

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE: ATTENTION POLITICAL, ASSIGNMENT EDITORS, Professor David Redlawsk may be contacted at 319-400-1134, 732-932-9384, ext. 285, or redlawsk@rutgers.edu until 11 p.m. Visit <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~redlawsk/EP/Tables2013/EmbargoRelease.html> for questions and tables during embargo. Visit <http://eagletonpollblog.wordpress.com> for additional commentary. Follow the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll on Face book at <https://www.facebook.com/RutgersEagletonPoll> and Twitter @EagletonPoll.

CHRISTIE JOB GRADE IMPROVES SLIGHTLY, RE-ELECTION SUPPORT DOES NOT

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll finds nearly half of voters think state is heading in right direction

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – Almost half of New Jersey's registered voters – 47 percent –grade Gov. Chris Christie's job performance as A or B, but the same percentage says they would not vote to re-elect the governor, according to a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. Eighteen percent of voters rate Christie's job performance A, and 29 percent a B, but 30 percent award him a poor or failing grade. Grades are slightly more positive than an August Rutgers-Eagleton Poll; more voters now award an A grade (up three points), and fewer award C (down three points).

Voters remain split over a second term for Christie. While 44 percent would re-elect the governor, 47 percent say it is time for someone new. Last month, 47 percent wanted another term while 46 percent were looking for change.

Christie's favorability has remained relatively stable since the last poll: 48 percent of voters have a favorable impression of Christie, down a point from August, while 42 percent are unfavorable toward the governor, up two points. Nearly half (49 percent) of voters say New Jersey is going in the right direction while 41 percent say it is on the wrong track.

"New Jersey voters remain evenly split over the governor, as they have been consistently since he's been in office," said David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and professor of political science at Rutgers University. "While we see small moves up and down, opinions on Christie remain pretty settled."

Results are from a poll of 790 registered voters conducted statewide among both landline and cell phone households from Sep 27-30. The sample has a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points.

Christie's favorability remains steady, job performance marks improve

Christie's stable favorability ratings between polls belie some movement among both Republicans and Democrats. While independent voters remain 49 percent favorable, the governor's favorability among Republicans improved by four points to 88 percent. With Democrats, on the other

hand, Christie's favorability dropped three points to 22 percent. Women remain less positive than men, 43 percent to 52 percent.

An increase in the number of women who give Christie an A has driven Christie's higher job performance grades since August. As many women as men (18 percent) now give the governor the top grade, up 8 points for women. Although more women than men fail him (17 percent compared to 12 percent of men), this still represents a two-point improvement among women from the last poll.

Independents remain very positive about Christie's job performance: 47 percent award him A or B, and 14 percent fail him. Democrats are more negative, but 25 percent now grade him A or B, a five-point improvement from August. Nearly a quarter fail him. Not surprisingly, GOP backers overwhelmingly give Christie stellar grades; 83 percent say Christie is doing A or B work (up nine points), while only 2 percent say he should fail (down two points).

"This poll marks the highest percentage of A's and B's we've seen since we introduced the Christie job report card in February 2011," said Redlawsk. "Republicans are more positive, and Democrats more negative, as we might expect from Christie's convention speech. Favorability among women did not change, but job performance ratings became more polarized. Yes, many more women give A grades this month, but we also see an increase in D's."

Looking ahead to 2013

Christie's improved job performance grades are contrasted, however, with a small slip in re-election prospects. The decline is due to a drop in support among Democrats and independents, outweighing gains among Republicans. Only 19 percent of Democrats would give the governor a second term versus the 71 percent who want him out of office next year. Re-election support among independents has dropped five points since August to 44 percent, while 43 percent want someone new, down two points. The number of undecided independents has doubled to 12 percent since the last poll. In contrast, support among GOP voters has increased five points to 85 percent. Twelve percent of Republicans say they want someone new.

"No incumbent wants to be below 50 percent re-election support," said Redlawsk, "but we don't yet know who will be the Democratic nominee, nor how brutal a primary Democratic contenders will face. Given that, Christie's numbers look reasonably good so far."

Men have become less positive about the governor's re-election. Forty-eight percent favor re-election, a six-point decline since the summer. Forty-three percent want someone new (up from 39 percent), and 10 percent are unsure (up from 8 percent). Women, on the other hand, have remained steady – 41 percent want the governor re-elected, 50 percent do not, and 9 percent are uncertain.

Christie's re-election continues to be mostly opposed by voters under 30 (59 percent want someone new, up seven points) and black voters (81 percent, up nine points). He no longer wins among

those earning between \$100,000 and \$150,000 (43 percent say re-elect, 51 percent say someone new) and continues to lose among those in the two lowest income brackets. The governor still has re-election support among white voters, but is down two points to 52 percent. Senior citizens remain on his side, with 53 percent favoring a second term.

