

# The Star-Ledger/**Eagleton-Rutgers Poll**

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SEPTEMBER 2005 (#155)

Survey of New Jersey Residents, 18+ (n=700 – Registered Voters)

Final: September 6, 2005

## Introduction

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 to ask a few questions of the **YOUNGEST MALE** age 18 or older, who is now at home. (**IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW**: Then, may I speak with the **OLDEST FEMALE** age 18 or older who is now at home?)

**WHEN RESPONDENT ON PHONE**: I'd like your views on what New Jersey is like as a place to live and on some topics currently in the news.

**IF NECESSARY**: We are not selling anything, not asking for money, and all your answers will be completely confidential.

### **IF RESPONDENT DECLINES TO PARTICIPATE, POSSIBLE PROBES:**

--Your participation is very important because only 800 people have been randomly selected for this survey and your views will represent many people throughout the state.

### **IF "DON'T KNOW ENOUGH":**

-- There are no right or wrong answers. We are only interested in your opinions. They are just as important as anybody else's.

### **IF NOT INTERESTED, DON'T WANT TO:**

-- Please help me; we could really use your cooperation and we are interested in what you think.

#### A. Gender (BY OBSERVATION)

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

RL1. Are you currently registered to vote at the address where you now live?

- |   |                          |                   |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Yes                      | <b>GO TO RL2</b>  |
| 2 | No                       | <b>SKIP TO B1</b> |
| 9 | (VOL) Don't Know/Refused | <b>SKIP TO B1</b> |

RL2. As you may know, there will be an election for governor of New Jersey this fall, November of 2005. How much interest do you have in the upcoming gubernatorial election – a lot, some, a little, or none at all (T)?

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

RL3. In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people are not able to vote because they are sick or they just do not have the time. How likely would you say you are to vote in the upcoming election for Governor in November, 2005 –very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, not at all likely (T)?

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

RL4. Did you vote in the 2001 gubernatorial election?

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

G1. If the election for governor were held today, for whom would you vote (ROTATE) Jon Corzine, the Democrat, Doug Forrester, the Republican, or some other candidate for Governor (T)?

- |   |                                    |                   |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Corzine                            | <b>GOTO Q.G2</b>  |
| 2 | Forrester                          | <b>GOTO Q.G2</b>  |
| 3 | Other candidate                    | <b>GOTO Q.G1a</b> |
| 8 | (VOL) Wouldn't vote                | <b>GOTO Q. G3</b> |
| 9 | (VOL) Don't know/Refused/UNDECIDED | <b>GOTO Q.G1a</b> |

G1a. At this moment do you lean more towards (ROTATE) Corzine or more towards Forrester (T)?

- |   |                          |                   |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Corzine                  | <b>GOTO Q.G2</b>  |
| 2 | Forrester                | <b>GOTO Q.G2</b>  |
| 8 | (VOL) NEITHER/UNDECIDED  | <b>GOTO Q. G3</b> |
| 9 | (VOL) Don't know/Refused | <b>GOTO Q. G3</b> |

G2. Are you very sure about voting for [FILL NAME – Q.G1/Q.G1a]; or might you change your mind before Election Day (T)?

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Very sure                |
| 2 | Might change             |
| 9 | (VOL) Don't know/Refused |

G3. Which would you say is more important to you in deciding whom to support in the Gubernatorial election – (ROTATE) the candidates' positions on the issues, OR the candidates' personal qualities?

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Positions on issues     |
| 2 | Personal qualities      |
| 3 | (VOL) Both              |
| 4 | (VOL) Neither           |
| 5 | (VOL) Other             |
| 9 | (VOL)Don't know/Refused |

## **Political Figures**

**[CATI: ROTATE Q.PF1-PF2; DO NOT ROTATE PF3-PF4]**

PF1. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of JON CORZINE [IF FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE, ASK: Would you say you have a STRONGLY favorable/unfavorable opinion or a SOMEWHAT favorable/unfavorable opinion] [If you haven't heard of him or don't have an opinion of him, just tell me and we'll move on] ?

