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**MURPHY, GUADAGNO LEAD IN NEW JERSEY PRIMARIES,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
DEMOCRAT MURPHY HAS 22-POINT GENERAL ELECTION LEAD**

In the 2017 New Jersey governor's race – at this point the battle of the unknowns – Democrat Phil Murphy and Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno each lead in the June 6 primary election, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. Lt. Gov. Guadagno tops comedian Joe Piscopo by 10 percentage points.

In a general election matchup, Murphy leads Guadagno 47 – 25 percent, with 25 percent undecided, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

Murphy gets 23 percent in a Democratic primary, with 6 percent for Assembly member John Wisniewski, 4 percent each for former U.S. Treasury Under Secretary Jim Johnson and State Sen. Raymond Lesniak and 2 percent for activist Bill Brennan. Most voters, 57 percent, are undecided.

In a Republican primary, Guadagno leads with 28 percent, followed by 18 percent for comedian Joe Piscopo, 3 percent for Assembly member Jack Ciattarelli, 2 percent for Nutley Commissioner Steve Rogers and 1 percent for entrepreneur Joseph Rullo. Another 42 percent are undecided.

Party trumps gender in the general election as women back the Democratic man over the Republican woman 51 – 20 percent. Men also back Murphy 42 – 31 percent.

The candidates remain largely unknown, as 70 percent of voters don't know enough about Murphy to form an opinion of him and 63 percent don't know enough about Guadagno.

“Question: Can a TV comic such as Joe Piscopo be a serious candidate for governor of New Jersey? Answer: Remember Ronald Reagan.

“The leading candidates – Republican Kim Guadagno and Democrat Phil Murphy – are little known, despite her years as lieutenant governor and the huge amount of money he already has spent,” said Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

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Quinnipiac University Poll/March 15, 2017

“Will that change if they win the nominations? Sure, but it’s hardly an auspicious start,” Carroll added.

New Jersey voters disapprove 76 – 19 percent of the job Gov. Christopher Christie is doing, compared to a 78 – 17 percent disapproval in a January 31 Quinnipiac University poll.

Most voters give Gov. Christie a D or an F for job performance:

- A – 3 percent;
- B – 14 percent;
- C – 25 percent;
- D – 25 percent;
- F – 31 percent.

Christie will not get much done in his last year as governor, 77 percent of voters say, while 19 percent say he can be effective.

The governor’s presidential bid was bad for New Jersey, voters say 71 – 13 percent, including 57 – 24 percent among Republicans.

Voters say 45 – 24 percent that Christie should take the sports radio job for which he is being considered.

President Donald Trump also is under water as voters disapprove 59 – 34 percent of the job he is doing, compared to a 55 – 36 percent disapproval January 31.

Sen. Cory Booker gets a positive 57 – 31 percent approval rating, virtually matching his all-time high score of 58 – 31 percent January 31.

Voters approve 45 – 34 percent of the job U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez is doing, down from a 51 – 32 percent score in January.

“The big question about Gov. Christopher Christie seems to be: How low can his job-approval go? Can he bounce back even a little bit before his term expires?” Carroll asks.

“Sen. Cory Booker remains the most popular politician in New Jersey. Is it too early to start thinking about a 2020 presidential bid?”

From March 9 – 13, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,098 New Jersey voters with a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points. The survey includes 450 Democrats with a margin of error of +/- 4.6 percentage points and 315 Republicans with a margin of error of +/- 5.5 percentage points. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

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1. (If Registered Republican) If the Republican primary for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Kim Guadagno, Jack Ciattarelli, Joe Rullo, Steve Rogers, and Joe Piscopo, for whom would you vote?

