipped to its lowest point yet: 33 percent of New Jersey registered voters now approve of his performance, a drop of six points since October, and 62 percent disapprove, up six points. This represents voters' strongest disapproval of Christie's job performance to date.

Likewise, 33 percent of voters have a favorable opinion of Christie, the second lowest rating he has ever received. Christie's unfavorable rating is back at its all-time high of 59 percent after a small improvement in October. Since August, every poll has consistently found more than half of New Jersey voters in the unfavorable column.

"Governor Christie's good fortune and favorables may be improving on the national campaign trail, but it's just the opposite in New Jersey," said Ashley Koning, assistant director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at Rutgers University. "Ever since Christie announced his official 2016 run, he has received his lowest ratings as governor – even lower than in the year post-Bridgegate."

Christie fares no better on individual issues. His rating on the perennial top issue – taxes – hits another new low: now 23 percent approve while 71 percent disapprove. He also reaches new lows on the economy and jobs (30 percent approve, 63 percent disapprove), the state budget (25 percent approve, 63 percent disapprove), the state pension fund situation (21 percent approve, 66 percent disapprove) and education (33 percent approve, 59 percent disapprove).

More voters also disapprove of Christie's work on crimes and drugs (40 percent approve, 46 percent disapprove), as well as transportation and infrastructure (30 percent approve, 58 percent disapprove). Voters continue to be closely divided on his handling of Sandy recovery – 48 percent approve, 44 percent disapprove – a far cry from the near-unanimous approval he received through most of 2013.

The only bright spot for Christie at home is his return to second place for the 2016 Republican

nomination among New Jersey Republican and GOP-leaning registered voters. Christie now stands at 14 percent. Donald Trump remains Republicans' top choice at 30 percent.

Six in 10 New Jersey Democrats and Democratic-leaning registered voters continue to prefer former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as their 2016 nominee.

Results are from a statewide poll of 843 adults contacted by live callers on both landlines and cell phones from Nov. 30 to Dec. 6, 2015, including 700 registered voters reported on in this release. The registered voter sample has a margin of error of +/-4.1 percentage points. Interviews were done in English and, when requested, Spanish.

Independents' criticism of Christie grows

While Christie continues to receive lackluster ratings from most Garden State voters, his Republican base remains in his corner: 69 percent approve of the job he is doing, and 70 percent have a favorable impression of him. Democrats feel just the opposite, holding steady at 16 percent on job approval and 15 percent on favorability.

This time, independents show the most significant shift since last polled in October. Returning to a level of negativity not seen since August, 31 percent of independents now approve of the job Christie is doing, while 66 percent disapprove. This is much different from the split two months ago, 42 percent approve to 49 percent disapprove. Similarly, 30 percent of independents are now favorable toward Christie, down six points in two months. Sixty-three percent are unfavorable, up 14 points.

Christie's overall ratings increase among white voters, as well as with age and income. The governor still draws his biggest support from exurban and shore counties. Nonetheless, even among these groups, he does not garner a favorable or approving majority.

Christie's report card has changed little since August. When asked to award the governor a letter grade, more voters than ever now give Christie an F, at 31 percent (up three points since October). For the third time in the past year, just 5 percent give him an A – the lowest number of top grades Christie has received since taking office. Nineteen percent now give Christie a B, 23 percent a C, and another 21 percent a D.

Just 3 percent of Democrats give Christie an A, while 41 percent fail him and another 25 percent give him a D. Just 4 percent of independents give Christie an A. The rest of this group is spread out more evenly among the remaining letter grades – though they are slightly more likely to give him an F (at 35 percent) than any other grade.

Republicans are the only group, besides those favorable toward Christie and those who approve of the job he is doing, whose number of As reaches double-digits. Thirteen percent of Republicans award him this top grade, while another 38 percent give him a B; but Christie still gets a D from 14 percent of his base, and 6 percent give him an F.

Christie's low marks on individual issues continue across the board

New Jersey voters, who often cite taxes as one of the most important problems in the state, have

consistently given Christie some of his lowest scores on this issue, beaten out only by his even lower approval rating on the state pension fund situation.

Christie garners majority approval on taxes from no group. Republicans continue to turn against him on this issue: 44 percent approve of his approach, while 53 percent disapprove. Just 16 percent of Democrats (an improvement of four points) and 20 percent of independents (down six points) approve of Christie's job in this area.

