

# The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

STAR-LEDGER/EAGLETON POLL 121  
Interview dates Jan 7-13, 1999

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 some topics currently in the news. We are not selling anything, not asking for money, and all your answers will be completely confidential.

1. 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

## FORM A ONLY

2A. How often do you follow what is going on in New Jersey government and politics--never, rarely, occasionally, or regularly?

- 1 Never
- 2 Rarely
- 3 Occasionally
- 4 Regularly
- 9 Don't Know

## FORM B ONLY

2B. How often do you follow what is going on in New Jersey government and politics--regularly, occasionally, rarely or never?

- 1 Regularly
- 2 Occasionally
- 3 Rarely
- 4 Never
- 9 Don't Know

3. Do you read a newspaper regularly, or not?

- 1 Yes/regularly
- 2 No
- 9 Don't Know

4. On the days that you do read a newspaper, about how many minutes would you say you spend reading the newspaper?

\_\_\_\_\_ Code actual number 90= 90 minutes or more; 99=don't know/refused

C1. 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

**ASK ALL CWI**

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
- 9 Don't Know

CW2. Thinking back over Governor Whitman's time in office, 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

CW3. 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

CW4. Overall, how much do you think Christie Whitman has cut the taxes people pay in New Jersey--a lot, a little or not at all?

- 1 A Lot
- 2 A Little
- 3 Not at all
- 9 Don't know

CW5. And how much has Christie Whitman increased the state's future debt through the sale of bonds--by a lot, a little or not at all?

- 1 A Lot

- 2 A Little
- 3 Not at all
- 9 Don't know

NP1. Are you currently registered to vote at the address where you now live?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO [Go to q.G1]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.G1]

There are some New Jerseyans who have been talked about as possible Presidential or Vice Presidential candidates

NP2A. Have you heard or read anything about Bill Bradley running for President for the Democrats?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't know

NP2B. In general, is your opinion of Bradley favorable or unfavorable, or don't you have an opinion of him?

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 9 Don't know/no opinion

NP2C. Do you think Bradley is or is NOT well qualified to run for national office, or don't you know?

- 1 Is
- 2 Is not
- 9 Don't Know

NP3A. Have you heard or read anything about Steve Forbes running for President for the Republicans?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't know

NP3B. In general, is your opinion of Forbes favorable or unfavorable, or don't you have an opinion of him?

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 9 Don't know/no opinion

NP3C. Do you think Forbes is or is NOT well qualified to run for national office, or don't you know?

- 1 Is
- 2 Is not
- 9 Don't Know

NP4A. Some people have also talked about the possibility of Christie Whitman getting the Republican

nomination for Vice-President. Have you heard or read anything about that?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't know

NP4B. In general, is your opinion of Whitman favorable or unfavorable, or don't you have an opinion of her?

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 9 Don't know/no opinion

NP4C. Do you think Whitman is or is NOT well qualified to run for national office, or don't you know?

- 1 Is
- 2 Is not
- 9 Don't Know

NP5. Who do you think is better qualified for national office--Bill Bradley or Christie Whitman?

- 1 Bradley
- 2 Whitman
- 3 Neither/Both
- 9 Don't know

NP6. Turning back to politics in New Jersey: Democrat Frank Lautenberg has announced he plans to run for re-election in 2000-- Would you like to see Christie Whitman run against Lautenberg for the Senate--even if it meant she had to leave her office as Governor 1 year before her term is up?

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

***CATI PROGRAMMING ROTATE QUESTIONS NP7 AND NP8***

NP7. If there was an election for U.S. Senator from New Jersey would you vote for Christie Whitman the Republican, or Frank Lautenberg the Democrat?

- 1 Whitman/Republican
- 2 Lautenberg/Democrat
- 3 Neither/Other
- 4 Wouldn't vote
- 9 Don't know

NP8. If there was an election for U.S. Senator from New Jersey would you vote for Tom Kean (CANE) the Republican, or Frank Lautenberg, the Democrat?

- 1 Kean/Republican
- 2 Lautenberg/Democrat
- 3 Neither/Other

4 Wouldn't vote  
9 Don't know

G1. Turning now to another subject: For many people gambling is a form of entertainment-- I'm going to read you a list of different ways people can gamble, and would like you to tell me if you have done any of these in the last year--that is in 1998-- First, have you...(RANDOMIZE ITEMS)... in the last year -- |

A Played bingo?  
B Bet on a live horse race or dog race?  
C Bet on a simulcast of a horse race?  
D Played a lottery in any state?  
E Bet on a sporting event?  
F Gambled at a casino anywhere?  
G Bet on a card game anywhere?

1 Yes  
2 No  
9 Don't Know/refused

***G2A THROUGH G6A ON FORM A ONLY***

G2A. Are you in favor or opposed to legalized casino gambling in Atlantic City?

