

EAGLETON POLL 62  
(SL/EP-12)  
JULY 1986

Hello, my name is (first and last name). I'm on the staff of the Eagleton Poll. I'm taking a public opinion survey of New Jersey adults for Rutgers University and the Newark Star-Ledger. In order to choose one person in each household to interview I need to know who in your household, 18 years of age or older, had the most recent birthday? (RECORD NAME OR HOUSEHOLD POSITION OF THAT PERSON BELOW) May I please speak to (her/him)?

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

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

4. How would you rate the job the New Jersey Supreme Court is doing? (REPEAT OPTIONS IF NECESSARY)

5. And what about the job the New Jersey State Legislature is doing? (REPEAT OPTIONS IF NECESSARY)

6. There have been a couple of court cases recently in New Jersey involving the so-called right to die. In one of these cases, a terminally ill woman asked to be removed from a machine which was keeping her alive. Have you read or heard anything about these right to die cases? (IF YES, PROBE: How much--a lot, some, or just a little?)

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

7. In your opinion, if a terminally ill person is mentally competent, but being kept alive only by a machine which they want to be removed from, should they be allowed to do so even if it means they will die, or not?

- 1 YES--ALLOWED
- 2 NO--NOT ALLOWED
- 3 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

8. If a terminally ill person is mentally competent, but being kept alive only by a feeding tube which they wish to have removed, should they be allowed to do so even if it means they will die, or not?

- 1 YES--ALLOWED
- 2 NO--NOT ALLOWED
- 3 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

9. Suppose someone is in a coma with no chance of recovery and is being kept alive by machines. If that person had said they did not want to be kept alive under these conditions, should their family be allowed to discontinue medical treatment if it means that person would die, or not?

- 1 YES--ALLOWED
- 2 NO--NOT ALLOWED
- 3 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

10. If this same patient had not made their wishes known, should their family be allowed to discontinue treatment if they believe he or she would not want to live under such conditions, or not?

- 1 YES--SHOULD
- 2 NO--SHOULD NOT
- 3 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

11. Suppose you were terminally ill or in a coma with no chance of recovery and were being kept alive only by machines. Would you want to be kept alive as long as possible under these conditions, or would you rather be taken off the machines and allowed to die?

- 1 KEPT ALIVE
- 2 ALLOWED TO DIE
- 3 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

12. Do you think the state Legislature should pass laws establishing guidelines for when terminally ill and comatose patients should be allowed to die, or not?

- 1 YES--SHOULD
- 2 NO SHOULD NOT
- 3 SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO DIE
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

On another topic,

13. The Legislature is considering a proposal to establish a tax amnesty for individuals or businesses who owe the state back taxes. Have you heard or read anything about this?

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

14. The tax amnesty would provide a one-time only, 90 day period during which individuals and businesses could pay any back taxes they owe plus interest. There would be no civil or criminal penalties. In general, do you approve or disapprove of this proposal?

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

15. Some people say a tax amnesty is unfair to the people who pay their taxes on time, while others say it is a good way for the state to collect taxes which otherwise would not be paid. Do you think the proposed tax amnesty is unfair or is not unfair to the people who pay their taxes on time?

- 1 IS UNFAIR
- 2 IS NOT UNFAIR
- 3 MIXED/BOTH--REFUSES TO CHOOSE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

16. Even though this plan is for one-time only, some people say it will encourage people to cheat on their taxes. Do you think the proposed tax amnesty would or would not encourage people to cheat on their taxes?

- 1 WOULD
- 2 WOULD NOT
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

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

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

18. 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
- 9 DON'T KNOW

I have a few questions about gambling.

19. For many people gambling is a form of entertainment. I'm going to read you a list of different ways people can gamble, and would like you to tell me if you have done any of these in the last year. First, have you (READ FIRST ITEM STARTING AT DESIGNATED POINT)... in the last year... |

- A played bingo?
- B bet on a live horse race or dog race?
- C bet on a simulcast of a horse race?

D bought a lottery ticket?  
 E gambled at a casino in Atlantic City?  
 F bet on a sporting event?  
 G bet on a card game?

20. Have you ever played the New Jersey Lottery? (IF YES, ASK: Have you played it in the last month?)

(IF "YES" TO Q.20, ASK:)

21. How often do you usually buy a lottery ticket--every day, a few times a week, once a week, a few times a month, once a month or do you only buy a lottery ticket once in a while?

