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

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Majority of New Jerseyans Support Inflation Reduction Act but Don't Think It Will Help Their Family Finances
Six in 10 residents have cut back on other spending to afford necessities

Note: Data collection for this poll finished in early September. Results should be interpreted as a snapshot in time given the nature of public opinion polling and the constantly changing political environment.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (October 24, 2022) –New Jerseyans are cutting back on spending amidst rising prices, and while two-thirds support the Inflation Reduction Act, nearly the same number don't think the legislation will be helpful to them personally, according to a Rutgers-Eagleton poll.

Forty-one percent say they "strongly" support the Inflation Reduction Act being signed into law and 24 percent "somewhat" support it. Meanwhile, 8 percent, "somewhat" oppose it and 22 percent "strongly" oppose it.

Still, New Jerseyans say they don't believe the Inflation Reduction Act will help them and their family all that much when it comes to personal finances and spending. About 10 percent feel it will help them "a lot," 24 percent said "some," 22 percent "a little" and 38 percent "not at all."

"There is a bit of a disconnect between support for the Inflation Reduction Act and how much New Jerseyans actually think they will be impacted, with even the law's strongest supporters divided on how much it will help them personally," said Ashley Koning, an assistant research professor and director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. "The fact that voters do not perceive a significant personal benefit from major legislation by the Biden administration during difficult economic times is a troubling sign for Democratic candidates across the country with a consequential election just weeks away."

Views are starkly divided by party lines. Most Democrats support the Inflation Reduction Act (69 percent strongly support, 21 percent somewhat support), while most Republicans oppose it (16 percent somewhat oppose, 65 percent strongly oppose). Independents are mostly

supportive, though not to the same degree as Democrats; 30 percent of independents "strongly" support the Inflation Reduction Act and 32 percent somewhat support it. Majorities of other key demographics show some level of support for the legislation as well.

Democrats are the most optimistic of any demographic when it comes to how much they believe the legislation will help them personally. Slightly more than half say they believe it will help them and their family either "a lot" (17 percent) or "some" (37 percent). Republicans feel just the opposite, with 81 percent saying the new legislation won't help them "at all." Slightly more than six in 10 independents say they believe the law won't help their family "at all" (36 percent) or will only help "a little" (27 percent).

New Jerseyans report cutting back on other spending in order to afford necessities. Twenty-eight percent say they have cut back on spending "a lot," 33 percent say "some," 19 percent say "a little," and 19 percent say "not at all." Partisan divisions emerge, even when it comes to perceived spending habits; slightly less than half of Democrats say they have cut back on at least "some" spending, compared to two-thirds of independents and three-quarters of Republicans.

Non-white residents are more likely than non-Hispanic white residents by double digits to say they have cut back "a lot." Additionally, residents in households making less than $100,000 annually and those with some college or less are similarly more likely than their counterparts to say they have cut back on spending to afford necessities.

"Reports of cutting back on spending come as no surprise, given that New Jerseyans cite economic issues as the top reason why they will vote in the upcoming midterm election," said Jessica Roman, a research associate at ECPIP. "Voters are looking at their wallets and hoping for a light at the end of the tunnel amidst the soaring cost of living."

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,006 adults contacted by live interviewers on landlines and cell phones from Aug. 30 to Sept. 8. The full sample has a margin of error of +/- 3.8 percentage points.

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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 Megan Schumann megan.schumann@rutgers.edu.

ABOUT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY–NEW BRUNSWICK
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' 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
Home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) was established in 1971 and is the oldest and one of the most respected university-based statewide polling operations 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 page and Twitter profile.

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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.

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 adults; all percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with samples sizes under 100 with extreme caution.

R1. **How much have you and your family had to cut back on other spending, if at all, in order to afford necessities? Have you cut back: a lot, some, a little, or not at all?**
Note: Half of respondents received questions on this topic and half received questions on another topic.

A lot	28%
Some	33%
A little	19%
Not at all	19%
Don't know	1%
Unweighted N=	504

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A lot	16%	31%	46%	27%	29%	23%	35%	28%	29%	37%	16%
Some	32%	35%	32%	30%	37%	34%	32%	28%	31%	36%	38%
A little	24%	18%	11%	20%	18%	19%	18%	23%	19%	16%	18%
Not at all	27%	15%	11%	23%	15%	23%	15%	20%	20%	12%	27%
DK	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Unwt N=	212	190	97	272	229	299	194	110	123	166	100

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A lot	38%	15%	35%	18%
Some	33%	31%	35%	32%
A little	16%	24%	18%	21%
Not at all	12%	30%	12%	29%
DK	1%	0%	0%	1%
Unwt N=	221	239	177	326

R2. The Inflation Reduction Act is legislation which includes corporate tax hikes, climate change measures, and changes to the Affordable Care Act that would enable Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices.

