

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

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(Release 152-1)

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NEW JERSEY GUBERNATORIAL 2005:

*Corzine with an early advantage; Republican nomination still up for grabs;
Corruption and Terrorism Top Voters' Priorities*

In the wake of Acting Governor Richard Codey's decision not to run for a full term, Democratic U.S. Senator Jon Corzine has emerged as the frontrunner in the 2005 race for governor. But gubernatorial candidates of both parties face an interesting challenge this year. Voters are looking for a new governor whose agenda extends beyond familiar, nuts-and-bolts issues like property taxes, education, and auto insurance; they want a governor who will take on more fundamental and intractable problems like corruption in state government and terrorism.

State of the Race

The latest *Star-Ledger/Eagleton Rutgers Poll* conducted between February 1 and 4 among registered voters finds that Corzine has a clear advantage over two of his potential Republican opponents, Douglas Forrester and Bret Schundler, both of whom still face a tough battle in the Republican primary.

- In a head-to-head match-up, Corzine leads Schundler by 47 to 22 percent (with 18 percent undecided), and Forrester by 46 to 23 percent (with 17 percent undecided). Corzine runs ahead among most key segments of the electorate, including Democrats, Independents and ideological moderate segments of the electorate. Schundler and Forrester outperform Corzine among Republican identifiers.
- Voters report greater familiarity with Corzine than the other candidates, with 62 percent saying they “know the most about” Corzine (compared to 11 percent for Schundler and 8

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percent for Forrester).

- Corzine has a better favorable -to-unfavorable ratio (53 percent favorable to 22 percent unfavorable) than either Schundler (28 percent to 19 percent) or Forrester (25 percent to 15 percent).

The survey was conducted with a scientific sample of 678 registered voters interviewed by telephone between February 1 and 4, 2005. The sampling error for the poll is ± 3.8 percentage points.

Corzine's early advantage is not lost on voters. When asked who they believe is most likely to become the next governor of New Jersey, most voters, including Democrats (77 percent), Independents (68 percent) and Republicans (59 percent), identify Corzine as the probable winner.

Despite voters' predictions, Jeffrey Levine, director of the poll cautioned, "We're still 10 months away from Election Day. At this early stage, Corzine's advantage comes more from his name recognition and partisan affiliation than his accomplishments or policy proposals. There are chinks in his armor. A lot can happen in a few months."

- Although Corzine's performance as Senator is viewed positively by most voters (61 percent approve vs. 18 percent disapprove), few rate Corzine's time in office as one of significant achievement. Just 16 percent of voters (and only 25 percent of Democrats) believe that Corzine has major accomplishments to point to as Senator, while 65 percent believe he has only had minor accomplishments (45 percent) or no real accomplishments (20 percent).
- Even among those who support Corzine, much of his appeal stems from a lack of familiarity with the other candidates. Almost a third (30 percent) of Corzine supporters say they would vote for him because they "haven't heard that much about the other candidates."

Those "other candidates" are facing a tough battle in the Republican primary. Among likely primary voters (Republican and Republican-leaning identifiers), the race is a statistical dead-heat, with Forrester and Schundler each receiving 22 percent of the vote. The other candidates are all in the single-digits – Murphy (4 percent), DiGaetano (1 percent), Lonigan (1 percent), Schroeder (1 percent), and Caliguire (0 percent) – while 41 percent are still undecided.

Forrester and Schundler have a similar base of support, though Forrester outperforms Schundler in the southern part of the state (33 percent to 19 percent), and Schundler has an edge in the north (23 to 15 percent). The moderate segment of Republican voters is slightly more

supportive of Forrester (22 percent to 20 percent), while self-described conservatives favor Schundler by a small margin (28 percent to 25 percent).

Levine noted, “On the Republican side, it’s really a toss-up at this point. Neither Schundler nor Forrester appears to have a clear advantage, and a large segment of Republican voters isn’t ready to commit. Just about anything can happen.”

The “Ideal” Governor

As the campaign season begins, voters are clear about what they want from their next governor. Although they want attention to familiar issues like education, healthcare, and property taxes, “eliminating corruption among elected officials” and “protecting the state from terrorist attack” top the list of issues considered most essential for the next governor to address.

More than half (51 percent) say that “eliminating corruption” is “extremely important” for the next governor to deal with (97 percent believe it is “extremely/very/somewhat important”). Close to half (47 percent) rate terrorism as extremely important (95 percent say it is “extremely/very/somewhat important”).

