

# The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

POLL 125  
February 28-March 8, 2000  
Programming 2/28/00

*Senate Politics, Beliefs, Daily Services, Environmental Quality, Whitman & DMV, Jersey Bytes*

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.

## IF RESPONDENT DECLINES TO PARTICIPATE, POSSIBLE PROBES:

--Your participation is very important because only 800 people have been randomly selected for this survey and your views will represent many people throughout the state.

--IF "DON'T KNOW ENOUGH": There are no right or wrong answers. We are only interested in your opinions. They are just as important as anybody else's.

--IF NOT INTERESTED, DON'T WANT TO: Please help me; we could really use your cooperation and we are interested in what you think.

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

- 1 Two or less
- 2 3 - 5
- 3 6 - 10
- 4 11 - 20
- 5 21 or more
- 6 All My Life
- 9 Don't Know

2. Overall, how would you rate New Jersey as a place to live--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 Don't Know

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

- 1 Excellent

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

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2	Good
3	Only Fair
4	Poor
9	Don't Know

4. How interested are you in New Jersey politics and government—very interested, somewhat interested, a little interested or not interested?

- 1 Very
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 A little
- 4 Not interested
- 9 Don't know

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

- 1 Excellent—GO TO Q7
- 2 Good —GO TO Q7
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor —GO TO Q7
- 9 Don't Know

6. So overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job she is doing as Governor?

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

7. 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
- 9 No opinion

8. Thinking back over Governor Whitman's term 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
- 9 No opinion/don't know

9. Have you heard or read anything about problems with the new car inspection system at the New Jersey DMV? IF YES, PROBE: Have you heard or read a lot, some, or just a little?

- 1 Yes A Lot
- 2 Yes Some
- 3 Yes A little/don't know how much heard/read- SKIP TO Q13
- 4 Not heard/read--SKIP TO Q13
- 9 Don't know--SKIP TO Q13

10. Do you personally know someone who has complained about the new DMV inspection procedures, or not?

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

11. How responsible do you think Governor Whitman is for the problems that have occurred? Does she deserve most of the blame, some of the blame, just a little of the blame, or none of the blame?

- 1 Lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Little
- 4 None
- 9 Don't know

12. And overall, how good a job has she done handling the DMV situation--excellent, good, only fair or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 Don't Know

13. Comparing New Jersey to other states in the nation, do you think New Jersey residents pay more, less, or about the same in overall state and local taxes?

- 1 More
- 2 Less
- 3 About the Same
- 9 Don't Know

## SPLIT HALF – QUESTIONS 14A AND 14B

14a. HALF SAMPLE: There has been some talk here in New Jersey about the practices of profiling—where police target certain cars to stop based on the race or age of people in the cars. Some say profiling makes sense because it increases our safety by stopping those people who are more likely to commit crimes.

Others, *such as the Black Minister's Council*, object to the policy because they believe it unfairly discriminates against minorities who are pulled over because of their race or ethnicity. How about you—Do you think profiling is a good or bad policy for the State Police to use, or don't you have an opinion on this?

- 1 Good
- 2 Bad
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused/No opinion

14b. HALF SAMPLE: There has been some talk here in New Jersey about the practices of profiling—where police target certain cars to stop based on the race or age of people in the cars. Some say profiling makes sense because it increases our safety by stopping those people who are more likely to commit crimes.

Others, *such as the New Jersey Black Troopers Coalition*, object to the policy because they believe it unfairly discriminates against minorities who are pulled over because of their race or ethnicity. How about you—Do you think profiling is a good or bad policy for the State Police to use, or don't you have an opinion on this?

- 1 Good
- 2 Bad
- 9 (VOL) Don't know/Refused/No opinion

Now I have a few things to ask that will help me know which questions to ask later on in the survey.

15. Do you have a home computer where you live?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 DK/Refused

16. Do you ever use a computer at work, school or home to connect with the Internet, or information services such as America Online? IF YES, PROBE: Have you done this in the last 7 days, or not?

