

SLERP #145  
January 7-13, 2004

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.

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. Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election or not. Others aren't that interested. Do you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?
  - 1 Most of the time
  - 2 Some of the time
  - 3 Only now and then
  - 4 Hardly at all
  - 9 Don't know/Depends/Refused
  
3. **[FORM A:]** Generally speaking, would you say things in the country are going in the right direction or wrong direction?
  - 1 Right direction
  - 2 Wrong direction
  - 9 Don't know/refused
  
4. **[FORM A:]** 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 / Refused
  
5. **[FORM B:]** Generally speaking, would you say things in New Jersey are going in the right direction or wrong direction?
  - 1 Right direction
  - 2 Wrong direction
  - 9 Don't know/refused
  
6. **[FORM B:]** Do you approve or disapprove of the way James McGreevey is handling his job as Governor?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 9 Don't Know / Refused

7. And do you approve or disapprove of the job the New Jersey state legislature is doing?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 9 Don't Know / Refused

RG1. How serious do you think New Jersey's budget problems are – very serious, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not at all serious?

- 1 Very serious
- 2 Somewhat serious
- 3 Not very serious
- 4 Not at all serious
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

RG2. In the past year, have your local property taxes gone up, gone down, or stayed about the same. (PROBE IF UP OR DOWN: Have they (gone up/gone down) a lot or just a little)?

- 1 Up a lot
- 2 Up a little
- 3 Down a little
- 4 Down a lot
- 5 Stayed same
- 9 Don't know

RG3. Currently many towns in New Jersey are facing budget problems. In order to provide the same level of services they might have to raise taxes. If you had to choose between raising taxes or cutting services, which would you choose?

- 1 Increase taxes, maintain services
- 2 Maintain taxes, decrease services
- 3 (VOL) Depends
- 9 Don't know/no opinion

RG4. As you probably know, property taxes provide a variety of local services, such as education and police. There has been some talk lately of REGIONALIZATION, where different towns combine these services and share costs in order to hold taxes down. Have you heard or read anything about this. (IF YES: How much have you read or heard -- a lot, some, or a little)?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 No--not heard about
- 9 Don't know

RG5. Some who favor regionalization feel it would hold costs and taxes down. Some who oppose it are worried about giving up their own town's control of services. Overall, do you favor or oppose regionalization of services where you live. (IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE, PROBE: Do you strongly or mildly favor/oppose it)?

- 1 Strongly favor
- 2 Mildly favor
- 3 Mildly oppose
- 4 Strongly oppose
- 5 (VOL) Depends on town
- 9 Don't know

RG6. Do you think regionalizing your local services with a neighboring town would or would not result in saving money and lower property taxes. [IF WOULD SAVE MONEY, PROBE: Would it save enough money to make a significant difference in what you pay in taxes, or don't you think it would make that much of a difference]?

- 1 Would save – a significant amount
- 2 Would save – but not make that much of a difference
- 3 Would save – don't know how much of a difference
- 4 Would not
- 9 Don't know if would save

RG7. If your local services are regionalized, do you think the quality of those services will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

- 1 Will get better
- 2 Will get worse
- 3 Stay about the same
- 9 Don't know

RG8. Here are some proposals people have made for combining government services. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each one. First, how about combining schools in your town with a neighboring one if it meant that you shared common athletic programs like a single football team and bus lines. Would you favor or oppose this?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 (VOL) Depends
- 9 No opinion

RG9A. [FORM A:] And would you favor or oppose combining the public schools in your town with those in a neighboring school of a less affluent town?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 (VOL) Depends
- 9 No opinion

RG9B. [FORM B:] And would you favor or oppose combining the public schools in your town with those in a neighboring school of a more affluent town?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 (VOL) Depends
- 9 No opinion

WH1. 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 Other (VOL)
- 4 Depends who the Democrat is (VOL)
- 5 Wouldn't vote (VOL)
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

WH2. I'm going to name nine Democrats in the race for president. After I read you their names, tell me which ONE you would most like to see nominated as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate in 2004. Here are the choices [**ROTATE 1-9**]:

- 1 Howard Dean
- 2 Joe Lieberman
- 3 Wesley Clark
- 4 Dick Gephardt
- 5 Al Sharpton
- 6 John Kerry
- 7 John Edwards
- 8 Carol Moseley Braun
- 9 Dennis Kucinich
- 10 Other (VOL)
- 11 None (VOL)
- 19 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

NJ1. If the 2005 election for governor was held today, would you vote for James McGreevey or the Republican candidate?

- 1 McGreevey
- 2 Republican
- 3 Other (VOL)
- 4 Depends who the Republican is (VOL)
- 5 Wouldn't vote (VOL)
- 9 DK/Ref

VB1. Now I'm going to ask you about some past elections. For each, please tell me whether you voted in it, did not vote, or can't recall. The 2002 election for U.S. Senator between Doug Forrester and Frank Lautenberg?

