

EAGLETON POLL 79
(SL/EP29)
JULY 1990

Hello, my name is (first and last name)--I'm on the staff of the Eagleton Poll, and I'm taking a public opinion survey of New Jersey adults for Rutgers University--I'd like your views on what New Jersey is like as a place to live and on some topics currently in the news

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, only fair, or poor?

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

3. Is your general impression of Governor Jim Florio favorable or unfavorable, or don't you have an opinion about him--IF FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE, PROBE: Is that very favorable/unfavorable or somewhat favorable/unfavorable?

- 1 VERY FAVORABLE
- 2 SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE
- 3 SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE
- 4 VERY UNFAVORABLE
- 9 NO OPINION/DON'T KNOW

4. How would you rate the job Jim Florio is doing as Governor-excellent, good, only fair or poor?

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

5. How would you rate the job the New Jersey Supreme Court is doing-excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 EXCELLENT
- 2 GOOD
- 3 ONLY FAIR
- 4 POOR

9 DON'T KNOW

6. And how would you rate the job 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

7. 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
9 DON'T KNOW

8. Governor Florio has been in office since January of this year--Thinking back over his first six months as governor, is there anything Florio has done that you feel has been particularly good for the state--Is there any accomplishment that stands out--PROBE: What would you say has been the Florio administration's greatest achievement--RECORD ONE RESPONSE--IF MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE, PROBE: Which of these do you think is more important for New Jersey?

98 NO ACHIEVEMENT/HASN'T DONE ANYTHING
99 DON'T KNOW/CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING

9. And is there anything Florio has done or failed to do that has been bad for the state--PROBE: What would you say has been the biggest failure of the Florio administration--RECORD ONE RESPONSE--IF MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE, PROBE: Which of these do you think is more important for New Jersey?

98 NO FAILURES/NOTHING BAD FOR STATE
99 DON'T KNOW/CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING

10a. How would you rate Governor Florio's handling of the state's car insurance problems--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

10b. And how would you rate Florio's handling of problems with the state budget? (REPEAT OPTIONS IF NECESSARY)

1 EXCELLENT
2 GOOD
3 ONLY FAIR
4 POOR

9 DON'T KNOW

10c. How would you rate the Governor's handling of state taxes?

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

10d. And how about his handling of funding for public schools in the state?

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

10e. How would you rate the job Florio has done protecting the environment?
(REPEAT OPTIONS IF NECESSARY)

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

11. Are you currently registered to vote here in New Jersey?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.23]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.23]

12. In November there will be an election for US Senator in New Jersey--While the election is still four months away, how likely are you to vote in it--do you think you definitely will vote, probably will vote, probably not vote, or definitely not vote?

- 1 DEFINITELY WILL VOTE
- 2 PROBABLY WILL VOTE
- 3 PROBABLY WILL NOT VOTE [Go to q.23]
- 4 DEFINITELY WILL NOT VOTE [Go to q.23]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.23]

13. Do you know who the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senator is--IF YES, ASK:
Who is that?

- 1 YES-NAMES BILL BRADLEY [Go to q.15]
- 2 YES-DOES NOT NAME BILL BRADLEY [Go to q.14]
- 3 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.14]

14. The Democratic candidate is Senator Bill Bradley--Have you ever heard of him before?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.17]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.17]

15. Is your general impression of Bradley favorable, unfavorable or don't you have an opinion about him--IF FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE, PROBE: Is that very favorable/unfavorable or somewhat favorable/unfavorable?

- 1 VERY FAVORABLE
- 2 SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE
- 3 SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE
- 4 VERY UNFAVORABLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

16. HOW much do you think you know about Bradley--a lot, some, or just a little?

- 1 LOT
- 2 SOME
- 3 LITTLE
- 4 NOTHING
- 9 DON'T KNOW

17. Do you know who the Republican candidate for U.S. Senator is?

- 1 YES-NAMES CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN [Go to q.19]
- 2 YES-DOES NOT NAME CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN [Go to q.18]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.18]

(IF "OTHER" OR "NO/DK" TO Q.17. ASK:)

18. The Republican candidate is Christine Todd Whitman--Have you ever heard of her before?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.20]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.10]

(IF "YES" TO Q.18. ASK.)

