

a 200-room casino at the foot of Albany Avenue, after he, state Sen. Jim Whelan, D-Atlantic, and others worked on boutique casino legislation.

Most recently, he criticized Revel's management. He wrote in a Nov. 23 open letter that the casino was burning through cash at an "alarming rate." In Atlantic City last week, he said people had a "bad first impression" of the casino and it would be unable to successfully compete without new ownership.

"When the creditors take it back, it'll be sold," Sweeney told The Press of Atlantic City on Wednesday.

Sweeney's passing up a run for governor comes as Christie has dominated all potential opponents in recent polls, suggesting problems for Democratic challengers.

He trounced Buono by a 64 percent to 21 percent in a Fairleigh Dickinson Public Mind poll of 700 people in early January. The same poll staked Christie to a 65-19 margin over Sweeney and 59-26