Approval ratings on the economy and state budget show similar patterns. Republicans are still not fully in Christie's corner for either; 50 percent approve and 41 percent disapprove of his performance on the economy, while 48 percent approve and 34 percent disapprove of his work on the state budget. Three-quarters of Democrats disapprove of his job in both areas, as do more than two thirds of independents.

Christie does worse on the state pension fund situation, failing to gain majority approval even from those with a favorable impression of him or those who approve of the job he is doing overall. Republicans have now turned against him on state pensions: 33 percent approve of his handling of the issue (down six points), and 49 percent disapprove (up seven points). Just 12 percent of Democrats and 21 percent of independents approve of Christie's job in this area.

On education, Christie receives approval only from his own party base (54 percent), those favorable toward him (60 percent), and those who approve of the job he is doing overall (66 percent). Solid majorities of almost every other group disapprove of his handling of education.

"With the governor mostly out of state on his presidential campaign, these lackluster issue ratings have moved little since August, and when they have, it has typically been downward," said Koning. "Christie has never done particularly well with voters on some of these issues, but now four times in a row, no single issue polled garners majority approval for the governor."

NJ 2016 top choices resemble national standings

Trump and Clinton continue to be the top choices for their respective parties. Trump has remained in first place with Republicans in the Garden State since first announcing his candidacy, while Clinton has remained in the top spot among Democrats since the poll first started asking about her party's preferred 2016 nominee.

Christie has rebounded with his party base in his home state, almost tripling his 5 percent standing in October – which put him in fifth place for a three-way tie – but still far from the 32 percent he garnered this time last year.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio now comes in third with New Jersey Republicans, at 13 percent, followed by Texas Sen. Ted Cruz at 10 percent; all other candidates rank in the single digits.

Clinton claims three times the support of her closest rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, among Garden State Democrats. Sanders comes in second at 19 percent; former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley garners just 1 percent.

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QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in the release of December 10, 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.
[OTHER NAMES ALSO GIVEN; ORDER RANDOMIZED]

**GOV. CHRIS
CHRISTIE**

Favorable	33%
Unfavorable	59%
No opn/don't know person	8%
Unwgt N=	698

[Click here to see graph of full favorability trend](#)

Trend	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	6/13	4/13	2/13	11/12
	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV
Fav	35%	30%	38%	37%	44%	42%	49%	50%	49%	46%	65%	61%	60%	64%	64%	70%	67%
Unfav	55%	59%	48%	53%	46%	45%	40%	42%	40%	43%	27%	28%	32%	26%	26%	20%	25%
DK	10%	11%	14%	10%	11%	12%	10%	9%	11%	11%	8%	11%	8%	11%	10%	10%	9%
N=	779	756	716	694	644	730	747	727	726	754	800	798	812	761	816	695	1105

Trend	9/12	8/12	6/12	3/12	2/12	11/11	10/11	8/11	4/11	2/11
	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV
Fav	48%	49%	50%	46%	47%	49%	49%	45%	44%	46%
Unfav	42%	40%	39%	42%	42%	37%	39%	47%	42%	44%
DK	11%	11%	11%	12%	11%	14%	12%	8%	14%	10%
N=	787	911	1,064	514	910	752	803	613	769	810

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race		Age		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-39	40-64	65+
Favorable	15%	30%	70%	19%	31%	57%	35%	31%	38%	19%	24%	37%	35%
Unfavorable	79%	63%	20%	77%	61%	33%	57%	61%	54%	73%	71%	55%	55%
Don't know	5%	7%	10%	4%	8%	10%	8%	8%	8%	8%	5%	8%	10%
Unwt N=	228	293	160	152	383	145	322	376	489	185	147	345	206

	Region				Union Household			
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	South Shore	Phil/South	Public	Union	No Union
Favorable	20%	32%	48%	24%	40%	23%	35%	
Unfavorable	65%	61%	49%	65%	53%	68%	57%	
Don't know	15%	7%	2%	11%	7%	9%	8%	
Unwt N=	87*	240	113	112	146	125	493	

* Small N, results should be interpreted with caution

**Rutgers-Eagleton 200th Poll: Christie Ratings and 2016 Race
December 2015**

**HILLARY
CLINTON**

Favorable	49%
Unfavorable	40%
No opn/don't know person	10%
Unwgt N=	696

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race		Age		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-39	40-64	65+
Favorable	82%	40%	14%	72%	47%	29%	42%	56%	43%	63%	52%	49%	48%
Unfavorable	10%	46%	80%	19%	38%	69%	46%	35%	47%	26%	33%	42%	46%
Don't know	8%	14%	6%	9%	14%	2%	12%	9%	10%	12%	15%	9%	7%
Unwt N=	228	292	160	152	382	145	322	374	488	184	146	343	207

