

New Jersey Poll 13  
November 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 21-30
- 7 MORE THAN 30
- 8 ALL MY LIFE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

2. 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

3. 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

4. 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

5. How would you rate the job Congress has done during the past year--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

6. As you know, President Ford has nominated Nelson Rockefeller to be Vice President. Do you think the Congress should confirm Nelson Rockefeller as Vice President?

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

7. I'm going to read you a number of statements about Rockefeller's nomination. For each one, could you tell me if you agree or disagree (START AT DESIGNATED POINT AND REPEAT CHOICES AS NECESSARY) |

A A man as wealthy as Rockefeller is out of touch with the problems of the average person?

B Rockefeller's long experience in government makes him very well qualified to be Vice President?

C Rockefeller has used his wealth improperly to influence government officials and other people?

D A man as wealthy as Rockefeller would not be influenced by special interests and favor-seekers?

E If Rockefeller had been nominated before Watergate he would have been confirmed without any difficulty?

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

8. If something happened to Gerald Ford, do you think Rockefeller would make a good President?

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

9. I'd like you to think of your own personal economic well-being. Do you think you are better off or worse off than you were four years ago?

- 1 BETTER OFF
- 2 WORSE OFF
- 3 ABOUT THE SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

10. Do you think you are better off or worse off than one year ago?

- 1 BETTER OFF
- 2 WORSE OFF
- 3 ABOUT THE SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

11. A year from now do you think you will be better off or worse off than now?

- 1 BETTER OFF
- 2 WORSE OFF
- 3 ABOUT THE SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

12. Do you feel the prices of most things you buy are rising more rapidly, as rapidly, or less rapidly than a year ago, or are they going down ?

- 1 MORE RAPIDLY
- 2 ABOUT AS RAPIDLY AS THEY WERE THEN
- 3 LESS RAPIDLY/STAYED AT SAME PRICE LEVEL (Volunteered)
- 4 GOING DOWN
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

13. Compared to a year ago, do you feel the number of people unemployed in your area has increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

- 1 INCREASED
- 2 DECREASED
- 3 STAYED THE SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

14. A number of proposals, have been made to deal with the problems of the economy. One proposal is for the government to control both prices and wages. Would you be in favor of the government imposing price and wage controls?

- 1 YES
- 2 YES WITH QUALIFICATIONS (Volunteered) (Specify\_\_\_\_\_)
- 3 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

15. President Ford has proposed a 5 percent surtax on incomes of families earning more than \$15,000 a year. Would you be in favor of such a tax?

- 1 YES
- 2 YES WITH QUALIFICATIONS (Volunteered)
- 3 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

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

16. 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

Turning now to a related topic.

18. Alternate kinds of taxes are being considered by the state government for financing local schools. One of these 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 QUESTION AS NECESSARY--- DO NOT ELABORATE) ?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 3 DEPENDS ON PLAN

9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

19. Another way to reduce the local property tax is to increase the state sales tax. Would you be in favor of increasing the sales tax if this helped reduce the local property tax for schools (REPEAT QUESTION AS NECESSARY--DO NOT ELABORATE)?

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

20. The New Jersey Supreme Court has declared the present system of financing public schools through the local property taxes unconstitutional. If you had to choose another method of financing public schools, which would you prefer-an increase in the sales tax or a statewide property tax (REPEAT QUESTION AS NECESSARY--- DO NOT ELABORATE) ?

- 1 INCREASE SALES TAX
- 2 STATEWIDE PROPERTY TAX
- 3 NEITHER
- 4 COMBINATION OF BOTH
- 9 DON'T KNOW

21. At present business property is taxed at the same rate as property owned by individuals. Would you be in favor of taxing business property at a higher rate than property owned by individuals (REPEAT QUESTION AS NECESSARY---DO NOT ELABORATE)?

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

22. In a number of counties last week, voters were asked to approve a new form of county government. Was there such an election in your county?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.24]
- 9 DON'T KNOW

(IF YES TO Q. 22, ASK:)

23. Did you vote in favor of such a change, did you vote against a change, or didn't you vote on that issue?

- 1 FOR
- 2 AGAINST
- 3 DIDN'T VOTE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

24. How good a job do you think your county government is doing--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

25. During the past year which political party was in control of your county government--was it the Democrats or the Republicans?

- 1 DEMOCRATS
- 2 REPUBLICANS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

26A. What do you consider to be the two or three most important things your county government does-- PROBE: Is there anything the county government has control over (FIRST RESPONSE)?

26B. What do you consider to be the two or three most important things your county government does-- PROBE: Is there anything the county government has control over (SECOND RESPONSE)?

26C. What do you consider to be the two or three most important things your county government does-- PROBE: Is there anything the county government has control over (THIRD RESPONSE)?

27A. Some officials in county government are elected. What are these officials called-- PROBE: What are their titles-- If a name is given, ask: What position does he/she hold (FIRST RESPONSE)?

27B. Some officials in county government are elected. What are these officials called-- PROBE: What are their titles-- If a name is given, ask: What position does he/she hold (SECOND RESPONSE)?

27C. Some officials in county government are elected. What are these officials called-- PROBE: What are their titles-- If a name is given, ask: What position does he/she hold (THIRD RESPONSE)?