19. Is your general impression of Whitman favorable, unfavorable, or don't you have an opinion about her--IF FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE PROBE: Is that very favorable/unfavorable or somewhat favorable/unfavorable?

- 1 VERY FAVORABLE
- 2 SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE
- 3 SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE
- 4 VERY UNFAVORABLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

20. How much do you think you know about Whitman--a lot, some or just a little?

- 1 LOT
- 2 SOME
- 3 LITTLE
- 4 NOTHING
- 9 DON'T KNOW

21. Suppose the election for Senator was held today and you had to choose right now--Would you vote for Christine Todd Whitman, the Republican; or Bill Bradley,

the Democrat--IF "WOULDN'T VOTE NOW," PROBE: Would you not vote because you're undecided now, or don't you plan to vote in the election?

- 1 WHITMAN [Go to q.23]
- 2 BRADLEY [Go to q.23]
- 3 WOULDN'T VOTE-UNDECIDED [Go to q.23]
- 4 WOULDN'T VOTE-DON'T PLAN TO VOTE [Go to q.23]
- 9 DON'T KNOW

22. At this moment do you lean more towards Whitman, or more towards Bradley?

- 1 WHITMAN
- 2 BRADLEY
- 3 NEITHER/UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW

Turning now to taxes.

23. The New Jersey State Legislature recently passed a package of tax increases--How much have you read or heard about this tax package--a lot, some, just a little, or nothing at all?

- 1 A LOT
- 2 SOME
- 3 A LITTLE
- 4 NOTHING
- 9 DON'T KNOW

24. The following are some of the main tax increases that the legislature has passed--For each one I read, please tell me whether you approve or disapprove--First, do you approve or disapprove of (READ FIRST ITEM STARTING AT DESIGNATED POINT)|

- A Increasing income tax rates for heads of households or married people with combined incomes of \$70,000 or more?
- B Increasing income tax rates for single taxpayers with incomes of \$35,000 or more?
- C Extending the sales tax to disposable paper products which are not now taxed?
- D Extending the sales tax to household soaps and detergents which are not now taxed?
- E Raising taxes on alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco?
- F Imposing a new tax on oil companies in New Jersey?
- G Raising the state sales tax from 6 to 7 percent on all products now taxed?
- H Imposing a new sales tax on telephone toll calls?

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

25. The tax package that was approved has two parts--The first part which went into effect July 1, 1990 involves increases and expansion of the state sales tax--The second part which begins January 1, 1991, involves raising state & tax rates for some residents--How acceptable to you is the increase and expansion of the state sales tax--very acceptable, somewhat acceptable, not very acceptable, or not at all acceptable?

- 1 VERY ACCEPTABLE
- 2 SOMEWHAT ACCEPTABLE

- 3 NOT VERY ACCEPTABLE
- 4 NOT AT ALL ACCEPTABLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

26. And, how acceptable to you is the increase in the state income tax--very acceptable, somewhat acceptable, not very acceptable, or not at all acceptable?

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

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

- A The rich?
- B Middle income people?
- C Big corporations?
- D The poor?
- E Small businesses?
- F People like yourself?

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

28. And, in general, do you think the new tax package will help, will hurt, or not make much of a difference for New Jersey's economy?

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

29. Do you think that Governor Florio and the State Legislature have cut state spending as much as they could have before raising taxes, or do you think there could have been more spending cuts?

- 1 HAVE CUT STATE SPENDING AS MUCH AS THEY COULD
- 2 COULD HAVE BEEN MORE SPENDING CUTS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

30. If you had to choose between a reduction in some state government services, or an increase in your taxes, which would you prefer?

- 1 A REDUCTION IN SERVICES
- 2 AN INCREASE IN TAXES
- 3 NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

31. In June the New Jersey Supreme court decided in the Abbott vs Burke case that the state's present system of financing public education is unconstitutional because of the wide differences in funding between the rich and

the poor school districts--The court decision also said that a new system of financing public education was needed to give students in poorer school districts an opportunity for an education that was equal to that of students in richer school districts--How much have you read or heard about this case a lot, some, just a little, or nothing at all?

