

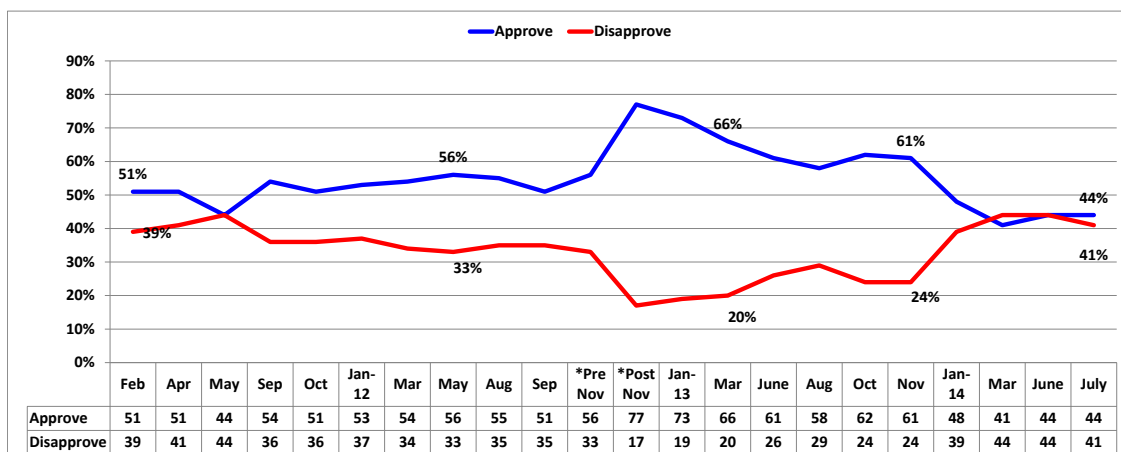
## SAME STORY, DIFFERENT DAY FOR THE GOVERNOR; VOTERS GROWING IMPATIENT WITH BRIDGEGATE INVESTIGATION

As Governor Christie embarks on a multi-state tour as head of the Republican Governors' Association, a statewide poll of registered voters from Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind finds him unable to regain the luster he once had back home as a rising bipartisan star. His job approval remains unchanged since its January drop: a majority of voters are expressing concern over the direction the state is headed, and over half believe that it's unlikely the governor was unaware of his aides' behavior in the Bridgewater scandal.

Right now, 44 percent say they approve of the job the governor is doing, with 41 percent who say they disapprove. In June, the approval number was the same and in March it was 41 percent. These numbers followed a precipitous drop in January after the Bridgewater allegations came to light. The governor remains divisive with less than a third of Democrats (28%) who approve of his job performance and less than half of independents (46%), compared with two-thirds of Republican voters (67%).

"The governor's tour of such politically important states as Iowa and New Hampshire raises his profile as something more than a northeastern governor. What voters back home think of him and the health of New Jersey provides some degree of insight into the leadership skills he would bring to a national electorate," said Krista Jenkins, director of PublicMind and professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

