RUTGERS–NEW BRUNSWICK
Eagleton Institute of Politics
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New Jerseyans Say New York Drivers Are the Worst – But Rank Themselves Not Far Behind

Pennsylvania and Florida motorists round out the top four, according to a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (Nov. 13, 2025) – New Jerseyans eyeroll the driving abilities of New Yorkers, but consider themselves pretty bad too, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

One-third of New Jersey voters say New York has the worst drivers (33%). Slightly more than 1 in 5, however, say that New Jersey drivers are the worst (22%), followed by Pennsylvania (14%), Florida (10%), Massachusetts (5%), California (4%), and Connecticut (2%).

"If you're a native New Jerseyan, it's largely understood that only we can make fun of our state and we'll defend our homeland to any outside bullies," said Jessica Roman, director of data management and analysis at the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. "A bit of self-loathing in the data is on brand for New Jersey residents. That said, the top three being New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania is not surprising when you consider who New Jerseyans typically encounter most on the road."

Voters put New York as having the No. 1 worst drivers, regardless of partisanship, gender, race and ethnicity, age, and income.

Among those with some college education or less, New York (30%) and New Jersey (29%) drivers are essentially tied for the worst. These voters are also about twice as likely to say New Jersey drivers are the worst compared with those with a bachelor's degree or additional schooling (15%).

Looking beyond the No. 1 spot, Republicans (29%) and independents (23%) are more likely than Democrats (14%) to say New Jersey drivers are the worst. Democrats, on the other hand, are more likely than Republicans to say Floridians are the worst drivers (17% versus 3%, respectively).

Results are from a statewide poll of 795 voters contacted via live calling and texting from Oct. 3 to Oct. 17. This registered voter sample has a margin of error of +/- 4.6 percentage points.

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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 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.

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

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

FUN1. What state do you think has the worst drivers?

TABLES BEGIN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

New York	33%
New Jersey	22%
Pennsylvania	14%
Florida	10%
Massachusetts	5%
California	4%
Connecticut	2%
Maryland	1%
Virginia	1%
Texas	1%
South Carolina	1%
Georgia	1%
Michigan	1%
Tennessee	1%
Washington, D.C.	1%
New Hampshire	<1%
Ohio	<1%
Delaware	<1%
Rhode Island	<1%
North Carolina	<1%
Louisiana	<1%
Alaska	<1%
Illinois	<1%
Alabama	<1%
Kentucky	<1%
Colorado	<1%
Nevada	<1%
Wisconsin	<1%
Mississippi	<1%
Unweighted N=	753

Note: Any states that do not appear in the table above received a true 0%.

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity		Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Non-Hispanic white	Nonwhite	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
New York	35%	31%	33%	35%	32%	29%	40%	37%	33%	32%	29%
New Jersey	14%	23%	29%	21%	23%	23%	19%	20%	20%	26%	23%
Pennsylvania	14%	15%	14%	16%	14%	18%	9%	17%	17%	12%	12%
Florida	17%	10%	3%	8%	12%	11%	10%	12%	8%	14%	8%
Mass.	4%	6%	4%	5%	4%	6%	2%	2%	3%	6%	9%
California	2%	5%	4%	3%	5%	3%	5%	3%	5%	2%	5%
Connecticut	1%	<1%	6%	3%	1%	2%	4%	1%	5%	1%	1%
Maryland	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	<1%	1%	2%	<1%	2%
Virginia	2%	1%	1%	<1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Texas	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%
SC	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	<1%	1%	2%
Georgia	1%	1%	0%	<1%	1%	<1%	2%	<1%	1%	0%	1%
Michigan	<1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	2%	2%	<1%	0%	0%
Tennessee	1%	<1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	<1%
DC	1%	1%	0%	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	2%
NH	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Ohio	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Delaware	0%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	1%
Rhode Island	0%	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	0%	<1%	1%
NC	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Louisiana	1%	<1%	0%	0%	1%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	1%
Alaska	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Illinois	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Alabama	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	1%	0%	0%
Kentucky	0%	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Colorado	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	0%
Nevada	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Wisconsin	0%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	0%	0%
Mississippi	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	0%

