

POLL 130
January 24-30, 2001

Whitman departure, DiFrancesco as Gov, Bush as pres, NJ State Plan, Internet, and Jersey Bytes

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 some topics currently in the news. We are not selling anything, not asking for money, and all your answers will be completely confidential.

1. To begin with, for how many years have you lived in New Jersey, or have you lived here all of your life?

- 1 Two or less
- 2 3 - 5
- 3 6 - 10
- 4 11 - 20
- 5 21 or more
- 6 All My Life
- 9 Don't Know

GB1. So far, do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 9 Don't know

GB2. Is your general impression of Bush 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 unfavorable
- 9 No opinion/Don't know

GB3. Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the next four years with Bush as President?

- 1 Optimistic
- 2 Pessimistic
- 3 Neither (vol.)
- 9 Don't know

GB4. Do you approve or disapprove of most of the cabinet members Bush has selected for his administration?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 9 Don't know

GB5. What type of president do you think Bush will be-- an outstanding president, above average, average, below average, or poor?

- 1 Outstanding
- 2 Above average
- 3 Average
- 4 Below average
- 5 Poor
- 9 Don't know

GB6. Do you think Bush will do a better job as President than Bill Clinton did, or a worse job than Clinton, or about the same job as Clinton?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 Same
- 9 Don't know

GB7. Do you think Bush's positions on important issues are too conservative for you, too liberal for you, or are his issue positions about right for you?

- 1 Too conservative
- 2 Too liberal
- 3 About right
- 9 Don't know

W1. Thinking back over the last seven years, how would you rate the job Christie Whitman has done as Governor -- excellent, good, only fair or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 Don't Know

W2. Is your general impression of Christie Whitman favorable or 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 No opinion/Don't know

W3. Whitman is leaving as Governor a year before her term is up to serve in the Bush administration as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Do you approve or disapprove of Whitman leaving to run the Environmental Protection Agency?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 9 Don't know

W4. When Whitman leaves office, do you think you will miss having her as Governor, or not?

- 1 Yes, will miss
- 2 No, not miss
- 9 Don't know

W5. Thinking back over Whitman's term in office, would you say that she has major accomplishments to point to, minor accomplishments, or no real accomplishments?

- 1 Major
- 2 Minor
- 3 No real ones
- 9 Don't know

SPLIT HALF FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS

W6. [HALF SAMPLE:] 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 -- |

RANDOMIZE OPTIONS A-E

- A A hard worker?
- B Warm and caring?
- C Understands the common person?
- D Honest?
- E A strong leader?

- 1 A lot
- 2 A little
- 3 Not very well
- 9 Don't know

W7. [HALF SAMPLE:] 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 -- |

RANDOMIZE OPTIONS A-E

- A A strong leader
- B Understands the concerns you personally face in day-to-day life
- C Intelligent
- D Likeable
- E A role model for women

- 1 A lot

- 2 A little
- 3 Not very well
- 9 Don't know

ROTATE W8 AND W9

W8. There have been a number of positive things that have happened in New Jersey over the past few years. Please tell me how much of the credit you think Governor Whitman should get for each item I read. Should she get most, some, a little, or no credit at all for -- |

RANDOMIZE A-F

- A A healthy state economy?
- B A cleaner environment?
- C A reduction in the number of people on welfare?
- D A reduction in the amount of crime?
- E A low unemployment rate?
- F Preservation of open spaces?

- 1 Most
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 None at all
- 9 Don't know

W9. There have been a number of negative things that have happened in New Jersey over the past few years. Please tell me how much of the BLAME you think Governor Whitman should get for each item I read. Should she get most, some, a little, or no blame at all for -- |

RANDOMIZE A-F

- A Continued racial profiling by New Jersey state troopers?
- B A doubling of the state debt?
- C High auto insurance rates?
- D High property taxes?
- E Problems funding schools in less affluent school districts?
- F Increased traffic congestion?

- 1 Most
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 None at all
- 9 Don't know

W10. When Whitman leaves office, do you know the name of the person who would become the Acting Governor -- IF YES, PROBE: Who is that?

- 1 Donald DiFrancesco – **SKIP TO W12**
- 9 Other/Don't Know

IF OTHER/DON'T KNOW IN W10

W11. The Acting Governor would be Donald DiFrancesco (Dee-Fran-*Sess*-Ko) Have you ever heard of him before?