	Region				Union Household			
	Urban		Suburb Exurban		Phil/South Shore		Union Public No Union	
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	South Shore	Union	Public	Union	No Union
Favorable	71%	53%	45%	47%	33%	51%	50%	
Unfavorable	20%	36%	45%	43%	56%	38%	39%	
Don't know	9%	11%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	
Unwt N=	87*	240	112	112	145	125	492	

* Small N, results should be interpreted with caution

[QUESTIONS ON OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES LOCATED HERE]

Q. Please rate how Chris Christie is handling his job as governor, using a grading scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade, A, B, C, D, or F.

A	5%
B	19%
C	23%
D	21%
F	31%
DK	0%
Unwt N=	696

[Click here to see graph of full job grade trend](#)

Trend	10/15	8/15	4/15	2/15	12/14	10/14	4/14	1/14	11/13	10/13	9/13	6/13	4/13	2/13	11/12
	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV
A	5%	7%	5%	8%	8%	10%	13%	12%	21%	21%	17%	24%	21%	24%	28%
B	22%	22%	25%	23%	31%	25%	31%	31%	38%	39%	36%	34%	39%	40%	33%
C	26%	20%	28%	26%	22%	28%	24%	27%	22%	21%	23%	24%	22%	22%	22%
D	18%	23%	18%	21%	17%	16%	16%	15%	10%	9%	13%	9%	10%	9%	11%
F	28%	27%	24%	22%	21%	19%	16%	14%	8%	9%	10%	8%	7%	4%	5%
DK	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Unwt N=	779	756	715	692	645	733	730	751	800	798	813	759	819	698	573

**Rutgers-Eagleton 200th Poll: Christie Ratings and 2016 Race
December 2015**

Trend	9/12	8/12	6/12	3/12	2/12	11/11	10/11	8/11	4/11	2/11
	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV
A	18%	15%	15%	12%	16%	18%	14%	13%	14%	14%
B	29%	30%	31%	31%	27%	28%	30%	25%	32%	24%
C	22%	25%	24%	25%	24%	21%	27%	18%	20%	26%
D	15%	13%	15%	13%	14%	17%	14%	24%	14%	15%
F	15%	16%	14%	17%	18%	13%	14%	19%	21%	19%
DK	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Unwt N=	788	913	1,063	516	914	752	799	612	390	416

Registered Voters	Party ID		Ideology				Gender		Race		Age		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-39	40-64	65+
A	3%	4%	13%	5%	5%	7%	5%	6%	6%	4%	2%	7%	5%
B	11%	16%	38%	8%	20%	32%	19%	19%	22%	11%	15%	22%	18%
C	19%	22%	30%	15%	24%	32%	27%	20%	24%	22%	28%	20%	23%
D	25%	23%	14%	26%	22%	14%	21%	22%	20%	25%	26%	19%	20%
F	41%	35%	6%	44%	29%	15%	28%	33%	28%	37%	28%	31%	33%
DK	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Unwt N=	228	292	159	152	382	145	322	374	489	183	144	345	207

	Region					Union Household	
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	Union Public	No Union
A	1%	6%	6%	4%	8%	3%	6%
B	15%	19%	26%	15%	21%	13%	21%
C	20%	25%	30%	21%	18%	27%	22%
D	20%	21%	18%	23%	24%	25%	21%
F	43%	29%	19%	36%	29%	31%	29%
DK	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Unwt N=	87*	239	113	112	145	125	492

* Small N, results should be interpreted with caution

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

		Christie Favorability	
		Fav	Unfav
Approve	33%	85%	4%
Disapprove	62%	10%	95%
Don't know	4%	5%	1%
Unwgt N=	689	243	393

[Click here to see graph of full job approval trend](#)

Trend	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	6/13	4/13	2/13	11/12
	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV
Approve	39%	37%	41%	42%	48%	49%	52%	55%	55%	53%	68%	67%	66%	70%	68%	73%	67%
Disapprove	56%	59%	54%	52%	47%	46%	41%	41%	39%	41%	26%	29%	31%	25%	26%	23%	26%
Don't know	6%	4%	5%	6%	5%	5%	7%	4%	6%	6%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	7%
Unwgt N=	773	749	713	690	637	730	749	724	725	747	795	794	809	756	810	696	533

