

EAGLETON POLL 63  
(SL/EP13)  
OCTOBER 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.

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?

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

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?

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

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

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

5. In November there will be an election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your district. 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 INTERESTED
- 9 DON'T KNOW

6. Are you currently 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 [GO TO Q.10]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [GO TO Q.10]

7. As of now, how likely are you to vote in the November elections for Congress-- do you think you definitely will vote, probably will vote, probably not vote, or definitely not vote?

[IF "PROBABLY NOT" OR "DEFINITELY NOT VOTE" IN Q.7 GO TO Q10]

8. If the election was held today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate for Congress from your district?

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

(IF "DON'T KNOW" TO Q. 8. ASK:)

9. Are you leaning more toward the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

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

10. 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

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 A GREAT DEAL
- 2 SOME

- 3 JUST A LITTLE
- 4 NOTHING AT ALL [GO TO Q.17]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [GO TO Q.17]

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

(IF "VERY" OR "SOMEWHAT" TO Q .12, ASK:)

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
- 4 NOT CONCERNED
- 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 -- CLEAN-UP IS A MAJOR PROBLEM THAT MUST BE DONE IMMEDIATELY, REGARDLESS OF THE COST; WHILE A PROBLEM, CLEAN-UP SHOULD BE DONE GRADUALLY SO THAT THE COST CAN BE SPREAD OUT OVER TIME; OR CLEAN-UP IS NOT AN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM; THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS TO SPEND MONEY ON ?

17. How would you rate the job state government is doing in cleaning-up toxic waste--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

18. New Jersey is faced with a growing problem of finding places to store and treat toxic wastes--If the state government said they wanted to build a toxic waste treatment plant in your community which they said would not be a health hazard, would you be willing to accept such a facility, or would you oppose it?

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

(IF #2, 3, OR 9 TO Q.18, ASK:)

19. Would you not be willing to accept such a facility in your community because you don't believe they can ever be safe, or because you don't trust the government to make such decisions?

- 1 DON'T BELIEVE CAN BE SAFE
- 2 DON'T TRUST GOVERNMENT
- 3 BOTH--REFUSES TO CHOOSE
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

20. Thinking now about your family's financial situation over the last year, have things gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same?

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

21. And looking ahead, do you think that a year from now you and your family will be better off financially, worse off, or about the same as now?

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

22. How would you generally describe economic conditions in New Jersey now? Would you say that economically New Jersey is in good times or bad times right now?

- 1 GOOD TIMES
- 2 BAD TIMES
- 3 NEITHER GOOD OR BAD
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO ANSWER

23. During the next year, do you think economic conditions in New Jersey will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

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

24. Congress has recently passed a bill making major revisions in the federal income tax system--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 NONE, NOT HEARD OF
- 9 DON'T KNOW

25. The tax reform bill will lower the tax rates for most individuals and businesses, and it will eliminate many deductions--In general, do you favor or oppose the tax reform bill passed by Congress?

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

26. I'm going to read you a short list of different groups, and would like you to tell me whether you think the tax reform bill will help them, hurt them, or not make much of a difference--First, how about (READ FIRST ITEM STARTING AT DESIGNATED POINT), will the tax reform bill help them, hurt, or not make any difference -- |

- A the rich?
- B middle income families?
- C big corporations?
- D the poor
- E small businesses?
- F people like yourself?

- 1 HELP
- 2 HURT
- 3 NOT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

27. Under the new tax laws, do you think you will pay more in taxes, pay less in taxes, or pay about the same as you do now?

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

28. There has been a lot of talk recently about the problem of illegal drugs. How serious do you think the problem of illegal drug abuse is in New Jersey--would you say very serious, somewhat serious, or not at all serious?

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

29. Over the last five years, do you think the problem of illegal drug abuse has gotten worse, gotten better, or has it stayed about the same?

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

30. In your opinion, is the drug problem being exaggerated at all by politicians and the news media, or not--IF YES, ASK: How much--a lot, some, or just a little?

- 1 YES--A LOT
- 2 YES--SOME
- 3 YES--A LITTLE
- 4 NO
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

31. Which is a more serious problem in New Jersey today--illegal drug abuse or alcohol abuse?

- 1 DRUG ABUSE
- 2 ALCOHOL ABUSE
- 3 BOTH--REFUSES TO CHOOSE
- 4 NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

32. There has been much discussion lately about the issue of mandatory testing for illegal drug use, and I would like your opinion--Would you favor or oppose mandatory drug testing for all (READ FIRST ITEM STARTING AT DESIGNATED POINT) --  
|

- A professional athletes?
- B doctors?
- C government employees?
- D public school children?
- E police officers?
- F airline pilots?
- G all workers in general?

