

The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

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CONTACT: CLIFF ZUKIN

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

CLINTON JOB PERFORMANCE RATING

Following the pattern in the country as a whole, Bill Clinton's job performance rating in New Jersey has soared in the wake of allegations of a sexual encounter between the President and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Almost 7 in 10 New Jersey residents (69%) give Clinton positive marks of "excellent" or "good" in rating his job performance, while just 29 percent rate give him negative marks of "only fair" or "poor."

These figures were released today by the *Star-Ledger/Eagleton* Poll, and are based on a statewide sample of 800 New Jersey residents conducted between February 12 and 17. The poll has a margin of error of just over ± 3 percent.

Last October the poll found positive assessments of Clinton outnumbering negative ones by a much narrower margin of 56 to 40 percent.

Clinton's job performance rating is up among all segments of the public, but more among independents than either Democrats or Republicans. Similar percentages of women (70%) and men (67%) offer positive evaluations.

Cliff Zukin, Director of the Poll commented, "It is important to keep in mind that the poll asked only about job performance in a narrow way. One of the reasons that Clinton's job performance rating has gone up even while people believe he is guilty of having a sexual relationship with Lewinsky and lying is that people are now being forced to separate their evaluations of the job he is doing as President from what they think of him as a person."

**BACKGROUND MEMO — RELEASE SL/EP67-1 (EP117-1), FRIDAY,
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The latest *Star-Ledger/Eagleton* Poll was conducted between February 12 and 17, 1998, when a scientifically selected random sample of 800 New Jersey adult residents was interviewed by telephone.

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 sampling error for the total sample size of 800 is just over ± 3 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jerseyans were found to have a favorable opinion of the Governor, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 47 and 53 percent (50 ± 3) had all New Jerseyans been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such separate figures reported for men and women are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. The following chart shows the relationship between sample size and sampling error.

Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects. The verbatim wording of all questions asked are reproduced in this background memo. The sample has been stratified based on county and the data have been weighted on age and education to insure an accurate proportional representation of

“How would you rate the job Bill Clinton is doing as President--excellent, good, only fair or poor?” [BC.1]

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February, 1998	27%	42%	19%	10%	2%	100%	(802)
<u>Party ID</u>							
--Democrat	44	42	10	2	1	99	(242)
--Independent	24	43	20	10	2	99	(335)
--Republican	9	38	33	18	2	100	(186)
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male	24	43	21	11	1	100	(391)
--Female	29	41	18	8	3	99	(411)
<u>Race</u>							
--White	21	44	22	11	2	99	(609)
--Non-white	43	39	12	6	--	100	(164)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>							
--October, 1997	9	47	30	10	4	100	(801)
<u>Party ID</u>							
--Democrat	15	63	18	2	2	100	(236)
--Independent	9	42	35	11	3	100	(285)
--Republican	1	37	38	20	3	99	(231)
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male	9	46	30	12	3	100	(386)
--Female	8	50	29	9	5	101	(413)
--February, 1997	8	43	34	13	1	100	(800)
--October, 1996	9	46	30	14	2	100	(808)