

Maurice Carroll, Director
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute
(203) 582-5201

Rubenstein Associates, Inc.,
Public Relations
Pat Smith (212) 843-8026

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

P O L L

FOR RELEASE: NOVEMBER 24, 2009

NEW JERSEY VOTERS SAY 3-1 FREEZE STATE WORKER WAGES, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; VOTERS BACK LAYOFFS ALMOST 2-1

New Jersey voters support 75 – 21 percent, including 70 – 26 percent among Democrats, a wage freeze for state workers to help balance the state budget, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today, three weeks after Christopher Christie toppled Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine. A wage freeze wins 75 – 20 percent support from independent voters and 79 – 16 percent backing from Republicans. Voters in union households back a wage freeze 62 – 33 percent.

Garden State voters also support 61 – 33 percent layoffs for state workers to help balance the state budget, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds. Support ranges from 50 – 43 percent among Democrats to 65 – 29 percent among independent voters to 69 – 25 percent among Republicans. Voters in union households split 49 – 48 percent.

A total of 97 percent of New Jersey voters say the state’s budget problems are “very serious” or “somewhat serious.”

Cut programs and services to balance the budget, 68 percent say, as 23 percent say raise taxes instead. Service cuts win 46 – 43 percent support from Democrats, 73 – 18 percent backing from independent voters and 86 – 8 percent backing from Republicans.

“If Governor-elect Christopher Christie wants to consider a wage freeze, New Jersey voters, even Democrats and union households, say send out for ice,” said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“And if he’s thinking about swinging the ax, voters will help sharpen it.

“Garden State voters agree with their new Governor – overwhelmingly – that the state’s in a fiscal mess. And they agree he should use the ax, not the tax, to solve the problem.”

-more-

Quinnipiac University Poll/November 24, 2009 – page 2

A total of 73 percent of New Jersey voters are “somewhat dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with the way things are going in the state, the worst satisfaction rate ever measured in the Garden State. And incumbents are paying the price of this dissatisfaction, several with the lowest job approvals ever measured, as New Jersey voters:

- Approve 51 – 42 percent of President Barack Obama, a new low;
- Disapprove 59 – 31 percent of Gov. Corzine, his lowest ever as he walks out the door;
- Disapprove 65 – 21 of the State Legislature as it begins a new term;
- Split 40 – 41 percent in their approval of U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, his worst ever;
- Split 36 – 37 percent on U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez.

While voters were not asked a job approval rating for Governor-elect Christie, he gets a mixed 36 – 25 percent favorability rating, with 37 percent who don’t know enough about him to form an opinion.

The top target for budget cuts is economic development, 41 percent of voters say, followed by 30 percent for social services, 11 percent for education and 7 percent for health care.

If taxes must be raised, start with tolls, 30 percent say, followed by 28 percent for raising sales taxes, 15 percent for gas taxes and 13 percent for income taxes.

Voters give conflicting messages on other budget measures: 60 percent say keep state aid to local government and schools the same, as 20 percent say increase it and 16 percent say cut it; 45 percent say keep tax rebates the same, as 29 percent say increase them and 21 percent say cut; 62 – 37 percent oppose hiking the gas tax for road and transit improvements.

New Jersey voters oppose school vouchers 54 – 43 percent and oppose expanding charter schools 55 – 38 percent, but they support 51 – 45 percent expanding state-funded early childhood education. Republican voters support vouchers 52 – 45 percent and oppose expanding charters 53 – 41 percent.

“Christie backs vouchers and charter schools, but voters don’t. Even Republicans are lukewarm on vouchers and opposed to expanding charter schools,” Carroll said.

From November 17 – 22, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,615 New Jersey voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.4 percentage points.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio and nationally as a public service and for research.

For more data or RSS feed– <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jon Corzine is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	31%	6%	60%	26%	28%	34%	24%	59%
Disapprove	59	88	28	64	64	55	67	23
DK/NA	10	6	12	10	9	11	8	18

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Approve	37%	36%	52%	32%	23%	30%	22%
Disapprove	55	54	35	57	71	59	71
DK/NA	8	10	13	11	6	11	7

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jon Corzine is handling his job as Governor?

