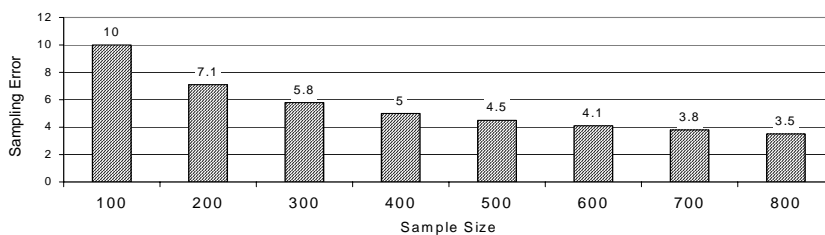


BACKGROUND MEMO – RELEASE (EP 158-1) April 4, 2006

The latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted from March 26 to 30 with a scientifically selected random sample of 800 New Jersey adults. This sample yielded 676 adult residents registered to vote in New Jersey. Most of the figures in this release are based on the statewide sample of all 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 800 adults is ± 3.5 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey adults were found to have a favorable opinion of a senatorial candidate, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 47.5 and 53.5 percent (50 ± 3.5) had all New Jersey adults been interviewed, rather than just a sample. The sampling error for 676 registered voters is ± 3.8 percent. 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. The following chart shows the relationship between sample size and sampling error.

Sample Size and Sampling Error



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. The verbatim wording of all questions referred to in this release are as follows:

Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people. If you haven't heard of them or don't have an opinion of them, just tell me and we'll move on.

[ROTATE] (PF1-PF4)

POLL 158 / March 2006	Favorable	Unfavorable	Not Heard of	No opinion	DK/RF	(n)
ROBERT MENENDEZ						
All Adults	22%	11%	29%	32%	7%	800
Party ID						
--Democrat	34%	5%	26%	30%	6%	275
--Republican	13%	20%	28%	35%	4%	186
--Independent	22%	11%	28%	32%	7%	253
Registered voters	23%	13%	25%	32%	7%	676
TOM KEAN JR.						
All Adults	23%	12%	25%	33%	7%	800
Party ID						
--Democrat	20%	17%	25%	34%	5%	275
--Republican	34%	8%	22%	31%	5%	186
--Independent	23%	12%	22%	36%	7%	253
Registered voters	26%	13%	21%	32%	8%	676
RICHARD CODEY						
All Adults	43%	12%	16%	24%	5%	800
Party ID						
--Democrat	54%	11%	15%	17%	3%	275
--Republican	38%	15%	15%	28%	4%	186
--Independent	44%	11%	13%	27%	4%	253
Registered voters	48%	13%	13%	22%	5%	676

POLL 158 / March 2006	Favorable	Unfavorable	Not Heard of	No opinion	DK/RF	(n)
JON CORZINE						
All Adults	39%	35%	3%	19%	4%	800
<u>Party ID</u>						
--Democrat	61%	19%	2%	16%	3%	275
--Republican	19%	62%	1%	14%	4%	186
--Independent	35%	37%	2%	21%	4%	253
Registered voters	42%	37%	2%	16%	4%	676

Menendez - Kean Jr.

If the election for the U.S. Senate were held today, for whom would you vote (ROTATE) Robert Menendez, the Democrat, Tom Kean Jr., the Republican, or some other candidate for Senate? (G1)

[Includes "Leaners" from G1a]

