

# Stockton Poll: Christie holds strong lead over Buono despite drop in points

By ANJALEE KHEMLANI, Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 12:10 pm

A new poll by Richard Stockton College's Polling Institute shows Gov. Chris Christie continues to hold a strong lead over his challenger, state Sen. Barbara Buono.

Christie has a 24-point lead over Buono, 56 percent to 32 percent, but the margin is less than an earlier poll that showed the Republican incumbent ahead of his Democratic challenger by 33 points. Eight percent of respondents were undecided, and 4 percent refused or gave some other choice.

“Even if all of the undecideds break for Sen. Buono, Gov. Christie still leads by landslide proportions,” said Daniel Douglas, director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton.

Stockton has conducted three polls in the past few months that show Christie’s percentage of support remains in the mid-50s and low 60s, according to a release from the college Wednesday.

Poll results have consistently showed that Buono is still not widely recognized; 35 percent of the most recent respondents said they are unfamiliar with her and only 33 percent view her favorably.

Christie is known by 97 percent, and 67 percent have a somewhat or very favorable opinion of him. About 33 percent of those polled said Christie was very favorable versus the 7 percent who said the same for Buono.

The poll shows the governor leads in almost all demographic categories, including age, household income, sex and education levels. Buono leads only among racial and ethnic minorities. Christie leads in every county except in the Democratic stronghold of Essex County and in Union County, where there is a statistical tie.

In other results:

About 55 percent said New Jersey is heading in the right direction, while 29 percent said it is on

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