The Christie Chronicles

4 things you missed this week in the Christie/Buono gov race

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1) Buono wins back Democrats

A new poll out today indicates that for the first time in the race, challenger Barbara Buono now has a lead among her own constituency of Democrats: 49 percent to 31 percent. This doesn't mean she's winning, though. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll shows Christie up 30 points among all registered voters, 57 to 27 percent. And she'll need, well, almost all Democrats if she's going to beat Christie, who is wildly popular among both Republicans and independents. The good news for the Buono campaign, though, is she's headed in the right trajectory.

2) Buono faces 'Hardball' (but mostly curveballs)

Buono got her second MSNBC interview last night on "Hardball," as host Chris Matthews, in his rapid-fire, iconoclastic style, threw some curveballs that Buono didn't see coming. She refused to denounce the Jon Corzine ad in 2009 that talked of Christie "throwing his weight around" as the camera focused on the middle of his body.

After saying that "all" of Christie's decisions ''are guided by his eye toward 2016," Buono refused to say whether she thinks Christie is running for president in 2016.

Asked to name something she would do to create jobs, she mentioned two things that Christie did that she wouldn't have done: Canceling the ARC tunnel project to New York and pulling out of a regional greenhouse gas treaty.

"You're very nice, senator," Matthews said as he concluded the interview.

3) Christie is campaigning against a gas tax increase proposal that really doesn't really exist

The Christie campaign sent a fundraising letter to supporters this week that railed against "every last politician in Washington" AND New Jersey Democrats for wanting to raise taxes. Specifically, the letter said: "In New Jersey, the Democrats want me to support raising the gas tax. NO WAY."

Except raising the gas tax, while it has been brought up by a handful of Democrats in recent years, is not a proposal currently on the table. It hasn't gotten so much as a legislative hearing. Transportation advocates
would love to raise the tax, which is among the lowest in the nation, in order to refill a depleted fund for road work. But there’s no political will to raise the tax right now — even among most Dems.

In 2011, Buono said: “I think to even broach the subject of a gas tax now is just ridiculous.” She stands by those remarks today, according to her campaign.

4) The first TV ad of the campaign season is here

But it’s not from either candidate. It’s an anti-Christie ad funded by a liberal group with secret donors called One New Jersey. It hits Christie hard on the economy, and you might have seen it already on your TV. Here it is:
As "bipartisan" as Gov. Christie is, it will be worse to give the governorship to the Democrats when they already hold the legislature.

The State of NJ needs some checks and balances!
— EIK

I didn't like him last race, but he's done a decent job. He deserves another term.
— Vote for Dickie

what do you mean Dem groups have secret donors. I thought that was only a GOP thing.
— palmyra21

Wow another article from an obvious liberal democrat that all but cries his personal opinion. One question to all, would the President have crossed party lines during Sandy if he was Gov?
— dunnkirk

To Dunnkirk - I thought the Pres. did cross party lines, according to Christie. Christie lauded him for being so helpful...so not sure who crossed the party lines, first. And, in a disaster there is no such thing as party lines...unless you are in Congress.
— sporting-sue

How about doing some real reporting for a change Matt and try to find out who these "secret donors" are.
— TomM

Thanks for the insult. How should we go about finding the secret donors if they're not forced to disclose by the state or IRS?
— mattrkat

Insult? It wasn't meant that way but whatever floats your boat. I'm sure you've heard the term "investigative" journalism, try it sometime you might like it. There's plenty of reporters that have gotten undisclosed info and reported on it. Unless you're not a "reporter" and just another glorified paid blogger......now that you can consider an insult.
— TomM

It is not exactly 'news' that Democrats in NJ are going to support the Democratic candidate. Way 2 Go, Mr. Katz, stating the abundantly obvious. Senator Buono does not have a chance, barring some self-inflicted wound by the Governor. This is the same Senator Buono who enthusiastically supports the Mt. Laurel and Abbott series of decisions that have cost NJ Taxpayers billions of dollars for questionable gains (at best).
— Mtown_Quaker

Considering up until now most Democrats supported Christie, it most certainly IS news.
— mattrkat
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