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**Majority of New Jersey Voters Say Biden’s 2020 Win Was Legitimate, Trust Electoral Process and Will Accept 2024 Results**

*Rutgers-Eagleton Poll shows half say they would do nothing if their choice for president doesn’t win; nearly 1 in 5 would support legal challenges, 1 in 10 would donate, volunteer or peacefully protest*

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (Nov. 4, 2024) – A majority of New Jersey registered voters say they have faith in the legitimacy of the electoral process, whether looking back on 2020 or looking ahead, according to a special Rutgers-Eagleton Poll in partnership with NJ Advance Media and the Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience at the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

Stark partisan differences prevail, however, with Republicans either disagreeing, or agreeing to a lesser extent, on election integrity last cycle and this cycle.

Sixty-seven percent of voters say President Joe Biden legitimately won the presidency in 2020, versus 18% who feel he didn’t and 15% who are unsure. Nearly all Democrats say Biden won fairly (96%). A majority of independents say the same (60%), though 4 in 10 in this group believe he either didn’t (18%) or are unsure (22%). Republicans are mixed: 30% say he legitimately won, 46% say he didn’t and 24% are unsure.

When it comes to 2024, 81% say they will accept the outcome of the presidential election regardless of whether their choice wins; 5% say they won’t and 15% don’t know how they feel. While solid majorities of Democrats, independents and Republicans say they will accept the 2024 results, independents are about twice as likely and Republicans are about three times as likely as Democrats to say they are unsure.

“Even in New Jersey, often thought of as a solidly blue state, a notable minority of voters doubt the legitimacy of the 2020 election and are unsure if they will accept whatever happens on Nov. 5,” said [Ashley Koning](#), an assistant research professor and director of the [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling](#) (ECPIP) at [Rutgers University–New Brunswick](#). “New Jersey parallels

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public opinion nationally on this, and these seeds of doubt, both state and nationwide – while not the majority – point to why many voters feel apprehensive and unsettled about what Election Day, and the days and weeks after, might bring.”

A majority of New Jersey voters, furthermore, have some level of confidence that votes cast in person in the Garden State (60% “very,” 26% “somewhat”) will be counted as voters intend in the Nov. 5 election. They say they feel similarly about votes cast in person throughout the nation, though to a slightly lesser degree (50% “very” and 33% “somewhat”).

Absentee and mail-in ballots inspire less confidence than in-person voting: two-thirds of voters in the state are either “very” (40%) or “somewhat” (26%) confident that votes cast in New Jersey will be counted as voters intend, while 6 in 10 are either “very” (31%) or “somewhat” (30%) confident in votes cast throughout the U.S.

If their chosen candidate for president doesn’t win, half of voters say they will simply do “nothing” (50%). This sentiment holds somewhat steady across Democrats (45%), Republicans (51%) and independents (55%).

Small numbers of voters say they will do a variety of activities if their choice doesn’t win. Seventeen percent say they would support legal challenges; Republicans are especially likely to say this, at 25%, compared with 15% of Democrats and 13% of independents.

Eleven percent would volunteer for political or social causes; 9% would donate for or against a candidate, politician, issue or organization; and 8% would participate in a peaceful protest. All of these are more popular among Democrats than they are among Republicans.

Three percent say they would leave the country and less than 1% say they would participate in a nonpeaceful protest that may cause damage or harm; no significant differences by partisanship arise for either activity. Five percent say they would take some other kind of action.

“New Jersey voters are generally more trusting of the state’s handling of the electoral process than they are the nation as a whole,” said [Jessica Roman](#), director of data management and analysis at ECPIP. “However, voters in the Garden State maintain a level of skepticism around absentee and mail-in ballots here as compared with in-person voting. Democrats are more trusting in this process than their partisan counterparts, echoing the partisan divide in mail-in ballots seen in the last presidential election.”

