

STAR-LEDGER/EAGLETON POLL 85
SEPTEMBER 1991

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 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

3. HOW would you rate Governor Florio's handling of (READ ITEM)...excellent, good, only fair, or poor...|

A The state's car insurance problems?

B Problems with the state budget? (REPEAT OPTIONS IF NECESSARY)

C State taxes?

D Property taxes? (REPEAT OPTIONS IF NECESSARY)

E Funding for public schools in the state?

F Protecting the environment?

4. 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

5. And, how would you rate the job the Democrats in the New Jersey State Legislature are doing--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

6. How would you rate the job the Republicans in the New Jersey State Legislature are 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. 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

9. In November, there will be an election for the representatives from your district in the state Senate and Assembly. How much have you read or heard about this election--a great deal, some, not much, or nothing at all?

- 1 A GREAT DEAL
- 2 SOME
- 3 NOT MUCH
- 4 NOTHING AT ALL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

10a. What do you think is the most important problem facing New Jersey that whoever is elected as your state Senate and Assembly representatives will have to face?

10b. What taxes do you feel are the most serious problem: federal income taxes, state income taxes, state sales taxes, your local property taxes, or some other taxes?

- 1 FEDERAL INCOME TAXES
- 2 STATE INCOME TAXES
- 3 STATE SALES TAX
- 4 LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES
- 5 OTHER
- 6 ALL TAXES
- 7 A COMBINATION

9 DON'T KNOW

11a. Thinking about the different taxes that people pay, which tax do you think is the worst--that is the least fair--the Federal income tax, state income tax, state sales tax, or local property tax?

- 1 FEDERAL INCOME TAXES
- 2 STATE INCOME TAXES
- 3 STATE SALES TAX
- 4 LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES
- 5 OTHER
- 6 ALL TAXES
- 7 A COMBINATION
- 9 DON'T KNOW

11b. And, which tax do you think is the fairest--that is the one you feel gives you your money's worth? (READ ITEMS AGAIN IF NECESSARY)

- 1 FEDERAL INCOME TAXES
- 2 STATE INCOME TAXES
- 3 STATE SALES TAX
- 4 LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES
- 5 OTHER
- 6 ALL TAXES
- 7 A COMBINATION
- 9 DON'T KNOW

12. Last year two new tax programs went into effect in New Jersey. One part of this program which went into effect July 1, 1990 was an increase and expansion of the state sales tax and the second part which went into effect January 1, 1991 was an increase in the state income tax rate for heads of households and married people with incomes over \$70,000 and single taxpayers with incomes of \$35,000 or more. How much do you feel you know about these tax programs--a great deal, some, not much, or nothing at all?

- 1 A GREAT DEAL
- 2 SOME
- 3 NOT MUCH
- 4 NOTHING AT ALL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

13. Since these new tax programs have gone into effect, do you think you personally are paying more state sales tax, less tax or about the same amount of state sales tax as you did before the changes in the state tax program?

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

14. 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

15. Do you think the increase and expansion of the state sales tax in order to balance the state budget was--very necessary, somewhat necessary, not very necessary, or not at all necessary?

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

16. Since these new tax programs have gone into effect, do you think YOU personally are paying more state income tax, less tax or about the same amount of state income tax as you did before the changes in the state tax program?

1 MORE INCOME TAX
2 LESS INCOME TAX
3 ABOUT THE SAME
4 DOES NOT PAY STATE INCOME TAXES
9 DON'T KNOW

17. 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

18. Do you think the increase in the state income tax in order to balance the state budget was--very necessary, somewhat necessary, not very necessary, or not at all necessary?

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

19. The majority of funds from the new state income tax increases will go for financing the new school funding formula to help keep property taxes from increasing. How much do you feel you know about this property tax reduction plan--a great deal, some, not much, or nothing at all?

