

POLL 131
April 11-18, 2001

NJ quality of life, State slogan, Economy, NJ Political figures, Government, the Governor's race, Education, Census bytes, Racial profiling

Hello, my name is _____(first and last name). I'm on the staff of the Eagleton Poll, and I'm taking a public opinion survey of New Jersey adults for Rutgers University. I'd like your views on what New Jersey is like as a place to live and some topics currently in the news. We are not selling anything, not asking for money, and all your answers will be completely confidential.

1. To begin with, for how many years have you lived in New Jersey, or have you lived here all of your life?
 - 1 Two or less
 - 2 3 - 5
 - 3 6 - 10
 - 4 11 - 20
 - 5 21 or more
 - 6 All My Life
 - 9 Don't Know

- NJ1. Overall, how would you rate New Jersey as a place to live—excellent, good, only fair or poor?
 - 1 Excellent
 - 2 Good
 - 3 Only Fair
 - 4 Poor
 - 9 Don't know

- NJ2. How would you rate New Jersey as a place to live compared to most other states? Is New Jersey better, about the same, or worse?
 - 1 Better
 - 2 About the same
 - 3 Worse
 - 9 Don't know

- NJ3. Thinking back over the last 5 or 10 years, would you say that New Jersey has become a better or worse place to live, or hasn't there been much of a change [NOTE: IF LIVED IN NJ LESS THAN 5 YEARS: In the time that you have been here, would you say...]?
 - 1 Better place
 - 2 Worse place
 - 3 Not much change
 - 9 Don't know

- NJ4. And thinking ahead over the next 5 or 10 years, do you think New Jersey will become a better or worse place to live, or won't there be much of a change?
 - 1 Better place

- 2 Worse place
 - 3 Not much change
 - 9 Don't know
- NJ5. How would you rate your own town or city as a place to live -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- 1 Excellent
 - 2 Good
 - 3 Only Fair
 - 4 Poor
 - 9 Don't know
- NJ6. And how would you rate your neighborhood as a place to live -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- 1 Excellent
 - 2 Good
 - 3 Only Fair
 - 4 Poor
 - 9 Don't know
- NJ7. If you had the opportunity, would you like to move out of your neighborhood or continue to live where you are now -- **IF MOVE, ASK:** Would you like to move to another part of your town, or to another town in New Jersey, or to another state?
- 1 Continue to live in neighborhood
 - 2 Move in same town
 - 3 Move in New Jersey
 - 4 Move to another state
 - 9 Don't know
- NJ8. How much pride do you take in being a resident of NJ – a lot, some, a little or none?
- 1 A lot
 - 2 Some
 - 3 A little
 - 4 None
 - 9 Don't know
- NJ9. There has been a lot of talk lately about New Jersey's image – how outsiders see the state. On the whole, do you think New Jersey's image is positive or negative?
- 1 Positive
 - 2 Negative
 - 9 Don't know
- NJ10. Have you ever seen the HBO television show “The Sopranos” – a show about the mafia set in New Jersey, or not -- **IF NOT SEEN:** Are you familiar with the show?
- 1 Seen the show

- 2 NOT seen, but IS familiar
- 3 NOT seen, is NOT familiar [**GOTO SS1**]
- 9 Don't know [**GOTO SS1**]

NJ11. As a New Jerseyan, would you say the show is more of a source of pride, or more of a source of embarrassment to you?

- 1 Pride
- 2 Embarrassment
- 3 Neither (VOLUNTEERED)
- 9 Don't know

SS1. The Newark Star-Ledger recently invited its readers to send in suggestions for a new state slogan for New Jersey. I'm going to read you some suggested slogans. Please tell me which one you like best [ROTATE OPTIONS] -- New Jersey and you – perfect together; New Jersey – A garden of diversity; New Jersey – the N. J. in enjoy; New Jersey – small state, big attitude; OR New Jersey – We're the light at the end of the tunnel?

- 1 New Jersey and you – perfect together
- 2 New Jersey – A garden of diversity
- 3 New Jersey – the N. J. in enjoy
- 4 New Jersey – small state, big attitude
- 5 New Jersey – We're the light at the end of the tunnel
- 9 Don't know

SS2. Which would be your second choice?