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Strongly favorable   |
| 2 | Somewhat favorable   |
| 3 | Somewhat unfavorable |
| 4 | Strongly unfavorable |
| 5 | Haven't heard of     |
| 6 | No opinion           |

9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

PF2. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of DOUG FORRESTER [IF FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE, ASK: Would you say you have a STRONGLY favorable/unfavorable opinion or a SOMEWHAT favorable/unfavorable opinion] [If you haven't heard of him or don't have an opinion of him, just tell me and we'll move on]?

- 1 Strongly favorable
- 2 Somewhat favorable
- 3 Somewhat unfavorable
- 4 Strongly unfavorable
- 5 Haven't heard of
- 6 No opinion
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

PF3. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of RICHARD CODEY [IF FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE, ASK: Would you say you have a STRONGLY favorable/unfavorable opinion or a SOMEWHAT favorable/unfavorable opinion] [If you haven't heard of him or don't have an opinion of him, just tell me and we'll move on]?

- 1 Strongly favorable
- 2 Somewhat favorable
- 3 Somewhat unfavorable
- 4 Strongly unfavorable
- 5 Haven't heard of
- 6 No opinion
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

PF4. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of JAMES MCREEVEY [IF FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE, ASK: Would you say you have a STRONGLY favorable/unfavorable opinion or a SOMEWHAT favorable/unfavorable opinion] [If you haven't heard of him or don't have an opinion of him, just tell me and we'll move on]?

- 1 Strongly favorable
- 2 Somewhat favorable
- 3 Somewhat unfavorable
- 4 Strongly unfavorable
- 5 Haven't heard of
- 6 No opinion
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

HE1. If Richard Codey had run as the Democratic candidate against Doug Forrester, the Republican candidate, in the upcoming election for governor, for whom would you vote (ROTATE) Codey or Forrester?

- 1 Codey
- 2 Forrester
- 3 (VOL) Neither
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

HE2. If James McGreevey had run as the Democratic candidate against Doug Forrester, the Republican candidate, in the upcoming election for governor, for whom would you vote [ROTATE] McGreevey or Forrester?

- 1 McGreevey
- 2 Forrester
- 3 (VOL) Neither
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

MP1. Now I'm going to read to you a list of issues that the next Governor of New Jersey may address. Which one of the following issues should be the top priority for the next Governor to address (T)?

**[READ AND ROTATE]**

- 1 Dealing with the state's budget crisis
- 2 Improving the quality of education
- 3 Protecting the state from terrorist attacks
- 4 Reducing property taxes
- 5 Increasing access to quality healthcare
- 6 Eliminating corruption among state elected officials
- 7 (VOL) None of the above
- 8 (VOL) Other (specify)
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

**[CATI: READ AND ROTATE CA1A-CA1F]**

CA1A. Regardless of which candidate for governor you support, which one of the candidates, (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2), do you think would do the best job of dealing with the state's budget crisis? [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

- 1 Jon Corzine
- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 None of the above (DO NOT READ)
- 4 All the same/equal (DO NOT READ)

9 Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

CA1B. Regardless of which candidate for governor you support, which one of the candidates, (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2) do you think would do the best job of improving the quality of education? [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

- 1 Jon Corzine
- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 None of the above (DO NOT READ)
- 4 All the same/equal (DO NOT READ)
- 9 Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

CA1C. Regardless of which candidate for governor you support, which one of the candidates, (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2) do you think would do the best job of protecting the state from terrorist attacks? [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

- 1 Jon Corzine
- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 None of the above (DO NOT READ)
- 4 All the same/equal (DO NOT READ)
- 9 Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

CA1D. Regardless of which candidate for governor you support, which one of the candidates, (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2), do you think would do the best job of reducing property taxes? [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

- 1 Jon Corzine
- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 None of the above (DO NOT READ)
- 4 All the same/equal (DO NOT READ)
- 9 Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

CA1E. Regardless of which candidate for governor you support, which one of the candidates, (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2), do you think would do the best job of increasing access to healthcare? [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

- 1 Jon Corzine
- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 None of the above (DO NOT READ)
- 4 All the same/equal (DO NOT READ)
- 9 Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

CA1F. Regardless of which candidate for governor you support, which one of the candidates, (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2), do you think would do the best job of eliminating corruption among state elected officials? [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

- 1 Jon Corzine
- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 None of the above (DO NOT READ)
- 4 All the same/equal (DO NOT READ)
- 9 Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)

**[ROTATE (PT1/PT2) and (PT3/PT4)]**

PT1. Have you heard or read anything about Jon Corzine's plan to reduce the property tax burden on homeowners?