	<u>Menendez</u>	<u>Kean Jr.</u>	<u>Some other</u>	<u>Wouldn't</u> <u>Vote</u>	<u>DK/RF/</u> <u>Undecided</u>	<u>(n)</u>
POLL 158 / March 2006						
Registered Voters	40%	35%	2%	3%	20%	676
<u>Party ID</u>						
--Democrat	68%	18%	1%	1%	12%	241
--Republican	14%	69%	1%	2%	15%	162
--Independent	36%	34%	3%	4%	22%	210
<u>Gender</u>						
--Male	43%	34%	2%	3%	17%	328
--Female	37%	36%	1%	3%	23%	348
<u>Race</u>						
--White	36%	41%	1%	4%	17%	534
--Nonwhite	57%	18%	4%	1%	21%	113
<u>Age</u>						
--18-29	***	***	***	***	***	***
--30-49	37%	33%	3%	6%	22%	216
--50-64	44%	36%	1%	2%	17%	233
--65+	44%	40%	1%	1%	14%	158
<u>Education</u>						
--High school and below	40%	35%	0%	6%	19%	187
--Some college and above	41%	35%	2%	1%	20%	481
<u>Region of State</u>						
--North	38%	35%	2%	3%	21%	276
--Central	51%	29%	2%	4%	15%	197
--South	32%	40%	1%	4%	23%	183
All Adults	39%	33%	2%	5%	21%	800

***Subgroup contains fewer than 50.

It is very early in the campaign and the candidates are just beginning to introduce themselves to the voters. We would like to find out how much you have heard or read about the candidates so far. I'm going to read you a list of public offices and as I read each one, please tell me if Robert Menendez now holds or has ever held this position? (G3) [CORRECT ANSWERS ARE IN BOLD]

[ROTATE G3/3a WITH G4/4a]

POLL 158 / March 2006	<u>Yes now holds or has held this position</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	(n)
Registered Voters				
Representative in the House of Representatives	26%	19%	55%	676
United States Senator	26%	31%	43%	676
Member of the New Jersey State Legislature	31%	11%	58%	676
Governor of New Jersey	3%	74%	23%	676

It is very early in the campaign and the candidates are just beginning to introduce themselves to the voters. We would like to find out how much you have heard or read about the candidates so far. I'm going to read you a list of public offices and as I read each one, please tell me if Tom Kean, Jr. now holds or has ever held this position? (G4) [CORRECT ANSWERS ARE IN BOLD]

POLL 158 / March 2006	<u>Yes now holds or has held this position</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	(n)
Registered Voters				
Representative in the House of Representatives	10%	31%	59%	676
United States Senator	8%	48%	44%	676
Member of the New Jersey State Legislature	26%	14%	60%	676
Governor of New Jersey	12%	64%	23%	676

From what you know, was Robert Menendez a member of the 9-11 Commission? (G3a)

From what you know, was Tom Kean, Jr. a member of the 9-11 Commission? (G4a)

[CORRECT ANSWERS ARE IN BOLD]

POLL 158 / March 2006	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	(n)
Registered Voters				
Robert Menendez	6%	34%	59%	676
Tom Kean Jr.	11%	36%	53%	676

How closely do you associate Republican Tom Kean, Jr. with the policies and actions of the administration of President George W. Bush? (G5)

[ROTATE G5 and G6]

POLL 156 / Oct 2005	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Somewhat closely</u>	<u>Not closely at all</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Registered Voters	12%	31%	28%	29%	676
<u>Party ID</u>					
--Democrat	20%	26%	27%	27%	241
--Republican	7%	42%	24%	28%	162
--Independent	8%	35%	31%	26%	210
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	14%	32%	27%	27%	328
--Female	10%	30%	29%	32%	348
<u>Race</u>					
--White	10%	33%	28%	28%	534
--Nonwhite	18%	25%	24%	33%	113
<u>Age</u>					
--18-29	***	***	***	***	***
--30-49	11%	30%	27%	33%	216
--50-64	12%	33%	31%	24%	233
--65+	14%	34%	22%	31%	158
<u>Education</u>					
--High school and below	10%	30%	28%	33%	187
--Some college and above	14%	32%	28%	27%	481
<u>Region of State</u>					
--North	9%	37%	29%	25%	276
--Central	17%	26%	27%	30%	197
--South	10%	29%	25%	36%	183
All Adults	12%	30%	27%	32%	800

***Subgroup contains fewer than 50.

How closely do you associate Democrat Robert Menendez with the policies and actions of the administration of Governor Jon Corzine? (G6)

[ROTATE G5 and G6]