- 1 Yes--in last 7 days
- 2 Yes--but not in last 7 days
- 3 No
- 9 DK/Refused

17. Do you have a cellular phone that you can take places with you?--this is different from a cordless phone in your house.

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't know

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

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Independent –SKIP TO Q20
- 4 Something Else/Other –SKIP TO Q20
- 9 Don't Know/No opinion –SKIP TO Q20

19. Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican), or a not so strong(Democrat/Republican)?

- 1 Strong —SKIP TO 21
- 2 Not Strong/Don't know—SKIP TO 21

20. 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

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

- 1 YES
- 2 NO-- SKIP TO DL1
- 9 DON'T KNOW-- SKIP DL1

ROTATE QUESTIONS S1 AND S2.

S1. There will be an election for President in November. If that election was held today would you vote for (CATI PROGRAMMING: ROTATE CANDIDATES) George W. Bush, the Republican; or Al Gore, the Democrat?

- 1 Bush
- 2 Gore
- 7 Neither/Other
- 8 Wouldn't vote
- 9 Don't know

S2. If the election was held today would you vote for (CATI PROGRAMMING: ROTATE CANDIDATES) John McCain, the Republican; or Al Gore, the Democrat?

- 1 McCain
- 2 Gore
- 7 Neither/Other
- 8 Wouldn't vote
- 9 Don't know

S3. As you may know, there will also be an election for US Senate from New Jersey this year. I'd like to get your opinion of some people who may run for that office. 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.

- A Former Governor Jim Florio?
- B Former Wall Street Executive John Corzine (*pronounced: Core- zign*)?
- C Former Libertarian candidate for Governor Murray Sabrin?
- D Congressman Robert Franks?
- E Essex County Executive James Treffinger?
- F State Senator Bill Gormley?

Response Options S1 A-F

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

***CATI PROGRAMMING RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS S4-9 AND ROTATE NAMES-WITH-PARTY WITHIN QUESTIONS)***

S4. 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?

- 1 Bob Franks/Republican
- 2 Florio/Democrat
- 7 Neither/Other
- 8 Wouldn't vote
- 9 Don't know

S5. 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?

- 1 Bob Franks/Republican
- 2 Corzine/Democrat
- 7 Neither/Other
- 8 Wouldn't vote
- 9 Don't know

S6. 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?

- 1 Gormley/Republican
- 2 Florio/Democrat
- 7 Neither/Other
- 8 Wouldn't vote
- 9 Don't know

S7. 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?

- 1 Gormley/Republican
- 2 Corzine/Democrat
- 7 Neither/Other
- 8 Wouldn't vote
- 9 Don't know

S8. If the election for U.S. Senator from New Jersey was held today, would you vote for Jim Treffinger, the Republican, or Jim Florio the Democrat?

- 1 Jim Treffinger/Republican
- 2 Florio/Democrat
- 7 Neither/Other
- 8 Wouldn't vote
- 9 Don't know

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

- 1 Jim Treffinger/Republican
- 2 Corzine/Democrat
- 7 Neither/Other
- 8 Wouldn't vote
- 9 Don't know

DL1. Now on another subject, I'm going to read you a short list of some business services you probably use and would like you to tell me how satisfied you are with their overall level of performance. For each just tell me if you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat DISsatisfied, or very dissatisfied. If you don't use some, just say so. FIRST...very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied: [RANDOMIZE LIST] |

- A Your utility company?
- B Your cable company?
- C Your long distance phone company?
- D Your cellular phone company (*CATI: ASK ONLY IF Q15=1*)?
- E The bank you use most often?
- F Your neighborhood merchants?
- G The supermarket you go to most often?

Response Options for DL1 A-G

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Very dissatisfied
- 9 Don't know
- 0 Don't Use/Have

BL1. Different people believe different things. I'm going to read you a list of items and would like you to tell me whether or not you personally believe each one exists or not. Some are more serious than others. First, RANDOMIZE...just Yes or No: |

- A That the Mafia exists?
- B UFOs--unidentified flying objects--have visited earth?
- C In life after death?
- D That there is a God or Supreme Being?
- E In the theory of evolution--that humans evolved from lower life forms?
- F In global warming--that the temperature of the earth is getting hotter ?
- G In Ghosts--that some places may be haunted?
- H In Astrology?
- I That Mother Knows Best ?

