

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll #178
February 9-11, 2012
Sample: 900 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 900 people will be selected to take part in this study. This should take about 13 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 900 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.
- Q1E The Occupy Movement.
- Q1F State Senate President Steve Sweeney.
- Q1G State Senator Robert Menendez. (men-NEN-dez)
- Q1H Presidential Candidate Newt Gingrich.
- Q1I Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney.
- Q1J State Senator Joseph Kyrillos. (ker-RIL-los)
- Q1K Newark Mayor Cory Booker.
- Q1L State Senator Barbara Buono. (BWO-No)

- 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**

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

→ **SKIP TO Q6**

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

2012 Election

Q6 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat → **SKIP TO Q10**
- 2 Republican → **SKIP TO Q8**
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something Else / Other
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q7 Would you say that you lean toward the Democrats, the Republicans, or neither party?

- 1 Democrat → **SKIP TO Q10**

- 2 Republican
- 3 Neither → **SKIP TO Q10**
- 8 Don't Know → **SKIP TO Q10**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q10**

IF NOT REPUBLICAN (Q6=2) OR R LEANER (Q7=2), → SKIP TO Q10

[REPUBLICANS AND R LEANERS ONLY]

[NEW VERSION]

Q8 Thinking about the Republican primary for president, which Republican do you prefer as the candidate to run against President Obama? Is it: **[ROTATE CANDIDATE NAMES]**

- 1 Newt Gingrich
- 2 Ron Paul
- 3 Mitt Romney
- 4 Rick Santorum
- 5 Or Someone Else?
- 7 None of them (vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q9 Given the Republicans who are running for president in 2012, how satisfied are you with your choices? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied or not satisfied?

- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Somewhat Satisfied
- 3 Not Satisfied
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q10 If the candidates for president in 2012 are **[ROTATE ORDER: Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney]** will you vote for **[SAME ORDER: Obama or Romney]** for president?

- 1 Obama
- 2 Romney
- 3 Someone Else (vol)
- 4 Not Vote (vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q11 If the candidates for president in 2012 are **[ROTATE ORDER: Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich]** will you vote for **[SAME ORDER: Obama or Gingrich]** for president?

- 1 Obama

- 2 Gingrich
- 3 Someone else (vol)
- 4 Not vote (vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q12 If the candidates for president in 2012 are **[ROTATE ORDER: Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Ron Paul]** would you vote for **[SAME ORDER: Obama or Paul]** for president?

- 1 Obama
- 2 Paul
- 3 Someone else (vol)
- 4 Not vote (vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[END ROTATE QUESTIONS]

Q13 Which ONE of the following candidate qualities matters MOST in making your decision of who to support for president? **[READ 1-6; ROTATE OPTIONS]**

- 1 High moral character
- 2 Strong Leader
- 3 Shares my values
- 4 Cares about people like me
- 5 Can bring people together
- 6 Consistent in his beliefs
- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Q14 Which ONE of the following issues matters MOST in making your decision of who to support for president? **[read 1-6; ROTATE OPTIONS]**

- 1 Education
- 2 The Economy and Jobs
- 3 Homeland Security and Terrorism
- 4 Health care
- 5 Federal budget deficit
- 6 Immigration
- 7 Something else (vol) **[SPECIFY:]**
- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Q15 What kind of president does this country need to elect this year? **[ROTATE]** One who sticks to his beliefs no matter what, or one who compromises to get things done?

- 1 Stick to beliefs
- 2 Compromises
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q16 For each of the following, tell me if you agree or disagree with the statement. First,

[ROTATE Q16A-Q16F]

Q16A The Obama administration is un-American.

Q16B President Obama is a socialist.

Q16C President Obama loves America.

Q16D President Obama wants to make America too much like Europe

Q16E Mitt Romney stands by his principles.

[Response Options]

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

CONGRESSIONAL and US SENATE BALLOT TEST

[SPLIT SAMPLE – HALF TO EITHER Q17A or Q17B]

[VERSION A]

Q17A There will also be an election for U.S. Congress this year. If the election were today would you vote for the Republican, or the Democrat for Congress, or would you not vote?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 Not vote
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[VERSION B]

Q17B There will also be an election for U.S. Congress this year. If the election were today would you vote for your current Congressman, a challenger running against him, or would you not vote?

- 1 Current Congressman
- 2 Challenger
- 3 Not vote
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[END SPLIT SAMPLE]

[SPLIT SAMPLE – HALF TO EITHER Q18A or Q18B – NOTE SPLIT IS NOT THE SAME AS THE PRIOR SPLIT, THIS IS A NEW SPLIT.]

[VERSION A]

Q18A There will also be an election for U.S. Senator in New Jersey this year. Thinking about that election in November, if the election were today would you vote for **[ROTATE: the Democrat or the Republican]** for the US Senate?

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

[VERSION B]

Q18B There will also be an election for U.S. Senator from New Jersey this year. If the election were today and the candidates were **[ROTATE CANDIDATE ORDER]** current U.S. Senator Bob Menendez and State Senator Joseph Kyrillos (ker-RIL-los), would you vote for **[SAME ORDER: Mendendez or Kyrillos]**?

- 1 Bob Menendez
- 2 Joseph Kyrillos
- 3 Other (vol)
- 4 Would not vote (vol)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

[END SPLIT SAMPLE]

Education

[ROTATE Q19 and Q20]

Q19 There is talk about a bond issue for New Jersey colleges and universities to pay for new and

updated facilities. This would be the first higher-education bond since 1988 and may need to be more than one billion dollars. Supporters say this is needed to improve higher education in New Jersey and will create new construction jobs. Opponents say it is a bad time for the state to take on more debt. Thinking about this would you support or oppose a higher education bond issue?

