

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll #175
August 9-14, 2011
Sample: 800 New Jersey REGISTERED VOTERS

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'm conducting an Eagleton Poll for **RUTGERS** University. I'd like to ask a few questions of the **YOUNGEST MALE** age 18 or older, who is a registered voter and is now at home.

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

WHEN RESPONDENT ON PHONE: Hello, my name is _____. We are talking to New Jersey registered voters to conduct a research study on public policy issues in New Jersey. Your participation is important as only 800 people will be selected to take part in this study. This should take less than 15 minutes and your answers are confidential and will only be reported in combination with others. Your participation is voluntary, you may end 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 800 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. Are you **NOW** registered to vote where you live or haven't you been able to register so far?

- 1 Now registered to vote
- 2 Haven't been able to register so far --> TERMINATE
- 8 Don't know (VOL) --> TERMINATE

9 Refused (VOL) --> TERMINATE

ON TERMINATE: Thanks we are only talking to registered voters today

S2 And what is your zip code?

_____ Enter Zipcode

8 Don't know (VOL) → TERMINATE

9 Refused (VOL) → TERMINATE

→ **IF NOT NJ ZIP CODE:** Thanks, we're only talking to NJ Registered Voters today. Thanks for your time.

LEADERSHIP PERCEPTION

Q1 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

Q2 I'd like to ask about some people and groups. Please tell me if your general impression of each one is favorable or unfavorable, or if you do not have an opinion. First,

[ROTATE]

Q2A President Barack Obama.

Q2B The United States Congress.

Q2C Governor Chris Christie.

Q2D The Tea Party Movement.

Q2E State Senate President Steve Sweeney.

Q2F Democrats in the State Legislature.

Q2G Republicans in the State Legislature.

Q2H Senator Robert Menendez.

Q2I Senator Frank Lautenberg.

1 Favorable

2 Unfavorable

3 No Opinion

8 Don't Know Person (VOL)

9 Refused (VOL)

[ROTATE ORDER OF Q3 AND Q4]

Q3 Please rate how Barack Obama is handling his job as President, using a grading scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade, A, B, C, D, or F.

- 1 A
- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 D
- 5 F
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q4 Please rate how Chris Christie is handling his job as governor, using a grading scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade, A, B, C, D, or F.

- 1 A
- 2 B
- 3 C
- 4 D
- 5 F
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

2012 Election

Q5 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat → **SKIP TO Q7**
- 2 Republican → **SKIP TO Q7**
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something Else / Other
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q6 Would you say that you lean toward the Democrats, the Republicans, or neither party?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Neither
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q7 Thinking about the 2012 Presidential election, does President Obama deserve to be re-elected to another term?

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

Q8 Still thinking about 2012, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez will be running for re-election. If the election were today would you vote to re-elect Senator Mendendez, would you go with someone else or would you not vote?

- 1 Re-elect Menendez
- 2 Someone else
- 3 Not Vote
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

IF NOT REPUBLICAN OR R LEANER, SKIP TO Q11

[REPUBLICANS AND R LEANERS ONLY]

Q9 In the Presidential election, which Republican would you prefer as the nominee to run against President Obama? Just tell me the name; if you don't know that's ok, just say so.

[Do Not Read List; Code to list]

- 1 Michelle Bachman
- 2 Michael Bloomberg
- 3 John Bolton
- 4 Scott Brown
- 5 Jeb Bush
- 6 Chris Christie
- 7 Newt Gingrich
- 8 Rudy Guilliani
- 9 Mike Huckabee
- 10 John Huntsman
- 11 Sarah Palin
- 12 Ron Paul
- 13 Tim Pawlenty
- 14 Rick Perry
- 15 David Petraeus
- 16 Mitt Romney
- 17 Rick Santorum
- 97 Other [**Record Name**]
- 98 Don't know (VOL)
- 99 Refused (VOL)

[REPUBLICANS AND R LEANERS ONLY]

Q10 Given the Republicans who now say they are running for president in 2012, how satisfied are you with your choices? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied or not satisfied?

- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Somewhat Satisfied
- 3 Not Satisfied
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q11 For each of the following, tell me if you agree or disagree with the statement. First, **[ROTATE]**

Q11A The Obama administration is un-American.

