



Stockton Poll: Booker leads Bell 50- 41 percent in 3rd District; Christie's positives at 55 percent

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Galloway Township, NJ - Incumbent U.S. Sen. Cory Booker is leading Republican Jeff Bell by 9 percentage points in New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District, according to a Stockton Polling Institute poll released today.

In the poll of 606 likely 3rd District voters, Booker leads 50 percent to 41 percent for Bell when voters who lean toward one candidate or the other are included.

Bell is performing better in the Republican-leaning 3rd District than he did in a statewide Stockton Poll released Sept. 10. Booker led 49 percent to 36 percent statewide. The 3rd District includes parts of Ocean and Burlington counties.

"This district has traditionally been part of the Republican Party base. Republicans generally have to win in this region to have a chance at a statewide office," said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center.

The poll also found that 55 percent in the 3rd District have a favorable view of Gov. Chris Christie, with 42 percent holding an unfavorable view. Forty-seven percent rate the governor's job performance as excellent or good, with 27 percent rating it fair and 24 percent as poor.

The poll found that the congressional candidates, Democrat Aimee Belgard and Republican Tom MacArthur, are tied, with each having 42.2 percent support of those surveyed.

The Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy conducted the poll. Live interviewers on the Stockton campus called both landlines and cell phones from Sept. 12-14, 2014. The poll's margin of error is +/- 4.0 percentage points.

Fifty-seven percent in the 3rd District have a favorable opinion of Booker, with 31 percent

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holding an unfavorable view of him. Twelve percent are unfamiliar with Booker or unsure about their view. More than one-third (35 percent) don't know the Republican challenger. Bell is seen favorably by 39 percent and unfavorably by 24 percent.