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CONTACT:

Ashley Koning, Director
Office: 848-932-8940
akoning@rutgers.edu

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New Jerseyans Are Dissatisfied With State’s Handling of Taxes, Affordability and Transit

Residents are mixed on economy, education, health care and crime; stagnant favorability and job approval ratings for Murphy, Trump and others

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (July 10, 2025) – New Jerseyans’ satisfaction with how the state government is handling a variety of issues spans a wide range, from extensive discontent on taxes and affordability to mixed ratings on crime, health care and education, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

“New Jerseyans are in a state of malaise when it comes to how Trenton is handling a number of key statewide issues,” said [Ashley Koning](#), an assistant research professor and director of the [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling](#) (ECPIP) at [Rutgers University-New Brunswick](#). “There isn’t a single issue where a significant majority is satisfied, even those that have historically proven to be feathers in the state government’s cap. Instead, residents are either net negative or divided on every topic we asked. New Jersey’s discontent sets the stage for an interesting governor’s race ahead, where frustration with both state and national politics will compete for the spotlight – and ultimately, for votes.”

Eighty-five percent of New Jerseyans are either “very” (52%) or “somewhat” (33%) dissatisfied with how the state government is handling cost of living and affordability in the state. Twelve percent feel the opposite (2% “very satisfied,” 10% “somewhat satisfied”). Residents feel similarly about how the state government is managing taxes: 80% are dissatisfied (53% “very,” 27% “somewhat”), while 16% are satisfied (3% “very,” 13% “somewhat”).

While large majorities of Democrats, independents and Republicans are unhappy with the handling of these issues, Republicans, followed by independents, are more negative than Democrats.

“While dissatisfaction on taxes has remained pretty constant throughout the past decade

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according to our polling, dissatisfaction on cost of living and affordability in the state has gone up by 10 points since 2017,” Koning said. “Affordability has become a defining issue in New Jersey and especially in this year’s governor’s race. How each candidate interprets and tackles the issue will be key to persuading and turning out voters.”

New Jerseyans’ views improve on the handling of other issues but are still more dissatisfied than satisfied when it comes to the state budget and government spending (57% dissatisfied, 30% satisfied) and transportation and infrastructure (54% dissatisfied, 39% satisfied). While satisfaction with the state budget has nearly doubled in the past decade and dissatisfaction on this issue has correspondingly gone down, views on transportation and infrastructure have seen a slight decline in satisfaction and a corresponding increase in dissatisfaction.

New Jerseyans are split when it comes to the state’s handling of the state economy and jobs: 44% are satisfied (6% “very,” 38% “somewhat”), while 48% are dissatisfied (31% “somewhat,” 17% “very”). Satisfaction on the handling of this issue has declined by 11 points since 2022.

Residents also are divided on education and schools: 47% are satisfied (13% “very,” 34% “somewhat”) versus 41% dissatisfied (23% “somewhat,” 18% “very”). Once a high point for the state, there has been a double-digit decline in satisfaction on this issue and a corresponding double-digit increase in dissatisfaction since 2022.

Views also are mixed on how the state is managing health care: with 49% satisfied (9% “very,” 40% “somewhat”) versus 45% dissatisfied (27% “somewhat,” 18% “very”). Opinions on health care have reverted to 2017 levels after a bump in satisfaction in 2022.

New Jerseyans are slightly more positive than negative on how the state is handling crime and safety, though the difference isn’t statistically significant. Fifty-one percent are satisfied (8% “very,” 43% “somewhat”), while 45% are dissatisfied (24% “somewhat,” 21% “very”). Once again, positive views on the state’s handling of crime have gone down in the past decade, while negative views have gone up.

“On all these issues, Republicans are more negative than Democrats, but what’s key here is independents’ placement as somewhere in the middle each time,” said Koning. “Independents are dissatisfied with politics at both the state and national level, so candidate messaging and focus will prove crucial here to courting this ever-important voting bloc.”

When it comes to impressions of political figures in the Garden State, voters are split on Gov. Phil Murphy: 43% have a favorable opinion of him, while 40% have an unfavorable one. Murphy’s margin is slightly better on job approval: 47% approve to 38% disapprove. Both the governor’s favorability and job approval ratings are continuing a downward trend since fall 2024, with the margin on each rating narrowing within the past year.