Other issues like “improving the quality of education,” “increasing access to quality healthcare,” “reducing property taxes” and “dealing with the budget crisis” fall into the second tier of voter priorities, though each is considered at least “somewhat important” by more than 90 percent of voters.

<u>Issue</u>	% who believe the issue is ‘Extremely Important’ for a governor to deal with
Eliminating corruption among elected officials	51%
Protecting the state from terrorist attack	47%
Improving the quality of education	42%
Increasing access to quality healthcare	42%
Reducing property taxes	40%
Dealing with the state’s budget crisis	38%
Making our streets and neighborhoods safer from crime	36%
Reforming New Jersey’s auto insurance system	35%
Strengthening the state’s economy	34%
Protecting the environment	33%
Protecting our communities from sprawl and overdevelopment	27%

Unlike most of the other issues which break down predictably along partisan lines, corruption is the top concern for voters of all partisan stripes: 61 percent of Republicans, 51 percent of Democrats, and 46 percent of Independents. Only among liberals and black and Hispanic voters

does corruption drop out of the top spot, though even among these groups it remains one of the top four priorities.

Levine commented, “While it’s not that surprising to discover that ‘corruption’ is important to voters, its importance relative to issues like terrorism and property taxes is striking. It suggests that corruption is more than simply an issue; it’s a more fundamental problem, one that taps into the core of what voters believe is wrong with the state and the government. As such, it presents a real challenge for the gubernatorial candidates to come up with a credible and effective approach for addressing the issue.”

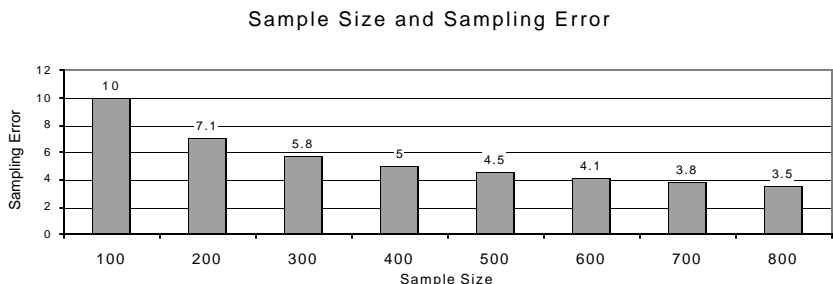
Consistent with the advantage Corzine enjoys in terms of general familiarity, today he is considered to be the candidate most likely to be able to address corruption as well as the other issues of concern to voters. His relative advantage, however, varies considerably across issue areas. As might be expected, he is given more of an edge on traditional, “Democratic” issues like healthcare, education and the environment and less of an advantage on traditional “Republican” issues like tax cutting and crime prevention.

Reviewing the results of the survey, Levine noted, “Corzine’s relative advantage on the issues at this stage is largely a function of his edge in name recognition. As the race heats up, voters will have a chance to make more informed decisions about the candidates’ abilities and these perceptions could shift. Nevertheless, at this stage of the game, Corzine has to be feeling good.”

BACKGROUND MEMO – RELEASE (EP 152-1) February 6, 2005

The latest *Star-Ledger*/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll was conducted from February 1 to 4 with a scientifically selected random sample of 802 New Jersey adults. This sample yielded 678 adult residents registered to vote in New Jersey. Most of the figures in this release are based on this voter sample size. This release also includes results for a sub-sample of registered voters who are considered likely to vote in a Republican primary, based on their partisan identification and past voting history.

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 registered voters is ± 3.8 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey registered voters were found to have a favorable opinion of a gubernatorial candidate, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 46.2 and 53.8 percent (50 ± 3.8) had all New Jersey registered voters 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 Republicans, Independents or Democrats, 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.



