

The Star-Ledger/EAGLETON POLL

FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1986
RELEASE: SL/EP12-1 (EP62-1)

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RELEASE INFORMATION

A story based on the survey findings presented in this release and background memo will appear in Sunday's Star-Ledger. Other newspapers may also use this information in their Sunday editions. Electronic media may release after 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 26. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to the "Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll."

NEW JERSEYANS SAY "NO" TO SENATORIAL COURTESY, "YES" TO TAX AMNESTY

JOB RATINGS REMAIN HIGH FOR OFFICIALS AND INSTITUTIONS:

PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR, STATE LEGISLATURE, AND STATE SUPREME COURT

By nearly a 2-to-1 margin, a majority of New Jerseyans think that the unwritten rule of "Senatorial Courtesy"--by which state Senators may block gubernatorial appointments of people from their home district--should be done away with, according to the latest Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll.

The poll also reveals that 7-in-10 would approve of a one-time only tax amnesty in New Jersey, despite the fact that many also feel it would be unfair to the people who pay their taxes on time.

The survey, conducted with 800 residents between July 11 and 21, also finds New Jerseyans rating prominent government officials and institutions at least as highly as they did approximately one year ago. Though down just slightly from recent high points in February of this year, the job performance ratings of the President, Governor, State Legislature, and State Supreme Court remain considerably more positive than two years ago.

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ATTENTION RADIO STATIONS: Audio is available after 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 26 from (201) 932-3605 (Rutgers Feature Phone).

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME
BY NATHANIEL PHILLIPS

VOLUME I
FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE
YEAR 1700

BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY
J. B. ALLEN, 10 NASSAU ST.

NEW YORK: 1856

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The issue of senatorial courtesy has been a controversial topic in recent months, especially in regard to the re-appointments of Justices Robert Wilentz and Stewart Pollock to the State Supreme Court. Governor Kean has also complained that a number of his appointments to other government posts are being blocked by various senators through the courtesy custom. When asked if this practice should be allowed to continue, 53 percent of New Jersey residents say the state should not allow senatorial courtesy, while only 28 percent feel it should. The remaining 19 percent offer no opinion. These figures are nearly identical to the findings of a 1983 Star-Ledger/Eagleton survey, taken around the time of an attempt to use the courtesy rule to block another judicial appointment.

Despite the controversy and extensive newspaper coverage it has received, only 22 percent of New Jerseyans report having heard or read anything about the issue, while 78 percent have not. These figures also are identical to those found in the 1983 survey.

By a wide margin the public supports the idea of a tax amnesty, such as is called for in legislation passed by the Assembly last month. Sixty-nine percent of New Jerseyans would approve of a one-time only, 90 day period during which individuals and businesses could pay any back taxes they owe plus interest. Twenty-two percent would disapprove of such a plan, while the remainder offer no firm opinion. Thus, those approving of the proposed amnesty outnumber those disapproving by more than 3-to-1, despite the fact that a sizeable plurality of the public--47 percent--feels it would be unfair to the people who pay their taxes on time. Another 39 percent say it is not unfair, while the remainder are not sure.

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Most New Jerseyans do not believe that a tax amnesty would lead more people to try and avoid paying taxes. Fully 60 percent say the plan would not encourage people to cheat on their taxes, while 29 percent think that it would. The remaining 12 percent aren't sure or don't know.

Bob Carter, associate director of the Poll, commented, "While a sizeable segment of the public agrees it's unfair to let tax cheaters off with no civil or criminal penalties, most feel an amnesty is at least a way to get some of them to pay what they owe. As for encouraging more cheating, the underlying sentiment among the public is that people who cheat are going to do it regardless of the laws, but a tax amnesty won't lead honest taxpayers to start cheating."

Governor Kean continues to earn extremely high job performance ratings, with 74 percent of residents saying he is doing an "excellent" or "good" job. As it has been in the past, Kean's support remains very broad based, with Democrats (69 percent "excellent" or "good") giving him only slightly less positive evaluations than either Republicans (76 percent) or Independents (77 percent). President Reagan receives positive ratings from 63 percent of New Jerseyans, though he remains much less popular with Democrats (46 percent "excellent" or "good") than with Independents (65 percent positive) or Republicans (83 percent positive).

Forty-four percent of New Jerseyans say the State Legislature is doing an "excellent" or "good" job, compared to 4-in-10 who give negative evaluations of "only fair" or "poor." While these figures have been essentially stable during the last year, they remain markedly improved over two years ago when the proportion giving negative ratings outnumbered those giving positive ones by more than 20 points.

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The Star-Ledger/EAGLETON POLL

BACKGROUND MEMO--RELEASE SL/EP12-1 (EP62-1), SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1986

The latest Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll was conducted between July 11 and 21, 1986, when a random sample of New Jerseyans, (18 years and older) was interviewed by telephone. Figures presented for the total sample of 800 have a sampling error of ± 3.5 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sample taken from that population. Sampling error does not take into account the possible sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The questions and figures referred to in this release are as follows:

"Have you heard or read anything about "Senatorial Courtesy," a topic that came up when the New Jersey Senate was deciding whether to confirm a judge?"