- 1 Yes
- 9 No / Don't Know--**SKIP TO W14**

W12. How much do you feel you know about DiFrancesco – a lot, some, just a little, or nothing at all?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 Nothing -- **SKIP TO W14**
- 9 Don't know

W13. And is your opinion of DiFrancesco favorable, unfavorable or don't you have an opinion of him?

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 9 Don't Know/no opinion

W14. Are you comfortable with the idea of Donald DiFrancesco taking over as Governor, or are you uncomfortable with this?

- 1 Comfortable
- 2 Uncomfortable
- 9 Neither / Don't know

W15. What do you think DiFrancesco should do as acting Governor – should he act mostly as a caretaker, overseeing the running of the state, or should he be more active and pursue his own agenda?

- 1 Caretaker
- 2 More active
- 3 Both (vol)
- 9 Don't know

BC1. Thinking back over the last eight years, how would you rate the job Bill Clinton did as President--excellent, good, only fair or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 Don't Know

BC2. Is your general impression of Bill Clinton 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 unfavorable
- 9 No opinion/Don't know

BC3. What type of president do you think Clinton has been --an outstanding president, above average, average, below average, or poor?

- 1 Outstanding
- 2 Above average
- 3 Average
- 4 Below average
- 5 Poor
- 9 Don't know

SP1. On another subject, in New Jersey, who do you think currently has more control over planning and development decisions – that is, decisions about where new homes and businesses are located, and how land should be used: the state government or local governments?

- 1 State government
- 2 Local governments
- 3 Both equal / share (volunteered)
- 9 Don't know

SP2. Who do you think SHOULD have more control over planning and development decisions in New Jersey: the state government or local governments?

- 1 State government
- 2 Local governments
- 3 Both equal / share (volunteered)
- 9 Don't know

SP3. If you had to choose, which do you think should be a bigger priority in New Jersey – buying up and preserving open spaces, or investing in already developed areas that need repair, such as inner cities?

- 1 Preserving open spaces
- 2 Repairing developed areas
- 3 Neither (volunteered)
- 4 Both equally (volunteered)
- 9 Don't know

SP4. Have you ever heard of something called the “New Jersey State Plan?”

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Don't know

SP5. The New Jersey State Plan was introduced in 1988 to provide development and planning guidelines that would stop suburban sprawl and manage growth in New Jersey. From what you know, do you think the plan has been successful, or has it been unsuccessful, or has it met with mixed success?

- 1 Successful [**goto SP7**]
- 2 Unsuccessful
- 3 Mixed success
- 9 Don't know [**goto SP7**]

IF UNSUCCESSFUL OR MIXED SUCCESS

SP6. Who do you think is more to blame for the Plan not being more successful – the state government or local governments?

- 1 State government
- 2 Local governments
- 3 Both equal / share (volunteered)
- 9 Don't know

SP7. The New Jersey State Plan seeks to steer growth and development to existing population centers, such as towns and cities, in order to limit growth and development in farming communities and open spaces. Do you approve or disapprove of this part of the plan?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 9 Don't know

SP8. The New Jersey State Plan is based on the idea of “home rule” – that is, that local government officials get to make planning and development decisions for their communities, and they can choose whether to follow the State Plan or not. Do you approve or disapprove of this part of the plan?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 9 Don't know

SPLIT HALF FOLLOWING TWO SETS (SP9 AND SP10)

SP9. [HALF SAMPLE:] I'm going to read you some of the goals of the New Jersey State Plan. Please tell me whether you think each goal is very important, somewhat important, or not very important to you -- |

- A Easing traffic congestion?
- B Stopping suburban sprawl?
- C Revitalizing city centers?
- D Preserving open spaces?
- E Promoting economic growth?

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not very important
- 9 Don't know

SP10. I'm going to read you some of the goals of the New Jersey State Plan. Please tell me whether you think there has been a lot of progress, some progress, a little progress, or no progress at all in reaching each goal in your community over the past ten years -- |

- A Easing traffic congestion?
- B Stopping suburban sprawl?
- C Revitalizing city centers?
- D Preserving open spaces?
- E promoting economic growth?

- 1 A lot of progress
- 2 Some progress
- 3 A little progress
- 4 No progress at all
- 9 Don't know

IN1. On another subject, some people say they feel overloaded with information these days, considering all the TV news shows, magazines, newspapers and computer information services. Others say they like having so much information to choose from. How about you...do you feel overloaded or do you like having so much information available?