- 1 A LOT
- 2 SOME
- 3 JUST A LITTLE
- 4 NOTHING AT ALL [Go to q.33]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.33]

32. In general, do you agree or disagree with the decision made by the court--IF AGREE OR DISAGREE, PROBE: Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or mildly?

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

33. To provide a different way of financing public education, the state legislature has passed a school funding formula bill which establishes a minimum level of money that should be spent on every public school in the state and changes the way the state pays for education--How much have you read or heard about this school funding formula: a lot, some, just a little, or nothing at all?

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

34. Under this new program the state will determine each school district's ability to pay for education by looking at its property value and personal income--Districts that cannot reach the minimum level on their own would get state aid; districts that can raise enough money on their own would lose all or most of their state aid over the next four years--Do you approve or disapprove of this new school funding program--IF APPROVE OR "DISAPPROVE", PROBE: Do you approve/disapprove strongly or mildly?

- 1 STRONGLY APPROVE
- 2 MILDLY APPROVE
- 3 MILDLY DISAPPROVE
- 4 STRONGLY DISAPPROVE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

35. To the best of your knowledge, under this new school funding formula do you think your school district will be eligible to get state aid or do you think your district will lose state aid?

- 1 WILL GET STATE AID
- 2 WILL LOSE STATE AID
- 9 DON'T KNOW

36. Do you think that this new funding formula will increase, decrease or not significantly change the quality of public school education for most students in New Jersey?

- 1 INCREASE
- 2 DECREASE
- 3 NOT SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

37. The majority of funds from the new income tax increases will go for financing the new school funding formula--It is expected that this will help keep property taxes from increasing--What do you think will happen to your property taxes under this new system--do you think your property taxes will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

- 1 GO UP
- 2 GO DOWN [Go to q.39]
- 3 STAY ABOUT THE SAME [Go to q.39]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.39]

38. Do you think they will go up more, less, or about the same as they would have without the new school funding formula?

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

39. Now on another topic, how would you describe your own state of physical health these days--excellent, good, only fair or poor?

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

40. About how often do you see a doctor for a medical check-up or physical exam, once a year, once every two years, two to five years, or less than once every five years--INTERVIEWERS: PLEASE MAKE SURE RESPONDENT KNOWS THIS IS A CHECK UP, NOT ONGOING TREATMENT?

- 1 ONCE A YEAR OR MORE
- 2 ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS
- 3 TWO TO FIVE YEARS
- 4 LESS THAN ONCE IN FIVE YEARS/NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

41. Are you currently covered by any type of medical insurance or health plan?

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

42. Thinking about your own health, please tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement I read|

- A I eat regular and well-balanced meals?
 B I get some kind of exercise on a regular basis?
 C I am about the right weight for my age and height?

1 AGREE [Go to q.45]
 2 DISAGREE [Go to q.43]
 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.43]

(IF "DISAGREE" OR "DON'T KNOW" TO Q.42C. ASK)

43. Would you say your weigh more or less than you should?

1 MORE
 2 LESS [Go to q.45]
 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.45]

44. How much weight do you think you should lose--less than 5 pounds, 5 to 10 pounds, 11 to 20 pounds, or more than 20 pounds?

1 LESS THAN 5 POUNDS
 2 5- 10 POUNDS
 3 11 - 20 POUNDS
 4 MORE THAN 20 POUNDS
 9 DON'T KNOW

45. Thinking back over the past week, have there been any times you felt you were under a lot of stress?

1 YES
 2 NO
 9 DON'T KNOW

46. Have you ever smoked cigarettes regularly during your life--Regularly is defined as smoking at least one pack of cigarettes per month?

2 YES
 1 NO [Go to q.49]
 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.49]

(IF YES TO Q. 46. ASK)

47. Do you smoke cigarettes now?

2 YES
 3 YES, NOT REGULARLY
 1 NO [Go to q.49]
 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.49]

(IF "YES" #2 & #3 TO Q. 47. ASK:)

48. Have you ever made a serious attempt to stop smoking cigarettes entirely?

1 YES
 2 NO
 9 DON'T KNOW

49. Do you think that people smoking in public places around you endangers your health: or doesn't it make a great difference to your health?