New Jerseyans also are mixed on U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, with 40% saying they have a favorable impression of him, and 35% having an unfavorable one; 19% have no opinion, and 7% say they

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don't know who he is. His approval numbers mirror his favorability: 40% approve, 34% disapprove and 26% are unsure.

New Jerseyans have a more positive than negative view of U.S. Sen. Andy Kim (34% favorable versus 19% unfavorable), though a notable number have yet to form an opinion on the junior senator (29%) or know who he is (18%). As with Booker, Kim's approval numbers are similar to his favorability ratings: 37% approve to 17% disapprove; 47% are unsure.

As for President Donald Trump, 30% say they have a favorable impression of him, 59% are unfavorable and 10% have no opinion. His job approval numbers parallel his favorability ratings: 31% approve, 60% disapprove and 9% are unsure.

"Both Murphy and Trump will loom large over this year's governor's race, and early indicators of who might play a bigger role or have a more positive or negative influence are a mixed bag right now," Koning said. "Democrats and Republicans give similarly high ratings to their respective party leaders while independents give the same lower favorability and approval ratings to both men, though independents are less likely to disapprove, as well as more likely to not take a side, on Murphy compared to Trump."

Results are from a statewide poll of 621 adults contacted through the probability-based [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) from June 13 to June 16. The full sample has a margin of error of +/- 5.4 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.

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 [Bluesky](#).

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

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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.

QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

**Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

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

F1. We'd like to ask you about some people. Please indicate if your general impression of each one is favorable or unfavorable, or if you do not have an opinion or do not know the person.

Donald Trump

Favorable	30%
Unfavorable	59%
No opinion	10%
Don't know person	1%
Unweighted N=	620

	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	3%	23%	77%	37%	24%	42%	16%	29%	22%	35%	36%
Unfavorable	93%	57%	17%	55%	62%	48%	72%	64%	66%	47%	60%
No opinion	3%	20%	6%	8%	13%	10%	11%	7%	11%	18%	4%
DK person	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%
Unwt N=	274	214	132	285	333	383	235	138	155	174	153

**Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Favorable	26%	26%	34%	36%	34%	35%	29%	23%
Unfavorable	57%	62%	57%	61%	56%	49%	64%	65%
No opinion	14%	12%	9%	3%	9%	15%	7%	12%
DK person	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Unwt N=	139	166	125	149	140	148	154	178

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

F1. We'd like to ask you about some people. Please indicate if your general impression of each one is favorable or unfavorable, or if you do not have an opinion or do not know the person.

Phil Murphy

Favorable	43%
Unfavorable	40%
No opinion	16%
Don't know person	2%
Unweighted N=	621

	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	74%	35%	15%	41%	44%	33%	54%	39%	50%	36%	47%
Unfavorable	12%	39%	76%	44%	36%	53%	24%	37%	30%	48%	42%
No opinion	13%	24%	7%	14%	18%	13%	20%	19%	19%	16%	8%
DK person	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	4%	<1%	1%	2%
Unwt N=	274	215	132	286	333	383	236	138	156	174	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Favorable	46%	46%	37%	42%	43%	37%	47%	43%
Unfavorable	29%	42%	44%	43%	41%	46%	42%	30%
No opinion	20%	12%	19%	13%	15%	16%	10%	22%
DK person	4%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	4%
Unwt N=	139	166	126	149	140	149	154	178

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

F1. We'd like to ask you about some people. Please indicate if your general impression of each one is favorable or unfavorable, or if you do not have an opinion or do not know the person.

Cory Booker

Favorable	40%
Unfavorable	35%
No opinion	19%
Don't know person	7%
Unweighted N=	621

	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	78%	27%	9%	36%	44%	33%	48%	30%	41%	36%	53%
Unfavorable	7%	39%	64%	42%	27%	48%	18%	29%	27%	42%	39%
No opinion	11%	27%	16%	19%	19%	14%	25%	28%	22%	20%	6%
DK person	4%	7%	11%	4%	10%	5%	9%	14%	9%	2%	2%
Unwt N=	274	215	132	286	333	383	236	138	156	174	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Favorable	37%	39%	43%	44%	37%	38%	44%	41%
Unfavorable	26%	31%	43%	36%	37%	36%	36%	29%
No opinion	23%	24%	13%	15%	17%	21%	18%	20%
DK person	14%	6%	1%	4%	9%	5%	2%	10%
Unwt N=	139	166	126	149	140	149	154	178

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

F1. We'd like to ask you about some people. Please indicate if your general impression of each one is favorable or unfavorable, or if you do not have an opinion or do not know the person.

