

SLERP #144 (ALL)
September 2-8, 2003

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 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

2. 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 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

T1. It has been almost two years since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon – as of TODAY, do you feel that your life has returned to normal, is BEGINNING to return to normal, still has not returned to normal, or will NEVER return to normal?

- 1 Returned to normal
- 2 Beginning to return to normal
- 3 Still not returned to normal
- 4 Will NEVER return to normal
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

T2. Do you plan to do anything special this September 11th to recognize the second anniversary of the attack, OR don't you think you will do anything out of the ordinary?

- 1 Do something special
- 2 Not do anything out of the ordinary
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused / Haven't thought about it

T3. These days, how often do you think about the September 11th terrorist attacks. That is, how often do the events of two years ago come to mind – every day, a few times a week, once a week or less, or rarely?

- 1 Every day
- 2 A few times a week
- 3 Once a week or less
- 4 Rarely
- 5 (VOL) Never
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

T4. In general, has the war on terrorism been a success or a failure?

- 1 A success
- 2 A failure
- 3 (VOL) Too soon to tell / Neither
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

T5. **[FORM A:]** How likely do you think it is that another terrorist attack will occur in the United States in the next year or two -- very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Not too likely
- 4 Not at all likely
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

T6. **[FORM B:]** How likely do you think it is that another terrorist attack will occur in the New York area in the next year or two -- very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Not too likely
- 4 Not at all likely
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

T7. Would you favor or oppose a law that made September 11 a national holiday?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 (VOL) Depends
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

JM1. Can you recall the name of the current Governor of New Jersey?

- 1 James E (Jim) McGreevey

- 2 Other name
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

JM2. [IF JM1=2 OR 9, READ: “His name is James McGreevey.”] Do you approve or disapprove of the way McGreevey is handling his job as Governor?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

JM3. Has McGreevey done a better job as Governor than you expected, a worse job, or about the same as you thought he would do?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 About the same
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

JM4. Do you think he does or does NOT have a clear vision for making New Jersey a better place to live?

- 1 Does
- 2 Does not
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused / No opinion

JM5. Thinking about McGreevey’s term as Governor so far, would you say that he has major accomplishments to point to, minor accomplishments, or no real accomplishments?

- 1 Major
- 2 Minor
- 3 No real ones
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused / No opinion

JM6. Regardless of how you feel about the job he is doing, do you think that McGreevey generally makes good choices in the day to day matters he deals with or does he seem to make a lot of mistakes in his day to day life as governor?

- 1 Generally makes good choices
- 2 Makes a lot of mistakes
- 3 Depends / both / in between (VOL)
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

E1. On a different topic, 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 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- E2. 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 – **SKIP TO E4**
9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused – **SKIP TO E4**
- E3. **[CATI: IF E2= 3 OR 9, SKIP TO E4]** How would you rate the job that your local schools are doing--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?
- 1 Excellent
2 Good
3 Only Fair
4 Poor
9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- E4. Do you think your town or city spends too much, too little, or about the right amount on your local public schools?
- 1 Too much
2 Too little
3 About right
9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- E5. Suppose your local public schools said they needed more money. Would you vote for or against raising local property taxes for this purpose?
- 1 For
2 Against
3 (VOL) Depends
9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- E6. Do you have school-aged children in your household--Kindergarten through High School? IF YES, PROBE: Is that grade school, High School or both?
- 1 Grade (includes kindergarten)
2 High school
3 Both
4 No - **SKIP TO GB1**
9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused - **SKIP TO GB1**
- E7. Is that public school, private school, or both?

- 1 Public
- 2 Private - **SKIP TO GB1**
- 3 Both
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused - **SKIP TO GB1**

E8. Overall, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education your children are receiving. [IF CHOICE MADE, PROBE: Is that very or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?]

- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Somewhat Satisfied
- 3 Somewhat Dissatisfied
- 4 Very Dissatisfied
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

E9. Thinking about your child's school, I would like you to grade how well it is doing in different areas. For each one I read please give it the letter grade A, B, C, D or F for failing. [IF DIFFERENT SCHOOLS/DIFFERENT KIDS, ASK ABOUT (ROTATE YOUNGEST/OLDEST) CHILD] First, how about (ROTATE A-I). Would you give it an A, B, C, D or F -- |

- A The quality of teachers?
- B The availability of extra curricular activities and sports?
- C The condition of physical facilities such as classrooms?
- D Your child's physical safety?
- E The job the principal is doing running the school?
- F The size of classes?
- G The emphasis of the curriculum?
- H Teacher communication with parents?
- I The amount of attention to your child's individual needs?