New Jersey continues in a positive direction

The share of voters who say New Jersey is going in the right direction (49 percent) may be rebounding from a dip in August; 41 percent continue to believe, however, that the state is on the wrong track. Independents' positive feeling about the state's direction increased two points to 49 percent. Their pessimism correspondingly decreased to 39 percent. Republicans are more positive than Democrats by an 81 percent to 31 percent margin.

More than half (55 percent) of voters who think the state is going in the right direction feel this way because they believe things are changing for the better, and 40 percent believe things are not getting worse. Those who say New Jersey is on the wrong track mostly do so because they believe things are just not getting better (62 percent), compared to a little over a third of voters who think things in the state are getting worse (35 percent).

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QUESTIONS AND TABLES BEGIN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in the release of October 9, 2012 are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are New Jersey Registered Voters unless otherwise noted.

Q. 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. [ROTATE]

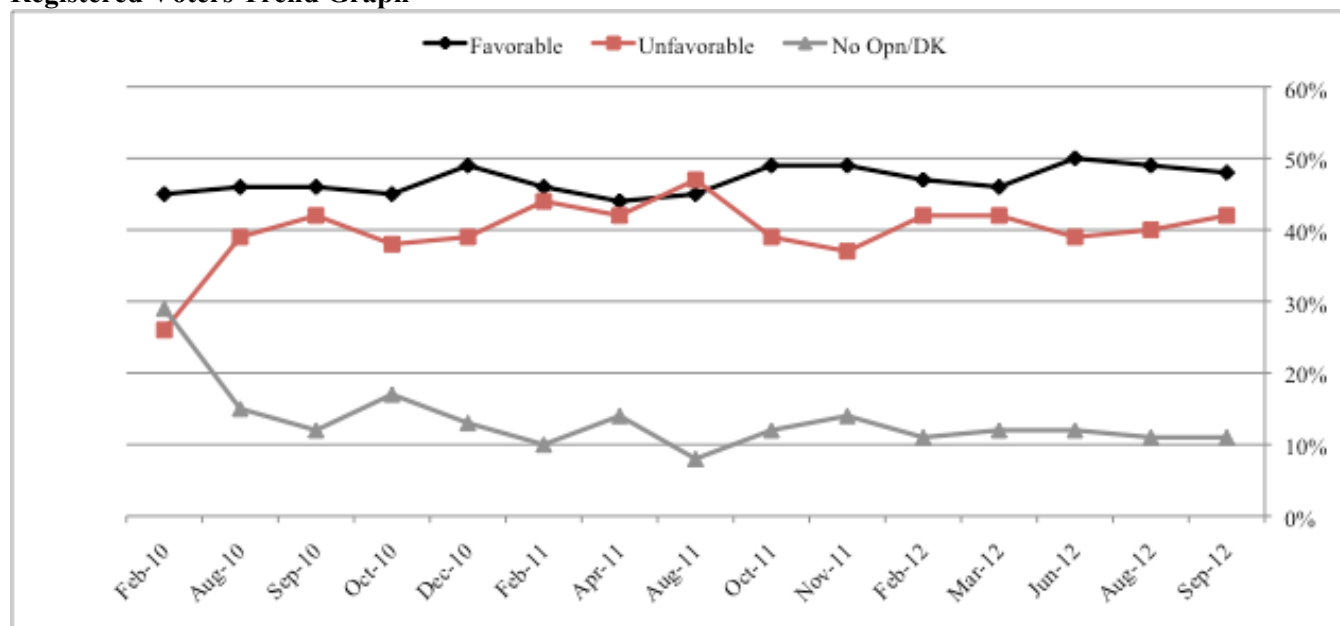
Governor Chris Christie

	RV
Favorable	48%
Unfavorable	42%
No Opinion/DK	11%
Unwgt N=	787

Trend

	8/12	6/12	3/12	2/12	11/11	10/11	8/11	4/11	2/11	12/10	10/10	9/10	8/10	2/10
	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	RV	Adults	RV	RV	RV	RV
Favorable	49%	50%	46%	47%	49%	49%	45%	44%	46%	45%	45%	46%	46%	45%
Unfavorable	40%	39%	42%	42%	37%	39%	47%	42%	44%	38%	38%	42%	39%	26%
No Opinion/DK	11%	11%	12%	11%	14%	12%	8%	14%	10%	17%	17%	12%	15%	29%
Unwgt N=	911	1,064	514	910	752	803	613	769	810	906	879	911	751	881

