

# The Star-Ledger/**Eagleton-Rutgers Poll**

## SENATE RACE 2000

BACKGROUND MEMO: SL/EP 73-1 (EP123-1)  
SEPTEMBER 23, 1999

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The data in this background memo are based on 560 interviews conducted with self-identified registered voters between September 15 and 21. This total includes 208 who said they were Republicans or Independents who leaned toward the Republican party, and 255 who said they were Democrats or Independents who leaned toward the Democratic party. The sampling error for the total 560 is a little over  $\pm 4$  percentage points. It is about  $\pm 7$  percentage points for answers based on the subsets of Republicans and Democrats. A story based on these data appeared in the September 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Star-Ledger*.

*ASKED ONLY OF REPUBLICANS, OR INDEPENDENTS WHO LEAN REPUBLICAN*

I'd like to get your opinion of some people in New Jersey who may run for the U. S. Senate. Many people haven't heard of them. For each name I read just tell me if your general opinion is favorable or unfavorable. If you don't have an opinion about some just say so. First (RANDOMIZE LIST)...Favorable, unfavorable or no opinion? (Q.S4R)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Governor Christie Whitman	79%	19%	2%	100%	(208)
Congressman Frank LoBiondo	20	6	74	100	(208)
Former libertarian candidate for Governor Murray Sabrin	10	18	72	100	(208)
Congressman Robert Franks	20	6	74	100	(208)
Essex County Executive James Treffinger	11	4	85	100	(208)
State Senator Bill Gormley	23	4	73	100	(208)

### SUMMARY OF REPUBLICANS ASSESSMENTS

	<b>OPINIONATION</b> (Total minus No Opinion)	<b>IMAGERY</b> (Favorable minus Unfavorable)
Christie Whitman	98%	+60%
Murray Sabrin	28	-8
Bob Franks	26	+14

James Treffinger	15	+7
Frank LoBiondo	26	+14
Bill Gormley	27	+19

*ASKED ONLY OF DEMOCRATS, OR INDEPENDENTS WHO LEAN DEMOCRATIC*

I'd like to get your opinion of some people in New Jersey who may run for the US Senate. Many people haven't heard of them. For each name I read just tell me if your general opinion is favorable or unfavorable. If you don't have an opinion about some just say so. First, (RANDOMIZE LIST)... Favorable, unfavorable or no opinion? (Q.S4D)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Former Wall Street Executive John Corzine	7%	8%	85%	100%	(255)
Senator Frank Lautenberg	58	13	29	100	(255)
Former Democratic State Chair Tom Byrne	16	7	77	100	(255)
Former Governor Jim Florio	56	23	21	100	(255)

SUMMARY OF DEMOCRATS' ASSESSMENTS

	<b>OPINIONATION</b> (Total minus No Opinion)	<b>IMAGERY</b> (Favorable minus Unfavorable)
Frank Lautenberg	71%	+45
Jim Florio	79	+33
Tom Byrne	23	+9
John Corzine	15	-1

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE: IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ASK ABOUT ALL POSSIBLE PARINGS. QUESTIONS S6-11 WERE RANDOMIZED, WITH NAMES-WITH PARTY IDENTIFICATIONS ROTATED WITHIN QUESTIONS

If the election for U.S. Senator from New Jersey was held today, would you vote for Bob Franks, the Republican, or Jim Florio the Democrat? (Q.S6)

If the election for U.S. Senator from New Jersey was held today, would you vote for Bob Franks, the Republican, or John Corzine (pronounced: Core-zign) the Democrat? (Q.S7)

If the election for U.S. Senator from New Jersey was held today, would you vote for Bob Franks, the Republican, or Tom Byrne the Democrat? (Q.S8)

If the election for U.S. Senator from New Jersey was held today, would you vote for Bill Gormley, the Republican, or John Corzine (pronounced: Core-zign) the Democrat? (Q.S9)

If the election for U.S. Senator from New Jersey was held today, would you vote for Bill Gormley, the Republican, or Jim Florio the Democrat? (Q.S10)

If the election for U.S. Senator from New Jersey was held today, would you vote for James Treffinger, the Republican, or Jim Florio the Democrat? (Q.S11)

REP VS. DEM MATCHUP	<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Other/ Neither Won't Vote</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(n)</b>
Franks vs. Florio	34%	41%	5%	21%	101%	(560)
Franks vs. Corzine	30	24	8	39	101	(560)
Franks vs. Byrne	31	29	6	35	101	(560)
Gormley vs. Corzine	31	24	7	38	100	(560)
Gormley vs. Florio	33	41	4	21	99	(560)
Treffinger vs. Florio	33	41	5	22	101	(560)

SUMMARY TABLE: Relative Republican Strength-all matched against Florio

	<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Jim Florio</b>	<b>Democratic Advantage</b>
Robert Franks	34%	41%	Dem +7
Bill Gormley	33	41	Dem +8
James Treffinger	33	41	Dem +8

SUMMARY TABLE: Relative Democratic Strength-all matched against Franks

	<b>Robert Franks</b>	<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Democratic Advantage</b>
Jim Florio	34%	41%	Dem +7
John Corzine	30	24	Dem -6
Tom Byrne	31	29	Dem -2