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### Recommended Citation

Immelman, A., & Trenzeluk, J. V. (2023, June). *The personality profile of Republican presidential contender Chris Christie*. Collegeville and St. Joseph, MN: St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict, Unit for the Study of Personality in Politics. Digital Commons website: [http://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/psychology\\_pubs/140/](http://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/psychology_pubs/140/)

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**THE PERSONALITY PROFILE**  
**OF REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER CHRIS CHRISTIE**  
**(BRIEF REPORT)**

Aubrey Immelman and Joseph V. Trenzeluk

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June 2023

# The Personality Profile of Republican Presidential Contender Chris Christie

Aubrey Immelman and Joseph V. Trenzeluk


This is a brief report<sup>1</sup> of the results of an indirect assessment, in 2015, of the personality of former New Jersey governor (2010–2018) Chris Christie, from the conceptual perspective of personologist Theodore Millon. Christie ran unsuccessfully for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination and in June 2023 declared his candidacy in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.

Psychodiagnostically relevant data pertaining to Christie were collected from biographical sources and media reports and synthesized into a personality profile using the Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria (MIDC), which yields 34 normal and maladaptive personality classifications congruent with *DSM-III-R*, *DSM-IV*, and *DSM-5*.



## The Personality Profile of Republican Presidential Contender Chris Christie

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College of St. Benedict and St. John's University  
Conducted 2015; released June 2023



### Introduction

In 2015 we conducted a psychodiagnostic case study of then New Jersey governor and 2016 Republican presidential contender Chris Christie, who in June 2023 declared his candidacy in the 2024 U.S. presidential election.

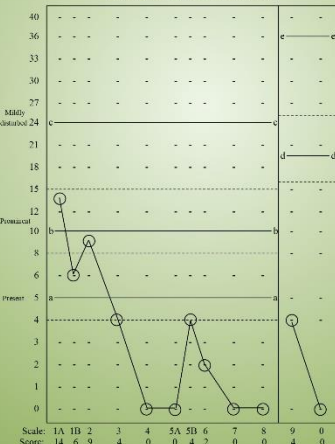
### Method

The assessment instrument was the 170-item Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria (MIDC; Immelman, 2012), which assesses the attribute domains of expressive behavior, interpersonal conduct, cognitive style, mood/temperament, and self-image. The instrument contains 12 scales, yielding 20 normal and 14 pathological personality styles.

### Personality Type

**Dominant, Self-confident, Risk-taking Extravert**  
**Primary pattern: Dominant / controlling**  
**Secondary patterns: Ambitious / confident and Dauntless / adventurous**  
**Subsidiary patterns: Outgoing / congenial and Contentious / resolute**

### Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria Profile for Chris Christie




### Results

**Table 1**  
MIDC Item Endorsement Rate by Attribute Domain

Attribute domain	Items
Expressive behavior	9
Interpersonal conduct	7
Cognitive style	6
Mood/temperament	4
Self-image	6
Sum	52
Mean	6.4
Standard deviation	1.6

**Table 2**  
MIDC Scale Scores for Chris Christie

Scale	Personality pattern	Raw	R1%
1A	Dominant: Asserting–Controlling–Aggressive	14	35.9
1B	Dauntless: Adventurous–Disputing–Aggrandizing	6	15.4
2	Ambitious: Confident–Self-serving–Exploitative	9	23.1
3	Outgoing: Congenial–Gregarious–Impulsive	4	10.3
4	Accommodating: Cooperative–Agreeable–Submissive	0	0.0
5A	Aggrieved: Unpromising–Self-denying–Self-defeating	0	0.0
5B	Contentious: Resolute–Oppositional–Negativistic	4	10.3
6	Conscientious: Respectful–Dutiful–Compulsive	2	5.1
7	Reticent: Circumspect–Inhibited–Withdrawn	0	0.0
8	Retiring: Reserved–Aloof–Solitary	0	0.0
9	Distrusting: Suspicious–Paranoid	4	9.3
0	Erratic: Unstable–Borderline	0	0.0
	Full-scale total	43	109.3



**Acknowledgment**  
McKenzie Neu assisted with data collection

**Reference**  
Immelman, A. (2015). *Millon Inventory of Diagnostic Criteria* (3rd ed., rev.). Unpublished research scale, Unit for the Study of Personality in Politics, College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, St. Joseph and Collegeville, Minnesota

<sup>1</sup>A comprehensive research report will be issued if Chris Christie emerges in the primaries as a viable contender for the 2024 Republican nomination for president.

The personality profile yielded by the MIDC was analyzed on the basis of interpretive guidelines provided in the MIDC and Millon Index of Personality Styles manuals. Christie's primary personality patterns were found to be Dominant/controlling, supplemented by secondary Ambitious/confident and Dauntless/adventurous patterns and subsidiary Outgoing/congenial and Contentious/resolute features.

*Dominant* leaders enjoy the power to direct others and to evoke obedience and respect; they are tough and unsentimental and often make effective leaders.

*Ambitious* leaders are characteristically self-confident, competitive, daring, bold, charming, and skilled at winning others over to their causes and purposes; they easily assume leadership roles, expect others to recognize their special qualities, and may act as though entitled.

*Dauntless* leaders are adventurous, individualistic, daring personalities resistant to deterrence and inclined to take calculated risks; they may be inclined to shade the truth or skirt the law.

*Outgoing* leaders are dramatic attention-getters who thrive on being the center of social events and are confident in their social skills and ability to charm and influence others.

*Contentious* leaders are individualistic and independent, tend to be outspoken or unconventional, and are frequently unhappy with the status quo.

The blend of personality patterns in Christie's profile constitutes a composite personality type that may be described as that of a *high-dominance, self-confident, risk-taking extravert*.

Of particular note, the amalgam of Dominant (aggressive) and Contentious (negativistic) patterns in Christie's profile suggests benign elements of Millon's *abrasive negativist* syndrome. For these personalities, minor frictions easily escalate into personal confrontations and power struggles. They are quick to spot inconsistencies in others' actions or ethical standards and adept at constructing arguments that amplify those contradictions. They characteristically take the moral high ground, dogmatically and contemptuously expose their antagonists' perceived hypocrisy, and scornfully turn on those who cross their path.