Andy Kim

Favorable	34%
Unfavorable	19%
No opinion	29%
Don't know person	18%
Unweighted N=	620

	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	57%	28%	12%	35%	32%	29%	39%	24%	34%	31%	46%
Unfavorable	3%	18%	40%	25%	13%	25%	10%	18%	10%	22%	25%
No opinion	22%	34%	32%	29%	30%	32%	26%	36%	34%	27%	20%
DK person	17%	21%	15%	12%	24%	14%	24%	22%	22%	19%	9%
Unwt N=	273	215	132	286	332	383	235	138	155	174	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Favorable	21%	36%	38%	44%	23%	32%	36%	47%
Unfavorable	20%	18%	20%	16%	25%	19%	16%	12%
No opinion	31%	28%	25%	29%	30%	35%	32%	21%
DK person	28%	18%	17%	11%	21%	14%	15%	20%
Unwt N=	139	165	126	149	140	148	154	178

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

F2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Phil Murphy is handling his job as governor?

Approve	47%
Disapprove	38%
Don't know	15%
Unweighted N=	621

	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	79%	40%	17%	44%	50%	39%	58%	44%	52%	41%	55%
Disapprove	10%	37%	75%	43%	34%	50%	23%	33%	31%	48%	37%
Don't know	11%	23%	8%	13%	17%	12%	19%	23%	17%	11%	8%
Unwt N=	274	215	132	286	333	383	236	138	156	174	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Approve	50%	49%	43%	46%	47%	43%	52%	48%
Disapprove	26%	37%	44%	43%	39%	43%	36%	34%
Don't know	24%	14%	13%	11%	15%	14%	13%	18%
Unwt N=	139	166	126	149	140	149	154	178

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

F3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

Approve	31%
Disapprove	60%
Don't know	9%
Unweighted N=	621

	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	3%	24%	77%	36%	26%	43%	15%	25%	27%	38%	32%
Disapprove	96%	58%	17%	56%	63%	45%	78%	67%	65%	47%	63%
Don't know	1%	18%	6%	7%	11%	11%	7%	9%	7%	15%	5%
Unwt N=	274	215	132	286	333	383	236	138	156	174	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Approve	28%	26%	29%	37%	33%	35%	30%	25%
Disapprove	56%	64%	65%	59%	57%	55%	62%	67%
Don't know	15%	10%	6%	4%	10%	10%	8%	9%
Unwt N=	139	166	126	149	140	149	154	178

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

F4. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Cory Booker is handling his job as a U.S. senator?

Approve	40%
Disapprove	34%
Don't know	26%
Unweighted N=	619

	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	80%	25%	11%	35%	45%	32%	50%	29%	44%	35%	52%
Disapprove	6%	37%	64%	41%	26%	46%	18%	30%	26%	42%	36%
Don't know	14%	38%	25%	24%	29%	22%	32%	41%	30%	23%	12%
Unwt N=	273	214	132	285	332	382	235	138	155	173	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Approve	40%	40%	40%	42%	38%	39%	39%	43%
Disapprove	25%	26%	44%	39%	34%	33%	37%	31%
Don't know	36%	34%	16%	19%	28%	28%	24%	26%
Unwt N=	139	165	125	149	140	148	154	177

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

F5. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Andy Kim is handling his job as a U.S. senator?

Approve	37%
Disapprove	17%
Don't know	47%
Unweighted N=	618

	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	59%	31%	17%	37%	36%	31%	44%	27%	39%	33%	49%
Disapprove	4%	17%	33%	21%	13%	22%	9%	13%	8%	22%	23%
Don't know	38%	52%	50%	43%	51%	47%	47%	60%	52%	46%	28%
Unwt N=	273	213	132	285	331	380	236	138	156	173	151

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Approve	26%	36%	38%	50%	28%	36%	37%	49%
Disapprove	17%	13%	22%	14%	23%	13%	15%	12%
Don't know	57%	51%	40%	37%	49%	50%	48%	39%
Unwt N=	139	165	126	147	140	149	154	175

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

S2. For each of the following, please indicate to what extent you are satisfied or dissatisfied with how it is being handled by the New Jersey state government.

