



## **Whelan Leads Balles by 12 Points in 2<sup>nd</sup> District Race, Stockton Polling Institute Finds**

### ***For Immediate Release***

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

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**Galloway, NJ** – Democratic State Sen. Jim Whelan leads Republican challenger Frank Balles, the Atlantic County sheriff, by 12 percentage points in the 2nd Legislative District, according to a Stockton Polling Institute poll released today.

Republican incumbent Assemblymen John Amodeo and Chris Brown hold leads of 4 to 6 percentage points over Democrats Vincent Mazzeo and Nick Russo.

The state legislative races and the gubernatorial race will be held as part of the general election on Tuesday, November 5, 2013.

Republican Gov. Chris Christie holds a 22-point lead over Democrat Barbara Buono, a state senator. Christie leads Buono in the district by a 56-to-34 margin, with 6 percent undecided.

Democrat Cory Booker leads Republican Steve Lonegan by 11 percentage points in the 2nd District, in the special election to be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. Booker, the mayor of Newark, garners 49 percent in the 2nd District, with Lonegan receiving 38 percent and 9 percent undecided.

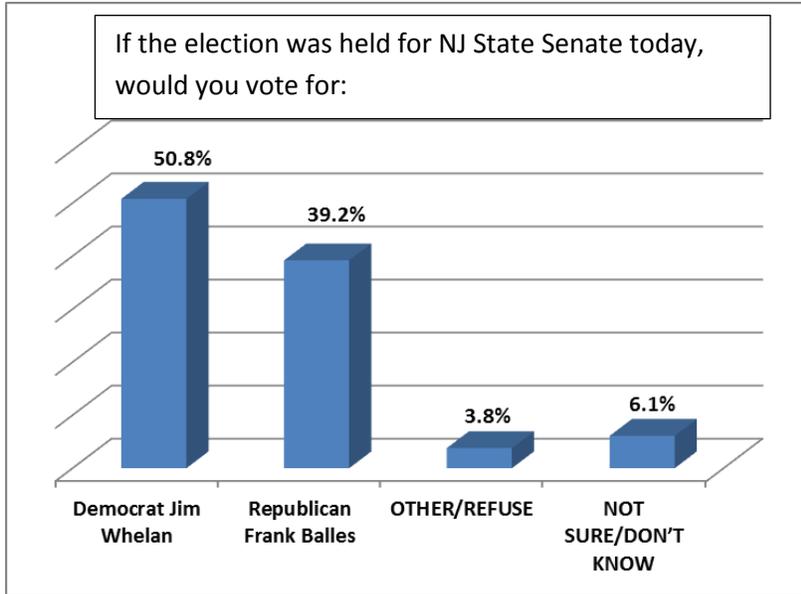
“In the past, Atlantic County voters have shown themselves to be ticket-splitters,” said Daniel Douglas, Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. “Once again, the voters are not choosing candidates along straight party lines.”

The poll was conducted with 596 likely voters from September 7-9. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. The survey has a margin of error of +/-4.0 percent. The Stockton Polling Institute is part of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

In the Whelan-Balles race, with undecided voters who said they were leaning toward one candidate included, Whelan led with 51 percent to 39 percent for Balles, with 6 percent unsure.

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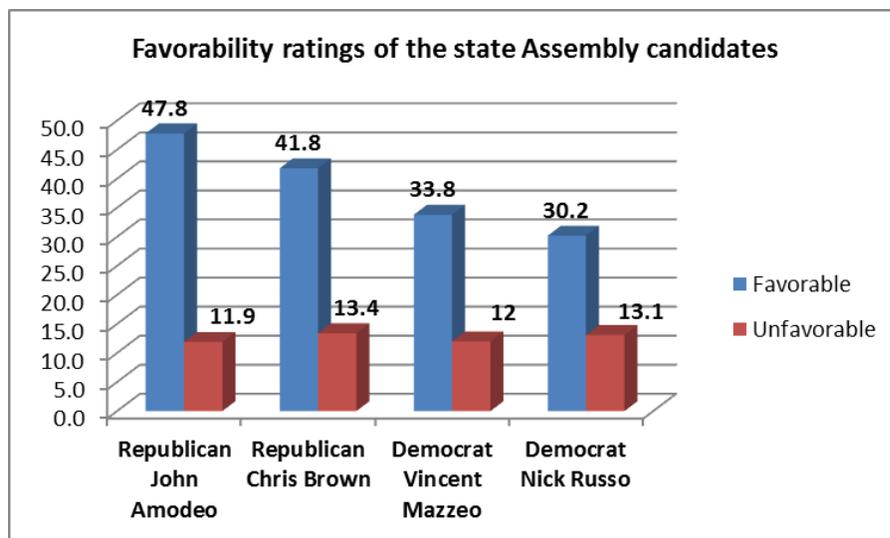
The incumbent senator enjoys strong name recognition and favorable ratings in the district, with 67 percent saying their opinion of him is very or somewhat favorable, with about 20 percent having a somewhat or very unfavorable opinion of Whelan. Only 11 percent were not familiar with Whelan, the former mayor of Atlantic City.

In contrast, 46 percent of respondents said they were not familiar with Sheriff Balles. Among those who recognize the candidate, 43 percent have

favorable opinions about him with only 8 percent expressing unfavorable views.

Amodeo leads the state Assembly candidates in the 2nd District with 25 percent, with GOP colleague Brown receiving 23 percent. Democrats Mazzeo and Russo both received 19 percent in the poll.

All of the Assembly candidates had positive favorability ratings. Incumbents Amodeo and Brown exceeded 40 percent while the Republican challengers Mazzeo and Russo were under 34 percent.



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## **Methodology**

Interviews were conducted at the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy's Stockton Polling Institute, by live interviewers calling from the Stockton College campus. The poll was conducted with 596 likely voters from Sept. 7-9. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. All prospective respondent households in the source telephone list have the same chance of joining the sample because of random selection. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percent at 95% confidence level. Data is weighted based on United States Census Bureau demographics for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District population.

## **About the Hughes Center**

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy ([www.stockton.edu/hughescenter](http://www.stockton.edu/hughescenter)) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College. The Hughes Center can be found at [www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College](https://www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College) and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.



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