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,018 adults contacted through the probability-based [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) from Oct. 15 to Oct. 22. The full sample has a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points. The registered voter subsample contains 929 registered voters and has a margin of error of +/- 4.2 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 Kiana Miranda at [kiana.miranda@eagleton.rutgers.edu](mailto:kiana.miranda@eagleton.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](http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu). You can also visit our [Facebook](#) and [X](#) (formerly 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](http://eagleton.rutgers.edu).*

**ABOUT THE RUTGERS-EAGLETON/SSRS GARDEN STATE PANEL**

*[The Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) is a probability-based panel of New Jersey adults age 18 or older. Members are recruited randomly based on statewide representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design. The ABS sample is drawn from the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) maintained by the U.S. Postal Service. Population coverage of the DSF is in the 98%-99% range. During the recruitment process, full demographic information on panelists is collected. This data is stored securely and used to determine eligibility for specific studies (if needed). The Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel is a multi-mode panel. Internet households participate via web while all non-internet households (including those who have internet but are unwilling to take surveys online) participate via phone. Panelists also have the option of taking surveys in their preferred language (English or Spanish).*

**ABOUT THE MILLER CENTER ON POLICING AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

*[The Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience](#) engages in education and public service focused on protecting vulnerable communities. The Eagleton affiliated center identifies and disseminates best practices, offers training workshops, consults on security and civil liberties, and undertakes research. The Miller Center, a product of the combined efforts of the former Centers on Policing and Community Protection and Resilience, is composed of individuals with a broad range of experience in the public safety arena. Its mission is to integrate research and evidence-based best practices into police operations, violence reduction, problem-solving, community policing, education, training, and the development of criminal justice policy and practice. The Center's efforts and findings directly help public safety professionals and agencies, and community organizations more effectively protect and serve their communities.*

**ABOUT NJ ADVANCE MEDIA**

*NJ Advance Media (NJAM) is the No. 1 provider of local news in New Jersey. NJAM delivers timely news, sports and entertainment across all platforms and devices and engage millions of people through quality journalism on [NJ.com](#), [lehighvalleylive.com](#), social channels and in newsletters.*

**ABOUT PROJECT EXTREME**

*Project Extreme is a yearlong examination into the rise of extremism in New Jersey and its permeation into everyday life. NJ.com has launched a series of stories, videos, investigations and data visualizations that seek to understand how extremism entered and flourished here and what impact it will have on the 2024 elections. The project is supported in part by a grant from The John Farmer Memorial Journalism Fund.*

**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 who self-reported being registered to vote unless otherwise noted; all percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with samples sizes under 100 with extreme caution.*

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**T1. For each of the following methods, how confident are you that votes cast in New Jersey for the election this November will be counted as voters intend?**

**Votes cast in person at polling places**

<b>Very confident</b>	60%
<b>Somewhat confident</b>	26%
<b>Not very confident</b>	9%
<b>Not at all confident</b>	3%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%
<b>Unweighted N=</b>	923

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>Very</b>	78%	53%	41%	64%	56%	59%	62%	56%	52%	61%	69%
<b>Somewhat</b>	17%	28%	38%	25%	27%	27%	25%	25%	31%	28%	22%
<b>Not very</b>	2%	12%	15%	7%	11%	10%	7%	11%	7%	9%	7%
<b>Not at all</b>	1%	5%	5%	2%	5%	4%	2%	6%	4%	2%	3%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	<1%	4%	2%	5%	<1%	<1%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	389	332	202	440	476	619	302	213	216	277	216

**Trust in 2024 Electoral Process**  
**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
<b>Very</b>	48%	60%	59%	72%	56%	58%	70%	61%	59%	58%	49%	60%	75%
<b>Somewhat</b>	31%	26%	26%	22%	28%	25%	21%	31%	26%	26%	34%	27%	18%
<b>Not very</b>	12%	9%	11%	4%	10%	10%	4%	7%	9%	10%	10%	9%	5%
<b>Not at all</b>	6%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	5%	2%	5%	4%	5%	3%	<1%
<b>Don't know</b>	2%	3%	1%	<1%	2%	4%	0%	<1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	192	250	180	233	142	309	141	176	155	204	226	225	267

