



EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS
— EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST POLLING —

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll August 5-7, 2010

Sample: 1100 New Jersey REGISTERED VOTERS ages 18 and older, including 750 statewide plus 350 in NJ Congressional District 3

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 and is a registered voter.

(IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW: Then, may I speak with the **OLDEST FEMALE** age 18 or older who is now at home and is a registered voter?)

WHEN RESPONDENT ON PHONE: Hello, my name is _____. We are conducting a research study on public policy issues in New Jersey.

Your participation is important as only 1100 residents have been selected to take part in this study. This will take about 6-7 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 YES] Thanks!

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 1100 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.

S1. First, are you currently registered to vote in your community?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No → TERMINATE, "OK, thanks, we are only talking to registered voters today".

[ALL RESPONDENTS GET Q1 AND Q2 – STATEWIDE (FORM A) AND CD-3 (FORM B)]

Q1. And for our records, what is your age?

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

[IF DK/REFUSED IN Q1, ASK:]

Q1A. 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)

Q2. Next, what is your zip code?

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

[IF DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED, ASSIGN TO FORM A – STATEWIDE IF CANNOT OTHERWISE DETERMINE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT]

[FOR STATEWIDE SAMPLE IDENTIFY RESPONDENT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. IF RESPONDENT IS IN CD-3, RANDOMLY ASSIGN NOW TO EITHER THE FULL QUESTIONNAIRE (FORM A) (16.67% OF THE TIME) OR THE SHORT CD-3 QUESTIONNAIRE (FORM B) (83.33% OF THE TIME. IF RESPONDENT IS NOT IN CD-3, ASSIGN TO FORM A)]

[FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3 SAMPLE, ASSIGN TO FORM B]

[IF ASSIGNED TO FORM B SKIP TO Q12. OTHERWISE CONTINUE WITH Q3]

Perceptions of Leadership/Expectations

Q3. Thinking back to the last presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama, John McCain, some other candidate, or were you unable to vote?

- 1 Obama
- 2 McCain
- 3 Some other candidate
- 4 Unable to vote
- 8 Don't remember (Vol)
- 9 Refused

Q4. And in last year's election for New Jersey Governor, did you vote for Republican Chris Christie, Democrat Jon Corzine, Independent Chris Daggett, some other candidate, or were you unable to vote?

- 1 Corzine
- 2 Christie
- 3 Daggett
- 4 Some other candidate
- 5 Unable to vote
- 8 Don't remember (Vol)
- 9 Refused

Q5. Would you say the state of New Jersey is currently going in the right direction or has it gone off on the wrong track?

- 1 Right Direction
- 2 Wrong Track
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q6. Please rate how Governor Chris Christie is handling his job as Governor. Is it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q7. I am going to list some words that might describe Governor Christie. For each word, tell me how well it describes him. Is it very well, somewhat well, or not at all.

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF LIST. FOR EACH READ THE WORD AND PROMPT FOR ANSWER AS NEEDED]

- A. Bully
- B. Strong Leader
- C. Stubborn
- D. Reformer
- E. Independent
- F. Arrogant
- G. Uncaring
- H. Smart

[Response Options]

- 1 Very well
- 2 Somewhat well
- 3 Not at all
- 8 Don't know/Neither disagree nor agree (Vol)
- 9 Refused

Q8. Which is the greater economic problem in New Jersey today, [ROTATE] Unemployment or the state budget deficit?

- 1 Unemployment
- 2 State budget deficit
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Budget Module

Q9. The new state budget makes large cuts in many programs to help close the budget deficit.

Do you support the new budget or do you think more could have been done to protect some programs from cuts?

- 1 Support the budget
- 2 More could have been done
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q10. Do you think the spending cuts in the new budget will affect you or someone you know?

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

Q11. When the economy improves and there is an increase in state revenue, how should NJ use the money? Should revenue be used to [Rotate] restore programs that have been cut, or should it be used to cut taxes?

- 1 To restore programs
- 2 For tax cuts
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

[ASK IF Q11 is 1 ONLY:]

Q11A. Which of the following should be restored first? Should it be:

[AS NEEDED, PROMPT FOR ONLY ONE ANSWER]

[ROTATE 1-6]

- 1 Programs for the Poor
- 2 State aid to schools
- 3 Public Transportation
- 4 Property tax rebates
- 5 Family planning services
- 6 Funding for Colleges and Universities
- 7 Something else (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know (Vol)
- 9 Refused

Q12. There will be an election for US Congress in November. Although it is some time away, how likely is it that you will vote this fall? Very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or are you certain you will not vote?

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Not very likely
- 4 Will not vote
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

[IF Q12 IS 4 (WILL NOT VOTE) SKIP TO Q16]

[IF RESPONDENT IS IN CD-3 SKIP TO Q14]

CONGRESSIONAL RACES NOT IN CD-3. STATEWIDE SAMPLE (FORM A) ONLY

[SPLIT SAMPLE – HALF TO EITHER Q13A or Q13B]

[VERSION A]

Q13A. If the election for Congress were today would you vote for the Republican, the Democrat, a third party candidate, or would you not vote?

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

[VERSION B]

Q13B. If the election for Congress 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

[SKIP TO Q16 – STATEWIDE SAMPLE FORM A]

CD3 RESIDENTS ONLY STATEWIDE SAMPLE (FORM A) OR CD-3 SAMPLE (FORM B)

Q14. If the election for Congress were today, would you vote for the Democrat John Adler, the Republican Jon Runyan [ROTATE THESE TWO], a third party candidate, or would you not vote?

- 1 Adler
- 2 Runyan
- 3 Third Party
- 4 Not Vote
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q14A. Now, if the election was between Democrat John Adler, Republican Jon Runyan [ROTATE THESE TWO], and independent Peter DeStefano [dee stef ON no] who would you vote for, or would you not vote?

- 1 Adler
- 2 Runyan
- 3 DeStefano
- 4 Not Vote
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q15. Given a choice, would you vote for someone who has years of experience in elected office or for an outsider with little prior experience in government?

- 1 Experience
- 2 Outsider
- 3 Don't know
- 4 Refused

[CONTINUE WITH ALL RESPONDENTS – STATEWIDE (FORM A) AND CD-3 (FORM B)]

Q16. How closely have you followed news about the election this fall? Is it very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Somewhat closely
- 3 Not too closely
- 4 Not at all closely
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q17. 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]: **[ROTATE]**

- A. The Tea Party movement
- B. Democrats in Congress
- C. Republicans in Congress
- D. President Obama
- E. Governor Christie
- F. The State legislature in Trenton

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

Demographics

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

Q18. Thinking of politics, do you consider yourself to be liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?

- 1. Liberal
- 2. Conservative
- 3. Somewhere in between
- 4. Other (VOL)
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q19. 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)

Q20. 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

Q21. 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
- 7 Otherwise Not Employed
- 8 Disabled
- 9 Refused

Q22. 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

Q23. Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

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

[ASK IF Q23 IS 1 ONLY]

Q23A. Is the union a public employee union?

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

9 Refuse

Q24 Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or other Spanish background?

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

Q25. Are you white, black or of Asian origin?

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

Q26. 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

Q27. 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 about this survey, you may contact Dr. David Redlawsk (*pronounced RED-losk*) at 732-932-9384, ext. 285. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant,

you may contact the administrator of the Rutgers Institutional Review Board at: 732-932-0150, ext. 2104. Have a good day/evening.