**Rutgers-Eagleton 200th Poll: Christie Ratings and 2016 Race
December 2015**

	Party ID		Ideology				Gender		Race		Age		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-39	40-64	65+
Approve	16%	31%	69%	17%	32%	58%	37%	31%	38%	22%	26%	37%	36%
Disapprove	81%	66%	24%	81%	64%	36%	58%	66%	58%	74%	72%	60%	58%
Don't know	3%	3%	7%	2%	4%	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	7%
Unwt N=	227	290	156	151	379	141	316	373	482	184	145	340	204

	Region					Union Household	
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	Union	No Union
Approve	19%	33%	43%	26%	42%	28%	36%
Disapprove	75%	62%	54%	69%	56%	69%	60%
Don't know	6%	5%	3%	5%	2%	2%	4%
Unwt N=	86*	239	113	110	141	123	486

* Small N, results should be interpreted with caution

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]

	NJ's economy and jobs	Taxes	Education and schools	Sandy recovery	Crime and drugs	The state budget	State Pension fund situation	Transportation and Infrastructure
Approve	30%	23%	33%	48%	40%	25%	21%	30%
Disapprove	63%	71%	59%	44%	46%	63%	66%	58%
DK	7%	6%	8%	8%	14%	12%	13%	12%
Unwgt N=	691	689	688	695	692	691	693	696

[Click here to see graph of full individual issue approval trends](#)

NJ's Economy and Jobs

	RV	Christie Overall Job			
		Christie Favorability		Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Approve	30%	57%	15%	60%	13%
Disapprove	63%	32%	81%	31%	81%
Don't know	7%	10%	5%	9%	5%
Unwgt N=	691	243	390	240	414

	Party ID		Ideology				Gender		Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore
Approve	22%	28%	50%	21%	31%	40%	31%	29%	21%	31%	40%	26%	31%
Disapprove	73%	65%	41%	73%	63%	52%	63%	63%	72%	63%	48%	69%	62%
Don't know	6%	7%	9%	6%	7%	8%	6%	8%	6%	6%	11%	4%	7%
Unwt N=	227	290	157	152	378	144	318	373	86*	238	113	112	142

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**Rutgers-Eagleton 200th Poll: Christie Ratings and 2016 Race
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Taxes

	RV	Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Job Approval										
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove									
		Party ID		Ideology			Gender		Region			Phil/		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	South	Shore
Approve	23%													
Disapprove	71%													
Don't know	6%													
Unwgt N=	689													
		223	291	159	149	379	144	319	370	86*	235	111	112	145

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

Education and Schools

	RV	Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Approval										
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove									
		Party ID		Ideology			Gender		Region			Phil/		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	South	Shore
Approve	33%													
Disapprove	59%													
Don't know	8%													
Unwgt N=	688													
		225	289	157	152	377	142	320	368	84*	235	112	112	145

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

Hurricane Sandy Recovery

	RV	Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Approval										
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove									
		Party ID		Ideology			Gender		Region			Phil/		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	South	Shore
Approve	48%													
Disapprove	44%													
Don't know	8%													
Unwgt N=	695													
		42%	45%	65%	41%	51%	48%	47%	49%	45%	52%	50%	50%	41%
		51%	47%	29%	53%	41%	44%	46%	43%	50%	41%	37%	43%	53%

**Rutgers-Eagleton 200th Poll: Christie Ratings and 2016 Race
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Don't know	7%	8%	7%	5%	8%	8%	7%	8%	5%	7%	13%	8%	6%
Unwt N=	227	293	158	152	379	146	322	373	87*	239	113	112	144

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

Crime and drugs

	RV	Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Approve	40%	68%	24%	70%	24%
Disapprove	46%	18%	63%	16%	63%
Don't know	14%	13%	13%	13%	13%
Unwgt N=	692	241	393	240	416

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore
Approve	30%	36%	64%	29%	41%	54%	43%	37%	25%	40%	54%	32%	45%
Disapprove	57%	48%	25%	57%	45%	35%	47%	46%	65%	44%	31%	55%	43%
Don't know	13%	16%	10%	14%	14%	11%	10%	17%	10%	16%	16%	14%	11%
Unwt N=	227	290	159	152	378	144	320	372	87*	238	112	112	143

