The race for Governor this year is seen by many New Jerseyans as a race between a liberal and a conservative. According to the latest results of the New Jersey Poll, conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Rutgers University, the public tends to see Democrat Brendan Byrne as the liberal in the race and Republican Charles Sandman as the conservative. The poll was conducted between October 5 and 13.

When asked whether they thought Byrne was liberal or conservative, 21% classified the Democrat as a liberal and an additional 16% saw him as "leaning" toward the liberal side. Byrne was seen as conservative by 10% of the sample with 13% saying he "leaned" conservative. 7% placed Byrne "somewhere in between" while 32% said they did not know or they had no opinion.

Almost one third of the sample—32%—classified Sandman as conservative with 15% saying the Republican Congressman "leaned" in the conservative direction. Only 8% of the sample saw Sandman as liberal while 5% said he "leaned" toward being liberal. Another 7% placed Sandman "somewhere in between" and 33% did not know or had no opinion.

Being known as the conservative candidate should work in Sandman's favor because Eagleton's poll results have consistently shown that more Jerseyans classify themselves as conservative than as liberal. The latest sampling shows 25% classify themselves as conservative and 19% say they "lean" conservative while only 19% call themselves liberal and 15% say they "lean" liberal. Placing themselves "somewhere in
between" are 13% of the sample with 8% responding "don't know."

Sandman, however, barely edged Byrne among conservatives while he trailed Byrne better than four-to-one among liberals and by almost two-to-one among those in between. Considering only conservatives and those "leaning" conservative Sandman topped Byrne 38% to 34% with 28% undecided. Byrne overwhelmed Sandman with liberals and those "leaning" liberal, 68% to 16% with 16% undecided. The figures for the "in between" group are Byrne 42%, Sandman 21% and 37% undecided.

The New Jersey Poll is conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Rutgers University. A random sample of 1235 New Jersey residents were interviewed by telephone.
TO: POLITICAL REPORTERS
FROM: STEPHEN SALMORE


The questions asked of the respondents are as follow:

"Do you consider Brendan Byrne to be a liberal, a conservative, or somewhere in between?"

"Do you think Brendan Byrne leans more toward the liberal side or more toward the conservative side?"

"Do you consider Charles Sandman to be a liberal, a conservative, or somewhere in between?"

"Do you think Charles Sandman leans more toward the liberal side or more toward the conservative side?"

"Do you consider yourself to be a liberal, a conservative, or somewhere in between?"

Do you lean more toward the liberal side or more toward the conservative side?"