	REGISTERED REPUBLICANS.....					
	POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY					
	Tot	Very	Smwht	Mod/ Lib	Men	Wom
Guadagno	28%	31%	27%	27%	31%	24%
Ciattarelli	3	1	5	3	2	5
Rullo	1	-	5	-	1	2
Rogers	2	3	4	-	2	2
Piscopo	18	22	14	20	25	10
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	5	1	5	6	5	3
DK/NA	42	41	40	42	34	54

2. (If Registered Democrat) If the Democratic primary for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Phil Murphy, John Wisniewski, Ray Lesniak, Bill Brennan, and Jim Johnson, for whom would you vote?

	REGISTERED DEMOCRATS.....					
	POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY					
	Tot	Very	Smwht	Mod/ Cons	Men	Wom
Murphy	23%	30%	18%	24%	18%	26%
Wisniewski	6	8	8	5	12	4
Lesniak	4	7	5	2	7	2
Brennan	2	-	2	3	3	1
Johnson	4	10	4	1	2	5
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	3	-	5	3	3
DK/NA	57	42	63	60	54	58

3. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Phil Murphy the Democrat and Kim Guadagno the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Murphy	47%	6%	82%	37%	42%	51%	49%	37%
Guadagno	25	76	3	21	31	20	32	35
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	1	2	1	-	3
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	-	3	3	1	2	1
DK/NA	25	16	14	37	23	27	17	24

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
	Murphy	53%	51%	44%	44%	37%		
Guadagno	14	23	31	32	41	27	33	12
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	3	2	1	3	1	2	2
DK/NA	30	20	22	22	17	23	20	31

4. Is your opinion of Phil Murphy favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	22%	7%	37%	16%	21%	23%	24%	17%
Unfavorable	6	14	1	7	9	4	8	8
Hvn't hrd enough	70	78	60	75	68	73	67	75
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	2	-	1	1
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Favorable	28%	22%	21%	18%	18%	22%	20%	26%
Unfavorable	2	7	8	7	11	5	8	4
Hvn't hrd enough	70	68	69	74	69	72	71	68
REFUSED	-	2	1	1	1	-	1	2

5. Is your opinion of Kim Guadagno favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	17%	41%	9%	14%	20%	14%	24%	20%
Unfavorable	19	9	26	17	21	17	24	14
Hvn't hrd enough	63	49	63	67	58	67	51	65
REFUSED	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Favorable	6%	19%	21%	24%	25%	19%	22%	9%
Unfavorable	14	20	23	16	18	21	20	17
Hvn't hrd enough	80	61	54	59	55	59	57	72
REFUSED	-	1	2	2	2	1	1	1

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	34%	83%	5%	37%	40%	28%	37%	53%
Disapprove	59	12	89	57	53	65	57	41
DK/NA	7	5	6	6	6	8	6	6
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	15%	30%	43%	41%	52%	38%	44%	16%
Disapprove	78	61	50	54	43	55	50	75
DK/NA	8	9	7	5	5	7	6	9

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	19%	47%	6%	18%	21%	18%	22%	24%
Disapprove	76	48	91	78	74	78	75	72
DK/NA	4	5	2	3	5	4	3	4
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	15%	18%	19%	21%	24%	22%	23%	13%
Disapprove	78	81	77	73	71	76	74	81
DK/NA	6	1	4	6	5	2	3	6

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	27%	25%	33%	23%	26%	28%	30%	24%
Disapprove	55	59	52	60	61	50	58	53
DK/NA	18	16	15	17	13	22	13	23
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	42%	24%	24%	23%	25%	29%	27%	28%
Disapprove	40	62	63	54	62	50	55	52
DK/NA	17	13	13	23	13	21	17	20

9. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Cory Booker is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	57%	19%	81%	56%	50%	64%	61%	44%
Disapprove	31	69	10	33	40	24	32	42
DK/NA	11	12	9	12	10	12	7	15
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	58%	66%	53%	55%	45%	60%	53%	65%
Disapprove	29	25	39	31	46	28	36	23
DK/NA	12	10	8	13	9	12	11	13