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

33. Are you currently employed?

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

(IF "YES" TO Q. 33, ASK:)

34. If your employer wanted to test all employees for illegal drug use, would you be willing to be tested or not?

- 1 YES, WILLING TO BE TESTED
- 2 NO
- 7 ALREADY TESTED

- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

35. If you had to choose, would you rather see government put more effort into the enforcement of drug laws and handing out stiffer penalties, or into drug education and rehabilitation programs aimed at prevention of drug use?

- 1 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES
- 2 EDUCATION
- 3 BOTH--REFUSES TO CHOOSE
- 4 NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

Turning now to education,

36. How would you rate the job your local schools are doing--excellent, good r only fair, or poor?

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

37. 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

38. Over the last ten years or so, the state has been paying a larger share of the costs of local public schools. Do you think the state has also increased its control over local public schools, or hasn't there been any change in control of schools?

- 1 STATE INCREASED CONTROL
- 2 NO CHANGE IN CONTROL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

39. Do you think the state should have more say in how local schools are run, less say, or does it have about the right amount now?

- 1 MORE SAY
- 2 ABOUT RIGHT/SAME AMOUNT
- 3 LESS SAY
- 9 DON'T KNOW

40. The Legislature is considering a plan that would allow the State Board of Education to take over any local school district that fails to provide its students with a quality education. Have you heard or read anything about this plan--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

41. Some people feel that if a local school district does not provide students with a quality education, then the state should take over and run those schools. Others feel such problems should be dealt with by local school officials. What about you--Do you favor or oppose allowing the state to temporarily take over local school districts, or don't you have an opinion?

1 FAVOR  
2 OPPOSE  
8 DEPENDS/BOTH  
9 DON'T KNOW

42. Regardless of whether you support Or oppose the idea of school takeovers, please tell me whether YOU agree or disagree with each of the following statements -- |

A allowing state control of local school districts will make it more difficult for parents to have some say in their children's education?

B state government can do a better job of running schools than local governments?

C there is no fair way to decide which school districts should be taken over by the state?

D the state government is better able than local governments to make sure that school funds are spent properly?

1 AGREE  
2 DISAGREE  
9 DON'T KNOW

43. Do you know whether Rutgers is a private university or if it is a state university?

1 PRIVATE  
2 STATE  
9 DON'T KNOW

44. Rutgers is the State University of New Jersey. Compared to other state universities, do you feel Rutgers has a better overall reputation, a poorer reputation, or is it about the same as other state universities?

1 BETTER  
2 POORER  
3 ABOUT THE SAME  
9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

45. From your experience and what you have heard, how would you rate Rutgers as an educational institution. Do you feel it provides students with an excellent, good, only fair, or poor education?

1 EXCELLENT  
2 GOOD  
3 ONLY FAIR  
4 POOR  
9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION



46. How important do you think the quality of the educational system is for the development of a hi-tech industry in New Jersey--very, somewhat or not at all important?

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

47. Do you think the idea of business and universities working together on research projects is a good one, or should there be a separation between the business and academic communities?

- 1 WORK TOGETHER
- 2 SEPARATION
- 3 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

48. Do you think New Jersey should be spending more on its state colleges and university, less, or about the same as it is now spending?

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

[IF "MORE" IN Q.48, ASK:]

49. Would you want to see more spent even if it resulted in higher taxes?

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

50. Many New Jerseyans go to college out of state. Do you think that if New Jersey improved the facilities at its state colleges and university, more New Jerseyans would go to college in the state, or don't you think it would make any difference?

- 1 MORE ATTEND IN STATE
- 2 MAKE NO DIFFERENCE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

51. Are there any school-age children in your household--IF NECESSARY: By school-age, I mean grades kindergarten through 12th grade?

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

(IF "YES" TO Q.51, ASK:)

52. Does your child attend public or non-public school?

- 1 PUBLIC
- 2 NON-PUBLIC
- 3 MIXED OR BOTH

9 DON'T KNOW

53. Does the school your child attends have a computer that students can use?

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

54. How important do you think it is to a 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

55. Do you have a computer at home?

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

56. Which of the following is your computer used for most of the time-- for work and business, record keeping, for household finances and for schoolwork, for entertainment like computer games or for something else?

- 1 WORK AND BUSINESS
- 2 HOUSEHOLD FINANCES
- 3 SCHOOLWORK
- 4 ENTERTAINMENT
- 5 COMBINATIONS--REFUSES TO CHOOSE
- 8 SOMETHING ELSE:
- 9 DON'T KNOW

57. About how often is the computer used--every day, a few times a week, once a week, once a month, or less often than that?