Registered Voters Trend Graph



Registered Voters

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Black
Favorable	22%	49%	88%	22%	44%	85%	52%	43%	55%	22%
Unfavorable	68%	36%	8%	68%	44%	9%	40%	43%	35%	59%
DK/No Opn	10%	15%	3%	10%	12%	7%	7%	13%	10%	19%
Unwt N=	282	298	199	167	415	194	399	388	613	66

	Age			
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	36%	49%	42%	59%
Unfavorable	52%	43%	44%	32%
DK/No Opn	12%	8%	15%	9%
Unwt N=	63	221	294	206

	Income				Education			
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	> 150K	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Favorable	44%	47%	43%	60%	51%	50%	43%	46%
Unfavorable	43%	42%	52%	34%	34%	41%	47%	45%
DK/No Opn	13%	11%	5%	6%	15%	9%	10%	9%
Unwt N=	173	242	147	125	172	201	236	173

	Religion				Union Household			
	Cath	Prot	Jewish	Other	Born Again	Public	Private	No Union
Favorable	56%	50%	42%	28%	49%	25%	53%	52%
Unfavorable	33%	41%	49%	58%	41%	66%	39%	37%
DK/No Opn	11%	8%	9%	15%	10%	9%	8%	11%
Unwt N=	346	203	66	148	108	113	61	590

Q. 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.

	Trend									
	9/12 RV	8/12 RV	6/12 RV	3/12 RV	2/12 RV	11/11 RV	10/11 RV	8/11 RV	4/11 RV	2/11 RV
A	18%	15%	15%	12%	16%	18%	14%	13%	14%	14%
B	29%	30%	31%	31%	27%	28%	30%	25%	32%	24%
C	22%	25%	24%	25%	24%	21%	27%	18%	20%	26%
D	15%	13%	15%	13%	14%	17%	14%	24%	14%	15%
F	15%	16%	14%	17%	18%	13%	14%	19%	21%	19%
DK (vol)	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Unwgt N=	788	913	1,063	516	914	752	799	612	390	416

Registered Voters

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Cons	Male	Female	White	Black
A	5%	17%	40%	2%	14%	43%	18%	18%	22%	6%
B	20%	30%	43%	21%	29%	36%	33%	25%	29%	22%
C	27%	24%	10%	27%	24%	12%	24%	20%	23%	23%
D	24%	13%	3%	22%	16%	5%	12%	18%	13%	31%
F	23%	14%	2%	26%	14%	3%	12%	17%	12%	19%
DK (vol)	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	0%
Unwgt N=	285	296	199	168	414	194	399	389	615	66

	Age			
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
A	10%	16%	15%	27%
B	30%	35%	25%	26%
C	22%	19%	27%	20%
D	23%	14%	15%	12%
F	10%	15%	18%	14%
DK (vol)	5%	1%	1%	2%
Unwt N=	63	220	294	208

	Income				Education			
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	> 150K	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
A	18%	14%	20%	18%	20%	20%	12%	20%
B	21%	33%	27%	41%	26%	27%	35%	26%
C	22%	24%	20%	18%	20%	23%	22%	22%
D	21%	13%	14%	8%	15%	20%	14%	13%
F	18%	15%	19%	14%	15%	11%	15%	19%
DK (vol)	1%	2%	0%	1%	3%	0%	2%	0%
Unwt N=	173	243	147	125	172	201	235	175

	Religion				Union Household			
	Cath	Prot	Jewish	Other	Born Again	Public	Private	No Union
A	24%	18%	14%	7%	20%	10%	14%	20%
B	29%	31%	35%	25%	24%	17%	37%	31%
C	21%	17%	18%	32%	21%	24%	24%	21%
D	13%	16%	17%	19%	15%	20%	17%	14%
F	13%	16%	17%	16%	17%	30%	9%	13%
DK (vol)	2%	2%	0%	1%	3%	0%	0%	2%
Unwt N=	346	203	66	149	108	114	61	590

Q. The election for New Jersey governor is a little more than a year away. Thinking ahead, do you think Governor Christie deserves to be re-elected to another term, or is it time for someone new?

