



# WNBC/Marist Poll

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 ♦ Phone 845.575.5050 ♦ Fax 845.575.5111 [www.maristpoll.marist.edu](http://www.maristpoll.marist.edu)

## New Jersey Race for Governor

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: Monday 6:00 p.m. November 7, 2005**

**All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll**

Contact: Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho  
Marist College  
845.575.5050

This WNBC/Marist Poll reports:

- **Corzine narrowly leads Forrester with just one day to go:** Democrat Jon Corzine edges Republican Doug Forrester by 5 points among New Jersey voters likely to vote on Tuesday including those who are leaning toward a candidate. Corzine receives the support of 51% of likely voters compared with 46% for Forrester. 3% remain undecided.

**Question Wording:** If the election for governor were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	Doug Forrester Republican	Jon Corzine Democrat	Other	Undecided
<b>Sunday</b>				
Likely Voters w/ Leaners	46%	51%	<1%	3%
Likely Voters	45%	51%	<1%	4%
Registered Voters	42%	49%	<1%	9%
<b>Thursday/Friday</b>				
Likely Voters	42%	48%	<1%	10%
Likely Voters w/ Leaners	44%	49%	<1%	7%
Registered Voters	38%	48%	1%	13%
<b>Thursday Only</b>				
Likely Voters	42%	46%	<1%	12%
Likely Voters w/ Leaners	43%	48%	<1%	9%
Registered Voters	36%	48%	1%	15%
<b>Wednesday Only</b>				
Likely Voters	38%	51%	1%	10%
Likely Voters w/ Leaners	39%	53%	1%	7%
Registered Voters	35%	47%	1%	17%

	Doug Forrester Republican	Jon Corzine Democrat	Other	Undecided
<b>October 28, 2005</b>				
Likely Voters	40%	50%	1%	9%
Likely Voters w/ Leaners	41%	51%	1%	7%
Registered Voters	38%	47%	<1%	15%
<b>October 10, 2005</b>				
Likely Voters	43%	44%	<1%	13%
Likely Voters w/ Leaners	45%	47%	<1%	8%
Registered Voters	38%	45%	<1%	17%

- Intensity of voters' support for candidates is strong:** 69% of likely voters who have a preference in the race for governor strongly support their candidate. 26% say they somewhat support their choice, and only 5% say they might vote differently on Election Day. 66% of Doug Forrester's supporters say they are firmly committed to him compared with 71% of Jon Corzine's supporters who say they strongly support their choice.

**Question Wording:** Would you say that you strongly support (candidate name), somewhat support (candidate name), or do you think that you might vote differently on Election Day?

Likely Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
<b>Sunday</b>	69%	26%	5%	<1%
Doug Forrester	66%	28%	6%	<1%
Jon Corzine	71%	24%	5%	<1%
<b>Thursday/Friday</b>	70%	23%	6%	1%
Doug Forrester	65%	26%	8%	1%
Jon Corzine	74%	20%	5%	1%
<b>October 28, 2005</b>	65%	26%	8%	1%
Doug Forrester	61%	28%	9%	2%
Jon Corzine	68%	23%	8%	1%

- Voters overwhelmingly see campaign as about attacks not issues:** 84% of registered voters believe the candidates for governor have spent the campaign attacking each other rather than talking about the issues. Only 8% think the campaign has focused more on the issues.

**Question Wording:** In general, do you feel that the candidates for governor have spent more time talking about their positions on the issues or attacking each other?

Registered Voters	Talking Issues	Attacking Each Other	Unsure
Sunday	8%	84%	8%
Thursday/Friday	14%	75%	11%
October 28, 2005	13%	78%	9%
October 10, 2005	29%	58%	13%

- **Voters mixed in their perceptions of the candidates:** 44% of registered voters have a favorable impression of Doug Forrester compared with 50% who have an unfavorable view of him. Jon Corzine is viewed positively by 46% of voters and negatively by 49%.

**Question Wording:** In general, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of Doug Forrester/Jon Corzine?

Registered Voters	Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure/Never Heard
<b>Doug Forrester</b>			
Sunday	44%	50%	6%
Thursday/Friday	43%	47%	10%
October 28, 2005	46%	41%	13%
October 10, 2005	52%	33%	15%
<b>Jon Corzine</b>			
Sunday	46%	49%	5%
Thursday/Friday	50%	45%	5%
October 28, 2005	49%	40%	11%
October 10, 2005	56%	35%	9%

- **Many voters are not satisfied with the choice of candidates for governor:** Only 47% of registered voters are satisfied with the candidates running for governor, and 48% are not satisfied. 5% are unsure. Supporters of Jon Corzine are more likely to be satisfied with the candidates than are supporters of Doug Forrester. 62% of Corzine’s backers are satisfied with the candidates they have to choose from for governor, but 58% of Forrester’s supporters are not satisfied with their options.