	Nov 24 2009	Jun 10 2009	May 20 2009	Apr 22 2009	APPROVE.... High Apr 18 2007	DIS... Low Nov 24 2009	DIS... High Nov 24 2009
Approve	31	36	38	37	51	31	31
Disapprove	59	56	53	54	36	59	59
DK/NA	10	9	9	8	13	10	10

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	21%	10%	36%	17%	20%	22%	16%	33%
Disapprove	65	78	46	71	70	59	71	47
DK/NA	15	12	18	12	10	19	13	20

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Approve	24%	20%	39%	20%	13%	25%	14%
Disapprove	65	73	52	62	77	63	69
DK/NA	10	8	10	18	10	13	17

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Nov 24 2009	Jun 10 2009	May 20 2009	Apr 22 2009	APPROVE..... High Jan 26 2005	DIS... Low Jul 14 2006	DIS... High Jul 14 2006
Approve	21	28	28	29	44	20	20
Disapprove	65	56	55	57	31	71	71
DK/NA	15	16	17	14	25	10	10

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Frank Lautenberg is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	40%	20%	60%	37%	37%	42%	36%	66%
Disapprove	41	58	22	44	45	37	47	15
DK/NA	20	22	18	18	18	21	17	19

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Frank Lautenberg is handling his job as United States Senator? (*High approve also 55% Sep 1999 & Jul 1999)

	Nov 24 2009	Jun 10 2009	May 20 2009	Apr 22 2009	APPROVE.....		DIS...
					High Jul 27 2000*	Low Feb 20 2008	High Nov 24 2009
Approve	40	44	46	47	55	39	40
Disapprove	41	36	37	38	22	31	41
DK/NA	20	19	18	15	23	29	20

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Robert Menendez is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	36%	14%	60%	34%	36%	37%	30%	58%
Disapprove	37	55	18	39	42	32	42	14
DK/NA	27	31	22	27	23	31	27	29

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Robert Menendez is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Nov 24 2009	Jun 10 2009	May 20 2009	Apr 22 2009	APPROVE.....		DIS..
					High Feb 4 2009	Low Feb 20 2008	High Jul 9 2007
Approve	36	40	41	41	42	30	31
Disapprove	37	31	32	32	30	31	39
DK/NA	27	28	27	26	28	39	31

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	51%	17%	86%	47%	46%	57%	42%	93%
Disapprove	42	79	10	43	46	38	52	3
DK/NA	7	5	4	10	8	5	6	5

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	Nov 24 2009	Aug 12 2009	Jul 14 2009	Jun 10 2009	APPROVE.....		DIS...
					High Jun 10 2009	Low Nov 24 2009	High Nov 24 2009
Approve	51	56	61	68	68	51	51
Disapprove	42	39	33	25	25	42	42
DK/NA	7	5	6	7	7	7	7

6. Is your opinion of - Christopher Christie favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	36%	64%	17%	33%	39%	34%	40%	22%
Unfavorable	25	6	41	25	21	29	24	33
Hvn't hrd enough	37	28	40	39	38	36	33	44
REFUSED	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	1

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Favorable	29%	40%	34%	35%	44%	28%	39%
Unfavorable	39	28	33	23	22	29	22
Hvn't hrd enough	29	28	32	39	32	40	35
REFUSED	2	4	1	2	2	3	3

TREND: Is your opinion of - Christopher Christie favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him? (*High also 36% Jun 2009)

	Nov 24 2009	Jun 10 2009	May 20 2009	Apr 22 2009	Mar 12 2009	FAVORABLE.....	
						High Nov 24 2009	Low Aug 12 2008
Favorable	36	36	33	31	31	36	21
Unfavorable	25	16	11	11	7	25	7
Hvn't hrd enough	37	46	54	56	61	37	69
REFUSED	2	2	2	1	2	2	2

7. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in New Jersey today? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Very satisfied	1%	1%	2%	-	2%	1%	1%	-
Smwht satisfied	24	9	38	24	23	25	18	49
Smwht dissatisfied	31	30	36	29	29	34	31	28
Very dissatisfied	42	58	22	46	45	39	48	19
DK/NA	1	1	2	-	1	1	1	3

TREND: In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in New Jersey today? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied? (*High also 71% Feb 1999)

	Nov 24 2009	Jul 15 2009	Jun 10 2009	May 20 2009	Apr 22 2009	VERY+SMWHT....	
						High Dec 26 2000*	Low Nov 24 2009
Very satisfied	1	3	3	2	2	10	1
Smwht satisfied	24	30	29	33	33	61	24
Smwht dissatisfied	31	33	34	31	29	21	31
Very dissatisfied	42	33	33	32	35	7	42
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	1	1	1

8. Do you think Governor-elect Christie and the state legislature will be able to work together to solve the state's problems?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	49%	67%	38%	47%	46%	51%	48%	47%
No	37	23	44	38	42	32	38	33
DK/NA	15	10	18	15	12	17	13	20