*Christie Job Approval - Trend*

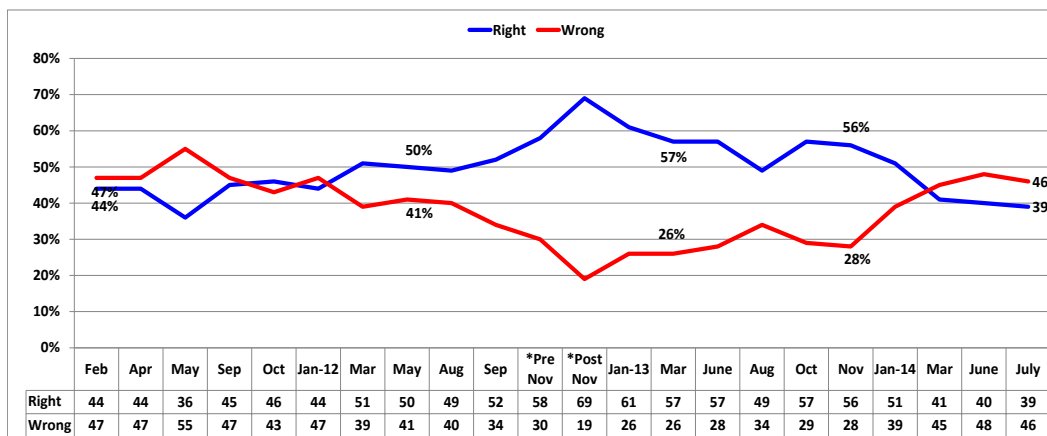


As for how the state is faring these days, right direction/wrong track numbers remain upside down, with more saying they're worried about the direction the state is headed (46%) than expressing

optimism (39%). These numbers are comparable to those observed in June, when for the first time since 2011 the public’s outlook was decidedly more gloomy than optimistic.

“Governor Christie’s ability to maintain the support of a plurality of voters in a Democratic state, despite his troubles of late, is good. But with 46 percent of voters saying the state is heading in the wrong direction, his narrative of effective leadership is thrown in doubt,” said Jenkins.

*Right Direction/Wrong Track - Trend*



Turning to the slow-churning Bridgegate investigation, PublicMind finds that although relatively few are still paying close attention to the affair, a good many voters are expressing unease with its continuation. Right now, a quarter (24%) say they are paying close attention to the investigation, with another half (46%) percent who are following it somewhat closely. Almost a third (29%) are reportedly paying little, if any, attention to the ongoing investigations at both the state and federal level.

Despite the degree of public attentiveness, when asked whether the investigation into the George Washington Bridge lane closures in 2013 remains important or a distraction from some of the other bigger problems the state faces, opinion is divided. Forty-seven percent say it’s time to move on, with almost the same number (44%) who believe the investigation remains important, given the need to hold those to account for their behavior. Democrats (63%), non-white voters (51%) and those from public employee households (54%) are the most likely to want to see the investigation continue, although these groups are no more likely than others to be paying close attention to the investigation.

“‘Move along, nothing to see here’ is an apt way of describing the thoughts of many voters with regard to the Bridgegate investigation. Fatigue may be setting in, especially for those who expected a speedier resolution – one way or another – to the investigations by the feds and state legislature,” said Jenkins.

The same survey also finds that opinion is mixed over who is the most appropriate government entity to conduct the Bridgegate investigation – the U.S. Attorney or New Jersey Legislature. Right now, both levels of government are conducting investigations into the lane closures, and a plurality (47%) believe the feds should be the investigator of record, with a third (33%) who look to the New Jersey

Legislature. Republican opinion is more divided than Democratic. Almost equal numbers of Republicans want the feds (37%) as want the legislature (43%). Among Democrats, by a two-to-one margin they prefer the federal government over the legislature (54 versus 27%, respectively).

“Many in the state are ready to hand the Bridgewater investigation off to the U.S. Attorney and allow state officials to focus on issues beyond the governor’s behavior in the Fall,” said Jenkins. “In the absence of any big news from either investigation, it’s proving hard to keep everyone focused on the reasons for the necessity of dual inquiries.”

Finally, the governor isn’t making much headway in the realm of believability, at least when it comes to his involvement – or lack thereof - in Bridgewater. Over half (56%) believe that it’s unlikely the governor was unaware of his aide’s behavior before the allegations came to light in January, a number that’s remained relatively constant since the story first broke.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 743 registered voters in New Jersey was conducted by telephone with both landline and cell phones from July 14 through July 20, 2014, and has a margin of error of +/-3.6 percentage points.

*Methodology, questions, and tables on the web at: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>  
Radio actualities at 201.692.2846 For more information, please call 201.692.7032*

## **Methodology**

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University’s PublicMind was conducted by telephone from July 14 through July 20, 2014 using a randomly selected sample of 743 registered voters who reside in New Jersey. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of +/- 3.6 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies by the size of that subgroup. 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 Opinion America of Cedar Knolls, NJ, with professionally trained interviewers using a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection is achieved by computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a landline phone number (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected.

