

EAGLETON POLL 80  
(SL/EP30)  
SEPTEMBER 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. 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 RNOW

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 UNFAVOMBLE
- 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

5a. 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

5b. 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

5c. How would you rate the Governor's handling of state taxes?

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

5d. 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

5e. How would you rate the job Florio has done protecting the environment?

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

6. How much do you think you know about the tax package--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

7. And, where have you gotten word of your information about the tax package--newspapers, radio, television, or friends and acquaintances?

1 NEWSPAPERS  
2 RADIO  
3 TELEVISION  
4 FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES  
3 OTHER (SPECIFY:)  
9 DON'T KNOW

8. In August Governor Florio gave a speech on television about the tax package--Did you or did you not see the speech?

- 1 YES, SAW SPEECH [Go to q.10]
- 2 YES, SAW PART OF SPEECH [Go to q.10]
- 3 NO, DID NOT SEE SPEECH
- 9 DON'T KNOW

(IF "NO OR DON'T KNOW. ASK:)

9. Did you read or hear about the speech?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.11]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.11]

10. Overall, do you feel the information Governor Florio gave about the tax package in the speech was--very believable, somewhat believable, or not very believable?

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

11. Which of the following statements comes closest to how you feel about the tax package (READ EACH ITEM): "New Jersey residents should give the tax package a chance to see how it works", "Some parts of the tax package should be repealed and others should stay" or "The tax package should be repealed"?

- 1 New Jersey residents should give the tax package a chance to see how it works
- 2 Some parts of the tax package should be repealed and others should stay
- 3 The tax package should be repealed
- 9 DON'T KNOW

12. Have you done any of the following - |

- A written a letter to Governor Florio to show support for the tax package?
- B signed a petition to repeal the tax package?
- C written a letter to Governor Florio to show disapproval of the tax package?
- D attended the Hands Across New Jersey rally on September 23 to show disapproval of the tax package?

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

13. Hands Across New Jersey is a group that has organized activities such as a petition drive to repeal the tax package and marches in Trenton--How much have you read or heard about Hands Across New Jersey--a great deal, some, not much or nothing at all?

- 1 GREAT DEAL
- 2 SOME
- 3 NOT MUCH
- 4 NOTHING AT ALL [Go to q.15]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.15]

14. And, do you agree or disagree with what Hands Across New Jersey is trying to do--PROBE: Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or mildly?

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

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

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.42]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.42]

16. In November there will be an election for US Senator in New Jersey--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

17. While the election is still about a month 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 DEFINATELY WILL VOTE
- 2 PROBABLY WILL VOTE
- 3 PROBABLY WILL NOT VOTE [Go to q.42]
- 4 DEFINITELY WILL NOT VOTE [Go to q.42]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.42]

18. Do you know who the Democratic candidate for US Senator is--IF YES, ASK: who is that?

- 1 NAMES BILL BRADLEY [Go to q.20]
- 2 OTHER NAME GIVEN [Go to q.19]
- 9 NO/DON'T KNOW [Go to q.19]

IF "OTHER" OR "DON'T KNOW" TO Q.18 ASK:)

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

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.22]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.22]

20. 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

21. 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

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

1 NAMES CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN [Go to q.24]  
2 OTHER NAME GIVEN [Go to q.23]  
9 NO/DON'T KNOW [Go to q.23]

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

1 YES  
2 NO [Go to q.26]  
9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.26]

24. 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

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

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

26. I'm going to read you a short list of issues--Regardless of which candidate you might favor, please tell me which one--Whitman or Bradley--you think would do a better job of handling each--First (DESIGNATED POINT) who would be better--Whitman or Bradley -- |

A managing the economy and keeping the country prosperous?  
B keeping government honest and free from corruption?  
C providing strong leadership?  
D protecting the environment?  
E balancing the national budget?  
F providing social services such as child care and aid to the needy?  
G handling the drug problem?  
H holding down federal taxes?  
I doing what you want done about abortion?

- 1 WHITMAN
- 2 BRADLEY
- 3 BOTH
- 4 NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

27. And, do you think the New Jersey tax package should or should not be an issue in the election for U.S. Senator?

- 1 SHOULD BE AN ISSUE
- 2 SHOULD NOT BE AN ISSUE [Go to q.29]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.29]

28. Which candidate, Bill Bradley the Democrat or Christine Todd Whitman the Republican feels the way you do about the New Jersey tax package? If you don't know just say so.

Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about the candidates.

29. Which candidate has a clearer vision of the country's future--Whitman or Bradley?

30. And who cares more about people like you?

31. Who is more honest?

32. And who is more competent--Whitman or Bradley?

33. Who is more experienced?

34. Who has values more like yours?

35. 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?

(IF #1 OR #2 TO Q.35, ASK)

36. Are you very sure about your choice, or might you change your mind before election day?

- 1 SURE/FIRM
- 2 MIGHT CHANGE/D.K.

(IF #9 TO Q.35, ASK)

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

- 1 WHITMAN
- 2 BRADLEY
- 9 NEITHER

(IF #1 OR #2 TO Q,35, ASK)

37. When did you decide who you would vote for--in the last few days, in the last couple of weeks, in the last month or two, or did you know all along?

- 1 LAST FEW DAYS
- 2 LAST WEEK OR TWO
- 3 LAST MONTH OR TWO
- 4 EARLIER/KNEW ALL ALONG
- 8 OTHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

39. In November there will also be an election for the US 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

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

- 1 DEMOCRATIC [Go to q.42]
- 2 REPUBLICAN [Go to q.42]
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NEITHER

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

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

42. Generally speaking, would you say things in New Jersey are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

- 1 RIGHT DIRECTION
- 2 WRONG TRACK
- 9 DON'T KNOW

43. 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

44. There has been some discussion lately in New Jersey about changing the state's constitution to allow for initiative and referendum--This provides a way for the public to vote directly on policies and issues instead of always 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

45. And, overall, how much do you feel you know about how initiative and referendum would work if it were permitted--a great deal, some, or not much?

- 1 A GREAT DEAL
- 2 SOME
- 3 NOT MUCH
- 9 DON'T KNOW

46. I'm going to read you some reasons people have given both for and against initiative and referendum--Please tell me which one comes closest to your own view--First, some people feel citizens ought to be able to vote directly on important issues and policies--Others feel that the job of making laws should always be left to elected representatives--Should citizens vote directly in some cases, or should laws always be made by elected representatives?

- 1 VOTE DIRECTLY
- 2 ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
- 8 ROTH/DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

47. Some say that people do not follow politics closely enough to make informed decisions on most issues--Others believe that, if given a chance to vote on issues, people would be able to cast informed votes--Do you think people would or would not be able to make informed decisions?

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

48. Some people feel that initiative and referendum would allow special interest groups to gain power by spending money to promote only their side of an issue--Others feel that it would weaken special interests, since it allows the public to decide issues when elected officials are hesitant to act--Do you think initiative and referendum would make special interests more or less powerful?

- 1 MORE POWERFUL
- 2 LESS POWERFUL
- 3 NO CHANGE
- 8 BOTH/DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

49. On the whole, do you think initiative and referendum is a good idea, a bad idea, or don't you have an opinion on it?

- 1 GOOD IDEA
- 2 BAD IDEA
- 3 BOTH/DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

50. There has been some discussion about changing the State's Constitution to allow for procedures to recall the governor and state legislators--The recall procedure provides a way for the public to vote elected state officials out of office before the end of their regular term--How much have you read or heard about this--a good deal, some, just a little, or nothing at all?

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

51. On the whole, do you think recall is a good idea, a bad idea, or don't you have an opinion on it?

- 1 GOOD IDEA
- 2 BAD IDEA
- 8 BOTH/DEPENDS
- 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 KWOW/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

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
- 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
- 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?

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

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 \$35,000 TO JUST UNDER \$70,001 [Go to q.D19b]
- 3 \$70,000 or more [Go to q.20]
- 9 REFUSED/DON'T KNOW

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

D20. As far as you can remember, in the past year have you been contacted to take part in any other public opinion polls?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.22]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.22]

(IF "YES" TO Q. D20. ASK.)

D21. In the past year about how many public opinion polls have you participated in?

[code responses]

D22. And, in the past year have you read the results of any public opinion polls in the newspaper or heard about any on TV?

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