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

The state budget

	RV	Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Approve	25%	54%	8%	59%	7%
Disapprove	63%	29%	84%	25%	84%
Don't know	12%	17%	9%	16%	9%
Unwgt N=	691	244	390	242	414

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore
Approve	13%	23%	48%	15%	24%	38%	26%	23%	15%	24%	31%	18%	33%
Disapprove	75%	67%	34%	76%	63%	47%	62%	64%	76%	61%	49%	74%	59%
Don't know	12%	9%	18%	9%	13%	14%	12%	13%	9%	15%	20%	8%	9%
Unwt N=	226	291	158	151	380	143	319	372	86*	238	111	112	144

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

The state pension fund situation

	RV	Christie Favorability		Christie Overall Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Approve	21%	41%	8%	42%	8%
Disapprove	66%	40%	83%	36%	83%
Don't know	13%	19%	10%	22%	9%
Unwgt N=	693	246	390	242	415

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore
Approve	12%	21%	33%	15%	20%	29%	23%	18%	17%	16%	21%	19%	32%
Disapprove	75%	67%	49%	75%	66%	55%	65%	67%	66%	71%	62%	74%	53%

**Rutgers-Eagleton 200th Poll: Christie Ratings and 2016 Race
December 2015**

Don't know	13%	12%	18%	9%	14%	16%	12%	15%	17%	13%	17%	7%	15%
Unwt N=	226	291	159	152	379	145	321	372	87*	236	113	112	145

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

Transportation

	RV	Christie Overall Job			
		Christie Favorability		Approval	
		Fav	Unfav	Approve	Disapprove
Approve	30%	53%	16%	56%	16%
Disapprove	58%	35%	73%	33%	73%
Don't know	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%
Unwt N=	696	246	392	244	415

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Region				
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore
Approve	22%	29%	46%	17%	31%	44%	29%	31%	22%	29%	34%	32%	33%
Disapprove	71%	57%	38%	78%	56%	41%	62%	54%	74%	57%	49%	58%	54%
Don't know	7%	14%	16%	5%	13%	15%	9%	15%	3%	14%	18%	10%	13%
Unwt N=	227	292	160	152	380	146	321	375	87*	239	113	112	145

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

[REPUBLICANS AND GOP-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY]

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.

		Oct 15	Aug 15	Dec 14	Aug 14
Donald Trump	30%	32%	21%		
Chris Christie	14%	5%	12%	32%	41%
Marco Rubio	13%	13%	5%	4%	2%
Ted Cruz	10%	6%	4%	3%	3%
Ben Carson	4%	13%	5%	2%	
Jeb Bush	2%	5%	10%	6%	5%
Carly Fiorina	2%	5%	0%		
John Kasich	2%	2%	2%		
Rick Santorum	1%	<1%			
Mike Huckabee	1%	1%	1%	-	1%
Rand Paul	1%	<1%	2%	4%	1%
Jim Gilmore	-	-			
Lindsey Graham	-	-	0%		
George Pataki	-	1%			
Other	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%
Don't know	19%	16%	19%	31%	30%
Unwght N =	230	266	242	222	249

[DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRAT-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY]

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 a name.

		Oct 15	Dec 14	Aug 14
Hillary Clinton	60%	49%	54%	59%
Bernie Sanders	19%	19%		
Martin O'Malley	1%	-	1%	
Other	3%	3%	3%	4%
Don't know	17%	20%	34%	30%
Unwght N =	304	358	288	339

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live callers November 30 – December 6, 2015 with a scientifically selected random sample of 843 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. 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 505 landline and 338 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:	17%
Dual Use, Reached on Cell:	23%
Dual Use, Reached on LL:	55%
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 843 adults is +/-3.4 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The adult sample weighting design effect is 1.29, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.8 percentage points for the adult sample.

The simple sampling error for the 700 registered voters is +/-3.7 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The registered voter subsample weighting design effect is 1.24, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 4.1 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 45.9 and 54.1 percent (50 +/-4.1) 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,

*Rutgers-Eagleton 200th Poll: Christie Ratings and 2016 Race
December 2015*

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			
700 New Jersey Registered Voters			
36% Democrat	46% Male	21% 18-34	69% White
43% Independent	54% Female	22% 35-49	12% Black
21% Republican		34% 50-64	13% Hispanic
		23% 65+	6% Asian/Other/Multi