Response Options

- 1 Yes, Believe in
- 2 No, Don't believe in

9 Don't know/other

EN1. Now on a different subject... Overall, how serious do you think environmental problems are in New Jersey—very serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious?

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

EN2. In the past 3 years, do you feel the overall natural environment in New Jersey has gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 3 Stayed about the same
- 9 Don't know

EN3. Some people say that anti-pollution laws discourage the growth of jobs and industry. If you had to choose between maintaining strict anti-pollution laws or relaxing those laws to create more jobs in New Jersey, which would you choose?

- 1 Maintain strict laws
- 2 Relax laws
- 3 Both/rejects choice (VOL)
- 9 Don't know

EN4. I'm going to read you a short list of environmental conditions in the state. For each please just tell me if you think it is a very serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious problem. First, (RANDOMIZE) Very, somewhat or not too serious. |

- A Disposal of toxic wastes?
- B Water pollution in New Jersey?
- C The development of open spaces?
- D Air pollution in New Jersey?
- E Disposal of solid waste or garbage in New Jersey?

Response Options EN4A-F

- 1 Very serious
- 2 Somewhat serious

- 3 Not too serious
- 9 Don't know

EN5. And how would you rate the air quality in the area where you live—excellent, good, only fair or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 Don't know

EN6. Thinking about your family's health, how concerned are you about the quality of the air you breath—very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not very concerned?

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

EN7. And how would you rate the water quality of the tap water coming into your home—excellent, good, only fair or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Only Fair
- 4 Poor
- 9 Don't know

EN8. Thinking about your family's health, how concerned are you about the quality of the water you drink—very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not very concerned?

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

EN9. Does your family use bottled or filtered water for drinking, or do you drink water right out of the tap?

- 1 Bottled/filtered
- 2 Tap water
- 3 Both/mixture (VOL)
- 9 Don't know

Now just some very quick questions on different subjects.

JB1. Have you been summoned for jury duty in the last two years?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't know----SKIP TO JB3

JB2. Did you actually report for duty or did you not go for some reason?

- 1 Reported
- 2 Didn't go
- 9 No response/Don't know

JB3. Did you go to a MINOR league baseball game in New Jersey last season, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 DK/Refused

JB4. How likely are you to go to a minor league baseball game this coming season--Do you think you definitely will go, probably will go, probably not go, or definitely not go?

- 1 Definitely will go
- 2 Probably will go
- 3 Probably won't go
- 4 Definitely not go
- 9 Don't know

JB5. Have you heard or read anything about the performing arts center that recently opened in Newark?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No--SKIP TO JB7
- 9 Don't know--SKIP TO JB7

JB6. Have you been to the performing arts center in Newark?

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

JB7. 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

JB8. 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

JB9. Have you personally been the driver in a car on the New Jersey Turnpike in the last 7 days? IF YES, PROBE: Did you do this yesterday, or not?

- 1 Yes, Yesterday
- 2 Yes, in last 7 days, not yesterday
- 3 No, not in last 7 days
- 9 Don't know

JB10. I'd like to ask you a question on the issue of giving minorities preferences in job hirings and promotions. Some say that such preferences are wrong because they give blacks advantages they haven't earned; Others (**CATI PROGRAMMING: ON FROM B ONLY INSERT THE WORDS, “, such as representatives of the black community”**) say that because of past discrimination, blacks should be given such preferences. How about you? Are you for or against giving blacks preference in hiring and promotion, or don't you have an opinion on this?

- 1 For
- 2 Against
- 3 Other/Equal (VOL)
- 9 Don't know/Refused/No opinion

DL2. I'm going to read you a second, shorter list of some business services you probably use and would like you to tell me how satisfied you are with their overall level of performance. Again, for each just tell me if you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied. If you don't use some, just say so. FIRST...very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied: RANDOMIZE LIST |

- A Your insurance agent or company?
- B Your local phone company?
- C The post office you go to most often?
- D The shopping center you go to most often?
- E The gas station you go to most often?
- F The Internet provider you use at home (*CATI: ASK ONLY IF Q13=1 AND Q14=1OR2*)?
- G The drug store you go to most often?

