

**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll #174**  
**March 28-April 3 2011**

**Sample: 800 New Jersey REGISTERED VOTERS ages 18 and older**

**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 a registered voter and is now at home.

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

**WHEN RESPONDENT ON PHONE:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. We are talking to New Jersey registered voters conduct a research study on public policy issues in New Jersey. Your participation is important as only 800 people will be selected to take part in this study. This will take about 12 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 800 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. Are you NOW registered to vote where you live or haven't you been able to register so far?

1 Now registered to vote

- 2 Haven't been able to register so far --> TERMINATE
- 8 Don't know (VOL) --> TERMINATE
- 9 Refused (VOL) --> TERMINATE

**ON TERMINATE: Thanks we are only talking to registered voters today**

<b>Schools</b>
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Great, let's begin.

**[QUESTION ORDER EXPERIMENT. SPLIT SAMPLE, ½ Q21 BEFORE CHARTER QUESTIONS, ½ Q21 AFTER CHARTER QUESTIONS]**

**[IF NOT ASKED Q21B]:**

Q21A As you may know school elections are in a couple weeks. At this point do you expect to vote in favor of your school district budget, against the budget, do you not know, or will you not vote?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Against
- 3 Don't know (VOL)
- 4 Not Vote
- 9 Refused

OK, let's talk about charter schools, which are community schools approved by the state but not controlled by the local school board.

Q16 Some people argue that adding more Charter Schools will increase the quality of education in New Jersey. Others say more Charter Schools will take needed funding away from traditional public schools. What is your opinion? Do you support or oppose an increase in the number of Charter Schools in New Jersey?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q17 Do you think charter schools do a better, worse or about the same job as traditional public schools in educating students?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q18 Do you think the growth of charter schools has improved or weakened traditional public schools in New Jersey, or has it made no difference?

- 1 Improved
- 2 Weakened
- 3 Made no Difference
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q19 If you could choose, would you send a child to a regular public school or to a charter school?

- 1 Public
- 2 Private
- 3 Already do (VOL)
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q20 There has been talk of creating vouchers in New Jersey that would allow students and parents to choose a private school to attend at taxpayer expense. Do you support or oppose the idea of school vouchers?

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

**[IF NOT ASKED Q21A]:**

Q21B As you may know school elections are in a couple weeks. At this point do you expect to vote in favor of your school district budget, against the budget, do you not know, or will you not vote?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Against
- 3 Don't know (VOL)
- 4 Not Vote
- 9 Refused

**SURFRIDER QUESTION**

Q22 The next question is about beachside residential and commercial construction at the New Jersey shore. Which of the following comes closer to your view?

**[ROTATE OPTIONS; MAINTAIN CODING]**

- A. Builders and developers should be allowed to build new beachside construction since

many people are willing to pay extra to live, dine and shop right next to the ocean

**Or**

B. New Jersey has enough beachside construction and building more could restrict beach access and cost taxpayers more to fund shore protection and emergency restoration.

- 1 A
- 2 B
- 3 Can't decide
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

### 2011 Legislative Elections

Q24 If the election were today, would you vote to re-elect your current legislators or would you prefer to vote for someone new?

- 1 Current legislators
- 2 Someone new
- 3 Will Not vote (Vol)
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

### LEADERSHIP PERCEPTION

[SPLIT SAMPLE – RANDOM ½ GETS Q1A, Q2A AND ½ GETS Q1B, Q2B]

[VERSION A]

Q1A Please rate how Barack Obama is handling his job as President. Is it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 8 Don't know (VOL)/No Opinion (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q2A Now let's talk about New Jersey. Please rate how 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 (VOL)/No Opinion (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

**[VERSION B]**

Q1B Please rate how Barack Obama is handling his job as President, using a grading scale from A to F, You can give him any full letter grade, A, B, C, D, or F.

- 1 A
- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 D
- 5 F
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q2B Now let's talk about New Jersey. Please rate how Chris Christie is handling his job as governor, using a grading scale from A to F, You can give him any full letter grade, A, B, C, D, or F.

- 1 A
- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 D
- 5 F
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

**[END SPLIT SAMPLE]**

Q3 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 (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q4 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. President Barack Obama
- C. Governor Chris Christie
- D. Democrats in the State legislature
- E. Republicans in the State legislature
- F. Senator Robert Menendez

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 8 No Opinion/Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

<b>CHRISTIE TRAITS</b>
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I'd like to ask you what you think are the good and bad points about Governor Chris Christie

**[ROTATE Q5 and Q6]**

Q5 Is there anything in particular that you LIKE about the Governor?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No -> **SKIP to Q6 or Q7**

**IF R SAYS THERE IS SOMETHING THAT R LIKES ABOUT THE GOVERNOR:**

In just a couple words, what is that?

**[RECORD OPEN ENDED]**

Q6 Is there anything in particular that you DISLIKE about the Governor?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No -> **SKIP to Q5 or Q7**

**IF R SAYS THERE IS SOMETHING THAT R DISLIKES ABOUT THE GOVERNOR:**

In just a couple words, what is that?

