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New Jersey supports legal same-sex marriage

Raleigh, N.C. – While New Jersey failed to legalize same-sex marriage when it came to a vote in the state senate in 2010, now the Garden State is in favor of following in New York's footsteps. By a 47-42 margin, New Jersey voters feel same-sex marriage should be legal. Those aged 30-45 come out strongest in support of legal same-sex marriage in New Jersey, with 55% in support and 35% opposed. New Jersey currently allows civil unions, and when they are added as an option, voters are split between marriage and civil unions. 41% favor marriage to 40% for civil unions, while 17% oppose all recognition.

Frank Lautenberg, New Jersey's senator not up for re-election until 2014, achieves only tepid approval, with 41% of voters approving compared to 36% who disapprove. Lautenberg achieves decent number among Democrats, 62-15, but garners little crossover support from Republicans, 12-63, and is narrowly underwater with independents, 38-40.

While Lautenberg's approval is nothing to write home about, Lautenberg can take solace in that he is far more popular than his predecessor, Robert Torricelli. While most seem to have forgotten Torricelli, of those who have an opinion, only 10% see him favorably, compared to 33% who see him unfavorably. Similarly, New Jersey voters have poor opinions of their former governors. Only 31% see Christie Todd Whitman favorably, compared to a 52% majority who see her unfavorably. Jim McGreevey achieves an even worse spread, rating 19-64. On the other hand, New Jerseyans love former Senator Bill Bradley, giving him a 56-14 rating. Even Republicans like Bradley, rating him positively by more than a 2:1 margin, 47-21.

As for the state legislature, voters are prepared to re-elect the Democratic majorities. By a 52-39 margin, voters say they would choose the Democrat over the Republican in their district. Democrats and Republicans are united behind their parties, while independents are split, giving Democrats the edge in Democratic-leaning New Jersey.

PPP surveyed 480 New Jersey voters from July 15th to 18th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.5%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



New Jersey Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Frank Lautenberg's job performance?

Approve 41%
Disapprove..... 36%
Not sure 23%

Q2 Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal or illegal?

Legal..... 47%
Illegal 42%
Not sure 11%

Q3 Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry 41%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry 40%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship 17%
Not sure 2%

Q4 If there was an election for the State Legislature, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate from your district?

Democrat 52%
Republican..... 39%
Not sure 9%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Christie Whitman?

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 52%
Not sure 18%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jim McGreevey?

Favorable..... 19%
Unfavorable 64%
Not sure 17%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bill Bradley?

Favorable..... 56%
Unfavorable 14%
Not sure 31%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Robert Torricelli?

Favorable..... 10%
Unfavorable 33%
Not sure 56%

Q9 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 39%
Barack Obama..... 53%
Someone else/Don't remember 9%

Q10 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 12%
Somewhat liberal 18%
Moderate..... 36%
Somewhat conservative..... 22%
Very conservative 12%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%





Q12 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 46%
Republican..... 32%
Independent/Other..... 22%

Q13 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2

White 70%
Other..... 30%

Q14 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 10%
30 to 45..... 27%
46 to 65..... 49%
Older than 65..... 14%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Lautenberg Approval				
Approve	41%	15%	62%	30%
Disapprove	36%	68%	13%	30%
Not sure	23%	17%	25%	40%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal				
Legal	47%	25%	61%	57%
Illegal	42%	64%	28%	26%
Not sure	11%	11%	11%	17%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	41%	17%	56%	51%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	40%	58%	29%	30%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	23%	13%	17%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%	2%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	52%	8%	84%	51%
Republican	39%	84%	8%	28%
Not sure	9%	7%	8%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Whitman Favorability				
Favorable	31%	40%	26%	17%
Unfavorable	52%	40%	59%	55%
Not sure	18%	20%	15%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McGreevey Favorability				
Favorable	19%	8%	28%	9%
Unfavorable	64%	79%	52%	74%
Not sure	17%	14%	19%	17%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bradley Favorability				
Favorable	56%	46%	62%	61%
Unfavorable	14%	20%	8%	21%
Not sure	31%	34%	30%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Torricelli Favorability				
Favorable	10%	5%	14%	15%
Unfavorable	33%	42%	29%	17%
Not sure	56%	53%	57%	68%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Lautenberg Approval						
Approve	41%	69%	72%	41%	16%	7%
Disapprove	36%	15%	13%	24%	60%	83%
Not sure	23%	16%	14%	35%	24%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal						
Legal	47%	64%	72%	54%	23%	10%
Illegal	42%	20%	19%	36%	63%	78%
Not sure	11%	15%	9%	10%	13%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	41%	64%	70%	43%	16%	9%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	40%	26%	24%	38%	56%	59%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	8%	6%	16%	24%	33%
Not sure	2%	1%	-	3%	4%	-

