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Public Interest Polling

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New Jerseyans Haven't Heard Much About State Budget, Divided on Corporate Business Tax Expiration and School Funding

Governor and state earn lackluster marks on fiscal issues; Murphy's approval rating and favorability and state direction decline

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (May 26, 2023) – Most New Jerseyans have little knowledge of the state's proposed budget for fiscal year 2024, yet many have opinions about what is in it, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

Three-quarters of New Jerseyans say they have seen or heard little (23 percent) or nothing at all (53 percent) about New Jersey's proposed state budget. Four percent say they have heard a lot about the state budget, and 16 percent say they have heard some of the proposal.

But residents certainly have opinions on what is – and isn't – in the budget. New Jerseyans are at odds on letting the corporate business tax expire: 41 percent say let it expire versus 50 percent who think it should be extended.

Partisans are at opposite ends of the issue: 61 percent of Republicans agree with letting it expire, while 58 percent of Democrats and 59 percent of Independents want it extended. Men (49 percent: expire, 46 percent: extend) and those with some college education or less (46 percent say expire and 47 percent say extend, respectively) are more split on the issue compared with their counterparts who lean toward extending the tax.

Residents are even more split when it comes to the school funding formula, with about half saying that state aid should be distributed evenly among all school districts. One random half of respondents were asked whether the school funding formula should allow more state aid to go toward "lower income", while the other half were asked whether more should go toward "lower property tax communities," but the wording of the question did not make a significant difference in resulting opinions. In either case, slightly less than half support distributing state aid differently throughout the state.

"The economy and education have always been two of the most contentious issues in New

Jersey, so residents' division on the corporate business tax expiration and the school funding formula comes as no surprise," said Ashley Koning, an assistant research professor and director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. "These are two of the most talked-about topics of the next budget, and each have wide-ranging implications for the state's future. The results also show just how hard it is to resolve policy issues in a way that satisfies everyone when, like most of politics nowadays, public opinion is starkly divided."

Gov. Phil Murphy and the state government both receive lackluster grades when it comes to fiscal issues, in general. About a quarter gives each an A or B grade for their job on the state budget, while another quarter fails them. Less than one in five gives them an A or B on taxes, while four in 10 assign a failing grade. Similarly, about one in 10 give the governor and the state an A or B on cost of living and affordability, while roughly four in 10 fail them.

Both the governor and the state do better when it comes to the state's economy and job market, however: A third give the governor an A or B, while nearly four in 10 give similar marks to the state. Roughly three in 10 give them each a C.

New Jerseyans say Murphy and the state government are doing best on education and schools: More than a third give Murphy an A or B, while slightly more than four in 10 give the same high marks to the state government on this issue.

Murphy's overall job approval has taken a slight decline since fall 2022: 47 percent approve of the job he is doing as governor (down 7 points), compared with 43 percent who disapprove (up 6 points); 9 percent are unsure. Murphy's favorability has taken a larger fall, as more residents decide to not take sides this time around: 37 percent now have a favorable opinion of him (down 10 points), while 31 percent have an unfavorable one (down 2 points), 29 percent have no opinion (up 14 points), and 3 percent (down 2 points) are unsure of who he is.

New Jerseyans' outlook on the Garden State overall is, once again, more negative than positive. Forty-two percent say the state is headed in the right direction (down 6 points), while 50 percent say it is on the wrong track (up 5 points); 8 percent are unsure.

"Residents' views on where the state is headed have always been mixed throughout Murphy's tenure – a sharp contrast from the extreme highs and lows during the Christie administration and an indication of the hyper partisanship and polarization that have permeated politics both statewide and nationwide," Koning said.

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,002 adults contacted by live interviewers on landlines and cell phones from April 27 to May 5. The full sample has a margin of error of +/- 3.6 percentage points.

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Broadcast interviews: Rutgers University–New Brunswick has broadcast-quality television and radio studios available for remote live or taped interviews with Rutgers experts. For more information, contact Patti Zielinski at patti.zielinski@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'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
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 52nd year and with the publication of over 200 polls, ECPIP's mission is to provide scientifically sound, nonpartisan 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.

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.

B1A. **How much have you seen or heard about Governor Murphy's proposed state budget for fiscal year 2024?**

B1B. **How much have you seen or heard about New Jersey's proposed state budget for fiscal year 2024?**

Note: These questions were part of a split block. Half of respondents received questions about the budget and half of respondents received questions about another topic.

Note: These questions were part of a split sample. Half of respondents received B1A and half received B1B. There was no significant difference in responses. Tables below reflect combined data from both versions.

