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New Jerseyans Give Murphy a C for His Time as Governor Overall, D+ On Taxes and Affordability

The governor leaves office with middle-of-the-road favorability and approval ratings, residents split on direction state is headed

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (Jan. 15, 2026) – Gov. Phil Murphy ends his tenure as a C student in the eyes of New Jerseyans, according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

The Poll asked residents to give Murphy a final grade for the job he has done as governor, using a standard educational grading scale ranging from A (4 points) to F (0 points).

Murphy earns a C overall for the past eight years, with a grade-point average of 2.09. Nine percent of residents give him an A, 32% a B, 23% a C, 16% a D, and 13% an F.

“Gov. Murphy will leave office much as he entered it – a governor who rarely elicited strong reactions and generally avoided sharp swings in public opinion,” said [Ashley Koning](#), an assistant research professor and director of the [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling](#) at [Rutgers University-New Brunswick](#). “Murphy exits with the steadiest ratings of any governor in our five decades of polling. He received neither the highest nor lowest ratings of any governor on record, in sharp contrast to his immediate predecessor.”

The same scale was used to grade various policy areas. Murphy mainly gets Cs across the board, but his lowest grades are on the two most important issues that have been at the top of New Jerseyans’ minds – affordability (1.32) and taxes (1.44). He receives a D+ on each of these issues. On cost of living and affordability, 3% give him an A, 14% a B, 24% a C, 24% a D and 31% an F. On taxes, 5% give him an A, 17% a B, 21% a C, 19% a D and 30% an F.

On other fiscal issues, Murphy gets a C-. The outgoing governor garners a 1.98 GPA on the economy and jobs and a 1.79 GPA on the state budget and government spending. On the economy and jobs, 8% give him an A, 28% a B, 26% a C, 16% a D and 15% an F. On the state budget and government spending, 8% give him an A, 21% a B, 22% a C, 14% a D and 20% an F.

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

“Murphy’s grades on key fiscal issues have remained largely unchanged from his first to second term, suggesting New Jerseyans saw little progress in these critical areas,” Koning said. “Addressing these same challenges will be among Governor-elect Sherrill’s most important tasks as she takes office next week.”

Murphy also gets a C- on transportation and infrastructure (1.94). Seven percent of residents give him an A, 25% a B, 26% a C, 18% a D and 14% an F. These grades are nearly identical to those at the end of his first term on this issue.

Murphy receives his best grades on education and schools (2.11) and crime and safety (2.11). On education and schools, 14% give him an A, 25% a B, 22% a C, 15% a D and 13% an F. Historically a best-performing area for him and his administration, Murphy’s current grades on this issue have slipped since the end of his first term.

On crime and safety, 11% give Murphy an A, 31% a B, 23% a C, 14% a D and 14% an F. These grades remain virtually unchanged from 2022.

Murphy also receives a C on healthcare (2.09). Eleven percent of residents give him an A, 27% a B, 23% a C, 16% a D and 12% an F. While Murphy’s percentage of As on this issue has slipped since his first term, he also has cut those giving him an F in half in the same amount of time.

Murphy continues to garner middle-of-the-road favorability and approval ratings at the end of his gubernatorial tenure. He leaves office with 43% of New Jerseyans having a favorable impression of him, 32% having an unfavorable one and 23% having no opinion. Murphy’s likeability peaked at 59% in May 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but for most of his two terms it hovered in the mid-to-upper forties.

Much like throughout the rest of his tenure, Murphy’s final approval ratings are slightly better than his favorability. Forty-eight percent of residents say they approve of the way he has handled his job, 35% disapprove and 17% say they don’t know. As with favorability, Murphy reached his highest approval ratings in May 2020 (77%), but otherwise, stayed at or just above the 50% threshold for much of his tenure.

As for the direction New Jersey is headed toward as Murphy’s governorship comes to an end, residents are split: Forty-two percent say the state is going in the right direction, 43% say it has gone off on the wrong track and 16% are unsure.