1 DAILY  
 2 FEW TIMES A WEEK  
 3 ONCE A WEEK  
 4 FEW TIMES A MONTH  
 5 ONCE A MONTH  
 6 ONCE IN A WHILE  
 9 DON'T KNOW

22. Are you in favor of or opposed to legalized casino gambling in Atlantic City?

1 FAVOR  
 2 OPPOSED  
 9 DON'T KNOW

23. Overall, do you think casino gambling has been good or bad for the state?

1 GOOD  
 2 NO DIFFERENCE/BOTH GOOD AND BAD  
 3 BAD  
 9 DON'T KNOW

24. And has casino gambling been good or bad for the state's image--how others see New Jersey?

1 GOOD  
 2 NO DIFFERENCE/BOTH GOOD AND BAD  
 3 BAD  
 9 DON'T KNOW

25. Do you think that gambling has been good for both the casinos and the people who live in Atlantic City, or has it really only been good for the casino-hotels?

1 GOOD FOR PEOPLE/BOTH PEOPLE AND CASINOS  
 2 ONLY GOOD FOR CASINOS  
 8 OTHER/GOOD FOR NEITHER  
 9 DON'T KNOW

26. DO you think Atlantic City will become a major convention and resort city centered around gambling, or do you think in the years to come it will be known only for gambling?

- 1 RESORT, CONVENTION
- 2 GAMBLING ONLY
- 9 DON'T KNOW/DEPENDS

27. Have you been to Atlantic City since gambling was legalized?

(IF "YES" TO Q.27, ASK:)

28. Have you ever gambled in one of the casinos?

(IF "YES" TO Q.28, ASK:)

29. In the last 12 months about how many times have you been gambling in an Atlantic City casino?

- 1 ONCE
- 2 TWICE
- 3 THREE TIMES
- 4 4 OR 5 TIMES
- 5 6 - 10 TIMES
- 6 11 OR MORE TIMES
- 7 NONE--NOT IN LAST 12 MONTHS
- 9 DON'T KNOW # OF TIMES

30. New Jersey is considering allowing 24 hour gambling in the Atlantic City casinos for a 15 month trial period. In general, would you favor or oppose 24 hour gambling in Atlantic City, or don't you have an opinion?

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

31. I'm going to read some of the arguments which have been made both for and against 24 hour gambling in Atlantic City. For each one, please just tell me if you agree or disagree. If you don't have an opinion on some, just say so. First, (READ FIRST ITEM STARTING AT DESIGNATED POINT)..do you agree or disagree...|

- A 24 hour gambling would create more jobs in Atlantic City?
- B 24 hour gambling would make Atlantic City more of a gambling center, and less like a family resort?
- C It would generate more tax revenue for the state?
- D It would lead to more crime in Atlantic City?
- E 24 hour gambling would attract new investments in Atlantic City?
- F It would worsen the problem of compulsive gambling?
- G 24 hour gambling would generate more tourism?

32. The state collects tax revenue to support public services from various forms of gambling-- such as the New Jersey Lottery and the casinos in Atlantic City. In general, do you think this is a good or a bad way for state government to raise money?

- 1 GOOD
- 2 BAD
- 3 BOTH/MIXED--REFUSES TO CHOOSE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

Thinking now about the environment...

33. Overall, how serious do you think environmental problems are in New Jersey--would you say very serious, serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious?

- 1 VERY SERIOUS
- 2 SERIOUS
- 3 SOMEWHAT SERIOUS
- 4 NOT TOO SERIOUS
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

34. And how serious are environmental problems in your own community--very serious, serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious?

- 1 VERY SERIOUS
- 2 SERIOUS
- 3 SOMEWHAT SERIOUS
- 4 NOT TOO SERIOUS
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

35. Overall, how good a job do you feel state government is doing in protecting the environment in New Jersey--excellent, good, only fair or poor?

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

A36. [FORM A:] If the state government looked into a possible pollution problem in your community and announced that it WAS NOT a health hazard, how much would you trust what they said--a lot, some, or not very much?

- 1 A LOT
- 2 SOME
- 3 NOT VERY MUCH
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

B36. [FORM B:] If the state government looked into a possible pollution problem in your community and announced that it WAS a health hazard, how much would you trust what they said--a lot, some, or not very much?

