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P O L L

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NO TUNNEL LOVE IN NEW JERSEY, EVEN AMONG COMMUTERS, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; 90 PERCENT SAY NEW YORKERS SHOULD HELP PAY FOR PROJECT

New Jersey voters support 53 – 37 percent Gov. Christopher Christie’s decision to cancel a rail tunnel under the Hudson River and say 90 – 6 percent that if the project is revived, New York should share in the financing, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Eleven percent of New Jersey voters commute to New York City for work and even that group is split with 50 percent backing Christie and 47 percent for the tunnel.

Support for Gov. Christie’s tunnel budget ax is 76 – 15 percent among Republicans and 55 – 38 percent among independent voters, while Democrats oppose the chop 56 – 31 percent, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

Urban voters oppose Christie’s tunnel-blocking move 52 – 42 percent while support for Christie’s move runs from 49 – 44 percent among suburban voters to 63 – 28 percent among seashore voters.

“New Jersey to New York: Show us the money. Garden State voters say if they bring that Hudson River tunnel project back to life, New York will have to put some money on the table,” said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“For now, most New Jersey voters agree with Gov. Christopher Christie that a new NJ Transit rail tunnel under the Hudson River is just too expensive.

“Even New Jerseyans who work in New York City aren’t feeling the tunnel love. Urban voters, mostly in northern New Jersey and dealing with more traffic, like the tunnel idea a lot more than voters in the rest of the state.”

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New Jersey voters are almost evenly split, with 46 percent saying the state should spend more money on streets and highways rather than mass transit and 45 percent backing more money for transit over highways. Highways win over trains and buses 52 – 36 percent among Republicans and 48 – 44 percent among independent voters, while Democrats favor mass transit spending 55 – 37 percent.

New York City commuters back mass transit spending over highways 63 – 29 percent. The biggest support for road spending is 55 – 33 percent in the Philadelphia suburbs.

By a larger 63 – 35 percent margin, New Jersey voters oppose raising the gasoline tax to help finance road improvements and mass transit. No political or regional group supports raising the gasoline tax.

“New Jersey voters are divided on whether to put the spending priority on better roads or better rails,” Carroll said.

“But voters say don’t even think about raising the gas tax. Politicians in Trenton call the gas tax the third rail of New Jersey politics. Touch it at your peril.”

Christie’s proposal to have the state take over the Atlantic City Casino District is a “bad idea,” voters say 46 – 38 percent.

But voters say 71 – 23 percent that the state should try to revive Atlantic City as a beach and boardwalk resort.

“We like the idea of restoring the romantic, enchantic Shore resort. Beaches and boardwalks are nice, so New Jerseyans support the state getting involved in bringing back the good old days,” Carroll said. “Maybe voters feel casinos are not so nice, so the state should not get too close.”

From November 3 – 8, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,362 New Jersey voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 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 or RSS feed– <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).

30. To help finance road improvements and mass transportation, would you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Support	35%	27%	43%	35%	38%	31%	36%	27%
Oppose	63	71	55	63	60	66	62	71
DK/NA	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore	Commute ToNYC
Support	34%	38%	30%	30%	38%	44%
Oppose	62	59	69	70	61	54
DK/NA	4	3	1	1	1	2

42. Do you think New Jersey should spend more money on streets and highways or on mass transit such as trains and buses?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Streets/Highways	46%	52%	37%	48%	47%	44%	47%	46%
Mass transit	45	36	55	44	44	45	44	41
DK/NA	10	12	8	8	9	11	9	13

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore	Commute ToNYCq48
Streets/Highways	31%	46%	39%	55%	51%	29%
Mass transit	56	46	53	33	38	63
DK/NA	13	7	8	11	11	8

43. As you may know, Governor Christie cancelled the cross-Hudson rail tunnel. Do you agree or disagree with Governor Christie's decision?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Agree	53%	76%	31%	55%	59%	47%	59%	32%
Disagree	37	15	56	38	34	40	32	59
DK/NA	10	9	13	7	7	12	9	9

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore	Commute ToNYCq48
Agree	42%	49%	59%	50%	63%	50%
Disagree	52	44	28	32	28	47
DK/NA	5	6	13	17	9	4

44. If the plan is revived, do you think New York should have to share in the financing or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	90%	92%	89%	91%	93%	88%	92%	87%
No	6	5	5	7	5	6	5	11
DK/NA	4	3	6	1	1	6	3	2

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore	Commute ToNYCq48
Yes	95%	94%	86%	86%	89%	92%
No	4	4	8	8	6	8
DK/NA	1	2	6	6	5	-

46. As you may know, the state proposes to take over the casino district in Atlantic City. Do you think that is a good idea or a bad idea?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Good idea	38%	46%	34%	35%	40%	35%	41%	13%
Bad idea	46	39	50	48	44	47	43	69
DK/NA	17	15	16	17	16	17	15	18

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Good idea	31%	37%	40%	38%	40%
Bad idea	47	47	42	46	45
DK/NA	22	15	17	16	15

47. Do you think the state should try to revive Atlantic City as a beach and boardwalk resort or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	71%	68%	78%	68%	67%	74%	68%	79%
No	23	24	17	26	27	19	25	16
DK/NA	6	8	5	6	6	7	7	5

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Yes	75%	73%	65%	71%	69%
No	17	20	25	25	26
DK/NA	7	7	10	4	5

TREND: Do you think the state should try to revive Atlantic City as a beach and boardwalk resort or not?

	Nov 10 2010	Aug 20 2010
Yes	71	69
No	23	25
DK/NA	6	7

48. Do you commute to New York City for work or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	11%	11%	14%	9%	16%	6%	11%	7%
No	89	89	86	91	84	93	89	93
DK/NA	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Philly

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Yes	20%	15%	9%	5%	6%
No	79	85	91	95	94
DK/NA	1	-	-	-	-