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,570 New Jersey adults contacted through the [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) from Dec. 29, 2025, to Jan. 6, 2026. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.6 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 adults unless otherwise noted; all percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with samples sizes under 100 with extreme caution.

PM1. Overall, is your general impression of Phil Murphy favorable, unfavorable, or do you not have an opinion about him?

Favorable	43%
Unfavorable	32%
No opinion	23%
Don't know person	2%
Unweighted N=	1570

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Favorable	68%	31%	19%	44%	42%	38%	67%	39%	42%	38%	43%	39%	49%
Unfavorable	10%	33%	70%	34%	30%	43%	9%	23%	19%	24%	30%	38%	34%
No opinion	21%	32%	10%	21%	25%	17%	22%	34%	34%	32%	24%	22%	16%
DK person	1%	4%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%	3%	5%	6%	3%	<1%	1%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Favorable	40%	46%	45%	42%	43%	48%	37%	44%	36%	39%	42%	43%	46%
Unfavorable	21%	33%	33%	35%	22%	23%	43%	36%	43%	31%	35%	33%	27%
No opinion	34%	19%	18%	22%	33%	26%	19%	17%	21%	26%	22%	22%	24%
DK person	5%	1%	3%	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%	<1%	4%	1%	2%	3%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

PM2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Phil Murphy is handling his job as governor?

Approve	48%
Disapprove	35%
Don't know	17%
Unweighted N=	1569

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	72%	38%	24%	48%	48%	43%	68%	47%	52%	43%	48%	46%	55%
Disapprove	12%	37%	73%	37%	32%	45%	14%	30%	22%	29%	35%	42%	33%
Don't know	16%	25%	4%	14%	20%	13%	18%	23%	26%	29%	17%	12%	12%
Unwt N=	694	624	249	662	899	798	226	294	250	296	455	394	424

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
Approve	47%	49%	48%	52%	48%	55%	45%	45%	40%	47%	45%	47%	53%
Disapprove	29%	36%	34%	36%	30%	26%	44%	38%	44%	35%	36%	36%	32%
Don't know	24%	15%	17%	11%	22%	19%	11%	17%	16%	18%	19%	17%	15%
Unwt N=	329	414	265	377	212	440	309	373	233	210	375	419	565

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

NJ1. In general, would you say the state of New Jersey [ROTATE: is currently going in the right direction], [has gone off on the wrong track]?

Right direction	42%
Wrong track	43%
Don't know	16%
Unweighted N=	1570

	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	64%	33%	18%	42%	42%	36%	58%	46%	44%	43%	46%	40%	38%
Wrong track	20%	48%	75%	44%	41%	52%	28%	34%	34%	36%	43%	46%	45%
Don't know	16%	19%	7%	14%	17%	13%	14%	20%	22%	21%	11%	13%	17%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

	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	41%	38%	47%	45%	42%	46%	42%	42%	32%	37%	38%	44%	47%
Wrong track	42%	44%	42%	43%	34%	37%	46%	49%	52%	47%	47%	41%	37%
Don't know	18%	18%	12%	12%	25%	17%	12%	9%	15%	17%	15%	14%	16%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

PM3. Please give Phil Murphy a grade for the overall job he is doing as governor throughout his first term using a grading scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade, A, B, C, D, or F.

A	9%
B	32%
C	23%
D	16%
F	13%
Don't know	7%
Unweighted N=	1570

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A	14%	7%	3%	8%	10%	7%	16%	13%	6%	8%	11%	7%	10%
B	51%	25%	15%	33%	32%	31%	38%	27%	38%	29%	31%	33%	36%
C	19%	28%	18%	22%	23%	17%	29%	32%	28%	28%	25%	17%	20%
D	7%	20%	26%	18%	15%	22%	7%	12%	9%	12%	16%	20%	16%
F	2%	11%	38%	15%	11%	18%	7%	9%	5%	8%	10%	19%	15%
Don't know	7%	10%	1%	5%	9%	6%	4%	8%	14%	15%	8%	3%	2%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
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
A	10%	9%	12%	8%	11%	10%	10%	10%	2%	15%	5%	6%	11%
B	27%	34%	29%	35%	33%	35%	28%	32%	31%	23%	35%	35%	35%
C	23%	22%	24%	24%	29%	24%	22%	15%	22%	20%	20%	28%	22%
D	16%	16%	17%	17%	11%	13%	19%	17%	22%	16%	18%	17%	13%
F	14%	13%	11%	11%	8%	8%	19%	18%	17%	18%	15%	9%	11%
Don't know	9%	7%	6%	6%	9%	9%	2%	8%	5%	8%	6%	6%	9%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