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

**(Ask PT2 only if PT1=1)**

PT2. Does the property tax plan make you more likely to vote for Jon Corzine for governor, less likely to vote for him, or doesn't it make a difference?

- 1 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 3 Doesn't make a difference
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

PT3. Have you heard or read anything about Doug Forrester's plan to reduce the property tax burden on homeowners?

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

**(Ask PT4 only if PT3=1)**

PT4. Does the property tax plan make you more likely to vote for Doug Forrester for governor, less likely to vote for him, or doesn't it make a difference?

- 1 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 3 Doesn't make a difference
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

**[CATI: ROTATE CP1 and CP2]**

CP1. From what you have read or heard, do you think Jon Corzine has been ethical in his financial dealings?

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

CP2. From what you have read or heard, do you think Doug Forrester has been ethical in his financial dealings?

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

**[CATI: ROTATE CP3 and CP4]**

CP3. From what you have read or heard, do you think special interest groups would or would not have too much influence on John Corzine if he is elected governor?

- 1 Would
- 2 Would not
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

CP4. From what you have read or heard, do you think special interest groups would or would not have too much influence on Doug Forrester if he is elected governor?

- 1 Would
- 2 Would not
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

**[CATI: ROTATE (SC1/SC2) and (SC3/SC4)]**



SC1. Have you heard or read anything about Jon Corzine converting a mortgage loan into a gift for an ex-girlfriend who is also president of a labor union that represents state workers?

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

**(Ask SC2 only if SC1=1)**

SC2. Does this information make you more likely to vote for Jon Corzine for governor, less likely to vote for him, or doesn't it make a difference?

- 1 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 3 Doesn't make a difference
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

SC3. Have you heard or read anything about **legal issues** involving Doug Forrester's company, BeneCard, and an affiliated insurance company in Washington?

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

**(Ask SC4 only if SC3=1)**

SC4. Does this information make you more likely to vote for Doug Forrester for governor, less likely to vote for him, or doesn't it make a difference?

- 1 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 3 Doesn't make a difference
- 9 Don't Know / Refused (DO NOT READ)

## **Bush**

B1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President (T)?

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

**Disaster Response**

DR1. How confident are you that the federal government will respond effectively if a disaster strikes New Jersey?

- 1 Very confident
- 2 Somewhat confident
- 3 Not confident at all
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/No response

**September 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

T1. Much has happened over the last four years, with the attacks on the country and the government's reactions. Do you feel more secure than you were before the attacks, less secure, or is there no difference (T)?

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

T2. 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 (T)?

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

T3. In general, has the war on terrorism been a success or a failure (T)?

- 1 A success
- 2 A failure
- 3 (VOL) Too soon to tell
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

**Immigration**

IM1. Do you think the Bush administration has succeeded in making it harder for immigrants to enter the United States illegally since the September 11 terrorist attacks?

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

GP1. Do you have a car?

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

**SKIP TO PD1**  
**SKIP TO PD1**

**[CATI: READ AND ROTATE GP2A-GP2F]**

GP2A. Has the price of gasoline prompted you to use mass transit more often?

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

GP2B. Has the price of gasoline prompted you to cut down on weekend or vacation travel by car?

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

GP2C. Has the price of gasoline prompted you to carpool with others to work or school?

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

GP2D. Has the price of gasoline prompted you to purchase items online more often?

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

GP2E. Has the price of gasoline prompted you to actively look for a car or truck that gets higher gas mileage?

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

GP2F. Has the price of gasoline prompted you to attend entertainment or sports events less often?

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

GP2G. Has the price of gasoline prompted you to cut back household spending on other things?