1 Favor  
2 Oppose  
9 Don't Know

G3A. Overall, do you think casino gambling has been good or bad for the state?

1 Good  
2 Bad  
3 Both/No Difference  
9 Don't Know/No Opinion

G4A. And, has casino gambling been good or bad for the state's image--how others see New Jersey?

1 Good  
2 Bad  
3 Both/No Difference  
9 Don't know/No Opinion

G5A. Do you think Atlantic City will become a major convention and resort city centered around gambling, or do you think in the years to come it will be known only for gambling?

1 Resort/Convention  
2 Gambling Only  
9 Don't Know

G6A. Do you think that gambling has been good for both the casinos and the people who live in Atlantic City, or has it really only been good for the casino-hotels?

- 1 Everyone
- 2 Casinos Only
- 9 Other/Don't Know

**ASK EVERYONE**

G7. Have you been to Atlantic City since gambling was legalized some 20 years ago?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't know [Go to q.G10]

G8. Have you ever gambled in one of the casinos?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't Know [Go to q.G10]

G9. Thinking back over 1998--that is the last 12 months--about how many times have you been gambling in an Atlantic City Casino?

- 1 None
- 2 Once
- 3 Twice
- 4 3 to 5
- 5 6 or more

**ASK EVERYONE**

G10. I'm going to read you some proposals for how casino gambling might be changed-- Please just tell me if you favor or oppose each-- If you don't have an opinion just say so -- |

A Casino employees cannot now gamble in Atlantic City-- One proposal would allow them to gamble at casinos other than where they work-- Do you favor or oppose that?

B Firms operating casinos and their employees are not now allowed to make contributions to candidates running for state office-- One proposal would allow them to make political donations-- Do you favor or oppose this change?

C Pennsylvania is considering legalizing Riverboat Gambling on the Delaware River-- Do you favor or oppose that idea?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 9 Don't Know

G10D. Do you think casino gambling should be permitted in other parts of the state or should it be limited to just Atlantic City?

- 1 Permitted elsewhere
- 2 Limited to A.C.
- 3 Not permitted anywhere (VOL)
- 9 Don't Know

G11. Have you ever played the New Jersey Lottery?

1 YES

2 NO [Go to q.G16 if form A; Go to q.G17 if form B]

9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.G16 if form A; Go to q.G17 if form B]

G12. Have you played it at any time in 1998--that is in the last 12 months?

1 YES

2 NO [Go to q.G16 if form A; Go to q.G17 if form B]

9 DON'T KNOW

G13. Have you played it in the last month?

1 YES, LAST MONTH

2 NO

9 DON'T KNOW

G14. How often do you usually buy a lottery ticket--every day, a few times a week, once a week, a few times a month, once a month, or do you only buy a lottery ticket once in a while?

1 DAILY

2 FEW TIMES A WEEK

3 ONCE A WEEK

4 FEW TIMES A MONTH--ONCE A MONTH

5 ONCE IN A WHILE

9 DON'T KNOW

G15. How many dollars worth of tickets do you think you buy in an average month?

    /     /    

97 \$97 or more

98 Refused

99 Don't Know

**ASK G16B ON FORM B ONLY**

G16B. I'm going to read you some statements about the lottery-- For each one please just tell me if you agree or disagree-- First (RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS) Do you agree or disagree -- |

A The lottery encourages poor people who really can't afford it to gamble and waste their money?

B People are going to gamble anyway, so there is nothing wrong with the state raising money through the lottery?

C The lottery is like a hidden tax on poor people because they play more often than wealthy people, and the chances of their winning are slim?

D The lottery is something the state should provide because people who live here want it?

- 1 Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Depends (VOL)
- 9 Don't know

**ASK ALL**

G17. The state is considering a number of ideas about how to help New Jersey's horse racing tracks-- I'm going to read you some proposals and would like you to tell me if you favor or oppose each one-- (RANDOMIZE ITEMS) First, do you favor or oppose this|

- A Allowing slot machines at race tracks?
- B Allowing live telecasts of racing over cable TV, where people can also bet by phone?
- C Allowing betting by phone at race tracks?
- D Having off-track betting parlors at different parts of the state where people can go to watch races, eat, and bet on races shown on screen?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Depends (VOL)
- 9 Don't Know

G18. The state collects tax revenue to support public services from various forms of gambling--such as the New Jersey Lottery and the casinos in Atlantic City-- In general, do you think this is a good or a bad way for state government to raise money?

- 1 Good
- 2 Bad
- 3 Depends
- 9 Don't Know

**FORM A ONLY**

G19A. Do you think that there IS or is NOT a danger of the state becoming too dependent on gambling revenue?

