

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll #177
November 9-12, 2011
Sample: 750 New Jersey Registered Voters

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. Is [name of respondent from list] available to talk with me for a few minutes about important issues facing New Jersey?

WHEN RESPONDENT ON PHONE: Hello, my name is _____. We are talking to New Jersey residents to conduct a research study on public policy issues. Your participation is important as only 750 people will be selected to take part in this study. This should take about 10 minutes and your answers are confidential and will only be reported in combination with others. Your participation is voluntary, you may end 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 750 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.

QS1 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**

LEADERSHIP PERCEPTION

Q1 I'd like to ask about some people and groups. Please tell me if your general impression of each one is favorable or unfavorable, or if you do not have an opinion. First,

[ROTATE]

- Q1A President Barack Obama.
- Q1B The United States Congress.
- Q1C Governor Chris Christie.
- Q1D The Tea Party Movement.
- Q1F Democrats in the State Legislature.
- Q1G Republicans in the State Legislature.
- Q1H The Occupy Wall Street Movement
- Q1I State Senate President Steve Sweeney.

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 3 No Opinion
- 8 Don't Know Person (VOL)
- 9 Refused

[ROTATE ORDER OF Q2 AND Q3]

Q2 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 (VOL)

Q3 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 (VOL)

Right/Wrong Track

Q4 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 Going in the right direction → **SKIP Q5A**
- 2 On the wrong track → **SKIP Q5B**
- 8 Don't Know → **SKIP TO Q6**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q6**

[IF Q4 = 1]

Q5A Is New Jersey going in the right direction because things are changing for the better or simply because things are not getting worse?

- 1 Changing for the better
- 2 No getting worse
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

[IF Q4 = 2]

Q5B Is New Jersey off on the wrong track because things are changing for the worse or simply because things are not getting better?

- 1 Changing for the worse
- 2 Not getting better
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q6 Looking ahead to the next year, do you think things in New Jersey will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 Stay about the same
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[ADD Q6A]

Q6A Some say we need to increase taxes on wealthy Americans to ensure that they pay a fair tax rate. Others say that the wealthy already pay a large share of all the taxes and should not be required to pay more. How about you? Do you think taxes on wealthy Americans should or should not be raised?

- 1 Taxes should be raised
- 2 Taxes should not be raised
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q6B Recent reports have shown that the income difference between the richest people and poorest

people has grown wider over the last three decades. How concerned are you about this increase in the difference between top and bottom wage earners? Are you:

- 1 Very concerned,
- 2 Somewhat concerned,
- 3 Somewhat unconcerned,
- 4 Or very unconcerned.
- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused

VOTER SCREEN

Q7 As you may know, there was an election earlier this week here in New Jersey. Do you recall what office was up for election? If you are not sure, just say so.

[Do not read answer options; Code as Appropriate]

- 1 General Assembly (also accept "assembly", "house", "representatives")
- 2 State Senate OR NJ Senate (also accept "senate")
- 3 Legislative Elections OR state legislature (also accept "legislators", "legislative")
OR R says BOTH Senate and Assembly
- 4 General Election
- 5 Other [**record verbatim**]
- 8 Don't know/ Not sure
- 9 Refused

Q8 And do you recall where you went to vote? If you did not vote, just say so.

[Do not read answer options]

- 1 [**briefly record location**]
- 2 R Specifies Voted by Mail or Absentee
- 3 Did not vote → **SKIP TO Q13**
- 8 Don't know/Don't recall → **SKIP TO Q13**
- 9 Refused

2011 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS post election analysis

Q9 Now, please think about the election for your representatives to the General Assembly. Did you vote for [**ROTATE: Democrats or Republicans**] for the New Jersey Assembly?

- 1 Republicans
- 2 Democrats
- 3 A Democrat and a Republican (vol)
- 4 Did not vote (vol)

- 5 Other (vol)
- 8 Don't know/Not sure
- 9 Refused

Q10 Now think about the election for your representative to the State Senate. Did you vote for **[ROTATE: the Democrat or the Republican]** for the New Jersey Senate?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 Did not vote (vol)
- 4 Other (vol)
- 8 Don't know/ not sure
- 9 Refused

Q 11 Some people voted because they wanted to demonstrate **[ROTATE: support for, or opposition to]** Governor Christie. What about you? Would you say you voted to demonstrate support for Christie, opposition to Christie, or would you say your vote had nothing to do with the Governor?

- 1 Support for Christie
- 2 Opposition to Christie
- 3 Nothing to do with the Governor
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q12 Which of the following list of issues was the most important reason for the way you voted? Was it: **[ROTATE OPTIONS 1-5 and READ OPTIONS 1-6]**

[IF GIVES MORE THAN ONE ANSWER, PROMPT WITH: Which was the MOST important reason?]

- 1 Governor Christie's approach to governing,
- 2 The problem of jobs and unemployment,
- 3 Education and schools,
- 4 High taxes,
- 5 Government spending,
- 6 Or you just liked the candidates or party.
- 8 Don't Know/None of these (vol)
- 9 Refused

Q13 The Democrats will be in control when the new legislature is sworn-in in January. This means they will be able to act as a check on Governor Christie's plans. Would you say you are very happy, somewhat happy, somewhat unhappy, or very unhappy with this result, or would you say you don't care who controls the state legislature?

