

Clay F. Richards, Assistant Director  
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute  
(203) 582-5201

Rubenstein Associates, Inc.,  
Public Relations  
Pat Smith (212) 843-8026

# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

## POLL

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### **CORZINE APPROVAL CRASHES INTO NJ TOLL HIKE PLAN, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; VOTERS OPPOSE 3 – 1 RAISING TOLLS TO BALANCE BUDGET**

New Jersey voters oppose 73 ó 22 percent a proposal to raise Turnpike and Parkway tolls and use the money to reduce state debt and pay for transportation projects, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Turning on the author of the toll hike plan, New Jersey voters disapprove 52 ó 37 percent of the job Gov. Jon Corzine is doing, down from a 46 ó 43 percent approval rating in a December 11, 2007 poll by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University and among Gov. Corzine's lowest scores ever.

Even Democrats oppose the toll hike plan 63 ó 31 percent. Opposition to the plan ranges from 65 ó 29 percent in the South Jersey Philadelphia suburbs, where fewer commuters use toll roads on a daily basis, to 86 ó 12 percent along the shore, where commuters use the Garden State Parkway and Atlantic City Expressway.

Voters also oppose 68 ó 27 percent a modified plan with smaller toll hikes mixed with an increase in the gasoline tax.

If New Jersey voters must choose a way to raise state revenues, choices are:

- 31 percent say raise sales taxes;
- 23 percent say raise tolls;
- 13 percent say raise gas taxes;
- 13 percent say raise income taxes.

Gov. Corzine's toll hike proposal has smashed into a brick wall of massive voter opposition, causing his approval rating to drop from a three-point positive to a 15-point negative, said Clay F. Richards, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

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## Quinnipiac University Poll/February 20, 2008 – page 2

“Even those who don’t drive on the toll roads don’t want toll hikes. Voter anger is so strong that less than a third think the Governor deserves re-election. Corzine’s problems are just made worse by the fact that two thirds of the voters are dissatisfied with the way things are going in New Jersey today,” Richards added.

New Jersey voters say 51 ó 32 percent that Corzine does not deserve to be reelected. Voters split 35 ó 33 percent on whether they would vote for Corzine or an unnamed Republican opponent.

A total of 66 percent of voters say they are “somewhat dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with the way things are going in New Jersey today, while 33 percent are “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied.”

### U.S. Senate Race

Voters approve 39 ó 31 percent of the job Sen. Frank Lautenberg is doing, but say 40 ó 32 percent that he does not deserve to be reelected this year. If reelected, Sen. Lautenberg would be “too old to effectively serve another six-year term in the U.S. Senate,” voters say 58 ó 36 percent.

“Sen. Lautenberg, who faces re-election this year, leads an unnamed Republican challenger 37 ó 30 percent. But the number of voters who think he is too old to run again has risen four points to 58 percent, and the number of voters who think he deserves re-election has dropped four points to 32 percent. Lautenberg could be in trouble if the Republicans field a serious challenger,” Richards said.

Moving the New Jersey presidential primary from June to February, at an estimated cost of \$10 million, was not worth it, voters say 52 ó 40 percent.

From February 13 ó 18, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,803 New Jersey voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.3 percentage points.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio and nationally as a public service and for research.

**For more data -- <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x271.xml>, or call (203) 582-5201.**

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jon Corzine is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	37%	17%	53%	34%	35%	38%	35%	50%
Disapprove	52	73	35	53	56	48	54	36
DK/NA	12	9	12	13	9	14	10	15

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Approve	44%	39%	34%	44%	21%
Disapprove	39	48	54	47	72
DK/NA	17	13	12	9	7

**TREND:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jon Corzine is handling his job as Governor?

	Feb 20 2008	Dec 11 2007	Sep 25 2007	Jul 9 2007	Apr 18 2007	Highest Approve Apr 18 2007	Lowest Approve Apr 26 2006
Approve	37	46	49	48	51	51	35
Disapprove	52	43	40	39	36	36	42
DK/NA	12	11	11	13	13	13	23

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	26%	17%	37%	22%	22%	30%	25%	33%
Disapprove	54	67	42	56	63	46	56	45
DK/NA	20	16	21	22	15	24	19	22

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Approve	31%	26%	26%	31%	18%
Disapprove	47	51	54	49	70
DK/NA	22	23	20	20	12

**TREND:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Feb 20 2008	Dec 11 2007	Sep 25 2007	Jul 9 2007	Apr 18 2007	Highest Approve Jan 26 2005	Lowest Approve Jul 14 2006
Approve	26	28	30	30	32	44	20
Disapprove	54	53	54	52	49	31	71
DK/NA	20	19	16	18	19	25	10

9. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Frank Lautenberg is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	39%	22%	51%	41%	37%	41%	40%	40%
Disapprove	31	53	18	31	39	25	33	25
DK/NA	29	25	31	28	24	34	27	35

