

EAGLETON POLL 51
(SL/EP 1)
FEBRUARY 1984

Hello, my name is (first and last name). 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. I'm going to read you a list of problems here in New Jersey. For each problem I read could you tell me if you think it is a very serious problem, somewhat serious, or not at all serious. First (...DESIGNATED POINT...) Is this very, somewhat or not at all serious. (REPEAT OPTIONS AS NECESSARY)...|

- A Inflation?
- B Air Pollution?
- C Unemployment?
- D Water Pollution?
- E Cleanup of toxic waste?

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

3. How would you rate the air quality in the area where you live-excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

4. In the last five years-has the air quality in your neighborhood gotten better, gotten worse or has it stayed the same?

- 1 BETTER
- 2 WORSE
- 3 STAYED THE SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW/HAVEN'T LIVED THERE 5 YEARS

5. How would you rate the air quality throughout New Jersey--excellent, good, only fair or poor--(If respondent volunteers that it depends on where you are in

the state - PROBE: Well, overall how would you rate the air quality in New Jersey --excellent, good, only fair or poor?)

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

6. In the last five years do you think the air quality in the state has gotten better, worse, or stayed the same?

- 1 BETTER
- 2 WORSE
- 3 STAYED THE SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW/HAVEN'T LIVED HERE 5 YEARS

7. Would you be in favor of stronger efforts to control air pollution here in New Jersey or do you think enough is now being done?

- 1 STRONGER EFFORTS
- 2 ENOUGH BEING DONE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

8. Would you be in favor or opposed to efforts to reduce air pollution if they caused taxes to go up?

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

9. 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?

- 1 MAINTAIN STRICT LAWS
- 2 RELAX TO CREATE JOBS
- 8 REFUSES TO CHOOSE, BOTH (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

10. I am going to read you three points of view regarding pollution control. Please tell me which one best represents your opinion. Let me know if you want me to repeat any ... (1) Cleaning the air is so important that requirements and standards cannot be too high--Continuing improvements must be made regardless of cost (2) We have made enough progress cleaning up the air--Now we should concentrate on holding down costs as well as requiring strict controls (3) Clean air requirements and standards have gone too far; it already costs more than it is worth?

- 9 DON'T KNOW

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11. There has been some discussion in the news lately about problems of toxic chemicals in the environment and the safe disposal of hazardous wastes. How much

have you heard or read about this--a great deal, some, just a little or nothing at all?

- 1 GOOD DEAL
- 2 SOME
- 3 JUST A LITTLE
- 4 NOTHING [Go to q.17]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.17]

(IF 1,2 OR 3 TO Q. 11, ASK:)

12. How concerned are you personally about the problem of chemical wastes here in New Jersey--very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not very concerned?

- 1 VERY
- 2 SOMEWHAT
- 3 NOT VERY [GO TO Q. 14]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [GO TO Q.14]

13. Is this more of a problem in the area where you live, or is it more of a problem in other areas of the state--(IF RESPONDENT ASKS WHAT YOU MEAN BY "AREA," SAY: "In the township or municipality where you live)?

- 1 WHERE RESPONDENT LIVES
- 2 OTHER AREAS
- 3 BOTH (VOL.)
- 4 NOT CONCERNED (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

14. Do you feel the problem of toxic wastes in New Jersey does or does not pose a direct threat to your family's health?

- 1 DOES
- 2 DOES NOT
- 9 DON'T KNOW

15. Thinking back over the last few years, have you become more concerned about health hazards associated with toxic wastes, less concerned, or has your opinion not changed?

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

16. I'm going to read you three statements about cleaning-up chemical dumps and hazardous wastes. Please tell me which comes closest to your position. Let me know if you want me to repeat any of these (READ 1-3 BELOW INCLUDING NUMBERS)?

- 1 CLEAN-UP IS A MAJOR PROBLEM THAT MUST BE DONE IMMEDIATELY, REGARDLESS OF THE COST
- 2 WHILE A PROBLEM, CLEAN-UP SHOULD BE DONE GRADUALLY SO THAT THE COST CAN BE SPREAD OUT OVER TIME
- 3 CLEAN-UP IS NOT AN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM: THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS TO SPEND MONEY ON
- 9 DON'T KNOW

17. I would like to get some idea of how you feel about different organizations or institutions that exist to serve you and others. For each one I mention such as (...STARTING POINT...) tell me whether you have a lot of confidence in them, some confidence in them, or not very much confidence. By confidence I mean that you feel they are doing what they ought to be doing. Let's start with (... STARTING POINT...), do you have a lot of confidence, some, or not very much. (CONTINUE DOWN THE LIST. REPEAT RESPONSE OPTIONS EVERY THREE ITEMS AND AS OTHERWISE NEEDED)...|

- A Your Local Public Schools?
- B Rutgers University?
- C Labor Unions?
- D Newspapers?
- E Television News?
- F Large Corporations?
- G Church, or Organized Religion?
- H N.J. Political Parties?
- I The National Government?
- J Your Local Government?
- K N.J. State Government?

- 1 A LOT OF CONFIDENCE
- 2 SOME CONFIDENCE
- 3 NOT VERY MUCH CONFIDENCE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

18. Would you say your state government is mainly run for a few big interests looking out for themselves, or is it run for the benefit of all the people in the state?

- 1 FEW BIG INTERESTS
- 2 PARTLY BOTH (VOL.)
- 3 ALL THE PEOPLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

19. How much attention do you feel your state government pays to what the people think when it decides what to do--a lot of attention, some attention, not much attention, or no attention?

