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**CHRISTIE HITS NEW LOW IN NEW JERSEY,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
DEMOCRAT HAS 16-POINT LEAD IN GOVERNOR'S RACE**

New Jersey Gov. Christopher Christie is still looking for the bottom as Garden State voters disapprove 78 – 17 percent, including 53 – 39 percent among Republicans, of the job he is doing, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 77 – 19 percent disapproval in a December 6 survey, the lowest approval rating for any governor in any state in more than 20 years of surveys by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll.

Gov. Christie's disapproval is 3-1 or higher among every party, gender, education, age or racial group except Republicans, who disapprove 53 – 39 percent.

There are yawning gender and racial gaps as New Jersey voters disapprove 55 – 36 percent of the job President Donald Trump is doing. Men are divided as 44 percent approve and 47 percent disapprove. Women disapprove 63 – 29 percent. White voters disapprove 49 – 43 percent, while non-white voters disapprove 70 – 20 percent.

Disapproval is 88 – 7 percent among Democrats and 54 – 36 percent among independent voters. Republicans approve 87 – 7 percent.

"It's interesting, in an unfriendly way, to wonder how low Gov. Christopher Christie's job-approval numbers might drop," said Mickey Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

"Still, he's got 11 more months as the most powerful governor in the land and the State Legislature still sustains his vetoes. It might be an interesting year."

"New Jersey didn't like Donald Trump on Election Day and, even though he seems to enjoy the state as a weekend rendezvous, the Garden State doesn't return the sentiment."

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Gender and racial gaps shrink as New Jersey voters say 51 – 34 percent that President Trump’s policies will be bad for the state. Men say 46 – 41 percent and women say 56 – 27 percent that Trump policies will be bad for New Jersey. White voters say bad 47 – 39 percent and non-white voters say bad 62 – 21 percent.

2017 Governor’s Race

In an early look at the 2017 New Jersey governor’s race, featuring two little-known contenders, Democratic businessman Phil Murphy leads Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno 45 – 29 percent, with 22 percent undecided.

Murphy leads 38 – 28 percent among independent voters and 80 – 5 percent among Democrats, while Guadagno takes Republicans 72 – 6 percent. Women go Democratic 50 – 21 percent. Men are divided with 40 percent for Murphy and 37 percent for Guadagno.

Neither candidate is well known as 70 percent of voters haven’t heard enough about Murphy to form an opinion of him and 61 percent haven’t heard enough about Guadagno.

“Following Gov. Christie, who – popular or unpopular – has dominated New Jersey news from the day he took office, the 2017 contenders are all but anonymous,” Carroll said.

“Murphy gets the Democratic vote and Guadagno has the Republican vote. It looks like Goldman Sachs – shades of Jon Corzine – versus the lieutenant governor who spent four years in Christie’s shadow. Will other challengers perk up? Will it be strictly a party-line election? Will New Jersey live up to its reputation for political brawls? Time’s a-wastin’.”

Menendez, Booker Approval Ratings Up

New Jersey voters approve 51 – 32 percent of the job U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez is doing, his highest approval rating since his all-time high of 56 – 29 percent in a November 28, 2012, Quinnipiac University poll.

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker gets a 58 – 31 percent job approval rating, his highest ever.

From January 26 – 30, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,240 New Jersey voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 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, North Carolina, Georgia and the nation as a public service and for research.

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1. 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?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							Yes	No
Murphy	45%	6%	80%	38%	40%	50%	45%	35%
Guadagno	29	72	5	28	37	21	32	36
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	3	2	1	2	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	4	1	3	3	2	1	4
DK/NA	22	18	14	29	19	26	20	24

	AGE IN	YRS.....	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	WHITE.....	
							Men	Wom
Murphy	47%	51%	44%	41%	37%	43%	40%	56%
Guadagno	25	24	30	33	41	27	34	16
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2
DK/NA	25	21	23	22	17	26	22	25

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							Yes	No
Favorable	21%	5%	36%	16%	22%	20%	21%	17%
Unfavorable	8	15	3	10	12	5	8	7
Hvn't hrd enough	70	79	61	73	65	75	70	76
REFUSED	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-

	AGE IN	YRS.....	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	WHITE.....	
							Men	Wom
Favorable	16%	26%	21%	19%	20%	18%	19%	25%
Unfavorable	9	5	10	9	11	5	8	9
Hvn't hrd enough	75	68	68	71	68	77	73	66
REFUSED	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							Yes	No
Favorable	18%	37%	6%	21%	22%	15%	20%	21%
Unfavorable	19	7	28	18	18	20	21	15
Hvn't hrd enough	61	53	64	60	59	63	57	62
REFUSED	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	1

	AGE IN	YRS.....	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	WHITE.....	
							Men	Wom
Favorable	12%	18%	18%	23%	23%	18%	21%	12%
Unfavorable	19	21	19	18	18	19	19	20
Hvn't hrd enough	67	60	61	58	57	61	59	66
REFUSED	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2

4. 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	36%	87%	7%	36%	44%	29%	38%	49%
Disapprove	55	7	88	54	47	63	55	42
DK/NA	9	6	5	11	9	8	6	9
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	34%	29%	38%	42%	48%	39%	43%	20%
Disapprove	61	61	54	48	45	52	49	70
DK/NA	4	11	8	9	7	8	8	10

5. 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	17%	39%	6%	16%	20%	14%	18%	22%
Disapprove	78	53	92	79	75	80	78	74
DK/NA	5	8	2	5	5	6	4	4
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	15%	15%	17%	22%	21%	19%	20%	11%
Disapprove	80	81	78	73	75	78	76	82
DK/NA	4	4	5	6	4	4	4	7

6. 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	26%	25%	35%	20%	26%	27%	27%	25%
Disapprove	55	58	44	63	59	51	56	54
DK/NA	19	17	21	17	15	22	17	21
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	37%	24%	28%	23%	26%	27%	26%	27%
Disapprove	47	56	55	56	59	52	55	54
DK/NA	16	20	17	21	15	21	18	19

7. 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	58%	27%	86%	50%	50%	65%	60%	54%
Disapprove	31	61	7	36	40	22	32	36
DK/NA	11	12	7	14	10	13	8	11

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	62%	67%	56%	52%	49%	64%	57%	61%
Disapprove	26	21	33	40	43	26	34	23
DK/NA	12	12	11	8	8	10	9	16

8. 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	51%	33%	68%	46%	48%	54%	49%	53%
Disapprove	32	53	14	38	39	27	35	35
DK/NA	17	14	18	16	14	19	16	12

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	54%	57%	47%	52%	46%	55%	51%	51%
Disapprove	25	25	37	37	42	29	35	27
DK/NA	21	18	16	11	13	16	15	22

11. Do you think Donald Trump's policies will be good for New Jersey or bad for New Jersey?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Good	34%	77%	9%	35%	41%	27%	36%	42%
Bad	51	6	83	48	46	56	52	41
DK/NA	15	16	8	18	13	17	12	17

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Good	26%	30%	38%	38%	43%	36%	39%	21%
Bad	60	57	50	43	44	49	47	62
DK/NA	14	14	12	19	13	15	14	17