- 1 ENDANGERS HEALTH
- 2 NOT A GREAT DIFFERENCE TO HEALTH
- 9 DON'T KNOW

50. How often do you usually drink alcoholic beverages--about once or twice a year, once or twice a month, once or twice a week, more than once or twice a week, or never?

- 1 ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR
- 2 ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH
- 3 ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK
- 4 MORE THAN ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK
- 5 NEVER [Go to q.D1]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.D1]

51. On days when you have a drink, how many do you usually have? (1 DRINK EQUALS ONE 12 OZ BEER OR 5 OZ. GLASS OR WINE, OR ONR MIXED DRINK (OR SHOT) OF LIQUOR)

- 1 1 - 2 DRINKS
- 2 3 OR 4 DRINKS
- 3 5 - 7 DRINKS
- 4 8 OR MORE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

Just a few more questions SO we can classify your answers.

D1. In politics as of today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 DEMOCRAT [Go to q.D3]
- 2 REPUBLICAN [Go to q.D3]
- 3 INDEPENDENT [Go to q.D2]
- 4 SOMETHING ELSE/OTHER [Go to q.D2]
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION [Go to q.D2]

D2. 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

D3. 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.D5]
- 2 CONSERVATIVE [Go to q.D5]
- 3 SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

(IF #3 OR 9 TO Q. D3. ASK)

D4. 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

D5. Did you receive a high school diploma?

- 1 YES [Go to q.D6]
- 2 NO [Go to q.D7]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.D7]

D6. 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

D7. Are you currently employed, temporarily laid off, retired or not employed?

- 1 EMPLOYED
- 2 TEMPORARILY LAID OFF
- 3 RETIRED [Go to q.D9]
- 4 NOT EMPLOYED [Go to q.D9]
- 9 OTHER/REFUSED [Go to q.D9]

D8. 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

D9. Are you the chief wage earner in your household?

- 1 YES [Go to q.D12]
- 2 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

D10. Is the chief wage earner in your household currently employed, temporarily laid off, retired or not employed?

- 1 EMPLOYED
- 2 TEMPORARILY LAID OFF
- 3 RETIRED [Go to q.D12]
- 4 NOT EMPLOYED [Go to q.D12]
- 9 OTHER/REFUSED [Go to q.D12]

D11. 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

D12. 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

D13. Are you married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 1 MARRIED
- 2 WIDOWED
- 3 DIVORCED
- 4 SEPARATED
- 5 NEVER MARRIED
- 9 DON'T KNOW

D13a. Are there any school-age children now living in your household--IF NECESSARY: By school-age, I mean grades Kindergarten through 12th grade?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.14]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.14]

(IF "YES" TO Q.D13A. ASK:)

D13B. Is there a child in your household that attends public school?

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

D13C. Is there a child in your household that attends private or parochial school?

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

D14. Are you white, black or of Hispanic origin?

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

D15. Do you consider yourself to be Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, or something else?

- 1 CATHOLIC

- 2 PROTESTANT.
- 3 JEWISH
- 4 NONE/ATHEIST/AGNOSTIC
- 5 OTHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

D16. What was your age on your last birthday?

D17. In what age group are you [read choices]?

- 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 OR OVER
- 9 NO ANSWER/REFUSED

D18. Where do you live-- in what township or municipality?

D18a. In what county is that?

D19. So that we can group all answers, is your total annual family income before taxes: Under \$35,000; between \$35,000 to just under \$70,000; or \$70,000 or more?

- 1 UNDER \$35,000 [Go to q.D19a]
- 2 BETWEEN \$35,001 TO JUST UNDER \$70,000 [Go to q.D19b]
- 3 \$70,000 OR MORE [Go to END]
- 9 REFUSED/DON'T KNOW [Go to END]

D19a. Is that: under \$10,000; \$10,000-\$20,000; \$20,000-\$30,000, or over \$30,000?

- 1 UNDER \$10,000
- 2 \$10,000-\$20,000
- 3 \$20,000-\$30,000
- 4 OVER \$30,000
- 9 DON'T KNOW

D19b. Is that: \$35,000 to \$50,000 or over \$50,000?

- 1 \$35,000 TO \$50,000
- 2 OVER \$50,000
- 9 DON'T KNOW