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

Q20 Governor Christie has proposed major changes to higher education in New Jersey, which include the merger of Rutgers University-Camden into Rowan University. Rowan would become a research-oriented university, while Rutgers would lose its law school, business school, and undergraduate college at Camden. Do you support or oppose this plan?

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

Gay Marriage

Q21 On another topic, some people say gay marriage should be legal. Others oppose legalizing gay marriage. What is your position? Do you:

- 1 Support gay marriage, or
- 2 Oppose gay marriage?
- 3 Support civil unions and oppose gay marriage [VOL]
- 8 Don't Know [VOL]
- 9 Refused [VOL]

Q22 The Democratic leadership in the New Jersey legislature has made legalizing gay marriage a top priority. For you personally, is this issue the most important one facing New Jersey right now, one of a few very important issues, only somewhat important, or not important at all?

- 1 Most Important
- 2 One of a Few Very Important
- 3 Somewhat Important
- 4 Not Important At All
- 8 Don't Know [VOL]
- 9 Refused [VOL]

Q23 Governor Christie has proposed letting voters decide for or against gay marriage in November. Newark Mayor Cory Booker opposes this, saying civil rights issues should not be decided by voters. What about you? Do you support or oppose letting voters decide on

legalizing gay marriage?

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

40th Anniversary - TAXES

Q24 On another topic, do you think you get your money's worth for the state and local taxes you pay, or do you think you pay too much for what you get?

- 1 Money's Worth
- 2 Pay Too Much
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q25 Comparing New Jersey to other states in the nation, do you think New Jersey residents pay more, less, or about the same in overall state and local taxes?

- 1 More
- 2 Less
- 3 About the Same
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

10 Percent Tax Break/ Budget Address (February 28, 2012)

Q26 Governor Christie has proposed a 10 percent across-the-board N.J. state income tax cut. From what you know about it, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

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

Q27 How much money do you think a 10 percent cut in the state income tax would save your family each year? [**PROMPT AS NEEDED:** Just give me your best guess.]

[Enter Amount]

- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q28 If you had to choose between either reducing state income taxes or reducing property taxes, which one would you prefer to be reduced first, income or property taxes?

- 1 Income Taxes
- 2 Property Taxes
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Fun Question

Q29 Many people make New Year's resolutions but right about now tend to find it difficult to keep them. Did you make any New Year's resolutions this year?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No → **SKIP TO Q31**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q31**

Q30A Are you finding it very difficult, somewhat difficult, or not too difficult to keep your New Year's resolution?

- 1 Very difficult
- 2 Somewhat difficult
- 3 Not too difficult
- 9 Refused

Q30B And how would you describe your most important resolution in just a word or two?

[CODE TO RESPONSE OPTIONS AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE. VERIFY FIRST RESPONSE IF NEEDED AND DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES]

- 1 Quitting smoking, or drinking
- 2 Losing weight
- 3 Make more friends, or be more friendly, meet more people generally
- 4 Get more organized
- 5 Save money, Spend less, Make more money
- 6 Get/Stay healthy
- 7 Spend more time with loved ones
- 8 Fall in love, find a partner
- 9 Help Others
- 10 Other, not listed
- 11 None, No Answer

Demographics

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

Q31 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

Q32 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

Q33 And what is your age?

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

[IF Don't Know/REFUSED IN Q33, ASK:]

Q34 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

Q35 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)

Q36 Are you Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, Atheist or agnostic?

- 1 Catholic
- 2 Protestant
- 3 Jewish → **SKIP TO Q38**
- 4 Muslim → **SKIP TO Q38**
- 5 Some other religion → **SKIP TO Q38**
- 6 Atheist → **SKIP TO Q38**
- 7 Agnostic → **SKIP TO Q38**
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q37 Would you describe yourself as a born again or evangelical Christian?

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

Q38 Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

- 1 Yes → **ASK Q39**
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refuse

[ASK ONLY IF Q38 = 1]

Q39 Is the union a public employee union?

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

Q40 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

Q41 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

Q42 How would you describe your family's current financial situation? Are you:

- 1 Getting ahead
- 2 Holding steady
- 3 Falling behind
- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Q43 Last year, that is in 2011, 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]

L1. Now thinking about your telephone use, Do you have a working cell phone?

- 1) Yes, have cell phone**
- 2) No, do not**
- 9) (DO NOT READ)Don't know/Refused**

L1a. Does anyone else in your household have a working cell phone?

- 1) Yes, someone in household has cell phone**
- 2) No**
- 9) (DO NOT READ)Don't know/Refused**

L2. Of all the telephone calls that you and the other people in your household

receive, are ... [READ LIST]?

- 1) All or almost all calls received on a cell phone
- 2) Some received on a cell phone and some on a regular home phone
- 3) Or Very few or none received on a cell phone?
- 9) (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

C1. Now thinking about your telephone use, Is there at least one telephone INSIDE your home that is currently working and is not a cell phone?

- 1) Yes, has a home telephone
- 2) No, no home telephone
- 9) (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

C2. Of all the telephone calls that you and the other people in your household receive, are ... [READ LIST]?

- 1) All or almost all calls received on a cell phone
- 2) Some received on a cell phone and some on a regular home phone
- 3) Or Very few or none received on a cell phone?
- 9) (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

May I please have your zip code?

_____ (RECORD)

Refused

Q44 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-losk*) 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 February 9-11, 2012

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone from February 9-11, 2012 with a scientifically selected random sample of 914 New Jersey registered voters. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to 2010 US Census Bureau data. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 734 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 914 adults is +/-3.3 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 46.7 and 53.3 percent (50 ± 3.3) had all New Jersey adults 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 analyses were 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.