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Poll shows Christie favorability ratings on rise

By Bill Mooney | June 11th, 2012 - 11:49pm

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NEW BRUNSWICK - Gov. Chris Christie's favorability ratings are at their highest level.

A new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released Tuesday shows that for the first time since Christie took office in 2010, 50 percent of respondents have a favorable view of the governor, up 4 percentage points. Those with an unfavorable view dropped to 39 percent, and 11 percent have no opinion.

Among independent voters, Christie's favorability ratings rose 12 percentage points to 55 percent. Among Democrats, his favorability number is 27 percent. Among Republicans, his numbers dipped, to 79 percent from 85 percent.

"Interestingly, while Democrats have shown little change, self-described liberals are actually 10 points more positive, at 29 percent," Poll Director David Redlawsk said in a release.

According to the poll, Christie's job performance grades improved as well. He received an A or B from 46 percent, a 3 percent increase.

About 24 percent gave him a C, unchanged since March. And 29 percent gave him a D or F, a 3 percent decline.

"Despite recent controversies over plans for Rutgers and less-than-positive economic news, voters are trending toward more positive ratings for the governor and the state," Redlawsk said in reference to the proposed higher education reorganization. "But more improvement will probably require more voters to think things are getting better, not just standing still."

Just over half of respondents say New Jersey is going in the right direction, up four points. Those who think the state is on the wrong track remained at 40 percent.

Results are from a poll of 1,191 adults with a subsample of 1,065 registered voters conducted statewide among both landline and cell phone households from May 31-June 4. The registered voter subsample has a margin of error of +/- 2.9 percentage points.







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