

Posted: Friday, September 12, 2014 1:16 pm

Gov. Chris Christie's approval ratings have returned to pre-Sandy levels while fewer voters approve of President Obama, according to a Stockton Polling Institute poll released today.

Fifty-three percent of 807 likely New Jersey voters polled said they view Gov. Christie favorably, against 43 percent who said they have an unfavorable view. Forty-seven percent said Christie had done an excellent or good job, with 53 percent rating it at fair or poor.

Christie's approval ratings rose in the months following Sandy, but his current 53 percent rating is close to the 52 percent found in a Sept. 2012 Stockton Poll and the 51 percent found a month later, shortly before Sandy hit.

Forty-four percent of those polled have a favorable view of President Obama, against 51 percent with an unfavorable view and three percent who said they were unsure. Thirty-eight percent rated his performance as excellent or good, 21 percent rated it as fair and 40 percent rated it as poor.

The president's approval ratings had consistently been in the mid-40 percent range in Stockton polls in 2012 and 2013, while the latest poll shows a decline of six percentage points to 38 percent positive.

The poll was conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy and included landlines and cellphones. Its margin of error is +/- 3.5 percentage points.

Braden Campbell