
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll October 22-24, 2010

Sample: 450 New Jersey REGISTERED VOTERS ages 18 and older living in NJ 3rd
Congressional District

Fielded by Braun Research Inc.

Questions are presented in the order they were administered. Numbering may not necessarily be sequential and question numbers may be missing due to cuts prior to fielding and numbering convention.

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 450 residents have been selected to take part in this study. This will take about 6 minutes or so 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 450 people have been randomly selected for this survey and your views will represent many people.

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?

Yes

No [TERMINATE, OK, thanks, we are only talking to registered voters today.]

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.)

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/Did Not 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/Did Not Vote
- 8 Don't remember [Vol]
- 9 Refused

Q5. 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
- G. John Adler
- H. Jon Runyan
- I. Peter DeStefano

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

Q6. There will be an election for US Congress in November. Please rate your level of enthusiasm about voting in the election for Congress on a scale from zero to ten, where zero means you're not at all enthusiastic about voting this year and ten means you're extremely enthusiastic about voting this year. You can use any number from zero to ten, the higher the number the more enthusiastic you are about voting this year.

SCALE: [0-10]

- 11 Don't Know
- 12 Refused

Q7. If the election for Congress were today, would you vote for Democrat John Adler, Republican Jon Runyan, [rotate first two], independent Peter DeStefano, or would you not vote?

- 1 Adler → **SKIP TO Q7B**
- 2 Runyan → **SKIP TO Q7B**
- 3 DeStefano → **SKIP TO Q7B**
- 4 Not Vote → **SKIP TO Q9**

- 8 Don't Know → **SKIP TO Q7A**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q7A**

Q7A. As of today, do you lean more toward John Adler or Jon Runyan? [ROTATE NAMES]

- 1 Adler
- 2 Runyan
- 3 DeStefano (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[SKIP TO Q8]

Q7B And would you say that your mind is completely made up about who you will support, or might you change your mind by election day?

- 1 Mind is made up
- 2 Might change
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q8. And how likely is it that you will actually vote this fall? Is it 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
- 5 Have already voted (vol)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q9. 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
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q10. Should the Democrats in Washington be given more time to solve the country's problems or is it time to elect Republicans to take charge in Congress?

- 1 Give Democrats more time
- 2 Elect Republicans
- 8 Don't Know

9 Refused

Q11. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: I get angry thinking about the government in Washington.

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q12. I am going to ask your opinion on a few issues. First, what is your opinion on off-shore drilling off the coast of New Jersey? Are you for or against it?

- 1 For
- 2 Against
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q13. Do you support or oppose the new health-care legislation passed by Congress earlier this year?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q14. Republican candidate Jon Runyan gets a farmland assessment discount on his taxes by raising donkeys and selling firewood. Would you say this farmland assessment is fair or unfair?

- 1 Fair
- 2 Unfair
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q15. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: Incumbent Congressman John Adler is part of the problem in Washington.

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q16. How much have you heard about the recent controversy over independent candidate Peter DeStefano appearing on the ballot under the Tea Party label? Is it a lot, a little, nothing at all?

- 1 A lot

- 2 A little
- 3 Nothing at all → **SKIP TO Q17**
- 8 Don't know [vol] → **SKIP TO Q17**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q17**

[If respondent says a lot or little, ask Q16A and Q16B]

Q16A And who do you think is most responsible for DeStefano appearing on the ballot as a Tea Party candidate? Is it:

[ROTATE 1-4]

- 1 DeStefano himself
- 2 Congressman John Adler
- 3 Democratic party workers
- 4 The New Jersey Tea Party
- 5 or is it someone else? SPECIFY _____
- 8 Don't know [vol]
- 9 Refused

Q16B Does this controversy make you more likely to vote for Democrat John Adler, less likely to vote for Adler, or does it have no effect on your vote?

- 1 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 3 No effect
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Demographics

Q17. We're almost finished. We have just a few more questions to help us understand our survey results. 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]

Q18. 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]

Q19. 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

Q20. 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

Q21. 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

Q22. Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

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

[ASK IF Q22 IS 1 ONLY]

Q22A. Is the union a public employee union?

- 1 Yes

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

Q23. 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

Q24. 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

Q25. 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

Q26. Are there any children in your household who are under the age 18 and live with you regularly?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Refused

[IF RESPONDENT REACHED ON CELL PHONE ASK Q27, OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q28]

Q27. I'm talking to you today on a cell phone, right? How many non-cell phones – that is landline phones – do you have in your home, or do you only have cell phones?

[Record Number – 0 if only uses cell phone]

Q28. 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-loak*) 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,

Methodology Statement

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll September 23-26, 2010

New Jersey Statewide Poll

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted from September 23-26, 2010 with a scientifically selected random sample of 912 registered voters statewide. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the population, including gender, age, race, education, and Hispanic ethnicity. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 777 landline respondents acquired through random digit dialing, and 135 interviews of randomly selected cell phone households.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for a sample of 912 registered voters is +/-3.2 points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey registered voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent confident that the true figure would be between 46.8 and 53.2 percent (50 +/- 3.2) had all registered voters been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects.

Data were collected by Braun Research, Incorporated, of Princeton, NJ and were analyzed by staff of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. The AAPOR response rate 3 was 20.1%, the refusal rate 2 was 31.4% and the cooperation rate 3 was 39.1% for the landline part of this poll. For the cell phone sample, the response rate 3 was 10.7%, the refusal rate 2 was 22.7% and the cooperation rate 3 was 32.0%.