

# STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

## Corzine, Christie Locked in “Nail Biter”

Stockton College/Zogby International Survey Shows Corzine With One Point Lead; Daggett Could Tip Scales

### *For Immediate Release*

Friday October 30, 2009

**Contact: Tim Kelly**  
**Office of Public Relations**  
**Galloway Township, NJ 08240**  
**Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu**  
**(609) 652-4950**

**Galloway Twp, NJ** - A poll of 1,093 likely New Jersey voters finds incumbent Democratic Governor Jon Corzine leading Republican challenger Chris Christie by one percentage point (40% to 39%) headed into next Tuesday’s general election.

Support for independent challenger Chris Daggett sits at 14%. Daggett has strong support among independent and unaffiliated voters (23%), but is also pulling support from the left (13% among Democrats) and the right (8% among Republicans).

	<b>Overall</b>	DEM (42%)	IND (26%)*	GOP (32%)
Jon Corzine	<b>40%</b>	71%	26%	11%
Chris Christie	<b>39%</b>	10%	39%	77%
Chris Daggett	<b>14%</b>	13%	23%	8%
Someone Else	<b>1%</b>	1%	2%	Less than 1%
Undecided	<b>6%</b>	5%	10%	4%

*\*Includes Independent and Unaffiliated voters. Party ID based on self identification.*

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Both Corzine and Christie’s bases are holding strong with Corzine’s support among Democrats at 71%, yet low for an incumbent; while Christie’s Republican support is slightly higher at 77%. The survey showed that likely voters who are independent or unaffiliated are more likely to support Christie (39%) than Corzine (26%), even in this traditionally blue state.

Christie and Daggett are strongest among 18 to 29-year olds. Corzine’s strength increases with the age of likely voters.

“Less than a week from the election, only a third of likely voters (34%) say they would like to see Governor Corzine reelected,” said Hughes Center Executive Director Sharon Schulman. “The majority (59%) want someone new, including 30% of likely Democratic voters and 70% of Independents and unaffiliated voters.”

“Voters seemed to have firmed up their choices with only 6% undecided,” continued Schulman. When asked the impact of the lieutenant governor candidates on their vote for governor, 73% say it has little or no impact. Allegations of political corruption do have a huge influence on 36% of likely voters.

According to pollster John Zogby: “This is a bad political environment for an incumbent nationally, but even worse considering New Jersey’s enormous budget problems. That said, for many voters the incumbent Governor may be the lesser of two evils and New Jersey has historically given Democrats the benefit of the doubt. Both Corzine and Christie have been unsparing with their attacks and the surprising rise of Chris Daggett is a testament to how ineffectual both parties have been at appealing to voters. Daggett’s performance should serve as a warning to Republicans and Democrats. If Daggett can surge and get nearer to 20 percent of the vote, we may see more 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidates emerge in 2010.”

Zogby International was commissioned by the Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College to conduct a telephone survey of 1093 likely voters. The survey ran from October 27<sup>th</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup> 2009. Weights were applied by *region, party, age, race and gender* to adjust for non-response. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 3.0 percentage points.

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	Stockton/Zogby	Margin of error	Results	Polling Date	Election Date
2008 Presidential election 1st district	Obama 61% McCain 29% Someone else 3% Not sure 7%	5%	Obama 65% McCain 34%	October 27-29, 2008	November 4, 2008
2008 Presidential election 2 <sup>nd</sup> district	Obama 49% McCain 42% Other 1% Not sure 8%	5%	Obama 54% McCain 45%	October 27-29, 2008	November 4, 2008
2008 Presidential 3 <sup>rd</sup> district	Obama 45%, McCain 44% Someone else 4% Not sure 8%	5%	Obama 52% McCain 47%	October 27-29, 2008	November 4, 2008
2008 1 <sup>st</sup> district congressional election	Andrews 69% Glading 18% Other 2% Not Sure 11%	5%	Andrews 72% Glading 26%	October 27-29, 2008	November 4, 2008
2008 2 <sup>nd</sup> district congressional election	LoBiondo 59% Kurkowski 29% Not Sure 12%	5%	LoBiondo 59% Kurkowski 39%	October 27-29, 2008	November 4, 2008
2008 3 <sup>rd</sup> district congressional election	Adler 40%, Myers 39% Someone else 4% Not Sure 17%	5%	Adler 52% Myers 48%	October 27-29, 2008	November 4, 2008
2007 NJ 1 <sup>st</sup> legislative district senate race	Van Drew 45% Asselta 42% Someone else 2% Not Sure 11%	5%	Van Drew 56% Asselta 44%	October 30-November 1, 2007	November 6, 2007
2005 Gubernatorial election	Corzine 47% Forrester 40% Someone else 7% Not sure 7%	5%	Corzine 53% Forrester 43%	October 26-27, 2005	November 8, 2005