

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll #179

March 20-25, 2012

Sample: 750 New Jersey Adults + 150 Middlesex County oversample

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 - LANDLINE

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.

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

[REINTRO AS NEEDED]

Hello, my name is _____. I am conducting an Eagleton Poll for Rutgers University. I am not selling anything, and just need a few minutes. Would you talk with me for a bit?

- 1 YES, CONTINUE WITH RESPONDENT
- 0 UNWILLING, END INTERVIEW

Introduction – CELL PHONE

Hello, I am _____, calling from Rutgers University. We are conducting an Eagleton Poll of New Jersey residents. I am not selling anything and just need a few minutes. I know I am reaching you on a cell phone. We need to talk to people with cell phones to ensure we represent all of New Jersey. Are you currently driving, walking, or in any public place that might distract you?

- 0 DISTRACTED → RESCHEDULE/TERMINATE
- 1 NOT DISTRACTED, now is a good time to talk → CONSENT

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 statewide 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.

[CONSENT]

WHEN RESPONDENT ON PHONE: Great. We are talking to New Jersey residents to conduct a research study on public policy issues. Your participation is important as only 750 people statewide 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!

- 0 No → Attempt Convert
- 1 YES → Continue to S1

SCREENERS

S1 First, what county do you live in?

CODE TO LIST OF COUNTIES

- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[IF NOT NJ COUNTY, TERMINATE]

S2 May I please have your zip code?

_____ (RECORD)

- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

[IF MIDDLESEX COUNTY OVERSAMPLE, SKIP TO Q32]

LEADERSHIP PERCEPTION

Q1 Thanks! First, 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 Presidential Candidate Newt Gingrich.
- Q1E Presidential Candidate Rick Santorum.
- Q1F Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney.

Q1G Newark Mayor Cory Booker.

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

[ROTATE 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)

[END ROTATE]

CHRISTIE TRAITS AND EMOTIONS

Q4 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. Smart
- H. Effective
- I. Trustworthy
- J. Fair
- K. Self Centered
- L. Impulsive

[Response Options]

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

Q5 How does reading or hearing about Governor Christie make you feel? Please tell me yes or no for each of the following:

[ROTATE; PROMPT AS NEEDED: DOES READING ABOUT GOVERNOR CHRISTIE MAKE YOU FEEL...]

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

[RESPONSE OPTIONS]

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

RIGHT/WRONG TRACK

Q6 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 Q6A**
- 2 On the wrong track → **SKIP Q6B**
- 8 Don't Know → **SKIP TO Q7**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q7**

Q6A 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 Q7**

Q6B 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

GAY MARRIAGE (PRE-TEST)

Q7 Let's talk about some issues in New Jersey. First, some people say gay marriage should be legal. Others oppose legalizing gay marriage. What is your position? Do you support or oppose gay marriage?

- 1 Support → **SKIP TO Q7A**
- 2 Oppose → **SKIP TO Q7B**
- 3 Don't Know → **SKIP TO Q8**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q8**

Q7A Do you strongly support or somewhat support gay marriage?

- 1 Strongly support gay marriage
- 2 Somewhat support gay marriage

→ **SKIP TO Q8**

Q7B Do you strongly oppose or somewhat oppose gay marriage?

- 4 Somewhat oppose gay marriage
- 5 Strongly oppose gay marriage

RUTGERS

[ROTATE Q8A AND Q8B]

Governor Christie has proposed major changes to higher education in New Jersey, which include:

Q8A 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 (vol)

The Governor's higher education plan also calls for:

Q8B Rutgers University taking over the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and the School of Public Health, which are now part of the University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey (UMDNJ). Do you support or oppose this plan?

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

[END ROTATE]

NYPD

Q9 Recently, it was reported that the New York City Police Department (or N-Y-P-D) was secretly monitoring Muslim groups within New Jersey. How much have you heard about this story? Is it a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

- 1 A lot
- 2 A little
- 3 Nothing at all
- 9 Refused

Q10 Some say the NYPD's actions are a violation of civil liberties, while others say that the monitoring is necessary to protect our country. What about you? Do you believe the actions of the NYPD are a violation of civil liberties or are they necessary to protect our country?

- 1 Violation of civil liberties
- 2 Necessary action
- 3 Both (vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q11 How effective do you think secret monitoring of groups is in protecting us from terrorist

threats? Is it very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective, or not at all effective?

