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TRENTON — With fewer than four weeks remaining until the gubernatorial election, Gov. Chris Christie has opened a 33-point lead over his Democratic challenger, state Sen. Barbara Buono, according to a new poll released today.

The Stockton Polling Institute found voters prefer the Republican governor 61-28 percent with 11 percent undecided or declining to say for whom they'll vote on Nov. 5. Christie's lead is an improvement over the 28-point lead the poll measured in mid-September.

The finding echoes a Quinnipiac University poll released this morning that showed Christie with a 29-point over Buono, a veteran of the state Legislature.

The Stockton Polling Institute, which is part of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton College, surveyed 800 likely New Jersey voters from Oct. 3 — 8 and had a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

The poll found that at least part of Buono's problem is her low name recognition, with 41 percent of likely voters saying they are not familiar with her. Among those who do recognize the Middlesex County senator, as many people have an unfavorable opinion of her (29 percent) as those who view her favorably (28 percent).

In contrast, Christie has nearly universal name recognition (97 percent), and 72 percent say their opinion of him is either very or somewhat favorable. Sixty-four percent rate Christie’s job performance as excellent or good, with 35 percent rating it as fair or poor.

“Senator Buono is up against the formidable hurdles of Governor Christie’s advantages in fund-raising, name recognition and general support from the public,” said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center.

The survey was conducted before Tuesday's debate between the two candidates, and does not reflect any potential bounce Buono might have gotten from the television exposure. Unlike Christie's re-election campaign — which has frequently broadcast television commercials in the Philadelphia and New York area — the Buono campaign has not raised enough money to advertise regularly on TV.

The poll found that Christie has strong support regardless of voters' household income, education level, sex, age, and Hispanic ethnicity. One exception was among African-American voters, who support Buono by a 4-to-1 margin. The finding is significant because the Christie campaign has tried to reach out to black voters and other minority groups who have

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Marcus Cicero last week

Buono is, by far, the most liberal Democrat to ever run for the governorship. ---She is far, far more liberal than even Jim Florio or Jim McGreevey. ---She doesn't even have the support of her own party's bosses. ---One boss, DiVincenzo, Jr., has publicly endorsed Christie. How is it it, that with all that, Christie can only muster a 2 -1 margin in what will be a very low (maybe the lowest) turnout among registered voters?

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mickeg 6 days ago

Credit the democrat lemmings

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jerzfresh last week

Barbra Bouno should just drop out now and stop wasting money.

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Mstry Gunner last week

she has bad facial ticks, seems lost and rather dull minded, uses a few buzzwords libs dredge up but has no real mental prowess....bet theres 100 better women out there but Dems wanted a Pelosi look...

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qdfbnm last week

Mstry, are you that real? Attacking a woman's beauty in Politics?

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mickeg last week

Buono is drill trying to get name recognition after 20 years in the legislature. She has been part of the problem over the past two decades. Her candidacy though is at least a step toward the solution. She will become nothing more than a foot note in history.

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citizen17 last week

Christie is a fraud. We know he can fool some of the people all of the time. Anyone who votes for him is either ignorant of the facts or making money from his policies.

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jdevil1735 last week

You actually said that with a straight face when the fact is that it is precisely because of the types of policies that Buono supports - high taxes and anti-business policies - that have driven both residents and corporations OUT of New Jersey?

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nc002 last week

What happened to that bump Buono was going to get from her "win" in the debate?

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pnutbutter last week

I've changed my mind. I'm voting for Buono now because Christie is a sellout. The republican party needs to pack up and go home. Rinos like CC aren't doing them any good. Vote for more libertarian minded R's like Lonegan.

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jdevil1735 last week

Christie has to work with a democrat controlled Legislature and a NJ Supreme court which is the democrat puppets. You really think Christie could get anything done without working with Democrats? Christie has done a lot to move NJ in the right direction - while the Democrat legislature and the NJ Supreme court have stood in his way on many other issues.

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Devs4nj last week

Buono is gonna get crushed but that doesn't make her a loser. She handpicks judges and some serious power in Central Jersey. She couldn't keep her best friend THE SHERIFF out of jail...but she tried.....ohhh she tried.

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worriedma last week

2 to 1 that's it? I was hoping for complete destruction. LMAO

Like | Reply | Share | 3

bowguy1234 last week

Ahh right worriedma, you fingerblast to cc's pic every night, right? ?..LMAO

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louvas last week

I give Buono credit for getting in there and getting her @#$ kicked. After watching the debate I could see CC is clearly the better choice. Buono brought nothing to the table.

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jdevil1735 last week

She brought things to the table - she laid out very well all the failed Democrat polices she supports that have destroyed the NJ economy and caused both New Jerseyans and corporations to flee the state. It is precisely this that Christie's polls numbers rose AFTER the debate.

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880nyc last week

Buono performed badly in the first debate. She was unfocused, presented canned answers unresponsive to the topic at hand. She hammered the same theme: give more free stuff to the urban areas and the poor. Ppl see plainly that it means more taxes on the middle class. Enough is enough. When her socialist schtick fails in Blue State NJ, it's time to pack up her bags and go home.

Like | Reply | Share 2

jerzeyjolt last week

880nyc, other than that she did pretty well, right? It was actually sad to watch her wallow in her ineptness and I also felt bad for Christie because Lonegan and Booker got to have all the fun, whereas Christie had to "stifle".

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