- 1 Overloaded
- 2 Like info
- 3 Other (vol)
- 9 Don't know

IN2. How much do you worry that computers and technology are being used to invade your privacy—a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

- 1 Lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Not much
- 4 Not at all
- 9 Don't know

IN3. Do you have a home computer where you live?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 DK/Refused

IN4. Do you use the Internet either from home or work on at least a weekly basis?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No **SKIP TO IN5**
- 3 Yes, from somewhere else (VOL)
- 9 Don't know—**SKIP TO IN5**

IN4A. And do you connect to the Internet from work, home, or both?

- 1 Work
- 2 Home
- 3 Both work and home
- 4 Depends/Other (VOL)
- 9 Don't know

IN4B. Thinking about the average week, how many of the seven days do you connect to the Internet?

_____ Code actual number; 9 = Don't know

IN4C. Do you send or receive e-mail most days, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Depends (VOL)
- 9 Don't know

ASK IN5 ONLY IF IN4=1 OR 3.

IN5. I'm interested in what things people might do on the Internet in the next couple of years. For each item I read please tell me if you do it now, expect to do it, or don't think you will do it. First (**RANDOMIZE A-H**) Do you do this now, expect to do it, or not -- |

- A Buy books or music?
- B Pay bills?
- C Plan travel and vacations?
- D Go shopping for food?
- E Take educational classes or get job training?
- F Renew your driver's license or car registration?
- G Contact a state or local public official?
- H Pay your taxes?

- 1 Do it now
- 2 Expect to do it
- 3 Do not expect to do it
- 9 Don't know

JB1. On another subject, do you happen to know the names of the United States Senators from New Jersey -- IF YES: What are their names?
[IF ONLY ONE GIVEN: Can you think of anyone else?]

- 1 Names both Jon Corzine and Bob Torricelli (Tor – ih – sell – ee)
- 2 Only names Corzine
- 3 Only names Torricelli
- 4 Names other/others SPECIFY _____
- 9 Names neither / don't know

JB2. I'd like to ask you some questions about the STATE POLICE here in New Jersey. These are the people who patrol the state highways, not like your local police and the sheriffs who patrol the area around where you live. Overall, how would you describe the job the State Police do in patrolling the state's major roads – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 Don't know

JB3. Do you think the New Jersey State Police treat minorities better, worse, or the same as they treat other people

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 Same
- 4 Depends (VOL)
- 9 Don't Know

JB4. In New Jersey there has been a finding that some State Police have been stopping cars based on the race or age of the people in the cars. How much does it bother you that some State police stop people because of their race—is this something that bothers you a lot, some, a little, or not at all?

- 1 Lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Little
- 4 Not at all
- 9 Don't know

JB5. Looking ahead, do you think that a year from now you and your family will be better off financially, worse off, or about the same as now?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 Same
- 9 Don't know

D1. Are you currently registered to vote at the address where you now live?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No – **SKIP TO D4**
- 9 Don't know – **SKIP TO D4**

ROTATE D1A AND D1B

As you may know, there will be an election for New Jersey Governor this coming November.

D1A. If the election for Governor were held today and the candidates were Donald DiFrancesco [Dee – Fran – *Sess* – Ko), the Republican, and Jim McGreevey, the Democrat, for whom would you vote – DiFrancesco or McGreevey?

- 1 DiFrancesco
- 2 McGreevey
- 3 Neither/Other (VOL)

- 8 Wouldn't vote (VOL)
- 9 Don't know/Undecided (VOL)

D1B. If the election for Governor were held today and the candidates were Bret Schundler [*Shund* – ler], the Republican, and Jim McGreevey, the Democrat, for whom would you vote – Schundler or McGreevey?

- 1 Schundler
- 2 McGreevey
- 3 Neither/Other (VOL)
- 8 Wouldn't vote (VOL)
- 9 Don't know/Undecided (VOL)

D2. Can you recall if you voted in the 2000 election between Al Gore and George W. Bush -- IF YES: Did you vote for Al Gore, George W. Bush, or someone else?

- 1 Voted for Gore
- 2 Voted for Bush
- 3 Voted for someone else
- 4 Did not vote – **SKIP TO D4**
- 9 Don't know – **SKIP TO D4**

D3. Did you vote by absentee ballot, or did you vote in person at your local polling place?