9. How serious do you think New Jersey's budget problems are - very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Very serious	83%	87%	73%	89%	83%	83%	86%	67%
Smwht serious	14	10	22	10	13	14	13	22
Not too serious	1	2	2	-	1	2	1	7
Not at all serious	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	-	3	1	2	1	1	4

TREND: How serious do you think New Jersey's budget problems are - very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious? (*Low also 87% Apr 2003)

	Nov 24 2009	Aug 12 2008	Jun 11 2008	Jun 16 2006	Apr 26 2006	VERY+SMWHT....	
						High Nov 24 2009	Low Nov 12 2003*
Very serious	83	67	66	58	56	83	45
Somewhat serious	14	28	29	34	35	14	42
Not too serious	1	2	2	4	5	1	8
Not at all serious	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
DK/NA	2	3	2	3	3	2	4

10. To balance the state budget, if you had to choose, would you prefer - raising taxes or cutting government programs and services?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Raising taxes	23%	8%	43%	18%	18%	27%	17%	48%
Cutting services	68	86	46	73	73	63	74	40
DK/NA	9	6	11	9	9	10	8	12

TREND: To balance the state budget, if you had to choose, would you prefer raising taxes or cutting government programs and services?

	Nov 24 2009	Mar 16 2006	Jan 26 2006	Apr 2 2003	Dec 12 2002
Raising taxes	23	29	28	32	28
Cutting services	68	58	57	54	61
DK/NA	9	13	16	14	12

11. If it is necessary to raise new revenues, which of the following would be your first choice to raise - tolls, gas taxes, income taxes or sales taxes?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Tolls	30%	31%	31%	32%	25%	35%	29%	27%
Gas taxes	15	11	15	18	18	11	17	10
Income taxes	13	8	15	14	14	12	13	16
Sales taxes	28	32	29	26	27	29	27	34
DK/NA	14	19	10	11	15	12	14	14

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Tolls	36%	30%	36%	26%	34%	33%	29%
Gas taxes	15	15	15	13	16	14	16
Income taxes	9	14	16	12	10	15	13
Sales taxes	31	29	20	36	25	24	28
DK/NA	8	12	13	13	15	14	14

TREND: If it is necessary to raise new revenues, which of the following would be your first choice to raise - tolls, gas taxes, income taxes, or sales taxes?

	Nov 24 2009	Feb 20 2008
Tolls	30	23
Gas taxes	15	13
Income taxes	13	13
Sales taxes	28	31
DK/NA	14	20

12. To balance the state budget, if you had to choose, where do you think state spending should be decreased - health care, education, economic development, or social services?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Health care	7%	8%	6%	7%	7%	6%	5%	14%
Education	11	15	8	11	12	11	12	7
Economic dev	41	31	56	36	35	47	38	47
Social services	30	37	20	34	36	25	33	21
DK/NA	11	10	11	11	10	12	12	11

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Health care	5%	11%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%
Education	8	7	10	11	14	8	13
Economic dev	44	44	48	40	39	39	39
Social services	34	34	27	29	32	35	29
DK/NA	9	5	9	13	8	12	12

13. To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose - layoffs or furloughs for state employees?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Support	61%	69%	50%	65%	67%	56%	66%	48%
Oppose	33	25	43	29	29	37	28	45
DK/NA	6	6	7	5	4	7	6	7

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Support	49%	63%	55%	60%	71%	59%	61%
Oppose	48	33	38	34	25	37	29
DK/NA	3	4	7	5	4	4	9

14. To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose a wage freeze for state workers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Support	75%	79%	70%	75%	78%	72%	80%	47%
Oppose	21	16	26	20	19	23	16	45
DK/NA	4	5	3	5	3	5	4	8

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Support	62%	70%	70%	75%	82%	69%	77%
Oppose	33	27	27	21	16	27	14
DK/NA	5	2	3	4	2	3	8

15. Do you think state aid to local governments and school districts should be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Increased	20%	15%	28%	18%	17%	23%	18%	38%
Decreased	16	26	6	18	22	10	17	6
Kept the same	60	57	62	60	57	63	61	50
DK/NA	4	2	4	4	4	4	3	7

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Increased	25%	23%	31%	21%	10%	25%	17%
Decreased	14	14	9	15	21	13	22
Kept the same	59	60	59	59	66	60	56
DK/NA	1	3	1	6	2	2	4