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Robert Menendez is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	45%	21%	62%	44%	42%	48%	46%	39%
Disapprove	34	63	17	38	41	28	39	41
DK/NA	20	16	21	18	17	24	15	20
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	47%	49%	40%	50%	38%	47%	43%	50%
Disapprove	22	30	44	36	48	33	40	24
DK/NA	32	22	16	14	13	21	17	25

11. What letter grade would you give Chris Christie for the job he has been doing as Governor: A, B, C, D, or F?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
A	3%	7%	1%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%
B	14	33	2	17	17	11	15	16
C	25	33	25	20	25	26	23	26
D	25	16	28	30	26	25	26	30
F	31	11	44	30	30	33	32	24
DK/NA	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	1
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
A	1%	2%	2%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%
B	19	11	14	13	16	15	16	12
C	28	23	28	22	27	23	25	26
D	20	28	28	26	29	27	28	21
F	31	36	28	33	26	31	28	37
DK/NA	2	-	1	1	-	1	1	2

12. Which of these is the most important issue to you in deciding how to vote for governor this year: Taxes, the economy, education, the budget, health care, or ethics in government?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Taxes	27%	47%	17%	27%	31%	23%	29%	33%
Economy	19	23	18	21	22	17	16	21
Education	16	6	23	14	12	20	17	9
Budget	8	10	6	8	9	7	11	9
Health care	12	5	18	8	10	13	9	11
Ethics in government	14	8	13	19	12	16	13	14
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	1	4	2	3	2	2	1
DK/NA	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	2

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Taxes	12%	30%	29%	31%	34%	28%	31%	18%
Economy	25	12	20	16	18	19	18	21
Education	21	25	10	9	12	14	13	21
Budget	7	7	11	8	12	9	10	4
Health care	19	4	10	17	8	12	10	15
Ethics in government	15	15	14	14	13	14	14	15
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	-	5	2	1	1	2	2	3
DK/NA	-	1	3	2	2	2	2	2

14. Do you think Chris Christie can be an effective governor during his last year in office, or that he won't be able to get much done for the rest of his second term?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Can be effective	19%	38%	10%	20%	21%	17%	21%	22%
Won't get much done	77	59	87	76	75	78	76	74
DK/NA	4	3	3	5	3	5	2	4

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Can be effective	20%	18%	20%	21%	24%	19%	21%	16%
Won't get much done	76	79	78	73	74	77	75	78
DK/NA	4	3	2	6	2	4	3	6

15. Do you think Chris Christie's run for President in 2016 was: good for New Jersey or bad for New Jersey?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Good	13%	24%	6%	13%	12%	14%	13%	12%
Bad	71	57	83	71	72	71	72	70
DK/NA	15	19	11	16	16	15	15	17
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Good	17%	14%	11%	12%	12%	14%	13%	14%
Bad	72	68	72	76	71	72	71	71
DK/NA	12	18	17	12	17	14	16	15

16. Thinking about the controversy surrounding the September 2013 traffic jam on the George Washington Bridge, known as "Bridgegate", do you think the news media gave too much attention to this issue, too little attention, or about the right amount?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Too much	31%	64%	15%	29%	35%	28%	32%	37%
Too little	15	4	24	13	11	19	15	7
Right amount	51	30	58	55	53	49	51	51
DK/NA	3	1	3	3	1	4	1	4
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Too much	26%	27%	36%	37%	40%	30%	35%	25%
Too little	17	16	15	14	10	13	12	21
Right amount	56	51	48	46	49	53	51	50
DK/NA	1	5	1	3	2	3	2	3

17. As you may know, Chris Christie is being considered for a sports radio job after he leaves office in January. Do you think Christie should take a sports radio job after he leaves office or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes/Take job	45%	50%	40%	49%	50%	41%	44%	47%
No/Don't take	24	23	30	21	24	25	26	22
DK/NA	30	27	30	30	26	34	30	30
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Yes/Take job	55%	46%	48%	39%	48%	44%	46%	45%
No/Don't take	25	26	23	25	26	23	24	26
DK/NA	20	29	29	36	26	33	30	29