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## **NEW JERSEY ON CHRISTIE’S STYLE: “MEH!”**

*Booker, Codey are the best known potential 2013 challengers*

Governor Chris Christie’s job approval rating has ticked up a few points in the latest ***Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll*** and few New Jerseyans are particularly bothered by the way he deals with people who disagree with him. The poll also found that two potential challengers in the next election, Newark Mayor Cory Booker and former Governor Dick Codey, are well regarded by the state’s voters.

Currently, Governor Christie earns a 53% approve to 35% disapprove job rating among all Garden State residents. Among registered voters, his rating stands at 55% approve to 36% disapprove. This marks a one point increase in approval among residents and a two point increase among registered voters compared to the July *Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll*.

The governor continues to make headlines for what have become known as his “YouTube moments” – which some critics have likened to the behavior of a bully. New Jerseyans, though, are not particularly concerned by his conduct. Fully 63% say they are not bothered personally by the governor’s style of speaking to or about people who disagree with him. Only 1-in-3 Garden State residents are bothered – either a lot (23%) or a little (11%) – by the way Gov. Christie deals with his detractors.

“Critics and media pundits might object to Gov. Christie’s confrontational style, but the vast majority of his constituents simply shrug their shoulders. It’s not a big deal to them,” said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Even so, some of his constituents feel the governor could be more successful if he modified his public behavior. While most New Jerseyans (51%) say that a change in Gov. Christie’s style would not have affected the amount he has accomplished so far, 28% feel that he could have accomplished more if he acted differently compared to just 11% who say he would have accomplished less.

Overall, though, 31% of New Jerseyans say the governor can point to some major accomplishments. This number is up from 24% who said the same in August 2011. Another 43% say he has minor accomplishments. Just 21% say he has no real accomplishments, which is down from 34% just over one year ago.

The governor’s job rating does not seem to be affected by recent news about the state’s credit outlook and unemployment rate. To the extent his constituents have been paying attention to those reports, 54% say they have no impact on their confidence in Gov. Christie’s policies, while 17% are less confident and 6% are more confident in the governor. Another 21% say they are not aware of recent news reports on these matters.

**2013 Outlook**

The 2013 gubernatorial election is more than a year away. As it stands right now, 50% of registered Garden State voters are willing to say that Chris Christie deserves another term as governor. Another 45% feel that it might be time to have someone new in office. Among registered voters who call themselves politically independent, 51% endorse another Christie term to 41% who want new blood.

The *Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll* also asked Garden State voters to assess a field of nine possible Democratic challengers to Chris Christie. Only two have sufficient name recognition to garner an evaluation from more than a third of the electorate. Newark Mayor Cory Booker is the most well-known, earning a sizable +36 positive rating of 49% favorable to 13% unfavorable. Former governor and current state senator Dick Codey, earns a healthy +20 positive rating of 34% favorable to 14% unfavorable.

<b>New Jersey Gubernatorial Contender Ratings (among registered voters)</b>				
	Total familiar	Fav-orable	Unfav-orable	Net Rating
Gov. Chris Christie	88%	54%	34%	+20
Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno	32	21	11	+10
<i>Potential Democratic Challengers:</i>				
Newark Mayor Cory Booker	62%	49%	13%	+36
Former Gov. Dick Codey	48	34	14	+20
Senate Pres. Steve Sweeney	35	19	16	+3
Congressman Frank Pallone	25	17	8	+9
Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver	24	14	10	+4
State Senator Barbara Buono	18	11	7	+4
Assemblyman Lou Greenwald	14	7	7	0
Assemblyman John Wisniewski	13	8	5	+3
Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage	10	6	4	+2

Gov. Codey has held positive ratings since he left office, having served as the state's chief executive for just over a year after Jim McGreevey resigned. However, voter familiarity has dropped since he vacated the governor's office and was subsequently ousted as senate president. Six years ago, Codey had a 53% to 17% rating which dipped to 48% to 15% in July 2008. By February 2010, fewer than 6-in-10 voters gave him a rating – a still positive 38% to 19%. Currently, just under half of voters feel they can rate Dick Codey. [Note: This is the poll's first rating of Mayor Booker.]

Another potential challenger to Gov. Christie is current Senate President Steve Sweeney – who gets a net +3 rating from about one-third of New Jersey voters, 19% favorable to 16% unfavorable. Congressman Frank Pallone is familiar to 1-in-4 voters, at 17% favorable to 8% unfavorable for a +9 net rating. General Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, while generally not considered to be mulling a run, earns a 14% favorable to 10% unfavorable – or +4 – rating.

