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Suffolk University Poll: Democrat Sherrill Edging Republican Ciattarelli in Statewide and Bellwether Polls by Thin Margins for New Jersey Governor

BOSTON – With less than a week remaining in the race for governor, a Suffolk University poll of likely New Jersey general election voters shows Democrat Mikie Sherrill leading her Republican opponent Jack Ciattarelli by 46%-42% in a statewide poll, and 43%-42% in the reliable Garden State gubernatorial bellwether Bergen County.

The statewide poll indicated small pockets of support for Socialist Workers Party Joanne Kuniansky (1%) and Libertarian Vic Kaplan (1%) with 7% of voters still undecided and 3% refusing a response.

Among those statewide who have already cast ballots, Sherrill led Ciattarelli 56%-35% and among those who have already voted in Bergen County, Sherrill led 63%-27%. Still, the race is very close among all voters and both surveys are well within their respective statistical margins of error.

David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston, said the significant number of undecided voters in both surveys could impact the final result. “The candidate with the best turnout operation takes the prize, pure and simple,” he said.

Bergen County Versus Statewide Vote

Bergen County has been a reliable predictor of gubernatorial outcomes in the last three New Jersey elections, with the statewide outcomes mirroring those of Bergen.

In the 2013 election, Republican Chris Christie carried Bergen County 60%-39% and prevailed by similar margin of 60%-38% statewide. In 2017, Democratic candidate Phil Murphy clinched Bergen County 57%-42%, with statewide numbers of 56%-42%. And in 2021, Murphy prevailed in Bergen County by 53%-47% and statewide by 51%-48%.

Voters Assign Congressional Republicans and Donald Trump Majority of Blame for the Government Shutdown

When asked who was responsible for the current federal government shutdown, a plurality of respondents blamed Congressional Democrats (38%), while 23% blamed Congressional Republicans, and 24% blamed Donald Trump, indicating a majority blamed Republicans in Washington, D.C. overall.

Methodology

The field of 500 likely New Jersey voters statewide and the gubernatorial bellwether Bergen County was conducted October 26-29 using live telephone interviews of households where respondents indicated they were very likely, somewhat, or had already voted in the November 2025 general election for governor. The statewide margin of error is +/-4.4 percentage points at a 95 percent level of confidence and the bellwether margin of error is +/- 5.7 percentage points.

Marginals and full cross-tabulation data are posted on the Suffolk University Political Research Center website. Error margins increase for smaller subgroups in the cross-tabulation document that follows. All surveys may be subject to other sources of error, including but not limited to coverage error and measurement error.

www.suffolk.edu/SUPRC.

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Suffolk University, located in historic downtown Boston, provides students with experiential and transformational learning opportunities that begin in the center of Boston, reach across the globe, and lead to extraordinary outcomes for graduates. The University is driven by the power of education, inclusion, and engagement to change lives and positively impact communities.

Suffolk University offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in its College of Arts & Sciences, Sawyer Business School, and Law School.