- 1 Absentee
- 2 In person
- 9 Don't know

Now just a few final questions so we can classify your answers.

D4. Which of the following BEST describes the area where you now live: A large city; A suburb near a large city; A small city or town; OR a rural area?

- 1 A large city
- 2 A suburb near a large city
- 3 A small city or town
- 4 OR a rural area
- 9 Other/don't know/refused

D5. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat--SKIP TO D6
- 2 Republican--SKIP TO D6
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something Else/Other
- 9 Don't Know/No opinion

(IF #3,4, OR 9 TO D5, ASK)

D5A. 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
- D6. Regardless of the political party you might favor, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?
- 1 Liberal
 - 2 Conservative
 - 3 Somewhere in between
 - 4 Other
 - 9 Don't Know/No opinion
- D7. Other than American, do you consider yourself to be a member of any of the following ethnic groups -- |
- RANDOMIZE A-G**
- A Hungarian?
 - B Irish?
 - C Italian?
 - D Polish?
 - E Latin, Central or South American?
 - F Caribbean?
 - G German?
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 9 Don't know
- D8. Do you consider yourself a member of any other ethnic group -- IF YES: What is that?
- 1 Yes, SPECIFY _____
 - 2 No
 - 9 Don't know
- D9. Did you receive a high school diploma?
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No/Don't Know--SKIP TO D11
- D10. Did you ever attend college -- IF YES, ASK: Did you graduate?
- 1 Yes, graduated
 - 2 Yes, did not graduate—SKIP TO D11
 - 3 Junior college--graduate—SKIP TO D11
 - 4 Vocational/technical school—SKIP TO D11

9 No—SKIP TO D11

D10A. Was this from a 4-year college, a junior college two year program, or a vocational/technical school?

- 1 Four year college
- 2 Junior college/2 year program
- 3 Vocational/technical school
- 9 Other/Don't know

D11. Are you married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 1 Married
- 2 Living as married
- 3 Widowed
- 4 Divorced
- 5 Separated
- 6 Never married
- 9 Don't know

D12. What was your age on your last birthday?

/___/___/ (ENTER AGE: 97=97+, 98=DK, 99 = REFUSED)

CATI NOTE, IF REFUSED IN D11, ASK D13; OTHERWISE GO TO D14

D13. Were you born before 1946, between 1946 and 1964, or after 1964?

- 1 Before 1946
- 2 Between 1946 and 1964
- 3 After 1964
- 9 Refused/don't know

D14. Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Spanish background?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't know

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

- 1 White
- 2 Black
- 3 Asian
- 4 Other (VOL)
- 9 Not determined

D16. In what county do you live?

01 Atlantic	08 Gloucester	15 Ocean
02 Bergen	09 Hudson	16 Passaic
03 Burlington	10 Hunterdon	17 Salem
04 Camden	11 Mercer	18 Somerset
05 Cape May	12 Middlesex	19 Sussex
06 Cumberland	13 Monmouth	20 Union
07 Essex	14 Morris	21 Warren

99 Don't know/Refused

D17. 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; between \$70,000 to just under \$100,000; or \$100,000 or more?

- 1 Under \$35,000
- 2 \$35,000 to \$69,999
- 3 \$70,000 to \$100,000
- 4 \$100,000 or more
- 9 Don't know

D18. Not counting cellular phones, how many DIFFERENT telephone NUMBERS for incoming calls reach this household--this does NOT include those lines that are ONLY used for fax machines and computers?

- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four
- 5 Five
- 6 Six
- 7 Seven
- 8 Eight OR MORE
- 9 Don't know/refused

D19. Including yourself, how many adults--that is people 18 or over, live in your household?

- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four or more
- 9 Don't Know/Refused

D20. Do you consider yourself to be Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, atheist or agnostic?

- 1 Catholic
- 2 Protestant
- 3 Jewish
- 4 Muslim
- 5 Other
- 6 Atheist/Agnostic
- 9 Don't Know/Refused

D21. Do you own or rent the place where you currently live?

- 1 Own
- 2 Rent
- 9 Don't Know/Refused

D22. Thanks. You've been very helpful. The results of the poll will be released in the Newark Star-Ledger. Sometimes we need to recontact people to verify that this interview took place, or someone writing up the results may want to know more about how you feel. Would it be okay for us to recontact you if necessary?