

EAGLETON POLL 114 (SL/EP64)
SEPTEMBER, 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. 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 tack?

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

4a. Are you currently registered to vote here in New Jersey--(IF YES, PROBE: As a Democrat, Republican, Independent or something else)?

- 1 YES, DEMOCRAT
- 2 YES, REPUBLICAN
- 3 YES, INDEPENDENT
- 4 YES, OTHER
- 5 YES, REFUSED PARTY
- 6 NO
- 9 DON'T KNOW

5. As of now, how likely are you to vote in the election for Governor this November--will you definitely vote, probably vote, probably not vote, or definitely not vote?

- 1 DEFINITELY VOTE
- 2 PROBABLY VOTE
- 3 PROBABLY NOT VOTE
- 4 DEFINITELY NOT VOTE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

6. 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
- 9 DON'T KNOW

7. Do you know who the Republican candidate for Governor is?

- 1 NAMES WHITMAN [Go to q.9]
- 2 DOES NOT NAME WHITMAN [Go to q.8]

(IF "DOES NOT NAME WHITMAN", TO Q.7, ASK:)

8. The Republican candidate is Christie Whitman--have you ever heard of her before?

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

(IF "YES" TO Q.8, or #1 to Q.7, ASK:)

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

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

10. Is your general impression of Christie Whitman favorable or unfavorable, or don't you really 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 NO OPINION/DON'T KNOW

11. And do you know who the Democratic candidate for Governor is?

- 1 NAMES JIM MCGREEVEY [Go to q.13]
- 2 DOES NOT NAME HIM MCGREEVEY [Go to q.12]

(IF "DOES NOT NAME MCGREEVEY" TO Q.11, ASK:)

12. The Democratic candidate is Jim McGreevey--have you ever heard of him before?

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

(IF "YES" TO Q.12, OR #1 TO Q.11, ASK:)

13. How much do you think you know about Jim McGreevey--a lot, some or just a little?

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

14. Is your general impression of Jim McGreevey 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

[ROTATE CHOICES]

16. Suppose the election for Governor was held today and you had to choose right now--would you vote for [Christie Whitman the Republican] or [Jim McGreevey the Democrat]--(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 WHITMAN [Go to q.18]
- 2 MCGREEVEY [Go to q.18]
- 3 WON'T VOTE [Go to q.20]
- 8 OTHER CANDIDATE [Go to q.20]
- 9 UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW [Go to q.17]

(IF "UNDECIDED OR DON'T KNOW" TO Q.16

17. At this moment do you lean more towards [Whitman], or more towards [McGreevey]?

[ROTATE CHOICES]

1 WHITMAN [Go to q.19]

2 MCGREEVEY [Go to q.19]

9 NEITHER/UNDECIDED/DON'T KNOW [Go to q.19]

[IF WHITMAN OR MCGREEVEY TO Q.16]

18a. Are you very sure about voting for (McGreevey/Whitman); or might you change your mind before election day?

1 VERY SURE

2 MIGHT CHANGE/DON'T KNOW

18b. When did you decide who you were going to vote for--in the last few days, in the last couple weeks, in the last month or two, or did you know all along?

1 LAST FEW DAYS

2 LAST 2 WEEKS

3 LAST MONTH/TWO

4 KNOW ALL ALONG

5 DURING THIS INTERVIEW

9 DON'T KNOW

19_1. IF CANDIDATE NAMED IN Q.16 OR Q.17: What is the main reason why you are going to vote for (Candidate Named) (FIRST MENTION)?

19_2. IF CANDIDATE NAMED IN Q.16 OR Q.17: What is the main reason why you are going to vote for (Candidate Named) (SECOND MENTION)?

19_3. IF CANDIDATE NAMED IN Q.16 OR Q.17: What is the main reason why you are going to vote for (Candidate Named) (THIRD MENTION)?

19A. The Libertarian candidate for Governor, Murray Sabrin has filed for public matching funds. If this is approved he will be the first third party candidate in New Jersey's history to qualify for matching funds and for participation in the debates. How much of a difference do you think Sabrin will make in the race for Governor--a great deal of difference, some difference, not very much difference, or no difference at all?

- 1 A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFERENCE
- 2 SOME DIFFERENCE
- 3 NOT VERY MUCH DIFFERENCE
- 4 NO DIFFERENCE AT ALL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

[ROTATE CHOICE OF CANDIDATES]

19b. And, if the election for Governor were held today and you had to choose right now-- would you vote for (Christie Whitman the Republican), (Jim McGreevey the Democrat), or (Murray Sabrin the Libertarian)?

- 1 CHRISTIE WHITMAN
- 2 JIM MCGREEVEY
- 3 MURRAY SABRIN
- 9 DON'T KNOW

20. Overall how satisfied are you with the current field of candidates running for governor this year--very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

- 1 VERY SATISFIED
- 2 SOMEWHAT SATISFIED
- 3 SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED
- 4 VERY DISSATISFIED
- 9 DON'T KNOW

21. There are independent candidates running for governor who will also be on the ballot. How likely is it you might vote for one of these candidates--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

22. Thinking about the job Christie Whitman has done as governor, do you think she deserves to be re-elected or do you think it is time for a change?

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

22a. How much have you read or heard about the possibility of Christie Whitman running for national offices such as vice President or U.S. Senator in the year 2000--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

22b. Some people have talked about Christie Whitman running for national office in the year 2000 before her term as governor would end. Should Christie Whitman feel free to run for a national office such as vice president of U.S. Senate in 2000 or do you think if she is re-elected this year she is obligated to serve out her full term as governor?

