

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll #184
January 30 – February 2, 2013
Sample: 900 NJ ADULTS

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 New Jersey. I'm not selling anything and just need a few minutes. I know it may be a difficult time right now with the recent storms, but if possible I'd like to ask a few questions of the YOUNGEST MALE over 18 who is who is now at home

(IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW: Then 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 _____. I'm conducting a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll of New Jersey. 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 1000 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 – NJ RESIDENT

QD5 May I please have your home 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.

WHEN RESPONDENT ON PHONE: Great. We are talking to people in New Jersey to conduct a research study on policy issues. Your participation is important as only 900 people statewide will be selected to take part in this study. This should take under 15 minutes. 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:

[RANDOMIZE ORDER Q1A-Q1G]

- Q1A President Barack Obama.
- Q1B Governor Chris Christie.
- Q1D State Senator Barbara Buono (BWO—no).
- Q1E The United States Congress.
- Q1F State Senate President Steven Sweeney.
- Q1G The National Rifle Association (NRA).

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

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)

Q4 Now I am going to list some specific areas where I would like you to tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Christie is doing. First:

[RANDOMIZE ORDER Q4A-Q4E]

- Q4A New Jersey's economy and jobs
- Q4B Hurricane Sandy recovery
- Q4C Taxes
- Q4D Education and Schools
- Q4E The state budget
- Q4F Crime and drugs

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Q5 And overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Christie is handling his job as governor?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

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
- 2 On the wrong track
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

2013 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

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
- 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)

→ IF QD1 NOT 1 (REGISTERED VOTER) SKIP TO Q14

Q7 There will be an election for New Jersey governor in November. How closely have you followed news about the election so far? Very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Fairly closely
- 3 Not too closely
- 4 Not at all closely
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q8 Thinking ahead, do you think Governor Chris Christie should 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)

Q10 And, if the election for governor were being held today and the candidates were [**ROTATE ORDER:** Republican Chris Christie and Democrat Barbara Buono], for whom would you vote?

- 1 Christie
- 2 Buono
- 3 Someone Else (vol)
- 4 Not Vote (vol)
- 8 Don't Know (vol)

9 Refused (vol)

[ASK Q11 ONLY IF QD2=1]

Q11 As of today, State Senator Barbara Buono is the only Democrat who has announced plans to run against Chris Christie for Governor. As a Democrat, are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat unsatisfied, or very unsatisfied with Buono as the Democratic challenger?

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat unsatisfied
- 4 Very unsatisfied
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q12 Of the following, which is the MOST important problem facing New Jersey today? Is it:
[RANDOMIZE OPTION ORDER FOR 1-5, READ 1-6]

- 1 Hurricane Sandy recovery
- 2 The economy and jobs
- 3 High Taxes
- 4 Education and Schools
- 5 Crime and Drugs
- 6 Or is it something else **[SPECIFY]**
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

[SKIP TO Q13A IF AGE <21]

Q13 And who did you vote for in the 2009 election for Governor? Was it Chris Christie, Jon Corzine, someone else, or did you not vote?

- 1 Governor Chris Christie
- 2 Jon Corzine
- 3 Someone Else
- 4 Did not vote/Not eligible to vote
- 8 Don't remember/Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q13A There will also be elections for the state legislature in November. Please think about the election for your representatives to the General Assembly and Senate. Do you plan to vote for Democrats or for Republicans for the New Jersey legislature in November?

[ROTATE PARTIES]

- 1 Republicans

- 2 Democrats
- 3 Other (VOL)
- 4 Some Democrats and some Republicans (VOL)
- 5 Not Vote (VOL)
- 8 Don't know/not sure (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

GUN CONTROL

Q14 Now I'd like to turn to another issue. How concerned are you about the amount of gun violence in the U.S. today? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

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

Q15 Of the issues facing the country today, how important is gun control? Is it the most important issue, one of a few very important issues, somewhat important, or not at all important?

- 1 Most important
- 2 One of a few very important
- 3 Somewhat important
- 4 Not at all important
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q16 Which do you think is more important--to protect the right of Americans to own guns, or to control gun ownership?

- 1 Protect right to own guns
- 2 Control gun ownership
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q16A Do you think having stricter gun laws would reduce the amount of violence in the country, or would the amount of violence remain the same?

- 1 Would reduce violence
- 2 Stay the same
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q17 Which ONE of the following do you think is the primary cause of gun violence in America?
[Prompt as needed, which ONE of these do you think is the primary cause of gun violence?]

[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-5; READ 1-6]

- 1 The easy availability of guns
- 2 Inadequate background checks on those who purchase guns
- 3 The way parents raise their children
- 4 The availability of violent video games
- 5 Inadequate treatment of mentally ill people
- 6 Or something else? [SPECIFY]
- 7 Combination of all of them (VOL)
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q18 Recently, President Obama announced specific plans to reduce gun violence. For each of the following, please tell me if you support or oppose this idea, or have no opinion.

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS 23A-23F]

- Q18A Improve mental health services.
- Q18B Universal background checks for anyone who wants to buy a gun.
- Q18C A tougher background check system.
- Q18D Renew the federal ban on military-style assault weapons.
- Q18E Limit access to high-capacity ammunition magazines.
- Q18F Provide incentives for schools to hire school resource officers and counselors.

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 8 No opinion/Don't Know
- 9 Refused (VOL)

QD30 Do you or anyone in your household own any kind of gun?

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

SUMMER SHORE PLANS

Q19 On another topic...do you typically spend time down the Jersey Shore during your summer vacation?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Live at shore (vol)
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

[IF Q19 NOT 1 SKIP TO Q25]

Q20 How long do you typically stay?

- 1 Day trip only
- 2 1-3 days
- 3 4 days to a week
- 4 More than a week
- 5 The entire summer
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Q21 And at which shore community do you typically spend the most time during your summer vacation?

