

The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

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RELEASE INFORMATION

A story based on the survey findings presented in this release and background memo will appear in Sunday's *Star-Ledger*. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to "*The Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll*."

NOTE: UNLESS AN EXCEPTION IS NOTED ALL OF THE PERCENTAGES IN THIS RELEASE ARE BASED ON 531 "LIKELY VOTERS" — NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS WHO REPORT THEY ARE CURRENTLY REGISTERED TO VOTE AND SAY THAT THEY ARE PROBABLY OR DEFINITELY GOING TO VOTE. THE MARGIN OF SAMPLING ERROR IS ABOUT $\pm 4.0\%$.

The *Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll* web address: <http://www-rci.rutgers.edu/~bertrand>

THE 1995 NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS COMPETITION FOR THE INDEPENDENT VOTERS

Statewide, about equal percentages of likely New Jersey voters say they will vote for Republicans (37%) as say they will vote for Democrats (38%) in the Assembly races in their districts and 1-in-5 voters are still undecided. At this time the independent voters who could be the key to winning in some districts, are not showing a preference for either party and 1-in-5 of these independent voters remain undecided.

It is important to note that the results of a general statewide survey cannot be used to project what might happen in any of the 40 individual election districts. However, the statewide trend this year which shows about equal support for Republicans as for Democratic candidates is different than the statewide trends in 1993 and 1991 when more voters said

- more -

that they would vote for Republicans than Democrats. In the 1993 Assembly elections, the Republicans won more seats than the Democrats giving them a 53 to 27 margin.

Interest in the 1995 New Jersey Assembly elections, the first election since 1979 to have the Assembly positions as the highest ranked elected position on the voting ballot, is down from past elections when other higher ranked elected offices have attracted voters interest. This year somewhat less than 4-in-10 voters say that they are very interested in the outcomes of the 80 Assembly races.

Candidates who receive support from Governor Christie Whitman may not have a major advantage. While 1-in-5 voters say Whitman's participation will make them more likely to vote for a candidate a similar 1-in-5 say it will make them less likely to cast a vote for a candidate she supports. In comparison, by a margin of more than 3 to 1, voters say they are less likely to choose Republican candidates because of the current plans being discussed in Washington to change Medicare. In addition, the vote for independent candidates may also be a factor in this election. About 1-in-10 voters say they are very likely to vote for an independent candidate.

“This Assembly election has not focused on a specific explosive issue like the tax revolt referendums of 1991 and 1993”, commented Janice Ballou, Poll Director. “Therefore, there is the expectation that these elections will be won or lost based on the range of specific issues based on what is happening in each candidate’s district.”

Looking to the future, New Jerseyans expect Republicans to be the dominate political party in their state. By a margin of about 3-to-1, voters say that over the next few years Republicans will be more successful than Democrats in getting their candidates elected and in getting their programs and policies passed. However, neither party has an advantage when New Jersey voters select the party that they trust the most to do what is best for New Jersey – about a third say the Democrats and a similar percent say the Republicans.

The *Star-Ledger/Eagleton* Poll was conducted by telephone between October 27 and November 2, 1995 with 531 likely New Jersey voters who report they are registered and will "definitely" or probably" vote on election day.

THE 1995 NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY RACES

At this time in the 1995 New Jersey Assembly race, statewide neither party has an advantage. About equal percentages of likely voters say that they will vote for both Democratic candidates (38%) in their district as say they will vote for both Republican candidates (37%) while 15 percent are undecided and 10 percent plan to split their vote between a Democrat and a Republican or vote for some other candidate.

As would be expected, Democrats (80%) and Republicans (81%) show strong support for their own party's candidates. However, among the independent voters whose support may be needed to win elections in some of the 40 districts, the vote preferences are not as well-defined. About equal percentage of independent voters prefer Democrats (33%) as select Republicans (27%). In addition, 21 percent of the independents are undecided and 20 percent say they will select other candidates.

Voters who live in districts that currently have only Republican representatives are more likely to say they'll vote for Republicans (42%) than Democrats (33%) while those who live in districts that are Democratic are more likely to support Democrats (51%) than Republicans (25%). Voters, in swing districts, are not showing any preference for one party or another. Among these swing district voters, 37 percent select Democrats and 36 percent say they will vote for a Republican.

