

Christie, Van Drew Dominating in 1ST District; Assembly Race Tight

For Immediate Release

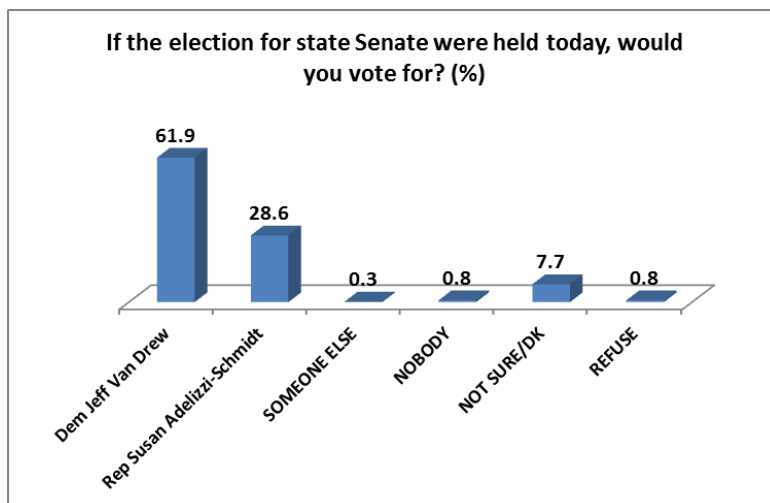
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Galloway Township, NJ - Two political figures from different parties – Republican Gov. Chris Christie and Democratic state Sen. Jeff Van Drew – are leading by large margins in the 1st Legislative District, according to a Stockton Polling Institute poll released today.

Republican Gov. Christie is leading Democrat Barbara Buono, a state senator, 60 percent to 28 percent.

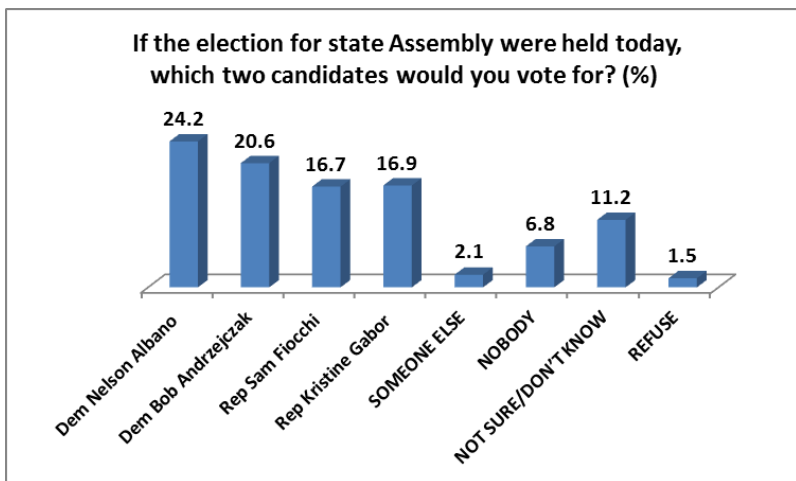
Van Drew leads Republican challenger Susan Adelizzi-Schmidt 62 percent to 29 percent, including voters who say they are leaning toward supporting one candidate or the other. Van Drew, a former state assemblyman first elected to the Senate in 2007, receives high favorability ratings of 70 percent. Adelizzi-Schmidt faces the challenge of low name recognition; 64 percent of respondents said they are not familiar with her.



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However, the race for two state Assembly seats is much tighter. While Democratic incumbent Nelson Albano has the most support with 24 percent, Republican challengers Sam Fiocchi and Kristine Gabor (both 17 percent) are only four percentage points behind Democratic incumbent Bob Andrzejczak, at 21 percent.



Albano is the better known of the four Assembly candidates. Only 26 percent were not familiar with the incumbent; whereas, over 50 percent were not familiar with each of the other three candidates.

The contest for U.S. Senate in the traditionally Republican-leaning district is tighter. Democrat Cory Booker leads Republican Steve Lonegan by seven percentage points, 45.6 percent to 38.4 percent.

The poll was conducted with 601 likely 1st District voters from Sept. 23-26, 2013. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. The survey has a margin of error of +/-3.9 percent. The Stockton Polling Institute is part of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

“The 1st District has been competitive for a number of years, and it appears that at least one state Assembly seat there is up for grabs,” said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center.

In other results:

- 31 percent said an endorsement by Christie of a legislative candidate would make it less likely for them to vote for that candidate; 32 percent said it would make it more likely; and 32 percent said it would make no difference.
- 54 percent believe New Jersey is headed in the right direction, with 32 saying it is on the wrong track.
- Voters identify jobs, property taxes, taxes in general, and the economy as the top issues facing New Jersey.
- 74 percent say property taxes have increased in the past three years.
- Voters support ballot questions to raise the minimum wage and provide cost-of-living increases and to allow veterans groups to use raffle money for operating expenses by percentages of more than 70 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 601 likely voters from Sept. 23-26, 2013. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. All prospective respondent households in the state have the same chance of joining the sample because of random selection. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.9 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. MOE is higher for subsets. Data are weighted based on United States Census Bureau demographics for the 1st District population.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (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 <http://www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College> and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.



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