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
July 1986	22%	78%	100%	(800)
October 1983	23	77	100	(802)

"Senatorial courtesy is an unwritten rule that allows a state Senator to block the Governor's appointment of any person who is from the Senator's home district. The Senator involved is not required to state a reason for objecting. On the whole, do you think New Jersey should or should not allow Senatorial courtesy?"

	<u>Should</u>	<u>Should Not</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
July 1986	28%	53%	19%	100%	(800)
October 1983	28	56	17	101	(803)

"The Legislature is considering a proposal to establish a tax amnesty for individuals or businesses who owe the state back taxes. Have you heard or read anything about this?"

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Total	35%	65%	100%	(799)

"The tax amnesty would provide a one-time only, 90 day period during which individuals and businesses could pay any back taxes they owe plus interest. There would be no civil or criminal penalties. In general, do you approve or disapprove of this proposal?"

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Depends</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Total	69%	22%	3%	6%	100%	(799)

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

The city of Boston, situated on a small island in the harbor of Massachusetts, was first settled by a group of Puritan settlers in 1630. The city grew rapidly, becoming one of the most important centers of commerce and industry in the New England region. In 1773, the city was the site of the Boston Tea Party, a protest against British taxation that led to the American Revolution. The city played a key role in the early years of the United States, serving as the headquarters of the Continental Congress and the first capital of the new nation. In the 19th century, the city became a major center of manufacturing and trade, and in the 20th century, it emerged as a leading center of finance and technology.

The city of Boston is known for its rich history and cultural heritage. It is home to many historic landmarks, including the Freedom Trail, the Boston Common, and the Old State House. The city is also known for its education, with many of the oldest universities in the United States located here. Boston is a vibrant city with a diverse population and a strong sense of community. It is a city that has shaped the course of American history and continues to play a vital role in the nation's future.

Boston is a city of many firsts. It was the first city to have a public library, the first city to have a fire department, and the first city to have a police department. It was also the first city to have a subway system and the first city to have a public housing program. Boston is a city that has always been at the forefront of innovation and progress, and it continues to be a city that is shaping the future of the United States.

"Some people say a tax amnesty is unfair to the people who pay their taxes on time, while others say it is a good way for the state to collect taxes which otherwise would not be paid. Do you think the proposed tax amnesty is unfair or is not unfair to the people who pay their taxes on time?"

	<u>Unfair</u>	<u>Not Unfair</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Total	47%	39%	9%	5%	100%	(799)

"Even though this plan is for one-time only, some people say it will encourage people to cheat on their taxes. Do you think the proposed tax amnesty would or would not encourage people to cheat on their taxes?"

	<u>Would</u>	<u>Would Not</u>	<u>Depends</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Total	29%	60%	4%	8%	101%	(799)

"How would you rate the job Tom Kean is doing as Governor--excellent, good, only fair or poor?"

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
July 1986	22%	52%	19%	3%	5%	101%	(800)
February 1986	27	53	14	4	3	101	(600)
August 1985	22	54	20	2	3	101	(800)
April-May 1985	24	43	24	3	5	99	(1000)
April 1984	13	44	31	5	8	101	(805)
<u>July 1986 Party</u>							
--Democrat	21	48	25	4	2	100	(242)
--Independent	19	58	13	3	7	100	(313)
--Republican	25	51	17	3	4	100	(201)

"How would you rate the job the New Jersey Supreme Court is doing--excellent, good, only fair or poor?"

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
July 1986	6%	31%	29%	7%	27%	100%	(800)
February 1986	4	37	27	6	26	100	(600)
April-May 1985	3	34	31	7	25	100	(999)
April 1984	4	26	30	8	32	100	(805)

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"How would you rate the job the New Jersey State Legislature is doing--excellent, good, only fair or poor?"

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
July 1986	4%	40%	35%	5%	16%	100%	(800)
February 1986	4	43	32	7	15	101	(600)
August 1985	5	40	37	6	13	101	(800)
April-May 1985	2	41	37	6	14	100	(500)
April 1984	3	28	45	8	16	100	(805)
<u>July 1986 Party</u>							
--Democrat	9	40	34	4	14	101	(242)
--Independent	1	38	37	8	16	100	(313)
--Republican	3	41	34	5	17	100	(201)

"How would you rate the job Ronald Reagan is doing as president--excellent, good, only fair or poor?"

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
July 1986	19%	44%	23%	9%	4%	99%	(800)
February 1986	23	46	19	9	3	100	(600)
August 1985	19	39	25	14	3	100	(800)
April-May 1985	15	40	26	16	3	100	(1000)
April 1984	12	35	37	15	2	101	(804)
<u>July 1986 Party</u>							
--Democrat	11	35	33	17	4	100	(242)
--Independent	14	51	22	9	4	100	(313)
--Republican	36	47	12	1	4	100	(201)