Looking at the voters who are the most likely to actually vote, the distribution between the votes for Democrats (38%) and Republicans (38%) is dead even. Voters with an average chance of actually voting have a somewhat stronger preference for Democrats (42%) than

Republicans (34%) and more of the voters who are the least likely to vote select Republicans (43%) than Democrats (34%).

From a demographic perspective, women are more likely to prefer Democrats (42%) to Republicans (33%) and for men it is just the reverse with a preference for Republicans (42%) over Democrats (33%). White voters are more likely to say that they will vote for Republicans (41%) than Democrats (34%) and among non-white voters the majority support Democrats (61%) compared to 41 percent who say they will vote for Republicans.

THE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

New Jersey voters will also have the opportunity to select independent candidates. Over half of the state's voters say they are not very (25%) or not at all (28%) likely to vote for an independent candidate in their Assembly district. In comparison, 41 percent report being very (11%) or somewhat (30%) likely to select a candidate running as an independent.

As would be expected, independents (22%) are more likely than Democrats (9%) or Republicans (4%) to say that they are very likely to vote for an independent candidate. Possible shifts from a partisan candidate to an independent candidate may have more impact on the Democrats than on the Republicans. Among those who indicate they plan to vote for Democrats in their Assembly district, 12 percent report they are very likely to consider an independent candidate. In comparison, 7 percent of those who select Republican candidates say they are very likely to consider an independent. Fourteen percent of the undecided voters are very likely to consider voting for an independent Assembly candidate in their district.

THE WHITMAN AND MEDICARE FACTORS

Overall, about 6-in-10 likely voters say that having Whitman campaign with a candidate in their district will not make any difference in their vote choice for the Assembly

race while 20 percent say it will make them more likely to vote for a candidate and 21 percent say that Whitman's support would make them less likely to vote for an Assembly candidate. However, from a partisan perspective – Whitman's efforts in an Assembly district intensifies support from Republicans with 32 percent saying they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who campaigned with Whitman. In comparison, 37 percent of Democrats say Whitman's involvement would make them less likely to vote for a candidate. Among independent voters a candidate is more likely to lose than gain support from Whitman campaigning with him or her by a margin of 22 to 16 percent.

The possible influence of the national debate on Medicare in the 1995 Assembly races is somewhat different. While overall, 56 percent of the likely voters say that the Republican plan to change Medicare will not make any difference in their preference for a Republican candidate, 32 percent say this issue will make them less likely to vote for a Republican compared to 9 percent who say the Medicare issue will make them more likely to vote for a Republican. The Medicare issue underscores the lack of Democratic support for Republicans with 61 percent saying they would be less likely to vote for a Republican candidate because of this issue. While 17 percent of the Republicans say this issue makes them more likely to support a Republican, 75 percent say this does not make any difference in their vote choice. By a margin of 31 to 6 percent, more independents say the plan to change Medicare makes them less likely to vote for a Republican candidate compared to 59 percent who say it will make no difference in their vote choice.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Taxes dominate voters concerns and are mentioned most frequently as the most important issue in this election. While 24 percent identify some time of tax as an issue, other top mentions are health care issues, including Medicare (11%), education issues (9%), economic concerns (8%), jobs (7%), and crime and drugs (5%).

Among those who say they are voting for Democratic candidates taxes (19%) are named most frequently followed by healthcare (16%), economic concerns (10%), and jobs (9%). While taxes are also the main issue mentioned by those selecting Republican candidates, the percentage is greater at 33 percent and are followed by education (8%), crime and drugs (7%), economic concerns (7%), healthcare (5%), and jobs (5%). Among the voters who are still undecided about who they will vote for on election day, taxes are named by 17 percent followed by healthcare (15%), education (9%), economic concerns (6%), crime and drugs (5%), and jobs (5%).

FUTURE OF THE TWO PARTY SYSTEM

Looking ahead, a majority of likely voters project a Republican Party dominance over the next few years. Half (56%) say Republicans will be the most successful party in getting their candidates elected compared to 21 percent who think the Democrats will be the most successful.

Voters also feel the same way about who will be the most successful in getting programs and policies passed. Sixty percent say the Republicans will be the most successful during the next few years while 20 percent are optimistic about the Democrats.

