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## Trump remains very unpopular across New Jersey, new Stockton poll finds

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President Donald Trump remains very unpopular in New Jersey, with residents firmly against his policies on guns and immigration, according to a Stockton University poll released Tuesday.

The poll, which surveyed 728 New Jersey adults, found only 29 percent say Trump is doing a good or excellent job as president. About 70 percent gave him a negative review, which includes 51 percent who said he is doing a “poor” job.

About 70 percent of the respondents live in North Jersey, while 30 percent live in South Jersey.

“Donald Trump lost the presidential vote in New Jersey by 14 percentage points. Since then, his signature legislative accomplishment of tax reform hurt New Jersey property owners, and his positions on the issues surveyed in this poll show he has not won over the Garden State,” Michael W. Klein, interim executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton, said in a statement Tuesday.

Three-quarters of New Jersey residents also support stricter gun control laws that include a ban of semiautomatic rifles. That same 75 percent said they would support a federal ban on semiautomatic rifles, according to the poll.

The poll was conducted between March 22 and 29. There was no difference in poll results on gun issues before or after the March for Our Lives on March 24 in Washington, D.C., and across the country.

Seventy-five percent of residents also said they would allow the so-called “Dreamers” to remain in the United States and apply to become citizens. Twenty percent oppose that idea and 5 percent are unsure, according to the poll.

“These results on gun and immigration questions cut across demographic lines. Majorities feel this way regardless of gender, age, race and ethnicity,” Klein said in a statement. “Even political party support did not make a difference.”

In a hypothetical U.S. House election in their congressional district, 48 percent say they would vote for the generic Democratic candidate and 32 percent would vote for the Republican, according to the poll. Four percent said they would vote for an independent candidate, and 14 percent are not sure.

In a follow-up interview with The Press of Atlantic City, Klein said he was not sure if the poll results would have changed significantly if the respondents were 50 percent from North Jersey and 50 percent from South Jersey.

In November, Republican gubernatorial candidate Kim Guadagno won Ocean County, Cape May County and Salem County in South Jersey. She won Ocean County with 62 percent of the vote, which was her strongest showing throughout the state. She won Monmouth, Somerset, Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex and Warren counties in North Jersey.

In Atlantic County, Republican Chris Brown won the election for state Senate, while Democrats won the governor, Assembly and several local races.

In the poll, interviewers working from the Stockton University campus called landline and cell telephones. The statewide poll's margin of error is plus or minus 3.65 percentage points.

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