16. Do you think state aid to your local government and your school district should be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Increased	21%	17%	25%	21%	18%	23%	19%	30%
Decreased	15	23	8	16	20	11	16	10
Kept the same	62	58	65	61	59	64	63	57
DK/NA	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	4

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Increased	22%	24%	33%	21%	12%	23%	16%
Decreased	16	13	7	16	20	12	17
Kept the same	61	62	58	58	67	62	65
DK/NA	-	1	2	4	-	2	2

17. Do you think state aid to urban local governments and urban school districts should be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Increased	24%	8%	36%	25%	21%	27%	20%	38%
Decreased	21	30	10	24	27	15	24	4
Kept the same	51	57	51	48	49	53	52	51
DK/NA	4	5	3	4	4	5	4	7

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Increased	27%	26%	36%	24%	19%	31%	13%
Decreased	22	23	11	18	32	19	25
Kept the same	51	49	52	53	48	47	52
DK/NA	1	2	2	5	-	3	10

18. Do you think tax rebates should be increased, decreased, or kept about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Increased	29%	28%	29%	27%	29%	28%	24%	53%
Decreased	21	22	16	27	26	17	24	8
Kept the same	45	46	52	41	40	50	48	37
DK/NA	5	4	2	6	4	5	5	2

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Increased	21%	33%	33%	33%	23%	26%	23%
Decreased	21	23	14	23	25	21	19
Kept the same	55	41	51	39	49	49	46
DK/NA	4	2	3	4	2	3	11

19. To help finance road improvements and mass transportation, would you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Support	37%	31%	41%	38%	40%	34%	38%	35%
Oppose	62	68	57	59	58	65	60	62
DK/NA	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	3

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Support	35%	36%	41%	38%	37%	33%	35%
Oppose	65	63	58	60	62	66	63
DK/NA	-	1	1	2	2	1	2

TREND: To help finance road improvements and mass transportation, would you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax? (*Jan 2005 question did not include "and mass transportation")

	Nov 24 2009	Dec 11 2007	Mar 16 2006	Jan 26 2006	Jan 27 2005
Support	37	24	31	27	39
Oppose	62	74	67	69	57
DK/NA	2	2	3	3	4

20. One recommendation to raise the money needed to fund a cut in property taxes is to merge neighboring municipal governments and school districts. Would you support or oppose merging school districts or governments in the county in which you live if it meant lowering your property taxes?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Support	73%	70%	72%	76%	78%	68%	75%	68%
Oppose	22	24	23	20	17	27	22	21
DK/NA	5	5	5	4	5	5	3	11

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Support	75%	67%	70%	72%	75%	76%	72%
Oppose	22	29	29	20	22	20	22
DK/NA	4	4	1	8	3	4	6

TREND: One recommendation to raise the money needed to fund a cut in property taxes is to merge neighboring municipal governments and school districts. Would you support or oppose merging school districts or governments in the county in which you live if it meant lowering your property taxes?

	Nov 24 2009	Dec 6 2006
Support	73	61
Oppose	22	31
DK/NA	5	8

21. Do you favor or oppose providing parents with tax money in the form of school vouchers to help pay for their children to attend private or religious schools?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favor	43%	52%	36%	41%	46%	40%	40%	51%
Oppose	54	45	59	58	52	56	57	45
DK/NA	3	4	5	1	2	4	2	5

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Favor	35%	43%	43%	41%	45%	43%	45%
Oppose	63	56	54	55	54	55	51
DK/NA	2	1	3	4	1	2	3

TREND: Do you favor or oppose providing parents with tax money in the form of school vouchers to help pay for their children to attend private or religious schools?

	Nov 24 2009	Jul 3 2001
Favor	43	50
Oppose	54	43
DK/NA	3	7

22. As you may know, charter schools are operated by private or non-profit organizations. The schools are paid for with tax dollars. Do you think there should be an expansion of charter schools in New Jersey or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	38%	41%	37%	39%	39%	38%	32%	61%
No	55	53	56	55	55	55	61	30
DK/NA	7	7	7	6	6	7	7	10

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Yes	33%	38%	51%	38%	39%	34%	33%
No	65	58	43	55	56	61	58
DK/NA	3	4	7	7	5	6	8

23. Do you think there should be an expansion of state funded early childhood education in New Jersey or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	51%	33%	71%	48%	47%	54%	41%	86%
No	45	63	25	48	47	43	55	11
DK/NA	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	3

	Union Hshlds	HvKids PubSch	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Yes	55%	57%	73%	52%	36%	50%	44%
No	43	40	25	43	60	47	52
DK/NA	2	3	2	5	5	3	4