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Approve	42%	39%	37%	43%	38%
Disapprove	23	31	34	27	40
DK/NA	35	30	29	30	22

**TREND:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Frank Lautenberg is handling his job as United States Senator? \* - also 55% on 9/23/1999 & 7/22/1999

	Feb 20 2008	Dec 11 2007	Sep 25 2007	Jul 9 2007	Apr 18 2007	Highest Approve Jul 27 2000 *	Lowest Approve Feb 20 2008
Approve	39	42	42	41	47	55	39
Disapprove	31	33	34	32	29	22	31
DK/NA	29	25	24	28	24	23	29

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Robert Menendez is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	30%	14%	43%	31%	31%	29%	28%	32%
Disapprove	31	45	22	29	35	28	32	26
DK/NA	39	41	35	39	34	43	40	42

  

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Approve	42%	27%	24%	28%	32%
Disapprove	25	32	34	26	38
DK/NA	33	41	42	46	31

**TREND:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Robert Menendez is handling his job as United States Senator? \* 39% on 3/20/06

	Feb 20 2008	Dec 11 2007	Sep 25 2007	Jul 9 2007	Apr 18 2007	Highest Approve Dec 7 2006 *	Lowest Approve Feb 20 2008
Approve	30	34	32	31	34	39	30
Disapprove	31	34	38	39	36	37	31
DK/NA	39	32	30	31	30	24	39

12. Looking ahead to the 2009 election for Governor, do you feel that Jon Corzine deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	32%	13%	48%	31%	32%	32%	30%	45%
No	51	73	34	52	54	49	53	39
DK/NA	17	14	17	18	15	20	17	16

  

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Yes	42%	32%	33%	36%	18%
No	38	48	54	47	68
DK/NA	20	20	13	17	14

**TREND:** Looking ahead to the 2009 election for Governor, do you feel that Jon Corzine deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Feb 20 2008	Dec 11 2007
Yes	32	44
No	51	43
DK/NA	17	13

13. If the 2009 election for Governor were being held today, do you think you would vote for Jon Corzine the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Corzine	35%	7%	63%	30%	35%	35%	32%	54%
Republican	33	67	11	33	36	31	38	10
DEPENDS ON								
CANDIDATE (VOL)	20	19	15	25	20	20	21	17
DK/NA	12	6	12	12	9	14	10	18

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Corzine	47%	36%	33%	39%	21%
Republican	20	31	41	29	44
DEPENDS ON					
CANDIDATE (VOL)	16	19	18	20	24
DK/NA	16	13	7	11	10

**TREND:** If the 2009 election for Governor were being held today, do you think you would vote for Jon Corzine the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

	Feb 20 2008	Dec 11 2007
Corzine	35	41%
Republican	33	31
DEPENDS ON CANDIDATE	20	16
DK/NA	12	12

14. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in New Jersey today? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Very satisfied	4%	2%	6%	3%	4%	3%	3%	6%
Smwht satisfied	29	18	40	26	25	32	29	26
Smwht dissatisfied	33	38	32	33	33	33	33	40
Very dissatisfied	33	42	21	37	36	30	35	28
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	-

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Very satisfied	8%	3%	2%	2%	4%
Smwht satisfied	34	31	30	32	18
Smwht dissatisfied	32	36	33	30	32
Very dissatisfied	23	30	34	34	44
DK/NA	3	1	1	1	2

**TREND:** In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in New Jersey today? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Feb 20 2008	Dec 11 2007	Feb 28 2007	Dec 6 2006	Jun 16 2006	Apr 26 2006	Mar 16 2006
Very satisfied	4	3	3	2	3	3	3
Smwht satisfied	29	35	37	34	27	33	44
Smwht dissatisfied	33	32	34	38	37	31	31
Very dissatisfied	33	30	25	25	32	33	20
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

15. Since Jon Corzine became Governor in January 2006, do you feel that things in New Jersey have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Better	10%	3%	17%	9%	11%	10%	10%	12%
Worse	35	50	23	35	37	33	37	21
The same	53	45	58	55	51	54	51	65
DK/NA	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	2

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Better	14%	11%	11%	10%	5%
Worse	25	32	36	31	49
The same	57	53	53	56	45
DK/NA	3	4	1	3	0

**TREND:** Since Jon Corzine became Governor in January 2006, do you feel that things in New Jersey have gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

	Feb 20 2008	Dec 11 2007	Feb 28 2007
Better	10	14	20%
Worse	35	25	15
The same	53	59	62
DK/NA	2	2	3

16. Looking ahead to the 2008 election for United States Senator, do you feel that Frank Lautenberg deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	32%	17%	43%	32%	32%	32%	33%	29%
No	40	60	25	41	47	33	41	36
DK/NA	28	23	32	27	21	35	26	35

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Yes	39%	27%	31%	38%	30%
No	31	41	43	33	47
DK/NA	30	32	26	28	23

