

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll #190
January 14 – 19, 2014
Sample: 900 NJ ALL 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 of New Jersey residents. 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 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 of New Jersey residents. 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 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

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 800 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.

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 BASED ON COUNTY, TERMINATE: Thank you, we are only talking to New Jersey residents today.

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 about 900 people statewide will be selected to take part in this study. This should only take less than 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!

1. No → Attempt Convert
2. 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. If you do not know the name, just say so. First:

[RANDOMIZE ORDER Q1A-Q1G]

- Q1A President Barack Obama.
- Q1B Governor Chris Christie.
- Q1C New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. [KWO-mo]
- Q1D U.S. Senator Cory Booker.
- Q1E Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.
- Q1G State assemblyman Jon Bramnick [BRAM-nick].
- Q1H State senator Michael Doherty [DOH-herthy].

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

[ASK Q2A IF Q1B = 1 or 2; OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q2]

Q2A In just a word or two, please tell me why you feel [Q1B RESPONSE] toward Governor Chris Christie?

[OPEN ENDED, RECORD VERBATIM]

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
- 9 Refused

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
- 9 Refused

Q4 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 Q6A-Q6F]

- 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

Q6 And what about Senator Cory Booker? Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Cory Booker is handling his job as a U.S. Senator?

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

RIGHT/WRONG TRACK

Q7 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

Q8 In just a couple of words, please tell me what the most important problem is in New Jersey today.

[OPEN ENDED - RECORD VERBATIM; LEAVE BLANK IF NO ANSWER]

2013 GUBERNATORIAL POST-ELECTION RECAP

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 <> 1 SKIP TO Q11

[REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY]

Q9 New Jersey held an election for governor this past November. While some people voted, many others did not. How about you – did you vote in the election for governor?

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

[IF Q9 IS YES, ASK Q10, OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q11:]

Q10 And for whom did you vote? Was it Barbara Buono, Chris Christie, or some other candidate?

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

Q12 Please tell me if you think each of the following will get better in New Jersey over the next four years, get worse, or stay about the same:

[RANDOMIZE ORDER Q12A-Q12J]

- Q12A New Jersey overall
- Q12B The economy and jobs
- Q12C Taxes
- Q12D Crime and drugs
- Q12E New Jersey as a place to live
- Q12F Availability of affordable health care
- Q12G Education and schools

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 About the same
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q13A [ADD AFTER DAY 1] In his state of the state speech, Governor Christie said he wants children to spend more time in school, with both a longer school day and school year. What do you think of this idea? Do you support both a longer school day and school year, support a longer school year but oppose a longer day, support a longer day but oppose a longer year, or do you oppose both a longer day and longer year?

- 1 Support extending BOTH school day and year
- 2 Support extending school YEAR but oppose a longer day
- 3 Support a longer school DAY but oppose a longer year
- 4 Oppose both
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

CHRISTIE – PRESIDENT, ATTITUDE

Q14 There is a lot of talk about Governor Christie running for president. Do you think he will run in 2016, or not?

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

[ROTATE HEAD TO HEADS Q15-Q16]

Q15 The 2016 presidential election is far away, but if the election for president were today, and the candidates were [**ROTATE ORDER:** Republican Chris Christie and Democrat Hillary Clinton], for whom would you vote?

- 1 Christie
- 2 Clinton
- 3 Someone else (vol)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q16 And if the election for president were today, and the candidates were [**ROTATE ORDER:** Republican Chris Christie and Democrat Andrew Cuomo], for whom would you vote?

- 1 Christie

- 2 Cuomo
- 3 Someone else (vol)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

[END ROTATION]

Q19 In general, are the decisions Christie is making lately about various issues, including whether to sign or veto bills, more about **[ROTATE ORDER: what's best for NJ or more about his potential run for president]**?

- 1 Best for New Jersey
- 2 Potential run for president
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q20 Do you think it would be good for New Jersey, bad for New Jersey, or would not make any difference at all if Chris Christie runs for president in 2016?

- 1 Good
- 2 Bad
- 3 No difference
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

CHRISTIE TRAITS AND EMOTIONS

Q21 Next, 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.]

- Q21A Bully
- Q21B Strong Leader
- Q21C Stubborn
- Q21D Reformer
- Q21E Independent
- Q21F Arrogant
- Q21G Smart
- Q21H Effective
- Q21I Trustworthy
- Q21J Fair
- Q21K Self Centered
- Q21L Impulsive
- Q21M Fighter

Q21N Sincere

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

Q22 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...”]**

- Q22A Proud
- Q22B Angry
- Q22C Enthusiastic
- Q22D Worried

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

GWB

Q23 Turning to some recent news, how much have you heard about the controversy over the closing of local access lanes to the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee that happened last September, creating massive gridlock – a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

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

Q25 At a press conference last week, Governor Christie apologized to the people of New Jersey and Fort Lee, blaming top advisors in his administration for the lane closings. He announced that he had fired those responsible. Christie said he personally had been unaware that his staff had been involved. How likely do you think it is that top Christie advisors acted without the governor's knowledge? 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

Q25A Do you fully believe Governor Christie's explanation of what happened, somewhat believe his explanation, or not believe it at all?

- 1 Fully believe
- 2 Somewhat believe
- 3 Not believe it at all
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q27 Do you think Governor Christie's response to the lane closings is **[ROTATE]** more about making a heartfelt apology to New Jerseyans, **OR** more about trying to keep the scandal from damaging his potential presidential campaign?]