POLL 156 / Oct 2005	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Somewhat closely</u>	<u>Not closely at all</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Registered Voters	20%	30%	22%	29%	676
<u>Party ID</u>					
--Democrat	22%	34%	19%	25%	241
--Republican	22%	29%	19%	30%	162
--Independent	19%	31%	26%	25%	210
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	26%	33%	19%	21%	328
--Female	13%	28%	24%	36%	348
<u>Race</u>					
--White	19%	30%	23%	28%	534
--Nonwhite	24%	30%	16%	30%	113
<u>Age</u>					
--18-29	***	***	***	***	***
--30-49	18%	25%	26%	31%	216
--50-64	22%	35%	19%	25%	233
--65+	25%	32%	14%	29%	158
<u>Education</u>					
--High school and below	14%	30%	24%	32%	187
--Some college and above	23%	30%	20%	26%	481
<u>Region of State</u>					
--North	21%	31%	23%	25%	276
--Central	18%	32%	21%	28%	197
--South	18%	28%	19%	35%	183
All Adults	17%	31%	21%	32%	800

***Subgroup contains fewer than 50.

Regardless of which candidate for Senate you support, which one of the candidates, (ROTATE) Robert Menendez or Tom Kean, Jr., do you think would make the best decisions to protect the state against a terrorist attack [IF SOME OTHER CANDIDATE, ASK:] If you had to choose between (READ OPTIONS #1-2)...? (IC1)

	<u>Menendez</u>	<u>Kean Jr.</u>	<u>None of the above</u>	<u>All the same equal</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
POLL 158 / March 2006						
Registered Voters	28%	31%	6%	3%	32%	676
<u>Party ID</u>						
--Democrat	50%	15%	4%	2%	29%	241
--Republican	5%	61%	5%	3%	26%	162
--Independent	26%	28%	9%	3%	34%	210
<u>Gender</u>						
--Male	34%	30%	8%	2%	26%	328
--Female	23%	32%	4%	4%	38%	348
<u>Race</u>						
--White	24%	35%	6%	2%	33%	534
--Nonwhite	42%	20%	6%	5%	28%	113
<u>Age</u>						
--18-29	***	***	***	***	***	***
--30-49	22%	33%	6%	2%	37%	216
--50-64	32%	30%	6%	2%	29%	233
--65+	32%	33%	4%	4%	27%	158
<u>Education</u>						
--High school and below	27%	34%	3%	2%	35%	187
--Some college and above	29%	29%	9%	3%	30%	481
<u>Region of State</u>						
--North	25%	31%	8%	3%	32%	276
--Central	35%	29%	6%	1%	29%	197
--South	24%	34%	4%	4%	35%	183
All Adults	27%	30%	6%	2%	34%	800

***Subgroup contains fewer than 50.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President? (B1)

POLL 158 / March 2006	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Registered Voters	31%	63%	7%	676
<u>Party ID</u>				
--Democrat	11%	83%	7%	241
--Republican	69%	26%	5%	162
--Independent	27%	66%	7%	210
<u>Gender</u>				
--Male	32%	63%	6%	328
--Female	29%	63%	8%	348
<u>Race</u>				
--White	35%	59%	6%	534
--Nonwhite	16%	74%	10%	113
<u>Age</u>				
--18-29	***	***	***	***
--30-49	33%	59%	8%	216
--50-64	25%	71%	4%	233
--65+	33%	59%	8%	158
<u>Education</u>				
--High school and below	27%	62%	10%	187
--Some college and above	33%	63%	4%	481
<u>Region of State</u>				
--North	35%	57%	8%	276
--Central	24%	71%	5%	197
--South	32%	61%	7%	183
All Adults	30%	63%	7%	800
***Subgroup contains fewer than 50.				
	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October 2005				
Registered Voters	34%	58%	8%	(703)
All Adults	33%	57%	9%	(833)
September 2005				
Registered voters	35%	58%	8%	(700)
All Adults	33%	58%	9%	(865)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<i>PAST SURVEYS</i>				
Registered Voters				
---February 2005	46%	50%	4%	678
---October 2004	46%	49%	6%	664
---January 2004	50%	45%	6%	679
---September 2003	56%	38%	6%	628
---May 2003	62%	31%	8%	773
---Jan/Feb 2003	58%	30%	12%	301
---September 2002	71%	24%	6%	596
---Feb/Mar 2002	82%	15%	4%	622
---April 2001	57%	34%	9%	606
---January 2001	43%	21%	37%	636