“The first step in challenging an incumbent in New Jersey is to attain adequate name recognition. Right now, only Booker, Codey, and perhaps Sweeney have reached that threshold,” said Murray.

It's worth noting that at a similar point in the last gubernatorial race (*July 2008*), then-U.S. Attorney Chris Christie was familiar to nearly 4-in-10 voters and earned a +21 rating of 30% favorable to 9% unfavorable. Incumbent Jon Corzine had a split voter rating of 43% favorable to 44% unfavorable at that time. Gov. Christie is in a very different position than his predecessor, claiming a +20 rating of 54% favorable to 34% unfavorable among registered voters.

Other potential Democratic contenders are less well-known, including State Senator Barbara Buono (11% favorable to 7% unfavorable), Assemblyman Lou Greenwald (7% to 7%), Assemblyman John Wisniewski (8% to 5%), and Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage (6% to 4%).

For the record, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno is familiar to 1-in-3 voters, earning a positive 21% favorable to 11% unfavorable rating. This result doubles her overall familiarity from a year ago. In October 2011, she earned a 10% positive to 5% negative rating.

The *Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll* was conducted by telephone with 805 New Jersey adults from September 19 to 23, 2012. This sample has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.5$  percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute and originally published by the Asbury Park Press and its sister publications (Courier-Post, Courier News, Daily Journal, Daily Record, and Home News Tribune).

## DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

(\* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

### 1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing as governor?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Approve	<b>53%</b>	55%	47%	30%	55%	90%	61%	47%	43%	57%
Disapprove	<b>35%</b>	36%	33%	57%	34%	4%	31%	40%	47%	32%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>11%</b>	10%	20%	13%	11%	6%	9%	14%	10%	12%

TREND: All adults	Sept. 2012	July 2012	April 2012	February 2012	October 2011	August 2011	May 2011	February 2011	September 2010	July 2010	April 2010	February 2010
Approve	53%	52%	51%	52%	54%	48%	47%	47%	45%	44%	41%	33%
Disapprove	35%	36%	35%	38%	38%	42%	49%	40%	38%	44%	44%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	11%	12%	14%	10%	9%	9%	5%	12%	17%	12%	15%	52%
Unwtd N	805	803	804	803	817	802	807	801	801	801	804	803

TREND: Registered voters	Sept. 2012	July 2012	April 2012	February 2012	October 2011	August 2011	May 2011	February 2011	September 2010	July 2010	April 2010	February 2010
Approve	55%	53%	50%	55%	55%	50%	46%	49%	44%	45%	42%	31%
Disapprove	36%	35%	38%	37%	37%	41%	49%	41%	40%	43%	44%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	10%	12%	12%	9%	8%	8%	5%	9%	16%	12%	13%	53%
Unwtd N	715	678	692	709	693	730	725	718	726	747	719	716

### 2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the state legislature is doing?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Approve	<b>32%</b>	32%	35%	34%	25%	43%	35%	30%	27%	34%
Disapprove	<b>42%</b>	43%	36%	39%	47%	41%	44%	40%	48%	40%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>26%</b>	25%	29%	28%	28%	15%	21%	30%	25%	26%

TREND: All Adults	Sept. 2012	July 2012	April 2012	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Aug. 2011	May 2011	Feb. 2011	July 2010	April 2010	Feb. 2010	July 2009	Feb. 2009	Sept. 2008	July 2008	April 2008	March 2008	Oct. 2007	Feb. 2007
Approve	32%	35%	38%	35%	35%	35%	33%	30%	24%	20%	26%	30%	25%	29%	27%	29%	28%	33%	35%
Disapprove	42%	43%	38%	39%	43%	47%	47%	44%	49%	56%	46%	47%	52%	47%	45%	53%	50%	41%	40%
(VOL) Don't know	26%	22%	24%	26%	22%	19%	20%	26%	27%	24%	28%	23%	23%	23%	28%	18%	22%	26%	25%
Unwtd N	805	803	804	803	817	802	807	801	801	804	803	923	803	808	1004	803	805	801	801

