

STAR-LEDGER/EAGLETON POLL 108A

SEPTEMBER 1996

Final 090596

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 Christie Whitman is doing as Governor--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

3. And, how would you rate the job Bill Clinton is doing as President--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

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

4. Generally speaking, would you say things in the country 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

5. Are you currently registered to vote here in New Jersey--(IF YES, PROBE: As a Democrat, Republican, Independent or something else)?

- 1 YES, DEMOCRAT [Go to q.6]
- 2 YES, REPUBLICAN [Go to q.6]
- 3 YES, INDEPENDENT [Go to q.6]
- 4 YES, OTHER [Go to q.6]

5 YES, REFUSED PARTY [Go to q.6]

6 NO [Go to q.50]

9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.50]

6. In November there will be an election for President and U.S. Senate in New Jersey -- do you think you definitely will vote, probably will vote, probably not vote, or definitely not vote?

1 DEFINITELY VOTE

2 PROBABLY VOTE

3 PROBABLY NOT VOTE

4 DEFINITELY NOT VOTE

5 WILL VOTE ONE/NOT OTHER

9 DON'T KNOW

7. How much interest do you have in this election--a lot, some, a little, or none at all?

1 A LOT

2 SOME

3 A LITTLE

4 NONE

5 MIXED

9 DON'T KNOW

8. In your opinion, how much of a difference will the outcome of this election make in the way the government is run for the next few years -- a great deal of difference, some difference, or not very much difference?

1 A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFERENCE

2 SOME DIFFERENCE

3 NOT VERY MUCH DIFFERENCE

8 DEPENDS

9 DON'T KNOW

9. Now I'd like to get your general feelings about the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates. For each name please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable impression. If you don't have an opinion on some just say so. First, how about (**START AT DESIGNATED POINT**) do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of him? **IF FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE, PROBE:** Is that very (favorable/unfavorable) or only somewhat (favorable/unfavorable)--(**REPEAT RESPONSE OPTIONS AS NECESSARY**) |

A Bill Clinton?

B Bob Dole?

C Al Gore?

D Jack Kemp?

E Ross Perot?

1 VERY FAVORABLE

2 SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE

3 SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE

4 VERY UNFAVORABLE

9 NO OPINION/DON'T KNOW

10. If the election for President were held today and you had to choose between Bill Clinton, the Democrat; Bob Dole the Republican; and Ross Perot, the Reform Party candidate, who would you vote for--**[ROTATE WITHIN QUESTION RESPONSE CATEGORIES 1 THRU 3]**?

- 1 CLINTON [Go to q.11a]
- 2 DOLE [Go to q.11a]
- 3 PEROT [Go to q.11a]
- 4 OTHER [Go to q.15]
- 5 WOULDN'T VOTE [Go to q.15]
- 9 DON'T KNOW/UNDECIDED [Go to q.12]

(IF #1, #2, OR #3 TO Q. 10, ASK:)

11a. Are you very sure about your choice or might you change your mind before election day?

- 1 SURE/FIRM
- 2 MIGHT CHANGE/DON'T KNOW

(IF #9 TO Q. 12, ASK:)

12. Do you lean more toward Clinton, more towards Dole, or more towards Perot?

- 1 CLINTON [Go to q.13/14]
- 2 DOLE [Go to q.13/14]
- 3 PEROT [Go to q.13/14]
- 9 NEITHER [Go to q.15]

13. Would you say you are voting more for **(CANDIDATE NAMED IN Q. 10 OR Q.12)** or more against the other candidate?

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

15. Bob Dole has announced a plan to stimulate the economy by having a 15 percent reduction in the federal income tax. How much have you read or heard about this 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

18. If Bob Dole were elected, how likely is it that the federal income tax will be cut by 15 percent, very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not likely at all?

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

19. How much do you think you will benefit from Dole's plan to reduce the federal income tax--a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?

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

20. If you had to choose between a 15 % income tax cut and reducing the federal budget deficit, which would you choose---the 15% income tax cut or reducing the federal budget deficit?

- 1 THE 15% INCOME TAX CUT
- 2 REDUCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT
- 9 DON'T KNOW

25. Thinking about the job that Bill Clinton has done as President, do you think he deserves to be re-elected or do you think it's time for a change?

- 1 YES-DESERVES RE-ELECTION
- 2 NO-TIME FOR A CHANGE
- 3 DEPENDS--VOL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

26. Most people do not vote in every election. Did you vote in the 1992 election for President between George Bush, the Republican, Bill Clinton, the Democrat and Ross Perot--If you can't recall whether you voted or weren't eligible to vote just say so.?

- 1 VOTED [Go to q.27]
- 2 DIDN'T VOTE [Go to q.28]
- 3 CAN'T RECALL [Go to q.28]
- 4 NOT ELIGIBLE [Go to q.28]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.28]

(IF "VOTED" TO Q.26, ASK:)

27. Did you vote for Bush, Clinton, or Perot?

- 1 BUSH
- 2 CLINTON
- 3 PEROT
- 4 CAN'T REMEMBER/DON'T KNOW
- 5 OTHER
- 9 REFUSED

28. And, in the 1993 election for governor of New Jersey, did you vote for the Republican Christie Whitman or the Democrat Jim Florio or didn't you vote in that election?

