

# **Stockton Poll: Christie Widens Lead Over Buono for Governor**

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** Republican Gov. Chris Christie has extended an already-large lead over his challenger, Democratic State Sen. Barbara Buono, in the gubernatorial election, according to a statewide poll released today by the Stockton Polling Institute.

The incumbent holds a 33-point advantage over Buono in the poll of 800 likely general election voters, with Christie supported by 61 percent to only 28 percent supporting his challenger. Eleven percent are undecided, support another candidate, or refuse to say whom they are voting for.

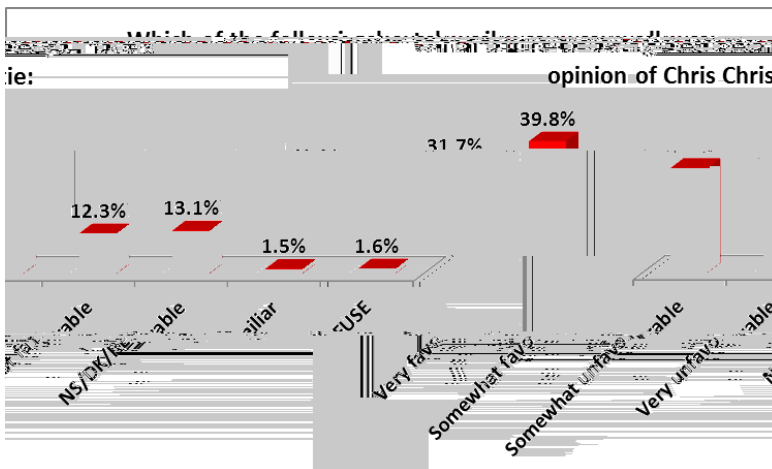
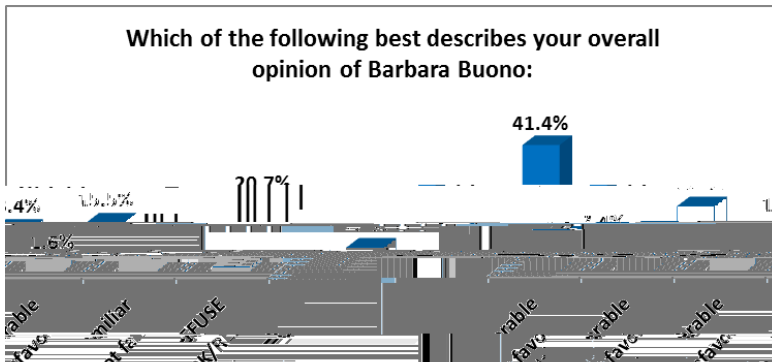
The poll results show the governor widening a 28-point lead found in a Stockton Poll in mid-September.

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Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey campus. The survey has a margin of error of +/-3.5 percent. The Stockton Polling Institute is part of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton College.

With the Nov. 5 election less than a month away, Buono continues to struggle to become known among voters, with 41 percent saying they are not familiar with her. Among those who do recognize the senator from Middlesex County, as many people have an unfavorable opinion of her (29 percent) as those who view her favorably (28 percent).

Christie achieves 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 fundraising, name recognition and general support from the public,” said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center.

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The governor's support runs deep, cutting across demographic factors including household income, education level, sex, age, and Hispanic ethnicity. He leads in every county except the Democratic strongholds of Hudson and Essex counties. The only exception is that black/African American voters strongly support Democrat Buono by a 4-to-1 margin.

Buono also leads 55 percent to 34 percent among Democratic voters, who outnumber Republicans in New Jersey. However, an overwhelming 93 percent of Republicans say they are voting for Christie, with only 5 percent supporting Buono. Independent/unaffiliated voters also favor Christie by a large margin, 65 percent to 18 percent.

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### **About the Hughes Center**

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy ([www.stockton.edu/hughescenter](http://www.stockton.edu/hughescenter)) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College. The Hughes Center can be found at [www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College](https://www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College) and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.



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