

EAGLETON POLL 43
JANUARY 1981

A Hello, my name is (first and last name)--I'm (a student at/on the staff of) 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 and the nation

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

- 1 LESS THAN ONE
- 2 ONE OR TWO
- 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. Overall, how would you rate New Jersey as a place to live-excellent, good, fair, or poor?

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

3. I'd like to ask your opinions on some proposals being considered by the state legislature--For each one please just tell me whether you favor or oppose it--If you don't have an opinion on some, just say so - |

A A law requiring a 3 year prison sentence for all those using a handgun in a crime, regardless of the circumstances?

B A law banning the sale and possession of handguns in New Jersey?

C A law that prevents people from scalping tickets--that is buying them for one price and then selling them for a large profit?

D Do you favor or oppose reducing penalties for the possession of a small amount of marijuana?

E Restoring the death penalty for murder?

F Allowing prayer in public schools?

G How about a law requiring prayer in public schools?

- 1 FAVOR
- 2 OPPOSE
- 3 NO OPINION
- 9 DON'T KNOW

4. How interested are you in New Jersey government and New Jersey politics--very, somewhat, a little, or not at all interested?

- 1 VERY INTERESTED
- 2 SOMEWHAT INTERESTED
- 3 A LITTLE INTERESTED

4 NOT AT ALL INTERESTED
9 DON'T KNOW

5. And how would you rate the job the New Jersey legislature in Trenton is doing--excellent, good, fair or poor?

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

6. How would you rate the job Brendan Byrne is doing as Governor--excellent, good, fair, or poor?

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

7. Brendan Byrne, who has been Governor since 1974, is going into his last year in office--What would you say has been the Byrne administration's greatest achievement--PROBE: Is there anything Byrne has done that you feel has been particularly good for the state-- Is there any accomplishment that stands out?

8. And what would you say has been the biggest failure of the Byrne administration--PROBE: Is there anything Byrne has done or failed to do that has been bad for the state?

9. Now for each of the statements I read about Governor Byrne, please just tell me if you agree or disagree --|

A He has been a strong spokesman for New Jersey?
B He has attracted good people to serve in state government?
C He has been a good administrator in running the state on a day to day basis?
D He has taken on many of the serious problems facing the state?
E He has done a good job of keeping corruption out of his administration?
F He has been successful in getting his programs through the legislature?

1 AGREE
2 DISAGREE
9 DON'T KNOW

10. How well do you feel you know Brendan Byrne as a person--very well, pretty well, just a little or not at all?

1 VERY WELL
2 PRETTY WELL
3 A LITTLE
4 NOT AT ALL
9 DON'T KNOW

11. People are often described by a number of characteristics such as 'smart' or 'nice'--Please tell me if you think Brendan Byrne is described a lot, a little, or not very well by each characteristic I read--First, how about (), does this fit Byrne a lot, a little or not very well--If you don't have an opinion on some, just say so -- |

- A A hard worker?
- B Intelligent?
- C Friendly?
- D Honest?
- E Strong leader?

- 1 A LOT
- 2 A LITTLE
- 3 NOT VERY WELL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

12. Overall, how would you rate the quality of government in New Jersey--excellent, good, fair, or poor?

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

13. Lately there has been discussion of the southern part of the state splitting away from the rest of New Jersey to form a separate state--How much have you heard or read about this a good deal, some, just a little or nothing at all?

- 1 GOOD DEAL
- 2 SOME
- 3 JUST A LITTLE
- 4 NOTHING AT ALL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

14. In general do you favor or oppose this plan to separate north and south New Jersey into two different states--PROBE: DO you strongly or just mildly (favor/oppose) this?

- 1 FAVOR STRONGLY
- 2 FAVOR MILDLY
- 3 OPPOSE MILDLY
- 4 OPPOSE STRONGLY
- 5 DON'T KNOW

15. Why do you think this (would/would not) be a good idea PROBE: What do you mean by that-- Can you be more specific--Are there any other reasons?

16. Some of the people supporting separate states have said that the Legislature doesn't pay enough attention to the problems of South Jersey-- Do you agree or disagree, or don't you have an opinion on this?

- 1 AGREE
- 2 DISAGREE [Go to q.18]

9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.18]

(IF "AGREE" TO Q. 16 ASK:)

17. Can you recall any specific issues where this has happened--PROBE: Any others?

18. I'm going to read you a short list of issues--For each one please tell me if you think North Jersey residents are better off, South Jersey residents are better off, or if there is no difference--If you don't have an opinion just say so -- |

- A The quality of public education?
- B Air and water pollution?
- C The condition of state roads and highways?
- D The preservation of open land?
- E The amount of taxes paid for services received?