- 1 A
- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 D
- 5 F
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

E10. **[ROTATE QUESTIONS E10 AND E11]** What kind of job do you think the standardized tests used in your children's schools do at accurately measuring their ability – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

E11. **[ROTATE QUESTIONS E10 AND E11]** What kind of job do you think the standardized tests used in your children's schools do at accurately measuring the job teachers are doing – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent

- 2 Good
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

GB1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

GB2. If the 2004 election for president was held today, would you vote for George W. Bush or the Democratic candidate?

- 1 Bush
- 2 Democrat
- 3 (VOL) Other
- 4 (VOL) Depends who the Dem is
- 5 (VOL) Wouldn't vote
- 8 (VOL) Not registered
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

GB3. **[ROTATE GB3 AND GB4]** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling the war on terrorism [PROBE : Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat]?

- 1 Strongly approve
- 2 Somewhat approve
- 3 Somewhat disapprove
- 4 Strongly disapprove
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

GB4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling the economy [PROBE: Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat]?

- 1 Strongly approve
- 2 Somewhat approve
- 3 Somewhat disapprove
- 4 Strongly disapprove
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

GB5. Right now, which is more important for Bush to focus on – the economy or the war on terrorism?

- 1 The economy
- 2 War on terrorism
- 3 (VOL) Neither, something else
- 4 (VOL) Both equally
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

GB6. **[FORM A:]** Would you say that the nation's economy is in good times or bad times right now?

- 1 Good times
- 2 Bad times
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

GB7. **[FORM A:]** To what extent are President Bush's economic policies responsible for the current state of the economy – a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?

- 1 Great deal
- 2 Some
- 3 Not much
- 4 Not at all
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

GB8. **[FORM B:]** Do you think removing Saddam Hussein from power was worth the loss of American life and other costs of attacking Iraq, or not?

- 1 Worth it
- 2 Not worth it
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

GB9. **[FORM B:]** How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq. Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

- 1 Very well
- 2 Somewhat well
- 3 Somewhat badly
- 4 Very badly
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

JP1. During last month's blackout, did the power go out at your home or work for an hour or more, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

JP2. Have you gone to a MINOR league baseball game in New Jersey this year, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

JP3. Do you own or rent the place where you currently live?

- 1 Own
- 2 Rent
- 3 (VOL) Other / Live with parents
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

JP4. **[FORM A:]** Do you think it is easy or difficult for most families today to find an affordable home to buy in New Jersey **[PROBE: Is that very or somewhat easy/difficult]?**

- 1 Very easy
- 2 Somewhat easy
- 3 Somewhat difficult
- 4 Very difficult
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

JP5. **[FORM B:]** Say you were looking to purchase your first home today. On your current income, do you think you could afford to buy a house in your town right now or not?

- 1 Yes, could afford
- 2 No, could not afford
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

JP6. Do you think the LOCAL PROPERTY taxes you pay are too high or are they about right. **[IF TOO HIGH, PROBE: Are they much too high or just a little high]?**

- 1 Much too high
- 2 A little high
- 3 About right
- 4 (VOL) Too low
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused / Not applicable

JP7. I'm going to ask you about some things you may have done in the past week. Did you **[READ ITEM]** during the past seven days, or not -- | **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

- A **[FORM A:]** Rent a video or DVD?
- B **[FORM A:]** Buy a lottery ticket?
- C **[FORM A:]** Watch a sporting event on TV?
- D **[FORM A:]** Have a fight with your spouse or partner?
- E **[FORM B:]** Take a walk in your neighborhood?
- F **[FORM B:]** Order a pizza?
- G **[FORM B:]** Listen to a talk radio program?
- H **[FORM B:]** Pray?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Not applicable
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

- G1. Now, I'm going to read you some proposals about the legal rights of gay and lesbian couples in New Jersey. For each, please tell me whether you would favor or oppose it. Would you favor or oppose [READ ITEM] -- |
- A Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?
 B Allowing gays and lesbians to form a civil union that would give them many of the same rights and benefits as a married man and woman?
- 1 Favor
 2 Oppose
 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- G2. Would you favor or oppose [READ ITEM] -- |
- A Allowing same-sex couples to share the health insurance coverage from one partner's job?
 B Allowing same-sex couples to get social security benefits when one partner dies?
- 1 Favor
 2 Oppose
 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- G3. If a homosexual couple is legally married in another state and later moves to New Jersey, should that marriage be legally recognized here or not?
- 1 Yes, should be recognized
 2 No, should not be recognized
 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- G4. Recently, the Episcopal church became the first Christian church in the United States to appoint an openly gay man to be a bishop. Do approve or disapprove of this action?
- 1 Approve
 2 Disapprove
 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- G5. Do you personally know anybody who is a homosexual – that is gay or lesbian, or not?
- 1 Yes, know someone
 2 No, do not know someone
 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- C1. Imagine a trial has ended in a hung jury and there is the possibility that the case may be re-tried at a later date. Should the judge be able to ban reporters from talking to members of the jury or should reporters be able to interview members of the jury as long as their service is over?
- 1 Judge should be able to ban
 2 Reporters should be able to interview
 3 (VOL) Depends
 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