New Jersey's economy and jobs

Very satisfied	6%
Somewhat satisfied	38%
Somewhat dissatisfied	31%
Very dissatisfied	17%
Don't know	8%
Unweighted N=	620

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very satisfied	11%	5%	2%	6%	7%	6%	7%	8%	6%	7%	5%
Smwht satisfied	51%	36%	26%	40%	37%	39%	37%	35%	43%	34%	43%
Smwht dissat	26%	30%	38%	30%	32%	31%	31%	35%	21%	36%	30%
Very dissat	6%	17%	30%	16%	16%	16%	17%	17%	18%	17%	14%
Don't know	5%	12%	4%	8%	8%	8%	8%	5%	12%	6%	7%
Unwt N=	273	215	132	286	332	382	236	138	155	174	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very satisfied	8%	5%	9%	5%	6%	5%	8%	7%
Smwht satisfied	29%	44%	33%	42%	36%	31%	45%	42%
Smwht dissat	32%	33%	27%	34%	29%	36%	30%	30%
Very dissat	23%	12%	22%	11%	22%	21%	12%	9%
Don't know	9%	7%	10%	8%	7%	7%	5%	12%
Unwt N=	139	166	126	148	140	149	154	177

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
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Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

S2. For each of the following, please indicate to what extent you are satisfied or dissatisfied with how it is being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Taxes

Very satisfied	3%
Somewhat satisfied	13%
Somewhat dissatisfied	27%
Very dissatisfied	53%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	619

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very satisfied	5%	3%	1%	4%	2%	2%	5%	4%	5%	2%	1%
Smwht satisfied	22%	10%	6%	14%	12%	9%	18%	14%	15%	11%	13%
Smwht dissat	32%	26%	20%	27%	26%	28%	25%	32%	30%	24%	21%
Very dissat	38%	54%	73%	52%	55%	59%	46%	46%	43%	61%	62%
Don't know	3%	7%	<1%	4%	4%	2%	6%	4%	7%	3%	2%
Unwt N=	274	214	131	286	331	383	234	136	156	174	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very satisfied	4%	3%	6%	1%	5%	1%	4%	2%
Smwht satisfied	10%	19%	12%	13%	15%	12%	10%	14%
Smwht dissat	30%	25%	25%	26%	22%	24%	27%	34%
Very dissat	50%	50%	54%	58%	54%	57%	57%	45%
Don't know	6%	2%	4%	2%	3%	7%	1%	5%
Unwt N=	138	165	126	149	140	147	154	178

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
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S2. For each of the following, please indicate to what extent you are satisfied or dissatisfied with how it is being handled by the New Jersey state government.

The state budget and government spending

Very satisfied	5%
Somewhat satisfied	25%
Somewhat dissatisfied	30%
Very dissatisfied	27%
Don't know	13%
Unweighted N=	619

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very satisfied	8%	5%	<1%	6%	3%	3%	6%	3%	9%	3%	3%
Smwht satisfied	41%	19%	12%	22%	27%	21%	29%	25%	23%	19%	32%
Smwht dissat	28%	32%	30%	29%	31%	31%	29%	39%	25%	28%	29%
Very dissat	10%	26%	51%	29%	25%	33%	20%	20%	24%	34%	30%
Don't know	13%	18%	6%	13%	14%	12%	15%	13%	19%	16%	6%
Unwt N=	273	214	132	286	331	382	235	137	155	174	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very satisfied	6%	6%	4%	2%	6%	2%	4%	6%
Smwht satisfied	21%	25%	19%	30%	21%	24%	24%	31%
Smwht dissat	32%	31%	31%	35%	33%	27%	29%	30%
Very dissat	27%	24%	31%	24%	29%	36%	24%	19%
Don't know	14%	14%	15%	9%	11%	12%	18%	14%
Unwt N=	138	166	126	148	140	148	154	177

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

S2. For each of the following, please indicate to what extent you are satisfied or dissatisfied with how it is being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Education and schools

Very satisfied	13%
Somewhat satisfied	34%
Somewhat dissatisfied	23%
Very dissatisfied	18%
Don't know	11%
Unweighted N=	621