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 referred to in this release are as follows:

“Now let me read you a list of traits people might look for in a governor. Please tell me which one is the most important quality for you when voting for a governor? (READ AND ROTATE) [IF “ALL”, ASK:] If you absolutely had to choose, which one would you say is the most important quality? (ROTATE) (1. Sticks to his/her positions, even if they are unpopular, 2. Is a strong leader, 3. Is not beholden to contributors, 4. Honest and trustworthy, 5. Is an outsider who will shake things up, 6a/b. Split [A – Guided by strong moral conviction / B – Guided by strong religious conviction])?” (IC1)

	<u>All Registered voters</u>	<u>Registered Voters - Split A</u>	<u>Registered Voters – Split B</u>
February 2005			
Registered Voters			
<u>Sticks to his/her positions even if unpopular</u>	11	12	11
<u>Is a strong leader</u>	19	19	19
<u>Is not beholden to contributors</u>	11	13	9
<u>Honest and trustworthy</u>	39	32	46
<u>Is an outsider who will shake things up</u>	4	4	4
<u>Guided by strong moral/religious conviction</u>	8	*	*
<u>(Split Sample A) Guided by strong moral conviction</u>	*	10	*
<u>(Split Sample B) Guided by strong religious conviction</u>	*	*	5
<u>All of the above</u>	5	7	3
<u>None of the above</u>	2	2	2
<u>Don't know/refused</u>	1	2	1
<u>(n)</u>	(678)	(355)	(323)

“I am now going to read a list of some of the issues that might be discussed in this year’s election for governor. As I read the list, please tell me how important you think that issue is for the next governor to deal with – Extremely important, Very important, Somewhat important, Not very important, or Not at all important? (ROTATE) (A. Strengthening the state’s economy, B. Dealing with the state’s budget crisis, C. Improving the quality of education, D. Reforming New Jersey’s auto insurance system, E. Protecting the state from terrorist attacks, F. Reducing property taxes, G. Protecting the environment, H. Increasing access to quality healthcare, I. Making our streets and neighborhoods safer from crime, J. Eliminating corruption among state elected officials, K. Protecting our communities from sprawl and overdevelopment)?” (IC2)

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not very important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters							
A. Strengthening the state’s economy	34	46	17	1	*	1	(678)
B. Dealing with the state’s budget crisis	38	44	15	1	*	2	(678)
C. Improving the quality of education	42	39	15	2	1	1	(678)
D. Reforming NJ’s auto insurance system	35	33	26	4	1	1	(678)
E. Protecting the state from terrorist attacks	47	30	18	3	1	1	(678)
F. Reducing property taxes	40	34	23	2	*	1	(678)
G. Protecting the environment	33	41	22	3	1	*	(678)
H. Increasing access to quality healthcare	42	36	18	2	1	1	(678)
I. Making our streets and neighborhoods safer from crime	36	42	19	2	*	1	(678)
J. Eliminating corruption among state elected officials	51	35	11	1	1	1	(678)
K. Protecting our communities from sprawl and overdevelopment	27	38	26	5	2	1	(678)

“Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people. If you haven’t heard of them or don’t have an opinion of them, just tell me and we’ll move on.” (KF2-KF8)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Not Heard of</u>	<u>No opinion</u>	<u>DK/ RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February, 2005						
JON CORZINE						
Registered Voters	53%	22%	9%	15%	2%	(678)
<u>Party ID</u>						
Democrat	68	8	9	13	2	(246)
Independent	49	24	8	17	2	(207)
Republican	38	43	5	13	1	(152)
DOUGLAS FORRESTER						
Registered Voters	25%	15%	29%	26%	5%	(678)
<u>Party ID</u>						
Democrat	14	17	35	27	7	(246)
Independent	21	16	26	31	5	(207)
Republican	46	9	20	20	4	(152)
BRET SCHUNDLER						
Registered Voters	28%	19%	26%	22%	5%	(678)
<u>Party ID</u>						
Democrat	15	23	32	24	7	(246)
Independent	32	20	21	22	5	(207)
Republican	45	12	19	19	5	(152)
JIM MCGREEVEY						
Registered Voters	41%	49%	1%	8%	1%	(678)
<u>Party ID</u>						
Democrat	58	35	*	6	1	(246)
Independent	35	52	1	12	1	(207)
Republican	18	74	1	7	1	(152)

[ASKED ONLY OF REPUBLICANS, INDEPENDENTS WHO LEAN REPUBLICAN, OR THOSE WHO SAY THEY TYPICALLY VOTE IN REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES]

“If the Republican primary election for governor were held today, for whom would you vote (ROTATE) Doug Forrester, Bret Schundler, John Murphy, Paul DiGaetano, Todd Caliguire, Steve Lonigan, and Bob Schroeder, or some other candidate for Governor?” (PE1)

