

**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll #170**

**October 21-27, 2010**

**Sample: 900 New Jersey REGISTERED VOTERS ages 18 and older**

**Statewide**

**Questions are presented in the order they were administered numbering may not necessarily be sequential and question numbers may be missing due to cuts prior to fielding and numbering convention.**

**Introduction**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a student at Rutgers University and am conducting an Eagleton Poll as part of a class project.

**[IF LANDLINE READ THE FOLLOWING. IF CELL, SKIP TO INTRO]**

I'd like to ask a few questions of the YOUNGEST MALE age 18 or older, who is now at home and is a registered voter.

**(IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW:** Then, may I speak with the OLDEST FEMALE age 18 or older who is now at home and is a registered voter?)

**[INTRO]**

**WHEN RESPONDENT ON PHONE:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a student at Rutgers University and am conducting an Eagleton Poll as part of a class project. This is a research study on public policy issues in New Jersey.

Your participation is important as only 900 residents have been selected to take part in this study. This will take about 12 minutes or so and your answers are anonymous. Anonymous means we will not collect any information that could be used to identify you.

Your participation is voluntary, you may end your participation at any time, and you may skip questions you do not want to answer. May I ask the first question? [IF YES] Thanks!

**IF NECESSARY:** We are not selling anything, not asking for money, and all your answers will be completely confidential.

**IF RESPONDENT DECLINES TO PARTICIPATE, POSSIBLE PROBES:**

--Your participation is very important because only 900 people have been randomly selected for this survey and your views will represent many people throughout the state.

**IF "DON'T KNOW ENOUGH":**

-- There are no right or wrong answers. We are only interested in your opinions. They are just

as important as anybody else's.

**IF NOT INTERESTED, DON'T WANT TO:**

-- Please help me; we could really use your cooperation and we are interested in what you think.

S1. First, are you currently registered to vote in your community?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No → TERMINATE, "OK, thanks, we are only talking to registered voters today".

**[IF LANDLINE SKIP TO Q1, IF CELL PHONE ASK S2]**

S2. I am reaching you on a cell phone, right? Is it a good time to talk; you're not driving or otherwise distracted?

1. Yes, now is a good time to talk → CONTINUE TO Q1
2. No, now is not a good time to talk

S3. When would be the best time to call you back to complete this important study when you are not distracted?

**[SCHEDULE HARD CALL BACK, TERMINATE CALL]**

Q1. [And] for our records, what is your age?

\_\_\_\_ (ENTER AGE: 98=98+, 99 = DK/REFUSED)

**[IF DK/REFUSED IN Q1, ASK:]**

Q1A. 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 Refused [vol]

Q2. Next, what is your zip code?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Enter Zipcode
- 8 Don't know (**Vol.**)
- 9 Refused (**Vol.**)

<b>Perceptions of Interests/Leadership/Expectations</b>
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Q4 First, would you say the state of New Jersey is currently going in the right direction or has it gone off on the wrong track?

- 1 Right Direction
- 2 Wrong Track
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q2A There will be an election for US Congress in November. As of today, do you plan to vote in that election or not?

- 1 Yes, will vote
- 2 No, will not vote
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q3 Thinking about issues people talk about, how important is each of the following to you personally? Please tell me if it is very important, somewhat important or not important at all? First {Next}...

[ROTATE LIST]

- A. The economy
- B. Health care
- C. Terrorism
- D. The budget deficit
- E. Taxes
- F. Immigration
- G. Unemployment
- H. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

- 1 Very Important
- 2 Somewhat Important
- 3 Not Important at all
- 8 Don't know/No Opinion [vol]

Q5 Thinking back to the last presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama, John McCain, some other candidate, or were you unable to vote?

- 1 Obama
- 2 McCain
- 3 Some other candidate
- 4 Unable to vote/Did Not Vote
- 8 Don't remember [Vol]
- 9 Refused

Q6 And in last year's election for New Jersey Governor, did you vote for Republican Chris Christie, Democrat Jon Corzine, Independent Chris Daggett, some other candidate, or were you unable to vote?