A lot	4%
Some	16%
A little	23%
Not at all	53%
Don't know	3%
Unweighted N=	499

	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	3%	6%	4%	7%	1%	3%	5%	1%	7%	7%	3%
Some	14%	19%	16%	17%	16%	18%	14%	9%	15%	18%	23%
A little	24%	23%	21%	25%	21%	29%	17%	24%	22%	21%	26%
Not at all	56%	48%	57%	47%	59%	48%	60%	65%	49%	51%	48%
DK	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	1%	7%	3%	0%
Unwt N=	177	185	120	261	232	292	189	116	142	144	97

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A lot	3%	6%	2%	7%
Some	15%	18%	17%	15%
A little	23%	26%	21%	25%
Not at all	54%	50%	55%	52%
DK	5%	1%	5%	1%
Unwt N=	208	234	208	288

B7.   The current state budget proposal lets a corporate business tax on New Jersey's highest-earning businesses – in other words, those making a net profit above $1 million – expire at the end of 2023. Some say this would [ROTATE: make New Jersey more appealing for businesses to come here, give businesses in the state more money to create jobs and invest in equipment, and ultimately lower consumer costs.] Others say this would [only help big businesses that could otherwise afford the tax, eliminate a source of funding for the state budget, and possibly endanger funding for key programs and services.]

What do you think? Should New Jersey [let the corporate business tax expire at the end of this year], or should New Jersey [extend the corporate business tax]?

Note: This question was part of a split block. Half of respondents received questions about the budget and half of respondents received questions about another topic.

Expire	41%
Extend	50%
Don't know	9%
Unweighted N=	494

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Expire	29%	36%	61%	49%	34%	44%	35%	43%	38%	43%	39%
Extend	58%	59%	34%	46%	54%	49%	54%	49%	52%	46%	56%
DK	13%	5%	6%	5%	12%	7%	11%	8%	10%	11%	5%
Unwt N=	175	184	120	259	229	291	185	117	140	141	96

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Expire	39%	46%	46%	33%

Extend	52%	48%	47%	56%
DK	9%	6%	7%	11%
Unwt N=	205	233	205	286

ED4A. **In the proposed state budget, a majority of public school districts in New Jersey will see an increase in state aid, but some will see a decrease, and some will see no change at all. This is due to a school funding formula that calculates how much additional money the state needs to provide for a quality education based on things like a district's local property tax revenues, enrollment size, and student needs.**

Some people say that [ROTATE: schools in communities with lower property taxes should get more state aid than schools in communities with higher property taxes.] Others say that [state aid should be distributed evenly among all school districts.] What do you think? Should [lower-taxed communities be given more state aid], or should [state aid be distributed evenly]?

Note: This question was part of a split block. Half of respondents received questions about the budget and half of respondents received questions about another topic.

Note: This question was part of a split sample. Half of respondents received ED4A and half received ED4B.

More for schools in lower property tax communities	44%
Distributed evenly	51%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	249

ED4B. **In the proposed state budget, a majority of public school districts in New Jersey will see an increase in state aid, but some will see a decrease, and some will see no change at all. This is due to a school funding formula that calculates how much additional money the state needs to provide for a quality education based on things like a district's local property tax revenues, enrollment size, and student needs.**

Some people say that schools in [ROTATE: lower-income communities should get more state aid than schools in higher-income communities.] Others say that [state aid should be distributed evenly among all school districts.] What do you think? Should [lower-income communities be given more state aid], or should [state aid be distributed evenly]?
Note: This question was part of a split block. Half of respondents received questions about the budget and half of respondents received questions about another topic.
Note: This question was part of a split sample. Half of respondents received ED4A and half received ED4B.

More for schools in lower-income communities	49%
Distributed evenly	47%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	245

NJ4A. **I am now going to list some specific areas and ask you to give Phil Murphy a grade for the job he is doing as governor on each using a grading scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade, A, B, C, D, or F.**

Note: This question was part of a split sample. Half of respondents received NJ4A and half received NJ4B.