**Trust in 2024 Electoral Process  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

**T1. For each of the following methods, how confident are you that votes cast in New Jersey for the election this November will be counted as voters intend?**

**Votes cast by absentee or mail-in ballot**

<b>Very confident</b>	40%
<b>Somewhat confident</b>	26%
<b>Not very confident</b>	17%
<b>Not at all confident</b>	13%
<b>Don't know</b>	3%
<b>Unweighted N=</b>	922

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>Very</b>	62%	33%	16%	39%	41%	40%	41%	34%	41%	36%	50%
<b>Somewhat</b>	26%	24%	29%	21%	30%	26%	26%	27%	22%	27%	27%
<b>Not very</b>	5%	22%	30%	21%	14%	18%	16%	21%	19%	19%	11%
<b>Not at all</b>	3%	16%	24%	13%	13%	15%	10%	13%	12%	14%	12%
<b>Don't know</b>	3%	5%	1%	5%	2%	1%	7%	5%	6%	3%	<1%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	390	331	201	437	478	618	302	214	214	277	216

**Trust in 2024 Electoral Process  
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
<b>Very</b>	27%	40%	42%	54%	39%	40%	48%	39%	38%	30%	33%	42%	61%
<b>Somewhat</b>	37%	23%	25%	20%	27%	23%	19%	35%	27%	24%	34%	26%	21%
<b>Not very</b>	15%	18%	17%	18%	23%	17%	19%	12%	19%	21%	18%	18%	12%
<b>Not at all</b>	14%	15%	14%	6%	8%	13%	13%	13%	15%	19%	13%	12%	5%
<b>Don't know</b>	7%	4%	1%	2%	3%	7%	1%	1%	1%	6%	3%	1%	1%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	190	250	181	233	140	309	140	177	156	201	228	226	266



**Trust in 2024 Electoral Process  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

**T2. Now think about votes being cast across the United States. For each of the following methods, how confident are you that votes cast across the country for the election this November will be counted as voters intend?**

**Votes cast in person at polling places**

<b>Very confident</b>	50%
<b>Somewhat confident</b>	33%
<b>Not very confident</b>	10%
<b>Not at all confident</b>	5%
<b>Don't know</b>	3%
<b>Unweighted N=</b>	926

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>Very</b>	63%	46%	36%	55%	46%	49%	51%	40%	51%	51%	58%
<b>Somewhat</b>	27%	31%	43%	30%	34%	33%	32%	39%	32%	32%	29%
<b>Not very</b>	6%	12%	14%	8%	11%	10%	9%	15%	7%	9%	8%
<b>Not at all</b>	1%	8%	6%	4%	6%	6%	2%	4%	7%	4%	4%
<b>Don't know</b>	3%	3%	1%	3%	2%	1%	5%	3%	3%	4%	<1%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	332	202	440	479	621	303	214	216	277	218

**Trust in 2024 Electoral Process  
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
<b>Very</b>	40%	51%	49%	58%	50%	47%	55%	54%	49%	50%	42%	52%	58%
<b>Somewhat</b>	34%	29%	36%	32%	31%	33%	33%	33%	33%	29%	39%	33%	31%
<b>Not very</b>	15%	11%	8%	6%	15%	9%	8%	8%	11%	11%	11%	8%	9%
<b>Not at all</b>	6%	6%	4%	3%	2%	7%	4%	3%	6%	6%	7%	4%	1%
<b>Don't know</b>	5%	3%	3%	0%	1%	5%	0%	2%	1%	4%	1%	3%	2%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	192	253	180	233	141	311	140	177	157	203	229	227	266

**T2. Now think about votes being cast across the United States. For each of the following methods, how confident are you that votes cast across the country for the election this November will be counted as voters intend?**

**Votes cast by absentee or mail-in ballot**

<b>Very confident</b>	31%
<b>Somewhat confident</b>	30%
<b>Not very confident</b>	20%
<b>Not at all confident</b>	15%
<b>Don't know</b>	3%
<b>Unweighted N=</b>	926