- 1 Very Effective
- 2 Somewhat Effective
- 3 Not very effective
- 4 Not at all effective
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

2012 ELECTION

Q13 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 → **SKIP TO Q26A/Q26B**
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q14 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat → **SKIP TO Q16**
- 2 Republican → **SKIP TO Q16**
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something Else / Other
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q15 Would you say that you lean toward the Democrats, the Republicans, or neither party?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Neither
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q16 Do you consider yourself to be liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?

- 1 Liberal → **SKIP TO Q18**
- 2 Conservative → **SKIP TO Q18**
- 3 Somewhere in between
- 4 Other (Vol)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q17 Would you say you lean toward being more liberal, more conservative, or neither?

- 1 More liberal
- 2 More conservative
- 3 Neither
- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

IF NOT (REPUBLICAN (Q14=2) OR R LEANER (Q15=2)), → SKIP TO Q20

[REPUBLICANS AND R LEANERS ONLY]

Q18 Thinking about the Republican primary for president, which Republican do you prefer as the candidate to run against President Obama? Is it: **[ROTATE & READ 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

Q19 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

[ROTATE Q20-Q23]

Let's talk about the presidential election in November.

Q20 If the candidates for president in November 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

Q21 If the candidates for president in November 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

Q22 Delete

Q23 If the candidates for president in November are [**ROTATE ORDER:** Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rick Santorum] would you vote for [**SAME ORDER:** Obama or Santorum] for president?

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

[END ROTATE QUESTIONS]

GAY MARRIAGE (POST-TEST)

[BLOCK ON IDEOLOGY: LIBERAL IF Q16=1 or Q17=1, CONSERVATIVE IF Q16=2 or Q17=2, MODERATE IF Q16=3 and Q17 DOES NOT =1 or 2]

[WITHIN IDEOLOGY, SPLIT SAMPLE – HALF TO EITHER Q26A or Q26B]

[VERSION A]

Q26A A lot of talk has been going on about gay marriage in New Jersey recently. Some people have mentioned the golden rule – do unto others as you would have them do unto you – as a reason for why gay marriage should be legal. They say legalizing gay marriage would treat gay and lesbian couples in the same way as heterosexual couples. Others say that this argument does not apply to gays and lesbians and that marriage should only be between a man and a woman. Hearing this, what is your position? Do you support or oppose gay marriage?

- 1 Support → **SKIP TO Q27A**
- 2 Oppose → **SKIP TO Q27B**
- 3 Don't Know → **SKIP TO Q28**

9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q28**

[VERSION B]

Q26B A lot of talk has been going on about gay marriage in New Jersey recently. Some people have mentioned the Constitution's protection of basic rights as a reason why gay marriage should be legal. They say that legalizing same-sex marriage supports the ideas of personal liberty, privacy, and freedom of association. Others say that this argument does not apply to gays and lesbians and that marriage should only be between a man and a woman. Hearing this, what is your position? Do you support or oppose gay marriage?

- 1 Support → **SKIP TO Q27A**
- 2 Oppose → **SKIP TO Q27B**
- 3 Don't Know → **SKIP TO Q28**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q28**

[END SPLIT SAMPLE]

Q27A Do you strongly support or somewhat support gay marriage?

- 1 Strongly support gay marriage
- 2 Somewhat support gay marriage

→ SKIP TO Q28

Q27B Do you strongly oppose or somewhat oppose gay marriage?

- 4 Somewhat oppose gay marriage
- 5 Strongly oppose gay marriage

Q28 How important is the issue of gay marriage to you personally? Is it:

- 1 The most important issue,
- 2 One of a few very important issues,
- 3 A somewhat important issue, or
- 4 Not an important issue at all
- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused

Does either of the following apply to you?

Q29 You have someone in your family who is gay or lesbian.

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused

Q30 You have a friend or close acquaintance who is gay or lesbian.

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

UNITED WAY CENTRAL NJ

Q32 I'd like to talk about the community where you live. How would you rate your community as a place to live? Would you say it is excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor
- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Q33 Now, I would like to read you a list of three educational issues in your community. Of these, please tell me which is the MOST important to you.

[ROTATE AND READ EACH]

[PROMPT IF NEEDED: Which is the MOST important?]

- 1 The number of school drop-outs.
- 2 The need to emphasize reading early in life.
- 3 The availability of after school activities.

Q34 And of the two remaining issues which of these is more important?