Q11B President Obama is a socialist.

Q11C Americans lack personal fiscal responsibility.

Q11D President Obama understands people like me.

Q11E Government should do more to help middle class people.

Q11F I get angry thinking about the government in Washington.

Q11G The government in Washington no longer works.

[Response Options]

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

CHRISTIE ATTITUDES AND RE-ELECT

Q12 Thinking about New Jersey, if the 2013 election for governor were today, would you vote to re-elect Governor Christie, would you go with someone else or would you not vote?

- 1 R-elect Christie
- 2 Someone Else
- 3 Not Vote
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q13 Who did you vote for in the 2009 election for Governor? Was it Chris Christie, Jon Corzine, someone else, or did you not vote?

- 1 Governor Chris Christie
- 2 Jon Corzine
- 3 Someone Else
- 4 Did not vote

- 8 Don't remember/Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q14 Since Governor Christie took office in January of 2010, has your opinion of him gotten better or gotten worse, or has it not changed?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 No Change → **SKIP TO Q17**
- 8 Don't know → **SKIP TO Q17**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q17**

Q15 Has it gotten a lot [BETTER/WORSE] or a little [BETTER/WORSE]?

- 1 A lot
- 2 A little
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q16 You've said your opinion of Governor Christie has changed. For each of the following general areas, please tell me if this is a major reason your opinion has gotten [ANSWER TO Q14]. Just answer yes or no.

[ROTATE Q16A-Q16F]

- Q16A The way he's handling the state budget
- Q16B The way he's dealing with state employees
- Q16C The way he's handling education issues
- Q16D The way he's handling property taxes
- Q16E The attention he's gotten as a potential presidential candidate
- Q16F The way he interacts with members of the public
- Q16G Just the way he's handling the job of governor

RESPONSE OPTIONS

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

Q17 I am going to list some words that might describe Governor Christie. For each word, tell me how well it describes him. Is it very well, somewhat well, or not at all?

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF LIST. FOR EACH READ THE WORD AND PROMPT FOR ANSWER AS NEEDED]

- A. Bully

- B. Strong Leader
- C. Stubborn
- D. Reformer
- E. Independent
- F. Arrogant
- G. Smart
- H. Effective
- I. Trustworthy
- J. Fair
- K. Self-centered
- L. Impulsive
- M. Vindictive
- N. Assertive

[Response Options]

- 1 Very well
- 2 Somewhat well
- 3 Not at all
- 8 Don't know/Neither disagree nor agree (Vol)
- 9 Refused

Q18 How does reading or hearing about the Governor make you feel? Please tell me yes or no for each of the following: **[ROTATE Q18A-Q18D]**

- Q18A Proud?
- Q18B Angry?
- Q18C Enthusiastic?
- Q18D Worried?

[RESPONSE OPTIONS]

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

2011 Legislative Elections

Q19 There will be elections for the state legislature in November. Please think about the election for your representatives to the General Assembly. Do you plan to vote for Democrats or Republicans for the New Jersey Assembly or do you plan to skip the election this time?
[ROTATE PARTIES]

- 1 Republicans

- 2 Democrats
- 3 Skip the election
- 3 Other (vol)
- 4 A Democrat and a Republican (vol)
- 8 Don't know/ not sure
- 9 Refused

[ASK ONLY IF DK/NOT SURE]

Q19A: Are you leaning toward voting for Democrats for the New Jersey Assembly or for Republicans? **[ROTATE PARTIES; same order]**

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 Other
- 4 Some Democrat, some Republican (vol)
- 5 Will not vote in NJ Assembly election
- 8 Don't know/ not sure
- 9 Refused

Q20 Please think about the election for your representative to the State Senate. Do you plan to vote for the Democrat or the Republican for the New Jersey Senate or do you plan to skip the election this time? **[ROTATE PARTIES]**

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 5 Skip the election
- 3 Other (vol)
- 8 Don't know/ not sure
- 9 Refused

[ASK ONLY IF DK/NOT SURE]

Q20A: Are you leaning toward voting for the Democrat for the New Jersey State Senate or for the Republican? **[ROTATE PARTIES; same order]**

- 1 Republican
- 2 Democrat
- 3 Other
- 5 Will not vote in NJ Senate election
- 8 Don't know/ not sure
- 9 Refused

Q21 Republicans say they need to win in November so that the governor's plans for change will

not be blocked. Democrats say they need to win so they can continue to act as a check on Governor Christie's plans. Thinking about this, would you prefer that the Democrats or the Republicans win control of the legislature this coming fall?

