

The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

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A story based on the survey findings presented in this release and background memo will appear in the Sunday, September 26, 1999 Star-Ledger. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to *The Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll*.

RELEASE: (EP 123-2)

GOVERNOR'S JOB PERFORMANCE RATING GOES UP, OR "A STATESMAN IS A DEAD POLITICIAN"

CLINTON'S JOB PERFORMANCE RATING STEADY

The latest Star-Ledger/Eagleton Poll finds Governor Christie Whitman's job performance rating at its highest level since September, 1996. This is the first survey taken since the Governor announced that she was withdrawing as a candidate for the U. S. Senate seat currently held by Frank Lautenberg.

The new statewide survey asking about Whitman's performance find positive assessments of "excellent" and "good" outnumbering negative ones of "only fair" and "poor" by a margin of 53 to 44 percent, with the remainder expressing no opinion. A survey last May found just 46 percent offering positive assessments compared to 50 percent negative. The governor's rating is up across the board—about 6 to 7 percentage points among Republicans, Independents and Democrats alike.

President Bill Clinton continues to receive favorable job performance ratings—61 percent say he is going an "excellent" or "good" job as President; 38 percent describe his job performance as "only fair" or "poor." Clinton's job rating is unchanged from May.

The current survey of 800 New Jersey adults 18 years and older was conducted by telephone between September 15 and 22. The sampling error is ± 3.5 percent.

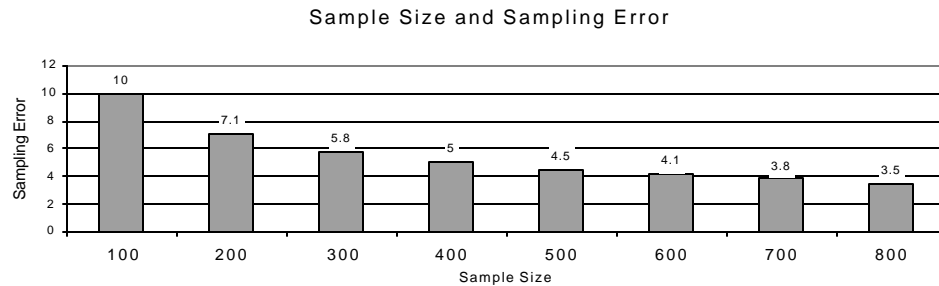
The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll • Eagleton Institute of Politics

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BACKGROUND MEMO — RELEASE (EP123-2) SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 1999

The latest *Star-Ledger/Eagleton* Poll was conducted between September 15 and 22 with a scientifically selected random sample of 802 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 ± 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 ± 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. The following chart shows the relationship between sample size and sampling error. The sampling error for the racial grouping reported in this release is as follows:



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:

“How would you rate the job Christie Whitman is doing as Governor—excellent, good, only fair or poor?” (Q.3)

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	Total	(n)
September, 1999	11%	42%	31%	13%	3%	100%	(802)
<i>By Party</i>							
--Democratic	10%	34%	39%	15%	3%	100%	(802)
--Independent	10	42	33	12	3	100	(240)
--Republican	17	54	20	8	1	100	(182)
<i>By Race</i>							
--White	12	42	30	13	3	100	593
--Black & Latino	8	36	37	14	6	101	158

(Continued)

How would you rate the job Christie Whitman is doing as Governor—excellent, good, only fair or poor?” (Q.3)

<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>							
--April/May, 1999	9	37	34	16	4	100	(802)
--January, 1999	10	40	32	14	3	99	(800)
--September, 1998	9	39	33	14	6	101	(804)
--June, 1998	11	36	34	15	4	100	(602)
--February, 1998	10	39	33	13	4	99	(802)
--October, 1997	9	34	32	21	5	101	(800)
--September, 1997	10	37	32	16	5	100	(800)
--June, 1997	9	40	29	17	5	100	(800)
--February, 1997	10	42	29	15	5	101	(800)
--September, 1996	12	41	29	12	6	100	(808)
--February, 1996	9	40	34	15	3	101	(804)
--November, 1995	9	43	32	10	6	100	(803)
--September, 1995	8	40	36	10	6	100	(804)
--May, 1995	11	42	29	11	7	100	(802)
--February, 1995	13	43	28	12	4	100	(801)
--September, 1994	12	40	33	9	6	100	(801)
--June, 1994	11	39	29	7	14	100	(801)
--February, 1994	9	28	28	5	31	101	(801)

“How would you rate the job Bill Clinton is doing as President—excellent, good, only fair or poor?” (Q.4)

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	Total	(n)
September, 1999	16%	45%	23%	15%	1%	100%	(802)
<i>By Party</i>							
--Democratic	28	56	12	3	2	101	(240)
--Independent	11	47	27	14	2	101	(322)
--Republican	6	29	29	36	--	100	(182)
<i>Gender</i>							
--Male	19	44	23	12	2	101	(399)
--Female	27	43	19	8	3	100	(401)
<i>By Race</i>							
--White	10	44	25	20	1	100	(593)
--Black & Latino	33	45	14	4	4	100	(158)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>							
April/May, 1999	16	43	21	18	2	100	(802)
January, 1999	23	44	21	10	2	100	(800)

September, 1998	20	45	19	15	2	101	(804)
June, 1998	14	47	27	10	3	101	(602)
February, 1998	27	42	19	10	2	100	(802)
October, 1997	9	48	30	10	4	101	(800)
February, 1997	8	43	34	13	1	99	(800)