

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll #182
September 27-September 30, 2012
Sample: 800 NJ 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 - LANDLINE

Hello, my name is _____. I'm conducting a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll for **RUTGERS** University. I'd like to ask a few questions of the **YOUNGEST MALE** who is a registered voter and who is now at home.

(IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW: Are you a registered voter? May I speak with you?)

[REINTRO AS NEEDED]

Hello, my name is _____. I am conducting a Rutgers-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, my name is _____. We are conducting a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll of New Jersey registered voters. 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 → **QD1**

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 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:

-- Can you help me; we could really use your cooperation and we are interested in what you think.

SCREENER – REGISTERED VOTER

QD1 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: Thank you, we are only talking to registered voters today.

QD5 May I please have home your zip code?

_____ (RECORD)

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

QD5A And what county do you live in?

[Choose from list of NJ Counties]

IF NOT NEW JERSEY TERMINATE: Thank you, we are only talking to New Jersey residents today.

[CONSENT]

WHEN RESPONDENT ON PHONE: Great. We are talking to New Jersey registered voters to conduct a research study on public policy issues. Your participation is important as only 800 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

[CODE GENDER BY OBSERVATION]

QD26 Respondent Gender

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

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 Governor Chris Christie.
- Q1C U.S. Senator Robert Menendez. (men-NEN-dez)
- Q1D Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney.
- Q1E State Senator Joseph Kyrillos. (ker-RIL-los)
- Q1F Vice President Joe Biden.
- Q1G Vice Presidential Candidate Paul Ryan.

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

[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]

Q4 The election for New Jersey governor is a little more than a year away. Thinking ahead, do you think Governor Christie deserves to be re-elected to another term, or is it time for someone new?

- 1 Re-elected to another term
- 2 Time for someone new
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

RIGHT/WRONG TRACK

Q5 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 (VOL) → **SKIP TO QLV1**
- 9 Refused (VOL) → **SKIP TO QLV1**

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 Not getting worse
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

→ **SKIP TO Q7**

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 (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

2012 ELECTION

LV1 There will be an election for president and other offices in November. But for many reasons people often do not vote in elections. How likely is it that you will vote in the November election? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or are you certain you will not vote?

- 1 Very likely [**CODE IF SAYS CERTAIN TO VOTE**]
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Not very likely
- 4 Will not vote
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

LV2 Now thinking back to 2010, were you able to vote in the midterm Congressional elections that year?

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

LV3 How much attention do you usually pay to politics? Is it:

- 1 A great deal
- 2 A moderate amount
- 3 Just a little, or
- 4 None at all?
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

LV4 How interested are you in this year's presidential election campaign? Are you:

- 1 Very interested
- 2 Somewhat interested
- 3 Or not at all interested?
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

QD2 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat → **SKIP TO QD4**
- 2 Republican → **SKIP TO QD4**
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something Else / Other
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

QD3 Would you say that you lean toward the Democrats, the Republicans, or neither party?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican

- 3 Neither
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

QD4 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)

Q6 Which of the following is the MOST important issue facing America today? Is it:
[READ 1-9; ROTATE OPTIONS 1-8]

- 1 Education
- 2 The economy including jobs
- 3 Homeland Security and Terrorism
- 4 Health care
- 5 The federal budget deficit
- 6 Immigration
- 7 Social Security and Medicare
- 8 Medicaid and welfare reform
- 9 Or is it something else? **[SPECIFY:]**
- 88 Don't Know (vol) → **SKIP TO Q8**
- 99 Refused (vol) → **SKIP TO Q8**

Q7 And which presidential candidate, **[ROTATE: Barack Obama or Mitt Romney,]** would do a better job on **[Insert response to Q6]**?

- 1 Obama
- 2 Romney
- 3 Neither (vol)
- 4 Both (vol)
- 8 Don't Know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Q8 Thinking about the presidential election, which ONE of the following candidate qualities matters MOST in deciding who to support for president? **[READ 1-6; ROTATE 1-6]**

- 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)

Q9 And, if the election for president were today, would you vote for [**ROTATE ORDER:** Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney], someone else, or would you not vote?

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

NJ BALLOT

Q10 There will also be an election for the U.S. Senate this year. If the election were today would you vote for [**ROTATE CANDIDATE ORDER**] Democrat Bob Menendez, Republican Joe Kyrillos (ker-RIL-los), someone else, or would you not vote?

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

Q11 In November, New Jersey voters will have the chance to vote on a \$750 million bond for new academic buildings and technological upgrades at colleges and universities. Have you heard a lot about this, a little, or nothing at all?

- 1 A lot
- 2 A little
- 3 Nothing at all
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q12 If the election were today, would you support or oppose this \$750 million bond for higher education?

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

Q13 New Jersey voters will also have the chance to vote on an amendment to the state constitution letting the legislature require state judges to pay more toward their pensions and benefits. If passed, this will reverse a recent state Supreme Court decision that prevented this. If the election were today, would you support or oppose this constitutional amendment?