In both of these examples the Republicans have much more self-confidence than the Democrats. While 76 percent of the Republicans say their party will be the most successful in electing candidates, 40 percent of the Democrats feel this way about their party. Independents are three times more likely to project that the Republicans rather than the Democrats will be successful in electing candidates by a margin of 52 to 17 percent.

The results are similar for the future success of partisan programs and policies. Again Republicans are more convinced than Democrats of their party's success by a margin of 84 to 34 percent. Also, independents are more than three times as likely to project that Republican programs and policies will be successful by a margin of 54 to 17 percent.

When it comes to credibility, neither party has majority support. While 36 percent say that they trust the Democrats the most to do what is best for New Jersey, 34 percent say they trust the Republicans. Almost 1-in-5 voters volunteered that they do not trust either the Democrats or the Republicans to do what is best for New Jersey and 8 percent do not have an opinion. These results are mostly partisan with 79 percent of the Democrats selecting their party as the one they trust the most to do what is best for New Jersey and a similar 79 percent of the Republicans also feel this way. More independents say they don't trust either party (38%) than select the Democrats (26%) or the Republicans (18%).

RATING THE GOVERNOR

Looking at all New Jersey residents, not just likely voters, Governor Whitman's job performance ratings have moved back to where they were in May when over half of the state's residents gave her positive job performance ratings. Currently, 52 percent say that Governor Whitman is doing an excellent (9%) or good (43%) job compared to 42 percent who rate her as only fair (32%) or poor (10%).

The latest *Star-Ledger*/Eagleton Poll was conducted between October 27 and November 2, 1995, when a random sample of 803 New Jerseyans, 18 years and older, was interviewed by telephone. Figures based on this sample size are subject to a sampling error of about ± 3.5 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from that population. The questions and figures referred to in this release are presented below. The location of each question on the actual questionnaire is in brackets.

There are also percentages in this release are based on those considered most likely to actually vote in the November election. This subset, identified as **LIKELY VOTERS** in this background memo, HAS 531 respondents. The sampling error for this subset is about ± 4.0 percent. Unless otherwise indicated all percentages refer to this group of voters. Likely voters are people who say that they are registered to vote and will "definitely" or "probably" vote on Election Day.

BACKGROUND MEMO – RELEASE SL/EP55-1 (EP105-1), SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1995

Please Note: The percentage for this one question are for all New Jerseyans, *not* likely voters.

"How would you rate the job Christie Whitman is doing as Governor -- excellent, good, only fair or poor?" [Q.2]

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995							
--Total	9%	43%	32%	10%	6%	100%	(803)
<u>Party ID</u>							
--Democrat	4	38	38	15	4	99	(237)
--Independent	6	39	37	11	7	100	(284)
--Republican	19	49	21	5	6	100	(244)
PAST SURVEYS							
September, 1995							
--Total	8	40	36	10	6	100	(804)
--Registered Voters	8	40	36	10	5	99	(707)
<u>Party ID</u>							
--Democrat	2	28	45	17	8	100	(214)
--Independent	5	40	37	11	7	100	(328)
--Republican	19	54	24	2	2	101	(232)
May, 1995	11	42	29	11	7	100	(802)
February, 1995	13	43	28	12	4	100	(801)
September, 1994	12	40	33	9	6	100	(801)
June, 1994	11	39	29	7	14	100	(801)
February, 1994	9	28	28	5	31	101	(801)

"As far as you know, which party controls the New Jersey State Legislature -- the Republicans or Democrats?" [Q.3]

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995						
--Likely Voters	70%	14%	2%	15%	101%	(531)

"In November, there will be an election for the representatives from your district in the State Assembly. How much have you read or heard about this election -- a great deal, some, not much, or nothing at all?" [Q.4]

	<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not Much</u>	<u>Nothing At All</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995							
--Likely Voters	9%	40%	39%	10%	1%	99%	(531)
<i>Party ID</i>							
--Democrat	7	43	38	12	1	101	(174)
--Independent	6	44	41	8	1	100	(156)
--Republican	14	35	41	9	1	100	(176)
<i>Type of District</i>							
--Democrat	9	37	39	14	1	100	(113)
--Swing	14	41	35	8	2	100	(92)
--Republican	8	41	40	10	1	100	(326)
<i>Interest in the Election</i>							
--Very interested	19	48	26	7	1	101	(202)
--Somewhat interested	3	41	45	9	1	99	(268)
--Not very interested	2	12	61	24	--	99	(49)
--Not at all interested	13	25	38	25	--	101	(8)

