



Stockton Poll: Christie Ratings at Pre-Sandy Levels in NJ; Obama Job Rating Drops

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Galloway Township, NJ - Gov. Chris Christie's approval ratings in New Jersey have returned to pre-Superstorm Sandy levels, and fewer voters approve of the job President Obama is doing, according to a Stockton Polling Institute poll released today.

The poll of 807 likely New Jersey voters found that 53 percent have a favorable opinion of the governor, while 43 percent view him unfavorably. Asked to rate the job Christie is doing, 47 percent say it is excellent or good and 53 percent rate it as fair or poor.

President Obama is seen favorably by 44 percent of New Jersey voters, while 51 percent view him unfavorably and 3 percent are unsure. Regarding his job performance, 38 percent rate it as excellent or good and 61 percent rate it as fair or poor - which includes 40 percent who rate it as poor.

President Obama's job approval ratings had remained consistent in the mid-40 percent range in Stockton polls in 2012 and 2013. The latest poll shows a decline of six percentage points to 38 percent giving positive ratings.

The poll was conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute of the Villanova University Center for the Study of the Public Mind. Christie's favorability has declined by 20 points since the poll conducted following Sandy, when Christie received high marks for his handling of the disaster recovery. His current 53 percent favorability is almost identical to the 52 percent found in a September 2012 Stockton Poll and the 51 percent found a month later. The hurricane, one of the most destructive in United States history, hit New Jersey on Oct. 29, 2012.

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The governor's job approval ratings have followed a similar track. Currently, 47 percent rate his job performance as excellent or good, extremely close to the 48-50 percent levels found in the fall 2012 Stockton polls. His job performance numbers hit 70 percent in June 2013 and 64 percent in October 2013.

"It was unrealistic to think anyone could sustain approval ratings above 70 percent forever," said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center. "While nobody has forgotten Sandy, other issues are competing for public attention almost two years later."

Methodology

The survey was conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter). Live interviewers on the Stockton campus called both landlines and cell phones from Sept. 5-8, 2014. The poll was conducted with 807 adults who are likely voters. The poll's margin of error is +/- 3.5 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. MOE is higher for subsets. Data are weighted based on United States Census Bureau demographics for the New Jersey population.



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