- 1 Is
- 2 Is not
- 3 Depends (VOL)
- 9 Don't know

**FORM B ONLY**

G19 B. The state now raises about 5 percent of its budget from gambling in Atlantic City and the Lottery-- Do you think that there IS or is NOT a danger of the state becoming too dependent on gambling revenue?

- 1 Is
- 2 Is not
- 3 Depends (VOL)
- 9 Don't know



**ASK EVERYONE**

G20. Do you personally know anybody with a gambling problem--that is someone who can't stop gambling or loses more than they can afford to?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Don't know/Maybe

**FORM A**

C1A. I'd like to get some idea of how you feel about different organizations or institutions that exist to serve you and others-- For each of the institutions or groups I mention such as...(STARTING POINT) tell me whether you have a lot of confidence IN THEM, SOME CONFIDENCE IN THEM, OR NOT VERY MUCH CONFIDENCE-- By confidence I mean that you feel they are doing what they ought to be doing -- |

(RANDOMIZE ITEMS)

**SPLIT HALF FORM A ONLY**

- A Rutgers University?
- B Church, or organized religion?
- C Your local schools?
- D Newspapers?
- E Television News?
- F The national government?
- G The legal system?
- H Doctors and organized medicine?
- I Insurance companies ?

**FORM B**

C1B. I'd like to get some idea of how you feel about different organizations or institutions that exist to serve you and others-- For each of the institutions or groups I mention such as...(STARTING POINT) tell me whether you have a lot of confidence IN THEM, SOME CONFIDENCE IN THEM, OR NOT VERY MUCH CONFIDENCE-- By confidence I mean that you feel they are doing what they ought to be doing -- |

(RANDOMIZE ITEMS)

**SPLIT HALF FORM B ONLY**

- J Newspapers?
- K Labor Unions?
- L Your local government?
- M Large corporations?
- N NJ State government?
- O The Democrats in Washington?
- P The Republicans in Washington?
- Q Lawyers?
- R Health Maintenance Organizations or HMOs?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Not much
- 9 Don't know

## **SPORTS/NETS/NEWARK**

SP1. On another topic, one recent development in New Jersey has been the Meadowlands Sports Complex in Northern New Jersey-- Overall, do you think the Meadowlands has been good or bad for the state?

- 1 Good
- 2 Bad
- 9 Both/no opinion/don't know

SP2. And has the Meadowlands been good or bad for the state's image--that is how others see New Jersey?

- 1 Good
- 2 Bad
- 9 Both/no opinion/don't know

SP3. How important do you think the Meadowlands is to New Jersey's unique identity as a state -- something that people living here take pride in. Is it very important, somewhat important or not too important?

- 1 Very
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 Not very
- 9 Don't know

SP4. Have you ever been to the Meadowlands for a sporting event or concert?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No [Go to q.SP6]
- 9 Don't know [Go to q.SP6]

SP5. Have you been there at least once in the last 12 months?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/don't know

SP6. How interested are you in PROFESSIONAL sports --someone who follows a particular sport or a team in the paper and on TV? Are you very interested, somewhat interested, a little interested or not at all interested in pro sports?

- 1 Very
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 A little
- 4 Not at all [Go to q.SP14]
- 9 Don't know

SP7. Do you follow professional basketball at all--IF YES, PROBE: Is that very closely, somewhat, or just a little?

- 1 Yes--very closely
- 2 Yes--somewhat
- 3 Yes--just a little
- 9 No/don't know [Go to q.SP14]

SP11. Did you go to any professional basketball games last year?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No [Go to q.SP13]
- 9 Don't know/maybe (VOL)

SP12. Did you go to any New Jersey Nets games last year?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Don't know/maybe (VOL)

SP13. Would you call yourself a fan of the Nets--that is, do you follow them?

- 1 YES
- 2 No
- 9 Don't know

SP14. Have you heard or read anything about the New Jersey Nets basketball team moving from the Meadowlands to a new stadium that would be built in Newark?

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

SP15. Just your first reaction, on the whole do you think this is a good idea, a bad idea, or don't you care one way or the other?

- 1 Good
- 2 Bad
- 3 Don't care
- 9 Don't know/haven't thought about it

SP16. If the Nets were to move to Newark do you think they should change their name to the Newark Nets, or keep the name the New Jersey Nets?

- 1 Newark
- 2 New Jersey
- 9 Don't Know/Care

SP17. Would you approve or disapprove of the Nets moving from the Meadowlands to Newark if each of the following also happened-- If you don't have an opinion just say so -- |

A If it meant that state money would have to be used to build a new stadium in Newark?

- B If it meant that the New Jersey Devils hockey team left the state?
- C If the Nets built their own stadium but state money paid for some transportation improvements ?
- D If it meant that the Meadowlands indoor sports arena might be closed down?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 9 Don't know/depends

SP18. Thinking about yourself, do you think you would be more likely to go to a Nets game if they moved to Newark from the Meadowlands, would you be less likely, or would there be no difference?

