

EAGLETON POLL 50 (SL/EP 1)  
OCTOBER 1983

Hello, my name is (first and last name) and I'm taking a public opinion poll for the Eagleton Institute of Rutgers University. 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. Now I have some questions on the job Ronald Reagan is doing as President. For each question I ask, please tell me whether you think he is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job....|

A Overall, how would you rate the job Ronald Reagan is doing as President--excellent, good, only fair or poor?

B His handling of the nation's foreign affairs--excellent, good, only fair or poor?

C Reagan's handling of the problems of the economy?

3. Thinking back over Reagan's first 1,000 days in office, do you think he deserves to be re-elected for a second term, or not?

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

4. Turning now to politics in New Jersey, how would you rate the job Tom Kean (PRONOUNCED KANE) is doing as Governor--excellent, good, only fair or poor?

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

5. What is the main reason why you would give him this rating--PROBE: Can you be more specific?

6. Do you know whether Kean is a Democrat or Republican--IF YES: Which one?

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

7. 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

8. And how good a job are the representatives from your district in the state Senate and Assembly doing--excellent, good, only fair or poor?

- 1 EXCELLENT
- 2 GOOD
- 3 ONLY FAIR
- 4 POOR
- 8 DEPENDS-DIFFERENT RATINGS FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

9. Which party would you rather see in control of the state legislature, the Democrats or the Republicans?

- 1 DEMOCRATS
- 2 REPUBLICANS
- 3 NO DIFFERENCE/DOESN'T MATTER/DOESN'T LOOK AT
- 4 NEITHER IT THIS WAY
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

11. In November there will be an election for the New Jersey State Assembly and Senate. How interested are you in this election--very interested, somewhat interested, or not at all interested?

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

12. Are you registered to vote here in New Jersey--IF YES, PROBE: As a Democrat, Republican, Independent or something else?

- 1 DEMOCRAT
- 2 REPUBLICAN
- 3 INDEPENDENT
- 4 OTHER
- 5 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

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

14. [AMONG VOTERS:] What do you think is the most important issue in this election--IF MORE THAN ONE ISSUE GIVEN ASK RESPONDENT TO CHOOSE WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT. IF RESPONDENT CAN'T CHOOSE, TAKE FIRST ISSUE MENTIONED?

15. [AMONG VOTERS:] Which party do you think would be more likely to do what you want done about (ISSUE.MENTIONED IN Q.14)--the Democrats, Republicans, or wouldn't there be any difference between them?

- 1 DEMOCRATS
- 2 REPUBLICANS
- 3 NO DIFFERENCE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

16. [AMONG VOTERS:] If the election was held today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate for the State Senate from your district?

(IF DON'T KNOW TO Q. 16 , ASK:)

17. [AMONG VOTERS:] Are you leaning more toward the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

- 1 DEMOCRATIC
- 2 REPUBLICAN
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NEITHER

18. [AMONG VOTERS:] Would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidates for the State Assembly?

- 1 BOTH DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES/DEMOCRATS
- 2 BOTH REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES/REPUBLICANS
- 3 ONE DEMOCRAT, ONE REPUBLICAN
- 4 DEMOCRAT ON ONE, UNSURE OF OTHER
- 5 REPUBLICAN ON ONE, UNSURE OF OTHER
- 8 WILL NOT VOTE (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW/UNSURE OF BOTH

(IF "UNSURE" OR "DON'T KNOW" TO Q.18, ASK:)

19. Are you leaning more toward the Democratic candidate(s) or the Republican candidate(s)?

- 1 DEMOCRAT
- 2 REPUBLICAN
- 3 ONE OF EACH
- 4 ONE DEM, D.K. OTHER
- 5 ONE REP., D.K. OTHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NEITHER

20. [AMONG VOTERS:] Governor Kean has said he will be campaigning for Republican candidates this fall. Will this make you more or less likely to support the Republican candidates in your district, or won't it make any difference?

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

Now, some brief questions about topics of conversation in New Jersey,

21. The New York Jets football team will be moving to the Meadowlands sports complex in Northern New Jersey. Do you think the team name should be changed to the New Jersey Jets, or should the name stay the New York Jets?

- 1 NEW JERSEY
- 2 NEW YORK
- 9 DON'T KNOW/DON'T CARE

22. Some people say that anti-pollution laws discourage the growth of jobs and industry. If you had to choose between maintaining strict anti-pollution laws or relaxing those laws to create more jobs in New Jersey, which would you choose. IF BOTH MAINTAIN LAWS AND CREATE JOBS, PROBE: Now suppose you had to choose one side or the other--would you favor maintaining pollution laws or creating new jobs-- IF NECESSARY ASK: "Which one is more important"?