"As of now, how likely are you to vote in the November election for the New Jersey Assembly -- do you think you definitely will vote, probably will vote, probably not vote, or definitely not vote?" [Q.5]

	<u>Definitely Will Vote</u>	<u>Probably Will Vote</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995				
--Likely Voters	65%	35%	100%	(531)
<i>Party ID</i>				
--Democrat	67	33	100	(174)
--Independent	62	38	100	(156)
--Republican	64	36	100	(176)
<i>Type of District</i>				
--Democrat	62	38	100	(113)
--Swing	74	26	100	(92)
--Republican	63	37	100	(326)

"How interested are you in the outcome of the election for New Jersey State Assembly -- very interested, somewhat interested, not very interested, or not at all interested?" [Q.6]

	<u>Very Interested</u>	<u>Somewhat Interested</u>	<u>Not Very Interested</u>	<u>Not At All Interested</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995							
--Likely Voters	38%	50%	9%	2%	1%	100%	(531)
<i>Party ID</i>							
--Democrat	42	51	6	--	1	100	(174)

--Independent	30	55	12	2	1	100	(156)
--Republican	40	49	10	2	--	101	(176)
<u>Type of District</u>							
--Democrat	32	51	13	4	--	100	(113)
--Swing	47	46	7	1	--	101	(92)
--Republican	38	52	9	1	1	101	(326)

"If the election were held today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidates for the State Assembly from your district?" [Q.7]

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Other¹</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995						
--Likely Voters	38%	37%	10%	15%	100%	(531)
<u>Party ID</u>						
--Democrat	80	7	4	9	100	(174)
--Independent	33	27	20	21	101	(156)
--Republican	5	81	5	9	100	(176)
<u>Independent Candidate Choice</u>						
--Very likely	39	21	23	16	99	(61)
--Somewhat likely	40	31	10	18	99	(161)
--Not very likely	40	41	8	12	101	(134)
--Not at all likely	34	52	5	10	101	(147)
<u>Type of District</u>						
--Democrat	51	25	9	16	101	(113)
--Swing	37	36	12	14	99	(92)
--Republican	33	42	10	14	99	(326)
<u>Vote Probability Index²</u>						
--High	38	38	5	19	100	(176)
--Medium	42	34	10	14	100	(169)
--Low	34	43	2	21	100	(125)
<u>Gender</u>						
--Male	33	42	7	18	100	(260)
--Female	42	33	4	20	99	(271)
<u>Race</u>						
--White	34	41	5	19	99	(436)
--Non-white	61	20	4	15	100	(74)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>						
September, 1995**						
--Total	29	31	3	36	99	(804)
--Registered Voters	31	32	3	34	100	(707)
<u>Party ID</u>						
--Democrat	72	2	--	25	99	(214)
--Independent	17	26	6	51	100	(328)
--Republican	3	77	4	16	100	(232)
May, 1995**	31	27	4	38	100	(802)
October, 1993*	38	40	1	22	101	(801)
November, 1991*	34	40	5	22	101	(539)
June, 1989	37	27	5	31	100	(647)
October, 1987*	41	31	2	25	99	(722)
October, 1983*	42	30	3	24	99	(568)

* For these polls, the following question was asked, "If the election were held today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidates for State Assembly." The results are also based on likely voters.

** For these polls the following question was asked, "There will be an election for the State Assembly this November. Do you think you will vote for the Democratic or Republican candidates from your district?" [Q.5]

¹ Other includes people who said "split" vote, wouldn't vote, or named some other candidate.

² This index is developed by combining questions Q.5 and Q.6. Those with a high probability of voting are very interested in the election (Q.6) and say they will definitely vote (Q.5). Those with a medium probability have a high level of interest (Q.6) and will probably vote (Q.5) and also includes those with a low level of interest (Q.6) who say they will definitely vote (Q.5). The low probability voters are voters who report low interest (Q.6) and say they will probably vote (Q.5).