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jon Corzine is handling his job as Governor?
(J1)

POLL 158 / April 2006	Approve	Disapprove	DK/RF	(n)
All Adults	43%	34%	24%	800
<u>Party ID</u>				
--Democrat	62%	19%	20%	275
--Republican	25%	53%	22%	186
--Independent	41%	37%	22%	253
<u>Gender</u>				
--Male	45%	32%	23%	384
--Female	40%	35%	25%	416
<u>Race</u>				
--White	39%	40%	21%	615
--Nonwhite	54%	15%	30%	151
<u>Age</u>				
--18-29	51%	29%	20%	78
--30-49	38%	36%	26%	269
--50-64	45%	40%	16%	256
--65+	43%	26%	31%	172
<u>Education</u>				
--High school and below	44%	35%	22%	234
--Some college and above	42%	33%	25%	556
<u>Region of State</u>				
--North	50%	29%	21%	318
--Central	39%	35%	26%	238
--South	38%	38%	23%	221
Registered Voters	41%	36%	23%	676

The state constitution requires that New Jersey have a balanced budget each year. To balance the state budget next year, if you had to choose, which would you prefer - raising taxes to keep state services at their current level, OR cutting state services to keep taxes at their current level? (BD1)

	<u>Raise Taxes</u>	<u>Cut State Services</u>	<u>Both/Some of Each</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
POLL 158 / March 2006					
All Adults	27%	57%	7%	9%	800
<u>Party ID</u>					
--Democrat	39%	45%	8%	8%	275
--Republican	10%	75%	5%	9%	186
--Independent	26%	61%	8%	6%	253
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	26%	58%	8%	8%	384
--Female	27%	56%	7%	10%	416
<u>Race</u>					
--White	24%	60%	7%	9%	615
--Nonwhite	33%	48%	8%	10%	151
<u>Age</u>					
--18-29	31%	54%	5%	11%	78
--30-49	27%	54%	7%	11%	269
--50-64	27%	60%	8%	4%	256
--65+	20%	64%	9%	8%	172
<u>Education</u>					
--High school and below	26%	57%	6%	12%	234
--Some college and above	27%	57%	9%	7%	556
<u>Region of State</u>					
--North	26%	58%	7%	9%	318
--Central	28%	56%	8%	8%	238
--South	25%	57%	7%	10%	221
Registered Voters	25%	59%	8%	8%	676

Now, thinking about state government -- How serious do you think New Jersey's budget problems are - very serious, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not at all serious? (BD2)

