

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

OCT. 3-6, 2005 (#156)

Survey of New Jersey Residents, 18+ (**n = 800 Registered Voters**)

Final Draft: September 29, 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 | GO TO RL2 |
| 2 | No | SKIP TO B1 |
| 9 | (VOL) Don't Know/Refused | SKIP TO B1 |

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. Do you think you will definitely vote, probably vote, probably NOT vote, or definitely not vote in the election for Governor (T from 2001)?

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Definitely will |
| 2 | Probably will |
| 3 | Probably will not |
| 4 | Definitely will not |
| 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 | GOTO Q.G2 |
| 2 | Forrester | GOTO Q.G2 |
| 3 | Other candidate, (SPECIFY): _____ | GOTO Q.G2 |
| 7 | (VOL) Wouldn't vote | (IF RL2=1 OR RL3<3, GO TO PF1/PF2; ALL OTHERS GO TO B1, Bush Job Approval) |
| 8 | (VOL) Don't know/Undecided | GOTO Q.G1a |
| 9 | (VOL) Refused | GOTO Q.G1a |

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

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Corzine | GOTO Q.G2 |
| 2 | Forrester | GOTO Q.G2 |
| 8 | (VOL) NEITHER/UNDECIDED | ((IF RL2=1 OR RL3<3, GO TO PF1/PF2; ALL OTHERS GO TO B1, Bush Job Approval) |

- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused ((IF RL2=1 OR RL3<3, GO TO PF1/PF2; ALL OTHERS GO TO B1, Bush Job Approval)

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

[CATI: ASK THE FOLLOWING IF RL2=1 OR RL3<3; ALL OTHERS SKIP TO B1, BUSH JOB APPROVAL]

[CATI: ROTATE Q.PF1-PF2]

PF1. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jon Corzine. If you haven't heard of him or don't have an opinion of him, just tell me and we'll move on (T).

- 1 Favorable
2 Unfavorable
3 Haven't heard of
4 No opinion
9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

PF2. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Doug Forrester. If you haven't heard of him or don't have an opinion of him, just tell me and we'll move on (T).

- 1 Favorable
2 Unfavorable
3 Haven't heard of
4 No opinion
9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

Issues

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

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) (T)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

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

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) (T)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

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

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) (T)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

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

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) (T)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

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

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 quality healthcare? [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2) (T)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

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

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) (T)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

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

[ROTATE Q. C1 and C2]

C1. Do you think Doug Forrester does or does not understand the problems of people like you?

- 1 Does understand
- 2 Does not understand
- 3 (VOL) Don't know
- 4 (VOL) Refused

C2. Do you think Jon Corzine does or does not understand the problems of people like you?

- 1 Does understand
- 2 Does not understand
- 3 (VOL) Don't know
- 4 (VOL) Refused

[CATI: ROTATE BU1/BU2 AND MC1/MC2]

BU1. How closely do you associate Republican Doug Forrester with the policies and actions of the administration of President George W. Bush?

- 1 Very closely **GOTO Q. BU2**
- 2 Somewhat closely **GOTO Q. BU2**
- 3 Not closely at all **GOTO Q. MC1**
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused **GOTO Q. MC1**

BU2. Do you consider this a positive or negative for Forrester?

- 1 Positive
- 2 Negative
- 3 Neither
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know /Refused

MC1. How closely do you associate Democrat Jon Corzine with the policies and actions of the administration of former Governor James McGreevey?

- 1 Very closely **GOTO Q. MC2**
- 2 Somewhat closely **GOTO MC2**
- 3 Not closely at all **GOTO CA1**
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused **GOTO CA1**

MC2. Do you consider this a positive or negative for Corzine?

- 1 Positive
- 2 Negative
- 3 Neither
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know /Refused

CA1A. Just relying on your sense of the personal qualities of the candidates, and not their party labels, which one of the candidates (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2), would you prefer to have as your boss at work [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

- 1 Jon Corzine
- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 (VOL) Neither
- 4 (VOL) Both
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

CA1B. Just relying on your sense of the personal qualities of the candidates, and not their party labels, which one of the candidates (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2), would you prefer to have over for dinner [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

- 1 Jon Corzine
- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 (VOL) Neither
- 4 (VOL) Both
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

CA1C. Just relying on your sense of the personal qualities of the candidates, and not their party labels, which one of the candidates (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2), would you prefer to have coach your child, or a child you know, in sports [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

- 1 Jon Corzine
- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 (VOL) Neither
- 4 (VOL) Both
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

CA1D. Just relying on your sense of the personal qualities of the candidates, and not their party labels, which one of the candidates (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2), would you prefer to manage your family finances [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

- 1 Jon Corzine

- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 (VOL) Neither
- 4 (VOL) Both
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

CA1E. Just relying on your sense of the personal qualities of the candidates, and not their party labels, which one of the candidates (ROTATE AND READ OPTIONS #1-2), would you prefer to join you at a sports or entertainment event [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)?