	<u>Forrester</u>	<u>Schundler</u>	<u>Murphy, DiGaetano, Caliguire, Lonigan, Schroeder</u>	<u>Wouldn't Vote</u>	<u>DK/Undecided</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters	22%	22%	7%	7%	41%	(273)
<u>Gender</u>						
--Male	27	26	3	7	36	(120)
--Female	18	19	11	6	46	(115)
<u>Region of state</u>						
--North	15	23	10	8	45	(119)
--Central	23	25	8	6	38	(64)
--South	33	19	3	5	41	(86)
<u>Ideology</u>						
--Moderate	22	20	5	7	47	(123)
--Conservative	25	28	9	6	33	(94)

“If the election for governor were held today, for whom would you vote (ROTATE) Jon Corzine, the Democrat, Bret Schundler, the Republican or some other candidate for governor?” (G1)

	<u>Corzine</u>	<u>Schundler</u>	<u>Some other</u>	<u>Wouldn't Vote</u>	<u>DK/Undecided</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters	47%	22%	11%	2%	18%	(678)
<u>Party ID</u>						
--Democrat	78	5	6	1	9	(246)
--Independent	41	19	15	2	23	(207)
--Republican	14	55	14	*	16	(152)
<u>Gender</u>						
--Male	46	27	11	2	14	(323)
--Female	49	18	11	2	19	(355)
<u>Race</u>						
--White	46	25	11	2	16	(540)
--Black & Hispanic	58	10	13	2	17	(100)
<u>Ideology</u>						
--Liberal	73	8	2	*	17	(132)
--Moderate	48	17	12	3	20	(382)
--Conservative	21	51	18	*	10	(144)
<u>Age</u>						
--18-29	58	14	7	1	20	(71)
--30-49	50	19	13	1	16	(272)
--50-64	44	26	11	2	17	(197)
--65+	40	27	13	2	18	(119)
<u>Region of State</u>						
--North	50	22	10	2	17	(307)
--Central	48	19	11	1	22	(171)
--South	42	26	15	2	16	(179)

“If the election for governor were held today, for whom would you vote (ROTATE) Jon Corzine, the Democrat, Doug Forrester, the Republican or some other candidate for governor?” (G2)

	<u>Corzine</u>	<u>Forrester</u>	<u>Some other</u>	<u>Wouldn't Vote</u>	<u>DK/Undecided</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters	46%	23%	12%	2%	17%	(678)
<u>Party ID</u>						
--Democrat	80	2	9	1	9	(246)
--Independent	37	21	14	1	27	(207)
--Republican	13	61	13	1	13	(152)
<u>Gender</u>						
--Male	45	26	13	1	15	(323)
--Female	48	19	12	2	19	(355)
<u>Race</u>						
--White	44	25	12	1	17	(540)
--Black & Hispanic	59	12	16	1	12	(100)
<u>Ideology</u>						
--Liberal	74	6	5	*	15	(132)
--Moderate	45	18	15	2	20	(382)
--Conservative	22	51	14	1	12	(144)
<u>Age</u>						
--18-29	59	13	8	1	18	(71)
--30-49	50	22	13	1	15	(272)
--50-64	42	21	16	1	19	(197)
--65+	39	35	9	3	14	(119)
<u>Region of State</u>						
--North	49	19	12	1	18	(307)
--Central	48	20	13	1	18	(171)
--South	40	32	12	2	15	(179)

[ASKED ONLY OF CORZINE VOTERS] “Thinking generally, which of the following best describes why you would vote for Jon Corzine for governor? Would you say you would vote for Jon Corzine because (ROTATE) (1. He has the best chance of winning the election, 2. You don’t like the other candidates, 3. He is most qualified to be Governor, 4. I haven’t heard that much about the other candidates, 5. I know where he stands on the issues and I agree with his positions)?” (G3)

	<u>Not heard much about others</u>	<u>Know where stands/ Agree with positions</u>	<u>Most qualified</u>	<u>Best chance of winning</u>	<u>Don’t like other candidates</u>	<u>None/ DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters	30%	24%	19%	8%	10%	9%	(398)
<u>Party ID</u>							
--Democrat	25	30	19	10	8	8	(216)
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male	26	23	25	7	9	11	(186)
--Female	33	25	14	9	11	8	(212)

[ASKED ONLY OF SCHUNDLER VOTERS] “Thinking generally, which of the following best describes why you would vote for Bret Schundler for governor? Would you say you would vote for Bret Schundler because (ROTATE) (1. He has the best chance of winning the election, 2. You don’t like the other candidates, 3. He is most qualified to be Governor, 4. I haven’t heard that much about the other candidates, 5. I know where he stands on the issues and I agree with his positions)?” (G4)