- 1 Yes, voted
- 2 No, didn't vote
- 3 (VOL) Not eligible
- 9 (VOL) Can't recall / Don't know / Refused

VB2. The 2001 election for Governor between Bret Schundler and Jim McGreevey?

- 1 Yes, voted
- 2 No, didn't vote
- 3 (VOL) Not eligible

9 (VOL) Can't recall / Don't know / Refused

VB3. The 2000 election for President between George W. Bush and Al Gore?

- 1 Yes, voted
- 2 No, didn't vote
- 3 (VOL) Not eligible
- 9 (VOL) Can't recall / Don't know / Refused

**ASK EVERYONE:**

NF. I'm going to read you the names of some political figures in New Jersey and would like you to tell me if your opinion of each is favorable or unfavorable. If you don't have an opinion, just say so. First, how about (READ NAME) – favorable or unfavorable -- | (RANDOMIZE LIST)

- 1 Current U.S. Senator Jon Corzine (pronounced CORE-ZIGN)?
- 2 Current U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg?
- 3 New Jersey Governor James McGreevey?
- 4 **[FORM A:]** U.S. Attorney Chris Christie?
- 5 **[FORM A:]** Former U.S. Senator Robert Torricelli (pronounced TOR-AH-SELL-EE)?
- 6 **[FORM A:]** Former Governor Jim Florio?
- 7 **[FORM B:]** New Jersey Senate President Richard Codey?
- 8 **[FORM B:]** Former Governor Christie Whitman?
- 9 **[FORM B:]** New Jersey Assembly Speaker Albio Sires?

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 9 Don't Know / No opinion / Not recognized

E1. 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 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

E2. Compared to most other states is the quality of government in New Jersey better, is it worse here, or is it about the same?

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

E3. How much political corruption would you say there is in New Jersey – a lot, some, only a little, or none at all?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Only a little
- 4 None at all
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

E4. Overall, how honest are the people who serve in the New Jersey state legislature -- are they very honest, somewhat honest, somewhat dishonest, or very dishonest?

- 1 Very honest
- 2 Somewhat honest
- 3 Somewhat dishonest
- 4 Very dishonest
- 9 Don't know

E5. And how about the people who represent YOUR DISTRICT in the New Jersey state legislature -- would you describe them as very honest, somewhat honest, somewhat dishonest, or very dishonest?

- 1 Very honest
- 2 Somewhat honest
- 3 Somewhat dishonest
- 4 Very dishonest
- 9 Don't know

E6. Among those state legislators who are corrupt, do you think they were corrupt when they were first elected to office, or do you think they became corrupted by the system?

- 1 Corrupt when first elected
- 2 Corrupted by the system
- 3 Both (VOL)
- 9 Don't know

E7. If you had to guess – What percentage of state legislators are willing to sell out to lobbyists in return for free meals, free trips, or campaign contributions?

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JP1. Suppose there was an election for the Boss of New Jersey. Which one of the following four people would you vote for -- (RANDOMIZE 1-4)?

- 1 Tony Soprano
- 2 Bruce Springsteen
- 3 George Steinbrenner
- 4 Jim McGreevey
- 5 Someone else (VOL)
- 6 No one (VOL)
- 9 Don't know

JP2A. **[FORM A:]** I'm going to read you a list of items you might have at home. When I'm done I just want you to tell me HOW MANY of them you think you have. DO NOT tell me which ones you have – just how many. Here's the list: [READ LIST]. How many of these [5] items do you have at home - A pet, a gun, a bible, a computer, a person who is probably or definitely gay?

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JP2B. **[FORM B:]** I'm going to read you a list of items you might have at home. When I'm done I just want you to tell me HOW MANY of them you think you have. DO NOT tell me which ones you have – just how many. Here's the list: [READ LIST]. How many of these [6] items do you have

at home - A pet, a gun, a bible, a computer, a person who is probably or definitely gay, a person who is probably or definitely an alcoholic?

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JP3. Do you happen to have a car with a bumper sticker on it?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No – **SKIP TO JP4**
- 3 No car – **SKIP TO JP4**
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL) – **SKIP TO JP4**

JP4. Valentine's Day is coming up next month. Do you have a valentine this year or not?

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

JP5. Did you make any New Years resolutions for 2004? [IF YES: Have you broken any of them yet?]

- 1 Made resolutions – have broke some already
- 2 Made resolutions – have NOT broken any
- 3 Did not make any resolutions
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

AL1. Do you have occasion to drink alcoholic beverages such as liquor, wine, or beer, or are you a total abstainer?

- 1 Drinker
- 2 Abstainer – **SKIP TO AL6**
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL) – **SKIP TO AL6**

AL2. When did you last take a drink of any kind of alcoholic beverage -- **READ 1-3?**

- 1 In the last day—that is 24 hours,
- 2 Over one day ago to one week ago, or
- 3 Over 1 week ago
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

AL3. Do you most often drink liquor, wine, or beer?