PM4. Here is a list of some specific areas. Please give Phil Murphy a final grade for the job he has done on each as governor, using a grade scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade A, B, C, D, or F.

New Jersey's economy and jobs

A	8%
B	28%
C	26%
D	16%
F	15%
Don't know	7%
Unweighted N=	1570

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A	11%	7%	1%	6%	9%	6%	13%	11%	5%	7%	10%	7%	7%
B	41%	24%	12%	30%	26%	26%	36%	22%	35%	26%	28%	25%	33%
C	26%	25%	31%	25%	28%	24%	23%	28%	37%	26%	24%	28%	28%
D	7%	23%	18%	18%	14%	17%	12%	21%	11%	16%	17%	16%	15%
F	5%	13%	36%	15%	14%	19%	9%	13%	5%	12%	15%	18%	14%
Don't know	11%	7%	2%	6%	9%	8%	8%	5%	7%	14%	6%	6%	4%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
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
A	11%	5%	7%	12%	9%	8%	11%	8%	3%	10%	6%	7%	8%
B	22%	28%	34%	28%	25%	32%	21%	30%	25%	25%	24%	29%	34%
C	27%	29%	23%	27%	27%	27%	32%	22%	25%	26%	22%	31%	26%
D	20%	15%	16%	13%	18%	14%	16%	12%	22%	17%	21%	14%	12%
F	15%	18%	11%	12%	12%	11%	15%	19%	19%	15%	20%	12%	11%
Don't know	6%	5%	9%	8%	9%	8%	4%	9%	6%	7%	7%	6%	9%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

PM4. Here is a list of some specific areas. Please give Phil Murphy a final grade for the job he has done on each as governor, using a grade scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade A, B, C, D, or F.

Taxes

A	5%
B	17%
C	21%
D	19%
F	30%
Don't know	8%
Unweighted N=	1570

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A	8%	4%	3%	5%	5%	4%	6%	6%	6%	4%	6%	5%	6%
B	26%	14%	8%	18%	16%	17%	24%	14%	15%	16%	17%	13%	22%
C	25%	21%	15%	20%	23%	19%	22%	24%	26%	25%	21%	19%	20%
D	18%	20%	19%	18%	20%	17%	26%	17%	21%	19%	22%	16%	19%
F	12%	34%	54%	33%	27%	36%	14%	28%	23%	22%	30%	40%	27%
Don't know	11%	8%	1%	6%	9%	7%	7%	10%	9%	15%	5%	7%	5%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
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
A	8%	3%	5%	6%	2%	6%	10%	6%	2%	8%	4%	3%	5%
B	16%	17%	18%	18%	19%	19%	18%	15%	12%	13%	15%	17%	21%
C	17%	25%	23%	19%	28%	20%	17%	20%	23%	18%	17%	24%	26%
D	24%	18%	16%	20%	18%	21%	22%	16%	16%	21%	20%	22%	14%
F	23%	30%	31%	32%	23%	25%	31%	34%	41%	28%	36%	29%	26%
Don't know	12%	6%	7%	4%	11%	8%	3%	9%	6%	11%	8%	5%	8%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

PM4. Here is a list of some specific areas. Please give Phil Murphy a final grade for the job he has done on each as governor, using a grade scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade A, B, C, D, or F.