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very satisfied	21%	11%	8%	14%	13%	12%	15%	15%	15%	9%	15%
Smwht satisfied	48%	34%	16%	36%	32%	31%	39%	41%	37%	26%	34%
Smwht dissat	19%	21%	32%	22%	24%	23%	22%	19%	18%	33%	21%
Very dissat	5%	19%	33%	16%	20%	22%	13%	13%	18%	22%	19%
Don't know	7%	15%	11%	12%	11%	11%	12%	12%	13%	10%	12%
Unwt N=	274	215	132	286	333	383	236	138	156	174	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very satisfied	13%	11%	19%	12%	11%	11%	21%	12%
Smwht satisfied	29%	42%	27%	38%	31%	32%	34%	41%
Smwht dissat	23%	21%	21%	28%	27%	26%	17%	21%
Very dissat	20%	17%	18%	12%	20%	23%	16%	12%
Don't know	16%	9%	16%	10%	12%	8%	11%	14%
Unwt N=	139	166	126	149	140	149	154	178

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

S2. For each of the following, please indicate to what extent you are satisfied or dissatisfied with how it is being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Cost of living and affordability

Very satisfied	2%
Somewhat satisfied	10%
Somewhat dissatisfied	33%
Very dissatisfied	52%
Don't know	3%
Unweighted N=	619

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very satisfied	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	1%	1%
Smwht satisfied	20%	7%	3%	10%	11%	8%	13%	8%	12%	8%	14%
Smwht dissat	40%	31%	25%	40%	25%	33%	32%	34%	25%	34%	37%
Very dissat	36%	54%	69%	44%	60%	55%	49%	54%	51%	57%	45%
Don't know	1%	6%	2%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%	8%	0%	3%
Unwt N=	273	214	132	286	331	382	235	137	156	174	152

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very satisfied	3%	1%	3%	1%	5%	1%	0%	1%
Smwht satisfied	13%	9%	9%	13%	11%	7%	13%	10%
Smwht dissat	23%	41%	30%	36%	30%	31%	33%	37%
Very dissat	58%	48%	50%	49%	53%	59%	53%	43%
Don't know	3%	1%	8%	<1%	2%	3%	<1%	8%
Unwt N=	138	166	126	148	139	149	154	177

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

S2. For each of the following, please indicate to what extent you are satisfied or dissatisfied with how it is being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Crime and safety

Very satisfied	8%
Somewhat satisfied	43%
Somewhat dissatisfied	24%
Very dissatisfied	21%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	619

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very satisfied	12%	7%	4%	10%	7%	9%	7%	8%	11%	4%	10%
Smwht satisfied	56%	42%	27%	46%	40%	41%	45%	41%	41%	45%	45%
Smwht dissat	19%	27%	27%	18%	30%	22%	28%	28%	24%	23%	22%
Very dissat	10%	17%	40%	22%	19%	24%	16%	18%	17%	24%	22%
Don't know	3%	7%	2%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	7%	4%	2%
Unwt N=	272	215	132	285	332	381	236	138	155	173	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very satisfied	6%	10%	7%	9%	6%	3%	13%	12%
Smwht satisfied	34%	43%	53%	48%	38%	40%	56%	40%
Smwht dissat	28%	27%	15%	23%	26%	23%	19%	28%
Very dissat	25%	18%	22%	15%	27%	26%	13%	13%
Don't know	7%	2%	4%	5%	3%	7%	<1%	7%
Unwt N=	139	165	126	148	140	149	153	177

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

S2. For each of the following, please indicate to what extent you are satisfied or dissatisfied with how it is being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Transportation and infrastructure

Very satisfied	6%
Somewhat satisfied	33%
Somewhat dissatisfied	32%
Very dissatisfied	22%
Don't know	7%
Unweighted N=	620

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very satisfied	8%	6%	3%	5%	7%	6%	5%	3%	9%	7%	4%
Smwht satisfied	47%	29%	21%	33%	33%	29%	38%	28%	30%	32%	41%
Smwht dissat	32%	26%	42%	34%	31%	32%	33%	33%	33%	33%	31%
Very dissat	8%	28%	32%	23%	21%	26%	18%	30%	17%	24%	17%
Don't know	6%	10%	3%	5%	8%	7%	6%	7%	10%	4%	7%
Unwt N=	274	214	132	286	332	383	235	138	156	174	152

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very satisfied	8%	7%	6%	1%	9%	2%	7%	5%
Smwht satisfied	37%	35%	33%	29%	34%	34%	33%	31%
Smwht dissat	32%	33%	23%	41%	33%	38%	28%	30%
Very dissat	16%	21%	27%	24%	21%	18%	26%	24%
Don't know	7%	5%	10%	5%	3%	7%	7%	10%
Unwt N=	139	165	126	149	140	149	154	177

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

S2. For each of the following, please indicate to what extent you are satisfied or dissatisfied with how it is being handled by the New Jersey state government.