ANSWER CHOICES:

- 1 Jon Corzine
- 2 Doug Forrester
- 3 (VOL) Neither
- 4 (VOL) Both
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

Taxes

[CATI: ROTATE (PT1-PT1a) and (PT3-PT3a)]

PT1. Have you heard or read anything about Jon Corzine's plan to reduce property tax bills for homeowners (T)?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No **GOTO Q. PT3**
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused **GOTO Q. PT3**

PT1a. Do you think Jon Corzine has or has not adequately explained how to pay for that plan?

- 1 Jon Corzine HAS adequately explained how to pay for that plan
- 2 Jon Corzine HAS NOT adequately explained how to pay for that plan
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

PT3. Have you heard or read anything about Doug Forrester's plan to reduce property tax bills for homeowners (T)?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No **GOTO Q. B1**
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused **GOTO Q. B1**

PT3a. Do you think Doug Forrester has or has not adequately explained how to pay for that plan?

- 1 Doug Forrester HAS adequately explained how to pay for that plan
- 2 Doug Forrester HAS NOT adequately explained how to pay for that plan
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

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

B2. Overall, do you think George Bush is up to the job of being president, or do you have some serious doubts about his ability (T from 2002)?

- 1 Up to the job
- 2 Doubts about his ability
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused / UNDECIDED / BOTH

General tax questions

TX1. There is talk of having the candidates for governor take a pledge not to raise taxes during their administration. Which position would you prefer most in a candidate: (READ AND ROTATE RESPONSE CATEGORIES)

- 1 An absolute pledge not to raise taxes, even if it means deep spending cuts to balance the state budget
- 2 A pledge to do everything possible not to raise taxes, with a tax increase only after all other options fail
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

TX2. Do you believe the state can or cannot substantially reduce the LOCAL property tax burden without raising state taxes or cutting important services?

- 1 The state CAN substantially reduce the local property tax burden without raising state taxes or cutting important services
- 2 The state CANNOT substantially reduce the local property tax burden without raising state taxes or cutting important services
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

PT5. In thinking about plans to provide property tax relief, should the relief be targeted only to households with annual incomes of less than \$200,000, or should the relief be provided to all households?

- 1 Households with annual incomes of less than \$200,000
- 2 All households
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

Transportation Trust Fund

RD1. The state is looking for ways to raise money for the Transportation Trust Fund, which pays for improvements to highways, bridges and mass transit Which of the following options would you most support (ROTATE RESPONSES 1-2)?

- 1 An increase in the state gasoline tax
- 2 Selling or leasing the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway
- 3 Do not add any more money to the Transportation Trust Fund
- 7 (VOL) Increase another state tax, such as sales tax or income tax
- 8 (VOL)None of the above
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

Smoking Ban

[CATI: ROTATE Q. SM1-SM3]

SM1. Do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in restaurants?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

SM2. Do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in bars?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

SM3. Do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in casinos?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

SM4. Which of the following best describes you?

- 1 I am a cigarette smoker
- 2 I am a former cigarette smoker, but I do not smoke now
- 3 I have never smoked cigarettes
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

Schools Construction Corp.

SCH. A court order requires New Jersey to pay to repair and rebuild schools in thirty-one poor school districts. The state's six-billion-dollar program to do that ran out of money after funding fewer than half of the planned projects. In your opinion, should the state

- 1 Find a way to raise enough money to finish the building program
- 2 Continue the program but require school districts to share the costs
- 3 Put no more money into the program
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

Lieutenant Governor

LG. Do you think New Jersey should or should not have an elected lieutenant governor to take over if the governor leaves office before the end of the term?

- 1 New Jersey SHOULD have an elected lieutenant governor
- 2 New Jersey SHOULD NOT have an elected lieutenant governor
- 3 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

Partisanship

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

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

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something Else / Other
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

Demographics

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

[CATI: ASK THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS – RL3a, RL4 AND RL5 – ONLY IF RL2=1 OR RL3<3; ALL OTHERS SKIP TO D2, LAST GRADE IN SCHOOL COMPLETED]

RL3a. Do you happen to know where people who live in your neighborhood go to vote-- IF "YES", PROBE: Where is that?

- 1 Yes, names location
- 2 Yes, but does not name location
- 3 No
- 9 (VOL) Don't know / Refused

RL4. Did you vote in the 2001 gubernatorial election?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 (VOL) Not eligible to vote in 2001 due to age or living outside of New Jersey
- 9 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused

RL5. Did you vote in the 2004 presidential election?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 (VOL) Not eligible to vote in 2004 due to age
- 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

D7a. Do you have a child or children who currently attend public school in New Jersey?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 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 \$200,000 or more?

- 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 (VOL) Don't Know / Refused | | |

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