The state budget and government spending

A	8%
B	21%
C	22%
D	14%
F	20%
Don't know	14%
Unweighted N=	1570

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A	12%	6%	3%	7%	9%	7%	15%	10%	4%	8%	8%	8%	8%
B	33%	16%	10%	22%	21%	20%	24%	16%	28%	16%	23%	20%	27%
C	23%	23%	18%	22%	22%	19%	24%	27%	26%	22%	23%	20%	23%
D	8%	17%	20%	15%	13%	12%	15%	17%	17%	13%	15%	14%	15%
F	5%	22%	47%	22%	20%	30%	8%	13%	9%	15%	19%	27%	21%
Don't know	18%	16%	2%	12%	16%	12%	15%	17%	16%	26%	13%	11%	7%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
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
A	10%	8%	7%	9%	10%	8%	11%	9%	3%	11%	7%	6%	9%
B	18%	20%	22%	26%	20%	23%	17%	24%	19%	20%	12%	24%	29%
C	21%	27%	21%	17%	23%	22%	27%	19%	21%	19%	26%	22%	21%
D	21%	9%	9%	20%	19%	14%	15%	13%	12%	16%	17%	13%	12%
F	18%	25%	18%	18%	14%	15%	24%	26%	30%	22%	23%	20%	17%
Don't know	12%	11%	22%	11%	15%	18%	7%	10%	14%	12%	16%	15%	12%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

**Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

PM4. Here is a list of some specific areas. Please give Phil Murphy a final grade for the job he has done on each as governor, using a grade scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade A, B, C, D, or F.

Education and schools

A	14%
B	25%
C	22%
D	15%
F	13%
Don't know	11%
Unweighted N=	1570

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A	21%	10%	5%	14%	13%	11%	19%	16%	14%	18%	17%	9%	10%
B	34%	23%	12%	25%	25%	22%	28%	26%	31%	17%	26%	29%	27%
C	22%	24%	19%	21%	23%	20%	23%	24%	27%	23%	17%	25%	25%
D	8%	18%	24%	17%	13%	15%	15%	19%	12%	15%	20%	12%	14%
F	3%	13%	34%	13%	14%	19%	9%	7%	5%	12%	13%	17%	12%
Don't know	12%	12%	6%	9%	13%	13%	5%	8%	11%	14%	9%	9%	11%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
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
A	14%	11%	15%	17%	14%	15%	14%	14%	10%	17%	12%	11%	14%
B	20%	24%	28%	26%	25%	26%	27%	26%	20%	18%	23%	27%	30%
C	22%	23%	23%	19%	22%	23%	27%	17%	21%	20%	21%	25%	23%
D	20%	16%	13%	15%	17%	14%	13%	16%	17%	18%	17%	13%	13%
F	11%	14%	13%	14%	10%	10%	15%	16%	19%	14%	16%	14%	10%
Don't know	13%	12%	8%	9%	12%	13%	4%	11%	13%	13%	10%	10%	11%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

PM4. Here is a list of some specific areas. Please give Phil Murphy a final grade for the job he has done on each as governor, using a grade scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade A, B, C, D, or F.

Cost of living and affordability

A	3%
B	14%
C	24%
D	24%
F	31%
Don't know	4%
Unweighted N=	1570

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A	4%	4%	2%	3%	4%	3%	4%	5%	3%	5%	4%	3%	2%
B	24%	9%	4%	13%	15%	11%	18%	14%	18%	12%	14%	14%	15%
C	32%	23%	12%	26%	23%	24%	29%	24%	23%	22%	20%	26%	28%
D	22%	25%	24%	22%	25%	23%	22%	22%	27%	23%	23%	19%	29%
F	13%	36%	57%	33%	30%	36%	23%	32%	21%	30%	34%	36%	25%
Don't know	5%	4%	1%	4%	4%	3%	5%	3%	8%	8%	5%	3%	1%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
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
A	8%	2%	3%	2%	3%	5%	5%	3%	1%	7%	2%	2%	4%
B	13%	14%	11%	16%	13%	17%	11%	9%	13%	10%	13%	15%	16%
C	20%	23%	30%	26%	26%	24%	22%	29%	19%	16%	22%	28%	30%
D	22%	25%	24%	23%	26%	21%	26%	22%	24%	28%	22%	24%	21%
F	33%	32%	29%	28%	26%	28%	33%	32%	39%	32%	39%	29%	24%
Don't know	4%	4%	2%	4%	5%	4%	2%	4%	3%	7%	2%	3%	5%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

PM4. Here is a list of some specific areas. Please give Phil Murphy a final grade for the job he has done on each as governor, using a grade scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade A, B, C, D, or F.