	NJ economy and jobs	Taxes	State budget and government spending	Education and schools	Cost of living and affordability
A	11%	4%	6%	14%	2%
B	23%	14%	18%	23%	9%
C	30%	20%	27%	23%	25%
D	15%	21%	17%	13%	21%
F	17%	40%	25%	22%	43%
Don't know	4%	2%	6%	5%	1%
Unwt N=	489	488	487	489	491

New Jersey's economy and jobs

	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	21%	6%	6%	7%	13%	10%	12%	11%	9%	8%	15%
B	34%	16%	19%	27%	19%	22%	25%	22%	26%	26%	16%
C	26%	38%	21%	34%	26%	27%	33%	28%	32%	31%	28%
D	9%	17%	21%	12%	18%	15%	17%	20%	16%	11%	14%
F	4%	19%	32%	16%	19%	20%	12%	14%	15%	22%	19%
DK	7%	3%	2%	3%	5%	6%	2%	5%	3%	2%	7%
Unwt N=	172	197	110	255	233	301	170	124	145	128	92

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A	12%	9%	11%	11%
B	20%	30%	16%	33%
C	31%	27%	33%	25%
D	18%	11%	16%	14%
F	14%	21%	19%	16%
DK	5%	2%	5%	2%
Unwt N=	204	230	194	289

Taxes

	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	8%	1%	4%	3%	5%	3%	4%	6%	1%	1%	8%
B	25%	13%	3%	14%	13%	12%	18%	18%	16%	12%	9%
C	23%	24%	8%	23%	17%	15%	26%	25%	17%	23%	13%
D	21%	22%	21%	19%	23%	23%	19%	22%	19%	18%	25%
F	20%	38%	63%	39%	41%	44%	32%	27%	45%	46%	42%
DK	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%	0%	3%
Unwt N=	170	196	110	255	231	300	169	123	145	127	93

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A	5%	2%	4%	3%
B	14%	14%	12%	17%
C	23%	17%	17%	24%
D	19%	23%	23%	19%
F	36%	43%	42%	34%
DK	3%	1%	2%	2%
Unwt N=	202	230	194	287

The state budget and government spending

	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	14%	2%	4%	5%	6%	7%	7%	8%	2%	2%	15%
B	27%	15%	11%	19%	17%	15%	22%	19%	17%	20%	15%
C	34%	27%	18%	25%	28%	24%	31%	27%	29%	27%	23%
D	10%	23%	18%	23%	12%	17%	18%	18%	18%	15%	19%
F	3%	29%	47%	22%	28%	28%	18%	18%	27%	32%	23%
DK	12%	3%	2%	5%	8%	8%	4%	10%	7%	5%	4%
Unwt N=	171	195	110	253	232	298	170	123	144	127	93

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A	7%	6%	6%	7%
B	16%	19%	16%	21%
C	33%	24%	28%	25%
D	17%	16%	18%	15%
F	20%	29%	25%	26%
DK	7%	5%	7%	6%
Unwt N=	204	227	194	286

Education and schools

	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	27%	9%	5%	10%	17%	17%	11%	11%	13%	6%	30%
B	30%	23%	15%	26%	21%	20%	26%	22%	22%	30%	18%
C	21%	26%	24%	26%	21%	23%	25%	28%	21%	26%	16%
D	8%	19%	9%	14%	12%	13%	14%	16%	12%	10%	13%
F	6%	19%	46%	18%	25%	22%	18%	16%	29%	23%	17%
DK	8%	5%	1%	6%	5%	5%	5%	7%	3%	5%	6%
Unwt N=	172	197	110	255	232	300	170	123	145	128	93

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A	17%	9%	16%	12%
B	18%	28%	19%	29%
C	25%	22%	22%	26%
D	12%	15%	11%	14%
F	21%	24%	25%	16%
DK	7%	3%	6%	3%
Unwt N=	203	230	193	289

Cost of living and affordability

	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	4%	0%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	5%
B	17%	7%	3%	9%	9%	9%	8%	6%	9%	8%	12%
C	39%	21%	17%	30%	20%	24%	28%	23%	16%	35%	26%
D	29%	20%	10%	16%	26%	23%	18%	27%	16%	16%	25%
F	10%	52%	69%	43%	43%	41%	42%	40%	58%	40%	30%
DK	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Unwt N=	172	197	110	255	234	301	171	124	145	129	93

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A	2%	1%	2%	1%
B	6%	12%	4%	15%
C	27%	26%	26%	26%
D	20%	21%	18%	24%
F	44%	40%	50%	34%
DK	1%	0%	0%	1%
Unwt N=	205	230	195	289

NJ4B. **I am now going to list some specific areas and ask you to give the New Jersey state government a grade for the job it is doing on each using a grading scale from A to F. You can give any full letter grade, A, B, C, D, or F.**

Note: This question was part of a split sample. Half of respondents received NJ4A and half received NJ4B.