- 1 Corzine
- 2 Christie
- 3 Daggett
- 4 Some other candidate
- 5 Unable to vote/Did Not Vote
- 8 Don't remember [Vol]
- 9 Refused

Q7 I'd like to ask about some people and organizations. Please tell me if your general impression of each one is favorable or unfavorable, or if you do not have an opinion. First, [next]: **[ROTATE]**

- A. The Tea Party movement
- B. Democrats in Congress
- C. Republicans in Congress
- D. President Barack Obama
- E. Governor Chris Christie
- F. The State legislature in Trenton
- G. Nancy Pelosi

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 3 No Opinion
- 8 Don't Know (Vol)
- 9 Refused

Q8 Now, thinking about the election for US Congress in November please rate your level of enthusiasm about voting in this election on a scale from zero to ten, where zero means

you're not at all enthusiastic about voting and ten means you're extremely enthusiastic about voting this year. You can use any number from zero to ten, the higher the number the more enthusiastic you are about voting this year.

SCALE: [0-10]

- 11 Will not vote [vol]
- 12 Don't know [vol]
- 13 Refused

**CONGRESSIONAL RACES GENERIC BALLOT TEST**

**[SPLIT SAMPLE – HALF TO EITHER Q9A or Q9B]**

**[VERSION A]**

Q9A If the election for Congress were today would you vote for the Republican, the Democrat, a third party candidate, or would you not vote?

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 Third Party [Specify] \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Not vote
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

**[VERSION B]**

Q9B If the election for Congress were today would you vote for your current Congressman, a challenger running against him, or would you not vote?

- 1 Current Congressman
- 2 Challenger
- 4 Not vote
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

**[END SPLIT SAMPLE]**

Q10 Given a choice, would you vote for someone who has years of experience in elected office or for an outsider with little prior experience in government?

- 1 Experience
- 2 Outsider
- 3 Don't know

4 Refused

Q11 Should the Democrats in Washington be given more time to solve the country's problems or is it time to elect Republicans to take charge in Congress?

- 1 Give Democrats more time
- 2 Elect Republicans
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q12 How closely have you followed news about the election this fall? Is it very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Somewhat closely
- 3 Not too closely
- 4 Not at all closely
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q12A Since the presidential election in 2008, would you say you have become more interested in politics, less interested, or has your level of interest stayed the same?

- 1 More interested
- 2 Less interested
- 3 Stayed the same
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q13 Thinking about our country, would you say it is currently going in the right direction or has it gone off on the wrong track?

- 1 Right Direction
- 2 Wrong Track
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

## ISSUES AND EVALUATIONS

Q16 Please rate how Governor Chris Christie is handling his job as Governor. Is it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good

- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 8 Don't know/No Opinion [Vol]
- 9 Refused

Q15 Please rate how Barack Obama is handling his job as President. Is it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor
- 8 Don't know/No Opinion [Vol]
- 9 Refused

Q15A Recently, President Obama has been campaigning for Democratic candidates around the country. Do you think he should go on the campaign trail to do this or should he stay in Washington and focus on issues there?

- 1 Go campaigning
- 2 Stay in Washington
- 8 Don't know/Doesn't Matter
- 9 Refused

Q14 In just one or two words, please tell me what the most important problem is in New Jersey today.

**[Record Open Ended]**

Q16A There is a lot of talk about the need to create jobs. Which do you think does a better job creating jobs: Government spending on infrastructure like roads and bridges, or tax cuts?

- 1 Government Spending
- 2 Tax Cuts
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

**EDUCATION/TRANSIT**

Now we're going to ask a few more questions on a variety of topics.

Q17 I'm going to read you a list of items. Please tell me if you think New Jersey is spending too much, not enough, or just the right amount of money on the following items. First

[Next]

**[ROTATE ITEMS]**

- A Transportation
- B Education
- C Public Safety

- 1 Too much money
- 2 Not enough money
- 3 Just the right amount of money
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q18 How important do you think the proposed rail tunnel under the Hudson River from New Jersey to New York (also known as ARC, or Access to the Region's Core) is to the economic development of New Jersey? Is it very important, somewhat important, or not at all important?

