

RUTGERS NEWS SERVICE
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NEW BRUNSWICK, Nov. 6 -- If the average New Jersey citizen could tell Governor Cahill and the newly-elected members of the State legislature what to do, his message would be "watch out for the pocketbook issues."

Concern over economic problems was clearly apparent in the New Jersey Poll, a state-wide survey conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics of Rutgers University. Figures released today by the poll, which is based on a random sample of state residents, also show how a person's income level changes his views on public problems.

When asked what are the two or three most important problems facing the State of New Jersey, 26 per cent of all respondents listed high taxes and tax structure. This was the highest percentage for any single issue.

Stephen Salmore, director of the New Jersey Poll, noted that welfare and unemployment, also economic issues, were listed by 24 per cent of the sample in response to this question.

New Jerseyans who earn more than \$15,000 a year mentioned taxes as a key problem in 36 per cent of their replies. The least affluent, those with incomes under \$5,000, were more worried about unemployment, poverty and social welfare. In all, 32 per cent of those earning below \$5,000 per year listed these as prime problems.

Among the findings of the poll were that non-whites are considerably more worried than whites about the problem of crime. Forty-one per cent of the non-whites listed crime as an important problem facing New Jersey, as compared to 21 per cent of the whites who mentioned this issue.

Among New Jerseyans under 30, environmental issues were of great concern. The younger respondents also more frequently mentioned corruption in government as a major problem.

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Attitudes toward environmental problems shifted in relation to the individual's economic status. Among affluent respondents, 31 per cent singled out ecology, pollution and the environment as a problem area, while only 10 per cent of those in the least affluent group chose to mention this area.

The five problems which worried the greatest number of New Jerseyans were, in rank order 1-high taxes and tax structure, 2-crime and drug addiction, 3-poverty, welfare and unemployment, 4-ecology, pollution and the environment, and 5-education and schools. Roughly one of every five persons queried listed these issues.

Opinions on non-economic issues also varied according to the respondents' economic status. Lower income citizens stressed the need for improved housing and combatting crime, while those of higher income tended to be more concerned about education, ecology and transportation problems.

Certain issues seemed to emerge as urban problems, while others were of more concern to suburban and rural residents. Crime and drug addiction, housing and corruption in government were more frequently named by city dwellers, while suburban and rural residents were more likely to mention ecology and taxes.

The statistics released today were drawn from the first New Jersey Poll, which was based on a random sample of 1,208 New Jersey residents, 18 years old and older, who were interviewed by telephone from Eagleton between Sept. 24 and Oct. 1. A second poll is scheduled for February.

Tabulation of the responses was performed by the Opinion Research Corp. of Princeton. The poll is financed by grants from the Wallace-Eljabar Fund and the Eagleton Institute.

A partial chart of responses follows:

What are the two or three most important problems facing the State of New Jersey?

(all respondents)

High taxes and tax structure . . . . .	.26%
Crime and drug addiction . . . . .	.24
Poverty, welfare and unemployment. . . . .	.24
Ecology, pollution and the environment . . . . .	.23
Education and schools . . . . .	.22
Transportation and highways. . . . .	.11
Housing . . . . .	.10
Inflation and government spending.	7
Corruption in government	7
Civil rights and race relations.	7

(respondents earning more than \$15,000 a year)

High taxes and tax structure . . . . .	.36%
Ecology, pollution and the environment . . . . .	.31
Education and schools . . . . .	.29
Poverty, welfare and unemployment. . . . .	.20

(respondents earning less than \$5,000 a year)

Poverty, welfare and unemployment . . . . .	.32%
Crime and drug addiction . . . . .	.27
Housing . . . . .	.17
Pollution, ecology, and the environment. . . . .	.10