

STAR-LEDGER/EAGLETON POLL 117

FEBRUARY, 1998

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Hello, my name is _____ (first and last name). I'm on the staff of the Eagleton Poll, and I'm taking a public opinion survey of New Jersey adults for Rutgers University. I'd like your views on what New Jersey is like as a place to live and on some topics currently in the news. We are not selling anything, not asking for money and all your answers will be completely confidential.

NJ1. To begin with, for how many years have you lived in New Jersey, or have you lived here all of your life?

- 1 LESS THAN ONE
- 2 ONE OR TWO
- 3 3 - 5
- 4 6 - 10
- 5 11 - 20
- 6 21 - 30
- 7 MORE THAN 30
- 8 ALL MY LIFE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

CW1. How would you rate the job Christie Whitman is doing as Governor--
-excellent, good, only fair or poor?

- 1 EXCELLENT
- 2 GOOD
- 3 ONLY FAIR
- 4 POOR
- 5 DON'T KNOW

CW2. Is your general impression of Christie Whitman favorable or unfavorable, or don't you have an opinion about her-- IF FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE, PROBE: Is that very (FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE) or somewhat (FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE)?

- 1 Very favorable
- 2 Somewhat favorable
- 3 Somewhat unfavorable
- 4 Very unfavorable
- 5 No opinion

FORM A ONLY

CW3A. What one word best describes your impression of Whitman?

ASK EVERYONE

CW4. How well do you feel you know Christie Whitman as a person-- very well, pretty well, just a little or not at all?

- 1 VERY WELL

- 2 PRETTY WELL
- 3 A LITTLE
- 4 NOT AT ALL
- 9 DON'T KNOW

CW5. I'm going to read you four statements about Christie Whitman-- Please tell me which comes closest to your own views: 1) I like her personally, AND I like her policies, OR 2) I like her personally, BUT I don't like her policies OR 3) I don't like her personally, BUT I like her policies OR 4) I don't like her personally, AND I don't like her policies?

- 1 I like her personally, AND I like her policies
- 2 I like her personally, BUT I don't like her policies
- 3 I don't like her personally, BUT I like her policies OR
- 4 I don't like her personally, AND I don't like her policies
- 5 Don't Know/no opinion

FORM B Only

CW6B1. As you may know, Christie Whitman ran for re-election in November and most people expected her to win easily-- Instead, she barely beat her challenger-- What is the most important reason why you think more people did not support her (FIRST MENTION)?

CW6B2. As you may know, Christie Whitman ran for re-election in November and most people expected her to win easily-- Instead, she barely beat her challenger-- What is the most important reason why you think more people did not support her (SECOND MENTION)?

CW6B3. As you may know, Christie Whitman ran for re-election in November and most people expected her to win easily-- Instead, she barely beat her challenger-- What is the most important reason why you think more people did not support her (THIRD MENTION)?

ASK EVERYONE

CW7. Thinking back over Governor Whitman's first term, would you say that she has major accomplishments to point to, minor accomplishments, or no real accomplishments?

- 1 Major
- 2 Minor
- 3 No real ones
- 4 No opinion/don't know

CW8. And do you think she does or does NOT have a clear vision for making New Jersey a better place to live?

- 1 Does
- 2 Does not

3 No opinion/don't know

CATI PROGRAMMING NOTE, IF "VERY", "PRETTY WELL" OR "A LITTLE" IN Q.CW4, ASK:

CW9. People are often described by a number of characteristics such as "smart" or "nice"-- Please tell me if you think each characteristic I read describes Christie Whitman a lot, a little, or not very well-- If you don't have an opinion on some, just say so-- First, how about (_____), does this fit Whitman a lot, a little or not very well -- |

FORM A

- A A hard worker?
- B Warm and caring?
- C Understands the common person?
- D Honest?
- E1 A strong leader?

FORM B

- E2 A strong leader?
- F Understands the concerns you personally face in day-to-day life?
- G Intelligent?
- H Likeable?
- I A role model for women?

- 1 A lot
- 2 A little
- 3 Not very well
- 4 No opinion/don't know

FORM A ONLY CW10A1-5

CW10A. There have been a number of positive things that have happened in New Jersey recently-- Please tell me how much of the credit Governor Whitman should get for each item I read-- Just tell me if you think she deserves most of the credit, some of the credit, or just a little of the credit-- READ FIRST ITEM...A lot, a little or none of the credit -- |

ROTATE ITEMS

- 1 A healthy state economy?
- 2 A clean environment?
- 3 A reduction in the number of people on welfare?
- 4 A reduction in the amount of crime?
- 5 A low unemployment rate?

