

## Stockton poll shows New Jersey Republicans love Trump, majority of state disapproves

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GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP — A Stockton University poll says that while most New Jersey residents are not happy with President Donald Trump's first two months in office, Republicans are standing by their candidate.

The poll, released Tuesday, says 56 percent of New Jerseyans view Trump unfavorably, while 35 percent have a favorable view of the new president.

Meanwhile, 77 percent of Republicans in New Jersey have a favorable impression of Trump, and 65 percent say he is doing a good or excellent job, according to the poll. Two-thirds of the state's Republicans believe the country is headed in the right direction.

The poll surveyed 705 adult residents between March 22 and 29 on both land lines and cellphones.

Although Trump lost to Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in New Jersey's by a margin of 56 percent to 41 percent, his low ratings from the majority of the state are surprising, poll officials said.

"People tend to give a new president the benefit of the doubt when he first takes office, even if they didn't vote for him," said Sharon Schulman, executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton. "These are unusually low numbers of support."

A key issue in Trump's presidential bid was healthcare reform, specifically

However, 53 percent of New Jersey residents disapprove of Congress' handling of a recent attempt to dismantle and replace Obamacare, according to the poll.

Asked what they would like Trump and Congress to do on Obamacare, 71 percent want to keep the parts of the law that work and fix what doesn't work, while 12 percent say leave the law as is and 14 percent want completely repealed.

Another major campaign platform for Trump, immigration reform, was met with similar opposition in New Jersey. Fifty-six percent oppose the president's proposed \_\_\_\_\_, both of which were suspended by federal court with similar opposition.

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I began covering South Jersey in 2008 after graduating from Rowan University with a degree in journalism. I joined The Press in 2015. In 2013, I was awarded a NJPA award for feature writing as a reporter for The Current of Hamilton Township.