ROTATE AND READ ALL CHOICES EXCEPT ANSWER FROM SS1:

- 1 New Jersey and you – perfect together
- 2 New Jersey – A garden of diversity
- 3 New Jersey – the N. J. in enjoy
- 4 New Jersey – small state, big attitude
- 5 New Jersey – We're the light at the end of the tunnel
- 9 Don't know

G1. On another subject, are you currently registered to vote at the address where you now live?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No [**GOTO G5**]
- 9 Don't know [**GOTO G5**]

ROTATE G2 AND G3

As you may know, there will be elections for New Jersey Governor and the state legislature this coming November.

G2. If the election for Governor were held today and the candidates were [**PROGRAMMING: ROTATE CHOICES**] Donald DiFrancesco [Dee – Fran – *Sess* – Ko), the Republican, and Jim McGreevey, the Democrat, for whom would you vote – DiFrancesco or McGreevey?

- 1 DiFrancesco

- 2 McGreevey
- 3 Neither/Other (VOL)
- 8 Wouldn't vote (VOL)
- 9 Don't know/Undecided (VOL)

G3. If the election for Governor were held today and the candidates were **[PROGRAMMING: ROTATE CHOICES]** Bret Schundler [*Shund – ler*], the Republican, and Jim McGreevey, the Democrat, for whom would you vote – Schundler or McGreevey?

- 1 Schundler
- 2 McGreevey
- 3 Neither/Other (VOL)
- 8 Wouldn't vote (VOL)
- 9 Don't know/Undecided (VOL)

G4. And if the election for State Assembly were held today, would you vote for the Republican or Democratic candidates for Assembly in your district?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democratic
- 3 Split/other [VOLUNTEERED]
- 9 Don't know/Undecided

G5. I am going to read a list of some of the issues that might come up in this year's election for Governor. As I read each one, please tell me how important you think that issue is for the next Governor to deal with – Extremely important, fairly important, or not that important -- | **[RANDOM ORDER A-G]**

- A Education?
- B The environment?
- C The state economy and budget?
- D Taxes?
- E Suburban sprawl and traffic problems?
- F Race relations and racial profiling?
- G Government ethics and the integrity of public officials?

- 1 Extremely important
- 2 Fairly important
- 3 Not that important
- 9 Don't know

Now I'm going to ask you about some political figures in New Jersey.

PROGRAMMING: RANDOMIZE PF1 – PF6

PF1. Is your opinion of Donald DiFrancesco (Dee – fran – sess – ko) favorable or unfavorable, or don't you really have an opinion of him?

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 9 No opinion / don't know

- PF2. Is your opinion of Jim McGreevey favorable or unfavorable, or don't you really have an opinion of him?
- 1 Favorable
 - 2 Unfavorable
 - 9 No opinion / don't know
- PF3. Is your opinion of Bret Schundler (Shun – dler) favorable or unfavorable, or don't you really have an opinion of him?
- 1 Favorable
 - 2 Unfavorable
 - 9 No opinion / don't know
- PF4. Is your opinion of Bob Torricelli (Tor – uh – sell – ee) favorable or unfavorable, or don't you really have an opinion of him?
- 1 Favorable
 - 2 Unfavorable
 - 9 No opinion / don't know
- PF5. Is your opinion of Jon Corzine (Core – zign) favorable or unfavorable, or don't you really have an opinion of him?
- 1 Favorable
 - 2 Unfavorable
 - 9 No opinion / don't know
- PF6. Is your opinion of Bob Franks favorable or unfavorable, or don't you really have an opinion of him?
- 1 Favorable
 - 2 Unfavorable
 - 9 No opinion / don't know
- PF7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?
- 1 Approve
 - 2 Disapprove
 - 9 Don't know
- PF8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald DiFrancesco is handling his job as acting Governor?
- 1 Approve
 - 2 Disapprove
 - 9 Don't know
- C1. Overall, how would you rate the quality of government in New Jersey -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 Don't know

C2. Compared to most other states is the quality of government in New Jersey better, worse, or about the same?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 About the same
- 9 Don't know

C3. Do you think that politicians here in New Jersey are better than those in other states, worse than others, or about the same?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 Same
- 9 Don't know

C4. Do you think most people decide to GO INTO politics for public service reasons, or for personal gain?