- 1 Very Important
- 2 Somewhat Important
- 3 Not at all Important
- 8 Don't know/No opinion
- 9 Refused

Q19 If you had to choose, would you prefer to see transportation spending go towards projects benefitting New Jersey Transit trains and buses or would you prefer it be spent on roads and bridges?

- 1 Trains and buses
- 2 Roads and bridges
- 3 Don't spend Money/Neither [VOL]
- 8 Don't Know/No opinion
- 9 Refused

Q19A Recently Governor Christie announced he will not fund the new rail tunnel to New York, saying it will cost too much and the state cannot afford it. Do you support or oppose Governor Christie's decision?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q20 And now, on to another topic. In one or two words, what is the biggest problem with



education in New Jersey? **[OPEN-ENDED]**

Q21 In your opinion, should a public school teacher's pay depend on the test scores of his or her students?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q22 Some people argue that tenure protection for public school teachers is necessary to protect academic freedom in the classroom. Others believe tenure mostly keeps bad teachers from being removed from the classroom. Do you believe teacher tenure is a necessary job protection or a barrier to eliminating bad teachers?

- 1 Necessary job protection
- 2 Barrier to eliminating bad teachers
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q23 Do you think that teachers should be required to pass reading and math tests in order to be certified to teach no matter what field they teach in?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

**PRESCRIPTION DRUGS – Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey**

Q24. Next I have a few questions about teenagers in New Jersey. First, in just a few words, what do you think is the most important problem facing teenagers today?

**[OPEN ENDED]**

- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q25. How often would you say you see or hear news stories or ads that tell you about teenagers' abusing prescription drugs, such as Oxycontin [OX EE CON TIN], Vicodin [VIKE O DIN], Xanax [ZANAX] or Ritalin [RIT A LIN]? Would you say it is at least daily, a few times a week, a few times a month or less than once a month?

- 1 At least daily

- 2 A few times a week
- 3 A few times a month
- 4 Less than once a month
- 5 Never [vol]
- 8 Don't know[vol]
- 9 Refused

Q26. In just one or two words, please tell me what you would say is the single best thing people can do to prevent teenagers from getting and abusing prescription drugs?  
**[OPEN ENDED]**

- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q27. In the past 30 days, how often did you see or hear news stories or ads asking you to safely dispose of your unused, unwanted, and expired prescription and over-the-counter medicine you keep at home? Was it at least daily, a few times a week, a few times in the past 30 days, or did you not see or hear any stories about this?

- 1 At least daily
- 2 A few times a week
- 3 A few times in the past 30 days
- 4 Not see or hear stories
- 8 Don't know[vol]
- 9 Refused

<b>FINANCIAL ISSUES</b>
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Q28 We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago, or would you say about the same?

- 1 Better → CONTINUE TO Q28A
- 2 About the same → CONTINUE TO Q29
- 3 Worse → CONTINUE TO Q28B
- 8 Don't Know → CONTINUE TO Q29
- 9 Refused → CONTINUE TO Q29

Q28A. Is that somewhat better off or much better off?

- 1 Somewhat better off
- 2 Much better off
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q28B. Is that somewhat worse off or much worse off?

- 1 Somewhat worse off
- 2 Much worse off
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q29 Now looking ahead, do you think that a year from now you (and your family living in your household) will be better off financially, worse off, or just about the same as now?

- 1 Better → CONTINUE TO Q29A
- 2 About the same → CONTINUE TO Q30
- 3 Worse → CONTINUE TO Q29B
- 8 Don't Know → Skip to demographics
- 9 Refused → Skip to demographics

Q29A. Is that somewhat better off or much better off?

- 1 Somewhat better off
- 2 Much better off
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q29B. Is that somewhat worse off or much worse off?

- 1 Somewhat worse off
- 2 Much worse off
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

## Demographics

Q30 We're almost finished. We have just a few more questions to help us understand our survey results.

Thinking of politics, do you consider yourself to be liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?

