

The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

October 12, 2005
(Release 156-4)

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A story based on the survey findings presented in this release and background memo appears in the Wednesday, October 12, 2005 *Star-Ledger*. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to "*The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll*."

NEW JERSEY VOTERS SAY NO TO SMOKING IN RESTAURANTS

Opinion is divided on ban in bars and casinos

By a ratio of two to one, registered voters say they support a ban on smoking in restaurants, according to the latest *Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers* Poll. But the picture is hazy for proposed bans on smoking in bars and casinos.

Sixty-five percent of the 703 registered voters interviewed in the Oct. 3-6 poll said they support a ban on smoking in restaurants, with 33 percent opposed. The sides were more evenly divided on the prospect of banning smoking in casinos, with 50 percent saying they support the prohibition and 44 percent indicating they oppose it.

A plurality, however, drew the line at bars. Only 46 percent of registered voters support banning smoking in bars, and 49 percent oppose the idea.

"It appears that voters see bars as a place where people should have the right to pursue their vices," Poll Director Murray Edelman said.

The percentage of people who said they did not know or refused to respond to the questions was in the single digits for the overall questions and most subgroups. That so many people have opinions indicates there is little room for change in the numbers, Edelman said.

The greatest support for the bans came from people who said they never smoked. Seventy percent of non-smokers want to end smoking in restaurants, with 54 percent endorsing a ban in bars and 55 percent backing a ban in casinos.

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

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Smokers were the most adamantly opposed to the restrictions, with 55 percent against the restaurant ban and 71 percent opposing prohibitions in bars and casinos.

Former smokers comprise the swing group. More than two-thirds of them endorsed the restaurant ban, but only a slim majority of reformed smokers backed the casino prohibition. A majority of former smokers, 52 percent, oppose such a ban in bars.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jon Corzine has said he supports a ban on smoking in all three locations, but also has said he wants to review the potential economic impact of a smoking ban in casinos. Republican candidate Doug Forrester has said that smoking restrictions should be up to the owners of each business. Depending on how much the candidates focus on the issue in the weeks leading up to the Nov. 8 election, partisan differences on smoking bans could factor into the race.

The ban on smoking in restaurants is supported consistently across party lines by a ratio of two to one. If that were the only aspect to the ban, it would be a winning issue for Corzine. However, the ban in bars is opposed across party lines and, in the case of casinos, Democratic voters comprise the only majority in favor of the ban.

“As long as the issue remains a total ban on smoking, Forrester appears to have the position that resonates with most voters,” Edelman said. “And these numbers are unlikely to change given the unusually low number of people with no opinion on these issues.”

Substantial differences of opinion occurred along gender lines, with the percentage of women supporting the bans exceeding that of men by eight to 10 percentage points across the three scenarios.

Seventy percent of women backed a restaurant ban, compared to 60 percent of men. Fifty-one percent of women supported a ban in bars, compared to 41 percent of men. Fifty-three percent of women endorsed banning smoking in casinos, compared to 45 percent of men.

Opinions also split along education lines. Seventy-two percent of those with at least some college supported the restaurant ban, while that was true only for 55 percent of those with a high school diploma or less. Majorities of those in the high school or less category opposed bans in bars and casinos.

Differences emerged along racial lines as well, at least in terms of bars and casinos. Fifty percent of nonwhite respondents supported a ban in bars, while 51 percent

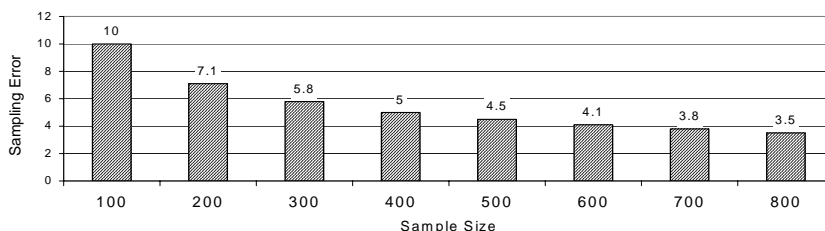
of white respondents opposed the ban. Fifty-seven percent of nonwhite respondents endorsed the casino ban, while white respondents were evenly divided, 47 percent in favor and 46 percent opposed. There were virtually no racial differences concerning a ban in restaurants.

BACKGROUND MEMO – RELEASE (EP 156-4) October 12, 2005

The latest *Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers* Poll was conducted from October 3 to 6 with a scientifically selected random sample of 833 New Jersey adults. The random sample of 833 New Jersey adults yielded 703 adult residents who said they are registered to vote in New Jersey. Most of the figures in this release are based on the sample of 703 registered voters.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sample drawn from that population. The sampling error for the statewide sample of 833 New Jersey adults is ± 3.4 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. The sampling error for the statewide sample of 703 registered voters is ± 3.7 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey registered voters were found to support a ban on smoking in restaurants, one could be 95 percent sure that the interval from 46.3 to 53.7 percent (50 ± 3.7) would contain the true figure 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 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.