1 A GREAT DEAL
2 SOME
3 NOT MUCH
4 NOTHING AT ALL
9 DON'T KNOW

20. In the past year have your local property taxes gone up, gone down, or stayed about the same?

1 TAXES GONE UP

- 2 TAXES GONE DOWN
- 3 ABOUT THE SAME
- 4 DON'T HAVE A HOUSE, DOES NOT APPLY
- 9 DON'T KNOW

21. Have you actually looked over your past property tax payments to see if there was a change or did you just estimate a comparison of your property taxes from last year to this year?

- 1 LOOKED OVER
- 2 JUST ESTIMATED
- 9 DON'T KNOW

22. Do you remember how you felt when YOU first heard about the tax package that was passed in July 1990--were YOU very angry, somewhat angry, not very angry or not at all angry?

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

23A. And, why did you feel this way about the tax package (FIRST RESPONSE)?

23B. And, why did you feel this way about the tax package (SECOND RESPONSE)?

24. NOW that the tax program has been in place for about a year, how do you feel-- are you very angry, somewhat angry, not very angry, or not at all angry?

- 1 VERY ANGRY
- 2 SONEWBAT ANGRY
- 3 NOT VERY ANGRY
- 4 NOT AT ALL ANGRY
- 9 DON'T KNOW

25. Who do you feel is the most responsible for the changes in New Jersey taxes --Governor Florio, the Democratic Legislators, or the Republican Legislators?

- 1 GOVERNOR FLORIO
- 2 DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS
- 3 REPUBLICAN LEGISLATORS
- 4 BOTH FLORIO AND DEMOCRATS
- 5 BOTH FLORIO AND REPUBLICANS
- 6 DEMOCRAT AND REPUBLICAN LEGISLATORS
- 7 ALL THREE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

26. To the best of your knowledge, do you know if the two State Assembly Representatives in your district voted for or voted against the tax package?

- 1 BOTH FOR
- 2 1 FOR, 1 AGAINST
- 3 BOTH AGAINST
- 9 DON'T KNOW

27. And, did the State Senator in your district, vote for or against the tax package?

- 1 VOTED FOR
- 2 VOTED AGAINST
- 9 DON'T KNOW

28. Do you think it's more likely that state taxes will be raised if the Democrats control the State Legislature or if the Republicans are in control, or do you think there won't be any difference when it comes to raising taxes?

- 1 DEMOCRATS
- 2 REPUBLICANS
- 3 NO DIFFERENCE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

29. In November, when you are deciding who to vote for to represent your district in the New Jersey Senate and Assembly, will the candidates' position on taxes be the single most important issue, one of several important issues, or not an important issue?

- 1 SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE
- 2 ONE OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT ISSUES
- 3 NOT AN IMPORTANT ISSUE
- 4 WON'T VOTE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

30. A new system of auto insurance went into effect in New Jersey on April 1 of this year. Have you read or heard anything about this--IF YES, ASK: How much have you read or heard -- a lot, some, or just a little?

- 1 A LOT
- 2 SOME
- 3 A LITTLE
- 4 NOT READ/HEARD ANYTHING
- 9 DON'T KNOW

31. Overall, do you think the recent changes in the auto insurance system have improved that system, or not--IF YES, ASK: Have the changes improved the system very much, somewhat, or just a little?

- 1 VERY MUCH IMPROVED
- 2 SOMEWHAT IMPROVED
- 3 JUST A LITTLE IMPROVED
- 4 NOT IMPROVED
- 9 DON'T KNOW

32. Do you think auto insurance rates in New Jersey have to be as high as they are in order for insurance companies to stay in business, or do you think rates could be lower--IF LOWER, ASK: Do you think rates could be a lot lower or somewhat lower?

- 1 HAVE TO BE HIGH
- 2 COULD BE SOMEWHAT LOWER
- 3 COULD BE A LOT LOWER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

33. We'd like to know how you would rate various public officials and groups in handling the car insurance issue. First, how would you rate the job . . . (START AT DESIGNATED POINT) has done in trying to keep car insurance rates down -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor...|

- A Governor Florio?
- B The State Legislature as a whole?
- C The State Legislators representing your district?
- D The auto insurance industry?
- E The State Insurance Commissioner?
- F Democrats in the State Legislature?
- G Republicans in the State Legislature?