- 1 Most
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 None (VOL)
- 5 Other/disagree that things are good in this area (VOL)

6 No Opinion/Don't Know

FORM B ONLY CW10B1-4

CW10B. There have been a number of negative things that have happened in New Jersey recently-- Please tell me how much of the blame Governor Whitman should get for each item I read-- Just tell me if you think she deserves most of the blame, some of the blame, or just a little of the blame-- READ FIRST ITEM...A lot, a little or none of the blame|

ROTATE ITEMS

- 1 High auto insurance rates that keep rising?
- 2 High property taxes?
- 3 Problems funding education in less affluent school districts?
- 4 The loss of farmland and open space to development?

- 1 Most
- 2 Some
- 3 A little
- 4 None (VOL)
- 5 Other/disagree that things are good in this area (VOL)
- 6 No Opinion/Don't Know

CW11. Comparing Christie Whitman to New Jersey's last governor, Jim Florio, who do you think has been a better governor -- Whitman or Florio?

- 1 WHITMAN
- 2 FLORIO
- 3 NEITHER (VOLUNTEERED ONLY)
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

CW12. And Comparing Christie Whitman to the governor before that, Tom Kean (PRONOUNCED CANE) who do you think has been a better governor -- Whitman or Kean?

- 1 WHITMAN
- 2 KEAN
- 3 NEITHER (VOLUNTEERED ONLY)
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

CW13. There have been some stories in the news about Christie Whitman giving high paying government jobs to people who supported her in the past but were defeated when they ran for re-election to the legislature-- Have you read or heard anything about this?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't Know

CW14. Do you think the people she appointed to these jobs probably were

or were NOT qualified for their new positions, or don't you have an opinion?

- 1 Were
- 2 Were not
- 3 Don't Know/No opinion

CW15. Do you think this practice of giving former legislators government jobs is very wrong, a little wrong, or that there is nothing really wrong with it?

- 1 Very
- 2 A Little
- 3 Nothing Wrong
- 4 Depends
- 5 No opinion

CW16. And do you think this is a normal part of politics, or is this something out of the ordinary?

- 1 Normal
- 2 Out of ordinary
- 3 Don't Know

CW17. Do you think that giving jobs to political supporters has happened more often in the Whitman administration than in others, less often, or about the same amount?

- 1 More often in Whitman
- 2 Less often
- 3 About the same
- 4 No opinion

BC1. How would you rate the job Bill Clinton is doing as President-- excellent, good, only fair or poor?

- 1 EXCELLENT
- 2 GOOD
- 3 ONLY FAIR
- 4 POOR
- 9 DON'T KNOW

R1. Now on another topic, in the past year, have your local property taxes gone up, gone down, or stayed about the same-- (PROBE IF UP OR DOWN: Have they (gone up/gone down) a lot or just a little)?

- 1 UP A LOT
- 2 UP A LITTLE
- 3 DOWN A LITTLE
- 4 DOWN A LOT
- 5 ABOUT THE SAME

6 DON'T KNOW

R2. Currently many towns in New Jersey are facing budget problems-- In order to the same level of services they might have to raise taxes-- If you had to choose between raising taxes or cutting services, which would you choose?

- 1 Increase taxes, maintain services
- 2 Maintain taxes, decrease services
- 3 Depends
- 4 Don't know/no opinion

R3. As you probably know, property taxes provide a variety of local services, such as education and police-- There has been some talk lately of REGIONALIZATION, where different towns combine these services and share costs in order to hold taxes down-- Have you heard or read anything about this-- (IF YES: How much have you read or heard -- a lot, some, or a little)?

- 1 A LOT
- 2 SOME
- 3 A LITTLE
- 4 NO--NOT HEARD ABOUT
- 5 DON'T KNOW

R4. Those who favor regionalization feel it would hold costs and taxes down-- Those who oppose it are worried about giving up their own town's control of services-- Overall, do you favor or oppose regionalization of services where you live-- (IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE, PROBE: Do you strongly or mildly favor/oppose it)?

- 1 STRONGLY FAVOR
- 2 MILDLY FAVOR
- 3 MILDLY OPPOSE
- 4 STRONGLY OPPOSE
- 5 DEPENDS ON TOWN
- 9 DON'T KNOW

R5. Do you think regionalizing your local services with a neighboring town would or would NOT result in saving money and lower property taxes-- IF WOULD SAVE MONEY, PROBE: Would it save enough money to make a significant difference in what you pay in taxes, or don't you think it would make that much of a difference?