- 1 Public service
- 2 Personal gain
- 3 Both (**VOLUNTEERED**)
- 9 Don't know

C5. How much have you heard or read about federal investigations into New Jersey Senator Bob Torricelli's 1996 campaign fundraising – a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Not much [**GOTO C7**]
- 4 Nothing at all [**GOTO C7**]
- 9 Don't know [**GOTO C7**]

C6. Which of the following statements best describes your view of Torricelli's 1996 fundraising activities: Torricelli did something illegal, OR he did something unethical but nothing illegal, OR he did not do anything seriously wrong?

- 1 Something illegal
- 2 Something unethical, but not illegal
- 3 Did not do anything seriously wrong
- 9 Don't know

- C7. How much have you heard or read about questions surrounding acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco's real estate and business dealings with major state contractors – a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?
- 1 A lot
 - 2 Some
 - 3 Not much [**GOTO E1**]
 - 4 Nothing at all [**GOTO E1**]
 - 9 Don't know [**GOTO E1**]
- C8. Which of the following statements best describes your view of DiFrancesco's business dealings with state contractors: DiFrancesco did something illegal, OR he did something unethical but nothing illegal, OR he did not do anything seriously wrong?
- 1 Something illegal
 - 2 Something unethical, but not illegal
 - 3 Did not do anything seriously wrong
 - 9 Don't know
- E1. How would you generally describe economic conditions in New Jersey right now? Would you say that economically New Jersey is in good times or bad times right now?
- 1 Good times
 - 2 Bad times
 - 9 Don't know
- E2. During the next year, do you think economic conditions in New Jersey will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?
- 1 Better
 - 2 Worse
 - 3 About the same
 - 9 Don't know
- E3. Thinking of your family's financial situation over the last year, have things gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same?
- 1 Better
 - 2 Worse
 - 3 About the same
 - 9 Don't know
- E4. And looking ahead, do you think that a year from now you and your family will be better off financially, worse off, or about the same as now?
- 1 Better
 - 2 Worse
 - 3 About the same
 - 9 Don't know

E5. Overall, how satisfied are you with your current standard of living – very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Very dissatisfied
- 9 Don't know

E6. Do you think the local property taxes you pay are too high or are they about right -- **IF TOO HIGH:** Are they much too high or just a little too high?

- 1 Much too high
- 2 A little too high
- 3 About right
- 4 Don't pay property taxes [VOLUNTEERED]
- 9 Don't know

B1. Do you own or rent the place where you currently live?

1. Own
2. Rent
9. Don't Know/Refused

B2. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your current housing? IF SATISFIED / DISSATISFIED: Is that very [satisfied/dissatisfied] or somewhat [satisfied/dissatisfied]?

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Very dissatisfied
- 9 Don't know

[IF ANSWERED 2 IN B1, ASK:]

B3. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your chances of owning your own home?

- 1 Satisfied
- 2 Dissatisfied
- 9 Don't know

[IF ANSWERED 1 IN B1, ASK:]

B4. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your chances of moving to a better home if you wanted to?

- 1 Satisfied
- 2 Dissatisfied
- 9 Don't know

SPLIT HALF B5 AND B6

B5. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the environment where you live – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 Don't know

B6. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the environment in New Jersey – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 Don't know

B7. On another subject, about how many of the people who live in your immediate neighborhood are white – nearly all, most, about half, or fewer than half?

- 1 Nearly all
- 2 Most
- 3 About half
- 4 Fewer than half
- 9 Don't know

B8. Do you consider your neighborhood to be racially integrated, or not?

- 1 Yes, integrated
- 2 No, not integrated
- 9 Don't know

B9. How much racial or ethnic tension do you think there is among people who live in your town or city – a lot, some, just a little or none at all?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Just a little
- 4 None at all
- 9 Don't know

B10. In the town or city where you live, has the number of minorities been increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same? IF INCREASE: Has it increased a lot, or just a little?

- 1 Increased a lot
- 2 Increased a little
- 3 Decreasing
- 4 Staying about the same
- 9 Don't know

RP1. Do you think racial and ethnic discrimination in New Jersey is a problem, or not -- IF YES: Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or a small problem?

- 1 Big problem
- 2 Somewhat of a problem
- 3 A small problem
- 4 Not a problem
- 9 Don't know

RP2. Do you think racial profiling – that is, when law enforcement officers stop people because of their race – is a problem in New Jersey -- IF YES: Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or a small problem?