	<u>Very Serious</u>	<u>Somewhat Serious</u>	<u>Not Very Serious</u>	<u>Not At All Serious</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
POLL 158 / March 2006						
All Adults	60%	28%	5%	1%	6%	800
<u>Party ID</u>						
--Democrat	60%	29%	6%	1%	4%	275
--Republican	65%	24%	6%	1%	4%	186
--Independent	62%	30%	4%	0%	4%	253
<u>Gender</u>						
--Male	61%	25%	7%	0%	7%	384
--Female	59%	31%	4%	1%	6%	416
<u>Race</u>						
--White	61%	29%	5%	1%	4%	615
--Nonwhite	55%	25%	8%	0%	12%	151
<u>Age</u>						
--18-29	48%	32%	9%	1%	10%	78
--30-49	56%	32%	3%	0%	8%	269
--50-64	68%	25%	6%	0%	2%	256
--65+	70%	19%	6%	2%	4%	172
<u>Education</u>						
--High school and below	56%	28%	7%	1%	9%	234
--Some college and above	63%	28%	4%	1%	4%	556
<u>Region of State</u>						
--North	56%	31%	5%	1%	6%	318
--Central	58%	28%	7%	0%	6%	238
--South	66%	24%	3%	0%	7%	221
Registered Voters	62%	28%	5%	1%	4%	676
<i>PAST SURVEYS</i>	<u>Very Serious</u>	<u>Somewhat Serious</u>	<u>Not Very Serious</u>	<u>Not At All Serious</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
January 2004	41 %	41 %	5 %	2 %	11 %	904
February 2003	55 %	36 %	2 %	1 %	5 %	401
May 2003	39 %	49 %	4 %	2 %	5 %	1002
September 2002	41 %	37 %	8 %	3 %	11 %	804
June 2002	37 %	48 %	7 %	2 %	7 %	801
March 2002	39 %	44 %	8 %	2 %	7 %	803

March 1982 26 % 46 % 15 % 3 % 10 % 1206

Who is most responsible for creating the state's large budget deficit...is it Jon Corzine, the current governor; or previous governors; or the State Legislature?
(BD3)

	<u>Jon Corzine</u>	<u>Previous Governors</u>	<u>State Legislature</u>	<u>All of the Above</u>	<u>None of the Above</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
POLL 158 / March 2006							
All Adults	5%	47%	26%	9%	2%	11%	800
<u>Party ID</u>							
--Democrat	5%	54%	23%	7%	3%	9%	275
--Republican	5%	41%	31%	13%	0%	10%	186
--Independent	4%	50%	30%	9%	1%	6%	253
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male	5%	45%	30%	9%	1%	11%	384
--Female	5%	49%	23%	9%	2%	11%	416
<u>Race</u>							
--White	4%	48%	27%	10%	2%	9%	615
--Nonwhite	6%	46%	25%	7%	2%	15%	151
<u>Age</u>							
--18-29	10%	33%	32%	7%	1%	17%	78
--30-49	4%	47%	28%	8%	2%	10%	269
--50-64	2%	55%	24%	12%	2%	6%	256
--65+	6%	52%	20%	9%	1%	13%	172
<u>Education</u>							
--High school and below	6%	50%	19%	8%	2%	15%	234
--Some college and above	4%	45%	32%	10%	1%	8%	556
<u>Region of State</u>							
--North	5%	43%	30%	9%	1%	12%	318
--Central	6%	46%	23%	11%	1%	13%	238
--South	4%	53%	25%	7%	3%	8%	221
Registered Voters	5%	49%	26%	10%	2%	8%	676

How much have you heard or read about Governor Jon Corzine's proposed state budget? (BD4)

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Very little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
POLL 158 / March 2006						
All Adults	19%	36%	31%	13%	1%	(800)

Just from what you've heard, is Governor Jon Corzine's budget proposal [ROTATE] focused too much on increasing taxes, or focused too much on spending cuts, or is it just the right mix between the two? (BD5)

[Only asked of those who responded that had heard or read a lot, some, or very little about Governor Corzine's budget proposal]

	<u>Increasing Taxes</u>	<u>Spending Cuts</u>	<u>Right Mix between the two</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
POLL 158 / March 2006					
All Adults	44%	6%	36%	15%	715
<u>Party ID</u>					
--Democrat	33%	6%	49%	12%	251
--Republican	58%	5%	21%	15%	166
--Independent	44%	6%	37%	13%	231
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	42%	6%	36%	16%	346
--Female	45%	6%	37%	13%	369
<u>Race</u>					
--White	47%	6%	33%	15%	551
--Nonwhite	36%	4%	46%	14%	135
<u>Age</u>					
--18-29	47%	0%	36%	17%	60
--30-49	46%	6%	30%	17%	235
--50-64	38%	7%	45%	10%	238
--65+	43%	6%	38%	13%	159
<u>Education</u>					
--High school and below	46%	6%	32%	16%	204
--Some college and above	42%	5%	39%	14%	504
<u>Region of State</u>					
--North	38%	7%	37%	18%	284
--Central	48%	5%	36%	10%	213
--South	46%	4%	36%	14%	198
Registered Voters	45%	6%	36%	13%	621