	9/12		Christie Favorability		
	RV	8/12 RV	Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opin/DK
Another term	44%	47%	87%	2%	18%
Someone new	47%	46%	7%	90%	55%
DK	9%	8%	6%	8%	27%
Unwgt N=	787	910	391	312	81

Registered Voters

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Cons	Male	Female	White	Black
Another term	19%	44%	85%	17%	41%	82%	48%	41%	52%	15%
Someone new	71%	43%	12%	71%	50%	13%	43%	50%	38%	81%
DK	10%	12%	3%	12%	9%	5%	10%	9%	10%	4%
Unwgt N=	284	297	198	168	413	194	397	390	615	66

	Age			
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Another term	30%	44%	42%	53%
Someone new	59%	48%	50%	35%
DK	63	220	293	208
Unwgt N=	63	220	293	208

	Income				Education			
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Another term	42%	44%	43%	52%	46%	49%	40%	42%
Someone new	49%	47%	51%	41%	46%	44%	49%	47%
DK	9%	9%	6%	7%	8%	6%	11%	10%
Unwgt N=	173	242	146	127	171	200	236	175

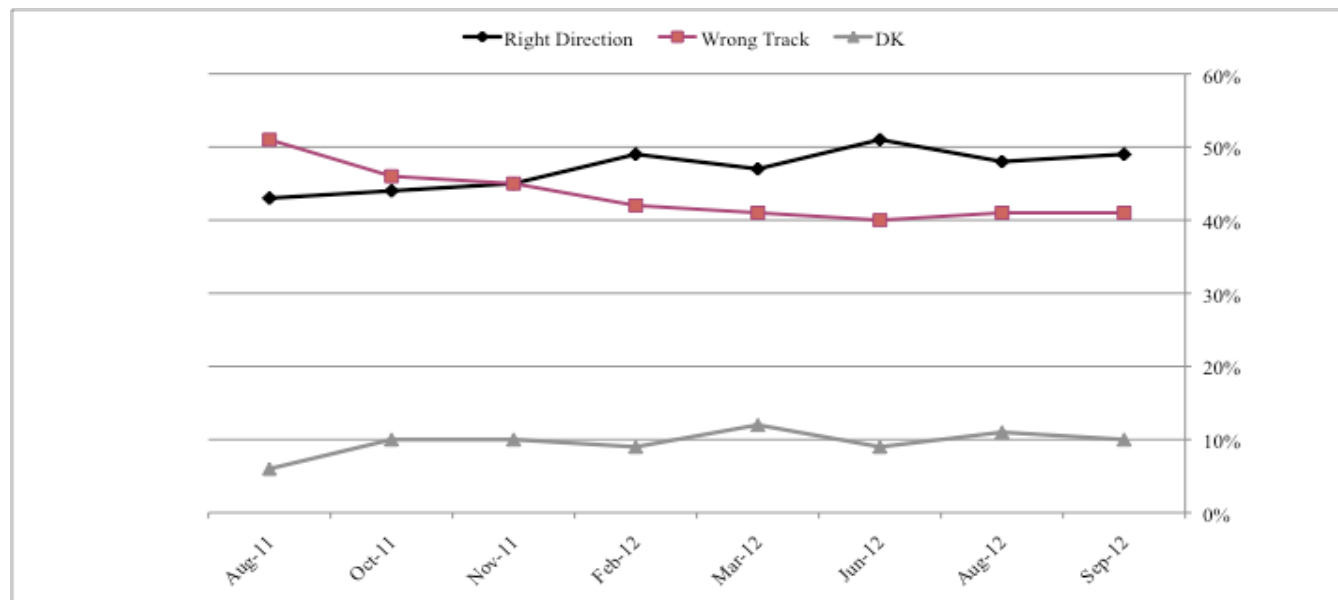
	Religion				Union Household Born			
	Cath	Prot	Jewish	Other	Again	Public	Private	No Union
Another term	52%	47%	42%	25%	46%	22%	50%	48%
Someone new	37%	47%	53%	63%	49%	71%	45%	42%
DK	11%	5%	5%	12%	5%	7%	5%	10%
Unwt N=	344	203	66	150	107	113	61	590

Q. Would you say the state of New Jersey is currently going in the right direction or has it gone off on the wrong track?

	Christie Favorability			
	9/12 RV	Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opin/DK
Right Direction	49%	82%	13%	46%
Wrong Track	41%	11%	75%	35%
DK (vol)	10%	7%	11%	19%
Unwgt N=	783	389	312	79

	8/12 RV	6/12 RV	3/12 RV	2/12 RV	11/11 RV	10/11 RV	8/11 RV
Right Direction	48%	51%	47%	49%	45%	44%	43%
Wrong Track	41%	40%	41%	42%	45%	46%	51%
DK (vol)	11%	9%	12%	9%	10%	10%	6%
Unwgt N=	912	1,064	511	911	744	817	612

Registered Voters Trend Graph



Registered Voters

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Black
Right Direction	31%	49%	81%	29%	47%	79%	52%	47%	54%	37%
Wrong Track	58%	39%	13%	60%	42%	15%	39%	42%	36%	50%
DK (vol)	11%	12%	6%	11%	11%	6%	10%	11%	10%	13%
Unwt N=	284	295	197	169	411	192	395	388	610	66