Based on what you know about the Inflation Reduction Act, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose its being signed into law?
Note: Half of respondents received questions on this topic and half received questions on another topic.

Strongly support	41%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	22%
Don't know	5%
Unweighted N=	503

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Strongly support	69%	30%	6%	38%	44%	40%	42%	39%	42%	35%	52%
Somewhat support	21%	32%	11%	21%	26%	21%	28%	28%	18%	24%	24%
Somewhat oppose	4%	9%	16%	12%	5%	6%	11%	14%	10%	8%	0%
Strongly oppose	2%	20%	65%	26%	18%	27%	14%	15%	26%	28%	14%
DK	4%	8%	2%	4%	7%	6%	4%	4%	5%	4%	10%
Unwt N=	213	188	97	272	228	298	195	109	124	166	99

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Strongly support	43%	41%	39%	44%
Somewhat support	25%	21%	22%	27%
Somewhat oppose	9%	8%	11%	5%
Strongly oppose	19%	26%	24%	18%
DK	4%	4%	5%	7%
Unwt N=	220	240	176	326

R3. **How much do you think the Inflation Reduction Act will help you and your family in terms of your personal finances and spending?**
Note: Half of respondents received questions on this topic and half received questions on another topic.

A lot	10%
Some	24%
A little	22%
Not at all	38%
Don't know	6%
Unweighted N=	504

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A lot	17%	7%	4%	11%	10%	9%	12%	12%	5%	9%	16%
Some	37%	21%	6%	14%	33%	23%	27%	23%	24%	25%	27%
A little	25%	27%	5%	23%	20%	18%	28%	31%	16%	21%	17%
Not at all	17%	36%	81%	46%	30%	43%	30%	26%	48%	43%	33%
DK	4%	8%	5%	6%	6%	8%	3%	7%	7%	2%	7%
Unwt N=	213	189	97	272	229	299	195	110	124	166	100

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A lot	13%	6%	13%	6%
Some	28%	19%	26%	23%
A little	20%	24%	18%	26%
Not at all	32%	46%	38%	38%
DK	6%	5%	5%	7%
Unwt N=	221	239	176	327

Methodology
The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live interviewers August 30 to September 8, 2022, with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,006 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. This telephone poll included 291 adults reached on a landline phone and 715 adults reached on a cell phone, all acquired through random digit dialing; 327 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	39%
Text to Web	33%
Landline	29%

The data were weighted to be representative of the residential adult population of New Jersey. The weighting balances sample demographics to target population parameters. The sample is balanced, by form and overall, to match parameters for sex, age, education, race/ethnicity, region 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 two stages. The first stage of weighting corrects for different probabilities of selection across the telephone 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 final stage of weighting balances sample demographics, overall and 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.

A series of weight variables was computed. One weight for estimates based on the total sample ("weight"), plus separate weights for each of the split samples.

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.

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

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[1] NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2017–2019; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017–2019.

[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.

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 1,006 New Jersey adults is +/-3.1 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The design effect[3] is 1.52, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.8 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 46.2 and 53.8 percent (50 +/- 3.8) 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). 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 Demographics
1,006 New Jersey adults 18+
Overall Margin of Error = +/- 3.8 percentage points
Please note: Totals may equal slightly more or less than 100% due to rounding.

		deff	MOE			deff	MOE
Man	48%	1.54	+/- 5.3%	**White**	57%	1.52	+/- 4.9%
Woman	52%	1.47	+/- 5.5%	**Black**	12%	1.48	+/- 11.6%
				Hispanic	19%	1.45	+/- 9.2%
18-34	27%	1.40	+/- 7.7%	**Other**	12%	1.51	+/- 11.8%
35-49	23%	1.41	+/- 7.5%				
50-64	29%	1.58	+/- 6.9%	**<50K**	22%	1.45	+/- 9.8%
65+	21%	1.64	+/- 8.7%	**50K-<100K**	35%	1.44	+/- 6.9%
				100K-<150K	18%	1.53	+/- 9.0%
Democrat	38%	1.51	+/- 6.0%	**150K+**	24%	1.44	+/- 7.0%
Independent	42%	1.52	+/- 6.1%				
Republican	20%	1.48	+/- 8.5%	**Urban**	17%	1.46	+/- 9.3%
				Suburb	36%	1.53	+/- 6.4%
HS or Less	30%	1.10	+/- 8.9%	**Exurban**	14%	1.52	+/- 10.3%
Some College	29%	1.24	+/- 7.1%	**Phil/South**	18%	1.55	+/- 9.2%
College Grad	24%	1.17	+/- 5.5%	**Shore**	17%	1.52	+/- 9.1%
Grad Work	17%	1.15	+/- 6.4%				

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[3] 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.