

Murphy Y

By Carl Golden |

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Written into the state's government charter would guarantee that New Jersey voters would be the ultimate decision-makers for the state's leader and would not be unduly swayed — either beneficial or detrimental — by a top of the ticket national candidate.

By and large, the decision proved to be a wise one. Presidential candidates have lost momentum by the time New Jersey chooses a governor a year later, effectively closing the

massed in horrific conditions at the southern border is bound to

The Cattarelli campaign was buoyed by two recent polls showing a considerable lead on Murphy, closing a double-digit lead on the support side in the contest was much more competitive than in

one of the polls was a Republican campaign survey and, like other polls, the favorable results should be viewed with some

Despite some rumbling and criticism over Murphy's decision, he managed to maintain public support for his mask wearing protocol.

Cattarelli's position, framed as a matter of public health, is particularly vulnerable and on the wrong side of public opinion.

Moreover, his muddled and dubious explanation for the support of Trump's insistence that Biden is a threat to the country and Murphy's assertions of his being a Trump supporter are

While New Jersey has become one of the most competitive states, voters have demonstrated an independent streak in gubernatorial contests.

If the next governors elected are Democrats, the state will be in a better position. And, since 1977, only incumbent

The 20-year gubernatorial term has helped to stabilize the nature of the contests, and voters have consistently supported whoever they prefer in the decision.

While this year has been a particularly dramatic season

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