Health care

Very satisfied	9%
Somewhat satisfied	40%
Somewhat dissatisfied	27%
Very dissatisfied	18%
Don't know	7%
Unweighted N=	621

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	White, Non-Hispanic	Non-White	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very satisfied	14%	6%	6%	8%	9%	9%	8%	9%	11%	7%	7%
Smwht satisfied	50%	37%	32%	46%	34%	39%	41%	43%	34%	33%	51%
Smwht dissat	20%	31%	29%	26%	27%	25%	29%	31%	26%	29%	21%
Very dissat	10%	18%	28%	13%	23%	20%	15%	14%	18%	22%	17%
Don't know	6%	8%	6%	7%	6%	7%	6%	3%	11%	8%	4%
Unwt N=	274	215	132	286	333	383	236	138	156	174	153

	Income				Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K - <\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Very satisfied	14%	4%	8%	10%	11%	4%	8%	10%
Smwht satisfied	30%	50%	42%	39%	31%	33%	52%	48%
Smwht dissat	20%	34%	25%	27%	26%	37%	23%	21%
Very dissat	28%	10%	17%	15%	27%	19%	8%	13%
Don't know	8%	2%	8%	9%	5%	7%	9%	8%
Unwt N=	139	166	126	149	140	149	154	178

Favorability Ratings and Government Satisfaction Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

Methodology

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted using the [Rutgers-Eagleton/Garden State Panel](#) from June 13 to 16, 2025, with a scientifically selected random sample of 621 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. 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 residential adult population of New Jersey. Weighting was done by applying a base weight, making an adjustment to account for sampling only panelists who prefer to be contacted via web, 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.

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, age by education, detailed education, race/ethnicity, region, home tenure, voter registration, number of adults per household, civic engagement, internet use frequency and 2024 presidential recalled vote. 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).

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

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Table 1. Calibration Variable Sources

Calibration Variables	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex • Age • Education • Race • Hispanic nativity • Number of adults in household • Home tenure 	2024 Current Population Survey ¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region 	American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101, 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic engagement • Internet frequency 	Modeled from SSRS Opinion Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voter registration 	CPS 2024 Voting and Registration Supplement ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Presidential recalled vote 	National Election Pool

Weights were trimmed at the 4th and 96th percentiles to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on survey-derived estimates.

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 1.85.

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 621 New Jersey adults is +/-3.9 percentage points at a 95% confidence interval. The design effect is 1.85, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 5.4 percentage 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 44.6 and 55.4% (50 +/- 5.4) if all New Jersey adults had been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

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

¹ 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.

² Current Population Survey, November 2024: Voting and Registration Supplement [machine-readable data file] conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. - Washington: Bureau of the Census [producer and distributor], 2024.

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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). Ashley Koning and Jessica Roman led analysis and preparation of this release, with assistance from David Martin and Kyle Morgan. 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.

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Weighted Demographics
621 New Jersey Adults
Overall Margin of Error = +/- 5.4 percentage points

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

		deff	MOE			deff	MOE
Democrat	34%	1.96	+/- 8.3%	<50K	27%	1.83	+/- 11.2%
Independent	40%	1.81	+/- 9.0%	50K-<100K	31%	1.83	+/- 10.3%
Republican	26%	1.57	+/- 10.7%	100K-<150K	19%	1.90	+/- 12.0%
				150K+	23%	1.75	+/- 10.6%
Man	49%	1.88	+/- 7.9%	HS or Less	32%	1.61	+/- 10.5%
Woman	51%	1.82	+/- 7.3%	Some College	22%	1.92	+/- 11.1%
White, Non-Hisp	56%	1.76	+/- 6.6%	College Grad	22%	1.72	+/- 10.3%
Non-White	44%	1.89	+/- 8.8%	Grad Work	24%	1.96	+/- 10.3%
18-34	25%	1.90	+/- 11.5%				
35-49	24%	2.07	+/- 11.3%				
50-64	27%	1.77	+/- 9.9%				
65+	24%	1.64	+/- 10.1%				