- 1 CONSIDER NATIONAL OFFICE
- 2 SERVE FULL TERM AS GOVERNOR
- 8 DEPENDS
- 9 DON'T KNOW

22c. Would you be more likely, less likely, or about as likely to vote for Christie Whitman this November if you thought she would not serve out her full term as governor?

- 1 MORE LIKELY
- 2 LESS LIKELY
- 3 ABOUT AS LIKELY
- 9 DON'T KNOW

23. In November, there will be an election for the representatives from your district in the State Senate and Assembly--If the election were held today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate for the State Senate from your district?

- 1 DEMOCRAT
- 2 REPUBLICAN
- 3 NOT VERY LIKELY TO VOTE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

24. And, if the election were held today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidates for State Assembly?

- 1 DEMOCRAT
- 2 REPUBLICAN
- 3 ONE DEMOCRAT/ONE REPUBLICAN
- 9 DON'T KNOW

25. 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 NOTHING AT ALL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

26. And, in the past 3 years how much do you think your property taxes have increased--a great deal, some, not much or not at all?

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

26a. Some people have estimated the average local residential property tax bill in New Jersey has increased by 12% in the past 3 years, who is most responsible for this increase-- your local government, county government, or state government in Trenton?

- 1 YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- 2 COUNTY GOVERNMENT
- 3 STATE GOVERNMENT IN TRENTON
- 4 COMBINATION
- 9 DON'T KNOW

27. Do you think your town could do more to reduce local property taxes or do you think they have done all that is possible to reduce taxes-- IF MORE, ASK: Is that a lot more or a little more?

- 1 A LOT MORE
- 2 A LITTLE MORE
- 3 DONE ALL THAT IS POSSIBLE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

28. 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
- 9 DON'T KNOW

28b. In your opinion, how much do you think [READ ITEM] in New Jersey can be reformed-- do you think they can be reformed a great deal, some, not much, or not at all -- |

- A Local property taxes?
- B The state income tax?

- 1 A GREAT DEAL
- 2 SOME

- 3 NOT MUCH
- 4 NOTHING AT ALL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

29. How much have you read or heard about the candidates' suggestions to reform taxes in New Jersey--a great deal, some, not much, or nothing at all?

- 1 A GREAT DEAL
- 2 SOME
- 3 NOT MUCH
- 4 NOTHING AT ALL [Go to q.30]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.30]

ASK ALL EXCEPT THOSE SAYING NOTHING AT ALL OR DON'T KNOW TO Q.29:

29a. And, which candidates suggestions to reform taxes have you heard the most about--Jim McGreevey's or Christie Whitman's?

[ROTATE CANDIDATE CHOICES]

- 1 CHRISTIE WHITMAN
- 2 JIM MCGREEVEY
- 3 BOTH
- 4 NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

30. Which candidate do you think would do a better job at handling the issue of taxes (Christie Whitman) or (Jim McGreevey)?

[ROTATE RESPONSES]

- 1 CHRISTIE WHITMAN
- 2 JIM MCGREEVEY
- 9 DON'T KNOW

31. How much will your opinions about the tax issue influence your choice for Governor--a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?

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

32. 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
- 5 NO AUTO INSURANCE (VOL)
- 9 DON'T KNOW

32a. Over the past 3 years, do you think your automobile insurance has gone up, gone down, or stayed the same--IF GONE UP, ASK: How much has it gone up--a great deal or some?

- 1 GONE UP A LOT [Go to q.32b]
- 2 GONE UP SOME [Go to q.32b]
- 3 GONE DOWN [Go to q.33]
- 4 STAYED THE SAME [Go to q.33]
- 5 NO AUTO INSURANCE [Go to q.33]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.33]

32b. In your opinion, who has been the most responsible for the costs of auto insurance going up--the Democrats or the Republicans?

[ROTATE RESPONSES]

- 1 DEMOCRATS
- 2 REPUBLICANS
- 3 BOTH
- 4 NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

33. Both candidates have made suggestions on how to reform auto insurance. How much have you read or heard about these proposals-- a great deal, some, not much, or nothing at all?

- 1 A GREAT DEAL
- 2 SOME
- 3 NOT MUCH
- 4 NOTHING AT ALL [Go to q.34]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.34]

ASK ALL EXCEPT THOSE SAYING NOTHING AT ALL OR DON'T KNOW TO Q.33:

33a. And, which candidate's suggestions on how to reform auto insurance have you heard the most about--Jim McGreevey's or Christie Whitman's?

[ROTATE CANDIDATE CHOICES]

- 1 CHRISTIE WHITMAN
- 2 JIM MCGREEVEY
- 3 BOTH
- 4 NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW

34. Which candidate do you think would do a better job at handling the issue of auto insurance [Christie Whitman] or [Jim McGreevey]?

[ROTATE CHOICES]

- 1 CHRISTIE WHITMAN
- 2 JIM MCGREEVEY
- 9 DON'T KNOW

35. How much will your opinions about auto insurance influence your choice for Governor--a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?

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

[ASK EVERYONE:]

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.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
- 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 [Go to q.XD.7a]
- 2 TEMPORARILY LAID OFF [Go to q.D.9]
- 3 RETIRED [Go to q.D.9]
- 4 NOT EMPLOYED [Go to q.D.9]
- 9 OTHER/REFUSED [Go to q.D.9]

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

XD9a. Are you a member of a union?

- 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 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) [Go to q.D18]
99 REFUSED [Go to q.D17]

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