Although voters, themselves, seem to have distinct preferences on issues facing New Jersey in this gubernatorial election, the Eagleton Institute's New Jersey Poll shows that issues are not playing a very important role in voter choice.

In a poll conducted between October 5 and 13, a statewide sample of 1235 adults were asked what they thought was the most important issue in this year's gubernatorial campaign. "Taxes" led the list being named by 43% of the sample. No other issue was named by more than 10%, while "economic problems," "crime," and "highways" each were named by about 8% of the sample.

The poll showed no basic difference on issue preferences between respondents who said they supported Byrne for governor and those who said they supported Sandman. The largest difference between the two groups was on the issue of corruption in government. 10% of Byrne's supporters identified corruption as an important issue while only 4% of Sandman's supporters felt the same way.

A previous analysis of Eagleton poll data showed no difference between the candidates' supporters on the tax issue.

Respondents to the survey were asked what they thought was each gubernatorial candidate's position on the issue of highway construction versus government support for mass transit and the issue of economic growth versus environmental protection. Respondents were also asked to give their own views on each of these issues.

Both Byrne and Sandman were perceived to be more in favor of highway construction than government support for mass transit by 21% of the sample. Conversely,
thought that Byrne supported mass transit rather than highways, and 18% said that
was also Sandman's position on the issue. Another 46% of the sample said they did not
know what Byrne's position was on transportation, and 59% said the same about Sandman's
position. Byrne was perceived to prefer environmental protection by 27% of the sample and
21% said that was Sandman's position also. 54% said they did not know Byrne's position on
the issue and 49% did not know Sandman's position.

The sentiments of the total sample on these two issues, however, seems clear. On the transportation issue, 30% rank highway construction highest and 55% would
rather see government support for mass transit, while 7% support both and 7% had no opinion.
On the economic growth—environmental protection issue, 22% of the sample valued economic
growth most highly, 61% chose environmental protection and 17% had no opinion.

The small number of voters who see differences between the candidates
and the large number of persons who did not know the candidate's position on these issues
suggests that, even though the electorate has definite preferences, the candidate's position
on the issues is not overwhelmingly important in this year's gubernatorial campaign.

The New Jersey Poll is conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics
of Rutgers University.

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Questions on which this release is based are as follow:

"What in your opinion are the one or two most important issues in this year's election?"  (This was an open-ended question, respondents were not prompted.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highways</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government (corruption)</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race Relations</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Which do you feel Brendan Byrne would give higher priority to (consider them important), improving the mass transit system or improving the highway system?"

"Which do you feel Charles Sandman would give higher priority to (consider more important), improving the mass transit system or improving the highway system?"

"Which do you consider of higher priority (consider to be more important), improving the mass transit system or improving the highway system?"

Respondents were then asked the same set of questions for "encouraging economic growth or protecting the environment."

"Which do you feel Charles Sandman would give higher priority to (consider more important), encouraging economic growth in the state or protecting the environment?"

"Which do you feel Brendan Byrne would give higher priority to (consider more important), encouraging economic growth in the state or protecting the environment?"

"Which do you consider of higher priority (consider more important), encouraging economic growth in the state or protecting the environment?"