- 1 WOULD SAVE -- A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT
- 2 WOULD SAVE -- BUT NOT MAKE THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE
- 3 WOULD SAVE -- DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE
- 4 WOULD NOT
- 5 DON'T KNOW IF WOULD SAVE

R6. If your local services are regionalized, do you think the quality of those services will get better, get worse, or stay about the

same?

- 1 WILL GET BETTER
- 2 WILL GET WORSE
- 3 STAY ABOUT THE SAME
- 9 DON'T KNOW

R7. Thinking about the specific neighboring town closest to where you live, would you favor or oppose sharing services with them?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends
- 4 Don't know/no opinion

R8. Here are some proposals people have made for combining government services-- These changes could reduce your property taxes, but your town might have less control over the services you receive-- Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each one-- First, how about combining schools in your town with a neighboring one if it meant that you shared common athletic programs like a single football team and bus lines-- Would you favor or oppose this?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends
- 4 No opinion

R9. FORM A ONLY

A1. Combining the public library in your town with a library in a neighboring town if it meant your town's library would be smaller-- Favor or oppose?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends
- 4 No opinion

A2. Combining the public schools in your town with those in a neighboring school if it was in a less affluent town?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends
- 4 No opinion

A3. Combining the police force of your town with a neighboring one if it meant firing the police chief in YOUR town?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends

4 No opinion

A4. Combining departments for road, street maintenance and snow removal with another town if it was under the oversight of the mayor of YOUR town?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends
- 4 No opinion

R9. FORM B ONLY

B1. Combining the fire department of your town with a neighboring one if it meant that it might take fire-fighters a little longer to get to a fire?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends
- 4 No opinion

B2. Combining the public schools in your town with those in a neighboring school of a more affluent town?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends
- 4 No opinion

B3. Combining the police forces of your town with a neighboring one if it meant firing the police chief in THEIR town?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends
- 4 No opinion

B4. Combining departments for road, street maintenance and snow removal with another town if it was under the oversight of the mayor in the OTHER town?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends
- 4 No opinion

On another topic, we are interested in some of the things that people do with their time-- Please tell me if you can recall having volunteered time to each of the following types of groups in the last 12 months-- First, have you volunteered time in the last 12 months without pay to:-- FOR EACH YES, PROBE: Is this something you do every week, at least once every month, or less often

V1. First, have you volunteered time in the last 12 months without pay to a religious group?

- 1 Weekly
- 2 Monthly
- 3 Less often
- 4 No/Doesn't do it
- 5 Don't know

V2. Have you volunteered time in the last 12 months without pay to a health organization?

- 1 Weekly
- 2 Monthly
- 3 Less often
- 4 No/Doesn't do it
- 5 Don't know

V3. Have you volunteered time in the last 12 months without pay to a civic or community organization, or a group providing social services?

- 1 Weekly
- 2 Monthly
- 3 Less often
- 4 No/Doesn't do it
- 5 Don't know

V4. Have you volunteered time in the last 12 months without pay to a group involved with the arts?

- 1 Weekly
- 2 Monthly
- 3 Less often
- 4 No/Doesn't do it
- 5 Don't know

V5. Have you volunteered time in the last 12 months without pay to a group involved with education?

- 1 Weekly
- 2 Monthly
- 3 Less often
- 4 No/Doesn't do it
- 5 Don't know

V6. Have you volunteered time in the last 12 months without pay to a political organization or candidates for office?

- 1 Weekly
- 2 Monthly

- 3 Less often
- 4 No/Doesn't do it
- 5 Don't know

V7. Have you volunteered time in the last 12 months without pay to an environmental organization?

- 1 Weekly
- 2 Monthly
- 3 Less often
- 4 No/Doesn't do it
- 5 Don't know

V8. Have you volunteered time in the last 12 months without pay to a child or youth development program, such as day care centers?

- 1 Weekly
- 2 Monthly
- 3 Less often
- 4 No/Doesn't do it
- 5 Don't know

V9. Have you volunteered time in the last 12 months without pay to an organization to help the poor, elderly or homeless?

- 1 Weekly
- 2 Monthly
- 3 Less often
- 4 No/Doesn't do it
- 5 Don't know

IF YES TO ANY IN LAST 12 MONTHS V1-V9,ASK

V10. Would you say you spend more, less, or about the same number of hours on volunteer work now than you did two years ago?