[OPEN ENDED – CODE TO LIST, DO NOT READ]

- 1 Allenhurst
- 2 Asbury Park
- 3 Atlantic City
- 4 Atlantic Highlands
- 5 Avalon
- 6 Avon By The Sea
- 7 Barnegat Light
- 8 Bay Head
- 9 Beach Haven
- 10 Belmar
- 11 Bradley Beach
- 12 Brick Township
- 13 Brielle
- 14 Cape May
- 15 Deal
- 16 Freehold
- 17 Island Beach
- 18 Lake Como
- 19 Lakewood
- 20 Lavallette
- 21 Loch Arbour
- 22 Long Beach Island

- 23 Long Branch
- 24 Longport
- 25 Loveladies
- 26 Manasquan
- 27 Monmouth Beach
- 28 Neptune
- 29 Ocean City
- 30 Ocean Grove
- 31 Point Pleasant Beach
- 32 Red Bank
- 33 Rumson
- 34 Sandy Hook
- 35 Sea Bright
- 36 Sea Girt
- 37 Sea Isle City
- 38 Seaside Heights
- 39 Ship Bottom
- 40 Spring Lake
- 41 Stone Harbor
- 42 Surf City
- 43 Toms River
- 44 Wall Township
- 45 Wildwood
- 46 Other [**SPECIFY**]
- 88 Don't know (VOL)
- 99 Refused (VOL)

Q22 This coming summer, do you expect to spend more, less, or about the same amount of time at the Jersey Shore compared to past years?

- 1 More
- 2 Less
- 3 About the same amount
- 4 No time at all (VOL)
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

[IF Q22=4, SKIP TO Q24]

Q23 And how long do you think you will spend at the shore this summer?

- 1 None at all/will not visit
- 2 Day trip only
- 3 1-3 days
- 4 4 days to a week
- 5 More than a week
- 6 The entire summer

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

[IF Q22=2 AND if Q22=4, ASK:]

Q24 And will you be spending **less** time down the shore this summer because of any reason related to Superstorm Sandy, or are your reasons unrelated to the storm?

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

SUPERSTORM SANDY RECOVERY

Q25 Let's talk about Superstorm Sandy. In your opinion, is life after Sandy back to normal yet in New Jersey?

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

Q26 Were you, yourself, personally affected by the storm?

- 0 No → **SKIP TO Q28**
- 1 Yes
- 9 Refused (vol) → **SKIP TO Q28**

[IF Q26=1, CAN SAY "I AM SORRY TO HEAR THAT" IF NECESSARY/DEPENDING UPON SEVERITY]

Q26A Have you and your family recovered from the storm? [INTERVIEWER: DO NOT READ; PLEASE CODE APPROPRIATELY BASED ON INTERVIEWER RESPONSE.]

- 0 No, not at all
- 1 Yes, completely → **SKIP TO Q27C**
- 2 Partially
- 9 Refused

Q27 We'd like to know a bit about how life after the storm has been for you. For each of the following, just tell me yes or no.

- Q27A Do you have any unrepaired damage to your home?
- Q27B Do you have any unrepaired property damage other than your home?
- Q27C Have you used the services of a disaster assistance agency like the Red Cross or

FEMA?

Q27D Did you have damage you reported to your insurance company?

Q27E [ASK IF Q27D is YES] And have you received any payment from your insurance company so far?

[RESPONSE OPTIONS]

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

Q28 How well do you think each of the following people or organizations have been handling recovery efforts? For each tell me if they have handled recovery efforts very well, somewhat well, somewhat poorly, or very poorly?

[RANDOMIZE LIST]

- Q28A Governor Chris Christie
- Q28B President Barack Obama
- Q28C FEMA
- Q28D The Red Cross
- Q28E Your local government

- 1 Very well
- 2 Somewhat well
- 3 Somewhat poorly
- 4 Very poorly
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Q29 Do you think the shore should rebuild itself as quickly as possible for the summer tourism season, or do you think assessments should be done first on where similar damage may be likely to occur in the future?

- 1 As quickly as possible
- 1 Assessments done first
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q30 Who do you think should pay for recovery efforts? The people who own the damaged property or government?

- 1 People who own property
- 2 Government
- 3 A combination of both (VOL)
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

[IF Q30=2 "GOVERNMENT" or 3 "combination of both" ASK Q31, ELSE SKIP TO Q32]

Q31 Which level of government should be most responsible for paying for recovery efforts? Local, state, or federal government?

- 1 Local government
- 2 State government
- 3 Federal government
- 4 All of the above (VOL)
- 5 A combination of all three (VOL)
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q32 Do you think Sandy was a transformative event for New Jersey, or was it just another storm?

- 1 Transformative
- 2 Just another storm
- 3 Not sure what "transformative" means (VOL)
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

DEMOGRAPHICS

We're almost finished. Now we have a few last 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)

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 2012, 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]

[IF REACHED ON CELL PHONE ASK:]

QD34C Do you have any landline phones in your household or do you only use cell phones?

- 1 Landline in Household (reached on Cell)
- 2 Only use Cell
- 9 Refused (vol)

[IF REACHED ON LANDLINE PHONE ASK:]

QD34L Do you have any cell phones in your household or do you only use landline phones?

- 3 Cell in Household (reached on LL)
- 4 Only use landline
- 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 January 30 – February 3, 2012

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone Jan 30 – Feb 3, 2013 with a scientifically selected random sample of 796 New Jersey adults. Within this sample are 698 registered voters use in this release. 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. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 586 landline respondents and 210 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 698 registered voters is +/-3.7 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence

interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey registered voters favor a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 46.3 and 53.7 percent (50 ± 3.7) if all New Jersey registered voters were 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.