A majority of New Jersey voters describe Governor Christie as a “smart, strong leader” even though he has seen his favorability rating drop slightly, according a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released today.

But while nearly two-thirds of those polled described the Republican, who is seeking a second term, as both “smart” and “strong” and more than half say he is also “effective” and “independent,” 60 percent also said the word “stubborn” describes him very well, while another 27 percent said it describes him somewhat well.
hit, when 54 percent said “stubborn” described Christie very well. Of those polled on the
governor’s negative traits, 45 percent called Christie “arrogant” and 34 percent described
him as a “bully.”

“With the exception of stubborn – which even many supporters of Christie say is the case –
voters are more likely to apply positive than negative traits to the governor, as befits his
high ratings,” Rutgers-Eagleton Poll Director David Redlawsk said in a statement. “But the
slight uptick in most negative traits, combined with static positive traits suggests some
small movement, confirming the slight declines in his overall ratings.”

More than half of the voters polled said Christie makes them “proud” and “enthusiastic,”
with the later up four points since the November Rutgers-Eagleton poll. Fewer voters said
the governor seemed “angry” or “worried,” with those descriptions dropping two and three
points respectively to 27 percent and 30 percent. The drop in both emotions followed
double-digit declines after Sandy devastated the state.

Of the 923 New Jersey voters polled from April 3 to 7, 88 percent said he was a strong
leader, while only 11 percent said that term does not describe him at all. Sixty-three percent
of voters said the word “smart” fits Christie well, while 27 percent said it fits him somewhat
well.

About half of Democrats polled said they would also describe Christie as a strong leader and
also smart. While only 19 percent of Democrats purveyed said Christie is not a strong leader
and 10 percent said he is not smart. The numbers represent a five-point drop in Democrats
who describe him as a strong leader, while the data held steady on those who describe
Christie as “smart” since the November poll.

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