- 1 More
- 2 Less
- 3 Same
- 4 Don't Know

CATI PROGRAM NOTE: HOV QUESTIONS FILTER OUT SOUTH JERSEY (609 AREA CODE)

Now I'd like to ask you some questions specifically about HOV or "HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE" lanes-- An HOV is a special lane marked with a diamond and reserved for buses, cars and vans with a minimum number of passengers.

HV1. Have you ever heard of these HOV lanes?

- 1 Yes

2 No/ Don't Know [Go to q.KN1]

HV2. Do you ever drive on roads that have HOV lanes-- IF YES, PROBE:
How often--every day, a few times a week or less often?

- 1 Every day
- 2 A few times a week
- 3 Less often [Go to q.HV4]
- 4 Don't use them [Go to q.HV4]
- 5 Don't know [Go to q.HV4]

IF HV2 = 1 OR 2, ASK HV3; OTHERWISE GO TO HV 4

HV3. Do you generally travel on these roads at rush hour, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know

HV4. Do you think these HOV lanes are a good idea or a bad idea?

- 1 Good Idea
- 2 Bad Idea
- 3 No opinion

HV5. Based on your own experience, do you think the HOV lanes have or have NOT been effective in reducing traffic congestion, or aren't you sure?

- 1 Have
- 2 Have not
- 3 Don't Know/Not sure

HV6. And do you think the HOV lanes have or have NOT been effective in getting people to carpool, or aren't you sure?

- 1 Have
- 2 Have not
- 3 Don't Know/Not sure

HV7. Which do you think would be more effective at reducing congestion: keeping special lanes only for drivers with many passengers, or opening up these lanes to all drivers no matter how many passengers they have?

- 1 Keep as now
- 2 Open up to all
- 3 Don't know/no opinion

Now as our last topic, let me ask you some quick questions about current events in the state.

KN1. In general, how often do you follow what is happening in

government and politics here in New Jersey--regularly, sometimes, once in a while, or almost never?

- 1 Regularly
- 2 Sometimes
- 3 Once in a while
- 4 Almost Never
- 5 Don't know

KN2. Where do you get most of your information about what is going on IN NEW JERSEY: from newspapers, television, radio, magazines, or other people?

- 1 Newspapers
- 2 Television
- 3 Radio
- 4 Magazines
- 5 Other People
- 6 Internet
- 7 Other Source (VOL)
- 9 Don't know

KN3. And where do you get most of your information about what is going on IN THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE: from newspapers, television, radio, magazines, or other people?

- 1 Newspapers
- 2 Television
- 3 Radio
- 4 Magazines
- 5 Other People
- 6 Internet
- 7 Other Source (VOL)
- 9 Don't know

KN4. As far as you know, is the Governor of New Jersey a Democrat or a Republican?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Don't Know

KN5. And do you happen to recall the name of Whitman's Democratic opponent in last November's gubernatorial election?

- 1 Jim McGreevy
- 2 Other/Don't Know

KN6. Which party controls the New Jersey State Legislature--the Republicans or the Democrats?

- 1 Democrats

- 2 Republicans
- 3 Don't Know

KN7. Does New Jersey currently have a budget surplus, a deficit, or aren't you sure?

- 1 Surplus
- 2 Deficit
- 3 Not sure

Now I'm going to ask you the names of some New Jersey office holders. We know most people have not heard of them so don't worry if you can't recall their names.

KN8. Do you happen to know the names of the United States Senators from New Jersey-- (IF YES, What are their names" IF ONLY ONE GIVEN, PROBE: Can you think of anyone else?

- 1 Names both Frank Lautenberg and Bob Torricelli (Tor ih sell ey)
- 2 Only names Lautenberg
- 3 Only names Torricelli
- 4 Names neither/don't know

KN9A. Can you name the Speaker of the Assembly in Trenton?

- 1 Jack Collins
- 2 No/Other/Don't Know

KN9B. Can you recall the name of the Senate Majority leader in Trenton

- 1 Donald DiFrancesco
- 2 No/Other/Don't Know

KN9C. Finally, can you recall the name of the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court?

- 1 Deborah Poritz
- 2 No/other/Don't Know

Now just a few final questions so we can classify your answers.

D1. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat [Go to q.D2]
- 2 Republican [Go to q.D2]
- 3 Independent
- 4 Something Else/Other
- 5 Don't Know/No opinion

(IF #3,4, OR 5 TO Q. D1, ASK)

D1A. Do you lean more toward the Democratic Party or more toward

the Republican Party?