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:

Do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in the following locations (SM1-SM3)

[ROTATE Q. SM1-SM3]

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Registered Voters	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Restaurants	65%	33%	2%	703
Bars	46%	49%	5%	703
Casinos	50%	44%	7%	703

Do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in the following locations: Restaurants (SM1)

Which of the following best describes you? (SM4)

Smoking ban in restaurants (SM1) by smoking status (SM4)

POLL 156 / Oct 2005 – Registered Voters	Smoking ban in restaurants (SM1)			
Smoking status (SM4)	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n=703)</u>
I am a cigarette smoker	44%	55%	1%	95
I am a former cigarette smoker	68%	29%	3%	262
I have never smoked cigarettes	70%	29%	1%	342

Do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in the following locations: Bars (SM2)

Which of the following best describes you? (SM4)

Smoking ban in bars (SM2) by smoking status (SM4)

POLL 156 / Oct 2005 – Registered Voters	Smoking ban in bars (SM2)			
Smoking status (SM4)	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n=703)</u>
I am a cigarette smoker	27%	71%	2%	95
I am a former cigarette smoker	44%	52%	5%	262
I have never smoked cigarettes	54%	40%	6%	342

Do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in the following locations: Casinos (SM3)

Which of the following best describes you? (SM4)

Smoking ban in casinos (SM3) by smoking status (SM4)

POLL 156 / Oct 2005 – Registered Voters	Smoking ban in casinos (SM3)			
Smoking status (SM4)	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n=703)</u>
I am a cigarette smoker	27%	71%	2%	95
I am a former cigarette smoker	51%	43%	6%	262
I have never smoked cigarettes	55%	37%	8%	342

Do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in the following locations (SM1-SM3):

Restaurants

[ROTATE Q. SM1-SM3]

POLL 156 / Oct 2005	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Registered Voters	65%	33%	2%	703
<u>Party ID</u>				
--Democrat	67%	31%	2%	203
--Republican	65%	33%	2%	170
--Independent	64%	34%	1%	238
<u>Gender</u>				
--Male	60%	38%	2%	332
--Female	70%	29%	2%	371
<u>Race</u>				
---White	66%	33%	2%	545
---Nonwhite	65%	33%	1%	122
<u>Age</u>				
--18-49	67%	32%	2%	316
--50-64	65%	33%	2%	211
--65+	62%	35%	3%	149
<u>Education</u>				
---High school and below	55%	43%	2%	191
---Some college and above	72%	26%	2%	490
<u>Region of State</u>				
--North	62%	35%	3%	265
--Central	71%	28%	1%	217
--South	64%	35%	1%	180
All Adults	64%	34%	2%	833

Do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in the following locations (SM1-SM3):

Bars

[ROTATE Q. SM1-SM3]

POLL 156 / Oct 2005	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Registered Voters	46%	49%	5%	703
<u>Party ID</u>				
--Democrat	48%	49%	3%	203
--Republican	45%	51%	3%	170
--Independent	42%	52%	6%	238
<u>Gender</u>				
--Male	41%	53%	6%	332
--Female	51%	45%	5%	371
<u>Race</u>				
---White	45%	51%	4%	545
---Nonwhite	50%	43%	7%	122
<u>Age</u>				
--18-49	46%	49%	5%	316
--50-64	49%	48%	3%	211
--65+	45%	49%	7%	149
<u>Education</u>				
---High school and below	43%	53%	3%	191
---Some college and above	49%	45%	6%	490
<u>Region of State</u>				
--North	48%	48%	4%	265
--Central	46%	50%	4%	217
--South	47%	47%	6%	180
All Adults	45%	50%	5%	833

Do you support or oppose a ban on smoking in the following locations (SM1-SM3):

Casinos

[ROTATE Q. SM1-SM3]

POLL 156 / Oct 2005	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/RF</u>	<u>(n)</u>
Registered Voters	50%	44%	7%	703
<u>Party ID</u>				
--Democrat	54%	42%	3%	203
--Republican	47%	47%	6%	170
--Independent	45%	46%	10%	238
<u>Gender</u>				
--Male	45%	48%	7%	332
--Female	53%	40%	7%	371
<u>Race</u>				
---White	47%	46%	7%	545
---Nonwhite	57%	37%	5%	122
<u>Age</u>				
--18-49	51%	43%	6%	316
--50-64	47%	47%	6%	211
--65+	50%	41%	9%	149
<u>Education</u>				
---High school and below	43%	51%	6%	191
---Some college and above	55%	39%	6%	490
<u>Region of State</u>				
--North	48%	46%	5%	265
--Central	49%	43%	9%	217
--South	54%	40%	5%	180
All Adults	48%	46%	6%	833