- 1 A LOT
- 2 SOME
- 3 NOT VERY MUCH
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

40. When you think about the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the rest of your environment, would you say your community is very healthy, or would you say it is slightly unhealthy, moderately unhealthy, or very unhealthy?

- 1 VERY HEALTHY
- 2 SLIGHTLY UNHEALTHY
- 3 MODERATELY UNHEALTHY
- 4 VERY UNHEALTHY
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

41. Over the last few years, would you say the environment in your community has become more healthy, less healthy, or stayed about the same?

- 1 MORE
- 2 LESS
- 3 SAME
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

42. Have you heard or read anything about an environmental problem called radon (PRONOUNCED RAYDON)?

(IF "YES" TO Q.42. ASK:)

43. Would you say radon is or is not a problem in your community?

- 1 IS A PROBLEM
- 2 IS NOT A PROBLEM
- 9 NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW

44. Have you ever thought about having your home tested for radon?

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

45. Has your home been tested for radon, are you planning to have it done, or would you say it is not necessary, or haven't you decided?

- 1 HAD IT TESTED/TESTING IN PROGRESS
- 2 PLAN TO HAVE DONE
- 3 NOT NECESSARY
- 4 HAVEN'T DECIDED
- 9 DON'T KNOW

46. Do you know what disease is caused by radon? (IF YES, ASK: What disease is that?)

- 1 LUNG CANCER
- 2 CANCER--UNSPECIFIED OR OTHER
- 3 OTHER
- 4 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

47. Would you say that people who have a radon problem in their home can or can not make changes to their house to reduce the risk to their health?

- 1 CAN
- 2 CAN NOT
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

48. I'd like to ask a few questions about recent changes in the telephone industry. How well do you feel you understand the changes that have been made and how they affect you--very well, pretty well, not too well, or not well at all?

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

49. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the recent changes in the telephone industry? (PROBE: Are you very (satisfied/dissatisfied) or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?)

- 1 VERY SATISFIED
- 2 SOMEWHAT SATISFIED
- 3 SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED
- 4 VERY DISSATISFIED
- 5 BOTH/DEPENDS
- 8 NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

50. Recently households in New Jersey have been asked to choose a long distance phone company from among several different companies. Do you recall anyone in your household being asked to do this?

51. Did someone in your household select a long distance company, or was one assigned to you?

- 1 SELECTED
- 2 ASSIGNED
- 8 HAVEN'T CHOSEN YET
- 9 NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW

52. Can you recall the name of your present long-distance phone company? (IF YES, ASK: What is it?)

- 1 AT&T
- 2 SPRINT
- 3 MCI
- 4 NJ BELL/BELL
- 5 OTHER: SPECIFY
- 9 NO/DON'T KNOW

53. Since these changes in long distance calling, has your long distance phone service gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

- 1 BETTER
- 2 WORSE

- 3 SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW

54. And over this time, would you say the cost of your long distance phone service has gone up, gone down, or stayed about the same?

- 1 GONE UP
- 2 GONE DOWN
- 3 SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW

55. Over the last two years, would you say your local telephone service has gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same?

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

56. Over the last two years would you say the cost of your local phone service has gone up, gone down, or stayed about the same?

- 1 GONE UP
- 2 GONE DOWN
- 3 SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW

I have a couple of questions about insurance.

57. As you may know, local governments, businesses, and individuals often buy liability insurance to protect themselves against lawsuits. New Jersey is currently facing a problem where it has become very expensive or impossible to buy such insurance. Have you read or heard anything about this. (IF YES, ASK: How much--a lot, some, or just a little)?

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

(IF "LOT, SOME OR LITTLE" TO Q.57, ASK:)

58. How serious do you think the liability insurance problem is in New Jersey--very serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious?

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

59. I'm going to read you a short list of reasons which some people say have caused the liability insurance problem. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each one. First, (READ FIRST ITEM STARTING AT DESIGNATED POINT)...do you agree or disagree... |

A Liability insurance costs are too high because there are too many lawsuits?

B Liability costs are too high because insurance companies are creating the problem to make higher profits?

C Liability insurance costs are too high because there are too many excessive jury awards to injury victims?

