

## Bridgegate: I Believe Governor Christie

A [recent Bloomberg poll](#) showed that most Americans think New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is lying when he says that [he had no prior knowledge](#) of what appears to have been intentional, vindictive lane closures on the George Washington Bridge last September. Ironic, given that the forefather for whom the bridge is named was [revered for his enduring honesty](#).

Even one of the legislators heading up the Special Committee of Investigation—an entity entrusted with the task of *objectively* getting to the bottom of what happened with the lane closures—has expressed doubt on Christie's denials, saying ["it strains credibility that a governor who is as hands-on as he is would suddenly have a senior member of his administration go rogue like this."](#)

Is it really so hard to believe that Christie could have worked with these staffers day in and day out, and not realize what they were up to behind the scenes?

No one can declare with absolute certainty that they know the true character of the people they encounter each day, be it co-workers, friends, neighbors, or even close loved ones. It was less than a decade ago that another New Jersey Governor, Jim McGreevey, [shocked his colleagues and family alike](#) when he announced he was "a gay American." McGreevey's own wife, with whom he had a 2-year-old daughter at the time, used the same word that Christie used during his press conference, [saying she was "blindsided" by the revelation](#).

We've all been there, myself included. You think you know a person...until you realize that you don't.

By all accounts, [Christie's inner circle is an elite group of intelligent, energetic, politically-savvy professionals](#)—not unlike Christie himself. It's not surprising that the people swept up in this unfolding drama gained Chris Christie's trust. He clearly saw something in them that he recognized—qualities of ambition and determination that he himself possesses.

The difference—and it's a big one—is that Chris Christie has also consistently demonstrated a highly-defined sense of right and wrong. As New Jersey's U.S. Attorney, [he was lauded for his dedication to rooting out political corruption and wrong-doing](#) in the state.

A leopard doesn't change its spots—and I find it hard to accept that a man like Christie would suddenly abandon his deep-rooted sense of honor and integrity. The investigation into what really happened with Bridgegate is ongoing. Unless and until we have concrete evidence that proves Christie's involvement, he deserves the presumption of innocence in this matter.

To be sure, Christie made a mistake: he trusted the people around him to conduct themselves in the same manner in which he conducts himself. Political analysts say that shows poor judgement, and could indicate he's not fit to be President.

Nonsense. All it proves is that he's human.

That's my take on Bridgegate. Now you tell me: do you believe the Governor?



### **About Lisa Yakomin**

Lisa Yakomin, a national freelance writer for over 25 years, has been actively involved in politics and government since her first stint as a campaign volunteer at 10 years old. She recently served as a senior aide in the New Jersey State Legislature, and continues to advocate for a variety of social and political causes.