- 1 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 3 No difference
- 9 Don't know

SP19. And what do you think about most people you know who are basketball fans--Would they be more likely to go to, less likely, or would there be no difference?

- 1 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 3 No difference
- 9 Don't know

***CATI INSTRUCTIONS BASED ON SP18 AND SP19 ANSWERS:***

***IF SP18=2 ASK ABOUT "YOU" IN SP20 SEQUENCE***

***IF SP19=2 (AND SP18 NE 2) ASK ABOUT "OTHER PEOPLE" IN SP20 SEQUENCE***

***IF SP18 NE 2 AND SP19 NE 2) SKIP TO SP21***

SP20. I'm going to read you some reasons why (you/you think other people) might be less likely to go to a Nets game in Newark-- For each please just tell me if you think it is a major reason, minor reason or not a reason why (you/you think other people) might go to fewer games-- First... (ROTATE)..is this a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason -- |

- A (You/they) would be worried about safety in Newark?
- B (You/they) would feel uncomfortable in Newark?
- C The games would be less convenient for (you/them) to get to in Newark?
- D Newark is a less attractive place than the Meadowlands?
- E (You/they) would be worried about driving and parking in Newark?

- 1 Major
- 2 Minor
- 3 Not a reason
- 9 Don't know

SP21. Have you heard or read anything about the performing arts center that recently opened in Newark?

- 1 Yes

- 2 No [Go to q.D1]
- 3 Don't know [Go to q.D1]

SP22. Have you been to the performing arts center in Newark?

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

SP23. Please tell me if you think the performing arts center in Newark has been a major benefit, a minor benefit or no benefit at all for each of the following -- |

- A The state of New Jersey?
- B Residents of New Jersey?
- C The city of Newark?

- 1 Major
- 2 Minor
- 3 Not a benefit
- 9 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
- 9 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. Regardless of the political party you might favor, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?

- 1 Liberal
- 2 Conservative
- 3 Somewhere in between
- 4 Other
- 9 Don't Know/No opinion

D3. Which of the following BEST describes the place where you now live?  
READ OPTIONS 1 THROUGH 4

- 1 A large city
- 2 A suburb near a large city
- 3 A small city or town
- 4 A rural area
- 9 Other/don't know/refused

D4. Did you receive a high school diploma?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't Know [Go to q.D6]

D5. Did you ever attend college-- **(IF YES, ASK: Did you graduate)?**

- 1 Yes, graduated
- 2 Yes, did not graduate [Go to q.D6]
- 3 Junior college—graduate [Go to q.D6]
- 4 Vocational/technical school [Go to q.D6]
- 5 No [Go to q.D6]

D5A. 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

D6. 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
- 5 Separated
- 6 Never married
- 7 Don't know

D7. What was your age on your last birthday?

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

D7a. **[IF REFUSED IN D7, 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

D8 Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Spanish background?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't know

D9. Are you white, black or of Asian origin?

- 1 White
- 2 Black
- 3 Asian
- 4 Other
- 9 Not determined

D10. In what county do you live?

- 1 Atlantic
- 2 Bergen
- 3 Burlington
- 4 Camden
- 5 Cape May
- 6 Cumberland
- 7 Essex
- 8 Gloucester
- 9 Hudson
- 10 Hunterdon
- 11 Mercer
- 12 Middlesex
- 13 Monmouth
- 14 Morris
- 15 Ocean
- 16 Passaic
- 17 Salem
- 18 Somerset
- 19 Sussex
- 20 Union
- 21 Warren
- 99 Don't know/Refused

D11. 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.D12A]

- 2 \$35,000 TO \$69,999 [Go to q.D12B]
- 3 \$70,000 TO \$100,000 [Go to q.D13]
- 4 \$100,000 OR MORE [Go to q.D13]
- 9 DON'T KNOW [Go to q.D13]

D12A. Is that: under \$20,000; \$20,000-\$30,000, or over \$30,000?

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

D12B. 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

D13. How many DIFFERENT telephone numbers for incoming calls reach this household--this does not include those lines that are ONLY used for fax machines and computers?

- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four or more
- 9 Don't Know/Refused

D14. Including yourself, how many adults--that is people 18 or over live in your household?

- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four or more
- 9 Don't Know/Refused

D15. And how many people 17 or under live in your household?

- 0 None
- 1 One
- 2 Two
- 3 Three
- 4 Four or more
- 9 Don't Know/Refused

D16. Thanks-- You've been very helpful-- The results of the poll will be released in the Newark Star-Ledger-- Sometimes we need to recontact people to ask verify that this interview took place, or someone writing up the results may want to know more about how you feel-- Would it be okay for us to recontact you if necessary-- (IF YES, ASK: Could I please have just your first name?)



1 YES -----> RECORD NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
2 NO