- 1 EVERY DAY
- 2 FEW TIMES A WEEK
- 3 ONCE A WEEK
- 4 ONCE A MONTH
- 5 LESS OFTEN
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

[IF "NO" TO Q.55, ASK]

58. Would you like to have a home computer, or not?

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

59. How likely is it that you actually will get a home computer in the next couple of years--very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely?

- 1 VERY LIKELY
- 2 SOMEWHAT LIKELY

3 NOT VERY LIKELY/NOT AT ALL LIKELY  
9 DON'T KNOW

60. Do you or anyone in your household use a Computer at work? (IF YES, ASK: IS that you, someone else, or both?)

(IF #1 OR 2 TO Q.60. ASK:)

61. About how often do you use a computer at work--every day, few times a week, once a week, once a month, or less often a than that?

1 EVERY DAY  
2 FEW TIMES A WEEK  
3 ONCE A WEEK  
4 ONCE A MONTH  
5 LESS OFTEN  
8 DEPENDS  
9 DON'T KNOW

62. For each of the following statements about computers, please tell me whether 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 the use of computers in the workplace makes people more productive?  
b computers in the workplace are taking jobs away from people?  
c computers make work more enjoyable?  
d home computers are more a form of entertainment than an educational tool?  
e using a home computer helps children do better in school?  
f home computers are just a passing fad?

63. There has been some discussion lately about the high cost of housing for those looking to buy a home. Thinking about the state as a whole, would you say that the lack of affordable housing is a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not a problem at all?

1 VERY SERIOUS  
2 SOMEWHAT SERIOUS  
3 NOT VERY SERIOUS  
4 NOT A PROBLEM  
9 DON'T KNOW

64. And how serious is the lack of affordable housing in your own city or town--very serious, somewhat, not very serious, or isn't it a problem in your community?

1 VERY SERIOUS  
2 SOMEWHAT SERIOUS  
3 NOT VERY SERIOUS  
4 NOT A PROBLEM  
9 DON'T KNOW

65. Overall, would you say that the costs for housing in your city or town are too high, or are they about right?

1 TOO HIGH  
2 ABOUT RIGHT

- 3 TOO LOW
- 8 OTHER (SPECIFY:
- 9 DON'T KNOW

66. I'd like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Each municipality ought to allow different types of housing so that anyone who works there could also afford to live there. Do you agree or disagree. (PROBE: Do you agree/disagree strongly or mildly)?

- 1 AGREE STRONGLY
- 2 AGREE MILDLY
- 3 DISAGREE MILDLY
- 4 DISAGREE STRONGLY
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

67. Would you say that today the average person who works in your community can or can not afford to buy housing in your municipality?

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

68. I'm going to read you a short list of types of people. Please tell me if you think most people in each of these groups would, or would not be able to afford to buy a typical home in your community. First, would most (START AT DESIGNATED POINT) be able to buy a home in your community, or not... |

- A Middle Income Families?
- B Low Income Families?
- C Working Class Families?
- D Families with incomes of under \$30,000?
- E Families with incomes between \$30,000 and \$50,000?
- F Families with incomes of over \$50,000?

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

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

(IF #3, 4 OR 9 TO Q.69. ASK:)

70. Would you like to own your own home sometime in the future. (IF YES, PROBE: Is owning your own home something that is very important to you, or just somewhat important)?

- 1 NO. DON'T CARE TO OWN
- 2 WANT TO OWN--VERY IMPORTANT
- 3 WANT TO OWN--SOMEWHAT/DK IMPORTANT
- 9 DON'T KNOW IF WANT TO OWN HOME

(IF #2, 3, OR 9 TO Q.70. ASK:)

71. How likely is it that you will be able to afford to own your own home in the next few years--do you think it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or impossible?

- 1 VERY LIKELY
- 2 SOMEWHAT LIKELY
- 3 NOT VERY LIKELY
- 4 IMPOSSIBLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW/DEPENDS

72. About what percent of your total income do you now spend on housing--that is to pay the mortgage and taxes, or rent--would you say less than 25 percent; 25 to 40 percent, or more than 40 percent?

- 1 LESS THAN 25%
- 2 25 - 40%
- 3 MORE THAN 40%
- 8 REFUSED
- 9 DON'T KNOW

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

73. 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. 73, ASK:)

74. 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

75. 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.75, ASK:)

76. 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

77. Did you receive a high school diploma?

(IF "YES" TO Q.77, ASK:)

78. 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

79. 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. 79, ASK:)

80. 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

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

(IF "NO" TO Q.81. ASK:)

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

(IF #1 OR #2 TO Q.82, ASK:)

83. 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

84. What was your age on your last birthday?

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

85. 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 - 64
- 8 65 & OLDER
- 9 NO ANSWER/REFUSED

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

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

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

87a. In what county is that?

88. 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