

# Stockton Poll: Assembly Incumbents Hold onto Narrow Leads in 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

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**Galloway, NJ** - Incumbents continue to hold slight leads in the 2nd Legislative District Assembly election, according to a Stockton Poll released today.

The dynamics of the Assembly race have not changed over the past three weeks. Incumbent Democrat Vincent Mazzeo leads the four candidates with 26 percent, while incumbent Republican Chris Brown polls at 24 percent. Neither percentage differs from a Stockton Poll of the 2nd District released Oct. 16.

Democratic challenger Colin Bell, an Atlantic County freeholder, receives 22 percent, and GOP challenger Will Pauls, also an Atlantic County freeholder, receives 19 percent. Both numbers are only a percentage point or two above their Oct. 16 results. In the latest poll, 9 percent are undecided or not indicating a choice.

"The race remains very close. Success depends on the campaigns getting their supporters out to vote on election day," said Daniel

campus called both landlines and cell phones from Oct. 22-28, 2015. The poll shows a 4.0 percentage points.

One of the few changes registered since the first District 2 Stockton Poll show approval ratings for the two incumbents from slightly positive into negative territory. Mazzeo's performance as excellent or good, and 39 percent as fair or poor. Brown gave him positive ratings and 45 percent are negative. Brown went from 42 percent positive and 37 percent fair or poor to 40 percent positive and 43 percent negative.

There is no question that the 2nd District's casino economy is the key issue on the minds of half (48 percent) identify jobs (18 percent), casino issues (18 percent) or the economy (12 percent).

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as the most important issues in this campaign. Fourth is taxes at 12 percent, and property taxes in particular at 10 percent.

A majority of voters (60 percent) do think the candidates are talking about issues that are important to them, up from 55 percent Oct. 16. Currently 32 percent think they are not talking about important issues, and 8 percent are unsure.

With the state Assembly being the top election on the Nov. 3 ballot, experts are predicting extremely low turnout. The poll shows a widespread lack of knowledge about the candidates. Nearly half of respondents are unfamiliar with the challengers: 47 percent for Pauls, 46 percent for Bell. The results are virtually unchanged from the Oc