	NJ economy and jobs	Taxes	State budget and government spending	Education and schools	Cost of living and affordability
A	8%	2%	3%	14%	2%
B	30%	12%	19%	29%	7%
C	32%	18%	28%	26%	21%
D	17%	22%	16%	13%	27%
F	11%	42%	26%	15%	43%
Don't know	3%	3%	7%	3%	0%
Unwt N=	485	491	489	492	492

New Jersey's economy and jobs

	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	11%	7%	6%	8%	7%	7%	9%	8%	10%	6%	9%
B	43%	30%	13%	26%	33%	28%	33%	33%	20%	34%	29%
C	29%	35%	33%	35%	30%	31%	34%	33%	34%	32%	31%
D	7%	18%	27%	19%	15%	19%	13%	18%	16%	16%	18%
F	5%	10%	18%	11%	11%	12%	9%	6%	16%	11%	9%
DK	4%	0%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	1%	4%	2%	4%
Unwt N=	168	181	117	238	240	288	183	101	137	139	108

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A	7%	9%	8%	7%
B	30%	31%	26%	35%
C	31%	30%	32%	33%
D	16%	18%	19%	14%
F	12%	10%	12%	9%
DK	4%	2%	4%	2%
Unwt N=	201	229	210	275

Taxes

	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	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	4%	0%	3%	1%
B	18%	14%	4%	15%	10%	12%	13%	21%	9%	10%	10%
C	29%	16%	8%	15%	21%	18%	19%	23%	17%	12%	22%
D	26%	23%	19%	20%	25%	24%	21%	15%	25%	25%	25%
F	18%	45%	66%	47%	38%	43%	39%	34%	46%	48%	39%
DK	6%	1%	1%	1%	5%	2%	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%
Unwt N=	172	182	118	239	245	292	185	102	137	142	110

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A	3%	1%	2%	2%
B	12%	13%	12%	13%
C	18%	20%	14%	24%
D	23%	23%	22%	22%
F	39%	43%	45%	37%
DK	3%	1%	4%	2%
Unwt N=	203	231	210	281

The state budget and government spending

	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	5%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%	5%	3%
B	30%	18%	9%	21%	18%	20%	20%	23%	13%	22%	17%
C	37%	28%	19%	23%	32%	28%	29%	28%	28%	27%	28%
D	11%	18%	21%	16%	17%	16%	17%	14%	16%	16%	20%
F	8%	27%	47%	32%	21%	30%	21%	22%	31%	26%	28%
DK	10%	6%	2%	5%	8%	5%	10%	10%	8%	5%	4%
Unwt N=	172	181	117	238	244	291	184	102	136	140	111

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A	3%	4%	3%	4%
B	18%	25%	15%	25%
C	33%	22%	27%	29%
D	16%	15%	18%	14%
F	24%	27%	28%	24%
DK	5%	7%	8%	5%
Unwt N=	202	230	210	279

Education and schools

	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	24%	10%	8%	14%	14%	13%	15%	17%	17%	10%	12%
B	40%	28%	20%	28%	30%	28%	31%	33%	17%	36%	31%
C	19%	25%	31%	28%	23%	26%	26%	25%	24%	28%	25%
D	8%	16%	17%	13%	13%	14%	12%	10%	19%	9%	15%
F	7%	17%	21%	13%	17%	16%	13%	12%	15%	16%	16%
DK	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	8%	1%	1%
Unwt N=	172	183	118	240	245	293	185	102	138	141	111

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A	13%	14%	11%	19%
B	30%	29%	28%	32%
C	28%	24%	32%	17%
D	12%	16%	10%	17%
F	15%	13%	16%	13%
DK	2%	3%	4%	2%
Unwt N=	204	231	212	280

Cost of living and affordability

	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	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	0%	5%	3%	0%	4%	1%
B	12%	6%	4%	7%	8%	7%	8%	8%	1%	10%	10%
C	27%	23%	10%	21%	20%	21%	20%	20%	15%	23%	23%
D	33%	27%	20%	26%	27%	29%	23%	26%	25%	25%	32%
F	24%	43%	64%	44%	43%	42%	43%	42%	58%	38%	34%
DK	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Unwt N=	172	183	118	240	245	293	185	102	138	141	111

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
A	4%	1%	3%	1%
B	6%	11%	3%	13%
C	18%	23%	17%	25%
D	27%	26%	26%	28%
F	45%	40%	51%	33%
DK	0%	0%	1%	0%
Unwt N=	204	231	212	280

NJ1.   **Is your general impression of Phil Murphy favorable or unfavorable, or do you not have an opinion about him?**

Note: This question was part of a split sample. Half of respondents received NJ1 and half received NJ1B.