- 1 NORTH JERSEY RESIDENTS ARE BETTER OFF
- 2 SOUTH JERSEY RESIDENTS ARE BETTER OFF
- 3 NO DIFFERENCE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

19. In what township or municipality do you live?

20. What county is that?

- 1 Atlantic
- 2 Burlington
- 3 Camden
- 4 Cape May
- 5 Cumberland
- 6 Gloucester
- 7 Ocean
- 8 Salem
- 9 Bergen
- 10 Essex
- 11 Hudson
- 12 Hunterdon
- 13 Mercer
- 14 Middlesex
- 15 Monmouth
- 16 Morris
- 17 Passaic
- 18 Somerset
- 19 Sussex
- 20 Union
- 21 Warren
- 99 Don't Know

ASK ONLY SOUTH JERSEY RESPONDENTS, OTHERS GO TO Q.25

21. ASK ONLY SOUTH JERSEY RESPONDENTS : Do you think that people living in South Jersey have different problems than those living elsewhere in the state-- IF YES, PROBE: What are some of these problems -- |

- A Problem 1?
- B Problem 2?

22. ASK ONLY SOUTH JERSEY RESPONDENTS : Residents of some southern counties were able to vote on the idea of forming a separate state in November's election--Can you recall, did you vote or not vote on this question?

- 1 YES VOTED
- 2 NO DID NOT VOTE [Go to q.25]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.25]

IF "YES" TO Q.22 ASK:

23. ASK ONLY SOUTH JERSEY RESPONDENTS: Did you vote for or against forming a separate state?

- 1 FOR
- 2 AGAINST [Go to q.25]
- 9 DON'T KNOW/REFERRED [Go to q.25]

IF "FOR" TO Q. 23 ASK:

24. ASK ONLY SOUTH JERSEY RESPONDENTS: Did you vote for forming a separate state more because you think this is the best thing to do, or more as a way of calling attention to the problems of South Jersey?

- 1 BEST THING TO DO
- 2 CALL ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS
- 8 BOTH (VOL. RESP. ONLY--DO NOT SUGGEST TO RESPONDENT)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

ASK ALL RESPONDENTS

25. Turning now to some other problems facing the state, there has been much talk lately about an "energy crisis"--How serious do you think the energy crisis is--is it a very serious problem, somewhat serious or not at all serious?

- 1 VERY SERIOUS
- 2 SOMEWHAT SERIOUS
- 3 NOT AT ALL SERIOUS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

26. Do you think the state and local taxes you pay are too high, too low, or about right--IF "TOO HIGH", (PROBE: Would you say much too high or only somewhat too high?

- 1 MUCH TOO HIGH
- 2 SOMEWHAT TOO HIGH
- 3 ABOUT RIGHT
- 4 TOO LOW
- 5 DO NOT PAY
- 9 DON'T KNOW

27. As you know, most of the money government spends comes from the taxes you and others pay--For each of the following, please tell me whether you think state and local government here in New Jersey should be spending more, less, or about the same as now. First, how about _____--should more, less, or the same be spent -- |

- A Environmental programs?
- B Programs for the poor?
- C Public grade schools and high schools?
- D Streets and highways?
- E Police forces?
- F Public colleges and universities?
- G Public transportation?
- H Prisons?
- I Programs for the elderly?
- J Industrial growth and development?
- K Tourism?

Turning to a different topic,

28. When you hear the word "politician", what's the first word that comes to mind?

29. Then, would you say that your general impression of politicians is favorable or unfavorable--PROBE: Would you say very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable)?

- 1 VERY FAVORABLE
- 2 SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE
- 3 SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE
- 4 VERY UNFAVOARABLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

30. Why is your general impression (favorable/unfavorable)--PROBE: What do you mean by that--Can you be more specific?

31. Is your general impression of politicians here in New Jersey favorable or unfavorable--PROBE: Very or somewhat?

- 1 VERY FAVORABLE
- 2 SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE
- 3 SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE
- 4 VERY UNFAVORABLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

32. Do you think that the politicians here in New Jersey are better than those in other states, worse than others, or about the same?

- 1 BETTER
- 2 WORSE
- 3 SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW

33. In general, when you think of a politician do you think more of those people running for office or of those people serving in government?

- 1 RUNNING
- 2 SERVING
- 3 BOTH (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

34. When deciding what should be done, how much attention do you think most politicians pay to the people who elected them--a good deal, some or not very much?

- 1 GOOD DEAL
- 2 SOME
- 3 NOT VERY MUCH
- 9 DON'T KNOW

35. Do you feel that almost all politicians are smart people who usually know what they are doing; or do quite a few of them not know what they are doing?

- 1 KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING
- 2 DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING
- 3 MIXED/SOME DO, SOME DON'T (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

36. How much of the time do you think you can trust politicians to do what is right--most of the time, some of the time, rarely or never?

- 1 MOST
- 2 SOME
- 3 RARELY
- 4 NEVER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

37. Do you think most people decide to go into politics for public service reasons or for personal gain?

- 1 PUBLIC SERVICE
- 2 PERSONAL GAIN
- 3 BOTH (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

38. Once in office, do you think politicians look out more for the interests of the public, or for their own interests?

- 1 PUBLIC
- 2 OWN
- 3 BOTH (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

39. Corrupt politicians get more press attention than others so it's hard to tell how many are really corrupt--out of 10 politicians, how many would you guess to be corrupt?