- 1 More about a heartfelt apology
- 2 More about his presidential campaign
- 3 Both equally (VOL)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q28 How much do you think Governor Christie's tough guy attitude and approach to his critics encourages this kind of behavior among his aides? Is it very much, somewhat, or not much at all?

- 1 Very much
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 Not much at all
- 4 None at all (vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q29 A state legislative committee is investigating the lane closings, requiring officials to provide records and testify. Should the legislature continue its investigation or is it a waste of time to keep focusing on this when there are other more important issues facing New Jersey?

- 1 Keep investigating
- 2 Waste of time
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q30 Does what happened provide any insight into how Governor Christie and his team would act if Christie were elected president, or do you think this event doesn't tell us very much about what a Christie presidency would be like?

- 1 Provides insights
- 2 Doesn't tell us very much
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q31 And how damaging has this been to Governor Christie's presidential ambitions nationally? Has it been very damaging, somewhat damaging, not very damaging, or not at all damaging?

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

Q33 How much has this event affected the likelihood you would vote for Governor Christie for president if he runs? Has it made you much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely or much less likely to vote for him, or has it had no effect?

- 1 Much more likely
- 2 Somewhat more likely
- 3 Somewhat less likely
- 4 Much less likely
- 5 No effect
- 6 Would not vote for him in any case (vol)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

HEALTH INSURANCE

Q34 Now let's talk a bit about health care. From what you have seen or heard about the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, do you strongly support it, somewhat support it, somewhat oppose it, or strongly oppose it?

- 1 Strongly support
- 2 Somewhat support
- 3 Somewhat oppose
- 4 Strongly oppose
- 8 Don't know

9 Refused

Q35 From what you have experienced so far, has the new health care law mostly helped you or your family, hurt you or your family, or has it had little effect so far?

- 1 Helped
- 2 Hurt
- 3 Little effect
- 4 Too soon to tell (VOL)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q37 The Affordable Care Act created an online health insurance exchange. Did you try to sign up for health insurance through the healthcare.gov website, whether or not you were successful?

- 1. No → **SKIP TO Q40**
- 2. Yes
- 8 Don't know → **SKIP TO Q40**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q40**

Q38 How many times did you have to try to sign up before you were successful?

[DO NOT READ; CODE TO LIST]

- 1. Never successful → **SKIP TO Q40**
- 2. One time
- 3. Two times
- 4. Three or more times
- 5. Did not use website; used phone or some other method
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q39 In the end, was the new insurance you got through the health care exchange more expensive, less expensive, or about the same as your prior insurance, or did you not have insurance before this?

- 1 More expensive
- 2 Less expensive
- 3 About the same
- 4 Did not have insurance before this
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q40 In other election news, U.S. Senator Cory Booker will have to run for re-election later this year. Thinking ahead, do you think Senator Booker deserves to be re-elected, or is it time for someone new?

1. Re-elected to another term
2. Time for someone new
3. He hasn't been in office long enough to tell (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

[ROTATE ORDER Q41/Q42]

Q41 If the election for New Jersey's U.S. Senate seat were held today, and the candidates were **[ROTATE ORDER: Democrat U.S. Senator Cory Booker and Republican state assemblyman Jon Bramnick (BRAM-nick)]**, for whom would you vote?

- 1 Booker
- 2 Bramnick
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q42 If the election for New Jersey's U.S. Senate seat were held today, and the candidates were **[ROTATE ORDER: Democrat U.S. Senator Cory Booker and Republican state Senator Michael Doherty (DAW-herthy)]**, for whom would you vote?

- 1 Booker
- 2 Doherty
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

[END ROTATION]

DEMOGRAPHICS

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

QD37 How often do you personally cross the George Washington Bridge to go to or from New York? Is it daily, a few times a week, about once a week, less often, or have you never used the George Washington Bridge?

- 1 Daily
- 2 A few times a week
- 3 once a week
- 4 Less than once a week
- 5 Never

- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

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)

QD9 What is your primary employment status? Are you: [**READ 1-8**]

[IF RESPONDENT SAYS SELF-EMPLOYED, PROMPT WITH "AND ARE YOU SELF-EMPLOYED FULL TIME OR PART TIME?"]

- 1 Employed full time [CODE ALSO FOR THOSE SELF-EMPLOYED FULL TIME]
- 2 Employed part time [CODE ALSO FOR THOSE SELF-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)

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 a 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 2013, 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]

QD29A Do you, yourself, currently have any kind of health insurance coverage? This may include Medicaid or Medicare, or any new coverage because of the Affordable Care Act, or any other kind of coverage?

- 0 No → **SKIP TO QD34C/L**
- 1 Yes
- 8 Don't know → **SKIP TO QD34C/L**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO QD34C/L**

QD29 And which of the following best describes your MAIN source of health insurance coverage?
Just stop me when I read the right one. **[READ FIRST SEVEN OPTIONS]**

- 1 Medicare
- 2 A plan through you or your spouse's employer,
- 3 A plan you or a spouse purchased from the new health care exchange,
- 4 A plan you or a spouse purchased, but NOT from the new health care exchange,
- 5 Medicaid,
- 6 Some other government program,
- 7 Or something else.
- 8 A plan through your parent or guardian (vol)
- 9 None of these (vol)
- 88 Don't know (vol)
- 99 Refused (vol)

[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-loak*) 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 14-19, 2014

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live callers January 14-19, 2014 with a scientifically selected random sample of 826 New Jersey adults. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey adult population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to US Census Bureau data. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 619 landline and 207 cell phone adults, 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 826 adults is +/-3.4 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey adults favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 46.6 and 53.4 percent (50 +/-3.4) 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 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 for the study of politics and the political process.