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>Very</b>	48%	26%	12%	33%	30%	31%	31%	24%	29%	29%	40%
<b>Somewhat</b>	35%	25%	30%	26%	34%	27%	35%	33%	29%	28%	32%
<b>Not very</b>	10%	24%	31%	21%	20%	23%	16%	23%	26%	20%	14%
<b>Not at all</b>	3%	20%	26%	17%	13%	18%	10%	16%	10%	18%	14%
<b>Don't know</b>	4%	5%	<1%	4%	3%	1%	7%	3%	6%	4%	1%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	391	333	202	441	478	620	304	214	217	276	218

**Trust in 2024 Electoral Process  
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
<b>Very</b>	22%	33%	35%	37%	28%	28%	40%	35%	28%	25%	28%	35%	39%
<b>Somewhat</b>	37%	26%	26%	32%	36%	31%	23%	33%	28%	28%	35%	24%	35%
<b>Not very</b>	21%	18%	24%	18%	24%	19%	21%	16%	24%	20%	19%	25%	18%
<b>Not at all</b>	14%	18%	13%	11%	11%	14%	16%	13%	19%	24%	15%	12%	6%
<b>Don't know</b>	6%	5%	3%	1%	1%	7%	1%	2%	1%	4%	3%	4%	2%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	252	179	233	141	310	140	178	157	205	227	227	266

**Trust in 2024 Electoral Process  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

**T4. Thinking back to 2020, do you think that Joe Biden did or did not legitimately win the 2020 presidential election?**

<b>He did</b>	67%
<b>He did not</b>	18%
<b>Don't know</b>	15%
<b>Unweighted N=</b>	929

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>He did</b>	96%	60%	30%	62%	70%	60%	76%	72%	66%	63%	67%
<b>He did not</b>	1%	18%	46%	20%	17%	23%	12%	14%	20%	20%	18%
<b>Don't know</b>	3%	22%	24%	18%	12%	17%	12%	14%	14%	17%	14%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	334	203	442	480	622	305	214	218	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>He did</b>	60%	65%	72%	75%	78%	64%	68%	66%	62%	58%	63%	73%	77%
<b>He did not</b>	24%	21%	13%	13%	10%	21%	17%	16%	23%	27%	18%	12%	11%
<b>Don't know</b>	16%	13%	15%	12%	11%	15%	15%	18%	14%	15%	19%	14%	12%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	253	181	233	142	311	141	178	157	205	229	227	267

**Trust in 2024 Electoral Process  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

**T5. Regardless of who you support, will you or will you not accept the outcome of the presidential election as legitimate if your choice for president doesn't win?**

<b>I will</b>	81%
<b>I will not</b>	5%
<b>Don't know</b>	15%
<b>Unweighted N=</b>	928

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>I will</b>	89%	77%	71%	82%	80%	81%	80%	77%	77%	77%	90%
<b>I will not</b>	3%	6%	6%	4%	5%	3%	7%	11%	4%	5%	1%
<b>Don't know</b>	8%	17%	23%	14%	15%	16%	13%	13%	19%	18%	9%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	333	203	441	480	622	304	214	217	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>I will</b>	71%	80%	81%	89%	80%	79%	82%	80%	83%	77%	78%	81%	88%
<b>He will not</b>	11%	3%	7%	1%	8%	6%	1%	5%	4%	7%	6%	5%	2%
<b>Don't know</b>	18%	16%	12%	10%	12%	15%	17%	16%	13%	16%	16%	14%	11%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	252	181	233	142	310	141	178	157	205	228	227	267

T6. What would you do if your choice for president doesn't win? Please check all that apply.

Support legal challenges

Selected	17%
Not selected	83%
Unweighted N=	929

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>I will</b>	15%	13%	25%	20%	14%	20%	12%	13%	10%	21%	19%
<b>I will not</b>	85%	87%	75%	80%	86%	80%	88%	87%	90%	79%	81%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	334	203	442	480	622	305	214	218	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>I will</b>	16%	18%	16%	16%	19%	15%	23%	15%	15%	18%	16%	14%	18%
<b>He will not</b>	84%	82%	84%	84%	81%	85%	77%	85%	85%	82%	84%	86%	82%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	253	181	233	142	311	141	178	157	205	229	227	267

T6. What would you do if your choice for president doesn't win? Please check all that apply.

