

New Jersey Poll 12
September 1974

TIME INTERVIEW BEGAN

Hello, my name is _____. I'm a student at Rutgers University and I'm taking a survey (public opinion poll) for the Eagleton Institute. I'd like your views on some important issues facing the state of New Jersey.

1. To begin with, for how many years have you lived in New Jersey, or have you lived here all your life?

- 1 LESS THAN ONE
- 2 1 or 2
- 3 3 - 5
- 4 6 - 10
- 5 11 - 20
- 6 20 - 30
- 7 MORE THAN 30
- 8 ALL MY LIFE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

2A. What in your opinion are the two or three most important issues facing the state of New Jersey (FIRST RESPONSE)?

2B. What in your opinion are the two or three most important issues facing the state of New Jersey (SECOND RESPONSE)?

2C. What in your opinion are the two or three most important issues facing the state of New Jersey (THIRD RESPONSE)?

3. How would you rate the job Gerald Ford is doing as president--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 EXCELLENT
- 2 GOOD
- 3 ONLY FAIR
- 4 POOR
- 9 DON'T KNOW

4. Would you say you approve or disapprove of the way President Ford has been handling the problems of the economy?

- 1 APPROVE
- 2 DISAPPROVE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Ford has been handling the nation's foreign affairs ?

- 1 APPROVE
- 2 DISAPPROVE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

6. Do you approve or disapprove of President Ford's granting a conditional amnesty to Vietnam draft evaders and deserters ?

- 1 APPROVE [Go to q.8]
- 2 DISAPPROVE
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.8]

(IF DISAPPROVE TO Q. 6, ASK:)

7. Do you disapprove because you feel Ford should have granted an unconditional amnesty or because you feel he should not have granted any amnesty?

- 1 UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY
- 2 NO AMNESTY
- 9 DON'T KNOW

8. Would you say you approve or disapprove of President Ford's granting a full pardon to former President Nixon for any involvement of his in the Watergate Affair ?

- 1 APPROVE
- 2 DISAPPROVE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

9. I am going to read you a few statements about President Ford's pardon of former President Nixon. For each statement I will read could you tell me whether you agree or disagree with it (START AT DESIGNATED POINT AND REPEAT CHOICES AS NECESSARY.) |

A The main reason why President Ford granted the pardon was out of compassion for Mr. Nixon's health?

B The Nixon pardon was unfair because it means that all people are not treated equally by the law?

C Now that Nixon has been pardoned we should close the books on the Watergate affair and get on with other problems?

D It was very likely that the pardon was part of an agreement President Ford made with Nixon before he resigned?

E It is only fair, now that Nixon has been pardoned, that others involved in the Watergate affair should also be pardoned?

F It is very likely, now that Nixon has been pardoned, that we will never learn the full story of Watergate?

- 1 AGREE
- 2 DISAGREE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

Now let me ask you a few questions about politics here in New Jersey.

10. Overall, how good a job do you think the Governor of New Jersey--Brendan Byrne--is doing--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 EXCELLENT
- 2 GOOD
- 3 ONLY FAIR
- 4 POOR
- 9 DON'T KNOW

11. How good a job do you think the New Jersey State Legislature is doing--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 EXCELLENT
- 2 GOOD
- 3 ONLY FAIR
- 4 POOR
- 9 DON'T KNOW

12. In comparison with past administrations, how well do you feel Governor Byrne has dealt with corruption in government-- Do you feel he has handled it extremely well, quite well, fairly well, or not very well?

- 1 EXTREMELY WELL
- 2 QUITE WELL
- 3 FAIRLY WELL
- 4 NOT VERY WELL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

13. In your opinion is the state government very corrupt, somewhat corrupt, or not corrupt?

- 1 VERY CORRUPT
- 2 SOMEWHAT CORRUPT
- 3 NOT CORRUPT
- 9 DON'T KNOW

14. This summer the New Jersey State Legislature considered adopting a state income tax. The money raised by the tax would be used to help reduce the local property tax for schools. Would you support a state income tax if it led to a reduction in the local property tax for schools (REPEAT IF NECESSARY) ?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

15. From what you may have read or heard of this tax proposal do you think that property taxes in your area would have gone down if the income tax had been approved?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

16. Instead of a state income tax some people have suggested increasing the state sales tax. If you had to choose, which would you prefer--a state income tax or an increase in the sales tax?

- 1 INCOME TAX
- 2 INCREASE IN SALES TAX
- 3 NEITHER (Volunteered)
- 4 BOTH (Volunteered)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

17. Another tax being considered is a statewide property tax. The state would collect and distribute the tax rather than the local government and the tax rate would be the same for all communities. Would you be in favor of a statewide property tax if it replaced the local property tax on schools (REPEAT IF NECESSARY) ?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 3 DEPENDS ON PLAN (Volunteered)
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

18. Would you be in favor of legalizing gambling casinos here in New Jersey?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

19. In order to have gambling casinos in New Jersey, an amendment to the State's Constitution has been proposed. If you had to decide right now, would you vote for this amendment to the Constitution that would permit casino gambling, or would you vote against it?

- 1 FOR [Go to q.21]
- 2 AGAINST [Go to q.21]
- 9 DON'T KNOW

(IF DON'T KNOW TO Q. 19, ASK:)

20. At this moment are you leaning for or against this amendment?

- 1 LEANING FOR
- 2 LEANING AGAINST
- 9 DON'T KNOW

21. Some people have suggested that if gambling casinos are approved the casinos should be limited to Atlantic City. Do you agree with this suggestion or do you think that gambling casinos should be permitted in other areas of the state?

