

## OBAMA STILL EDGES CHRISTIE IN N.J. FOR PRESIDENT, ACCORDING TO LOCAL POLL

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POMONA-- A recently released poll conducted by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton College shows New Jersey Governor Chris Christie facing an uphill battle, should he change his mind and decide to run.

The study released Monday by the Hughes Center includes results from 1,000 likely New Jersey voters, contacted by phone in early May.

"This one was very interesting. First of all, we had the new districts, second of all, we've never run the polls this early, where we can see what people are thinking before the actual campaigns takes place. So, now when the campaigns take place, we'll be able to track movement as they move along," said William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy Executive Director Sharon Schulman.

Albeit for a myriad of reasons, the study shows voters overwhelmingly agree with Lloyd Jones, who's against the governor running in 2012.

"I don't want to see him run for president because he's got a job to do here and he's not going to get it all done in one term." Jones said.

Christie's name has been connected with the GOP nomination, but he insists he won't run. The Stockton study shows that if Christie did go against more than 65 percent of those polled who are against the idea, 51 percent would support President Obama if Christie faced him in a hypothetical campaign.

"What they're saying is they don't want him to run for President, we did not explore the reasons why they don't want him to run. He has fairly good split ratings as to whether people would re-elect him right now. But, it's way out in front of the election. Two years out. That's always tough time for an elected official." Schulman said.

The governor's decision to forgo a presidential run is even more important after former presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee removed his name from contention this weekend, and Donald Trump officially announced he won't run Monday morning, leaving the GOP with more questions than answers.

"They need to come up with a candidate soon, because that candidate number one, has to build reputation, and number two, has to build dollars to be able to run a campaign. And, it's a big country to campaign in." Schulman said.

Stockton is a candidate to host either a Presidential or Vice-Presidential debate in 2012, and had its first site visit last week.