Response Options for DL2A-G

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Very dissatisfied
- 9 Don't know
- 0 Don't Use/Have

BL2. Now I'm going to read you a second list of some things that people believe in. Again just tell me whether or not you personally believe in each or not. First, RANDOMIZE...just Yes or No. |

- A Medical Doctors are usually right?
- B In Extra-Sensory Perception, or ESP?
- C That dogs can think?
- D That there is life on other planets?
- E In Love at First Sight?
- F That Bill and Hillary Clinton like each other?
- G In the existence of Heaven and Hell?
- H That God created the Earth in 6 days?
- I That Men and Women have fundamentally different natures?

Response Options BL2A-I

- 1 Yes, Believe in
- 2 No, Don't believe in
- 9 Don't know/other

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

D1. Which of the following BEST describes the area 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 OR a rural area
- 9 Other/don't know/refused

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. Are you Italian or of Italian background?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/don't know

D4. Did you receive a high school diploma?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No/Don't Know--SKIP TO D6

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

- 1 Yes, graduated
- 2 Yes, did not graduate--skip to d6
- 3 Junior college--graduate--skip to d6
- 4 Vocational/technical school--skip to d6
- 9 No--skip to 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
- 9 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
- 9 Don't know

D7. What was your age on your last birthday?

    /     /     (ENTER AGE: 97=97+, 98=DK, 99 = REFUSED)

**CATI NOTE, IF REFUSED IN D7, ASK D8; OTHERWISE GO TO D9**

D8. Were you born before 1946, between 1946 and 1964, or after 1964?

- 1 before 1946
- 2 between 1946 and 1964
- 3 after 1964
- 9 Refused/don't know

D9. 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

D10. Are you white, black or of Asian origin?

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

D11. In what county do you live?

- |               |               |             |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 01 Atlantic   | 08 Gloucester | 15 Ocean    |
| 02 Bergen     | 09 Hudson     | 16 Passaic  |
| 03 Burlington | 10 Hunterdon  | 17 Salem    |
| 04 Camden     | 11 Mercer     | 18 Somerset |
| 05 Cape May   | 12 Middlesex  | 19 Sussex   |
| 06 Cumberland | 13 Monmouth   | 20 Union    |
| 07 Essex      | 14 Morris     | 21 Warren   |

99 Don't know/Refused

D12. 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
- 2 \$35,000 TO \$69,999
- 3 \$70,000 TO \$100,000
- 4 \$100,000 OR MORE
- 9 DON'T KNOW

D13. Not counting cell phones, 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. Is the telephone number I reached you at currently listed in the telephone directory? IF NO, PROBE: Is that because it's new or because your household does not want to be listed?

- 1 Yes, listed
- 2 Not listed--new listing
- 3 Not listed--by choice
- 4 Some listed/some unlisted (VOL)
- 9 Don't know/refused

D15. 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

D16. Do you consider yourself to be Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, atheist or agnostic?

- 1 Catholic
- 2 Protestant
- 3 Jewish
- 4 Muslim
- 5 Other
- 6 Atheist/Agnostic
- 9 Don't Know/Refused

D17. Do you live in a house, an apartment or a condominium?

- 1 House
- 2 Apartment
- 3 Condo/Townhouse
- 4 Other
- 9 Don't Know/Refused

D18. 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 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

Verify phone number

Thank you very much for your help.

NUMBER OF CALL ATTEMPTS     /

gender. SEX OF INTERVIEWER?

- 1. MALE
- 2. FEMALE

INTERVIEWER: PLEASE RATE HOW RESPONDENT WOULD BE IN CONVERSATION WITH A NEWS REPORTER (articulate, thoughtful, etc.)

- 1 Great
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair
- 4 Poor