- 1 Republicans
- 2 Democrats
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused

Q22 Do you believe the Democrats in Trenton ought to work with the Governor or should they resist his plans and act as a check on the Governor's actions?

- 1 Work with the Governor → **SKIP TO Q24**
- 2 Resist and act as check
- 8 Don't know (VOL) → **SKIP TO Q24**
- 9 Refused (VOL) → **SKIP TO Q24**

[ONLY IF Q22 is 2]

Q23 From what you have observed or heard, have the Democrats done enough to act as a check on the Governor?

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

Issues

Q24 In June, Democrats in the state legislature passed a budget which included social service programs Governor Christie opposed. The governor vetoed many of those programs. Was Governor Christie right to veto those programs or should he have approved the Democrats' budget?

- 1 Veto
- 2 Accept
- 8 Don't know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q25 Democrats say that a tax surcharge on high income residents will allow the state to better fund education and other programs. Governor Christie opposes the tax surcharge saying higher taxes hurt jobs. Which do you prefer: cutting the state budget or asking high income earners to pay additional income tax?

- 1 Cut state budget

- 2 Ask high income earners to pay additional income tax
- 8 Don't Know (VOL)
- 9 Refused (VOL)

Q26 The legislature passed and the governor signed a law making state workers pay much more for their health insurance and cutting pension benefits. Do you agree with Governor Christie that this change was needed to fix the state budget, or do you agree with those Democrats who said this change was unfair to state workers?

- 1 Agree with Christie
- 2 Agree with Democrats
- 3 Neither (vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

GAY MARRIAGE

Q27 On another topic, some people say gay marriage should be legal in New Jersey. Others oppose legalizing gay marriage. What is your position? Do you:
[READ options 1-2]

- 1. Support gay marriage or
- 2. Oppose gay marriage.
- 3. Support civil unions and oppose gay marriage (VOL)
- 8 Don't Know (Vol)
- 9 Refused (Vol)

Q28 Recently New York state legalized gay marriage. Does this make you more likely to support gay marriage in New Jersey, more likely to oppose it, or does it have no effect on your position?

- 1 More likely to support
- 2 More likely to oppose
- 3 No Effect
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q28A Instead of gay marriage, some people support civil unions for same-sex couples while others oppose them. Do you support or oppose civil unions as an alternative to gay marriage?

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

Q29 Of the issues facing New Jersey, how important is gay marriage? Is it the most important issue, one of a few very important issues, somewhat important, or not at all important?

- 1 Most important
- 2 One of a few very Important
- 3 Somewhat Important
- 4 Not at all important
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Do either of the following apply to you?

Q30 You have someone in your family who is gay or lesbian.

Q31 You have a friend or close acquaintance who is gay or lesbian.

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

Q32 As you know there has been a debate over increasing the borrowing ability of the United States – also known as the debt ceiling. How closely did you follow this debate? Was it:
[READ OPTIONS 1-3]

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Somewhat closely, or
- 3 Not at all closely.
- 8 DK/Never heard (vol)
- 9 Refused

Q33 Do you support or oppose the agreement that was made in Washington to end the debt ceiling crisis, including some cuts now and future cuts to be defined, but with no current revenue increases?

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

Q34 And who do you think was most to blame for the crisis in the first place? Was it: **[ROTATE 1-4]**

- 1 President Obama

- 2 Democrats in Congress
- 3 Republicans in Congress
- 4 Tea Party Republicans specifically
- 5 Someone else (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q35 Which position most closely resembles your own? The federal government must get the budget under control by:

[READ OPTIONS 1-3]

- 1 Making across the board cuts that might include defense, Medicare, and Medicaid with no tax increases,
- 2 Balancing budget cuts with some tax increases on high income earners, while making smaller cuts to Medicare and other programs, or
- 3 Raising taxes enough to avoid cuts in any programs.
- 4 Something else (Vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

FUN QUESTION

Q36 Now we have a question not about politics at all! What we'd like to know is this. New Jersey is known as the Garden State. So which do you prefer: New Jersey tomatoes or New Jersey corn?