	Age			
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Right Direction	49%	49%	45%	55%
Wrong Track	42%	43%	44%	32%
DK (vol)	10%	7%	11%	13%
Unwt N=	61	219	294	206

	Income				Education			
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	> 150K	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Right Direction	44%	50%	44%	54%	53%	49%	47%	48%
Wrong Track	44%	42%	44%	41%	34%	38%	46%	42%
DK (vol)	12%	8%	12%	5%	13%	13%	7%	9%
Unwt N=	171	238	147	127	171	198	235	175

	Religion				Union Household			
	Cath	Prot	Jewish	Other	Born Again	Public	Private	No Union
Right Direction	57%	51%	43%	34%	50%	32%	46%	54%
Wrong Track	35%	40%	42%	52%	39%	59%	46%	36%
DK (vol)	8%	9%	15%	14%	12%	9%	8%	10%
Unwt N=	344	200	66	150	106	114	61	587

[IF RIGHT DIRECTION, ASK:]

QA. Is New Jersey going in the right direction because things are changing for the better or simply because things are not getting worse?

Changing for the better	55%
Not getting worse	40%
DK (vol)	5%
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Unwgt N=	396

[IF WRONG TRACK, ASK:]

QB. Is New Jersey off on the wrong track because things are changing for the worse or simply because things are not getting better?

Changing for the worse	35%
Not getting better	62%
DK (vol)	3%
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Unwgt N=	306

COMBINED RESULTS A + B DIRECTION FOLLOW UP

	ALL RV	Christie Favorability		
		Favorable	Unfavorable	No Opin/DK
Changing for the better	27%	52%	3%	13%
Staying the same	45%	36%	53%	54%
Changing for the worse	14%	1%	30%	9%
DK (vol)	14%	10%	15%	24%
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Unwgt N=	783	389	312	79

Combined Results - Registered Voters

	Party ID			Ideology			Gender		Race		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female	White	Black	
Changing for the better	10%	27%	57%	9%	25%	53%	29%	26%	33%	7%	
Staying the same	54%	46%	30%	50%	49%	33%	45%	45%	41%	59%	
Changing for the worse	21%	13%	4%	27%	12%	4%	13%	15%	13%	16%	
DK (vol)	15%	15%	9%	14%	15%	10%	13%	14%	13%	18%	
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Unwt N=	284	295	197	169	411	192	395	388	610	66	

	Age				
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	
Changing for the better	23%	27%	22%	36%	
Staying the same	43%	49%	45%	39%	
Changing for the worse	16%	15%	18%	8%	
DK (vol)	18%	9%	15%	17%	
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Unwt N=	61	219	294	206	

**Christie Oct 2012
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Income				Education			
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	> 150K	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Changing for the better	26%	28%	24%	28%	29%	30%	25%	25%
Staying the same	47%	49%	41%	48%	45%	42%	47%	46%
Changing for the worse	12%	12%	20%	16%	10%	12%	17%	17%
DK (vol)	15%	11%	15%	9%	16%	16%	11%	12%
Unwt N=	171	238	147	127	171	198	235	175

	Religion				Union Household			
	Cath	Prot	Jewish	Other	Born Again	Public	Private	No Union
Changing for the better	36%	25%	24%	15%	25%	15%	22%	31%
Staying the same	39%	50%	39%	52%	48%	50%	56%	44%
Changing for the worse	12%	14%	17%	16%	12%	25%	12%	12%
DK (vol)	12%	11%	20%	17%	14%	10%	9%	14%
Unwt N=	344	200	66	150	106	114	61	587

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll September 27-30, 2012

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone from September 27-30, 2012 with a scientifically selected random sample of 790 New Jersey registered voters. This telephone poll included 655 landline respondents and 135 cell phone respondents, all acquired through random digit dialing.

Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey registered voter population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to 2010 US Census Bureau data. Data are further weighted to ensure geographical representation by county. All results are reported with these weighted data.

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 790 registered voters is +/-3.5 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey registered voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 46.5 and 53.5 percent (50 +/-3.5) had all New Jersey likely 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 Incorporated and through our in-house calling center. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, a non-partisan academic center focused on the study and teaching of politics and the political process.

Weighted Sample Characteristics 790 New Jersey Registered Voters			
38% Democrat	47% Male	12% 18-29	71% White
38% Independent	53% Female	34% 30-49	14% Black
24% Republican		30% 50-64	8% Hispanic
		24% 65+	7% Asian/Other/Multi