Participate in a peaceful protest

Selected	8%
Not selected	92%
Unweighted N=	929

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>I will</b>	12%	7%	5%	9%	7%	10%	7%	10%	8%	6%	10%
<b>I will not</b>	88%	93%	95%	91%	93%	90%	93%	90%	92%	94%	90%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	334	203	442	480	622	305	214	218	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>I will</b>	7%	8%	10%	9%	14%	6%	9%	8%	8%	5%	6%	11%	12%
<b>He will not</b>	93%	92%	90%	91%	86%	94%	91%	92%	92%	95%	94%	89%	88%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	253	181	233	142	311	141	178	157	205	229	227	267



T6. What would you do if your choice for president doesn't win? Please check all that apply.

Participate in a non-peaceful protest that may cause property damage and/or physical harm to individuals

Selected	<1%
Not selected	100%
Unweighted N=	929

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>I will</b>	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	0%	<1%
<b>I will not</b>	99%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	334	203	442	480	622	305	214	218	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>I will</b>	1%	<1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	0%
<b>He will not</b>	99%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	253	181	233	142	311	141	178	157	205	229	227	267

T6. What would you do if your choice for president doesn't win? Please check all that apply.

Leave country

Selected	3%
Not selected	97%
Unweighted N=	929

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>I will</b>	4%	3%	3%	2%	5%	3%	3%	6%	3%	2%	3%
<b>I will not</b>	96%	97%	97%	98%	95%	97%	97%	94%	97%	98%	97%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	334	203	442	480	622	305	214	218	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>I will</b>	4%	3%	3%	3%	5%	4%	2%	4%	1%	3%	2%	4%	4%
<b>He will not</b>	96%	97%	97%	97%	95%	96%	98%	96%	99%	97%	98%	96%	96%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	253	181	233	142	311	141	178	157	205	229	227	267

T6. What would you do if your choice for president doesn't win? Please check all that apply.

Donate for or against a candidate, politician, issue, and/or organization

Selected	9%
Not selected	91%
Unweighted N=	929

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>I will</b>	13%	6%	6%	9%	9%	10%	8%	9%	6%	9%	10%
<b>I will not</b>	87%	94%	94%	91%	91%	90%	92%	91%	94%	91%	90%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	334	203	442	480	622	305	214	218	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>I will</b>	5%	6%	9%	13%	14%	7%	13%	6%	8%	6%	5%	12%	14%
<b>He will not</b>	95%	94%	91%	87%	86%	93%	87%	94%	92%	94%	95%	88%	86%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	253	181	233	142	311	141	178	157	205	229	227	267

T6. What would you do if your choice for president doesn't win? Please check all that apply.

Volunteer for political and/or social causes

Selected	11%
Not selected	89%
Unweighted N=	929

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>I will</b>	16%	10%	5%	10%	11%	10%	12%	19%	12%	8%	8%
<b>I will not</b>	84%	90%	95%	90%	89%	90%	88%	81%	88%	92%	92%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	334	203	442	480	622	305	214	218	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>I will</b>	7%	10%	11%	16%	20%	9%	10%	9%	10%	4%	10%	13%	20%
<b>He will not</b>	93%	90%	89%	84%	80%	91%	90%	91%	90%	96%	90%	87%	80%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	253	181	233	142	311	141	178	157	205	229	227	267

T6. What would you do if your choice for president doesn't win? Please check all that apply.

Something else

Selected	5%
Not selected	95%
Unweighted N=	929

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>I will</b>	5%	7%	4%	6%	4%	5%	5%	9%	4%	4%	5%
<b>I will not</b>	95%	93%	96%	94%	96%	95%	95%	91%	96%	96%	95%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	334	203	442	480	622	305	214	218	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>I will</b>	3%	6%	4%	6%	8%	4%	7%	7%	2%	4%	7%	6%	6%
<b>He will not</b>	97%	94%	96%	94%	92%	96%	93%	93%	98%	96%	93%	94%	94%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	253	181	233	142	311	141	178	157	205	229	227	267

T6. What would you do if your choice for president doesn't win? Please check all that apply.

