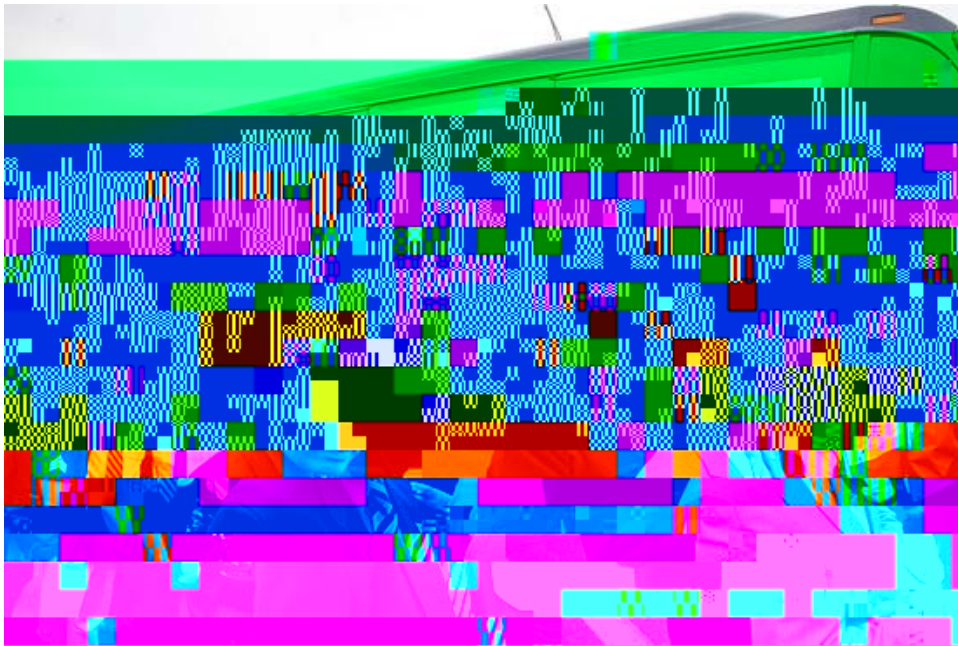

October 30, 2013, 2:34 PM ET

ByHeather Haddon



AP

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie poses for photographs beside his campaign bus with police officers in Linden.

LINDEN, N.J.—Gov. [Chris Christie](#) began a weeklong, 90-stop statewide bus tour Wednesday in the run-up to Tuesday's election.

Mr. Christie started the campaign blitz at a diner stop in Livingston in Essex County—the town where he was raised—and later took a walk along the main business strip in this working-class city in Union County. A diverse crowd of supporters mobbed Mr. Christie as he shook hands with residents, business owners and local officials.

“He’s been good for this city,” said Richard Gerbounka, Linden’s mayor, an independent who endorsed Mr. Christie Wednesday. “We need him for four more years.”

Mr. Christie is running for a second term on Nov. 5 against Democratic Sen. Barbara Buono, who has served nearly two decades in Trenton.

“Even if all of the undecideds break for Senator Buono, Governor Christie still leads by landslide proportions,” said Daniel Douglas, the poll’s director.

Mr. Christie has worked to attract the support of independents, Democrats and ethnic minorities to boost his margin next week, and that diversity was on display Wednesday.

Linden’s population of 40,500 is around 27% African-American and 25% Hispanic. The city has 12,191 registered Democrats and 1,423 Republicans, though 8,792 are independents.

In Linden, Mr. Christie pledged to continue to bring his straight-talking style at a brief rally at Beyond the C Restaurant, a soul food establishment.

“I see him as a well-regarded person,” said the restaurant’s co-owner Tyquan McAllister, a 27-year-old

Copyright 2013 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our [Subscriber Agreement](#) and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit www.djreprints.com