Crime and safety

A	11%
B	31%
C	23%
D	14%
F	14%
Don't know	7%
Unweighted N=	1570

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A	17%	8%	3%	12%	10%	10%	17%	7%	11%	11%	13%	9%	8%
B	44%	29%	12%	33%	29%	29%	34%	33%	33%	27%	34%	29%	34%
C	19%	23%	30%	22%	24%	19%	24%	25%	32%	22%	20%	24%	25%
D	7%	17%	23%	14%	15%	18%	12%	11%	7%	13%	13%	17%	15%
F	3%	16%	31%	15%	13%	16%	7%	16%	8%	13%	13%	16%	13%
Don't know	10%	8%	2%	5%	10%	8%	6%	7%	9%	14%	7%	5%	4%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
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
A	10%	8%	11%	16%	7%	11%	16%	11%	6%	10%	7%	13%	12%
B	26%	32%	37%	31%	32%	31%	31%	35%	27%	25%	30%	34%	34%
C	22%	25%	20%	22%	27%	23%	23%	14%	25%	20%	24%	24%	22%
D	17%	16%	9%	14%	13%	13%	14%	14%	19%	18%	17%	12%	12%
F	18%	14%	16%	10%	11%	13%	12%	18%	15%	18%	18%	11%	10%
Don't know	8%	5%	7%	6%	9%	8%	5%	8%	8%	9%	4%	6%	10%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

**Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

PM4. Here is a list of some specific areas. Please give Phil Murphy a final grade for the job he has done on each as governor, using a grade scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade A, B, C, D, or F.

Transportation and infrastructure

A	7%
B	25%
C	26%
D	18%
F	14%
Don't know	10%
Unweighted N=	1570

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A	9%	7%	3%	7%	8%	5%	15%	12%	4%	9%	9%	5%	6%
B	37%	21%	10%	25%	25%	20%	38%	23%	30%	20%	26%	25%	28%
C	26%	25%	30%	28%	25%	25%	21%	28%	31%	24%	28%	22%	30%
D	13%	19%	25%	19%	16%	19%	11%	20%	17%	18%	17%	19%	17%
F	4%	16%	28%	14%	13%	18%	7%	8%	9%	14%	12%	17%	12%
Don't know	11%	12%	5%	7%	14%	12%	7%	9%	9%	16%	8%	11%	6%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
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
A	9%	7%	11%	5%	9%	8%	7%	9%	3%	14%	6%	5%	6%
B	23%	25%	28%	24%	21%	30%	20%	26%	19%	21%	26%	26%	26%
C	24%	27%	27%	29%	23%	29%	28%	25%	22%	21%	26%	29%	28%
D	19%	18%	13%	19%	19%	14%	21%	14%	26%	19%	21%	15%	16%
F	12%	14%	14%	14%	14%	11%	13%	17%	17%	16%	15%	10%	14%
Don't know	13%	9%	7%	9%	14%	8%	11%	9%	13%	10%	7%	15%	10%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

**Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

PM4. Here is a list of some specific areas. Please give Phil Murphy a final grade for the job he has done on each as governor, using a grade scale from A to F. You can give him any full letter grade A, B, C, D, or F.

