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THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Stockton Poll of South Jersey Voters has Corzine and Christie Too Close to Call

Legislative Races Firming Up Throughout Southern NJ

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Galloway Township, NJ- According to a Richard Stockton College of NJ poll, the “Daggett effect” has caused the major party candidates to be in a dead heat.

In a head-to-head question, Republican challenger Chris Christie's lead over Governor Jon Corzine is only 2.7% -- well within the margin of error of polling and down from approximately a lead of 7% in September's Stockton poll. Chris Daggett reaps 18.4% of the vote – still substantially less than the major party candidates but double the number from the previous poll.

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton commissioned Zogby International to conduct a telephone survey of 800 likely voters in Southern New Jersey in Legislative Districts 1-4, and 9 during the period of October 19 through 21.

In the race for governor 33.9% would vote for Chris Christie, 31.2% for Jon Corzine, 18.4% for Chris Daggett, and 14.6% of the voters are still unsure who they would vote for.

“The question statewide is from whom Daggett is pulling votes?” said Hughes Center Executive Director Sharon Schulman. “In the southern portion of the state that was polled, it appears Christie's Republican base may be eroding as his support among GOPers dropped from 73% in September to 60% in October. Daggett is also pulling Republican votes away from Christie as we find that his support among them has jumped from 7% to 19%,” Schulman said.

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Corzine has solidified his base, actually increasing support among Democrats from 52% in September to 59% in October, but he did lose some votes to Daggett (7% in September to 13% currently). Most of the shift came over from the undecided voters, which dropped from 22% last month to 13% this month.

Independents appear to be breaking for Daggett as his support doubled from 13% in September

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The poll also asked respondents questions on what may influence their choice. One question