- 1 A LOT OF ATTENTION
- 2 SOME ATTENTION
- 3 NOT MUCH ATTENTION
- 4 NO ATTENTION
- 9 DON'T KNOW

20. In your opinion is the New Jersey state government very corrupt, somewhat corrupt, or not corrupt?

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

21. In general, do you think the New Jersey state government is more corrupt or less corrupt than governments in other states?

- 1 MORE CORRUPT

- 2 LESS CORRUPT
- 3 ABOUT THE SAME (VOL.)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

22. How honest do you think politicians in New Jersey are--Would you say they are very honest, somewhat honest, 'somewhat dishonest, or very dishonest?

- 1 VERY HONEST
- 2 SOMEWHAT HONEST
- 3 SOMEWHAT DISHONEST
- 4 VERY DISHONEST
- 9 DON'T KNOW

23. Have you heard or read anything about the divestiture of AT&T--changes in the organization of the telephone company?

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

24. [AMONG THOSE AWARE OF DIVESTITURE:] How well do YOU feel you understand what changes are being made and how it will affect you--very well, pretty well, not too well or not well at all?

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

25. [AMONG THOSE AWARE OF DIVESTITURE:] Do you think these changes will result in better service, worse service, or won't it make much difference?

- 1 BETTER
- 2 WORSE
- 3 NO DIFFERENCE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

26. [AMONG THOSE AWARE OF DIVESTITURE:] Because of the changes do you think the cost of phone service will go up, go down, or do you expect the cost to stay about the same?

- 1 GO UP
- 2 GO DOWN
- 3 NO DIFFERENCE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

27. Many people were confused by the last bill they got from the phone company because it was different from what they were used to. Were You also confused, or did you understand the bill pretty well?

- 1 CONFUSED
- 2 UNDERSTOOD
- 3 BOTH (VOL--UNDERSTOOD SOME)
- 8 DON'T KNOW
- 9 DIDN'T SEE RILL

28. Did you know that you could buy your own phone rather than paying a monthly charge for leasing it from the phone company?

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

29. Do you now lease or own your phones?

- 1 LEASE [Go to q.30]
- 2 OWN [Go to q.31]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.31]

(IF "LEASE" TO Q.29, ASK:)

30. Do you think that buying a phone would save money in the long run, or don't you think there would be much of a savings?

- 1 WOULD SAVE
- 2 WOULD NOT SAVE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

31. Did you know you could now get long distance calling service from companies other than AT&T, such as SPRINT or MCI?

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

32. Do you now get long distance service from a company other than AT&T?

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

33. Is there any particular topic concerning phone service or the changes taking place in the phone company that you would like more information about--IF YES, ASK: What is that?

We're almost done with the survey.

34. There has been some discussion lately in New Jersey about changing the state's constitution to allow initiative and referendum. This provides a way for the public to vote directly on issues in an election rather than leaving them up to the state legislature. 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 LITTLE
- 4 NOTHING
- 9 DON'T KNOW

35. I'm going to read you a list of reasons some people have given both for and against initiative and referendum. For each one please tell me whether you agree or disagree. First, (DESIGNATED POINT) (REPEAT OPTIONS EVERY THIRD ITEM AND AS OTHERWISE NECESSARY)...|

A Many important issues are too complicated to be decided by a simple yes or no vote by people in an election?

B Special interest groups would gain power by spending money to promote only their side of an issue?

C Citizens ought to be able to vote directly on important issues and policies instead of their representatives voting for them?

D Initiative and referendum would allow the public to decide issues where public officials are hesitant to act for fear of offending certain groups?

E Since many people do not follow politics regularly they may not be able to make an informed decision on the issues they would be asked to vote on?

F The job of making laws should be left to elected representatives. If people don't like what they do they can vote them out of office?

G If people had a chance to vote on issues they would become more interested and participate more in government and politics?

1 AGREE

2 DISAGREE

9 DON'T KNOW

36. On the whole do you think initiative and referendum is a good idea, a bad idea, or haven't you really thought much about it?

1 GOOD IDEA

2 BAD IDEA

9 DON'T KNOW, HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT, DEPENDS

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

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 [Go to q.38]

4 SOMETHING ELSE [Go to q.38]

9 DON'T KNOW/APOLITICAL/NOTHING [Go to q.38]

(IF #3,4,9 TO Q.37 ASK:)

38. 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

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 [Go to q.40]
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION [Go to q.40]

(IF "IN BETWEEN/D.K./NO OPINION" TO Q. 39, ASK:)

40. 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

41. 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

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

- 1 YES [Go to q.43]
- 2 TEMPORARILY LAID OFF [Go to q.43]
- 3 NO [Go to q.44]
- 4 RETIRED [Go to q.44]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.44]

(IF "YES OR TEMPORARILY LAID OFF" TO Q.42, ASK:)

43. 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

44. Did you receive a high school diploma?

- 1 YES [Go to q.45]
- 2 NO [Go to q.46]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.46]

(IF "YES" TO Q.44, ASK:)

45. 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

46. What was your age on your last birthday?

CODE # OF YEARS

99 refused and CODE

47. Respondent 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

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

1 WHITE

2 BLACK

3 HISPANIC

4 OTHER (SPECIFY)

9 NOT DETERMINED

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

49a. In what county is that?

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; \$20,000 to \$30,000; over \$30,000?

1 \$5,000 OR UNDER

2 \$5,001 - \$10,000

3 \$10,001 - \$15,000

4 \$15,001 - \$20,000

5 \$20,001 - \$30,000

6 OVER \$30,000

9 REFUSED/DON'T KNOW