Poll: Gov. Chris Christie gets his highest favorability ratings yet

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By Jenna Portnoy/Statehouse Bureau

TRENTON — More New Jersey voters feel favorably toward Gov. Chris Christie than they did in March but the gap among men and women widened, according to a poll released Tuesday.

In a Rutgers-Eagleton poll released Tuesday, the Republican governor garnered his highest favorability ratings — 50 percent among registered voters — since he took office two and a half years ago, compared with 39 percent who hold an unfavorable opinion of him.

The numbers are bolstered largely by the male voters who favor Christie — up seven percentage points from March — to 56 percent. The percentage of women who favor him rose just two points, however, to 45 percent. The result is an 11 percentage point gap, compared with 6 points six months ago.

The disparity between the state’s economic standing and the governor’s "Jersey Comeback" narrative has apparently not hurt voters’ opinion of the administration.

"After some weakening between November and March, Governor Christie’s favorability rating has
rebounded to as positive as we’ve seen,” David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton poll. "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. But more improvement will probably require more voters to think things are getting better, not just standing still."

Voters who gave him an A or B grade on job performance rose three points from March, to 46 percent, while those grading him D or F fell three points, to 29 percent. The nearly one-quarter of voters who gave him a grade of C remained unchanged since March.

The number of voters who say the state is "going in the right direction" rose 4 percentage points, to 51 percent, compared with the 41 percent who say it "has gone off on the wrong track."

The poll surveyed 1,065 voters from May 31 to June 4, and has a margin of error of 2.9 percentage points.

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