Unwt N=	234	299	220	411	327	548	180	162	203	179	209

	Income		Education	
	<$100K	$100K+	Some college or less	4-year college degree +
New York	35%	33%	30%	35%
New Jersey	20%	20%	29%	15%
Pennsylvania	15%	14%	15%	14%
Florida	10%	12%	7%	14%
Mass.	3%	7%	2%	7%
California	6%	2%	5%	4%
Connecticut	2%	3%	2%	3%
Maryland	2%	1%	2%	1%
Virginia	2%	1%	1%	1%
Texas	<1%	1%	<1%	1%
SC	1%	1%	1%	<1%
Georgia	1%	<1%	1%	<1%
Michigan	0%	1%	0%	1%
Tennessee	1%	0%	1%	<1%
DC	<1%	1%	1%	<1%
NH	1%	0%	0%	1%
Ohio	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Delaware	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Rhode Island	1%	0%	1%	<1%
NC	0%	1%	1%	0%
Louisiana	1%	0%	<1%	<1%
Alaska	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Illinois	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%
Alabama	0%	<1%	0%	<1%
Kentucky	0%	<1%	<1%	0%
Colorado	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Nevada	<1%	0%	<1%	0%
Wisconsin	<1%	0%	0%	<1%
Mississippi	<1%	0%	<1%	0%

Unwt N=	283	413	312	441

Methodology

The Rutgers–Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live interviewers October 3-17, 2025, with a random sample of New Jersey likely voters (n=795). Likely-voter status was modeled at the respondent level: Each self-identified voter received an individual turnout probability based on past voting history and reported likelihood of voting. That probability was then incorporated into the post-stratification weights described below. This poll included 140 adults reached through live calling and 655 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 call	13%
Landline call	4%
Text to web	82%

The data were weighted to represent the population of registered voters in New Jersey. A base weight was not applied, as the sample was selected with equal probability from records that included a phone number. Table 1 outlines the variables used in the calibration process and identifies the sources of the benchmark distributions.

The calibration was accomplished using iterative proportional fitting (IPF). 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. 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.

Table 1. Calibration Variable Definitions and Benchmark Sources

Variable (categories)	Source
Sex (M, F)	L2 voter file
Age (18-34, 35-49, 50-64, 65+)	L2 voter file
Education (HS grad or less, some college / Assoc degree, 4-yr college grad, graduate degree)	CPS 2024 Voting and Registration Supplement PUMS data[1]
Race (White~Hisp, Black~Hisp, Hisp, Asian~Hisp, Other/mixed~Hisp)	CPS 2024 Voting and Registration Supplement PUMS data
Region (urban, suburb, exurban, Phila/south, shore)	L2 voter file
2024 recalled vote (Harris, Trump, other, did not vote)[2]	The American Presidency Project, UC Santa Barbara[3]

Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. SSRS calculates 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

[1] U.S. Census Bureau. *Current Population Survey, November 2024: Voting and Registration Supplement [Public Use Microdata Sample]*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce. Released April 21, 2025. Available at Census.gov.

[2] The 2024 vote distribution pulled from The American Presidency Project was adjusted so that the proportion of voters who reported not voting matched the unweighted percentage in the survey data.

[3] https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/statistics/elections/2024.

sample design and systematic non-response. The total sample design effect for the likely voter sample is 1.83. The total sample design effect for the registered voter sample is 1.78.

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. The survey's margin of error is the largest 95% confidence interval for any estimated proportion based on the total sample — the one around 50%. In this poll, the simple sampling error for 795 New Jersey likely voters is +/-3.5 percentage points at a 95% confidence interval. Sampling error should also be adjusted to recognize the effect of weighting the data to better match the population. The design effect is 1.83, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 4.7 percentage points. Thus, if 50% of New Jersey voters in this sample favor a particular position, we would be 95% sure that the true figure is between 45.3% and 54.7% (50 +/- 4.7) if all New Jersey voters had been interviewed, rather than just a sample. The simple sampling error for registered voters is +/- 3.5% and the adjusted margin of error with the 1.78 design effect is +/- 4.6%.

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 of greater or lesser magnitude.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research, Inc. and Rumble Up with sample from L2 Data and Marketing Systems Group (MSG). Special thank you to Siena Research Institute for consultation on likely voter modeling and weighting. 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. 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
795 New Jersey Registered Voters
Overall Margin of Error = +/- 4.6 percentage points

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

		deff	MOE
Democrat	33%	1.76	+/- 8.2%
Independent	37%	1.84	+/- 7.5%
Republican	30%	1.71	+/- 8.5%
Man	48%	1.78	+/- 6.3%
Woman	52%	1.71	+/- 6.9%
Non-Hispanic white	63%	1.71	+/- 5.3%
Nonwhite	37%	1.56	+/- 9.0%
18-34	25%	1.72	+/- 9.9%
35-49	24%	1.86	+/- 9.3%
50-64	25%	1.67	+/- 9.2%
65+	25%	1.77	+/- 8.6%

		deff	MOE
<100K	50%	1.69	+/- 7.3%
100K+	50%	1.76	+/- 6.3%
Some college or Less	51%	1.68	+/- 7.0%
4-Yr College Degree or More	49%	1.77	+/- 6.0%