- 1 MAINTAIN STRICT ANTI-POLLUTION LAWS
- 2 RELAX LAWS
- 3 CAN HAVE BOTH AT THE SAME TIME (VOL. RESP. ONLY)
- 9 DON'T KNOW
- 4 BOTH--THEN MAINTAIN STRICT LAWS
- 5 BOTH--THEN CREATE NEW JOBS
- 6 BOTH--THEN REFUSES TO CHOOSE, INSISTS ON BOTH
- 7 BOTH--THEN UNDECIDED ABOUT WHICH WOULD CHOOSE

23. Have you heard or read anything about "Senatorial Courtesy," a topic that came up when the New Jersey Senate was deciding whether to confirm a judge?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO/DON'T KNOW

24. Senatorial courtesy is an unwritten rule that allows a state Senator to block the Governor's appointment of any person who is from the Senator's home district. The Senator involved is not required to state a reason for objecting. On the whole, do you think New Jersey should or should not allow Senatorial courtesy?

- 1 SHOULD
- 2 SHOULD NOT
- 8 DEPENDS (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

Turning now to education here in New Jersey....

25. To begin with, are there any school-age children in your household (IF NECESSARY: By school-age, I mean grades kindergarten through 12th grade.)?

(IF "YES" TO Q.25, ASK:) (IF "NO" TO Q.25, GO TO Q.31)

26. [PARENTS ONLY:] Does your child attend public or non-public school?

- 1 PUBLIC
- 2 NON-PUBLIC
- 3 MIXED OR BOTH
- 9 DON'T KNOW

27. [PARENTS ONLY:] Does the school your child attends have a computer that students can use?

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

28. [PARENTS ONLY:] How important do you think it is to your child's education that he or she learns to use a computer--very, somewhat or not very important?

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

29. [PARENTS ONLY:] Do you have a child in elementary or secondary school, or both?

- 1 ELEMENTARY
- 2 SECONDARY
- 3 BOTH
- 9 DON'T KNOW

30. [PARENTS ONLY:] Thinking back over the past few years, have you ever been hesitant to discuss a problem with school officials because you thought your child might be penalized, have you never been worried about this; or have you never had a problem you wanted to discuss?

- 1 BEEN HESITANT
- 2 NEVER BEEN WORRIED
- 3 NEVER HAD A PROBLEM
- 9 DON'T KNOW

31. How closely do you follow what is going on in your local schools--very closely, somewhat, or not at all?

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

32. In general, how would you rate the job public schools are doing here in New Jersey--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

33. How would you rate the job your local schools are doing--excellent, good, only fair, or poor--IF NECESSARY, CLARIFY: "I mean schools in the community where you live" ?

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

34. How about the job teachers are doing in your local schools-- Overall, would you rate them excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

35. In your opinion, is enough money being spent on public schools in your community or not?

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

36. Suppose the local public schools said they needed more money. Would you vote for or against raising taxes for this purpose?

- 1 FOR
- 2 AGAINST
- 9 DON'T KNOW/DEPENDS

37. What do you think is the biggest problem with which the public schools in your community must deal?

- 01 LACK OF DISCIPLINE
  - 02 USE OF DRUGS
  - 03 DIFFICULTY GETTING-GOOD TEACHERS
  - 04 POOR, UNINTERESTED TEACHERS
  - 05 UNINTERESTED PARENTS
  - 06 UNINTERESTED STUDENTS, TRUANCY
  - 07 POOR CURRICULUM
  - 08 POOR STANDARDS
  - 09 LACK OF EQUIPMENT
  - 10 LACK OF MONEY, RESOURCES
  - 11 POOR ADMINISTRATION
  - 12 CRIME, VANDALISM
  - 98 NO PROBLEMS
  - 99 DON'T KNOW OF A PROBLEM
- OTHER, SPECIFY:

38. I'm going to read you some goals of public education and would like you to rate the job public schools in New Jersey are doing in meeting these goals as excellent, good, only fair or poor. First, how about (...)--excellent, good, only fair or poor...|

- A teaching basic knowledge and learning skills?
- B teaching vocational skills?
- C instilling a respect for authority?
- D preparing students for college?
- E providing career guidance and counseling?
- F providing a good atmosphere for social development?

39. Please tell me whether you think each of the following should or should not be a requirement to graduate from high school...|

- A passing a competency test in reading, writing and math?
- B 3 years each of math and science for college-bound students?
- C 3 years of math and science for all students?
- D one course in how to use computers?

40. Do you think the quality of people going into teaching over the last decade has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same?