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Leg. Ballot						
Democrat	52%	95%	85%	59%	11%	14%
Republican	39%	4%	7%	30%	75%	84%
Not sure	9%	1%	8%	11%	14%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Whitman Favorability						
Favorable	31%	23%	28%	31%	37%	29%
Unfavorable	52%	72%	59%	50%	38%	50%
Not sure	18%	5%	13%	19%	25%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McGreevey Favorability						
Favorable	19%	38%	32%	20%	3%	1%
Unfavorable	64%	38%	49%	62%	81%	90%
Not sure	17%	24%	19%	17%	16%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bradley Favorability						
Favorable	56%	69%	73%	57%	46%	31%
Unfavorable	14%	1%	5%	9%	23%	36%
Not sure	31%	30%	22%	34%	31%	34%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Torricelli Favorability						
Favorable	10%	19%	13%	12%	5%	3%
Unfavorable	33%	36%	34%	25%	33%	55%
Not sure	56%	46%	53%	63%	62%	42%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Lautenberg Approval			
Approve	41%	43%	38%
Disapprove	36%	26%	47%
Not sure	23%	31%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal			
Legal	47%	51%	42%
Illegal	42%	37%	47%
Not sure	11%	12%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	41%	44%	36%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	40%	39%	41%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	14%	20%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Leg. Ballot			
Democrat	52%	58%	45%
Republican	39%	32%	47%
Not sure	9%	10%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Whitman Favorability			
Favorable	31%	30%	31%
Unfavorable	52%	49%	55%
Not sure	18%	21%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McGreevey Favorability			
Favorable	19%	20%	17%
Unfavorable	64%	61%	69%
Not sure	17%	19%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bradley Favorability			
Favorable	56%	53%	59%
Unfavorable	14%	11%	17%
Not sure	31%	36%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Torriceilli Favorability			
Favorable	10%	7%	15%
Unfavorable	33%	28%	39%
Not sure	56%	65%	46%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Lautenberg Approval				
Approve	41%	62%	12%	38%
Disapprove	36%	15%	63%	40%
Not sure	23%	23%	24%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal				
Legal	47%	64%	23%	46%
Illegal	42%	27%	68%	35%
Not sure	11%	9%	9%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	41%	59%	20%	33%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	40%	26%	57%	45%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	14%	21%	19%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	52%	91%	8%	36%
Republican	39%	5%	87%	39%
Not sure	9%	4%	4%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Whitman Favorability				
Favorable	31%	23%	43%	29%
Unfavorable	52%	60%	37%	54%
Not sure	18%	17%	20%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McGreevey Favorability				
Favorable	19%	31%	5%	12%
Unfavorable	64%	48%	85%	70%
Not sure	17%	21%	10%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bradley Favorability				
Favorable	56%	67%	47%	46%
Unfavorable	14%	7%	21%	17%
Not sure	31%	26%	32%	37%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Torricelli Favorability				
Favorable	10%	17%	4%	7%
Unfavorable	33%	29%	40%	31%
Not sure	56%	54%	56%	62%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Lautenberg Approval			
Approve	41%	41%	41%
Disapprove	36%	41%	25%
Not sure	23%	19%	34%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal			
Legal	47%	48%	43%
Illegal	42%	41%	43%
Not sure	11%	11%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	41%	43%	34%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	40%	39%	43%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	15%	23%
Not sure	2%	3%	-

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Generic Leg. Ballot			
Democrat	52%	44%	70%
Republican	39%	45%	25%
Not sure	9%	11%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Whitman Favorability			
Favorable	31%	30%	32%
Unfavorable	52%	54%	45%
Not sure	18%	16%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
McGreevey Favorability			
Favorable	19%	15%	27%
Unfavorable	64%	70%	52%
Not sure	17%	15%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Bradley Favorability			
Favorable	56%	59%	48%
Unfavorable	14%	16%	9%
Not sure	31%	25%	43%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Torriceilli Favorability			
Favorable	10%	10%	11%
Unfavorable	33%	36%	27%
Not sure	56%	54%	61%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Lautenberg Approval					
Approve	41%	26%	38%	45%	43%
Disapprove	36%	32%	30%	39%	40%
Not sure	23%	43%	32%	16%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Same-Sex Marriage Legal/Illegal					
Legal	47%	37%	55%	46%	39%
Illegal	42%	47%	35%	44%	45%
Not sure	11%	16%	10%	10%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	41%	35%	44%	42%	32%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	40%	39%	39%	38%	51%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	26%	15%	17%	16%
Not sure	2%	-	2%	3%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Leg. Ballot					
Democrat	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%
Republican	39%	37%	41%	38%	41%
Not sure	9%	11%	7%	10%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Whitman Favorability					
Favorable	31%	26%	32%	33%	23%
Unfavorable	52%	45%	45%	55%	56%
Not sure	18%	29%	23%	12%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McGreevey Favorability					
Favorable	19%	19%	18%	18%	23%
Unfavorable	64%	52%	63%	71%	55%
Not sure	17%	29%	19%	11%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bradley Favorability					
Favorable	56%	62%	42%	62%	55%
Unfavorable	14%	9%	15%	13%	16%
Not sure	31%	29%	43%	24%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Toricelli Favorability					
Favorable	10%	10%	6%	12%	15%
Unfavorable	33%	29%	25%	40%	27%
Not sure	56%	61%	68%	48%	59%