- 1 Tomatoes
- 2 Corn
- 3 Neither (vol)
- 4 Both (vol)
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Demographics

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

Q37 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]

Q38 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 (VOL)

Q39 And what is your age?

_____ (ENTER AGE: 98=98+, 99 = REFUSED)

[IF Don't Know/REFUSED IN Q39, ASK:]

Q39A. 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)

Q40 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 (VOL)

Q41 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 Some other religion
- 6 Atheist
- 7 Agnostic
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q42 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 (VOL)

Q43 Do you or any member of your household belong to labor union?

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

[ASK IF Q43 IS 1 ONLY]

Q43A Is the union a public employee union?

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

Q44 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

Q45 Are you white, black or of Asian origin, or are you some other race, or multi-racial?

- 1 White
- 2 Black (accept African-American)
- 3 Asian
- 4 Hispanic / Latino [vol]
- 5 OTHER, SPECIFY: _____
- 6 Multi-racial
- 8 Don't know
- 9 Refused

Q46 Last year, that is in 2010, 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 Don't know/Refused [VOL. – DO NOT READ]

Q47 How many telephone NUMBERS, including all cell phone numbers and non-cell phone numbers (often called landline numbers), does your household currently have?

[Record Open-Ended]

- 98 Don't know/not sure
- 99 Refused

Q48 Of those telephone numbers, how many are for cell phones?

[Record Number]

- 98 Don't Know
- 99 Refused

[IF ANSWER IS ONE OR MORE, ASK Q48A]

Q48A Which type of phone do you currently place and receive the most phone calls from?
Is it a cell phone or a land line phone?

- 1 Cell phone

- 2 Landline phone
- 3 Both Equally (vol)
- 8 Don't Know
- 9 Refused

Q49 We are looking for survey participants willing to be contacted again in the future for other surveys. Your opinions are of great value to our researchers and provide guidance to policy makers. Would you be willing to be contacted for future interviews?

- 0 No → **SKIP TO Q55**
- 1 Yes

Q50 In order to keep in touch in the future, I need to confirm your phone number. Is **[current number]** the best number to reach you?

- 0 No - collect best number
- 1 Yes - best number/correct → **SKIP TO Q52**
- 9 Refused → **SKIP TO Q55**

Q51 What number should we use?

[ENTER NUMBER]

Q52 The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll sometimes works with other universities to conduct academic surveys on a variety of topics. We're working to gather a group of people who might participate in some of this research by occasionally completing surveys on the internet.

If you are willing to help with this kind of study, we will ask for your email address. We will only use this email to contact you about academic projects and we will not share your email with anyone other than our partner universities. Of course, you are not obligated to participate in any study that you don't want to and we will remove your email from our list upon request.

Are you willing to receive email invitations to participate in future projects? There may be incentives offered for participation in some of these studies.

- 0 No → **SKIP TO Q54**
- 1 Yes

Q53 Great; we appreciate your help. Could I please have your email address?

[INTERVIEWER: VERIFY ADDRESS LETTER BY LETTER]

Q54 I also need to confirm the spelling of your name and your address.

INTERVIEWER: USE PROPER CAPITALIZATION AND MAKE SURE THAT

YOU CONFIRM THE SPELLING OF THE NAME, STREET, AND CITY. ALSO MAKE SURE THE ADDRESS IS COMPLETE (I.E. INCLUDE ANY APARTMENT NUMBER, ETC.)

Q55 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-loak*) 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 February 24-26, 2011

New Jersey Statewide Poll

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone from February 24-26, 2011 with a scientifically selected random sample of 912 New Jersey adults. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to US Census Bureau data. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 775 landline respondents and 137 cell phone respondents, acquired through random digit dialing. Data reported in this release are from a weighted sample of 811 registered voters drawn from the full sample of adults.

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 811 registered voters is +/-3.4 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 46.6 and 53.4 percent (50 +/-3.4) had all New Jersey 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.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research, Inc., of Princeton, New Jersey. The questionnaire was developed and all data analysis was completed in house at the Eagleton Institute of Politics Center for Public Interest Polling. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by

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