Favorable	37%
Unfavorable	31%
No opinion	29%
Don't know person	3%
Unweighted N=	502

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	65%	28%	12%	37%	39%	37%	40%	32%	32%	39%	47%
Unfavorable	7%	32%	62%	35%	26%	36%	20%	25%	33%	38%	24%
No opinion	25%	37%	24%	25%	34%	25%	37%	41%	27%	22%	28%
DK person	3%	3%	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	1%	7%	1%	1%
Unwt N=	179	186	120	252	247	306	179	111	145	145	101

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Favorable	35%	40%	33%	44%
Unfavorable	25%	40%	30%	32%
No opinion	37%	18%	36%	20%
DK person	3%	1%	2%	4%
Unwt N=	208	232	198	300

NJ1B. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Phil Murphy is handling his job as governor?**
Note: This question was part of a split sample. Half of respondents received NJ1 and half received NJ1B.

Approve	47%
Disapprove	43%
Don't know person	9%
Unweighted N=	468

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	81%	43%	14%	43%	51%	48%	47%	44%	45%	45%	56%
Disapprove	15%	42%	81%	49%	39%	47%	38%	44%	45%	47%	36%
DK	5%	15%	5%	8%	10%	6%	15%	12%	10%	8%	8%
Unwt N=	164	182	107	233	228	287	164	110	135	125	98

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	College grad or more
Approve	45%	52%	41%	56%
Disapprove	40%	44%	48%	37%
DK	15%	4%	11%	7%
Unwt N=	198	224	201	264

NJ2. In general, would you say the state of New Jersey [ROTATE: is currently going in the right direction], or [has it gone off on the wrong track]?

Right direction	42%
Wrong track	50%
Don't know	8%
Unweighted N=	989

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Right direction	68%	38%	16%	40%	44%	43%	48%	37%	48%	42%	41%	40%	46%
Wrong track	21%	53%	82%	54%	46%	52%	40%	54%	38%	46%	51%	54%	47%
DK	11%	9%	2%	6%	10%	5%	12%	9%	14%	12%	8%	6%	7%
Unwt N=	347	380	230	495	484	600	137	142	76	229	288	271	201

	Income				Region					Education			
	<$50K	$50K-<$100K	$100K-<$150K	$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Right direction	42%	44%	43%	43%	49%	43%	39%	40%	39%	37%	40%	44%	52%
Wrong track	44%	49%	52%	52%	40%	48%	53%	51%	60%	59%	48%	49%	41%
DK	14%	7%	5%	5%	11%	9%	8%	9%	2%	4%	12%	7%	7%
Unwt N=	158	256	184	278	155	338	144	178	174	136	274	315	257

Methodology

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live interviewers April 27 to May 5, 2023, with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,002 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 304 adults reached on a landline phone and 698 adults reached on a cell phone, all acquired through random digit dialing; 250 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	45%
Text to Web	25%
Landline	30%

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 2021 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.

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 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 1,002 New Jersey adults is +/-3.1 percentage points at a 95

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[1] NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2018–2020; 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.

percent confidence interval. The design effect[3] is 1.36, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.6 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 46.4 and 53.6 percent (50 +/- 3.6) 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. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP). Jessica Roman 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 Demographics
1,002 New Jersey adults 18+
Overall Margin of Error = +/- 3.6 percentage points

Please note: Totals may equal slightly more or less than 100% due to rounding.

		deff	MOE			deff	MOE
Man	48%	1.36	+/- 5.1%	**White**	55%	1.34	+/- 4.6%
Woman	52%	1.36	+/- 5.2%	**Black**	12%	1.32	+/- 9.4%
				Hispanic	20%	1.26	+/- 9.2%
18-34	26%	1.31	+/- 7.3%	**Other**	13%	1.16	+/- 12.0%
35-49	25%	1.37	+/- 6.7%				
50-64	27%	1.36	+/- 6.9%	**<50K**	24%	1.31	+/- 8.9%
65+	22%	1.37	+/- 8.0%	**50K-<100K**	31%	1.39	+/- 7.1%
				100K-<150K	19%	1.32	+/- 8.2%
Democrat	35%	1.35	+/- 6.1%	**150K+**	26%	1.26	+/- 6.6%
Independent	40%	1.35	+/- 5.8%				
Republican	25%	1.38	+/- 7.6%	**Urban**	17%	1.36	+/- 9.1%
				Suburb	35%	1.36	+/- 6.2%
HS or Less	27%	1.12	+/- 8.8%	**Exurban**	14%	1.35	+/- 9.5%
Some College	31%	1.23	+/- 6.5%	**Phil/South**	17%	1.41	+/- 8.7%
College Grad	23%	1.17	+/- 5.9%	**Shore**	17%	1.31	+/- 8.5%
Grad Work	19%	1.17	+/- 6.6%				

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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.