Nothing

Selected	50%
Not selected	50%
Unweighted N=	929

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>I will</b>	45%	55%	51%	53%	48%	48%	54%	50%	58%	53%	43%
<b>I will not</b>	55%	45%	49%	47%	52%	52%	46%	50%	42%	47%	57%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	334	203	442	480	622	305	214	218	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>I will</b>	49%	48%	54%	51%	49%	48%	53%	51%	53%	50%	51%	55%	45%
<b>He will not</b>	51%	52%	46%	49%	51%	52%	47%	49%	47%	50%	49%	45%	55%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	253	181	233	142	311	141	178	157	205	229	227	267

**T6. What would you do if your choice for president doesn't win? Please check all that apply.**

**Don't know**

<b>Selected</b>	18%
<b>Not selected</b>	82%
<b>Unweighted N=</b>	929

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>I will</b>	21%	18%	15%	13%	23%	20%	16%	11%	20%	17%	24%
<b>I will not</b>	79%	82%	85%	87%	77%	80%	84%	89%	80%	83%	76%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	392	334	203	442	480	622	305	214	218	277	219

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>I will</b>	20%	20%	16%	15%	10%	23%	12%	19%	19%	20%	19%	16%	17%
<b>He will not</b>	80%	80%	84%	85%	90%	77%	88%	81%	81%	80%	81%	84%	83%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	194	253	181	233	142	311	141	178	157	205	229	227	267

### **Methodology**

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted using the [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) from October 15 to 22, 2024 with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,018 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. Analysis is based on a registered voter subsample including 929 New Jersey adults, 18 or older, who are self-reported registered voters. The Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel is a probability-based panel of New Jersey adults aged 18 or older. Members are recruited randomly based on statewide representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design. ABS sample is drawn from the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) maintained by the U.S. Postal Service. Population coverage of the DSF is in the 98%-99% range. During the recruitment process, full demographic information on panelists is collected. The Rutgers/SSRS Garden State Panel is a multi-mode panel. For this poll, only Internet households were invited to participate via web; non-internet households were not included. Sample drawn was stratified by county, age, gender, race and ethnicity, and education to ensure adequate representation of each demographic group. Only panelists who complete surveys by web in English were eligible for selection for this study.

Data were weighted to represent the adult population of New Jersey. Weighting was done by applying a base weight and calibrating sample demographic distributions to match target population benchmarks. With the base weight applied, the data were weighted to balance the demographic profile of the sample to target population parameters.

Missing data in the raking variables were imputed using hot decking. Hot deck imputation replaces the missing values of a respondent randomly with another similar respondent without missing data. Hot decking was done using an SPSS macro detailed in 'Goodbye, Listwise Deletion: Presenting Hot Deck Imputation as an Easy and Effective Tool for Handling Missing Data' (Myers, 2011).

Data were calibrated by raking sample distributions to target population distributions using iterative proportional fitting. This procedure balances each calibration variable to target benchmarks individually and iteratively. The entire set of calibration variables is cycled through until the weights converge across all dimensions.

Data were weighted to distributions of sex by age, sex by education, sex by race, age by race, age by education, detailed education, race/ethnicity, region, home tenure, number of adults per household, civic engagement, voter registration, internet use frequency and 2020 recalled vote.

Table 1 shows the variables used in the calibration and the sources of the target distributions.



**Table 1. Calibration Variables**

Calibration variables	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex</li> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Hispanic nativity</li> <li>• Number of adults in household</li> <li>• Home tenure</li> </ul>	Current Population Survey 2023 <sup>1</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Region</li> </ul>	American Community Survey <sup>2</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic engagement</li> <li>• Voter registration</li> <li>• Internet frequency</li> </ul>	Modeled from SSRS Opinion Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020 Presidential recalled vote</li> </ul>	National Election Pool

Weights were trimmed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 98<sup>th</sup> percentiles to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on survey-derived estimates. The table below compares unweighted and weighted sample distributions to target population benchmarks.