	<u>Not heard much about others</u>	<u>Know where stands/ Agree with positions</u>	<u>Most qualified</u>	<u>Best chance of winning</u>	<u>Don’t like other candidates</u>	<u>None/ DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters	21%	33%	9%	2%	20%	14%	(193)
<u>Party ID</u>							
--Republican	22	29	12	3	18	16	(100)
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male	16	42	12	3	16	12	(107)
--Female	28	22	6	1	24	18	(86)

[ASKED ONLY OF FORRESTER VOTERS] “Thinking generally, which of the following best describes why you would vote for Doug Forrester for governor? Would you say you would vote for Doug Forrester because (ROTATE) (1. He has the best chance of winning the election, 2. You don’t like the other candidates, 3. He is most qualified to be Governor, 4. I haven’t heard that much about the other candidates, 5. I know where he stands on the issues and I agree with his positions)?” (G5)

	<u>Not heard much about others</u>	<u>Know where stands/ Agree with positions</u>	<u>Most qualified</u>	<u>Best chance of winning</u>	<u>Don’t like other candidates</u>	<u>None/ DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters	20%	22%	15%	3%	28%	12%	(190)
<u>Party ID</u>							
--Republican	19	22	20	3	22	14	(104)
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male	11	31	15	4	28	11	(100)
--Female	30	12	14	2	28	14	(90)

“Regardless of who you are planning to vote for in this election, who do you think is most likely to win and become the next governor of New Jersey?” (G6)

	<u>Jon Corzine</u>	<u>Doug Forrester</u>	<u>Bret Schundler</u>	<u>Other/DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters	68%	7%	5%	21%	(678)
<u>Party ID</u>					
--Democrat	77	2	2	18	(246)
--Independent	68	5	4	23	(207)
--Republican	59	16	8	17	(152)
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	72	8	4	16	(323)
--Female	64	6	5	25	(355)
<u>Age</u>					
--18-29	63	11	6	19	(71)
--30-49	67	7	4	22	(272)
--50-64	70	5	6	20	(197)
--65+	68	9	4	19	(119)
<u>Region of State</u>					
--North	66	7	5	22	(307)
--Central	70	6	5	20	(171)
--South	68	9	3	19	(179)

“Of the three major candidates for governor – (ROTATE) Jon Corzine, Doug Forrester, and Bret Schundler – which one do you feel you know the most about?” (C1)

	<u>Jon Corzine</u>	<u>Doug Forrester</u>	<u>Bret Schundler</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>All equal</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters	62%	8%	11%	12%	2%	5%	(678)
<u>Party ID</u>							
--Democrat	77	1	6	11	2	3	(246)
--Independent	60	10	11	12	2	5	(207)
--Republican	45	18	22	7	3	5	(152)

“I’m now going to read you a list of traits and ask you which candidate you think the trait describes the best. Do you think (ROTATE) (A. Sticks to his positions, even if they are unpopular, B. Is a strong leader, C. Is not beholden to contributors, D. Honest and trustworthy, E. Is an outsider who will shake things up, Fa/b. Split [A - Guided by strong moral conviction / B Guided by strong religious conviction], G. Is a liberal, H. Tax and spender) best describes (ROTATE) Jon Corzine, Doug Forrester, or Bret Schundler?”
(C2)

	<u>Corzine</u>	<u>Forrester</u>	<u>Schundler</u>	<u>None of the above/All same</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters						
<u>A. Sticks to his/her positions even if unpopular</u>	29	12	16	5	38	(678)
<u>B. Is a strong leader</u>	43	11	11	4	31	(678)
<u>C. Is not beholden to contributors</u>	37	12	9	5	36	(678)
<u>D. Honest and trustworthy</u>	31	13	11	12	33	(678)
<u>E. Is an outsider who will shake things up</u>	22	18	14	9	37	(678)
<u>F.(Split Sample A) Guided by strong moral conviction</u>	24	13	16	7	39	(355)
<u>F. (Split Sample B) Guided by strong religious conviction</u>	9	11	13	9	58	(323)
<u>G. Is a Liberal</u>	48	5	4	3	38	(678)
<u>H. Is a tax and spender</u>	31	6	7	7	49	(678)