**[RECORD OPEN ENDED]**

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

**[ROTATE 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
- I. Effective
- J. Trustworthy
- K. Fair
- L. Self Centered
- M. Impulsive
- N. Moral

**[Response Options]**

- 1 Very well
- 2 Somewhat well
- 3 Not at all
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q8 How does reading or hearing about the Governor make you feel? Does he make you feel:  
**[ROTATE LIST. FOR EACH READ THE WORD AND PROMPT FOR ANSWER AS NEEDED]**

- A Proud
- B Angry
- C Hopeless
- D Enthusiastic
- E Worried

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

Q9 As you probably know, Governor Christie has received a lot of national attention. Do you think having a Governor on the national stage improves NJ's image, hurts its image, or does it make no difference in how New Jersey is viewed?

- 1 Improves Image
- 2 Hurts image
- 3 No Difference
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q10 No matter how you feel about Governor Christie, does the fact that he gets national attention make you proud to be from New Jersey?

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

Q11 Many people propose plans to make things better in our state. Does knowing that Governor Christie supports a particular plan make you more likely to support it, less likely to support it, or does it make no difference to you?

- 1 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 3 No difference
- 4 Depends (Vol)
- 8 DK
- 9 Refused

Q12 There has been some talk about Chris Christie running for president. Would you support or oppose Chris Christie for president in 2012?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q13 Where do you get MOST of your information about Governor Christie from? Is it from printed newspapers, television, radio, online news, blogs, or from other people?

- 1 Printed Newspapers
- 2 Television News
- 3 Radio
- 4 Online news
- 5 Blogs
- 6 Other People
- 8 Something Else [SPECIFY]
- 9 Don't know (VOL)/Refused

Q14 Have you watched any internet videos of the Governor Christie?



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

Q15 Do you ever talk about Governor Christie with your friends, family or colleagues?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK
- 9 Refused

Q24A Now, in a different issue, do you support or oppose President Obama's decision to use military attacks to enforce the Libyan no-fly zone?

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

<b>Demographics</b>
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We're almost finished. We have just a few more questions to help us understand our results.

Q25 Great thanks. First, for our records, what is your age?

\_\_\_\_\_ (ENTER AGE: 98=98+, 99 = Don't know (VOL)/REFUSED)

**[IF Don't know (VOL)/REFUSED IN Q1, ASK:]**

Q25A. 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)

Q26 Next, what is your zip code?

\_\_\_\_\_ Enter Zipcode

- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q27 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

Q28 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) [vol]
- 9 Refused [vol]

Q29 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 (VOL)

Q30 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 (VOL)

Q31 How many years have you lived in New Jersey, or have you lived here all of your life?

**[CODE RESPONSE TO OPTIONS]**

- 1 Less than one
- 2 1 to less than 3
- 3 3 to less than 6
- 4 6 to less than 10
- 5 10 to less than 20
- 6 20 to less than 30
- 7 30 or more
- 8 All my life
- 9 Don't know (VOL)/Refused (VOL)

Q 32 Do you currently rent or own your home?

- 1 Own
- 2 Rent
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q33 Do you consider yourself to be Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, atheist or agnostic?

- 1 Catholic
- 2 Protestant
- 3 Jewish
- 4 Muslim
- 5 Some other religion
- 6 Atheist
- 7 Agnostic
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q34 Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refuse

**[ASK IF Q34 IS 1 ONLY]**

Q35 Is the union a public employee union?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refuse

Q36 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 (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q37 Are you white, black or of Asian origin, or are you some other race, or multi-racial?

- 1 White
- 2 Black (accept African-American)
- 3 Asian
- 4 Hispanic / Latino [vol]
- 5 OTHER, SPECIFY: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Multi-racial
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q38 Last year, that is in 2010, 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 Don't know/Refused [VOL. – DO NOT READ]

Q39 Are there any children in your household who are under the age 18 and live with you regularly?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q40 Including yourself, how many adults 18 or older currently live in your household?

**[Record number]**

9 Refused (VOL)

Q41 How many telephone numbers, including all cell phone numbers and non-cell phone numbers (often called landline numbers), does your household currently have?

**[Record Open-Ended]**

98 Don't know (VOL)/not sure

99 Refused (VOL)

Q42 Of those telephone numbers, how many are for cell phones used by adults?

[Record Number]

98 Don't know (VOL)

99 Refused (VOL)

**[IF ANSWER IS ONE OR MORE, ASK Q44]**

Q43 Which type of phone do you currently place and receive the most phone calls from?  
Is it a cell phone or a land line phone?

1 Cell phone

2 Landline phone

3 Both Equally (vol)

8 Don't know (VOL)

9 Refused (VOL)

Q44 Gender (BY OBSERVATION)

1 Male

2 Female

<b>Closing and Additional Informed Consent Language</b>
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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.

## Methodology Statement

### **Rutgers-Eagleton Poll February 24-26, 2011**

#### New Jersey Statewide Poll

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone from February 24-26, 2011 with a scientifically selected random sample of 912 New Jersey adults. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to US Census Bureau data. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 775 landline respondents and 137 cell phone respondents, acquired through random digit dialing. Data reported in this release are from a weighted sample of 811 registered voters drawn from the full sample of adults.

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 811 registered voters is +/-3.4 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 46.6 and 53.4 percent (50 +/-3.4) had all New Jersey 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.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research, Inc., of Princeton, New Jersey. The questionnaire was developed and all data analysis was completed in house at the Eagleton Institute of Politics Center for Public Interest Polling. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, a non-partisan academic center focused on the study and teaching of politics and the political process.