- 1 DEMOCRATIC PARTY
- 2 REPUBLICAN PARTY
- 3 OTHER PARTY
- 4 NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

D2. Are you currently registered to vote at the address where you now live?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.D3]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.D3]

D2A. Can you recall whether you voted in the 1997 election for Governor?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't Know/Can't Recall SKIP TO D3

D2B. And did you vote for Jim McGreevy, the Democrat; Christie Whitman, the Republican; or Murray Sabrin, the Libertarian candidate?

- 1 McGreevy
- 2 Whitman
- 3 Sabrin
- 4 Other
- 5 Refused/Can't Recall/No answer

D3. Regardless of the political party you might favor, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?

- 1 Liberal [Go to q.D5]
- 2 Conservative [Go to q.D5]
- 3 Somewhere in between
- 4 Other
- 5 Don't Know/No opinion

D4. Do you lean more toward the liberal side or more toward the conservative side?

- 1 LIBERAL
- 2 CONSERVATIVE
- 3 OTHER/NEITHER
- 9 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION

D5. Did you receive a high school diploma?

- 1 Yes

2 No/Don't Know [Go to q.D7]

D6. Did you ever attend college-- (IF YES, ASK: Did you graduate)?

- 1 YES, GRADUATED
- 2 YES, DID NOT GRADUATE [Go to q.D7]
- 3 JUNIOR COLLEGE--GRADUATE [Go to q.D7]
- 4 VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOL [Go to q.D7]
- 5 NO [Go to q.D7]

D6A. Was this from a 4 year college, a junior college two year program, or a vocational/technical school?

- 1 Four year college
- 2 Junior college/2 year program
- 3 Vocational/technical school
- 4 Other/Don't know

D7. Are you married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 1 MARRIED
- 2 LIVING AS MARRIED
- 3 WIDOWED
- 4 DIVORCED GO TO D8
- 5 SEPARATED
- 6 NEVER MARRIED GO TO D8
- 7 DON'T KNOW

D7a Have you ever been divorced?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

D8. Do you have any children under the age of 18 years old?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 9 DK

D8A And how many adults in the household are there--people 18 or over?

- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four or more
- 5 Don't know/refused

D9. Are you white, black or Asian origin?

- 1 WHITE

- 2 BLACK
- 3 ASIAN [Go to q.D11]
- 4 OTHER (SPECIFY: _____)
- 9 NOT DETERMINED

D10. And are you a Latino or of Hispanic origin?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't know

D11 on this version

D12. What was your age on your last birthday?

/_____/_____/ (CODE # OF YEARS, 99 = REFUSED)

D13. [IF REFUSED IN D.12, ASK:] Is it between...[READ CHOICES]?

- 1 18 - 20
- 2 21 - 24
- 3 25 - 29
- 4 THIRTIES (30 - 39)
- 5 FORTIES (40 - 49)

- 6 FIFTIES (50 - 59)
- 7 60 - 64
- 8 65 OR OVER
- 9 NO ANSWER/REFUSED

D14. Where do you live--in what township or municipality?
 D14A. In what county is that?

_____/_____/_____/_____/_____
 County Town

D15. So that we can group all answers, is your total annual family income before taxes: Under 35,000; between \$35,000 to just under \$70,000; between \$70,000 to just under \$100,000; or \$100,000 or more?

- 1 UNDER \$35,000 [Go to q.D16A]
- 2 \$35,000 TO \$69,999 [GO to q.D16B]
- 3 \$70,000 TO \$100,000 [Go to q.D17]
- 4 \$100,000 OR MORE [Go to q.D17]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.D17]

D16A. Is that: under \$10,000; \$10,000-\$20,000; \$20,000-\$30,000, or over \$30,000?

- 1 UNDER \$10,000
- 2 \$10,000-\$20,000
- 3 \$20,000-\$30,000
- 4 OVER \$30,000
- 9 DON'T KNOW

D16B. Is that: \$35,000 to \$50,000 or over \$50,000?

- 1 \$35,000 TO \$50,000
- 2 OVER \$50,000
- 9 DON'T KNOW

D17. Would you say that you and your family often don't have enough money to make ends meet, that you're getting along OK these days or that you're financially comfortable?

- 1 Don't have enough money
- 2 Getting along
- 3 Financially comfortable
- 4 Other (VOL)
- 5 Refused/Don't Know

D18. How many different telephone lines, or phone numbers, do you

have coming into your house that people can talk on?

- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three or more
- 4 Don't Know