

# The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

## ELLIS ISLE

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A story based on the survey findings presented in this release and background memo appears in the Thursday, May 27th Star-Ledger. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to "The Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll."

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### BACKGROUND MEMO — RELEASE SL/EP72-4 (EP122-4), THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1999

The latest Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll was conducted between April 28 and May 6, 1999, 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  $\pm 3.5$  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 46.5 and 53.5 percent ( $50 \pm 3.5$ ) 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 as separate figures reported for men and women, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Click here for a [chart](#) that 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 is 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 the state. The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

Have you visited Ellis Island in the last 10 years, or not?" (EI 1)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Statewide	31%	68%	1%	100%	(802)
Age					
--18-29	31	69	--	100	(140)
--30-49	34	65	1	100	(354)
--50-64	31	68	--	100	(168)
--65+	26	74	--	100	(115)

Region					
--North	37	61	1	99	(365)
--Central	31	69	--	100	(215)
--South	22	78	--	100	(214)

Relatives emigrated through Ellis					
--Yes	39	61	--	100	(392)
--No	25	74	1	100	(362)

"Do you personally have relatives who emigrated to this country through Ellis Island, or not?" (EI 2)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>(802)</b>

Age					
--18-29	28	62	10	100	(140)
--30-49	49	45	6	100	(354)
--50-64	49	46	4	99	(168)
--65+	61	36	3	100	(115)

"How important a historic site is Ellis Island to YOU, personally? Is it very important, somewhat important or not too important?" (EI 3)

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not Too Important</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(802)</b>

Age						
--18-29	28	35	35	2	100	(140)
--30-49	41	35	23	1	100	(354)
--50-64	38	34	27	1	100	(168)
--65+	52	22	23	3	100	(115)

Relatives emigrated through Ellis						
--Yes	54	32	13	--	99	(392)
--No	26	33	38	3	100	(362)

"The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that New Jersey owns most of Ellis Island. This includes about 30 run-down buildings in very bad shape. The State is now trying to decide what to do with Ellis Island. How big a role do you think the state of New Jersey should play in redeveloping Ellis Island—should it play a leadership role, a supporting role to private development, or no role at all?" (EI 4)

	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Supporting</u>	<u>No Role</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
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<b>Statewide</b>	<u>Role</u> <b>45%</b>	<u>Role</u> <b>43%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(802)</b>
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"Would you approve or disapprove of the state spending 50 million dollars in public money to renovate buildings on Ellis Island?" (EI 5)

<b>Statewide</b>	<u>Approve</u> <b>45%</b>	<u>Disapprove</u> <b>46%</b>	<u>Don't Know</u> <b>8%</b>	<u>Total</u> <b>99%</b>	<u>(n)</u> <b>(802)</b>
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Relatives emigrated through Ellis

--Yes	51	42	7	100	(392)
--No	40	50	9	100	(362)

Political Party Identification

--Democrats	49	42	9	100	(270)
--Independents	47	43	9	100	(299)
--Republicans	41	54	5	100	(194)

Region

--North	48	42	10	100	(365)
--Central	47	42	11	100	(215)
--South	39	57	5	101	(214)

"I'm going to read you some things that Ellis Island could be used for. Please rate each idea as excellent, good, or just fair." (EI 6)

An ethnic heritage center displaying the histories of different groups of immigrants	<u>Excellent</u> <b>40%</b>	<u>Good</u> <b>38%</b>	<u>Just Fair</u> <b>19%</b>	<u>Don't Know</u> <b>3%</b>	<u>Total</u> <b>100%</b>	<u>(n)</u> <b>(802)</b>
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An international conference center	15	38	42	5	100	(802)
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A medical history museum	11	38	47	4	100	(802)
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An artists colony	7	22	65	6	100	(802)
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A state college	20	37	39	5	100	(802)
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Who do you think would do a better job of developing Ellis Island—the state of New Jersey or a private developer?" (EI 7)

	<u>New Jersey</u>	<u>Private Developer</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(802)</b>

"Would you favor or oppose the state building a permanent pedestrian bridge from Liberty State Park to Ellis Island?" (EI 8)

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(802)</b>

The following table shows "yes" answers to the following questions: "Have you visited Ellis Island in the last ten years, or not?" (EI 1) and "Do you personally have relatives who emigrated to this country through Ellis Island, or not?" (EI 2). In addition, this table reflects the percentage of people who answered "very important" when asked: "How important a historic site is Ellis Island to YOU personally? Is it very important, somewhat important or not too important?" (EI 3)

	<u>Been to Ellis Island in last 10 years</u>	<u>Had relatives emigrate through Ellis Island</u>	<u>Ellis Island is very important to me as a historic site</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>(802)</b>

Age

--18-29	31	28	28	(140)
--30-49	34	49	41	(354)
--50-64	31	49	38	(168)
--65+	26	61	52	(115)

Region

--North	37	46	40	(365)
--Central	31	43	38	(215)
--South	22	50	38	(214)

Race

--White	32	59	44	(573)
--Black	17	4	12	(86)
--Hispanic and Asian	41	22	36	(114)

Education

--high school or less	27	43	36	(247)
--some college	31	43	38	(247)
--college graduate	40	57	48	(308)