
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll February 19-22, 2010

Sample: 900 New Jersey adults ages 18 and older

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____. I'm conducting an Eagleton Poll 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: [IF NEW PERSON] Hello, my name is _____. I'm conducting an Eagleton Poll for **RUTGERS** University.

Your participation is important as only 900 residents have been selected to take part in this study. This will take about 10 minutes and your answers are anonymous. Anonymous means we will not collect any information that could be used to identify you. Your participation is voluntary, you may end your participation at any time, and you may skip questions you do not want to answer. May I ask the first question?

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 900 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.

Perceptions of Leadership/State of the World

Q1. First, I'd like to ask about some people and organizations. Please tell me if your general impression of each one is favorable or unfavorable, or if you do not have an opinion. First, [next]:

[REMIND ON RESPONSE OPTIONS ONLY AS NEEDED: Is your general impression favorable or unfavorable, or do you have no opinion?]

[ROTATE Q1A – Q1E NAMES]

- Q1A. President Barack Obama
- Q1B. Sarah Palin
- Q1C. Governor Chris Christie
- Q1D. Senator Frank Lautenberg [LOT EN BERG]
- Q1E. Senator Robert Menendez [MEN EN DEZ]

[END ROTATE]

[ROTATE Q1F-Q1H]

- Q1F. Democrats in Congress
- Q1G. Republicans in Congress
- Q1H. The Tea Party movement

[END ROTATE]

[Response Options for Q1A-Q1H]

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 3 No Opinion
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q2. After the election of Chris Christie as governor is the future of New Jersey better, about the same, or worse than it was?

- 1 Better
- 2 About the same
- 3 Worse
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q3. Governor Christie has promised sweeping changes to cut taxes, increase government efficiency, and fix the budget deficit. Do you think it is very likely, somewhat likely, or not at all likely that he can accomplish what he plans?

- 1 Very Likely
- 2 Somewhat Likely
- 3 Not at all Likely
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q4. Do you agree with Governor Christie that the state income tax rate should be cut for those making more than \$400,000 a year?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Obama is handling his job?

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

Q6. Obama's campaign slogan was "change we can believe in". Now a year later, are things in Washington are changing too quickly, too slowly, or at about the right speed?

- 1 Too quickly
- 2 Too slowly
- 3 About right
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Voting/Tea Party Support

Q7. In the 2008 presidential election did you vote for Barack Obama, John McCain, someone else, or did you not vote?

- 1 Obama
- 2 McCain
- 4 Someone else
- 5 Did Not Vote
- 8 Don't Know

9 Refused

Q8. And in the election for New Jersey Governor did you vote for Chris Christie, Jon Corzine, Chris Daggett, someone else, or did you not vote?

- 1 Christie
- 2 Corzine
- 3 Daggett
- 4 Someone else
- 5 Did not vote
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[SPLIT SAMPLE, RANDOM ASSIGN TO EITHER 9A or 9B]

Q9A. There will be an election for U.S. Congress in November. If the election were today would you vote for the Republican, the Democrat, someone else, or would you not vote?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 Someone Else [Specify] _____
- 4 Not vote
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q9B. There will be an election for U.S. Congress in November. If the election were today would you vote for your current Congressman, a challenger running against him, or would you not vote?

- 1 Current Congressman
- 2 Challenger
- 4 Not vote
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[END SPLIT SAMPLE]

Q9B2 Is your current Congressman a Democrat, a Republican, or are you not sure?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Not Sure
- 9 Refused

[SPLIT SAMPLE, RANDOM ASSIGN TO EITHER 10A or 10B]

Q10A How likely are you to support the Tea Party Movement by doing things like volunteering or attending a rally? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, or not at all likely?

- 1 Very Likely
- 2 Somewhat Likely
- 4 Not at all likely
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q10B Regardless of your party affiliation, do you consider yourself a supporter of the tea party movement, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[END SPLIT SAMPLE]

Anger towards government and corporations

[SPLIT SAMPLE. RANDOM HALF ASSIGNED TO EACH VERSION]

[VERSION A]

Next, I'd like to ask you if you mostly trust the following groups and people. First, do you mostly trust [insert], yes or no? Next...

[ROTATE Q11A1-11J1]

- Q11A1 Wall Street
- Q11B1 Large banks
- Q11C1 Community banks
- Q11D1 Large corporations
- Q11E1 Labor unions
- Q11F1 Republicans
- Q11G1 The Government in Washington
- Q11H1 State government in Trenton
- Q11I 1 Your local government
- Q11J1 Democrats
- Q11K1 The Tea Party Movement

[Response options for Q11A1-Q11J1]

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Depends (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[VERSION B]

Next, I'd like to ask you if the actions of the following groups and people make you feel angry. First, does/do) [insert] make you angry, yes or no? Next...

[ROTATE Q11A2-Q11J2]

- Q11A2 Wall Street
- Q11B2 Large banks
- Q11C2 Community banks
- Q11D2 Large corporations
- Q11E2 Labor unions
- Q11F2 Republicans
- Q11G2 The Government in Washington
- Q11H2 State government in Trenton
- Q11I 2 Your local government
- Q11J2 Democrats
- Q11K2 The Tea Party Movement

[Response options for Q11A2-Q11J2]

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Depends (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[END SPLIT SAMPLE]

Q12. Here is a list of problems facing many Americans. Please tell me how much each worries you personally. Is it a lot, a little, or not at all?

[ROTATE Q12A-Q12D]

- Q12A Availability of good housing
- Q12B Credit card debt

- Q12C Health insurance coverage
 Q12D Availability of a good job
 Q12E Saving for retirement

[Response Options]

- 1 A lot
 2 A little
 3 Not at all
 8 Don't Know
 9 Refused

Q13 For each of the following, tell me if you agree or disagree with the statement. First,

[ROTATE Q13A-Q13G]

- Q13A The Obama administration is un-American.
 Q13B President Obama is a socialist.
 Q13C The financial bailout was a good use of taxpayer money.
 Q13D Americans lack personal fiscal responsibility.
 Q13E President Obama is disconnected from people like me.
 Q13F Our country used to stand for something; it doesn't anymore.
 Q13G Government should do more to help middle class people.

[Response Options]

- 1 Agree
 2 Disagree
 8 Don't Know
 9 Refused

Feeling of control and efficacy

Q14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

[ROTATE Q14A-Q14B]

Q14A. Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on.

Q14B. People like me don't have any say about what the government does.

[Response Options]

- 1 Agree

- 2 Disagree
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q15. I'm going to read three statements about political parties, and I'd like you to say which ONE you agree with MOST:

[ROTATE OPTIONS 1-3]

- 1 The current two-party system of Democrats and Republicans works reasonably well.
- 2 We need more than two political parties to give us more choice.
- 3 We need elections where candidates run as individuals, without any party labels at all.
- 8 Don't Know (Vol)
- 9 Refused (Vol)

Issues – Gay Marriage & Health Care

Q16 Let's talk about a couple issues in New Jersey today. First, some people say gay marriage should be legal in New Jersey. Others oppose legalizing gay marriage. What is your position? Do you:

- 1. Support gay marriage or
- 2. Oppose gay marriage?
- 3. Support civil unions and oppose gay marriage (VOL)
- 8 Don't Know (Vol)
- 9 Refused (Vol)

Q17 Now, thinking about the health care system, does it work well enough as it is, or does it need to be changed?

- 1 Works well as is
- 2 Needs to be changed
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q18 Is it worth the risk to make changes in the health care system, or is change too risky?

- 1 Worth the risk
- 2 Too risky
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q19 If it comes down to these two choices should Congress: [READ OPTIONS 1 and 2]

- 1 Pass the health care bill as it is, or
- 2 Start over and come up with a new health care bill.
- 8 Don't Know (Vol)
- 9 Refused (Vol)

Q20 How important is the issue of health care reform to you personally? Is it:

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important, or
- 3 Not too important
- 8 Don't Know (Vol)
- 9 Refused (Vol)

Demographics

We're almost finished. We have just a few more questions to help us understand our survey results.

Q21. Are you currently registered to vote?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q22. Thinking about politics, do you consider yourself to be liberal, conservative, or middle of the road?

- 1. Liberal
- 2. Conservative
- 3. Middle of the road
- 4. Other (VOL)
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q23. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Independent

- 4 Something Else / Other
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

[IF Q23 IS 3, 4, 8, or 9 ASK Q23A; OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q24]

Q23A. Do you lean more toward the Democratic Party or more toward the Republican Party?

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

Q24. What was the last grade in school you completed? **[CODE TO LIST]**

- 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 Refused

Q25. How often do you attend church, synagogue, or other worship services: at least once a week, almost every week, about once a month, seldom or never?

- 1 At least once a week
- 2 Almost every week
- 3 About once a month
- 4 Seldom
- 5 Never
- 8 Don't Know (Vol)
- 9 Refused

Q26. Are you Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, atheist or agnostic?

- 1 Catholic

- 2 Protestant
- 3 Jewish
- 4 Muslim
- 5 Some other religion
- 6 Atheist
- 7 Agnostic
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[IF Q26 is 1, 2, 8, or 9 ASK Q26A OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q27]

Q26A. Would you describe yourself as a born again or evangelical Christian?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q27. What is your current employment status? Are you:

- 1 Employed full time
- 2 Employed part time
- 3 Laid off from a job
- 4 A homemaker or stay at home parent
- 5 Retired
- 6 A student
- 7 Not Employed
- 8 Disabled
- 9 Refused (Vol)

Q28. Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refuse

Q29. In addition to being American, what racial or ethnic group or groups best describes you?

[OPEN ENDED, CODE TO RESPONSE, ALLOW MULTIPLE MENTIONS]

- 1 Asian
- 2 Black (African American)

- 3 Native American
- 4 Hispanic or Latino
- 5 White
- 6 Other [SPECIFY _____]
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q30. What is your age?

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

[IF DK/REFUSED IN Q30, ASK:]

Q30A. 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 Refused (VOL)

Q31. Last year, that is in 2009, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **[READ LIST]**

- 1 Less than \$10,000
- 2 10 to under \$20,000
- 3 20 to under \$30,000
- 4 30 to under \$40,000
- 5 40 to under \$50,000
- 6 50 to under \$75,000
- 7 75 to under \$100,000
- 8 100 to under \$150,000
- 9 \$150,000 or more
- 10 [VOL. – DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused

Q32. What is your zipcode?

- _____ Enter Zipcode
- 8 Don't know (Vol.)
- 9 Refused (Vol.)

Q33. Gender (BY OBSERVATION)

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

Closing and Additional Informed Consent Language

That completes our survey. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. If you have any questions you may contact Dr. David Redlawsk (*pronounced RED-losk*) at 732-932-9384. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the administrator of the Institutional Review Board at Rutgers University at: 732-932-0150, ext. 2104. Have a good day/evening.