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Contact: Peter Woolley 973.670.3239

Corzine, Like Economy, Lags in New Jersey

Gov. Jon Corzine's standing with the New Jersey public is suffering along with the economy. According to the most recent poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind, 40% of voters approve of the job Corzine is doing while 46% disapprove--a reversal from January when 46% approved and 40% disapproved. "The governor is taking his lumps along with the rest of New Jersey," said Peter Woolley, a political scientist and director of the poll.

Among Democrats, 58% approve and 28% disapprove with 14% unsure, a 2-to-1 margin in the governor's favor, but independents disapprove by 2-to-1 and Republicans disapprove by 3-to-1. More ominous is that among public employee households, 31% approve while 56% disapprove. That compares to an even split among all other households, 43%-44%.

The governor wins handily in a trial heat against an assortment of obscure contenders, picking up 59%, while none of the potential challengers picks up more than 2%. But more than a third of Democrats (36%) are undecided even given that undistinguished field and many of those migrate when given other choices. Democrats asked to choose between Corzine and Senate Majority Leader Richard Codey pick Corzine by 51% to 32% with 17% undecided. Asked to choose between Corzine and Newark Mayor Cory Booker, they pick Corzine by 54%-23%.

Indeed, in a trial heat against the leading Republican contender, Corzine trails former U.S. Attorney Chris Christie by 32%-41%. In that heat, 73% of Republicans line up behind Christie, while just 55% of Democrats line up behind Corzine. "When budgets are cut, public employees laid off, and taxes are in danger of being raised, lots of people think twice about their support for the incumbent," said Woolley. "The governor's own majority coalition is his biggest challenge."

The governor bests other Republican contenders though not necessarily with ease. He comes out just ahead of former Bogota Mayor Steve Lonegan by 36%-32%. He beats Assemblyman Rick Merkt 37%-28% and beats Mayor Brian Levine 38%-27%, with the rest unsure.

Christie's name recognition continues to climb, from 40% in September to 44% in January and to 57% this month. Just as important, 30% have a favorable opinion of him against 6% whose view is unfavorable, a five-to-one ratio. Other Republican contenders lag in name recognition: 67% of all voters and 53% of Republicans haven't heard of Lonegan, 91% of voters haven't heard of Merkt and 83% haven't heard of Levine.

Christie also made headway among Republican voters since January. Asked who they might nominate in June to run for governor, 43% of Republicans choose Christie, compared to 32% in January before he announced his intention to run. Another 15% prefer Lonegan, unchanged since January. Merkt picks up 1% and Levine 2%. But 39% are unsure or have no preference.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 751 registered voters statewide was conducted by telephone from Feb. 25, 2009 through March. 2, 2009, and has a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points. Samples for some questions, as noted in tables, are smaller.

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| <p><i>Methodology, questions, and tables are available on the web at: http://publicmind.fdu.edu</i></p> <p><i>Radio actualities at 201.692.2846</i></p> <p><i>For more information, please call 201.692.7032.</i></p> |
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Methodology, Questions, and Tables

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from Feb. 25, 2009 through March 2, 2009 using a randomly selected sample of 751 registered voters statewide. The margin of error for 751 randomly selected respondents is +/- 4 percentage points. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling error. This kind of error, which cannot be measured, arises from a number of factors including, but not limited to, non-response (eligible individuals refusing to be interviewed), question wording, the order in which questions are asked, and variations among interviewers. PublicMind interviews are conducted by professionally trained interviewers use a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection is achieved by computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a land-line phone number (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected. Results are mathematically weighted to match known demographics.

