

**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll #185**

**April 3 – April 7, 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'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

**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 – ADULT AND NJ RESIDENT**

QD7 To ensure we are reaching people of all ages, would you please tell me 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)

**[IF REFUSED IN BOTH QD7 and QD8 TERMINATE, We must know age. IF UNDER 18, TERMINATE, too young.]**

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.**

**[CONSENT]**

**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 about 900 people statewide

will be selected to take part in this study. This should only take about 13 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.
- Q1C State Senator Barbara Buono (BWO-no).
- Q1D State Senate President Steven Sweeney.
- Q1E Newark Mayor Corey Booker.
- Q1F The U. S. Congress.
- Q1G The New Jersey State Legislature.

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

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 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
- 9 Refused

Q5 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 as Governor. First:  
**[RANDOMIZE ORDER Q3A-Q3E]**

- Q5A New Jersey's economy and jobs
- Q5B Hurricane Sandy recovery
- Q5C Taxes
- Q5D Education and Schools
- Q5E The state budget
- Q5F Crime and drugs

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 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
- 2 On the wrong track
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q10 In just one or two words, please tell me what the most important problem is in New Jersey today.

**[OPEN ENDED – RECORD VERBATIM]**

Q11 Is Governor Christie spending too much time, the right amount of time, or too little time on this problem?

- 1 Too much time
- 2 The right amount
- 3 Too little time
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

**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
- 9 Refused

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
- 9 Refused

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
- 9 Refused

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
- 9 Refused

**➔ IF QD1 NOT 1 (REGISTERED VOTER) SKIP TO Q24**

Q7 There will be an election for New Jersey governor in November. How closely have you followed news about the election so far? Is it 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
- 9 Refused

Q8 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
- 9 Refused

Q9 Regardless of who you support, which candidate do you expect to win – [**ROTATE ORDER:** Barbara Buono or Chris Christie]?

- 1 Buono
- 2 Christie
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

**[Q10-Q11 Moved to After Q6]**

**[SKIP TO Q13 IF AGE <21; CODE Q12 AS 4]**

Q12 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/Know (Vol)
- 9 Refused

**2013 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS – REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY**

Q13 There will also be elections for the New Jersey state legislature in November. Please think about the election for your representatives to the *General Assembly*. Do you plan to vote for **[ROTATE: Democrats or Republicans]** for the General Assembly, or do you plan to skip the election this time?

- 1 Republicans
- 2 Democrats
- 3 Other (VOL)
- 4 A Democrat AND a Republican (VOL)
- 5 Skip the election
- 8 Don't know/Not sure (VOL)
- 9 Refused

**[ASK ONLY IF Q13 = 8 or 9]**

Q13A Are you leaning toward voting for Democrats for the New Jersey Assembly or for Republicans? **[ROTATE PARTIES; same order as Q13]**

- 1 Republicans
- 2 Democrats
- 3 Other (VOL)
- 4 A Democrat AND a Republican (VOL)
- 5 Skip the election
- 8 Don't know/not sure (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q14 Now think about the election for your representative to the *State Senate*. Do you plan to vote for **[ROTATE: the Democrat or the Republican]** for the New Jersey Senate or do you plan to skip the election this time?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 Other (VOL)
- 5 Skip the election
- 8 Don't know/not sure (VOL)
- 9 Refused

**[ASK ONLY IF Q14 = 8 or 9]**

Q14A Are you leaning toward voting for the Democrat for the New Jersey State Senate or

for the Republican? **[ROTATE PARTIES; same order as Q14]**

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 Other (VOL)
- 5 Skip the Election
- 8 Don't know/not sure (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q15 In November, New Jersey voters will vote on an amendment to the state constitution to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$8.25 with automatic annual cost of living increases. If the election were today, would you support or oppose this constitutional amendment?

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

Q16 The state legislature is considering putting a question on legalizing same-sex marriage on the ballot this November to let voters decide. Do you think voters should decide whether to legalize same sex marriage in New Jersey?

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

Q17 If the question is placed on the ballot, will you vote for or against legalizing same-sex marriage in New Jersey?

- 1 For
- 2 Against
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

**CHRISTIE TRAITS AND EMOTIONS – REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY**

**[IF QD1 is NOT 1 (registered voter) SKIP TO Q24]**

**[IF Q1B IS NOT 1 OR 2 SKIP TO Q22]**

Q21 Now let's talk a little more about Governor Christie. Earlier, you said you feel **[INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q1B]** about the governor. In just a word or two can you tell me why



you have a **[INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q1B]** impression of Governor Christie?

**[RECORD OPEN ENDED]**

Q22 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.