“Are you leaning more toward the Democratic candidates or the Republican candidates?” [Q.7 & Q.8]

	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Lean Democrat</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Lean Republican</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995								
--Likely Voters	38%	3%	6%	3%	38%	13%	101%	(529)
<i>Party ID</i>								
--Democrat	80	4	2	--	7	7	100	(174)
--Independent	33	5	14	5	27	17	101	(154)
--Republican	5	1	3	3	81	6	99	(176)
<i>Type of District</i>								
--Democrat	52	4	4	1	25	14	100	(112)
--Swing	37	1	9	2	36	15	100	(92)
--Republican	34	3	5	3	42	12	99	(325)

“And in past elections, did you usually favor the Democratic or the Republican candidates for the State Assembly?” [Q.9]

	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Depends</u>	<u>Not Eligible To Vote</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995							
--Likely Voters	38%	38%	18%	1%	5%	100%	(531)
<i>Party ID</i>							
--Democrat	83	6	10	--	1	100	(174)
--Independent	32	24	35	1	7	99	(156)
--Republican	4	85	9	1	2	101	(176)
<i>Vote Choice</i>							
--Democrat	77	9	12	--	1	99	(201)
--Undecided	23	26	29	--	21	99	(103)
--Republican	9	75	15	1	1	101	(199)
<i>Independent Candidate Choice</i>							
--Very likely	41	30	21	2	7	101	(61)
--Somewhat likely	42	33	19	1	6	101	(161)
--Not very likely	38	44	15	--	3	100	(134)
--Not at all likely	34	44	16	1	5	100	(147)
<i>Type of District</i>							
--Democrat	60	20	14	--	5	99	(113)
--Swing	43	34	16	--	7	100	(92)
--Republican	29	45	19	1	5	99	(326)

"This year there will also be independent candidates for the State Assembly on the ballot. How likely are you to consider voting for an independent candidate -- very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not at all likely?" [Q.10]

	<u>Very Likely</u>	<u>Somewhat Likely</u>	<u>Not Very Likely</u>	<u>Not At All Likely</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995							
--Likely Voters	11%	30%	25%	28%	5%	99%	(531)
<u>Party ID</u>							
--Democrat	9	27	29	29	6	100	(174)
--Independent	22	39	18	17	4	100	(156)
--Republican	4	26	30	37	3	100	(176)
<u>Vote Choice</u>							
--Democrat	12	32	26	25	4	99	(201)
--Undecided	14	36	20	17	13	100	(103)
--Republican	7	25	28	38	3	101	(199)
<u>Type of District</u>							
--Democrat	13	35	23	24	4	99	(113)
--Swing	9	30	24	30	7	100	(92)
--Republican	12	29	26	28	5	100	(326)

"If a candidate in your district campaigns with Governor Christie Whitman, will this make you more likely to support that candidate, less likely to support that candidate, or won't it make any difference?" [Q.11]

	<u>More Likely</u>	<u>Less Likely</u>	<u>No Difference</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995						
--Likely Voters	20%	21%	56%	2%	99%	(531)
<u>Party ID</u>						
--Democrat	11	37	48	3	99	(174)
--Independent	16	22	60	1	99	(156)
--Republican	32	6	62	1	101	(176)
<u>Vote Choice</u>						
--Democrat	8	42	48	2	100	(201)
--Undecided	17	14	63	7	101	(103)
--Republican	35	4	61	--	100	(199)

“What do you think is the most important issue in this year’s Assembly election?” [Q.12]

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Republican</u>
<u>Top Mentions</u>				
--Taxes	24%	19%	17%	33%
--Health - Medicare	11	16	15	5
--Education	9	8	9	8
--Other economic	8	10	6	7
--Jobs	7	9	5	5
--Crime - drugs	5	5	5	7
--Other	14	14	14	13
--None - don’t know	23	17	31	24
Total	101%	98%	102%	102%
(n)	(531)	(201)	(103)	(199)

“Thinking about the future of the Democratic and Republican parties in New Jersey, in the next few years, which political party will be the most successful in getting their candidates elected?” [Q.13]

VOLUNTEERED CHOICES

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Depends</u>	<u>Don’t Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995								
--Likely Voters	21%	56%	1%	4%	2%	17%	101%	(531)
<u>Party ID</u>								
--Democrat	40	42	1	2	--	15	100	(174)
--Independent	14	52	1	7	2	24	100	(156)
--Republican	9	76	--	3	2	9	99	(176)
<u>Vote Choice</u>								
--Democrat	35	45	1	3	--	14	98	(201)
--Undecided	14	39	--	6	3	39	101	(103)
--Republican	11	76	--	4	2	8	101	(199)