Write in number and code below.

CODE

- 1 NONE
- 2 ONE
- 3 TWO
- 4 THREE
- 5 FOUR
- 6 FIVE
- 7 SIX
- 8 SEVEN
- 9 EIGHT
- 10 NINE
- 11 TEN
- 99 DON'T KNOW

40. Do you think politicians are more corrupt than people in other occupations, less corrupt, or is there really no difference?

- 1 MORE
- 2 LESS
- 3 SAME/NO DIFFERENCE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

41. Where do you get most of your information about New Jersey government and politics--from newspapers, television, radio, magazines, or from friends and acquaintances?

- 1 NEWSPAPERS
- 2 TELEVISION
- 3 RADIO
- 4 MAGAZINES
- 5 FRIENDS, ACQUAINTANCES, OTHER PEOPLE
- 6 OTHER, COMBINATIONS-REFUSES TO CHOOSE (VOL. RESP. ONLY)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

42. In the average week how many days do you read a newspaper?

- 1 NONE
- 2 ONE
- 3 TWO (A COUPLE)
- 4 THREE (A FEW)
- 5 FOUR
- 6 FIVE
- 7 SIX
- 8 SEVEN
- 9 DON'T KNOW

43. How many days per week do you watch the national network news on television?
(IF NO TV, CIRCLE CODE 1 "NONE" ON Q.43)

- 1 NONE
- 2 ONE
- 3 TWO (A COUPLE)
- 4 THREE (A FEW)
- 5 FOUR
- 6 FIVE
- 7 SIX
- 8 SEVEN

9 DON'T KNOW

44. How about the local news on television--IF NECESSARY EXPLAIN: The local news is produced by New York and Philadelphia stations and comes on before the national news in the early evening and also in the late evening at 11:00?

- 1 NONE
- 2 ONE
- 3 TWO (A COUPLE)
- 4 THREE (A FEW)
- 5 FOUR
- 6 FIVE
- 7 SIX
- 8 SEVEN
- 9 DON'T KNOW

45. In the average day about how many hours would you say you spend watching entertainment programs on TV? (IF RANGE GIVEN TAKE MID POINT AND ROUND UP)

- 1 NONE
- 2 1/2 HOUR
- 3 1 HOUR
- 4 1 1/2 HOUR
- 5 2 HOURS
- 6 2 1/2 HOURS
- 7 3 HOURS
- 8 3 1/2 HOURS
- 9 4 HOURS
- 10 4 1/2 HOURS
- 11 5 OR MORE
- 99 DON'T KNOW

46. Does your household have cable TV?

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

NOW just a few more questions so we can classify your answers.

47. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent or what? IF DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong (Democrat/Republican)? IF INDEPENDENT OR OTHER Do you think of yourself as being closer to the Democratic party or to the Republican party?

- 3 LEANS DEMOCRATIC
- 4 INDEPENDENT--LEANS TO NEITHER
- 5 LEANS REPUBLICAN
- 8 OTHER--LEANS TO NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

48A. In politics today, do you think of yourself as a liberal, a conservative, middle of the road; or don't you think of yourself in these terms?

- 1 LIBERAL [Go to q.49]
- 2 CONSERVATIVE [Go to q.49]
- 3 DON'T THINK OF SELF IN THOSE TERMS [Go to q.49]

- 4 MIDDLE OF THE ROAD [Go to q.48B]
- 5 OTHER [Go to q.48B]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.48B]

(IF #4, 5 or 9 ASK:)

48B. Do you think of yourself as closer to liberals or closer to conservatives?

- 1 LIBERAL
- 2 CONSERVATIVE
- 3 OTHER/NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

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

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

50. Is the chief wage earner in your household regularly employed?

- 1 YES
- 2 TEMPORARILY LAID OFF
- 3 NO [Go to q.52]
- 4 RETIRED [Go to q.52]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.52]

(IF YES OR TEMPORARILY LAID OFF TO Q. 50, ASK:)

51. 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

52. Are you or anyone in your household a union member?

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

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

- 1 0-4 GRADES
- 2 5-8 GRADES
- 3 GRADES 9-11; SOME HIGH SCHOOL
- 4 GRADE 12; COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL; GED
- 5 GRADES 13-15; SOME COLLEGE
- 6 GRADE 16; GRADUATED COLLEGE
- 7 GRADUATE WORK
- 9 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

54. In what year were you born?

(Code # of years; 71=refused
71 REFUSED

55. Including yourself, how many members of your household are 18 or over?

Code actual number:

8 8 OR MORE
9 REFUSED

56. What is your race?

1 WHITE
2 BLACK
3 OTHER (SPECIFY)
9 NOT DETERMINED

57. 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; \$20,000 to \$25,000; \$25,000 to \$30,000 or over \$30,000?

1 UNDER \$5,000
2 \$5,000 - \$10,000
3 \$10,000 - \$15,000
4 \$15,000 - \$20,000
5 \$20,000 - \$25,000
6 \$25,000 - \$30,000
7 OR OVER \$30,000
9 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED