

Nov. 9, 2021

CONTACT:

Ashley Koning, Director
Office: 848-932-8940
Cell: 908-872-1186
akoning@rutgers.edu

All news releases are available at https://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu/press_releases/. Follow the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

New Jerseyans Concerned About *Roe v. Wade*'s Future, About Half Want to See New Jersey Pass Laws to Protect and Expand Access to Abortion Care

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (Nov. 9, 2021) – As the issue of reproductive rights takes center stage both nationally and statewide, New Jerseyans are worried about the future of *Roe v. Wade*. According to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll in collaboration with New Jersey Policy Perspective, residents would like to see New Jersey ensure the protection and expansion of reproductive care, including abortion. Likewise, New Jerseyans say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate in the state who supported the Reproductive Freedom Act.

Two-thirds of New Jerseyans are “very” (41 percent) or “somewhat” (24 percent) concerned about the U.S. Supreme Court possibly overturning *Roe v. Wade* in the future; 13 percent are “not very” concerned, and 6 percent are “not at all” concerned. Concern for the ruling’s future is about the same whether or not respondents are reminded that the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the recent Texas law that effectively bans abortion after six weeks of pregnancy.

Over half (54 percent) would generally like to see New Jersey pass laws that protect and expand access to abortion care, while 25 percent would like to see the state make it more difficult to get an abortion; 11 percent choose neither option, and 9 percent are unsure.

Four in ten New Jerseyans say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate running for office in New Jersey who supports the Reproductive Freedom Act – double the number who say they would be less likely to do so (21 percent). Just over a quarter (28 percent) say it would make no difference to their vote, and 11 percent are unsure.

“Abortion rights have always had support in New Jersey for as long as the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll has asked the issue,” said Ashley Koning, an assistant research professor and director of the [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling \(ECPIP\)](#) at [Rutgers University–New Brunswick](#). “In fact, New Jerseyans have continually been opposed to any state laws restricting abortion access for the past about three decades.”

**Abortion Access November 2021
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

“This polling shows what we know has long been true in New Jersey – voters support access to abortion and want their elected representatives to expand access and eliminate barriers,” said Sheila Reynertson, senior policy analyst at [New Jersey Policy Perspective](#).

In general, 38 percent of New Jerseyans think abortion should be legal in all cases and 29 percent in most cases. Eighteen percent believe abortion should be illegal in most cases and another 8 percent in all cases.

While partisanship plays a role in attitudes toward abortion rights, access, and care, Democrats, Independents, and Republicans alike are concerned about *Roe v. Wade* being overturned – albeit to varying degrees. Democrats are the most likely to say they are “very” or “somewhat” concerned (85 percent), followed by Independents (55 percent) and Republicans (50 percent). Half or more of partisans of all stripes also believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases (85 percent of Democrats, 61 percent of Independents, and 50 percent of Republicans). However, Democrats are much more likely than their counterparts to support protection and expansion of access to abortion care in the Garden State, as well as vote for a candidate who supports the Reproductive Freedom Act; Independents and Republicans, on the other hand, are more mixed.

Other key demographics play a role in abortion-related views. Women are more likely than men to be concerned about the possibility of *Roe v. Wade* being overturned, are more supportive of abortion in at least most cases, would like New Jersey to protect and expand abortion care, and would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported the Reproductive Freedom Act.

White, Black, and Hispanic adults are all equally likely to support abortion in at least most cases, however Black adults are more likely to be concerned about a *Roe v. Wade* overturn and are more likely to support New Jersey expanding and protecting abortion care.

While adults ages 18-34 express more support for abortion in at least most cases, adults 65 years and older are most concerned about *Roe v. Wade* being overturned. The two age groups express nearly equal support for New Jersey expanding and protecting abortion care. Still, those aged 18-34 are far more likely to vote for a candidate who supported the Reproductive Freedom Act.

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,008 adults contacted by live interviewers on landlines and cell phones from Oct. 21–27. The full sample has a margin of error of +/- 3.9 percentage points.

###

Broadcast interviews: Rutgers University–New Brunswick has broadcast-quality TV and radio studios available for remote live or taped interviews with Rutgers experts. For more information, contact John Cramer at john.cramer@rutgers.edu.

ABOUT RUTGERS—NEW BRUNSWICK

**Abortion Access November 2021
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

Rutgers University–New Brunswick is where Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, began more than 250 years ago. Ranked among the world’s top 60 universities, Rutgers’s flagship university is a leading public research institution and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. It is home to internationally acclaimed faculty and has 12 degree-granting schools and a Division I Athletics program. It is the Big Ten Conference’s most diverse university. Through its community of teachers, scholars, artists, scientists, and healers, Rutgers is equipped as never before to transform lives.

ABOUT THE EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST POLLING (ECPIP)

*Home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, ECPIP was established in 1971 and is the oldest and one of the most respected university-based state survey research centers in the United States. Now in its 50th year and with the publication of over 200 polls, ECPIP’s mission is to provide scientifically sound, non-partisan information about public opinion. To read more about ECPIP and view all of our press releases, published research, and data archive, please visit our website: eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. You can also visit our **Facebook** and **Twitter**.*

ABOUT THE EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

The Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling is a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. The Eagleton Institute studies how American politics and government work and change, analyzes how the democracy might improve, and promotes political participation and civic engagement. The Institute explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. To learn more about Eagleton programs and expertise, visit eagleton.rutgers.edu.

NEW JERSEY POLICY PERSPECTIVE

New Jersey Policy Perspective (NJPP) is a nonpartisan think tank that drives policy change to advance economic, social, and racial justice through evidence-based, independent research, analysis, and strategic communications.

QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in this release are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are New Jersey registered voters, unless otherwise noted; all percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with sample sizes under 100 with extreme caution.

Q. Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases, or illegal in all cases?

Legal all	38%
Legal most	29%
Illegal most	18%
Illegal all	8%
Don't know	8%
Unweighted N=	973

	Party ID			Sex		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Legal all	57%	32%	17%	33%	42%	36%	45%	46%	36%	44%	35%	34%	36%
Legal most	28%	29%	33%	30%	27%	32%	23%	22%	29%	26%	31%	34%	24%
Illegal most	8%	17%	32%	19%	16%	20%	6%	16%	18%	13%	20%	18%	21%
Illegal all	3%	11%	10%	8%	8%	7%	14%	9%	4%	7%	9%	5%	10%
DK	4%	11%	7%	10%	6%	5%	12%	8%	13%	9%	5%	9%	8%
Unwt N=	349	353	249	470	494	630	99	114	73	267	260	246	185

**Abortion Access November 2021
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Legal all	38%	36%	43%	37%	40%	38%	42%	36%	32%	35%	35%	42%	40%
Legal most	26%	31%	32%	36%	24%	32%	28%	29%	30%	22%	34%	29%	33%
Illegal most	16%	18%	17%	17%	18%	16%	13%	20%	22%	18%	16%	21%	16%
Illegal all	10%	7%	4%	6%	8%	5%	11%	8%	11%	10%	7%	6%	6%
DK	9%	8%	4%	4%	10%	9%	6%	7%	5%	15%	7%	2%	5%
Unwt N=	210	288	162	190	140	342	138	175	176	152	292	294	225

Q. [VERSION A] A recent Texas law that effectively bans abortion after 6 weeks of pregnancy was upheld by the US Supreme Court. How concerned are you that the US Supreme Court might eventually overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which established a constitutional right to an abortion – are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

[VERSION B] How concerned are you that the US Supreme Court might eventually overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which established a constitutional right to an abortion – are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

[NOTE: SPLIT SAMPLE—HALF OF RESPONDENTS RECEIVED VERSION A AND HALF RECEIVED VERSION B]

[COMBINED]

Very	41%
Somewhat	24%
Not very	13%
Not at all	16%
DK	6%
Unweighted N=	983

	Party ID			Sex		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very	65%	30%	22%	34%	48%	42%	43%	39%	42%	37%	34%	43%	51%
Smwht	21%	25%	28%	23%	23%	24%	26%	23%	21%	25%	25%	21%	23%
Not very	6%	15%	21%	15%	12%	15%	7%	13%	13%	15%	16%	13%	9%
Not at all	5%	22%	23%	23%	10%	16%	17%	14%	14%	12%	20%	20%	14%
DK	3%	8%	6%	4%	7%	3%	6%	10%	10%	10%	5%	3%	2%
Unwt N=	353	359	249	474	500	633	102	116	73	266	268	249	186

**Abortion Access November 2021
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Income				Region				Education				
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very	37%	45%	45%	41%	51%	40%	46%	38%	32%	34%	37%	45%	54%
Smwht	30%	18%	29%	22%	22%	24%	25%	23%	24%	26%	24%	22%	20%
Not very	12%	12%	13%	16%	9%	16%	6%	14%	17%	16%	13%	14%	8%
Not at all	14%	16%	11%	21%	13%	14%	18%	17%	21%	15%	20%	15%	15%
DK	7%	8%	1%	0%	6%	5%	5%	8%	6%	9%	5%	3%	2%
Unwt N=	215	292	163	189	144	349	139	175	174	150	300	297	226

**Abortion Access November 2021
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

Q. As you may know, while Roe v. Wade established a constitutional right to have an abortion, many states have passed laws restricting access to abortion. Thinking about New Jersey, would you generally like to see New Jersey pass laws [ROTATE ORDER: to make it more difficult to get an abortion, or to protect and expand access to abortion care]?

Make difficult	25%
Protect/expand	54%
Neither	11%
Don't know	9%
Unweighted N=	975

	Party ID			Sex		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Make difficult	9%	27%	46%	29%	22%	28%	17%	22%	16%	21%	28%	22%	32%
Protect/ expand	80%	47%	30%	50%	59%	54%	62%	56%	57%	57%	51%	53%	56%
Neither	5%	15%	15%	11%	10%	11%	6%	7%	17%	10%	11%	14%	8%
DK	7%	12%	9%	10%	9%	7%	14%	14%	10%	12%	10%	11%	4%
Unwt N=	348	358	248	471	495	627	101	114	74	269	265	244	183

**Abortion Access November 2021
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Make difficult	29%	18%	21%	26%	29%	21%	24%	29%	29%	30%	24%	25%	19%
Protect/ expand	47%	63%	60%	58%	60%	57%	54%	47%	50%	47%	50%	62%	67%
Neither	11%	8%	13%	12%	4%	12%	17%	10%	11%	9%	15%	9%	10%
DK	13%	11%	7%	5%	7%	9%	6%	14%	10%	15%	11%	4%	4%
Unwt N=	214	287	163	189	142	344	140	175	172	150	295	294	226

Q. The Reproductive Freedom Act in New Jersey would expand access and eliminate barriers to birth control and pregnancy-related care, including abortion. If a candidate running for office in New Jersey supports the bill, would this make you more likely to vote for the candidate, less likely, or would the candidate’s position on it make no difference to your vote?

More likely	40%
Less likely	21%
No difference	28%
Don’t know	11%
Unweighted N=	965

	Party ID			Sex		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
More likely	64%	28%	25%	35%	45%	42%	42%	44%	41%	47%	42%	38%	33%
Less likely	12%	23%	31%	23%	19%	21%	20%	16%	25%	16%	24%	16%	30%
No diff	17%	35%	34%	32%	23%	27%	28%	28%	25%	21%	28%	36%	26%
DK	8%	14%	10%	9%	13%	10%	11%	13%	9%	16%	6%	10%	11%
Unwt N=	349	353	246	465	491	624	100	113	73	268	261	246	177

**Abortion Access November 2021
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
More likely	39%	45%	41%	46%	45%	38%	46%	44%	32%	29%	38%	48%	56%
Less likely	20%	19%	22%	19%	23%	21%	22%	19%	19%	20%	22%	21%	20%
No diff	30%	23%	29%	31%	21%	29%	22%	24%	41%	32%	30%	25%	19%
DK	12%	12%	8%	4%	11%	12%	10%	12%	8%	19%	10%	7%	5%
Unwt N=	212	286	160	186	138	341	138	172	174	147	292	293	223

Methodology

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live interviewers October 21-27, 2021, with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,008 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. Persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process. Respondents within a household are selected by asking randomly for the youngest adult male or female currently available. If the named gender is not available, the youngest adult of the other gender is interviewed. The poll was available in Spanish for respondents who requested it. This poll included 308 adults reached on a landline phone and 700 adults reached on a cell phone, all acquired through random digit dialing; 475 of the cell phone completes were acquired through one-to-one SMS text messaging by live interviewers that led respondents to an online version of the survey. Distribution of phone use in this sample is:

Cell Only	46%
Dual Use, Reached on Cell	20%
Dual Use, Reached on LL	49%
Landline Only	2%

The data were weighted to be representative of the non-institutionalized adult population of New Jersey. The weighting balanced sample demographics to target population parameters. The sample is balanced, by form, to match parameters for sex, age, education, region, race/ethnicity and phone use. The sex, age, education, race/ethnicity, and region parameters were derived from 2019 American Community Survey PUMS data. The phone use parameter was derived from estimates provided by the National Health Interview Survey Early Release Program.¹

Weighting was done in three stages. The first stage of weighting corrects for different probabilities of selection across the RDD samples associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent’s telephone usage patterns. This adjustment also accounts for the overlapping landline and cell sample frames and the relative sizes of each frame and each sample.²

The second stage of weighting involved running a propensity score model on all cell sample. A logit model was used to predict the propensity of cell respondents to respond by text, and the inverse of the predicted probability was used as propensity score adjustment for the text respondents. The independent variables in the model included sample demographics plus a handful of substantive questions.

The third and final stage of weighting balances sample demographics, by form, to match target population benchmarks. This weighting was accomplished using SPSSINC RAKE, an SPSS extension module that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using the GENLOG procedure. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on survey estimates. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population.

Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. We calculate the effects of these design features so that an appropriate

1 NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2014–2018; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013–2018.

2 Buskirk, T. D., & Best, J. (2012). Venn Diagrams, Probability 101 and Sampling Weights Computed for Dual Frame Telephone RDD Designs. *Journal of Statistics and Mathematics*, 15, 3696-3710.

**Abortion Access November 2021
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response.³

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. Sampling error should be adjusted to recognize the effect of weighting the data to better match the population.

In this poll, the simple sampling error for 1,008 New Jersey adults is +/-3.1 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval.⁴ This means that in 95 out every 100 samples using the same methodology, estimated proportions based on the entire sample will be no more than 3.1 percentage points away from their true values in the population. The design effect⁵ is 1.59, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.9 percentage points. Thus, if 50 percent of New Jersey adults in this sample favor a particular position, we would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 46.1 and 53.9 percent (50 +/- 3.9) if all New Jersey adults had been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

Sampling error does not consider 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. with sample from Dynata. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP). Jessica Roman and Dr. Kyle Morgan assisted with analysis and preparation of this report. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, a non-partisan academic center for the study of politics and the political process. Full questionnaires are available on request and can also be accessed through our archives at eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. For more information, please contact poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu.

**Weighted Sample Characteristics
1,008 New Jersey Adults**

Male	47%	Democrat	38%	18-34	29%	HS or Less	30%	White	57%
Female	53%	Independent	37%	35-49	22%	Some College	30%	Black	14%
		Republican	26%	50-64	28%	College Grad	22%	Hispanic	17%
				65+	21%	Grad Work	18%	Other	12%

³ The composite design effect for a sample of size n, with each case having a weight, w, is computed as $deff = n \sum w^2 / (\sum w)^2$.

⁴ The survey's maximum margin of error is the largest 95% confidence interval for any estimated proportion based on the total sample – one around 50%.

⁵ Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. We calculate the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response.