- 1 BETTER
- 2 WORSE
- 3 SAME
- 9 NO OPINION

41. How serious is the problem of attracting talented people into teaching today-- is it a very serious problem, somewhat serious, or not a very serious problem?

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

42. A number of proposals have been made recently that some people say will attract better teachers and encourage better teaching. One proposal is to raise the starting pay of new teachers from about \$13,500 to \$18,500. Do you favor or oppose this?

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

(IF "FAVOR OR D.K./NO OPINION" TO Q. 42, ASK:)

43. Would you favor or oppose this proposal if it added 35 million dollars to the state budget, which would be made up by an increase in taxes?

- 1 FAVOR
- 2 OPPOSE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

44. Today there is a shortage of teachers in science, math, technical subjects and vocational subjects. If your local schools needed teachers in these subjects, would you favor or oppose paying them higher wages than teachers of other subjects?

- 1 FAVOR
- 2 OPPOSE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

READ SLOWLY:

45. Some people say that teachers with outstanding ability should receive higher pay than other teachers. They say this kind of bonus--called "merit pay" --would reward excellence and improve the quality of teachers in our schools. But other people say that it's almost impossible to evaluate teachers objectively and that

it would allow school administrators to play favorites. What do you think --do you approve or disapprove of this idea of "merit pay?"

- 1 APPROVE
- 2 DISAPPROVE
- 8 DEPENDS (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

46. Another similar suggestion would pay higher salaries to "master teachers"-- that is carefully selected classroom teachers who would not give up their own teaching but would, in addition, serve as models and teach other teachers. Would you approve or disapprove of this idea?

- 1 APPROVE
- 2 DISAPPROVE
- 8 DEPENDS (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

47. Teachers are now required to have taken courses in educational teaching methods and theories of learning--to be eligible for permanent certification. One proposal being discussed would also give teaching licenses to other people with college degrees. They would have to pass a test in the subject and complete a one year supervised teaching internship, but would not have to take education courses. Do you favor or oppose this?

- 1 FAVOR
- 2 OPPOSE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

B47A. [WAVE 2 ONLY:] Do you think the quality of people going into teaching over the last decade has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same?

- 1 BETTER
- 2 WORSE
- 3 SAME
- 9 NO OPINION

B47B. [WAVE 2 ONLY:] How serious is the problem of attracting talented people into teaching today-- is it a very serious problem, somewhat serious, or not a very serious problem?

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

B47c. [WAVE 2 ONLY:] Suppose the local public schools said they needed more money. Would you vote for or against raising taxes for this purpose?

- 1 FOR
- 2 AGAINST
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

Now just a few last questions so that we can classify your answers.



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

- 1 DEMOCRAT [Go to q.50]
- 2 REPUBLICAN [Go to q.50]
- 3 INDEPENDENT
- 4 SOMETHING ELSE
- 9 DON'T KNOW/APOLITICAL/NOTHING

(IF #3,4,9 TO Q.48, ASK:)

49. As of now do you lean more towards the Democratic party or Republican party?

- 1 LEANS DEMOCRATIC
- 2 LEANS REPUBLICAN
- 3 LEANS OTHER
- 4 DOESN'T LEAN TO EITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

50. 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.52]
- 2 CONSERVATIVE [Go to q.52]
- 3 SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

(IF "IN BETWEEN/D.K./NO OPINIOM" TO Q.50, ASK:)

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

- 1 LIBERAL
- 2 CONSERVATIVE
- 3 OTHER/NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

52. 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

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

- 1 YES
- 2 TEMPORARILY LAID OFF
- 3 NO [Go to q.55]
- 4 RETIRED [Go to q.55]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.55]

(IF "YES OR TEMPORARILY LAID OFF" TO Q.53, ASK:)

54. 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

55. Did you receive a high school diploma?

(IF "YES" TO Q.55, ASK:)

56. Did you ever attend college--IF YES, ASK: "Did you graduate?"

- 1 YES, GRADUATED
- 2 YES, DID NOT GRADUATE
- 3 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

57A. What was your age on your last birthday?

(CODE # OF YEARS; 99=refused and

57B. AGE IN CATEGORIES?

- 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

58. Does anyone in your household teach in a public elementary or secondary school in New Jersey--IF YES, PROBE: "Is that you, someone else or both?"

- 1 YES, RESPONDENT
- 2 YES, OTHER
- 3 YES, BOTH
- 4 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

59. Are you white, black or of hispanic origin?

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

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

60a. In what county is that?

61. 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 \$30,000; 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 - \$30,000
- 6 OVER \$30,000
- 9 REFUSED/DON'T KNOW