

Attachment 7
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll March 31-April 3, 2010
Sample: **950** 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 950 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 950 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.

Evaluations

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

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

[ROTATE]

- Q1A. Governor Chris Christie
- Q1B. Democrats in Trenton
- Q1C. Republicans in Trenton

[END ROTATE]

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

Budget Module

EP 158

Q2. How much have you heard or read about Governor Christie's proposed state budget? Is it:

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 A little, or
- 4 Nothing at all → **SKIP TO Q8**
- 8 Don't know (Vol)
- 9 Refused (Vol)

Q3. Were you able to watch or listen to the Governor's budget speech a couple weeks ago, even just part of it?

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know/Don't Remember (Vol)
- 9 Refused (Vol)

Q4. Overall are you very pleased, somewhat pleased, somewhat displeased or very displeased with the Governor's proposed budget?

- 1 Very pleased
- 2 Somewhat pleased
- 3 Somewhat displeased
- 4 Very displeased
- 8 Don't know (Vol)
- 9 Refused (Vol)

EP 158

Q5. How much do you think Christie's proposed spending cuts will affect you – a great deal, some, very little, or not at all?

- 1 A great deal
- 2 Some
- 3 Very little
- 4 Not at all
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q6. 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

[SPLIT BALLOT – RANDOM ASSIGN ½ TO EACH VERSION]

[VERSION A]

Q7A. The Governor also proposed a constitutional amendment limiting property tax increases to two and a half percent per year. Would you support such a constitutional amendment?

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

[VERSION B]

Q7B. The Governor also proposed a constitutional amendment limiting property tax increases to two and a half percent per year. Massachusetts passed a similar law in the 1980's which some say resulted in closing fire stations, libraries, and senior centers, and cuts in school programs. Would you support such a constitutional amendment even if it had those effects?

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

[END SPLIT BALLOT]

EP87

Q8 To balance the state budget, some government services will be cut deeper and some will be cut less. For each of the following, tell me if it should be cut deeper, less, or not cut at all.

[ROTATE]

- Q8A Environmental programs
- Q8B Programs for the poor
- Q8D Colleges and universities
- Q8E Public transportation
- Q8F State aid to schools
- Q8G State aid to local government
- Q8H Property tax rebates

- 1 More
- 2 Less
- 3 Not at all
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q9 Some state taxes or fees might have to be raised to balance the budget. For each tell if you would support or oppose an increase.

[ROTATE]

- Q9A Highway tolls

- Q9B The gas tax
- Q9C The state income tax
- Q9D Business taxes
- Q9E Fares on trains and buses

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends (VOL)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q10. Do you think there should be more, fewer, or about the same number of women in high-level political offices in New Jersey, such as governor or member of Congress as there are now?

- 1 More
- 2 Fewer
- 3 Same
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q11. Do you support or oppose the health care bill that was recently passed in Washington?

- 1 Support → **SKIP TO Q12**
- 2 Oppose
- 8 Don't know → **SKIP to Q12**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP to Q12**

Q11A. Do you oppose that legislation because you think its approach toward health care is too liberal, or because you think it is not liberal enough?

- 1 Too liberal
- 2 Not liberal enough
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Local Government and Consolidation Module

Q12. Let's talk about your local municipality. By this, I mean the city, borough, or township in which you currently live. First, what municipality do you live in?

[OPEN ENDED – RECORD]

Q13. What is the MOST important service you rely on your local government to provide? Just tell me in a word or two.

[OPEN ENDED – CODE TO LIST]

- 1 Police (incl. public safety)
- 2 Fire and/or Rescue services (incl. ambulance)
- 3 Schools
- 4 Roads (incl. building/maintaining roads)
- 5 Library
- 6 Senior services
- 7 Parks and/or Recreation
- 8 Social Services (NOT including senior)
- 9 Public health (health department, health inspection)
- 10 Development (building inspection, planning, zoning)
- 11 Garbage Pickup/Recycling
- 12 Other [Specify]
- 13 Don't Know
- 14 Refused

Q14 Which ONE place do you most often look for information about your local government? Is it:

[READ AND ROTATE ORDER]

- 1 Online
- 2 By telephone
- 3 In the newspaper
- 4 On TV
- 5 In a community newsletter
- 6 At your local library
- 7 From friends or neighbors
- 8 Other (VOL) [Specify]
- 9 Don't Know (Vol)
- 10 Refused (Vol)

Q15. Thinking now about the number of school districts in New Jersey, do you think there are too many, too few, or just the right number?

- 1 Too many
- 2 Too Few
- 3 Just right
- 8 Don't Know

9 Refused

Q16. How about municipal governments in New Jersey, do you think there are too many, too few, or just the right number?

- 1 Too many
- 2 Too Few
- 3 Just right
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q17. Some people have suggested consolidating multiple communities under one local government.

Do you think consolidation would make local government more or less efficient, or would it not change much?

- 1 More efficient
- 2 Less efficient
- 3 Not much change
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

EP 87

Q18. Would you prefer to have your own local government or would you support consolidation with a neighboring town?

- 1 Prefer Own
- 2 Support Consolidation →SKIP TO Q20
- 3 Already has consolidation (Vol) →SKIP TO Q20
- 4 Depends (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[SPLIT BALLOT – RANDOM ASSIGNMENT TO VERSION A/B]

[VERSION A]

Q19A. If consolidation guaranteed at least a 10% cut in property taxes, would you support it, or would you still prefer your own local government?

- 1 Support Consolidation

- 2 Prefer Own
- 3 Already has consolidation (Vol)
- 4 Depends (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q19B. If consolidation guaranteed at least a 20% cut in property taxes would you support it, or would you still prefer your own local government ?

- 1 Support Consolidation
- 2 Prefer Own
- 3 Already has consolidation (Vol)
- 4 Depends (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[END SPLIT BALLOT]

EP 117

Q20. Do you think the quality of local services would get better, get worse, or stay about the same with consolidation?

- 1 Get better
- 2 Get worse
- 3 Stay the same
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q21. To cut costs and help solve local budget problems, should New Jersey:

- Q21A Make it easier to fire municipal workers? [Just tell me yes or no]
- Q21B Cut back on the number of police?
- Q21C Lay off some school teachers?
- Q21D Cut back on assistance to the poor?

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

New Jersey Quality of Life Module
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EP 163

Q22. 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
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

EP 98a

Q23. And how much pride do you take in living in NJ – a lot, some, a little or none?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 None
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

EP 131

Q24. If you could, would you move out of your neighborhood or continue to live where you are now?

IF MOVE, ASK: Would you move to another part of your town, to another town in New Jersey, or to another state?

- 1 Continue to live in neighborhood
- 2 Move in same town
- 3 Move in New Jersey
- 4 Move to another state
- 5 Other [Vol]
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

EP 55

Q25. Please tell me, in a word or two, your most favorite thing about living in New Jersey.”

[RECORD VERBATIM]

EP 55

Q26. Please tell me, in a word or two, your least favorite thing about living in New Jersey.”

[RECORD VERBATIM]

Demographics

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

Q27. How many years have you lived in the state of New Jersey, or have you lived here all of your life?

[Record whole years, less than 1 record as 0]

98 All of my life → **SKIP TO Q28**

99 Refused

Q27A Tell me in just a couple words your reason for moving to New Jersey.

[CODE RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS]

Code any mention of:

- 1 Job/work/employment
- 2 Higher education/for School
- 3 Moved as a child/with parents
- 4 Spouse/getting married/living with someone
- 5 Quality of life/a nice place/like the state
- 6 Lower cost of living/finances/money
- 7 Caring for family or friend/caregiver/return to take care
- 8 Grew up in New Jersey/Returned
- 9 Other [Specify]
- 10 Refused

Q28. Are you currently registered to vote?

0 No

1 Yes

8 Don't Know

9 Refused

Q29. 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)

Q30. 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 Q30 IS 3, 4, 8, or 9 ASK Q30A; OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q31]

Q30A. 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)

Q31 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

Q32 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

Q33 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 Q33 is 1, 2, 8, or 9 ASK 33A OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q34]

Q33A. Would you describe yourself as a born again or evangelical Christian?

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

Q34. 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 → **SKIP TO Q35**
- 5 Retired → **SKIP TO Q35**
- 6 A student → **SKIP TO Q35**
- 7 Not Employed → **SKIP TO Q35**
- 8 Disabled → **SKIP TO Q35**
- 9 Refused (Vol) → **SKIP TO Q35**

Q34A. What is your occupation?

[OPEN ENDED, RECORD VERBATIM]

Q35. Are you a homeowner, or do you rent?

- 1 Own

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

Q36. Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

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

Q38. Are you white, black or of Asian origin?

- 1 White
- 2 Black
- 3 Asian → **SKIP TO Q40**
- 4 Hispanic / Latino (VOL) → **SKIP TO Q40**
- 5 Mixed/Multi-racial
- 6 Other [SPECIFY]

- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q39. Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Spanish background?

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

Q40. What is your age?

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

[IF DK/REFUSED IN Q40, ASK:]

Q40A. 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)

Q41. 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

Q42. 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.