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

GP3. Do you personally feel there is a real shortage of energy or do you think the oil companies are holding back on oil and gasoline?

- 1 Real crisis
- 2 Oil companies holding back
- 3 (VOL) Both
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

GP4. These days, do you usually comparison shop between gas stations for the lowest price on gasoline, even if that means going out of your way, or do you usually buy gasoline from the stations that are most convenient to you, even if that means paying a bit more?

- 1 Comparison shop
- 2 Most convenient
- 3 (VOL) Both
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

PD1. Do you think prescription drug companies do a good job or bad job serving their consumers?

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

P1. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else (T)?

- |   |                            |                  |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Democrat                   | <b>ASK Q.P1a</b> |
| 2 | Republican                 | <b>ASK Q.P1a</b> |
| 3 | Independent                | <b>ASK Q.P1b</b> |
| 4 | Something Else / Other     | <b>ASK Q.P1b</b> |
| 9 | (VOL) Don't Know / Refused | <b>ASK Q.P1b</b> |

P1a. Would you call yourself a strong (DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN), or a not so strong (DEMOCRAT / REPUBLICAN) (T)?

- |   |                      |                  |
|---|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Strong               | <b>GOTO Q.D1</b> |
| 2 | Not Strong           | <b>GOTO Q.D1</b> |
| 9 | Don't Know / Refused | <b>GOTO Q.D1</b> |

P1b. Do you lean more toward the Democratic Party or more toward the Republican Party (T)?

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Democratic party           |
| 2 | Republican party           |
| 3 | (VOL) OTHER PARTY          |
| 4 | (VOL) NEITHER              |
| 9 | (VOL) Don't Know / Refused |

D1. 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 |

D2. What was the last grade in school you completed?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8TH GRADE OR LESS                                   |
| 2 | HIGH SCHOOL INCOMPLETE (GRADES 9, 10 AND 11)        |
| 3 | HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETE (GRADE 12)                     |
| 4 | VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOL                         |
| 5 | SOME COLLEGE  |
| 6 | JUNIOR COLLEGE GRADUATE (2 YEAR, ASSOCIATES DEGREE) |
| 7 | 4 YEAR COLLEGE GRADUATE (BACHELOR'S DEGREE)         |
| 8 | GRADUATE WORK (MASTERS, LAW/MEDICAL SCHOOL, ETC.)   |
| 9 | (VOL) Don't know/Refused                            |

D3. What was your age on your last birthday?

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

D3a. [IF DK/REFUSED IN D4, ASK:] Is it between...?

- 1 18 - 20
- 2 21 - 24
- 3 25 - 29
- 4 THIRTIES (30 - 39)
- 5 FORTIES (40 - 49)
- 6 FIFTIES (50 - 59)
- 7 60 - 64
- 8 65 OR OVER
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

D4. 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

D5. Are you white, black or of Asian origin?

- 1 White
- 2 Black
- 3 Asian
- 4 (VOL) Hispanic / Latino
- 5 (VOL) OTHER, SPECIFY: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

D6. How many DIFFERENT telephone numbers for incoming calls reach this household This does not include cell phones, or lines used ONLY for fax machines and computers And not extensions either, just different numbers that I could have dialed and reached you on. [IF NECESSARY: We need to know how hard or easy it is to reach people]?

- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four or more
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

D7. Including yourself, how many adults age 18 or over live in your household?

- 1 One

- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four
- 5 Five
- 6 Six
- 7 Seven
- 8 Eight or more
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused

D8. 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

**(ASK IF D8=4)**

D8a. Is your total family income before taxes over \$200,000?

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

D9. 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 (DO NOT READ) Don't Know / Refused |               |             |

**[CATI: ASK D10 AND D11 OF REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY]**

D10. 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 [IF YES, ASK: Could I please have just your first name]?

- 1 YES -----> RECORD NAME: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 NO

D11. And would you like to participate in other polls that we may be conducting using the Internet [IF Yes, ASK, May I have your email address]?

1. Yes >>>> Record email address: \_\_\_\_\_
2. No/No email or internet access