

EAGLETON POLL 111 (SL/EP61)
FEBRUARY, 1997

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. 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. Governor Whitman will be running for reelection this fall. Thinking back over her first term, is there anything Whitman has done that you feel has been particularly good for the state-- Is there any accomplishment that stands out?

5. And is there anything Whitman has done or failed to do that has been bad for the state?

6. Now for each statement I read about Governor Whitman, please just tell me if you agree or disagree [ROTATE] -- |

- A She has been a strong spokesperson for New Jersey?
- B She has attracted good people to serve in state Government?
- C She has been a good administrator in running the state on a day to day basis?
- D She has taken on many of the serious problems

facing the state?

- E She has done a good job of keeping corruption out of her administration?
- F She has been successful in getting her programs through the legislature?
- G She has promoted pride in the state among New Jersey residents?

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 9 DK

7. How well do you feel you know Christie Whitman as a person-- very well, pretty well, just a little or not at all?

- 1 VERY WELL
- 2 PRETTY WELL
- 3 A LITTLE
- 4 NOT AT ALL [Go to q.9]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.9]

IF "VERY", "PRETTY WELL" OR "A LITTLE" IN Q.7, ASK:

8. People are often described by a number of characteristics such as "smart" or "nice" -- Please tell me if you think each characteristic I read describes Christie Whitman a lot, a little, or not very well-- If you don't have an opinion on some, just say so-- First, how about (_____), does this fit Whitman a lot, a little or not very well -- |

[ROTATE]

- A A hard worker?
- B Intelligent?
- C Friendly?
- D Honest?
- E Strong leader?

- 1 A lot
- 2 A little
- 3 Not very well
- 4 DK/ no opinion

9. If Christie Whitman were running for reelection as Governor against a Democratic candidate, who would you vote for -- Whitman the Republican, or the Democratic candidate?

- 1 CHRISTIE WHITMAN
- 2 DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE
- 3 DEPENDS ON THE CANDIDATE (VOL. ONLY)
- 4 NEITHER (VOL. ONLY)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

10. Comparing Christie Whitman to New Jersey's last governor, Jim Florio, who do you think has been a better governor -- Whitman or Florio?

- 1 WHITMAN

- 2 FLORIO
- 3 NEITHER (VOLUNTEERED ONLY)
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

On another topic. . .

11a. In the past year, have your local property taxes gone up, gone down, or stayed about the same-- PROBE: Have they gone (up/down) a lot or just a little?

- 1 SAME [Go to q.12]
- 2 GONE UP A LOT
- 3 GONE UP A LITTLE
- 4 GONE DOWN A LITTLE [Go to q.12]
- 5 GONE DOWN A LOT [Go to q.12]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.12]

(IF #2 OR 3 GONE UP TO Q. 11A, ASK:)

11b. Which of the following do you think is most responsible for the increase in your local property taxes -- state government, county government, local government, or the local public schools?

- 1 STATE GOVERNMENT
- 2 COUNTY GOVERNMENT
- 3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- 4 PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

12. Some people say that the state of New Jersey does not have any influence on the cost of local property taxes -- do you agree or disagree?

- 1 AGREE
- 2 DISAGREE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

13. Overall, how much do you think you have benefited from New Jersey's 30 percent state income tax reduction--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

IF Q.11A is #2 or #3:

14. And, how much of the increase in your local property taxes do you think is the result of the state income tax reduction?

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

15. Over the past 3 years, overall, do you think the combined total you pay in both state taxes and local property taxes has gone up, gone down, or stayed the same?

- 1 GONE UP
- 2 GONE DOWN
- 3 STAYED THE SAME
- 4 DEPENDS (VOL)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

16. Governor Whitman has suggested issuing about 3 billion dollars in bonds to fund the state's pension obligation as a way to provide more money to the state budget-- How much have you read or heard about this bond proposal--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

17. Under the governor's proposal, the state would sell bonds to balance the budget and the state would have to commit to paying off these bonds-- Do you think the Governor with approval of the state legislature should make this decision to commit to pay for the bonds or do you think it should be put on the ballot for a public vote?

- 1 GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE
- 2 PUBLIC VOTE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

[ROTATE CHOICES]

19. Which comes closest to your view on Whitman's bond proposal -- that it is just a gimmick to balance the state budget or that it is good financial management?