- 1 Big problem
- 2 Somewhat of a problem
- 3 A small problem
- 4 Not a problem
- 9 Don't know

RP3. How much have you heard or read about the New Jersey State Senate's recent hearings into racial profiling by the State Police – a lot, some, not much or nothing at all?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Not much [GOTO ED1]
- 4 Nothing at all [GOTO ED1]
- 9 Don't know [GOTO ED1]

RP4. From what you have heard or read, do you think state Supreme Court justice, and former New Jersey Attorney General, Peter Verniero [Ver – neer – oh] did or did not give **intentionally** misleading statements about his office's investigations into racial profiling during his 1999 Senate confirmation hearings?

- 1 Did intentionally mislead
- 2 Did not intentionally mislead
- 9 Don't know

RP5. If Verniero **did** give intentionally misleading information on racial profiling to the state Senate during his confirmation hearings, do you think he should continue to serve on the state Supreme Court, or should he no longer serve?

- 1 Should continue
- 2 Should no longer serve
- 9 Don't know

ED1a. On a different topic, how closely do you follow what is going on in your local schools--very closely, somewhat, or not at all?

- 1 Very
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 Not at all
- 9 Don't know

- ED1. In general, how would you rate the job the public schools are doing here in New Jersey – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- 1 Excellent
 - 2 Good
 - 3 Only fair
 - 4 Poor
 - 9 Don't know
- ED2. How would you rate the job your local schools are doing -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- 1 Excellent
 - 2 Good
 - 3 Only fair
 - 4 Poor
 - 9 Don't know
- CE1. Different people mean different things when they use the word “community.” I’m going to read you two statements, please tell me which one is closer to your views, even if neither one fits exactly: **[PROGRAMMING: ROTATE STATEMENTS]** 1. Community means people who live close to each other and interact because they share a common space; OR 2. Community means people who have similar interests and interact because they share common concerns.
- 1 Common space
 - 2 Common concerns
 - 3 Both [VOLUNTEERED]
 - 4 Other [VOLUNTEERED]
 - 9 Don't know
- CE2. Which ONE of these three should be MOST responsible for teaching children about their duties as citizens, such as being involved in their community, paying attention to current events, and voting – the schools, parents, or the media?
IF NECESSARY: Which ONE should be MOST responsible?
- 1 Schools
 - 2 Parents
 - 3 Media
 - 4 Other [VOLUNTEERED]
 - 9 Don't know
- CE3. Do you read a newspaper regularly, or not?
- 1 Yes, regularly
 - 2 No
 - 9 Don't know
- CE4. In general, how often do you follow what is happening in government and politics --regularly, sometimes, once in a while, or almost never?
- 1 Regularly
 - 2 Sometimes

- 3 Once in a while
- 4 Almost Never
- 9 Don't know

CE4A. Do you use the Internet either from home or work on at least a weekly basis?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Yes, from somewhere else [VOLUNTEERED]
- 9 Don't know

CE5. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements -- |
ROTATE A – D

- A Participating in politics is NOT an effective way to solve problems?
- B People should just worry about taking care of their friends and family rather than worrying about the rest of the world?
- C Voting is not a very effective way to have an impact on society?
- D Following the news and current events is an important thing to do?

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 9 Don't know

Now just a few final questions so we can classify your answers.

[IF ANSWERED 2 OR 9 IN G1, GOTO D3]

D1. Can you recall if you voted in the 2000 election between Al Gore and George W. Bush -- IF YES: Did you vote for Al Gore, George W. Bush, or someone else?

- 1 Voted for Gore
- 2 Voted for Bush
- 3 Voted for someone else
- 4 Did not vote [**GOTO D3**]
- 9 Don't know [**GOTO D3**]

D2. Thinking back to last year's election, which of the following sources of information would you say was MOST helpful to you in deciding whom to support for president – television news, campaign advertisements, the presidential debates, or newspaper stories?

- 1 Television news
- 2 Campaign advertisements
- 3 The debates
- 4 Newspaper stories
- 9 None / Don't know

D3. Which of the following BEST describes the area where you now live: READ OPTIONS 1 THROUGH 4

- 1 A large city
- 2 A suburb near a large city
- 3 A small city or town

- 4 OR a rural area
- 9 Other/don't know/refused

D4. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat [GOTO D5]
- 2 Republican [GOTO D5]
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something Else/Other
- 9 Don't Know/No opinion

(IF #3,4, OR 9 TO D4, ASK)

D4A. Do you lean more toward the Democratic Party or more toward the Republican Party?

