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Harris More Popular In N.J. Than Trump; Kim, Bashaw Still Not Widely Known, Per Stockton Poll



Kamala Harris campaigns in 2019. (Photo: Gage Skidmore).

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Large numbers of Republicans continue to believe 2020 election was not free and fair, poll finds

By Joey Fox, October 03 2024 12:50 pm

A [new poll](#) released today by the Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University provides some data on New Jersey voters' views of the candidates running for office this November and on the issues they deem most important, though the poll does not include any head-to-head matchups indicating what November's results might look like.

In the state's race for United States Senate, the Stockton poll found that Rep. Andy Kim (D-Moorestown) is better-known and better-liked than Republican nominee Curtis Bashaw, but both candidates remain strikingly anonymous with only a month left in the campaign.

Kim is viewed favorably by 27% of registered voters and unfavorably by 17%, with 55% saying they weren't sure or were unfamiliar with the three-term congressman. Bashaw – who has never run for office before, and who has yet to go up on TV with any advertising – is viewed favorably by 9% and unfavorably by 7%, with a whopping 81% of voters expressing no opinion. (For comparison, a Stockton poll from [late September 2018](#) found that 84% of voters had an opinion on Democratic Senator Bob Menendez and 55% had an opinion on Republican challenger Bob Hugin.)

There has been little public polling of the Senate race in recent months; [one internal poll](#) for the Bashaw campaign in August put Kim up by a 38%-33% margin, but that poll may have overstated its sponsor's standing – most internal polls do – and there haven't been any independent polls released recently to corroborate it.

In the presidential race, the candidates are far better known, per Stockton's poll, and Vice President Kamala Harris has an advantage over former President Donald Trump, though neither is especially popular. Harris has a favorable/unfavorable ratio of 50%-49%, while Trump's is 43%-54%; Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz is at 44%-36%, and GOP vice presidential nominee JD Vance is at 34%-50%.

As for the current president, Joe Biden, 47% of voters would rate his presidential job performance as poor; 12% rate it as excellent, 22% rate it as good, and 18% rate it as fair.

Stockton also asked voters for their views on election integrity, finding that a sizable portion of Republican voters continue to believe that the 2020 election was unfair and that the 2024 race could be tainted as well.

When asked whether they believed the 2020 election was "fair and secure," 70% of Republican voters said no and just 25% said yes, echoing Trump's false claims that the election was stolen from him. (63% of

voters overall said the 2020 race was fair, including 96% of Democrats.)

59% of Republican voters told Stockton that they have little or no confidence that “votes will be accurately cast and counted” in the 2024 election, and 82% said they have little trust in journalists to accurately report election-related news.

“The poll goes to show that years after Jan. 6 and the election turmoil of 2020, election distrust is pretty much baked in among a certain group of voters,” said Alyssa Maurice, the Hughes Center’s director of research. “Despite the lack of evidence of widespread fraud, this skepticism is not budging.”

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy poll was conducted from September 27-October 1, with a sample size of 630 registered New Jersey voters and a margin of error of +/- 3.9%.

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