- 1 GIMMICK
- 2 GOOD FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
- 9 DON'T KNOW ENOUGH

20. Some people who are critical of the bond proposal say that the Governor is paying for today's tax cuts by postponing the payment of this debt to sometime in the future-- Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- 1 AGREE
- 2 DISAGREE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

21. How likely are you to look for information to help you better understand this bond proposal -- very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

- 1 VERY LIKELY
- 2 SOMEWHAT LIKELY
- 3 NOT VERY LIKELY

- 4 NOT AT ALL LIKELY
- 9 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

Now we have a few questions on auto insurance,

22a. Are you covered by an auto insurance policy--[IF "NO", "DK" ASK "DO YOU HAVE A CAR"]?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO- HAVE A CAR [Go to q.U1]
- 3 NO - DON'T HAVE A CAR [Go to q.U1]
- 8 DON'T KNOW - HAVE A CAR [Go to q.U1]
- 9 DON'T KNOW - DON'T HAVE A CAR [Go to q.U1]

22b. Are you currently paying any surcharges on your auto insurance policy because of an accident or ticket?

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

23. Thinking about the cost and coverage of your auto insurance, overall are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied or not at all satisfied with your auto insurance?

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

24. Compared to three years ago, have you become more satisfied or less satisfied with your auto insurance?

- 1 MORE SATISFIED
- 2 LESS SATISFIED
- 3 NO CHANGE
- 4 DIDN'T HAVE INSURANCE 3 YEARS AGO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

25. 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 they could be a lot lower or only somewhat lower)?

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

26. Recently, Governor Whitman has made some suggestions about reforming auto insurance-- Have you read or heard anything about this-- (IF 'YES', ASK: How much have you read or heard about this -- a lot, some, or just a little)?

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

27. Under the suggested auto insurance proposal, drivers could choose from four basic insurance options-- I'm going to read you a summary of these four options-- First, would you be very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely to choose [READ ITEM]|

NO ROTATION

- A Lowering your car insurance bill by 25 percent if you agree to give up your right to sue for "pain and suffering"?
- B Reducing your car insurance bill by 10 percent if you agree to limit lawsuits from car accidents to cases of serious injury or death?
- C Saving a little less than 10 percent on your car insurance if you agree to scheduled or pre-determined pain and suffering benefits?
- D Paying 15 percent more on your car insurance to have no limits on what you can sue for pain and suffering rather than limiting what you can sue for and paying less?

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

[ROTATE CHOICES]

28. If you were given the choice, would you prefer to keep the auto insurance you have now or make a choice among the options available in the suggested plan?

- 1 KEEP CURRENT INSURANCE
- 2 CHOOSE OPTION IN SUGGESTED PLAN
- 3 DEPENDS (VOL)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

29. We'd like to know how you would rate various public officials in handling the issue of auto insurance-- First, how would you rate the job [read item] have/has done in trying to keep car insurance rates down -- excellent, good, only fair or poor -- |

- A Governor Whitman?
- B Democrats in the state legislature?
- C Republicans in the state legislature?

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

30. On average, New Jerseyans pay more for auto insurance than drivers in any other state-- In your opinion, what is the main reason why New Jerseyans pay more

for car insurance?

Now, I'd like to ask a few questions about issues related to you and your family's health.

U1. In the past year, have you or any member of your family|

[ROTATE]

A Called 911 for a medical emergency?

B Called your family physician during non-business hours?

C Gone to an emergency room for a medical problem?

D Called poison control?

E Treated a medical emergency on your own without advice from any type of medical professional?

1 YES

2 NO

9 DON'T KNOW

FOR "A" THROUGH "E", ASK Q.U2 THROUGH Q.U3:

U2. Have you received formal training or certification in any of the following procedures -- first, [READ ITEM]|

A CPR?

B The Heimlich maneuver?

C Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation?

D Assisting a person with a broken bone?

E Stopping an injury from bleeding?

F Basic first aid?

1 YES

2 NO

9 DON'T KNOW

U3. How comfortable would you feel using this procedure if you were faced with a medical emergency-very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, not very comfortable, or not at all comfortable -- |

A CPR?

B The Heimlich maneuver?

C Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation?

D Assisting a person with a broken bone?

E Stopping an injury from bleeding?

F Basic first aid?

1 VERY

2 SOMEWHAT

3 NOT VERY

4 NOT AT ALL

8 WOULD NOT USE

9 DON'T KNOW

U5. I'm going to read you a list of some medical supplies people may have in their

homes-- For each one I mention, please tell me if you have this particular item on-hand in your home right now -- [READ ITEM]|

[ROTATE ITEMS]

- A Adhesive bandages or band-aids?
- B Antiseptic cream?
- C Hydrogen peroxide?
- D An ice pack?
- E A heating pad?
- F An ace bandage?
- G Rubbing alcohol?
- H Aspirin or other pain reliever?
- I A thermometer?
- J Cotton balls?
- K Sterile gauze?
- L A snake or insect bite kit?