- 1 WHITMAN
- 2 FLORIO
- 3 DID NOT VOTE

9 DON'T KNOW

SECTION B: SENATORIAL RACE

[ROTATE SERIES Q.29 TO 32 AND Q.33 TO Q.36]

Now thinking about the race for U.S. Senator,

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

1 NAMES DICK ZIMMER [Go to q.31]

2 DOES NOT NAME DICK ZIMMER [Go to q.30]

(IF "DOES NOT NAME ZIMMER" TO Q.29, ASK:)

30. The Republican candidate is Dick Zimmer--have you ever heard of him before?

1 YES

2 NO [Go to q.32]

9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.32]

(IF "YES" TO Q.30, OR >1' TO Q.29, ASK:)

31. How much do you think you know about Dick Zimmer--a lot, some or just a little?

1 A LOT

2 SOME

3 A LITTLE

4 NOTHING

9 DON'T KNOW

32. Is your general impression of Dick Zimmer favorable or unfavorable, or don't you really 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

33. And do you know who the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate is?

1 NAMES BOB TORRICELLI [Go to q.35]

2 DOES NOT NAME BOB TORRICELLI (Tour-a-sell-ee)

(IF "DOES NOT NAME TORRICELLI" TO Q.33, ASK:)

34. The Democratic candidate is Bob Torricelli (Tour-a-sell-ee)-- have you ever heard of him before?

1 YES

2 NO [Go to q.36]

9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.36]

(IF YES TO Q.34, OR >1' TO Q.33, ASK:)

35. How much do you think you know about Torricelli (Tour-a-sell-ee) -- a lot, some or just a little?

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

36. Is your general impression of Torricelli favorable or unfavorable, or don't you really 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

37. Suppose the election for Senator was held today and you had to choose right now -- would you vote for Dick Zimmer the Republican or Bob Torricelli the Democrat--**[ROTATE WITHIN QUESTION RESPONSE CATEGORIES 1 THRU 2]--(IF "WOULDN'T VOTE," PROBE:** Would you not vote because you're undecided now, or don't you plan to vote in the election)?

- 1 ZIMMER [Go to q.39]
- 2 TORRICELLI [Go to q.39]
- 3 WON'T VOTE [Go to q.43]
- 8 OTHER CANDIDATE [Go to q.43]
- 9 UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW [Go to q.38]

(IF "UNDECIDED OR DON'T KNOW TO Q.37, ASK:)

38. At this moment do you lean more towards Zimmer, or more towards Torricelli?

- 1 ZIMMER [Go to q.39]
- 2 TORRICELLI [Go to q.39]
- 9 NEITHER/UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW [Go to q.43]

39. Are you very sure about voting for **(CANDIDATE NAMED IN Q.37 OR Q.38)**; or might you change your mind before Election Day?

- 1 VERY SURE
- 2 MIGHT CHANGE/DON'T KNOW

40. Would you say you are voting more for **(CANDIDATE NAMED IN Q.37 OR Q.38)** or against the other candidate?

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

45. We're interested in finding out which issues are important to you in the 1996 elections. Please tell me if you personally think each of the following is very important, somewhat important, or not very important. First, is **(ROTATE ITEM 1)**

very important, somewhat important, or not very important in the 1996 elections|

(REPEAT RESPONSE OPTIONS EVERY THREE ITEMS)

- A Reducing the budget deficit?
- B Doing what you want done about abortion?
- C Holding down taxes?
- D Reducing crime and drug use?
- E Cleaning up and protecting the environment?
- F Providing social services such as welfare and aid to the needy?
- G Managing the economy and keeping the country prosperous?
- H Improving the educational system?
- I Controlling health care costs?
- J Providing jobs?
- K Promoting family values?
- L Improving race relations?
- M Providing leadership in foreign policy?

- 1 VERY IMPORTANT
- 2 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT
- 3 NOT VERY IMPORTANT
- 9 NO OPINION

46. There will be an election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your district in November. If you were voting today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

- 1 DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE
- 2 REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE
- 3 OTHER CANDIDATE
- 9 UNDECIDED/NO OPINION

49. Which of these two statements best describes your opinion: It's better to have a President and a majority of Congress from the same political party so they can work together and get things done or It's better to have a President and a majority of Congress from different political parties so they can watch over each other and represent different points of view?

- 1 It's better to have a President and a majority of Congress from the same political party so they can work together and get things done
- 2 It's better to have a President and a majority of Congress from different political parties so they can watch over each other and represent different points of view
- 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
- 4 SOMETHING ELSE/OTHER
- 9. DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

(IF #3,4, OR 9 TO Q. D1, ASK)

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.XD4A]
- 2 CONSERVATIVE [Go to q.XD4A]
- 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

XD4B. Has any group you belong to given you any information about which candidate to vote for in the 1996 election?

- 1 YES [Go to q.XD4C]
- 2 NO [Go to q.D5]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.D5]

D5. Did you receive a high school diploma?

- 1. YES
- 2. NO [Go to q.d7]
- 9. DON'T KNOW [Go to q.d7]

(IF "YES" TO Q. D5, ASK:)

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 [Go to q.D9]
- 3 RETIRED [Go to q.D9]
- 4 NOT EMPLOYED [Go to q.D9]

9 OTHER/REFUSED [Go to q.D9]

(IF "EMPLOYED" TO Q. D7, ASK XD7A, ELSE SKIP TO Q.D9:)

XD7a. And how concerned are you that you might become unemployed within the next year--
Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not too concerned about becoming
unemployed?

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

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

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 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

D14. Are you white, black or of Hispanic or Asian 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 OTHER
- 5 NONE/ATHEIST/AGNOSTIC
- 9 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

D16. What was your age on your last birthday?

/ ____ / ____ / (CODE # OF YEARS, 99 ` REFUSED; AND CODE)

D17. In which of these age groups 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?

/ / / / /

 County Town

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 \$35,000 TO \$69,999 [Go to q.D19b]
- 3 \$70,000 OR MORE
- 9 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