

## Stockton poll finds Christie with 40-point lead

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R.J. LIBERATORE JR.

GALLOWAY – Republican New Jersey Governor Chris Christie leads his Democratic opponent State Senator Barbara Buono by 40 percentage points, according to a poll conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute.

Christie garners 64 percent of those intending to vote, while Buono receives slightly more than 24 percent, according to the poll which had 10 percent of its respondents not sure of who to vote for or if they would be voting for someone else.

The poll was conducted June 8-13 of 741 likely voters and has a margin of error of 3.6 percent. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones.

The Stockton Polling Institute is part of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

"Governor Christie's appearances with President Obama, and his handling of Sandy, clearly have boosted Christie's campaign for reelection," said Daniel J. Douglas, Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Likely voters were asked: "Would Governor Christie's close working relationship with President Obama on the storm recovery make you more likely or less likely to vote for the governor, or would it make no difference?"

Douglas said 26 percent said they were more likely to vote for Christie, 3 percent were less likely and 71 percent said it made no difference or were unsure.

"Christie's relationship with Obama helps him most with Democrats and independents, with 30 percent of Democrats and 27 percent of independents being more likely to vote for Christie. Still 23 percent of Republicans are more likely to vote for Christie," Douglas said. "And with only 3 percent of Republicans saying his relationship with Obama makes them less likely to vote for him, the bipartisanship is not hurting the Governor among his base in New Jersey."

Christie gets high marks on his handling of Superstorm Sandy with 94 percent of those surveyed saying he did a good job, while 4 percent said he did a poor job and 2 percent said he was ineffective. Obama as being ineffective.

Buono suffers from both low name recognition and upside-down favorability ratings. More than half of those surveyed had no opinion of Buono, a state senator from Middlesex County. And of those who are familiar with Buono, 24 percent had an unfavorable opinion of her and 21 percent viewed her favorably.

By contrast, three-

Part of Christie's success can be attributed to 60 percent of those surveyed believing New Jersey is going in the right direction, while 26 percent feel that it is off on the wrong track.

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