

OR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON  
NOVEMBER 14, 1973

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CONTACT: STEPHEN SALMORE

One of the major tasks facing New Jersey's newly elected Governor and Legislature is to respond to a decision of the New Jersey Supreme Court which declared unconstitutional the current method of funding public schools. According to results of the latest New Jersey Poll, conducted before last week's election by the Eagleton Institute of Rutgers University, a majority of New Jersey citizens endorsed key aspects of the court's decision.

Over half of those polled--55%--agreed with the statement that the local "tax rate for schools should be equal in different communities across the state." Disagreeing with this statement were 34% and another 11% had no opinion. The court decision had specifically objected to the fact that there are large differences in the local property tax rate among New Jersey's 567 municipalities.

A much larger majority--78%--agreed with the statement that "the amount spent per pupil should be equal for all children throughout the state." Only 18% disagreed with this statement and 5% expressed no opinion. The wide differences in the local property tax rates that the court criticized have resulted in wide disparities in the amount of money spent for each public school student in different municipalities.

Since the present system of financing public schools relies heavily on the local property tax, one alternative would be to shift much of the tax burden to the state. Three quarters of those questioned supported increased state financing of public schools, with only 17% opposed and 8% with no opinion. Increased state support of education is favored by people who support both political parties, although it is more

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FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY AFTERNOON  
NOVEMBER 14, 1973

CONTACT: STEPHEN BALMORE

One of the major tasks facing New Jersey's newly elected Governor and  
legislature is to respond to a decision of the New Jersey Supreme Court which declared  
invalid the current method of raising public schools. According to results of  
the recent poll, conducted during the week of October 22-23, 1973,

insulate the University's majority of New Jersey citizens and to key aspects  
of the Court's decision.  
Over half of those polled (52%) are in agreement that the local

"tax rate is a problem and that the State should take steps to reduce it."  
The poll also indicates that 67% of those polled are in agreement that the  
decision was a seriously objectionable one that has caused large differences in  
local property taxes among New Jersey's 217 municipalities.

A major concern among the 70% who are in agreement with the decision is the amount  
of tax that will be levied on all citizens in a uniform manner. The  
survey also indicates that 67% of those polled are in agreement that the  
decision is a serious problem and that the State should take steps to reduce it.

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strongly favored by Democrats than Republicans. Among Democrats, 81% favor such an arrangement and 12% oppose it. Among Republicans the figures are 67% in favor and 22% against.

Although a large majority favor increased state help in paying for local schools, respondents to the poll divided more evenly on the question of whether or not more state money would lead to "increased state involvement with the running of local public schools." Of the respondents 52% said they were not worried out the possibility of increased state involvement. Taking the opposite position were 37% who were "worried" over possible increased state control of local education. The remaining 11% had no opinion on this issue.

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 during the period from October 5 to October 13.

strongly favored by Democrats than Republicans. Among Democrats, 81% favor such an arrangement and 15% oppose it. Among Republicans the figures are 67% in favor and 33%

against.

Although a large majority favor increased state help in paying for local

schools' expenses, the poll showed more evenly on the question of whether or not

more state help would lead to increased state involvement with the running of local

public schools. The reason for this, the poll showed, was not wanted out of responsibility

of increased state involvement. The poll showed that 35% who were "strongly"

over private schools, but 41% who were "moderately" in favor of the remaining 17% who

opinion on this issue.

The New York Times reported that the poll showed that 61% of the nation's

universities and colleges are in a "wonderful state" where interest in

teaching is high and the quality of the education is high.

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TO: POLITICAL REPORTERS  
FROM: STEPHEN SALMORE  
SUBJECT: THE NEW JERSEY POLL, RELEASE #9, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON  
NOVEMBER 14, 1973

The following questions were used in this release:

Money for public schools comes primarily from local property taxes. The tax rate a homeowner pays on the assessed value of his home, varies widely from community to community. Do you feel the tax rate for schools should be equal in different communities across the state?

Yes	55%
No	34%
Don't Know/No Opinion	11%

At present, more money is spent for each pupil in some communities than in others. Do you feel the amount spent per pupil should be equal for all children throughout the state?

Yes	78%
No	18%
Don't Know/No Opinion	5%

Overall, do you feel the state should pay a larger part of financing local public schools?

Yes	75%
No	17%
Don't Know/No Opinion	8%

If the state were to increase its part in financing public education, would you be worried over increased state involvement with the running of local public schools?

Yes	37%
No	52%
Don't Know	11%

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TO: POLITICAL REPORTERS

FROM: STEPHEN SALMORE

SUBJECT: THE NEW JERSEY POLICE RELEASE ACT  
NOVEMBER 14, 1973

The following questions were asked in this release:

Money for public schools is raised primarily by levying a property tax on the home owner. Do you feel the tax rate for schools should be raised to meet the needs of the community? Do you feel the tax rate for schools should be raised to meet the needs of the community?

Yes 52%  
No 38%  
Don't know/No opinion 10%

At present, more money is spent for each pupil in the public schools than in the private schools. Do you feel the amount spent per pupil should be equalized between the public and private schools?

Yes 78%  
No 18%  
Don't know/No opinion 4%

Of the 11,000 public schools in the United States, only 1,000 are in the state of New Jersey. Do you feel the state should have more public schools?

Yes 72%  
No 25%  
Don't know/No opinion 3%

If the state were to increase the amount of money spent per pupil in the public schools, would you be more likely to send your child to a public school?

Yes 75%  
No 20%  
Don't know/No opinion 5%