**[RANDOMIZE LIST. FOR EACH READ THE WORD AND PROMPT FOR ANSWER AS NEEDED]**

- Q22A Bully
- Q22B Strong Leader
- Q22C Stubborn
- Q22D Reformer
- Q22E Independent
- Q22F Arrogant
- Q22G Smart
- Q22H Effective
- Q22I Trustworthy
- Q22J Fair
- Q22K Self Centered
- Q22L Impulsive

**[Response Options]**

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

Q23 How does reading or hearing about Governor Christie make you feel? Please tell me yes or no for each of the following:

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

- Q23A Proud
- Q23B Angry
- Q23C Enthusiastic
- Q23D Worried

**[Response Options]**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

**SUPERSTORM SANDY RECOVERY - ALL**

Q24 Next, let's talk about Superstorm Sandy. In your opinion, is life after Sandy back to normal yet in New Jersey?

- 1 Yes → **SKIP TO Q26**
- 2 No
- 8 Don't know → **SKIP TO Q26**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q26**

Q25 How long do you think it will take before New Jersey is back to normal again? Will it be:  
**[READ 1-5 ONLY]**

- 1 Within the next year
- 2 Between one year and up to five years
- 3 Between five years and up to ten years
- 4 Ten years or more,
- 5 Or will things never fully be back to normal again?
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

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

- 1 Yes
- 2 No → **SKIP TO Q28**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q28**

Q27 How much were you affected? Would you say you were seriously affected, moderately affected, or just a little affected?

- 1 Seriously
- 2 Moderately
- 3 Just a little
- 7 Not affected (VOL)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q28 One of the issues involving rebuilding after Sandy concerns the future of coastal areas that are prone to storm surge flooding. For each of the following proposals, please tell me if you strongly support it, somewhat support it, somewhat oppose it, or strongly oppose it.

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER Q28A-Q28G]**

- Q28A Converting formerly developed land into public beaches, parks, or wetlands.
- Q28B Encouraging landowners to rebuild homes and businesses further from the waterfront.
- Q28C Requiring that buildings be elevated with pilings to lessen future flood damage.
- Q28D Returning all shorefront development to its pre-Sandy state without significant changes.
- Q28E Using public funds to replenish the sand and create wider beaches.
- Q28F Requiring that sand dunes or seawalls be built and maintained between buildings and the beach.
- Q28G Abandoning parts of a waterfront town if repair and rebuilding is going to cost too much in government funds.

**[RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

- 1 Strongly support
- 2 Somewhat support
- 3 Somewhat oppose
- 4 Strongly oppose
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q29 Which of the following two plans do you think is a better use of some of the federal money being allocated to the state for Hurricane Sandy recovery, [rotate] provide \$10,000 to homeowners who rebuild their homes, as long as they stay where they are -for at least two years, or buy damaged properties from willing owners at their previous market value, tear them down and turn the properties into open space?

- 1 \$10,000 to homeowners to rebuild
- 2 Buy properties, turn into open space
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q31 Do you think that the major storms that have hit New Jersey the last two years are isolated weather events, or do you think that they are a result of global climate change?

- 1 Isolated weather events
- 2 Result of Global climate change
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q32 Have these storms made you more likely to believe global climate change is happening, less likely, or have they not made a difference in your opinion at all?

- 1 More likely

- 2 Less likely
- 3 No difference
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q33 How likely or unlikely do you think it is that global climate change will cause a natural disaster in your own community in the next year? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Somewhat unlikely
- 4 Very unlikely
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q34 How likely or unlikely do you think it is that global climate change will cause a natural disaster somewhere else in the United States in the next year? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Somewhat unlikely
- 4 Very unlikely
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q 35 How likely or unlikely do you think it is that the federal government will need to increase funding for disaster relief ~~caused by~~ to pay for natural disasters made worse by global climate change?

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Somewhat unlikely
- 4 Very unlikely
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q36 How likely or unlikely do you think it is that you personally will have to pay more for consumer goods and services due to the impact climate change is having on businesses in the next year?

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Somewhat unlikely

- 4 Very unlikely
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

## 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)

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)

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 April 3-7, 2013**

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone April 3-7, 2013 with a scientifically selected random sample of 923 New Jersey adults. 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 736 landline respondents and 187 cell phone respondents, all acquired through random digit dialing. The

registered voter subsample includes 819 respondents, weighted to gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity, using 2011 US Census Bureau registered voter data. The registered voter subsample includes 672 landline respondents and 147 cell phone respondents.

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 923 adults is +/-3.2 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey adults favor a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 46.8 and 53.2 percent ( $50 \pm 3.2$ ) if all New Jersey adults were interviewed, rather than just a sample. The sampling error for 819 registered voters is +/-3.7 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 by Opinion Access Corporation and 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.