Data were also calibrated by form. Non-registered voters were randomly assigned to one of the two forms and combined with the random half samples of registered voters to create two general population half samples. Data for each general population half sample were then calibrated separately using the procedures described above. After calibration, the form split weight for the non-registered voters were dropped and the remaining form split weights were standardized to the number of registered voters within each split form. The tables below compare unweighted and weighted sample distributions to target population benchmarks for each split form grouping.

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. The total sample design effect for this survey is 1.80. Design effect for the registered voter subsample is 1.71.

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 1,018 New Jersey adults is +/-3.1 percentage points at a 95% confidence interval. The design effect<sup>3</sup> is 1.80, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 4.1 percentage

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<sup>1</sup> Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Renae Rodgers, Steven Ruggles, J. Robert Warren, Daniel Backman, Annie Chen, Grace Cooper, Stephanie Richards, Megan Schouweiler and Michael Westberry. IPUMS CPS: Version 11.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> "Age and Sex." American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> 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

## Trust in 2024 Electoral Process Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

points. Thus, if 50% of New Jersey adults in this sample favor a particular position, we would be 95% sure that the true figure is between 45.9 and 54.1% (50 +/- 4.1) if all New Jersey adults had been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Among the registered voter subsample (n=929), the simple sampling error is +/- 3.2 percentage points. Design effect for the registered voter subsample is 1.71, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 4.2 percentage points.

Sampling error is only one possible source of error in a survey estimate. Sampling error does not consider other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as selection bias, non-response bias, question wording, context effects, or reporting accuracy, which may contribute additional error.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by SSRS through the Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP); questions in this release were developed in consultation with NJ Advance Media. Jessica Roman, Kyle Morgan, David Martin, and Amy Funck 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; funding for questions in this release was provided by the Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience at the Eagleton Institute of Politics. Full questionnaires are available on request and can also be accessed through our archives at [eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu](http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu). For more information, please contact [poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu](mailto:poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu).

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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.

**Trust in 2024 Electoral Process  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

**Weighted Demographics  
929 New Jersey Registered Voters  
Overall Margin of Error = +/- 4.2 percentage points**

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

		<b>deff</b>	<b>MOE</b>			<b>deff</b>	<b>MOE</b>
<b>Man</b>	46%	1.85	+/- 6.3%	<b>White, Non-Hisp</b>	61%	1.68	+/- 5.1%
<b>Woman</b>	54%	1.60	+/- 5.7%	<b>Non-White</b>	39%	1.67	+/- 7.3%
<b>18-34</b>	22%	1.71	+/- 8.8%	<b>&lt;50K</b>	22%	1.67	+/- 9.1%
<b>35-49</b>	19%	1.75	+/- 8.8%	<b>50K-&lt;100K</b>	31%	1.82	+/- 8.3%
<b>50-64</b>	30%	1.62	+/- 7.5%	<b>100K-&lt;150K</b>	23%	1.67	+/- 9.4%
<b>65+</b>	28%	1.69	+/- 8.6%	<b>150K+</b>	24%	1.63	+/- 8.2%
<b>Democrat</b>	39%	1.61	+/- 6.3%	<b>Urban</b>	13%	1.52	+/- 10.2%
<b>Independent</b>	37%	1.89	+/- 7.4%	<b>Suburb</b>	34%	1.94	+/- 7.7%
<b>Republican</b>	24%	1.55	+/- 8.6%	<b>Exurban</b>	14%	1.52	+/- 10.2%
<b>HS or Less</b>	32%	1.63	+/- 8.7%	<b>Phil/South</b>	20%	1.64	+/- 9.4%
<b>Some College</b>	23%	1.65	+/- 8.3%	<b>Shore</b>	18%	1.56	+/- 9.8%
<b>College Grad</b>	22%	1.58	+/- 8.2%				
<b>Grad Work</b>	23%	1.54	+/- 7.4%				