**TREND:** Looking ahead to the 2008 election for United States Senator, do you feel that Frank Lautenberg deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Feb 20 2008	Sep 25 2007	Jul 9 2007
Deserves Reelection	32	36	31
Does Not	40	46	42
DK/NA	28	18	27

17. If the 2008 election for United States Senator were being held today, do you think you would vote for Frank Lautenberg the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Lautenberg	37%	9%	66%	29%	33%	40%	34%	59%
Republican	30	66	8	29	35	27	35	12
DEPENDS ON CANDIDATE (VOL)	15	15	10	21	17	14	15	11
DK/NA	17	10	16	20	15	19	16	17
	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore			
Lautenberg	47%	37%	30%	40%	31%			
Republican	25	32	36	25	33			
DEPENDS ON CANDIDATE (VOL)	13	13	16	15	20			
DK/NA	15	18	17	19	16			

**TREND:** If the 2008 election for United States Senator were being held today, do you think you would vote for Frank Lautenberg the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

	Feb 20 2008	Sep 25 2007	Jul 9 2007
Lautenberg	37	39	40
Republican	30	36	33
DEPENDS ON CAND (VOL)	15	13	14
DK/NA	17	12	13

18. At age 84, do you think Frank Lautenberg is too old to effectively serve another 6 year term as United States Senator, or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	58%	67%	53%	58%	58%	58%	58%	64%
No	36	29	42	35	37	35	37	30
DK/NA	6	4	5	7	5	7	6	6
	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore			
Yes	53%	62%	54%	58%	58%			
No	39	31	41	38	37			
DK/NA	9	7	5	4	5			

**TREND:** At age 84, do you think Frank Lautenberg is too old to effectively serve another 6 year term as United States Senator, or not? \* age 83

	Feb 20 2008	Sep 25 2007*	Jul 9 2007*
Yes	58	54	54
No	36	40	40
DK/NA	6	6	6

19. Governor Corzine has proposed raising tolls about 50 percent every four years over the next 14 years in order to reduce the state debt and pay for transportation projects. Do you approve or disapprove of this proposal?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	22%	12%	31%	22%	25%	19%	22%	21%
Disapprove	73	86	63	75	72	74	74	68
DK/NA	5	2	7	4	3	7	4	12

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Approve	25%	20%	25%	29%	12%
Disapprove	69	73	71	65	86
DK/NA	6	7	4	6	2

20. If the governor's proposal was modified to include a smaller hike in tolls and an increase in the gasoline tax would you approve or disapprove of this proposal?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	27%	19%	34%	28%	29%	25%	29%	21%
Disapprove	68	79	61	66	68	69	67	74
DK/NA	5	2	4	6	3	6	5	5

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Approve	36%	28%	30%	24%	20%
Disapprove	60	67	65	71	77
DK/NA	4	5	4	5	3

21. If it is necessary to raise new revenues, which of the following would be your first choice to raise - Tolls, Gas taxes, Income taxes, or Sales taxes?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Tolls	23%	18%	26%	24%	17%	27%	22%	25%
Gas taxes	13	11	13	15	15	11	14	5
Income taxes	13	10	16	13	14	12	11	20
Sales taxes	31	34	31	30	32	31	33	38
DK/NA	20	28	14	18	22	19	21	12

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Tolls	17%	20%	29%	36%	14%
Gas taxes	17	13	10	11	13
Income taxes	16	14	9	16	10
Sales taxes	33	32	32	21	38
DK/NA	17	21	21	16	26

22. The governor's proposal includes projects to widen the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway. Do you support or oppose these projects?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Support	42%	39%	50%	37%	46%	39%	40%	47%
Oppose	47	51	41	51	46	48	49	47
DK/NA	11	10	9	12	8	13	12	6

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Support	43%	42%	39%	46%	40%
Oppose	43	45	52	49	48
DK/NA	13	13	9	5	13

23. When it comes to driving on toll roads in New Jersey would you say you drive on toll roads frequently, sometimes, seldom or not at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Frequently	33%	34%	31%	33%	39%	28%	31%	37%
Sometimes	33	33	33	32	30	35	32	34
Seldom	27	27	28	29	26	29	30	24
Not at all	6	6	7	5	4	8	6	5
DK/NA	1	-	1	0	1	0	1	-

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Frequently	43%	32%	15%	24%	50%
Sometimes	29	37	34	34	26
Seldom	18	25	42	35	20
Not at all	10	5	8	7	4
DK/NA	0	1	0	0	0

25. Some estimates say it cost an additional \$10 million to separate New Jersey's presidential primary from the traditional June primary for state and local offices so it could be held early on Super Tuesday. Do you think it was worth it to have New Jersey vote early and have a larger impact on the presidential election choices?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	40%	27%	50%	41%	39%	41%	37%	61%
No	52	66	41	53	54	50	56	31
DK/NA	8	7	9	6	7	9	7	8

	Urban	SubUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Yes	45%	38%	36%	38%	44%
No	48	51	58	54	50
DK/NA	7	11	6	8	6