Landline households are supplemented with a separate, randomly selected sample of cell-phone respondents interviewed in the same time frame. The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, race and gender.

The following tables are based on all registered voters in the sample.

## Tables

*And turning to New Jersey, do you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing as governor?*

	All	PID			Gender		Race		Public Employee Household		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	Yes	No	18-34	35-59	60+
Approve	<b>44%</b>	28	46	67	46	42	47	40	35	48	46	44	42
Disapprove	<b>41%</b>	60	40	16	40	43	39	48	56	36	39	43	43
Neither (vol)	<b>9%</b>	8	9	11	10	9	10	6	7	10	10	8	11
DK/Ref (vol)	<b>5%</b>	4	5	5	5	5	4	6	2	6	5	5	4

*In your opinion, do you think things in New Jersey are moving in the right direction or are they on the wrong track?*

	All	PID			Gender		Race		Public Employee Household		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	Yes	No	18-34	35-59	60+
Right direction	<b>39%</b>	30	33	56	41	37	39	39	30	41	47	40	32
Wrong track	<b>46%</b>	58	50	30	42	50	47	45	57	44	37	49	51
Neither (vol)	<b>14%</b>	12	15	14	16	12	13	15	13	14	16	10	18
DK/Ref (vol)	<b>1%</b>	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0

*How closely are you following the recent controversy over the September 2013 lane closures on the George Washington Bridge?*

	All	PID			Gender		Race		Public Employee Household		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	Yes	No	18-34	35-59	60+
Very closely	<b>24%</b>	25	22	24	24	24	27	17	32	22	13	21	35
Somewhat closely	<b>46%</b>	48	44	45	46	46	48	42	46	46	44	52	40
Not at all closely	<b>29%</b>	26	32	32	28	31	24	40	23	31	42	26	25
DK/Ref (vol)	<b>1%</b>	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1

*How closely are you following the recent controversy over the September 2013 lane closures on the George Washington Bridge?*

	July	June	March	January
Very closely	<b>24%</b>	22	34	38
Somewhat closely	<b>46%</b>	48	48	47
Not at all closely	<b>29%</b>	29	18	15
DK/Ref (vol)	<b>1%</b>	1	0	0

Which of the following best describes how you feel about the ongoing Bridgegate investigation: It has been and remains important because of the possibility that laws were broken and those responsible should be held accountable OR There are more important problems facing the state and the Bridgegate investigation is a distraction.

	All	PID			Gender		Race		Public Employee Household		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	Yes	No	18-34	35-59	60+
Remains important	<b>44%</b>	63	37	22	44	44	41	51	54	41	45	44	46
A distraction	<b>47%</b>	28	50	72	46	48	51	36	37	50	35	50	49
Both (vol)	<b>5%</b>	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5	4	10	4	1
DK/Ref (vol)	<b>4%</b>	4	8	2	5	4	3	7	4	5	10	1	4

In your opinion, who should be responsible for the investigation into Bridgegate [Rotate responses]?

	All	PID			Gender		Race		Public Employee Household		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	Yes	No	18-34	35-59	60+
Federal prosecutors	<b>47%</b>	54	45	37	48	45	47	46	55	44	51	51	39
NJ Legislature	<b>33%</b>	27	32	43	31	36	34	33	31	34	26	34	37
Both (vol)	<b>6%</b>	9	7	2	6	6	6	6	5	6	8	4	6
DK/Ref (vol)	<b>14%</b>	11	15	17	15	13	14	14	9	15	15	11	18

In your opinion, how likely or unlikely [rotate] is it that Governor Christie was unaware that his aides ordered the lane closures on the George Washington Bridge before emails and text messages were released publicly?