“Now I’m going to read you a list of issues. Regardless of which candidate for governor you support, which one of the candidates, (ROTATE) Jon Corzine, Doug Forrester, or Bret Schundler, do you think would do the best job of...(ROTATE) (A. Strengthening the state’s economy, B. Dealing with the state’s budget crisis, C. Improving the quality of education, D. Reforming New Jersey’s auto insurance system, E. Protecting the state from terrorist attacks, F. Reducing property taxes, G. Protecting the environment, H. Increasing access to quality healthcare, I. Making our streets and neighborhoods safer from crime, J. Eliminating corruption among state elected officials, K. Protecting our communities from sprawl and overdevelopment)?” (C3)

	<u>Corzine</u>	<u>Forrester</u>	<u>Schundler</u>	<u>None of above</u>	<u>All the same</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters							
A. Strengthening the state’s economy	41	15	11	3	1	29	(678)
B. Dealing with the state’s budget crisis	39	14	13	2	1	31	(678)
C. Improving the quality of education	39	11	11	3	3	33	(678)
D. Reforming NJ’s auto insurance system	29	11	12	8	3	38	(678)
E. Protecting the state from terrorist attacks	29	11	11	5	10	35	(678)
F. Reducing property taxes	26	16	14	8	1	35	(678)
G. Protecting the environment	40	12	8	3	2	35	(678)
H. Increasing access to quality healthcare	41	9	8	5	3	34	(678)
I. Making our streets and neighborhoods safer from crime	28	12	14	3	5	37	(678)
J. Eliminating corruption among state elected officials	32	13	12	8	2	33	(678)
K. Protecting our communities from sprawl and overdevelopment	35	13	9	6	1	37	(678)

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jon Corzine is handling his job as Senator?” (J1)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters	61%	18%	21%	(678)
<u>Party ID</u>				
--Democrat	80	6	15	(246)
--Independent	58	18	24	(207)
--Republican	37	38	25	(152)
<u>Gender</u>				
--Male	61	22	17	(323)
--Female	61	15	24	(355)
<u>Age</u>				
--18-29	69	13	18	(71)
--30-49	63	16	21	(272)
--50-64	61	20	19	(197)
--65+	53	24	23	(119)
<u>Region of State</u>				
--North	64	16	21	(307)
--Central	58	21	20	(171)
--South	59	21	20	(179)

“Thinking back over Corzine’s term as Senator, would you say that he has major accomplishments to point to, minor accomplishments, or no real accomplishments?” (J2)

	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>No real ones</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
February 2005 Registered Voters	16%	45%	20%	19%	(678)
<u>Party ID</u>					
--Democrat	25	46	9	20	(246)
--Independent	10	50	22	18	(207)
--Republican	9	40	38	14	(152)
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	16	45	24	15	(323)
--Female	15	45	16	24	(355)
<u>Age</u>					
--18-29	18	48	11	23	(71)
--30-49	18	46	19	17	(272)
--50-64	13	50	18	19	(197)
--65+	13	36	29	22	(119)
<u>Region of State</u>					
--North	17	46	19	19	(307)
--Central	16	46	23	16	(171)
--South	12	45	20	22	(179)

Summary Table of Issue Importance/Candidate Association

“I am now going to read a list of some of the issues that might be discussed in this year’s election for governor. As I read the list, please tell me how important you think that issue is for the next governor to deal with – Extremely important, Very important, Somewhat important, Not very important, or Not at all important?” (IC2)

Regardless of which candidate for governor you support, which one of the candidates, (ROTATE) Jon Corzine, Doug Forrester, or Bret Schundler, do you think would do the best job of [FILL ISSUE]? (C3)

<u>Issues</u>	<u>Rated Extremely Important</u>	<u>Who would do the best job of?</u>		
		Corzine	Forrester	Schundler
Eliminating corruption among state elected officials	51%	32%	13%	12%
Protecting the state from terrorist attacks	47%	29%	11%	11%
Improving the quality of education	42%	39%	11%	11%
Increasing access to quality healthcare	42%	41%	9%	8%
Reducing property taxes	40%	26%	16%	14%
Dealing with the state’s budget crisis	38%	39%	14%	13%
Making our streets and neighborhoods safer from crime	36%	28%	12%	14%
Reforming New Jersey’s auto insurance system	35%	29%	11%	12%
Strengthening the state’s economy	34%	41%	15%	11%
Protecting the environment	33%	40%	12%	8%
Protecting our communities from sprawl and overdevelopment	27%	35%	13%	9%