**Question Wording:** In general, are you satisfied or not satisfied with the candidates who are running for governor in New Jersey?

Registered Voters	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Unsure
Sunday	47%	48%	5%
Forrester supporters	40%	58%	2%
Corzine supporters	62%	33%	5%

- **Should it have gotten personal?** Although only 39% of registered voters think a candidate’s personal life should be part of the campaign for governor, supporters of the two candidates divide on the issue. 57% of Forrester’s supporters feel a candidate’s personal life is a factor in deciding their vote for governor compared with only 23% of Corzine’s supporters who feel this way.

**Question Wording:** Does a candidate's personal life count a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or not at all in deciding your vote for governor?

	<b>A Great Deal/Good Amount</b>	A Great Deal	A Good Amount	Not Very Much	Not at All
<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>39%</b>	16%	23%	34%	27%
Sunday	<b>39%</b>	16%	23%	34%	27%
Forrester supporters	<b>57%</b>	23%	34%	29%	14%
Corzine supporters	<b>23%</b>	9%	14%	40%	37%

- **Most voters take it all in stride:** About three-quarters of registered voters say what they have heard about the personal life of the two candidates for governor makes no difference in deciding their vote for or against them. However, 44% of Forrester’s backers say what they have heard about Jon Corzine makes them less likely to vote for him.

**Question Wording:** From what you have seen or heard about Doug Forrester’s/Jon Corzine’s personal life, does this make you more likely to vote for him, less likely to vote for him, or does it not make any difference to your vote?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference
<b>Doug Forrester</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>75%</b>
Forrester supporters	30%	4%	66%
Corzine supporters	3%	16%	81%
<b>Jon Corzine</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>73%</b>
Forrester supporters	1%	44%	55%
Corzine supporters	10%	3%	87%

- **Who’s to blame?** Although three in ten voters don’t know which gubernatorial candidate is more to blame for the personal and negative tone of the campaign, those voters with an opinion are more likely to blame the candidate who opposes the one they support. 60% of Forrester’s backers blame Corzine, and 63% of Corzine’s supporters blame Forrester.

**Question Wording:** Who do you think is more to blame for the personal attacks that are now part of the campaign for governor:

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Doug Forrester	Jon Corzine	Unsure
Sunday	37%	32%	31%
Forrester supporters	12%	60%	28%
Corzine supporters	63%	10%	27%

- **Most voters think the state is on the wrong track:** 64% of registered voters believe New Jersey is headed in the wrong direction. 30% of registered voters think the state is headed in the right direction. 78% of Forrester’s supporters are dissatisfied with the direction of the state compared with 50% of Corzine’s supporters who feel this way.

**Question Wording:** In general, thinking about the way things are going in New Jersey, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
Sunday	30%	64%	6%
October 28, 2005	32%	63%	5%
October 10, 2005	35%	59%	6%
<b>Vote</b>			
Forrester supporters	17%	78%	5%
Corzine supporters	43%	50%	7%

- **Majority of voters approve of the job Governor Codey is doing in office:** 55% of registered voters approve of the job Governor Codey is doing in office, his combined excellent and good scores.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Governor Richard Codey is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
Sunday	<b>55%</b>	17%	38%	33%	11%	1%

- **Many voters would vote to re-elect the governor:** 55% of registered voters would vote to re-elect Governor Codey if he were on the ballot tomorrow, including 68% of Corzine’s supporters and 42% of Forrester’s backers.

**Question Wording:** If Richard Codey was running in next Tuesday's election for governor would you definitely vote for him, probably vote for him, probably vote against him, or definitely vote against him?

Registered Voters	Definitely/ Probably Vote For	Definitely Vote For	Probably Vote For	Probably Vote Against	Definitely Vote Against	Unsure
Sunday	<b>55%</b>	22%	33%	22%	18%	5%
Forrester supporters	<b>42%</b>	15%	27%	28%	26%	4%
Corzine supporters	<b>68%</b>	26%	42%	16%	12%	4%

**How the survey was conducted:**

This survey was conducted on Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005. 627 registered voters in New Jersey were interviewed in proportion to the enrollment in each county and adjusted for turnout in comparable statewide elections. The results are statistically significant at  $\pm 4\%$ . There are 377 likely voters and the results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at  $\pm 5\%$ . The margin of error increases for cross-tabulations.