34. Have you renewed your automobile insurance policy since April 1 of this year, the date the new system Went into effect?

(IF 'YES' TO Q. 34. ASK:)

35a. Compared to what you paid last year, are your current car insurance rates higher, lower, or about the same?

- 1 HIGHER
- 2 LOWER
- 3 ABOUT THE SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW

35b. Have you actually looked over your car insurance rates, or are you just estimating a comparison?

- 1 LOOKED OVER
- 2 JUST ESTIMATING
- 9 DON'T KNOW

(IF 'NO' TO Q. 34. ASK:)

35c. When you renew your policy, do you expect your new car insurance rates to be higher, lower, or about the same?

- 1 HIGHER
- 2 LOWER
- 3 ABOUT THE SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW

36. New Jersey has a program that provides property tax relief to residents through a homestead rebate. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the homestead rebate program? (PROBE: Do you approve/disapprove strongly/mildly?)

- 1 STRONGLY APPROVE
- 2 MILDLY APPROVE
- 3 MILDLY DISAPPROVE
- 4 STRONGLY DISAPPROVE
- 5 DON'T KNOW ABOUT PROGRAM
- 6 DON'T KNOW IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE

37. What is the main reason why you (APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) of the homestead rebate?

38. Money to provide for the homestead rebates comes from the New Jersey income tax. How do you feel about this--should state income tax funds be used to provide property tax relief to homeowners and renters, or not?

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

39. This year the homestead rebate was changed to provide larger rebates to those with less income. How much have you read or heard about these changes--a lot, some, a little, or nothing at all?

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

40. The new homestead rebate plan provides larger rebates to those with lower income levels, but the same property taxes. For example, someone whose property taxes are \$2,000 dollars and has an income of \$40,000 dollars a year receives a smaller rebate than someone whose property taxes are the same but earns \$30,000 dollars a year. Do you think people with less income should receive a larger homestead rebate, or should the rebate be the same regardless of a person's income?

- 1 HIGHER REBATE FOR LOWER INCOME
- 2 SAME REBATE REGARDLESS OF INCOME
- 3 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

41. In order to qualify for a homestead rebate, it is necessary to complete a special section on the state income tax forms. Did you complete this section on the state income tax form when you filed this year?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 3 DID NOT FILE NJ STATE TAX FORM
- 9 CAN'T REMEMBER/DON'T KNOW

42. Did your household receive a homestead rebate check from the state of New Jersey within the past few months?

43a. Do you recall the approximate amount of the rebate check--IF YES, ASK: What was that?

43b. Was the amount of the homestead rebate check higher than what you expected, lower than what you expected, or the same as what you expected?

- 1 HIGHER
- 2 LOWER
- 3 SAME
- 4 DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT
- 9 DON'T KNOW

43c. And was the amount of the homestead rebate check higher, lower, or about the same as what you received in past years?

43d. Did your household receive a homestead rebate check from the State of New Jersey last year?

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

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

D1. Are you currently registered to vote here in New Jersey?

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

D2. In Politics as of today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

D3. 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

D4. Regardless of the political party you might favor, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?

D5. 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

D6. Did you receive a high school diploma?

D7. 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

D8. Are you currently employed, temporarily laid off, retired or not employed?

D9. 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

D10. Are you the chief wage earner in your household?

D11. Is the chief wage earner in your household currently employed, temporarily laid off, retired or not employed?

D12. 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

D13. 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

D14. 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

D15. Are you white, black or of Hispanic origin?

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

D16. 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

D17. What was your age on your last birthday?

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

D18. 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

D19. Where do you live--in what township or municipality?

D19a. In what county is that?

D20. So that we can group all answers, is your total annual family income before taxes: Under \$35,000; between \$35,000 dollars to just under \$70,000; or \$70,000 or more?

D20a. 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 \$20,001-\$30,000
- 4 OVER \$30,000
- 9 DON'T KNOW

D20b. 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

You've been very helpful. Sometimes we need to recontact people to ask some follow-up questions. Would it be okay for us to recontact you? (IF YES, ASK, Could I please have just your first name?)

- 1 YES
- 2 NO