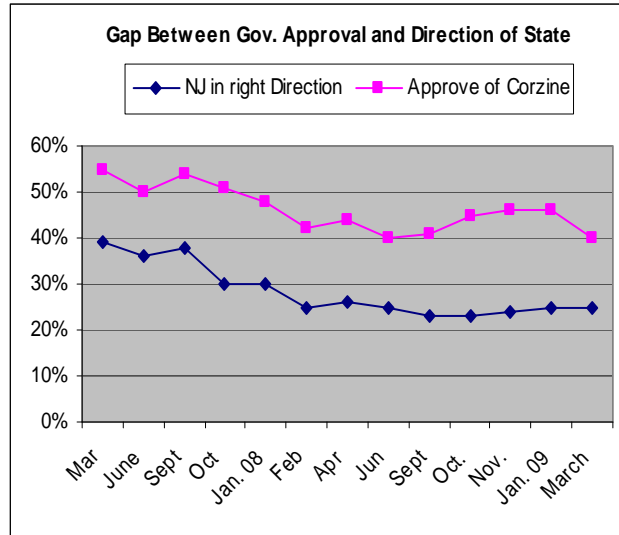
Questions US1-8 held for release

Question: Now, turning to New Jersey... In your opinion, do you think things in New Jersey are moving in the right direction or do you think the state has gotten off on the wrong track?

| | All | Party | | | Public employee household | |
|------------------------|------------|-------|----|----|---------------------------|----|
| | | D | I | R | yes | no |
| Right direction | 25% | 35 | 15 | 15 | 18 | 27 |
| Wrong track | 59% | 46 | 69 | 74 | 68 | 57 |
| Unsure | 16% | 19 | 16 | 11 | 14 | 16 |

Right track/wrong track trend

| | Jan '09 | Nov '08 | Oct '08 | Sept '08 | June '08 | Apr '08 | Feb '08 | Jan '08 | Oct '07 | Sep '07 | Jun '07 | May '07 | Mar '06 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Right direction | 25% | 24 | 23 | 23 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 28 | 30 | 38 | 36 | 42 | 39 |
| Wrong track | 65% | 65 | 67 | 67 | 64 | 66 | 65 | 61 | 59 | 49 | 50 | 44 | 47 |
| Unsure | 10% | 10 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 15 |



Instruction: ask at random any five names: Jon Corzine, Chris Christie, Rick Merkt, Steve Longan, Brian Levine, Richard Codey, Cory Booker.

Question: Have you heard of [rotate list]? If you haven't just tell me. [If yes, ask:] Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ...? Would that be very or somewhat?

| N=542/MoE +/-4 | Haven't heard of | Heard of | Very Favorable | Somewhat Favorable | Somewhat Unfavorable | Very Unfavorable | Unsure |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------|
| Jon Corzine (all) | 1% | (99%) | 10% | 28% | 22% | 26% | 13% |
| <i>(Democrats only)</i> | 1 | (99) | 16 | 37 | 16 | 14 | 15 |
| Previous Surveys... | | | | | | | |
| <i>Corzine 01/09</i> | 2% | (98%) | 14% | 28% | 21% | 23% | 12% |
| <i>Corzine 11/08</i> | 3% | 97% | 13% | 27% | 17% | 26% | 14% |
| <i>Corzine 09/08</i> | 2% | 98% | 12 | 30 | 18 | 27 | 11 |
| <i>Corzine 06/08</i> | 2% | 98% | 17 | 24 | 19 | 24 | 14 |

| N=537/+/- 4 | Haven't heard of | | Very Favorable | Somewhat Favorable | Somewhat Unfavorable | Very Unfavorable | No opinion |
|----------------------|------------------|--|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| Richard Codey | 25% | | 18% | 23% | 8% | 6% | 20% |
| Democrats only | 31 | | 22 | 21 | 7 | 2 | 16 |
| <i>Codey 09/09</i> | 27% | | 24% | 25% | 7% | 4% | 14% |

| | Haven't heard of | Very Favorable | Somewhat Favorable | No opinion | Somewhat Unfavorable | Very unfavorable | N/MoE |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Cory Booker | 47% | 13% | 19% | 15% | 4% | 2% | 532/+/- 4 |
| Democrats only | 48 | 15 | 22 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 247/+/- 6 |
| <i>Booker 09/08</i> | 44% | 17% | 15% | 16% | 5% | 3% | 583/+/- 4 |