[POPULATE REMAINING TWO ISSUES FROM Q33, ROTATE AND READ]

[IF NOT MIDDLESEX COUNTY, SKIP TO Q 37]

Q35 The United Way of Central Jersey works to create opportunities for a better life for people living or working in your community. Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the United Way of Central Jersey?

(If Favorable/Unfavorable, ask: Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?)

- 1 Strongly favorable
- 2 Somewhat favorable
- 3 Somewhat unfavorable
- 4 Strongly unfavorable

- 8 Don't Know [VOL]
- 9 Refused [VOL]

Q36 Overall, how much impact do you think the United Way of Central Jersey is having in making your community a better place to live--a big impact, a moderate impact, a small impact, or no impact at all?

- 1 A big impact
- 2 A moderate impact
- 3 A small impact
- 4 No impact
- 8 Don't Know [VOL]
- 9 Refused [VOL]

Q37 How effective do you think the United Way **[IF MIDDLESEX COUNTY, ADD: of Central Jersey]** has been in **[POPULATE RESPONSE FROM Q33]**. Has it been very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective, or not at all effective?

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

[IF NOT MIDDLESEX COUNTY, SKIP TO Q 41]

Q38 During the past 12 months, have you been active in any volunteer activities?

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

Q39 How often, if at all, have you thought about volunteering at a nearby public school during the past 12 months? Has it been often, sometimes, or never?

- 1 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Never
- 4 Already Volunteer (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q40 During the past 12 months, have you donated to a charitable organization?

- 1 Yes

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

Demographics

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

Q41 Have you or anyone in your household ever been a student at any college or university in New Jersey whether graduating or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No → **SKIP TO Q43**
- 8 Don't Know → **SKIP TO Q43**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q43**

Q42 I am going to name a few colleges and universities in New Jersey. Please tell me if you or anyone in your household has ever been a student at each. Just tell me yes or no.

[ROTATE ORDER OF Q42A – Q42D]

- Q42A Rutgers University, at any campus
- Q42B Rowan University
- Q42C New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)
- Q42D Any New Jersey community or county college

RESPONSE OPTIONS

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 1 Don't Know
- 2 Refused

Q43 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

Q44 And what is your age?

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

[IF Don't Know/REFUSED IN Q44, ASK:]

Q45 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

Q46 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)

Q47 Are you Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, Atheist or agnostic?

- 1 Catholic → **ASK Q48**
- 2 Protestant → **SKIP TO Q49**
- 3 Jewish
- 4 Muslim
- 5 Some other religion
- 6 Atheist
- 7 Agnostic
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[ASK ONLY IF Q47 =1,2]

Q48 Would you describe yourself as a born again or evangelical Christian?

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

9 Refused

Q49 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 (vol)

Q50 Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

- 1 Yes → ASK Q51
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refuse

[ASK ONLY IF Q50 = 1]

Q51 Is the union a public employee union?

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

Q52 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

Q53 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

Q54 Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 now living in your home?

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

Q55 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)

Q56 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]

Q59 How many telephone NUMBERS, including all cell phone numbers and non-cell phone numbers (often called landline numbers), does your household currently have?

[Record Number]

- 98 Don't know/not sure
- 99 Refused

(PROGRAMMER NOTE: IF CELL SAMPLE AND Q59=1, AUTO CODE Q60=0 AND CONTINUE)

Q60 Of those telephone numbers, how many are for landlines?

[Record Number]

- 98 Don't Know
- 99 Refused

[IF CALL IS ON A LANDLINE OR IF Q60 IS ONE OR MORE, ASK Q61]

[IF Q60 IS ZERO; DK; OR REFUSED AND CALL IS ON CELL PHONE SKIP TO Q62]

Q61 Does your landline telephone service come as part of a package that includes Internet, and/or cable TV, is it through a service called Voice Over Internet, or do you have a different type?

- 1 Part of package internet/cable
- 2 Voice over IP
- 3 Different Type
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

[IF ANSWER IS ONE OR MORE, AND R REACHED ON LANDLINE ASK Q62]

Q62 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
- 9 Refused

Q63 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.

Closing and Methodology Statement

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll March 21-27, 2012

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone from March 21-27, 2012 with a scientifically selected random sample of 601 New Jersey adults, including a subsample of 518 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 493 landline respondents and 108 cell phone respondents, all 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 601 adults 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 46.0 and 54.0 percent (50 ± 4.0) had all New Jersey adults been interviewed, rather than just a sample. The sample of Registered Voters has a margin of error of ± 4.3 percentage points. 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 in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling. 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.