	All	PID			Gender		Race		Public Employee Household		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	Yes	No	18-34	35-59	60+
Very likely	<b>19%</b>	14	21	26	20	19	22	12	14	21	11	22	21
Somewhat likely	<b>12%</b>	9	14	16	14	10	13	11	10	12	7	15	12
Somewhat unlikely	<b>19%</b>	19	21	18	18	19	19	20	20	18	21	21	15
Very unlikely	<b>37%</b>	48	26	26	34	40	37	38	47	35	40	35	40
DK/Ref (vol)	<b>13%</b>	10	18	14	14	11	9	20	8	14	22	8	11

In your opinion, how likely or unlikely [rotate] is it that Governor Christie was unaware that his aides ordered the lane closures on the George Washington Bridge before emails and text messages were released publicly?

	July	June	January
Very likely	<b>19%</b>	21	24
Somewhat likely	<b>12%</b>	11	12
Somewhat unlikely	<b>19%</b>	23	21
Very unlikely	<b>37%</b>	35	32
DK/Ref (vol)	<b>13%</b>	10	11

## Exact Question Wording and Order

US1 and US2 saved for subsequent release

*NJ1. And turning to New Jersey, do you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing as governor? [Randomize approve/disapprove]*

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 3 Neither [vol] or Neutral [vol]
- 8 DK [vol] or both [vol]

*NJ2. In your opinion, do you think things in New Jersey are moving in the right direction or are they on the wrong track? [Randomize right direction/wrong track]*

- 1 Right direction
- 2 Wrong track
- 8 DK/Unsure (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

EDUC1 through EDUC7 saved for subsequent release

R2D1 through R2D3 saved for subsequent release

POUT saved for subsequent release

*POUT As you may or may not know, municipal employees can collect cash payments at retirement from years of unused vacation and sick days. Some people say that their contracts guarantee these payouts, while others say that cities and towns can't afford to give large payouts to retirees. What do you think? Should the payments be...[randomize]*

- 1 Ended entirely
- 2 Limited
- 3 Continued without change
- 8 DK/Ref (vol)

*BG1 How closely are you following the recent controversy over the September 2013 lane closures on the George Washington Bridge?*

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Somewhat closely
- 3 Not at all closely
- 8 DK/Refused (vol)

*BG2 In your opinion, how likely or unlikely [rotate] is it that Governor Christie was unaware that his aides ordered the lane closures on the George Washington Bridge before emails and text messages were released publicly?*

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Somewhat unlikely
- 4 Very unlikely
- 8 DK/Refused (vol)

*BG3 In your opinion, who should be responsible for the investigation into Bridgewater [Rotate responses]?*

- 1 Federal prosecutors
- 2 The New Jersey legislature
- 3 Both (vol)

8 DK/Refused (vol)

*BG4 Which of the following best describes how you feel about the ongoing Bridgegate investigation: It has been and remains important because of the possibility that laws were broken and those responsible should be held accountable OR There are more important problems facing the state and the Bridgegate investigation is a distraction.*

- 1 Remains important
- 2 A distraction
- 3 Both (vol)
- 8 DK/Ref (vol)

**Sample Characteristics**

		<b>Registered voters N = 743; MoE = +/- 3.6</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<i>Male</i>	49%
	<i>Female</i>	51%
<b>Age</b>	<i>18-34</i>	22%
	<i>35-59</i>	45%
	<i>60+</i>	30%
<b>Race</b>	<i>Refused</i>	3%
	<i>White</i>	67%
	<i>African American</i>	12%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	13%
	<i>Asian</i>	3%
	<i>Other/Refused</i>	4%
<b>Public Employee Household</b>	<i>Yes</i>	23%
	<i>No</i>	74%
	<i>Refused</i>	3%
<b>Party (with leaners)</b>	<i>Dem</i>	46%
	<i>Ind/DK/Refused</i>	21%
	<i>Repub</i>	34%