TREND: Registered Voters	Sept. 2012	July 2012	April 2012	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Aug. 2011	May 2011	Feb. 2011	July 2010	April 2010	Feb. 2010	July 2009	Feb. 2009	Sept. 2008	July 2008	April 2008	March 2008	Oct. 2007	Feb. 2007
Approve	32%	34%	37%	34%	33%	35%	32%	29%	25%	19%	24%	31%	23%	29%	27%	28%	25%	32%	34%
Disapprove	43%	45%	41%	42%	45%	48%	48%	45%	49%	57%	49%	48%	55%	50%	47%	55%	53%	43%	42%
(VOL) Don't know	25%	21%	23%	24%	22%	17%	20%	26%	26%	24%	27%	22%	22%	21%	26%	17%	22%	25%	23%
Unwtd N	715	678	692	709	693	730	725	718	747	719	716	792	721	709	889	720	719	688	681

### 3. I'm going to read you a few names. Please tell me if your general impression of each is favorable or unfavorable, or if you don't really have an opinion. [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

#### Governor Chris Christie

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>52%</b>	54%	40%	29%	53%	87%	56%	47%	41%	55%
Unfavorable	<b>34%</b>	34%	33%	55%	32%	5%	32%	35%	45%	30%
No opinion	<b>15%</b>	13%	27%	16%	15%	8%	12%	18%	14%	15%

#### Newark Mayor Cory Booker

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>46%</b>	49%	31%	57%	47%	32%	48%	45%	48%	46%
Unfavorable	<b>12%</b>	13%	10%	9%	11%	20%	14%	11%	18%	11%
No opinion	<b>41%</b>	38%	59%	34%	42%	48%	38%	44%	34%	43%

**State Senate President Steve Sweeney**

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>18%</b>	19%	13%	20%	18%	17%	21%	16%	22%	17%
Unfavorable	<b>16%</b>	16%	13%	14%	15%	21%	18%	14%	20%	15%
No opinion	<b>66%</b>	65%	74%	65%	67%	62%	62%	71%	58%	69%

**State Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver**

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>14%</b>	14%	11%	19%	13%	6%	16%	12%	15%	13%
Unfavorable	<b>9%</b>	10%	3%	6%	9%	16%	12%	7%	13%	8%
No opinion	<b>77%</b>	76%	85%	74%	78%	78%	72%	82%	72%	79%

**Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno**

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>19%</b>	21%	5%	9%	21%	32%	22%	16%	21%	18%
Unfavorable	<b>11%</b>	11%	11%	19%	8%	6%	11%	11%	15%	10%
No opinion	<b>70%</b>	67%	85%	72%	71%	63%	67%	73%	65%	71%

**State Senator Barbara Buono**

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>10%</b>	11%	8%	15%	10%	6%	11%	10%	12%	10%
Unfavorable	<b>7%</b>	7%	8%	7%	7%	8%	8%	6%	6%	7%
No opinion	<b>83%</b>	82%	85%	78%	84%	86%	81%	84%	82%	83%

**State Assemblyman John Wisniewski**

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>7%</b>	8%	5%	10%	6%	6%	9%	6%	10%	7%
Unfavorable	<b>5%</b>	5%	5%	7%	4%	6%	6%	5%	6%	5%
No opinion	<b>87%</b>	87%	90%	83%	89%	88%	85%	89%	84%	88%

**State Assemblyman Lou Greenwald**

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>7%</b>	7%	8%	10%	8%	3%	8%	7%	10%	7%
Unfavorable	<b>6%</b>	7%	2%	6%	6%	8%	8%	5%	8%	6%
No opinion	<b>86%</b>	85%	91%	83%	86%	89%	84%	88%	81%	88%

**Congressman Frank Pallone**

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>16%</b>	17%	12%	18%	15%	17%	17%	15%	18%	15%
Unfavorable	<b>9%</b>	8%	12%	9%	9%	9%	10%	7%	5%	10%
No opinion	<b>75%</b>	75%	76%	73%	76%	75%	73%	77%	76%	75%

**Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage**

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>5%</b>	6%	3%	8%	5%	2%	6%	4%	6%	5%
Unfavorable	<b>3%</b>	4%	2%	5%	2%	4%	5%	2%	5%	3%
No opinion	<b>91%</b>	91%	96%	87%	93%	95%	89%	93%	89%	92%

**Former Governor Dick Codey**

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Favorable	<b>31%</b>	34%	16%	36%	31%	26%	33%	29%	40%	28%
Unfavorable	<b>14%</b>	14%	14%	10%	17%	18%	18%	11%	17%	14%
No opinion	<b>55%</b>	52%	69%	54%	53%	57%	50%	59%	43%	58%