- 1 Very happy
- 2 Somewhat happy
- 3 Somewhat unhappy
- 4 Very unhappy
- 5 Don't care who controls legislature → **ASK Q13A**
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

[ASK ONLY IF Q13 is 5]

Q13A Would you say you don't care because: **[READ OPTIONS 1 – 3]**

- 1 You don't care much about politics, or
- 2 No matter who wins nothing seems to change, or
- 3 Is it something else?
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Occupy Wall Street

Q14 As you may have heard, there is a political movement called "Occupy Wall Street." How much would you say you have heard about this movement? Is it a lot, a little, or none at all?

- 1 A Lot
- 2 A Little
- 3 None at all
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[IF ANSWER IS 3, 8, 9 SKIP TO Q17]

Q15 For each of the following statements about Occupy Wall Street, please tell me if you agree or disagree with it. First/Next: **[ROTATE Q15A-Q15D, Always Q15E]**

Q15A Occupy Wall Street is anti-American.

Q15B Occupy Wall Street has concerns similar to the Tea Party movement.

Q15C The people who are part of Occupy Wall Street just make me angry.

Q15D Occupy Wall Street makes me hope things will change in America.

Q15E I am part of the 99 percent.

[DROP Original 17E]

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

Q16 In some cities, officials have arrested members of the occupy movement and want to eliminate their camps. In other cities, officials have tolerated the camps and have not moved against them. Which approach do you agree with more: [ROTATE; READ 1-2]

- 1 End the Occupy camps and arrest those who refuse to leave
- 2 Allow Occupy participants to continue their camps and demonstrations
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

40th Anniversary – Legalizing Marijuana (EP #3)

Q17 There have been discussions about the legalization of marijuana. Which of the following statements about the use of marijuana do you agree with? Do you agree or disagree that:

Q17A Penalties for the *use* of marijuana should be *reduced*?

Q17B Penalties for the *possession* of a small amount of marijuana should be *eliminated*?

Q17C The sale and use of marijuana should be *completely legalized*?

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

Q18 Recently New Jersey legalized the use of marijuana for medical purposes. Do you support or oppose making marijuana available for medical use by prescription?

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

Fun Question - Thanksgiving

Q19 Now on to something else. Thanksgiving is almost here. Do you celebrate with your extended family, your immediate family, with friends, or do you not celebrate at all?

- 1 Extended family
- 2 Immediate family
- 3 Friends
- 4 Some combination of the above (vol)
- 5 Do not celebrate → **SKIP TO Q23**
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q20 Do you expect to travel outside New Jersey, travel within New Jersey, or stay home for Thanksgiving this year?

- 1 Travel outside New Jersey
- 2 Travel within New Jersey
- 3 Stay home
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q21 Which of the following do you enjoy MOST about the holiday? **[ROTATE 1-4 and READ 1-5] [IF MORE THAN ONE ANSWER, PROMPT: Which would you say you MOST enjoy?]**

- 1 Spending the day with family or friends
- 2 The holiday meal
- 3 The football games
- 4 Black Friday shopping
- 5 Or is it something else [record]
- 8 Don't Know/Nothing/Don't celebrate (vol)
- 9 Refused

Q22 Overall, how stressful do you find the Thanksgiving holiday? Is it very stressful, somewhat stressful, or not at all stressful for you?

- 1 Very stressful
- 2 Somewhat stressful
- 3 Not at all stressful
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Demographics

We're almost finished. Now we have some questions to help us understand our results.

Q23 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
- 9 Refused

Q24 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

Q25 And what is your age?

____ (ENTER AGE: 98=98+, 99 = REFUSED)

[**IF Don't Know/REFUSED IN Q25, ASK:**]

Q26 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

Q27 What is your primary employment status? Are you: [**READ 1-8**]

- 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)

Q28 Are you Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, Atheist or agnostic?

- 1 Catholic
- 2 Protestant
- 3 Jewish → **SKIP TO Q30**

- 4 Muslim → **SKIP TO Q30**
- 5 Some other religion → **SKIP TO Q30**
- 6 Atheist → **SKIP TO Q30**
- 7 Agnostic → **SKIP TO Q30**
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q29 Would you describe yourself as a born again or evangelical Christian?

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

Q30 Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

- 1 Yes → **ASK Q31**
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refuse

[ASK ONLY IF Q30 = 1]

Q31 Is the union a public employee union?

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

Q32 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

Q33 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 / Spanish (Vol)
- 5 OTHER, SPECIFY: _____
- 6 Multi-racial
- 8 Don't know

9 Refused

Q34 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 \$25,000
- 2 25 to under \$50,000
- 3 50 to under \$75,000
- 4 75 to under \$100,000
- 5 100 to under \$150,000
- 6 \$150,000 or more
- 8 Don't know [VOL. – DO NOT READ]
- 9 Refused [VOL. – DO NOT READ]

Q35 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, you may contact Dr. David Redlawsk (*pronounced RED-loak*) at 732-932-9384. 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 October 6-9, 2011

New Jersey Statewide Poll

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone from October 6-9, 2011 with a scientifically selected random sample of 903 New Jersey adults. This sample contains a weighted subsample of 821 registered voters and 603 likely voters used in this release. 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 723 landline respondents supplemented with 180 cell phone respondents, acquired through random digit dialing.

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 603 likely voters is +/-4.0 percentage points, 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 54.0 and 46.0 percent (50 +/-4.0) had all New Jersey likely

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 Incorporated. The questionnaire was developed and all data analysis was completed in house. 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.