“And, in the next few years, which political party will be the most successful in getting their programs and policies passed?” [Q.14]

VOLUNTEERED CHOICES

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Depends</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Don’t Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October/November, 1995								
--Likely Voters	20%	60%	--	5%	2%	13%	100%	(531)
<u>Party ID</u>								
--Democrat	34	49	--	3	--	14	100	(174)
--Independent	17	54	--	8	5	16	100	(156)
--Republican	9	80	--	3	1	7	100	(176)
<u>Vote Choice</u>								
--Democrat	34	47	--	4	2	12	99	(201)
--Undecided	8	50	--	9	4	30	101	(103)
--Republican	11	79	--	3	1	6	100	(199)

"In the next few years, which political party do you trust the most to do what is best for New Jersey?" [Q.15]

	VOLUNTEERED CHOICES						Total	(n)
	Democrats	Republican	Independents	Depends	Neither	Don't Know		
October/November, 1995								
--Likely Voters	36%	34%	--	2%	19%	8%	99%	(531)
<i>Party ID</i>								
--Democrat	79	7	1	1	9	3	100	(174)
--Independent	26	18	1	3	38	13	99	(156)
--Republican	3	79	--	2	11	5	100	(176)
<i>Vote Choice</i>								
--Democrat	79	3	1	1	13	3	100	(201)
--Undecided	18	19	--	6	32	24	99	(103)
--Republican	3	74	--	3	16	5	101	(199)

"And, has this plan to change Medicare made you more likely or less likely to vote for the Republican candidates in the upcoming State Assembly Elections, or has it made no difference in your vote?" [Q.30a]

	More	Less	No	Don't	Total	(n)
	Likely	Likely	Difference	Know		
October/November, 1995						
--Likely Voters	9	32	56	3	100	(529)
<i>Party ID</i>						
--Democrat	3	61	34	1	100	(174)
--Independent	6	31	59	2	100	(154)
--Republican	17	5	75	3	100	(176)
<i>Vote Choice</i>						
--Democrat	2	62	36	1	100	(201)
--Undecided	4	29	58	9	99	(101)
--Republican	18	8	71	3	100	(199)
<i>Type of District</i>						
--Democrat	3	45	49	4	101	(112)
--Swing	11	28	60	1	100	(92)
--Republican	10	29	57	4	100	(325)

¹ Type of Place Respondent Lives In: All municipalities in the state have been classified into one of four groups, based on location, settlement patterns, population density and growth.

Central Cities: New Jersey's largest cities: Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Elizabeth, Trenton and Camden.
Older Cities and Suburban Areas: This category is generally based on the cities of the state over 25,000 in 1980 with the following exceptions: balance of Hudson and Union counties, included because of their high density. Long Branch and Vineland were excluded because of the rapid growth and their small proportion of their county's population. Woodbridge, South Amboy and Carteret were included because of their similarity to nearby high density areas of Union County.

New Suburbs: These are primarily "outside central city" proportions of the Census Bureau's Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, with the addition of Somerset and parts of Middlesex, Ocean and Monmouth because of their settlement patterns.

Rural Areas: Includes communities not in any of the three categories above. Salem, Warren and sections of Gloucester, Burlington, Middlesex and Monmouth are not classified as rural by the Census Bureau, but they are included here either because of the minor central cities toward which they are directed or because of their development patterns. Atlantic County outside of Atlantic City is included here because of its development pattern and similarity to surrounding rural areas.

² Region of State Respondent Lives In:

North Jersey: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union and Warren counties;

Central Jersey: Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset counties;

South Jersey: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean and Salem counties.

³ Past District Vote: All districts have been classified into one of three groups based on the voting results of the last Assembly election.

Republican: Districts in which voters elected two Republican Assembly members with 55 percent or more of the vote.

Swing: Districts in which the incumbents are from both parties, or the two candidates received on average less than 55 percent of the vote (Districts 2,4,6,15,18,19, 20, and 35).

Democrat: Districts in which voters elected two Democratic Assembly members with 55 percent or more of the vote.