4. Looking ahead to next year's election for Governor, do you think that Chris Christie should be re-elected, or do you think that it is time to have someone else in office?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Should be re-elected	<b>48%</b>	50%	40%	25%	49%	86%	54%	43%	37%	52%
Time to have someone else in office	<b>45%</b>	45%	45%	71%	42%	10%	40%	49%	57%	41%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>7%</b>	5%	15%	4%	9%	5%	6%	8%	6%	7%

5. Thinking about Chris Christie's term as governor so far, would you say that he has major accomplishments, minor accomplishments, or no real accomplishments to point to?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Major accomplishments	<b>31%</b>	34%	18%	16%	32%	57%	35%	28%	34%	31%
Minor accomplishments	<b>43%</b>	41%	50%	42%	47%	35%	43%	42%	35%	45%
No real accomplishments	<b>21%</b>	21%	21%	37%	18%	3%	19%	23%	30%	19%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>5%</b>	4%	11%	4%	4%	6%	2%	7%	2%	6%

TREND:	September 2012	August 2011	May 2011	February 2011
Major accomplishments	31%	24%	23%	25%
Minor accomplishments	43%	40%	40%	39%
No real accomplishments	21%	34%	34%	34%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	3%	2%	2%
Unwtd N	805	802	807	801

6. Thinking about Chris Christie's style and not his policies, does the way he speaks to or about people who disagree with him bother you personally or not bother you? [If **BOTHER: Is that a lot or just a little?**]

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Bother a LOT	<b>23%</b>	25%	15%	41%	20%	2%	21%	26%	36%	20%
Bother a LITTLE	<b>11%</b>	10%	12%	11%	13%	6%	8%	13%	14%	10%
Not bother	<b>63%</b>	63%	65%	45%	64%	90%	69%	58%	47%	68%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>3%</b>	2%	8%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%

7. Regardless of whether you agree with Chris Christie's policies, do you think he would have accomplished more, less, or about the same as governor if he acted differently?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
More	<b>28%</b>	28%	28%	38%	30%	10%	28%	29%	35%	26%
Less	<b>11%</b>	12%	10%	11%	10%	17%	13%	10%	12%	11%
About the same	<b>51%</b>	52%	46%	43%	50%	64%	54%	48%	42%	53%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>9%</b>	8%	16%	7%	10%	8%	5%	13%	11%	9%

8. How much have you read or heard of recent news on the state's credit outlook and unemployment rate – a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
A lot	<b>31%</b>	34%	17%	32%	30%	30%	34%	28%	37%	29%
A little	<b>48%</b>	47%	55%	45%	51%	51%	45%	51%	50%	47%
Nothing at all	<b>21%</b>	20%	28%	23%	18%	20%	21%	21%	13%	23%

9. Has this news affected your confidence in Gov. Christie's policies, or not really had an effect? [If **AFFECTED**: Have you become more confident or less confident?]

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
More confident	<b>6%</b>	6%	5%	5%	5%	9%	6%	5%	8%	5%
Less confident	<b>17%</b>	19%	7%	25%	19%	3%	15%	19%	31%	14%
No effect	<b>54%</b>	53%	58%	45%	56%	68%	56%	52%	47%	55%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>2%</b>	2%	1%	2%	2%	0%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Not aware of news from Q8	<b>21%</b>	20%	28%	23%	18%	20%	21%	21%	13%	23%

The *Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll* was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute on September 19 to 23, 2012 with a statewide random sample of 805 adult residents, including 642 contacted on a landline telephone and 163 on a cell phone. Live interviewing services were provided by Braun Research, Inc. and the telephone sample was obtained from Survey Sampling International. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey questionnaire design, data weighting and analysis. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported by gender or party identification, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>			
34% Dem	48% Male	28% 18-34	64% White
44% Ind	52% Female	39% 35-54	12% Black
22% Rep		33% 55+	15% Hispanic
			9% Asian/Other
<i>Registered Voter Sample (weighted)</i>			
35% Dem	46% Male	23% 18-34	69% White
41% Ind	54% Female	40% 35-54	10% Black
24% Rep		37% 55+	14% Hispanic
			7% Asian/Other

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		MARGIN OF ERROR			GENDER		PUBLIC WORKER	
		Yes	No	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Yes	No
Unweighted N	805	715	90	298	307	170	371	434	200	596
moe	3.5%	3.7%	10.3%	5.7%	5.6%	7.5%	5.1%	4.7%	6.9%	4.0%

*It is the Monmouth University Polling Institute's policy to conduct surveys of all adult New Jersey residents, including voters and non-voters, on issues that affect the state. Specific voter surveys are conducted when appropriate during election cycles.*

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