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After Years of Campaigning, Denish Favorables under 50%?

Albuquerque, NM—Yesterday, a poll conducted by a Democrat firm revealed that Diane Denish was leading the gubernatorial race by a close margin. While this data conflicts with an internal poll conducted by the Republican Party of New Mexico, this poll does raise an important question: why is Denish’s favorability so low when she has been running for statewide office since 1994?

“Recent polling results must have been sobering for Diane Denish,” remarked NM GOP Executive Director Ryan Cangiolosi. “For the past sixteen years Diane Denish has been in campaign mode and for the last three years she has been trying to convince New Mexicans that she should be the next governor. So with all this publicity, why does even a friendly poll find that less than half of respondents who know Denish have a favorable impression of her?”

Yesterday’s poll showed that out of the seventy-five percent of individuals who have an opinion of Diane Denish, only forty-one percent think of her in a positive light.

On the other hand, RPNM’s poll, which was conducted on January 25-27th through live conversations with likely voters, found the Republican gubernatorial candidate leading a Democrat 44-40% on a generic ballot matchup.

RPNM was not alone in questioning the results of yesterday’s poll conclusions.

When asked by a local news affiliate to comment on the poll results, Governor Bill Richardson’s spokesman noted, “It’s difficult to take this poll seriously when we’ve never heard of the pollster and he relies on unscientific polling methods with untrustworthy results.”

The poll showed Richardson’s favorability had dropped to 28%, one of the lowest approval ratings for any governor in the nation.

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