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## Christie stumps for Runyan at GOP rally

By **NINA RIZZO** • STAFF WRITER • October 25,  
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**TOMS RIVER** — Gov. Chris Christie invigorated an already enthusiastic crowd of GOP supporters at a rally for Jon Runyan and other GOP candidates Sunday night.

"With nine days left before the election, where else would I rather be than Ocean County," Christie told the standing-room-long crowd at the Elks Club on

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coming to Ocean County in spite of the protesters.

He said Christie identifies with the people and shares their values. "Fiscal discipline is what I want," he said after the rally.

Montano and his mother, Gerry, both of West Creek, said this is their first political rally. They have been campaign volunteers for Runyan. Gerry Montano, a 70-year-old retired school nurse, said she got involved because "I'm very afraid of where the country is going."

Andrew Montano said he had followed Runyan during his NFL career and respects his "bulldog" approach.

"We need someone tough like him to stand up to Washington," he said.

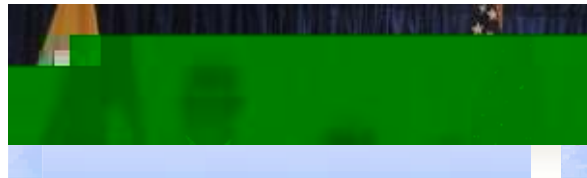
the governor's father, Bill Christie of Waretown, is also a volunteer in Runyan's campaign, working the phone banks in Manahawkin and Toms River.

"He's a true Republican," the elder Christie said. "He will tell it like it is and make a great congressman."

Also seeking the congressional seat is NJ Tea Party candidate Peter DeStefano of Lumberton, Libertarian Russ Conger and independent Lawrence Donohue.

A recent polls show Ocean County, which helped deliver a decisive victory for Christie last fall with 70,000 votes, is leaning strongly toward Runyan. He is gaining ground among undecided voters in the final stretch of the tight congressional matchup with his Democratic rival, according to a Richard Stockton College/Zogby poll released Friday.

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