- C2. Lawsuits claiming that a particular product is defective and caused injury are frequently settled out of court. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view [ROTATE ITEMS]: Companies should have the right keep the terms of out-of-court settlements secret if all parties involved agree to it - OR - The public should have the right to know the terms of defective product cases, even if they are settled out-of-court?
- 1 Companies have right to keep secret
 - 2 Public has right to know terms
 - 3 (VOL) Depends
 - 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- C3. Now thinking about deportation and bail hearings for persons who might be terrorists – which of the following statements comes closer to your view [ROTATE ITEMS]: It is more important to hold these types of hearings behind closed doors in order to protect national security information - OR - It is more important to hold these types of hearings in an open court with public access so that the defendants can get a fair hearing?
- 1 Behind closed doors
 - 2 In open court
 - 3 (VOL) Depends
 - 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- SP1. **[ROTATE SP1 AND SP2]** Do you think having major league professional sports teams located in the state is important or not important for New Jersey's image?
- 1 Important
 - 2 Not important
 - 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- SP2. Do you think having major league professional sports teams located in the state is important or not important for New Jersey's economy?
- 1 Important
 - 2 Not important
 - 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- SP3. There has been some talk recently about the New Jersey Nets basketball team moving to New York. If this happened, would you personally miss having the Nets in New Jersey a great deal, some, not much or not at all?
- 1 Great deal
 - 2 Some
 - 3 Not much
 - 4 Not at all
 - 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- AE1. There is an election this November in New Jersey. Even though this has not received a lot of attention yet, do you happen to know which offices are up for a vote?
- 1 Names State Assembly, Senate, and/or Legislature
 - 2 Names other office – such as President, Governor, U.S. Senator, Congress

- 3 (VOL) Assembly/Senate/Legislature and Other
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

AE2. Most people do not vote in the State Legislature elections. How about you -- do you think you definitely will vote, probably will vote or probably not vote in the November election for State Legislature?

- 1 Definitely will
- 2 Probably will
- 3 Probably will not
- 4 (VOL) Definitely will not
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

AE3. And if the election was held today, would you vote for the Republican or Democratic candidates for Assembly in your district?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democratic
- 3 (VOL) Split/other
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

AE4. And if the election was held today, would you vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate for Senate in your district?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democratic
- 3 (VOL) Other
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

AE5. If Governor McGreevey campaigned for the Democratic candidates in your district would this make you more likely to support them, less likely, or make no difference in how you would vote?

- 1 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 3 No difference
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

D1. Are you currently registered to vote at the address where you now live?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Don't know/Refused

D2. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something Else / Other
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused / No opinion

- D3. Regardless of the political party you might favor, do you consider yourself to be liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?
- 1 Liberal
 - 2 Conservative
 - 3 Somewhere in between
 - 4 (VOL) Other
 - 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused / No opinion
- D4. Did you receive a high school diploma?
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No – **SKIP TO D6**
 - 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused – **SKIP TO D6**
- D5. Did you ever attend college? [IF YES: Did you graduate?]
- 1 Yes, graduated
 - 2 Yes, did not graduate – **SKIP TO D6**
 - 3 Junior college graduate – **SKIP TO D6**
 - 4 Vocational/ technical school – **SKIP TO D6**
 - 9 No / Don't Know / Refused – **SKIP TO D6**
- D5A. 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 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused / Other
- D6. What was your age on your last birthday?
- / / (ENTER AGE: 97=97+, 98=DK, 99 = REFUSED)
- D9. Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Spanish background?
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused
- D10. Are you white, black or of Asian origin?
- 1 White
 - 2 Black
 - 3 Asian
 - 4 (VOL) Other
 - 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused / Not determined

D11. 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 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused		

D12. 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 \$99,999
4	\$100,000 or more
9	(VOL) Don't Know / Refused

D18. And what is your zip code?