- 1 ATLANTIC CITY ONLY
- 2 OTHER AREAS
- 3 AGAINST CASINO GAMBLING (Volunteered)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

22. Would you like to have gambling casinos in your city or town?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

23. If gambling casinos were legalized, do you think this would help reduce your taxes?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

24. Do you think that gambling casinos will attract members of organized crime which will create additional problems for the police?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

25. Do you think the presence of gambling casinos in New Jersey would encourage people to gamble who could not afford to lose money?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

26. Would you personally go to a gambling casino if they were legalized?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

This November there will be an election for the United States Congress.

27. As of now how likely are you to vote in the November election-- Do you think you definitely will vote, probably will vote, probably will not vote, or you will definitely not vote?

- 1 DEFINITELY WILL VOTE
- 2 PROBABLY WILL VOTE
- 3 NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW
- 4 PROBABLY WILL NOT VOTE
- 5 DEFINITELY WILL NOT VOTE [Go to q.30]

(IF ANSWERED 1, 2, 3, or 4 TO Q. 27, ASK:)

28. If you could vote right now, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate for Congress ?

- 1 DEMOCRAT [Go to q.30]
- 2 REPUBLICAN [Go to q.30]
- 9 DON'T KNOW

(IF DON'T KNOW TO Q. 28, ASK:)

29. Are you leaning more toward the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

- 1 DEMOCRAT
- 2 REPUBLICAN
- 9 DON'T KNOW

Turning now to a different topic. Sometimes public officials and governmental agencies can help us with problems we might have.

30. During the last year have you had a problem which you felt a public official or governmental agency should be able to help you with?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.37]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.37]

(IF YES TO Q. 30, ASK:)

31. What was the problem?

32. Did you consider seeing, talking or writing to anyone about this problem?

- 1 YES [Go to q.34]
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

(IF NO TO Q. 32, ASK:)

33. Why didn't you consider contacting anyone?

(IF YES TO Q. 32, ASK:)

34. Did you actually try to contact someone?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.37]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.37]

(IF YES TO Q. 34, ASK:)

35. Who did you contact ?

36. Were you satisfied with the outcome?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

37. In politics as of today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 DEMOCRAT [Go to q.39]
- 2 REPUBLICAN [Go to q.39]
- 3 INDEPENDENT
- 4 SOMETHING ELSE
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

(IF INDEPENDENT, DON'T KNOW, OR SOMETHING ELSE TO Q. 37 ASK:)

38. As of today, do you lean more toward the Democratic party or more toward the Republican party?

- 1 DEMOCRATIC
- 2 REPUBLICAN
- 9 DON'T KNOW/UNDECIDED

39. Regardless of the political party you might favor, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?

- 1 LIBERAL [Go to q.41]
- 2 CONSERVATIVE [Go to q.41]
- 3 SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

(IF SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN OR DON'T KNOW TO Q. 39, ASK:)

40. Do you lean more toward the liberal side or more toward the conservative side?

- 1 LIBERAL
- 2 CONSERVATIVE
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

41. Are you now registered to vote?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

42. Did you vote in the election last November?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

43. Do you own or rent your apartment or house?

- 1 OWN
- 2 RENT
- 3 LIVE RENT FREE WITH PARENTS/RELATIVES
- 9 NOT DETERMINED

44. What was the last grade in school you completed?

- 1 8th GRADE OR LESS
- 2 HIGH SCHOOL INCOMPLETE (Grades 9, 10 and 11)
- 3 HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETE (Grade 12)
- 4 SOME COLLEGE
- 5 COLLEGE GRADUATE
- 6 GRADUATE WORK
- 9 NOT DETERMINED

45. What is your religious preference ?

- 1 PROTESTANT
- 2 CATHOLIC/ORTHODOX
- 3 JEWISH
- 4 OTHER (specify)
- 5 NONE
- 9 REFUSED

46. In which of these age groups are you (READ RESPONSES) ?

- 1 18 - 20
- 2 21 - 24
- 3 25 - 29
- 4 THIRTIES (30 - 39)
- 5 FORTIES (40 - 49)

- 6 FIFTIES (50 - 59)
- 7 60 OR OVER
- 9 NO ANSWER/REFUSED

47. What is your race?

- 1 WHITE
- 2 NEGRO/BLACK
- 3 OTHER (specify)
- 9 NOT DETERMINED

48. Is the chief wage earner regularly employed?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.50]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.50]

(IF YES TO Q. 48, ASK:)

49. Does the chief wage earner get paid at an hourly rate, paid a salary, or is the chief wage earner self-employed?

- 1 HOURLY
- 2 SALARIED
- 3 SELF-EMPLOYED
- 9 DON'T KNOW

50. So that we can group all answers, what is your total annual family income before taxes: under \$5,000; \$5,000 to \$10,000; \$10,000 to \$15,000; \$15,000 to \$20,000; over \$20,000?

- 1 UNDER \$5,000
- 2 \$5,000 - \$10,000
- 3 \$10,000 - \$15,000
- 4 \$15,000 - \$20,000
- 5 OVER \$20,000
- 9 REFUSED/DON'T KNOW

51. Where do you live-- in what township or municipality?

51a. In what county is that?

52. Thinking back over the last four weeks, if we had called you on a (day of week) at this time, how many times would you have been home--one out of four times, two out of four times, three out of four times, or all the time?

- 1 NEVER HOME (VOLUNTEERED)
- 2 ONE OUT OF FOUR TIMES (rarely, hardly ever)
- 3 TWO OUT OF FOUR TIMES (sometimes)
- 4 THREE OUT OF FOUR TIMES (most of the time, regularly)
- 5 ALL OF THE TIME
- 9 REFUSED