Nearly half New Jersey residents agree with Christie, want sports betting now, poll shows

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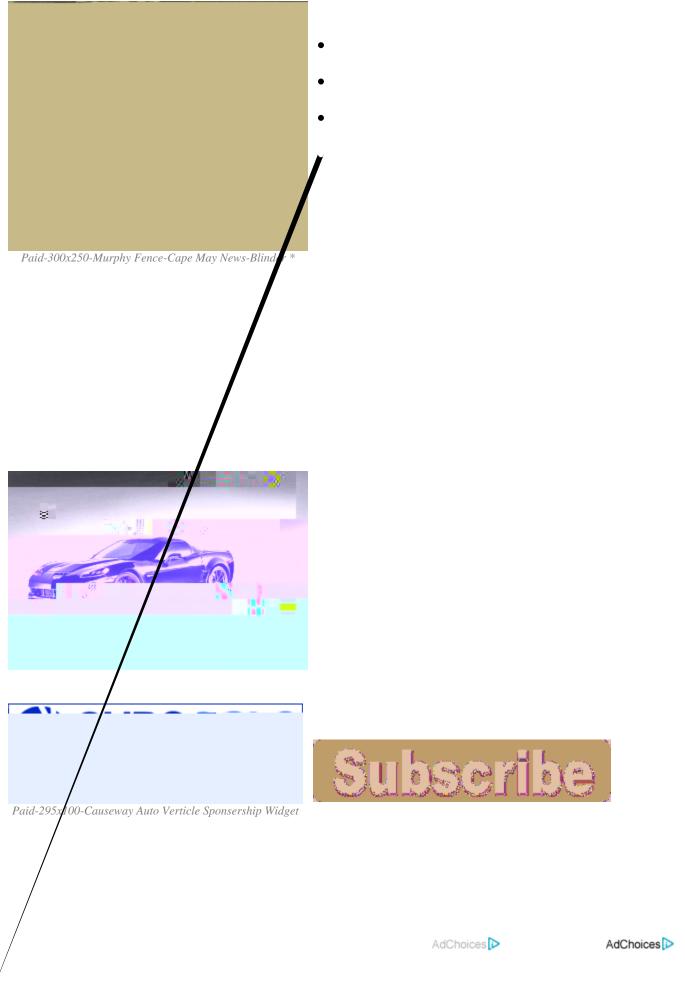
A new statewide poll released Tuesday shows that 45 percent of New Jersey residents support going forward with sports betting at Atlantic City casinos and state racetracks despite the federal government's ban.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind poll said that 38 percent were against moving forward without federal approval — as Gov. Chris Christie plans to do. But when asked if sports betting should happen in New Jersey if the federal ban were to be overturned, 58 percent were in favor, up from 53 percent in 2011.

Casino gamblers, at least those who had been to one within the past month, supported Christie's plan 53 percent to 41 percent.

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