28. A topic that has been under discussion in New Jersey concerns the legalization of marijuana. I am going to read you a number of statements about this issue. For each one, could you tell me if you agree or disagree (START AT (A) AND REPEAT CHOICES AS NECESSARY) |

- A Penalties for the use of marijuana should be reduced?
- B Penalties for the possession of a small amount of marijuana should be eliminated?
- C The sale and use of marijuana should be completely legalized?
- D Marijuana is no more harmful than alcohol?
- E People who use marijuana are likely to go on to use other illegal drugs?

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

29. If marijuana were legalized would you consider using it?

- 1 YES
- 2 REFUSED--PROBABLY YES
- 3 REFUSED--CAN'T TELL YES OR NO
- 4 REFUSED--PROBABLY NO
- 5 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

30. Have you ever used marijuana?

- 1 YES
- 2 REFUSED--PROBABLY YES
- 3 REFUSED--CAN'T TELL YES OR NO
- 4 REFUSED--PROBABLY NO
- 5 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

I would like to change now to a different topic.

31. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The decision to have an abortion is a private matter that should be left to the parents to decide without government intervention?

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

32. According to a recent decision of the United States Supreme Court abortions are now legal during the first six months of pregnancy. Were you aware that abortions are now legal throughout the country?

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

33. Would you be in favor of a Constitutional amendment that would make abortions illegal ?

- 1 FAVOR
- 2 OPPOSE
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.35]

(IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE TO Q. 33, ASK:)

34. Are you strongly (in favor of/opposed to) such an amendment or only mildly (in favor of/opposed to) it?

- 1 STRONGLY
- 2 MILDLY
- 9 DON'T KNOW

35. Should money from Medicaid, Medicare or other government supported health programs be used to help pay for abortions for those people who qualify?

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

36. Do you think that abortions should be available at all publicly supported hospitals for those requesting one?

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

37. The New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority currently operates four television stations. In the past month have you watched any of these Jerseyvision channels 23, 50, 52, or 58?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.46]
- 9 DON'T KNOW

(IF YES TO Q. 37, ASK:)

38. Which ones (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY) |

- A Channel 23?
- B Channel 50?
- C Channel 52?
- D Channel 58?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Don't know

42. Have you or anyone in your family ever watched the program Express Yourself on any of these channels?

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

43. During the month before this November's election most candidates for Congress presented on these channels a half hour political program supporting their election. Did you watch any of these programs on channels 23, 50, 52, or 58?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.45]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.45]

(IF YES TO Q. 43, ASK:)

44A. Which candidates did you see (FIRST RESPONSE)?

44B. Which candidates did you see (SECOND RESPONSE)?

44C. Which candidates did you see (THIRD RESPONSE)?

45. This year's elections were held (last week/week before last). Did you or any member of your family follow any of the election returns that evening on channels 23, 50, --52, or 58?

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

Now turning to a different topic.

46. Since New Jersey is on the ocean it has a wide variety of beach and shore areas. Have you ever visited any beach or shore area in New Jersey in the past year?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.52]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.52]

47. Have you visited a salt marsh in the last year--by salt marsh we mean low wetlands covered with grass and reeds bordering coastal bays and rivers?

- 1 YES [Go to q.48]
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

(IF NO TO Q. 47, ASK:)

47a. Have you ever visited a salt marsh?

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

48. About how many days last year did you visit a salt marsh in New Jersey?

50. Have you ever visited the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge?

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

51. I am going to read you a list of things people do when they visit a salt marsh. For each activity could you tell me if you always, usually, occasionally, or never do this when you are at a salt marsh (START AT DESIGNATED POINT AND -- REPEAT OPTIONS AS NECESSARY) |

- A Fishing?
- B Hunting?
- C Clamming?
- D Crabbing?
- E Watching animals or birds?
- F Picnicking or other types of recreation?

- 1 ALWAYS
- 2 USUALLY
- 3 SOMETIMES
- 4 NEVER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

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

- 1 DEMOCRAT [Go to q.54]
- 2 REPUBLICAN [Go to q.54]
- 3 INDEPENDENT
- 4 SOMETHING ELSE
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION



(IF INDEPENDENT, DON'T KNOW, OR SOMETHING ELSE TO Q. 52, ASK:)

53. 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

54. 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.56]
- 2 CONSERVATIVE [Go to q.56]
- 3 SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

(IF SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN OR DON'T KNOW TO Q. 54, ASK:)

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

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

56. Are you now registered to vote?

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

57. Did you vote in (last week's/week before last's) elections?

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

(IF YES TO Q. 57, ASK:)

58. Did you vote for or against the amendment to legalize casino gambling?

- 1 FOR
- 2 AGAINST
- 3 DIDN'T VOTE ON THAT ISSUE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

58a. Did you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate for Congress?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 3 DIDN'T VOTE FOR THAT OFFICE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

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

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

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

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

61. What is your religious preference?

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

62. 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

63. What is your race?

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

64. Is the chief wage earner regularly employed?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.66]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.66]

(IF YES TO Q. 64, ASK:)

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

- 1 HOURLY (and piecework)
- 2 SALARIED (and commissions)
- 3 SELF EMPLOYED
- 9 DON'T KNOW

66. 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

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

67A. In what county is that?

68. 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