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

HEALTH CARE (WNYC)

QH1 Let's talk for a moment about health insurance. First, in general, whom do you trust more in matters related to health insurance, private insurance companies or the government?

- 1 Private insurance companies
- 2 Government
- 3 Neither (vol)
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

QH2 The U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld the Affordable Care Act signed by President Obama. This law limits insurance companies' ability to deny coverage and lets children under age 26 stay on their parents' policy, but also requires uninsured Americans to buy health insurance. Do you support the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the law, or do you think the law should have been struck down?

- 1 Support Supreme Court decision
- 2 Law should have been struck down
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

QH3 There is a lot of talk about Medicare, the health insurance program for senior citizens. Which of the following comes closer to your view on how Medicare should be handled in the future? **[ROTATE OPTIONS: Should Medicare continue with the federal government directly providing all seniors with health insurance coverage, OR should Medicare be changed to a system where the federal government gives seniors a fixed amount of money to buy their own health insurance either from Medicare or from a private plan?]**

- 1 Continue as is
- 2 Should be changed
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

QH4 Please think about Medicaid, the government health insurance program for low-income people. New Jersey must decide if it will participate in the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion program. This expansion uses state and federal funds to increase the number of people covered by Medicaid. But some say Medicaid covers enough people in New Jersey, and the state cannot afford to pay more. Others say the cost is worth it since nearly half a million more low-income people would get health insurance. How about you? Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid eligibility in New Jersey?

- 1 Support → **SKIP TO Q14**
- 2 Oppose
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

QH5 Would you support Medicaid expansion if you knew that New Jersey would eventually be required to pay only ten percent of the cost, while the federal government would pay the rest?

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

RUTGERS

Q14 Finally, I would like to ask you to tell me in just a few words, what is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear "Rutgers University"?

[IF NEEDED, PROMPT: "JUST TELL ME WHAT COMES TO MIND."]

[OPEN ENDED – RECORD VERBATIM]

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

Q15 Have you ever been a student at Rutgers?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No → **SKIP TO QD6**
- 8 Don't Know → **SKIP TO QD6**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO QD6**

Q16 And which campus did you attend?

- 1 New Brunswick
- 2 Newark
- 3 Camden

- 4 Satellite campus/off-campus location
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

DEMOGRAPHICS

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

QD6 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)

QD7 And what is your age?

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

[IF Don't Know/REFUSED IN QD7, ASK:]

QD8 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)

QD10 Are you Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, Atheist or agnostic?

- 1 Catholic → **ASK QD11**
- 2 Protestant → **ASK QD11**
- 3 Jewish
- 4 Muslim
- 5 Some other religion

- 6 Atheist
- 7 Agnostic
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

[ASK ONLY IF QD10 = 1,2]

QD11 Would you describe yourself as a born again or evangelical Christian?

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

QD12 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
- 9 Refused (VOL)

QD13 Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

- 1 Yes → **ASK QD14**
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

[ASK ONLY IF QD13 = 1]

QD14 Is the union a public employee union?

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

QD17 Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Spanish background?

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

QD18 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 (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

QD19 Are you married, in a committed relationship, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 1 Married
- 2 Committed relationship
- 3 Widowed
- 4 Divorced
- 5 Separated
- 6 Never married
- 9 Refused (VOL)

QD20 Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 now living in your home?

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

QD21 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]

QD29 And which of the following best describes the kind of health insurance you, yourself, currently have. Is it: **[READ FIRST FOUR OPTIONS]**

- 1 Medicare
- 2 Medicaid
- 3 An HMO, PPO, or other kind health insurance, or

- 4 You do not have any health insurance
- 5 Something else (vol)
- 6 More than one [**Specify: ____**] (vol)
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

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 848-932-0150. Have a good day/evening.

Methodology Statement

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll September 27-30, 2012

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone from September 27-30, 2012 with a scientifically selected random sample of 790 New Jersey registered voters. This telephone poll included 655 landline respondents and 135 cell phone respondents, all acquired through random digit dialing. Within this sample 645 respondents were identified as likely voters by scoring responses to questions about interest in politics, in the presidential election, plans to vote, and vote history. Approximately 81 percent of registered voters were identified as likely voters by this measure. In 2008, 73 percent of registered New Jersey voters actually voted.

Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey registered voter population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to 2010 US Census Bureau data. Data are further weighted to ensure geographical representation by county. All results are reported with these weighted data. Weights are applied to the raw registered voter sample to ensure that it represents the registered voter population throughout the state of New Jersey. The likely voter screen is applied after all weighting and the likely voter sample is not weighted independently. The likely voter screen results in fewer independents and more partisans than in the overall registered voter sample since self-identified partisans are more likely to pass our screen and are more likely to vote in elections in general.

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 645 likely voters is +/-3.9 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey likely voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 46.1 and 53.9 percent (50 +/-3.9) 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 and through our in-house calling center. 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.