- 1 Liquor
- 2 Wine
- 3 Beer
- 4 All/Same/Combination (VOL)
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

AL4. Do you sometimes drink more alcoholic beverages than you think you should?

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

AL5. While very few New Jerseyans drive while they are drunk, many tell us they occasionally drink while in their cars. Have you ever had a beer or other alcoholic beverage while you were driving?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Doesn't drive / not applicable (VOL)
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

AL6. Has drinking ever been a cause of trouble in your family?

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

IS1. Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

- 1 Legal under any circumstances
- 2 Legal under certain circumstances
- 3 Illegal in all circumstances
- 4 Depends (VOL)
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

IS2. Do you think affirmative action programs are needed today to help minorities such as blacks and Hispanics overcome discrimination, or are they not needed today?

- 1 Needed today
- 2 Not needed today
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

IS. Now I am going to read you some different statements. For each, please tell me if you mostly agree or mostly disagree with it. The first one is: (RANDOMIZE) Do you mostly agree or disagree -- |

- 3 **[FORM A:]** People should be willing to pay higher prices in order to protect the environment?
- 4 **[FORM A:]** It is the responsibility of government to take care of people who can't take care of themselves?
- 5 **[FORM A:]** We should restrict and control people coming into our country to live, more than we do now?
- 6 **[FORM A:]** Prayer is an important part of my daily life?
- 7 **[FORM A:]** I'm pretty interested in following local politics?
- 8 **[FORM A:]** Most people would try to take advantage of me if given the chance?
- 9 **[FORM B:]** Labor unions are necessary to protect the working person?
- 10 **[FORM B:]** Success in life is pretty much determined by forces outside our control?
- 11 **[FORM B:]** The government is really run for the benefit of all the people?
- 12 **[FORM B:]** Business corporations make too much profit?
- 13 **[FORM B:]** School boards ought to have the right to fire teachers who are known homosexuals?
- 14 **[FORM B:]** Most people would try to take advantage of OTHERS if given the chance?

- 1 Mostly agree with it
- 2 Mostly disagree with it



9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

RC1. In general, do you feel that blacks and whites are treated equally in our society or not?

- 1 Yes treated equally – **SKIP TO RC3**
- 2 No not treated equally
- 3 Depends (VOL)
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

RC2. Do you think you will see equal treatment for blacks and whites in your lifetime or not?

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

RC3. How big a problem is racism in New Jersey today – is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all?

- 1 Big problem
- 2 Somewhat of a problem
- 3 Small problem
- 4 Not a problem at all
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

RC4. How much racial or ethnic tension do you think there is among the 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 / Refused (VOL)

RC5. In the past five years, have you personally had dinner or attended a social gathering in the home of someone who is a different race from you, or not?

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

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

- 1 Yes – **SKIP TO D2**
- 2 No
- 9 Don't know / Refused (VOL)

D1A. Are you eligible to vote?

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

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

- 1 Democrat – **SKIP TO D2A**
- 2 Republican – **SKIP TO D2A**
- 3 Independent – **SKIP TO D2B**
- 4 Something Else / Other – **SKIP TO D2B**
- 9 Don't know / Refused / No opinion (VOL) – **SKIP TO D2B**

D2A. Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican), or a not so strong (Democrat/Republican)?

- 1 Strong – **SKIP TO WH1**
- 2 Not strong – **SKIP TO WH1**
- 9 Don't know – **SKIP TO WH1**

D2B. Do you lean more toward the Democratic Party or more toward the Republican Party?

- 1 Democratic party
- 2 Republican party
- 3 (VOL) Other party
- 4 (VOL) Neither
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

VB4. Now just a few final questions so we can classify your answers. Thinking about the various activities in government and politics that citizens can take part in such as voting, learning about candidates, paying attention to public issues and attending public meetings. Overall how would you rate the job you are doing as a citizen – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

VB5. **[ASK VB5 ONLY IF D1=1]** We know that most people don't vote in all elections. Usually between one-quarter to one-half of those eligible actually come out to vote. Can you tell me how often you vote in local and national elections – always, sometimes, rarely, or never?

- 1 Always
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Rarely
- 4 Never
- 5 (VOL) Other (eligibility problems)
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

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

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 (VOL) 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)

D7. Are you married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 1 Married – **SKIP TO D8**
- 2 Living as married – **SKIP TO D8**
- 3 Widowed
- 4 Divorced
- 5 Separated
- 6 Never married
- 9 Don't know

D7A. And are you currently in a committed relationship, or not at this time?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No – **SKIP TO D9**
- 9 Don't know / Refused – **SKIP TO D9**

D8. [ASK D8 IF D7=1 or 2 or D7A=1] I'd like to ask you some questions about ways you and your partner might be the same or different. If any are too private just say so and we'll move on. Are you of the same or different -- |

- A Religions?
- B Political parties?
- C Age – that is, is there a difference of less than 10 years?
- D Race?
- E Gender or sex?

- 1 Same

- 2 Different
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / 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

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. And what is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

D17. 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