D Liability costs are too high because there is not enough regulation of the liability insurance industry?

60. The Legislature is considering a bill that would limit the amount of money that could be awarded to an injury victim for pain and suffering, but would not limit payments for medical expenses or permanent injuries. In general, would you approve or disapprove of some limit on payments for pain and suffering?

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

61. Another bill would not put any limits on payments for pain and suffering, but would allow a judge to reduce the amount awarded by a jury if he or she found it to be excessive or unreasonable. Would you approve or disapprove of allowing judges to reduce jury awards for pain and suffering?

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

62. If a person's medical expenses from a car accident exceed a certain amount they can now sue for pain and suffering. A new proposal would limit such lawsuits to cases involving serious injury or death, but would not limit someone's ability to recover economic losses or medical expenses. Would you approve or disapprove of limiting lawsuits for pain and suffering from car accidents to cases of serious injury or death?

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

63. Would you be willing to reduce some of your auto insurance coverage or benefits if it meant a significant reduction in your car insurance bill?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 7 DEPENDS
- 8 NOT APPLICABLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

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

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

- 1 DEMOCRAT
- 2 REPUBLICAN
- 3 INDEPENDENT
- 4 SOMETHING ELSE/OTHER

9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

(IF #3,4, OR 9 TO Q.64, ASK:)

65. Do you lean more toward the Democratic Party or more toward the Republican Party?

- 1 DEMOCRATIC PARTY
- 2 REPUBLICAN PARTY
- 3 OTHER PARTY
- 4 NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

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

- 1 LIBERAL
- 2 CONSERVATIVE
- 3 SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

(IF #3 OR #9 TO Q.66, ASK:)

67. 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

68. Did you receive a high school diploma?

(IF "YES" TO Q.68, ASK:)

69. Did you ever attend college? (IF YES, ASK: "Did you graduate?")

- 1 YES, GRADUATED
- 2 YES, DID NOT GRADUATE
- 3 JUNIOR COLLEGE--GRADUATE
- 4 VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOL
- 5 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

70. Are you currently employed, laid off, retired or not employed?

- 1 EMPLOYED
- 2 TEMPORARILY LAID OFF
- 3 RETIRED
- 4 NOT EMPLOYED
- 5 OTHER/REFUSED

(IF #1 OR #2 TO Q.70, ASK:)

71. Do you get paid at an hourly rate, a salary, or are you self-employed?

- 1 HOURLY (AND PIECEWORK)

- 2 SALARIED (AND COMMISSIONS)
- 3 SELF-EMPLOYED
- 9 DON'T KNOW

72. Are you the chief wage earner in your household?

(IF "NO" TO Q.72, ASK:)

73. Is the chief wage earner in your household currently employed, temporarily laid off, retired or not employed?

(IF #1 OR #2 TO Q.73, ASK:)

74. Does/did 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

75. Do you or anyone in your household work in New York City? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else, or both?)

IF "YES--#1,2,OR 3" TO Q . 75, ASK:)

76. (Do you/Does that person) usually take public transportation to get into New York City or drive all the way? (IF RESPONDENT SAYS DIFFERENT WAYS ON DIFFERENT DAYS, ASK WHICH ONE IS USED MOST OFTEN)

(IF "PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION" TO Q.76, ASK:)

77. Is that the train, the bus, or both?

(IF "TRAIN" OR "BOTH" TO Q.77, ASK:)

78. Is that a PATH train, some other train, or both?

- 1 PATH
- 2 OTHER
- 3 BOTH
- 9 DON'T KNOW

79. 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

80. What was your age on your last birthday?

(CODE # OF YEARS, 99=REFUSED AND CODE)

81. What was your age on your last birthday?

- 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

82. Are you white, black or of Hispanic origin?

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

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

83A. In what county is that?

84. So that we can group all answers, what is your total annual family income before taxes: Under \$10,000; \$10,000 to \$15,000; \$15,000 to \$20,000; \$20,000 to \$30,000; \$30,000 to \$50,000; over \$50,000?

- 1 UNDER \$10,000
- 2 \$10,001 - \$15,000
- 3 \$15,001 - \$20,000
- 4 \$20,001 - \$30,000
- 5 \$30,001 - \$50,000
- 6 OVER \$50,000
- 9 REFUSED/DON'T KNOW