

Van Drew loses ground in new Stockton poll

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GALLOWAY— A Stockton poll released Tuesday found that the gap between candidates in the 1st District Senate race is narrowing, but only slightly.

Democratic incumbent Sen. Jeff Van Drew now holds 58 percent points against Republican challenger Susan Adelizzi-Schmidt's 29 points, according to the poll.

Just last month, the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton announced that Van Drew had 62 percentage points and Adelizzi-Schmidt had

29.

Six percent were unsure, with another 6 percent signing. According to the poll's results, 66 percent of those with her.

Van Drew, a former state assemblyman who moved to the

Christie's lead over Democratic challenger Barbara Buono in the gubernatorial race still continues to widen. The governor leads Buono 66 percent to 27 percent, with 7.5 percent undecided or refusing to answer.

According to the poll, both Van Drew is garnering a significant percentage of voters from his opponents' party bases. While 30 percent of 1st District Republicans say they are voting for Van Drew; only 4 percent of Democrats support Adelizzi-Schmidt.

In the district, the poll found that 43 percent of Democrats support the Republican governor.

The government shutdown may also be playing a role in the 1st District race, according to the poll, which the Hughes Center said was conducted amid continuing news coverage of the shutdown. More than one in three respondents (35 percent) blamed Republicans in Congress for the shutdown, while 21 percent blamed President Obama and 4 percent blamed Democrats in Congress. Thirty-eight percent blamed "all of the above equally."

"The negative feelings about the federal government shutdown could be making it a somewhat more difficult election environment for Republicans," Douglas said.

The poll was conducted with 613 potential voters from Oct. 11 to 13, and the center said that interviewers called both land lines and cell phones.

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