| | Haven't heard of | Very favorable | Somewhat favorable | No opinion | Somewhat unfavorable | Very unfavorable | N/MoE |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Chris Christie | 43% | 12% | 18% | 22% | 4% | 2% | 526/+/- 4 |
| Republicans only | 33 | 20 | 20 | 23 | 3 | -- | 180/+/- 7 |
| <i>Christie 01/09</i> | 56% | 11% | 12% | 15% | 4% | 2% | 695/+/- 4 |
| <i>Christie 09/08</i> | 60% | 2% | 3% | 14% | 11% | 9% | 572/+/- 4 |
| Steve Lonegan | 67% | 5% | 9% | 16% | 2% | 1% | 541/+/- 4 |
| Republicans only | 53 | 10 | 13 | 21 | 2 | 1 | 175/+/- 7 |
| <i>Lonegan 01/09</i> | 71% | 3% | 6% | 12% | 4% | 4% | 688/+/- 4 |
| <i>Lonegan 09/08</i> | 76% | 2% | 1% | 12% | 5% | 4% | 569/+/- 4 |
| Rick Merkt | 91% | -- | 2% | 5% | 2% | -- | 535/+/- 4 |
| Republicans only | 91 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | -- | 183/+/- 7 |
| <i>Merkt 01/09</i> | 89% | 1% | 3% | 5% | 2% | 1% | 694/+/- 4 |
| <i>Merkt 10/08</i> | 89% | 1% | 1% | 7% | 2% | 1% | 471/+/- 4 |
| Brian Levine | 83% | 1% | 2% | 11% | 2% | 1% | 538/+/- 4 |
| Republicans only | 83 | -- | 1 | 13 | 3 | -- | 180/+/- 7 |

TRIAL HEATS: CORZINE VS REPUBLICANS

Next November there will be an election for governor. I know it's early but who would you vote for in a race between... and...? And if it were between... and...? And if it were between ... and ...? [ROTATE ORDER; ROTATE NAMES; ASK AT RANDOM ½ MERKT, ½ LEVINE]

| Ask all: | All | Dem | Ind | Rep | January |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Jon Corzine, the Democrat | 32% | 55 | 14 | 9 | 40% |
| Christ Christie, the Republican | 41% | 17 | 50 | 73 | 33% |
| Don't know/neither/other (vol.) | 27% | 28 | 36 | 18 | 26% |
| Ask all: | | | | | |
| Jon Corzine, the Democrat | 36% | 62 | 17 | 10 | 46% |
| Steve Lonegan, the Republican | 32% | 10 | 35 | 64 | 28% |
| Don't know/neither/other | 31% | 29 | 47 | 26 | 26% |
| Ask 1/2: (n=375; MoE=+/-5) | | | | | |
| Jon Corzine, the Democrat | 37% | 60 | 19 | 13 | 43% |
| Rick Merkt, the Republican | 28% | 10 | 22 | 58 | 23% |
| Don't know/neither/other (vol.) | 35% | 29 | 60 | 29 | 33% |
| Ask 1/2: (n=375; MoE=+/-5) | | | | | |
| Jon Corzine, the Democrat | 38% | 61 | 25 | 15 | |
| Brian Levine, the Republican | 27% | 11 | 32 | 48 | |
| Don't know/neither/other (vol.) | 36% | 29 | 43 | 37 | |

Job rating, current

How would you rate the job Jon Corzine is doing as governor... [READ]?

| | All | Party | | |
|--------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| | | Dem | Ind | Rep |
| Excellent | 2% | 2 | -- | 1 |
| Good | 28% | 41 | 19 | 13 |
| Only fair | 40% | 40 | 43 | 40 |
| Poor | 28% | 13 | 36 | 45 |
| unsure (vol) | 3% | 4 | 2 | 1 |

Job rating, previous measures

| | 2009 | 2008 | | | | | | 2007 | | | | | 2006 | | | |
|-----------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| | Jan | Nov | Oct | Sep | Jun | Apr | Feb | Jan | Oct | Sep | Jun | Mar | Jan | Nov | Oct | Sep |
| Excellent | 4% | 6 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 9 |
| Good | 28% | 28 | 27 | 28 | 27 | 29 | 28 | 29 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 39 | 34 | 40 | 40 | 33 |
| Only fair | 41% | 39 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 36 | 38 | 39 | 38 | 39 | 36 | 39 | 38 | 30 | 32 | 33 |
| Poor | 25% | 24 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 30 | 27 | 23 | 17 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 17 | 17 | 14 | 20 |
| Unsure | 2% | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 5 |