Do you think the budget proposal is fair or unfair to people like yourself? (BD6)

[Only asked of those who responded that had heard or read a lot, some, or very little about Governor Corzine's budget proposal]

	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Unfair</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
POLL 158 / March 2006				
All Adults	33%	50%	16%	715
<u>Party ID</u>				
--Democrat	41%	43%	15%	251
--Republican	24%	61%	15%	166
--Independent	32%	53%	15%	231
<u>Gender</u>				
--Male	39%	42%	18%	346
--Female	28%	58%	14%	369
<u>Race</u>				
--White	31%	53%	16%	551
--Nonwhite	41%	42%	17%	135
<u>Age</u>				
--18-29	35%	41%	24%	60
--30-49	34%	48%	18%	235
--50-64	29%	57%	13%	238
--65+	36%	54%	10%	159
<u>Education</u>				
--High school and below	29%	57%	14%	204
--Some college and above	37%	46%	18%	504
<u>Region of State</u>				
--North	34%	48%	18%	284
--Central	35%	52%	14%	213
--South	33%	52%	16%	198
Registered Voters	34%	50%	15%	621

Has Governor Jon Corzine convinced you that his proposed increase in taxes is necessary to balance the budget or not? (BD7)

[Only asked of those who responded that had heard or read a lot, some, or very little about Governor Corzine's budget proposal]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
POLL 158 / March 2006				
All Adults	30%	61%	9%	715
<u>Party ID</u>				
--Democrat	40%	52%	8%	251
--Republican	19%	74%	7%	166
--Independent	30%	62%	7%	231
<u>Gender</u>				
--Male	35%	55%	10%	346
--Female	24%	67%	8%	369
<u>Race</u>				
--White	29%	62%	8%	551
--Nonwhite	32%	57%	11%	135
<u>Age</u>				
--18-29	26%	57%	17%	60
--30-49	24%	66%	11%	235
--50-64	35%	61%	4%	238
--65+	39%	54%	8%	159
<u>Education</u>				
--High school and below	25%	63%	11%	204
--Some college and above	33%	59%	8%	504
<u>Region of State</u>				
--North	29%	61%	9%	284
--Central	31%	61%	8%	213
--South	30%	60%	10%	198
Registered Voters	31%	61%	8%	621

As proposed, how much would the increased taxes and spending cuts affect you – a great deal, some, very little, or not at all? (BD8)

[Only asked of those who responded that had heard or read a lot, some, or very little about Governor Corzine's budget proposal]

	<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Very Little</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
POLL 158 / March 2006						
All Adults	36%	45%	9%	4%	6%	715
<u>Party ID</u>						
--Democrat	37%	46%	9%	4%	5%	251
--Republican	35%	47%	8%	6%	4%	166
--Independent	34%	48%	10%	3%	6%	231
<u>Gender</u>						
--Male	29%	47%	12%	6%	6%	346
--Female	42%	43%	7%	3%	6%	369
<u>Race</u>						
--White	34%	48%	9%	3%	6%	551
--Nonwhite	39%	36%	11%	7%	7%	135
<u>Age</u>						
--18-29	22%	46%	17%	7%	8%	60
--30-49	35%	47%	6%	4%	8%	235
--50-64	40%	45%	9%	2%	4%	238
--65+	42%	39%	9%	6%	4%	159
<u>Education</u>						
--High school and below	41%	41%	8%	3%	7%	204
--Some college and above	32%	48%	10%	5%	5%	504
<u>Region of State</u>						
--North	33%	48%	9%	5%	6%	284
--Central	38%	41%	11%	3%	7%	213
--South	34%	47%	8%	5%	6%	198
Registered Voters	37%	44%	9%	5%	5%	621