Healthcare

A	11%
B	27%
C	23%
D	16%
F	12%
Don't know	11%
Unweighted N=	1570

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
A	18%	9%	2%	11%	11%	10%	22%	10%	5%	13%	12%	10%	9%
B	38%	26%	8%	27%	26%	24%	31%	25%	34%	21%	28%	26%	31%
C	17%	27%	26%	25%	22%	21%	22%	27%	25%	21%	23%	22%	26%
D	11%	17%	26%	16%	17%	17%	8%	19%	17%	18%	15%	15%	18%
F	4%	11%	30%	11%	13%	16%	5%	12%	6%	12%	11%	17%	9%
Don't know	13%	11%	7%	10%	12%	11%	12%	7%	12%	16%	12%	9%	7%
Unwt N=	694	625	249	662	900	798	227	294	250	296	455	394	425

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
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
A	16%	10%	10%	10%	13%	11%	16%	11%	6%	13%	11%	9%	12%
B	19%	26%	29%	30%	33%	27%	25%	25%	23%	20%	23%	29%	33%
C	22%	28%	25%	19%	22%	23%	18%	23%	27%	27%	19%	29%	17%
D	20%	18%	9%	20%	11%	17%	21%	14%	19%	14%	24%	13%	14%
F	15%	12%	12%	10%	9%	11%	15%	13%	15%	13%	14%	12%	10%
Don't know	7%	7%	13%	11%	12%	12%	6%	12%	10%	12%	9%	8%	14%
Unwt N=	330	414	265	377	212	441	309	373	233	211	375	419	565

Methodology

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted using the [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) from Dec. 29, 2025 to Jan. 6, 2026, with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,570 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, households were invited to participate via web or live calling. 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 phone or 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 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.

Table 1. Calibration Variable Sources

Calibration Variables	Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex • Age • Education • Race • Number of adults in household • Home ownership 	2025 Current Population Survey ¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region 	U.S. Census Bureau. "Age and Sex." American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101, 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic engagement 	2023 CPS Civic Engagement Supplement ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet frequency 	Modeled from SSRS Opinion Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voter registration 	CPS 2024 Voting and Registration Supplement Population Survey ³
<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 2.16.

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

¹ Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Matthew Sobek, Daniel Backman, Grace Cooper, Julia A. Rivera Drew, Stephanie Richards, Renae Rodgers, Jonathan Schroeder, and Kari C.W. Williams. IPUMS USA: Version 16.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V16.0>

² September 2023 CPS Volunteering and Civic Life Supplement data; Civically engaged respondents are defined as those who have volunteered in the past 12 months or who talk to / spend time with their neighbors daily: Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Renae Rodgers, Steven Ruggles, J. Robert Warren, Daniel Backman, Annie Chen, Grace Cooper, Stephanie Richards, Megan Schouweiler, and Michael Westberry (2024). Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 12.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V12.0>

³ 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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this poll, the simple sampling error for 1,570 New Jersey adults is ± 2.5 percentage points at a 95% confidence interval. The design effect is 2.16, making the adjusted margin of error ± 3.6 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 46.4 and 53.6% (50 ± 3.6) 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 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.

Murphy Final Grades and Ratings
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll

Weighted Demographics
1,570 New Jersey Adults
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
Democrat	38%	2.26	+/- 5.6%	<50K	23%	2.43	+/- 8.4%
Independent	43%	2.20	+/- 5.8%	50K-<100K	31%	2.23	+/- 7.2%
Republican	19%	1.76	+/- 8.2%	100K-<150K	21%	2.12	+/- 8.8%
				150K+	25%	1.89	+/- 6.9%
Man	48%	2.04	+/- 5.4%	Urban	16%	1.96	+/- 9.4%
Woman	52%	2.24	+/- 4.9%	Suburb	35%	1.89	+/- 6.4%
White	54%	2.03	+/- 4.9%	Exurban	14%	2.52	+/- 8.8%
Black	13%	2.42	+/- 10.1%	Phil/South	18%	2.32	+/- 7.7%
Hispanic	17%	2.46	+/- 9.0%	Shore	16%	2.10	+/- 9.3%
Other	16%	2.06	+/- 8.9%				
				HS or Less	22%	1.79	+/- 9.0%
18-34	24%	2.08	+/- 8.2%	Some College	26%	2.09	+/- 7.3%
35-49	26%	2.20	+/- 6.8%	College Grad	25%	2.09	+/- 6.9%
50-64	24%	2.05	+/- 7.1%	Grad Work	27%	2.13	+/- 6.0%
65+	26%	2.18	+/- 7.0%				