- 1 Democratic party
- 2 Republican party
- 3 Other party
- 4 Neither
- 9 Don't know/no opinion

D5. And thinking about your parents when you were growing up, were they Democrats, Republicans, mixed or something else?

- 1 Democrats
- 2 Republicans
- 3 Mixed
- 4 Something else
- 5 Other [VOLUNTEERED]
- 9 Don't know

D6. How often were politics discussed in your home when you were growing up – regularly, often, seldom, or never?

- 1 Regularly
- 2 Often
- 3 Seldom
- 4 Never
- 9 Don't know

D7. Regardless of the political party you might favor, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?

- 1 Liberal
- 2 Conservative
- 3 Somewhere in between
- 4 Other
- 9 Don't Know/No opinion

D8. Do you have any children [IF YES: Do you have school-aged children in your household—(IF NECESSARY) Kindergarten through High School]?

- 1 Yes school-aged children
- 2 Yes children, but not school-aged [GOTO D10]
- 3 No children [GOTO D10]
- 9 Don't know [GOTO D10]

D9. Do they go to public school, private school, or both?

- 1 Public
- 2 Private
- 3 Both
- 9 Don't Know

D10. Did you receive a high school diploma?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No [GOTO D12]
- 9 Don't Know [GOTO D12]

D11. Did you ever attend college (IF YES, ASK: Did you graduate)?

- 1 Yes, graduated
- 2 Yes, did not graduate [GOTO D12]
- 3 Junior college--graduate [GOTO D12]
- 4 Vocational/technical school [GOTO D12]
- 9 No [GOTO D12]

D11A. Was this from a 4-year college, a junior college two year program, or a vocational/technical school?

- 1 Four year college
- 2 Junior college/2 year program
- 3 Vocational/technical school
- 9 Other/Don't know

D12. Are you married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 1 Married
- 2 Living as married
- 3 Widowed
- 4 Divorced
- 5 Separated
- 6 Never married
- 9 Don't know

D13. What was your age on your last birthday?

/ / / (ENTER AGE: 97=97+, 98=DK, 99 = REFUSED)

PROGRAMMING: IF REFUSED IN D13, ASK D14; OTHERWISE GO TO D15

D14. Were you born before 1946, between 1946 and 1964, or after 1964?

- 1 Before 1946
- 2 Between 1946 and 1964
- 3 After 1964
- 9 Refused/don't know

D15. How much do you worry about being able to take care of your parents as they get older – a lot, some, or hardly at all?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Hardly at all
- 4 No parents / parents deceased [VOLUNTEERED]
- 9 Don't know

D16. Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Spanish background?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't know

D17. Are you white, black or of Asian origin?

- 1 White
- 2 Black
- 3 Asian
- 4 Other (VOL)
- 9 Not determined

D18. In what county do you live?

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 01 Atlantic | 08 Gloucester | 15 Ocean |
| 02 Bergen | 09 Hudson | 16 Passaic |
| 03 Burlington | 10 Hunterdon | 17 Salem |
| 04 Camden | 11 Mercer | 18 Somerset |
| 05 Cape May | 12 Middlesex | 19 Sussex |
| 06 Cumberland | 13 Monmouth | 20 Union |
| 07 Essex | 14 Morris | 21 Warren |

99 Don't know/Refused

- D19. So that we can group all answers, is your total annual family income before taxes: Under 35,000; between \$35,000 to just under \$70,000; between \$70,000 to just under \$100,000; or \$100,000 or more?
- 1 Under \$35,000
 - 2 \$35,000 to \$69,999
 - 3 \$70,000 to \$100,000
 - 4 \$100,000 or more
 - 9 Don't know
- D20. Not counting cellular phones, how many DIFFERENT telephone NUMBERS for incoming calls reach this household--this does NOT include those lines that are ONLY used for fax machines and computers?
- 1 One
 - 2 Two
 - 3 Three
 - 4 Four
 - 5 Five
 - 6 Six
 - 7 Seven
 - 8 Eight OR MORE
 - 9 Don't know/refused
- D21. Including yourself, how many adults--that is people 18 or over, live in your household?
- 1 One
 - 2 Two
 - 3 Three
 - 4 Four or more
 - 9 Don't Know/Refused
- D22. Thanks. You've been very helpful. The results of the poll will be released in the Newark Star-Ledger. Sometimes we need to recontact people to verify that this interview took place, or someone writing up the results may want to know more about how you feel. Would it be okay for us to recontact you if necessary?