- 1. Liberal
- 2. Conservative
- 3. Somewhere in between
- 4. Other [vol]

- 8 Don't know [vol]
- 9 Refused [vol]

Q31 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something Else / Other
- 8 Don't know [vol]
- 9 Refused [vol]

Q32 What was the last grade in school you completed? **[CODE TO LIST]**

- 1 8th Grade Or Less
- 2 High School Incomplete (Grades 9, 10 and 11)
- 3 High School Complete (Grade 12)
- 4 Vocational/Technical School
- 5 Some College
- 6 Junior College Graduate (2 Year, Associates Degree)
- 7 4 Year College Graduate (Bachelor's Degree)
- 8 Graduate Work (Masters, Law/Medical School, Etc.)
- 9 Refused

Q33 What is your current employment status? Are you:

- 1 Employed full time
- 2 Employed part time
- 3 Laid off from a job
- 4 A homemaker or stay at home parent
- 5 Retired
- 7 Otherwise Not Employed
- 8 Disabled
- 9 Refused

**[IF EMPLOYED ASK:]**

Q33A Do you commute to New York City for your job?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Refused

Q34 How often do you attend church, synagogue, or other worship services: at least once a

week, almost every week, about once a month, seldom or never?

- 1 At least once a week
- 2 Almost every week
- 3 About once a month
- 4 Seldom
- 5 Never
- 8 Don't Know [vol]
- 9 Refused

Q35 Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refuse

**[ASK IF Q35 IS 1 ONLY]**

Q35A. Is the union a public employee union?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refuse

Q36 Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or other Spanish background?

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

Q37 Are you white, black or of Asian origin?

- 1 White
- 2 Black
- 3 Asian
- 4 Hispanic / Latino [vol]
- 5 OTHER, SPECIFY: \_\_\_\_\_ [vol]
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q38 Last year, that is in 2009, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **[READ LIST]**

- 1 Less than \$10,000
- 2 10 to under \$20,000
- 3 20 to under \$30,000
- 4 30 to under \$40,000
- 5 40 to under \$50,000
- 6 50 to under \$75,000
- 7 75 to under \$100,000
- 8 100 to under \$150,000
- 9 \$150,000 or more
- 10 [VOL. – DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused

Q39 Are there any children in your household who are under the age 18 and live with you regularly?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Refused

Q40 And what county do you live in?  
[Code to list of counties]

**[IF RESPONDENT REACHED ON CELL PHONE ASK Q41, OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q42]**

Q41 I'm talking to you today on a cell phone, right? How many non-cell phones – that is landline phones – do you have in your home, or do you only have cell phones?

**[Record Number – 0 if only uses cell phone]**

Q42 Gender (BY OBSERVATION)

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

**Closing and Additional Informed Consent Language**

That completes our survey. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation. If you have any questions about this survey, you may contact Dr. David Redlawsk (*pronounced RED-lossk*) at 732-932-9384, ext. 285. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the administrator of the Rutgers Institutional Review Board at: 732-932-0150, ext. 2104. Have a good day/evening.

**Methodology Statement**

## **Rutgers-Eagleton Poll October 23-24, 2010**

### **New Jersey 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District**

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted from October 23-24, 2010 with a scientifically selected random sample of 453 registered voters from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District of New Jersey, yielding 292 likely voters. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the population, including gender, age, race, education, and Hispanic ethnicity. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 405 landline respondents acquired through random digit dialing, and 48 interviews of randomly selected cell phone households.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for a sample of 458 registered voters is +/-4.6 points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. For the likely voter sub sample of 292 respondents, the margin of error is +/-5.6 points. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey 3<sup>rd</sup> District registered voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent confident that the true figure would be between 45.4 and 54.6 percent (50 +/- 4.2) had all 3<sup>rd</sup> District registered voters been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects.

Data were collected by Braun Research, Incorporated, of Princeton, NJ and were analyzed by staff of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. The AAPOR response rate 3 was 11.5%, the refusal rate 2 was 20.3% and the cooperation rate 3 was 36.2% for the landline part of this poll. For the cell phone sample, the response rate 3 was 5.8%, the refusal rate 2 was 12.2% and the cooperation rate 3 was 32.2%.