

Buono trails in gubernatorial election

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The gubernatorial election is not looking good for Democratic candidate Barbara Buono, according to a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

With only five months to go until Election Day in November, Gov. Chris Christie holds a lead against the state senator of 59 percent to 27 percent among registered voters.

“More than eight in 10 voters expect Christie to win a second term – including most Democrats and even a solid majority of those who plan to vote for Buono,” the poll found.

More than half of voters have to form an opinion of Buono, and Christie’s favorability rating remains at 64 percent. Though 22 percent view her favorably, negative views of Buono have doubled to 24 percent.

“Since cutting Christie’s margin by 10 points in April, Buono has made absolutely no additional progress,” said David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. “While her name recognition has climbed to 46 percent of voters from 30 percent in April, nearly all of that increase has come from voters who now have an unfavorable impression of her.”

Buono remains unknown by more than half of voters statewide, the poll found, even after awareness climbed 16 points since April. But she moved from 18 percent favorable versus 12 percent unfavorable in April to 22 percent favorable versus 24 percent unfavorable today.

The results come from a poll conducted statewide of 888 New Jersey adults through both landline and cell phone households from June 3 to 9, with a margin of error of +/- 3.3 percentage points.

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