

File: N.J. Poll - Press  
Releases

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday, Oct. 20

NEW BRUNSWICK, Oct. 20 -- With elections to the New Jersey legislature only two weeks away, 85 per cent of the state's adult population does not even know that state senators and assemblymen are up for election.

This is a major conclusion of the first New Jersey Poll, the results of which were released today.

Stephen Salmore is director of the new poll, which is conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics of Rutgers. He described the results as "depressing but not really surprising" as "there is generally a low level of knowledge of state government."

While only 15 per cent of those queried knew that senate and assembly offices were being contested, an even smaller number, 11 per cent, were able to identify their present state senators, many of whom are up for re-election.

The poll showed that Gov. William Cahill stands out clearly in the voter's consciousness. When asked to identify New Jersey's chief executive, 90 per cent responded with his name. However, only 68 per cent of the citizens contacted knew that the governor is a Republican.

The political complexion of the state legislature was even less well known, with only 43 per cent aware that the Republicans are the dominant party in Trenton.

Although these results were generally true of all groups throughout the state, some differences were noted in the responses of certain elements of the electorate.

Interestingly, rural residents emerged as better informed about the State Legislature than their suburban and urban counterparts. In contrast, Gov. Cahill was somewhat less well known among rural respondents than by suburban or urban citizens.

Those under 30 demonstrated less political knowledge than their elders. With increasing income and education, correct responses to the entire range of

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday, Oct. 28

NEW BRUNSWICK, Oct. 28 -- With elections for the New Jersey legislature only two weeks away, 62 per cent of the state's adult population does not even know that state senators and assemblymen are up for election.

This is a major conclusion of the first New Jersey poll, the results of which were released today.

Stephen Sapiro is director of the new poll, which is conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers. He described the results as "depressing but not really surprising" as "there is generally a low level of knowledge of state government."

While only 12 per cent of those queried knew that senators and assembly officers were being contested, an even smaller number, 17 per cent, were able to identify their present state senators, many of whom are up for re-election.

The poll showed that Gov. William Cahill stands out clearly in the voters' consciousness. When asked to identify New Jersey's chief executive, 90 per cent responded with his name. However, only 58 per cent of the citizens contacted knew that the governor is a Republican.

The political complexion of the state legislature was even less well known, with only 43 per cent aware that the Republicans are the dominant party in Trenton.

Although these results were generally true of all groups throughout the

able than women.

general on political matters. In addition, men proved more politically knowledgeable questions were more frequent. Members of racial minorities were less informed in

This first New Jersey Poll was based on a random sample of 1,208 New Jersey residents, 18 years and older, who were interviewed by telephone from Eagleton during the period Sept. 24 through Oct. 1.

Tabulation of the responses was performed by the Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey. The New Jersey Poll is financed by a grant from the Wallace-Ellis Fund and the Eagleton Institute.

Chart of responses follows. \*more-

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	<u>% knowing of legislative elections</u>	<u>% correctly identifying State Senator</u>	<u>% correctly naming Governor</u>	<u>% knowing Governor's party</u>	<u>% knowing party controlling legislature</u>
Total Respondents	15	11	90	68	43
Under \$5,000	7	8	86	55	36
\$5000 - \$10000	13	9	88	66	39
\$10000 - \$15000	18	13	92	72	42
Over \$15000	22	14	94	76	52
Less than high school	9	8	87	60	38
Completed high school	16	10	88	64	38
Some college or more	20	14	94	77	50
18 - 20	7	6	83	56	38
21 - 29	11	7	86	62	34
30 - 39	21	11	93	69	45
40 - 49	19	14	91	71	43
50 - 59	21	16	93	76	44
60 and over	11	11	91	70	45
White	17	13	91	70	43
Non-White	6	2	83	53	43
Men	19	14	90	75	48
Women	12	8	90	62	38
Urban	9	7	90	68	37
Suburban	17	12	92	68	45
Rural	22	19	82	67	48
Democrat	15	8	87	66	44
Independent	19	13	92	69	37
Republican	16	14	93	73	45

Education Level	% correctly identifying	% correctly identifying	% correctly identifying	% correctly identifying
Total respondents	18	11	30	68
Over \$1000	22	18	28	72
\$1000 - \$1500	18	15	25	75
\$500 - \$1000	12	8	20	80
Under \$500	7	5	15	85
Some college or more	20	15	35	65
Completed high school	18	10	28	72
Less than high school	9	5	15	85
60 and over	12	11	25	75
50 - 59	11	10	22	78
40 - 49	10	10	20	80
30 - 39	12	10	25	75
20 - 29	13	10	25	75
18 - 19	7	5	15	85
White	18	12	30	70
Non-White	9	5	15	85
Male	18	10	28	72
Female	18	10	28	72
Control	22	15	30	70
Experimental	18	10	25	75
Random	12	8	20	80
Identical	12	8	20	80
Identical	12	8	20	80
Identical	12	8	20	80