Approve/disapprove Current

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jon Corzine is doing as governor?

| | All | Dem | Ind | Rep | Public employee household | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------|----|
| | | | | | yes | no |
| Approve | 40% | 58 | 27 | 22 | 31 | 43 |
| Disapprove | 46% | 28 | 52 | 68 | 56 | 44 |
| Mixed/unsure | 13% | 14 | 21 | 10 | 12 | 13 |

Approve/disapprove, previous surveys

| | 2009 | 2008 | | | | | | | | 2007 | | | | | 2006 | | |
|------------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|----------|---------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| | Jan | Nov | Oct | Sept | Jun | Apr | Feb | Jan 30th | Jan 7th | Oct | Sep | Jun | Mar | Jan | Nov | Oct | Sep |
| Approve | 46% | 46 | 45 | 41 | 40 | 44 | 42 | 41 | 48 | 51 | 54 | 50 | 55 | 51 | 58 | 56 | 51 |
| Disapprove | 40% | 37 | 39 | 43 | 41 | 45 | 43 | 39 | 32 | 29 | 25 | 27 | 25 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 31 |
| mixed/DK | 14% | 17 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 11 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 23 | 20 | 19 | 15 | 16 | 18 |

Questions 7-9 withheld for later release.

Instruction: Ask Republicans only (N=253; MoE +/- 6):

In June, there will be a primary election in which New Jersey Republican voters will select a Republican candidate to run for governor. Are you likely or not likely to vote in that primary election?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Likely | 74% |
| Not likely | 19% |
| Don't know [VOL] | 4% |
| Not registered as Rep. | 2% |
| [Skip to next series] | |

Question: I know it's early, but if the Republican primary election for governor were held today, would you vote for...or...or...?

| <i>ROTATE NAMES</i> | | January |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
| Chris Christie | 39 | 30 |
| lean Christie | 4 | 2 |
| total Christie | 43% | 32% |
| Steve Lonegan | 14 | 13 |
| lean Lonegan | 1 | 2 |
| total Lonegan | 15% | 15% |
| Rick Merkt | 1 | 4 |
| lean Merkt | -- | 1 |
| total Merkt | 1% | 5% |
| Brian Levine | 2 | |
| lean Levin | -- | |
| Total Levine | 2% | |
| Unsure/none/other | 39% | 47% |

Instruction: Ask Democrats only (N=361; MoE +/- 5):

In June, there will be a primary election in which New Jersey Democrats will select a Democratic candidate to run for governor. Are you likely or not likely to vote in that primary election?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Likely | 77% |
| Not likely | 18% |
| Don't know [VOL] | 4% |
| Not registered as Dem. | 1% |
| [Skip to next series] | |

Q: I know it's early, but if the Democratic primary election for governor were held today, would you vote for...READ?

| <i>ROTATE NAMES</i> | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Jon Corzine | 54 |
| lean Corzine | 5 |
| total Corzine | 59% |
| Ken Balut | 1 |
| lean Balut | -- |
| total Balut | 1% |
| Carl Bergmanson | 2 |
| lean Bergmanson | -- |
| total Bergmanson | 2% |
| Jeff Boss | 2 |
| lean Boss | -- |
| Total Boss | 2% |
| Unsure/none/other | 36% |

Q: And if the Democratic primary election for governor were held today, would you vote for...or ... ?

ROTATE NAMES

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Jon Corzine | 49 |
| lean Corzine | 2 |
| total Corzine | 51% |

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Richard Codey | 29 |
| lean Codey | 3 |
| total Codey | 32% |

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Don't know/neither | 17% |
|--------------------|-----|

Question: And if the Democratic primary election for governor were held today, would you vote for...or ... ?

ROTATE NAMES

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Jon Corzine | 51 |
| lean Corzine | 3 |
| total Corzine | 54% |

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Cory Booker | 22 |
| lean Booker | 1 |
| total Booker | 23% |

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Don't know/neither | 23% |
|--------------------|-----|

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