U6. In your car, do you usually have [READ ITEM]|

[ROTATE ITEMS]

- A A first aid kit?
- B A blanket?
- C A cellular phone?
- D Bottled water?

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

U7. Do you happen to know what the initials UMDNJ stand for-- (IF YES, ASK: What does it stand for)?

- 1 YES--CORRECTLY IDENTIFIES UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY [Go to q.U8a]
- 2 YES--BUT DOES NOT CORRECTLY IDENTIFY NAME [Go to q.U8b]
- 3 NO [Go to q.U8b]
- 9 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED [Go to q.U8b]

U8. [FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT IDENTIFY: UMDNJ stands for University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey--] ALL: Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, somewhat unfamiliar, or totally unfamiliar with UMDNJ?

- 1 VERY FAMILIAR
- 2 SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR
- 3 SOMEWHAT UNFAMILIAR
- 4 TOTALLY UNFAMILIAR [Go to q.S1]
- 9 DON'T KNOW

(IF #1, 2, OR 3 TO Q.U-8, ASK:)

U9. Now I'd like to get your overall opinion of UMDNJ-- Please take into account everything you may know or have heard about UMDNJ-- Is your overall opinion of UMDNJ very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

- 1 VERY FAVORABLE
- 2 SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE
- 3 SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE
- 4 VERY UNFAVORABLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

S1. How important do you think it is for New Jersey to protect and preserve the state's natural areas and open-spaces--very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important.?

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

READ SLOWLY

S2. Currently, the majority of funding for the preservation of the state's natural areas and open-spaces is provided by money from bond issues that have been approved by New Jersey voters-- In your opinion, are bonds the best way to pay for the preservation of the state's natural areas and open-spaces or do you think there should be a different funding source?

- 1 BONDS [Go to q.S-3]
- 2 DIFFERENT SOURCE [Go to q.S-4]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.S-4]

IF "BONDS" IN Q.S-2:

S3. Generally when bonds are used for funding, the total cost to repay the bonds-- including the interest which you pay for with your income taxes -- can be as much as three times the cost of the original bond-- Thinking about this information about the repayment of bonds, in your opinion are bonds the best way to pay for the preservation of the state's natural areas and open spaces or do you think there should be a different source?

- 1 BONDS
- 2 DIFFERENT SOURCE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

S4. I'm going to read you a list of some different ways that could be used to pay for the preservation of the state's natural areas and open-spaces-- How willing would you be to pay READ ITEM for the preservation of the state's natural areas and open-spaces--very willing, somewhat willing, not very willing, or not at all willing -- |

ROTATE ITEMS

- A A TAX ON HOTEL AND MOTEL ROOMS?
- B A TAX ON RESTAURANT BILLS?
- C A TAX ON GAS AND ELECTRIC BILLS?
- D AN INCREASE IN THE SALES TAX?
- E AN INCREASE IN THE STATE INCOME TAX?
- F A TAX ON REAL ESTATE SALES?

- 1 VERY WILLING
- 2 SOMEWHAT WILLING
- 3 NOT VERY WILLING
- 4 NOT AT ALL WILLING
- 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.xD2]
- 2 REPUBLICAN [Go to q.xD2]
- 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

XD2. Are you registered to vote here in New Jersey?

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

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

IF 1,3 IN D.1 AND 1 IN XD2a ASK:

XD4a. This June there will be a primary election to select the Democratic candidate to run for Governor against Christie Whitman-- Do you plan to vote in this primary or not?

- 1 WILL VOTE
- 2 WILL NOT VOTE [Go to q.D5]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.D5]

IF "1" IN XD4a, ASK:

XD4b. Now, I'd like to get your general feelings about the possible Democratic candidates in the June primary-- 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/her-- IF FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE, PROBE: Is that very (favorable/unfavorable) or only somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) -- |

ROTATE:

- A JIM MCGREEVEY?
- B MICHAEL MURPHY?
- C ROB ANDREWS?
- D ROBERT JANISZEWSKI?
- E SUSAN BASS LEVIN?

- 1 VERY FAVORABLE
- 2 SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE
- 3 SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE
- 4 VERY UNFAVORABLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

D5. Did you receive a high school diploma?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 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
- 3 RETIRED
- 4 NOT EMPLOYED
- 9 OTHER/REFUSED

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

XD13A. Do you have any children under the age of 18 years old?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DK

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)

D17. [IF REFUSED IN D.16, ASK:] Is it between...?

- 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 to \$100,000; or \$100,000 or more?

- 1 UNDER \$35,000 [Go to q.D19A]
- 2 \$35,000 TO \$69,999 [Go to q.D19B]
- 3 \$70,000 TO \$100,000 [Go to q.X55]
- 4 \$100,000 OR MORE [Go to q.X55]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.X55]

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