



Poll: Christie leads Buono by 24 points

Christie Buono Debate.jpg

Gov. Chris Christie and his Democratic challenger, state Sen. Barbara Buono, shake hands in after a debate. A new poll shows Christie leading Buono by 24 points. *(Star-Ledger file photo)*

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TRENTON — Republican Gov. Chris Christie maintains a big lead over Democratic challenger Barbara Buono, though the margin has tightened a bit over the final few weeks of the campaign.

With the election on Tuesday, Christie holds a 24 point lead over Buono, according to a Stockton College poll released today. Christie garners 56 percent to Buono's 32 percent.

Christie's lead over Buono has shrunk from an Oct. 10 Stockton poll, when he led by 33 points, 61 percent to 28 percent. Still, it's not close enough to avoid a landslide victory for Christie with just 8 percent of voters undecided and 4 percent either refusing to say who they'll support or going for another choice.

"Even if all of the undecideds break for Senator Buono, Governor Christie still leads by landslide proportions," said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the college's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

Buono – who has struggled to raise money and her profile – has never had the support of more than a third of voters in any Stockton poll.

The poll also found that congressional Republicans bare the brunt of New Jersey voters' blame over the recent government shutdown, with 44 percent blaming them, 27 percent blaming President Obama and just 4 percent blaming congressional Democrats.

And three-quarters of voters support a ballot question to amend the state constitution to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.25, then annually based on the Consumer Price Index.

The poll of 804 likely voters was conducted from October 23 to October 28 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

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