

# The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll

BACKGROUND MEMO--RELEASE SL/EP35-3 (EP85-3), SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1991

The latest *Star-Ledger*/Eagleton Poll was conducted between September 11 and September 19, 1991, when a random sample of 800 New Jerseyans, 18 years and older, was interviewed by telephone. Figures based on this sample size are subject to a sampling error of about  $\pm 3.5$  percent. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from that population. Sampling error does not take into account other possible sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The questions and figures referred to in this release are presented below. The location of each question on the actual questionnaire is in brackets.

"New Jersey has a program that provides property tax relief to residents through a homestead rebate. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the homestead rebate program? Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly/mildly?" [Q.36]

	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Approve</u>	<u>Mildly</u> <u>Approve</u>	<u>Mildly</u> <u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September, 1991</b>		<b>46%</b> <b>11%</b>		<b>26%</b> <b>100%</b>	<b>8%</b> <b>(800)</b>		<b>9%</b>
<u>Family Income</u>							
--Under \$20,000	62	24	3	6	5	100	(116)
--\$20,001 - \$30,000	47	28	11	8	6	100	(93)
--\$30,001 - \$50,000	48	27	7	9	9	100	(214)
--Over \$50,000	35	27	13	14	11	100	(291)
<u>Age</u>							
--18 - 29	32	32	9	5	22	100	(136)
--30 - 49	47	25	9	9	10	100	(341)
--50 - 64	47	24	9	12	7	99	(178)
--65 or older	60	21	3	14	2	100	(130)

"What is the main reason why you approve/disapprove of the homestead rebate?" [Q.37]

Like getting money back	39%
Provides needed tax relief	16
Just get own money back/token/political gimmick	11
Rebate is unfair	5
Rebate too small/don't get rebate	5
Other reason	9
Don't know/not sure why	4
Don't know about Homestead Rebate Program	<u>12</u>
TOTAL	100%
(n)	(800)

"Money to provide for the homestead rebates comes from the New Jersey income tax. How do you feel about this --should state income tax funds be used to provide property tax relief to homeowners and renters, or not?" [Q.38]

	State Income Tax Funds Should Be <u>Used for Rebate</u>	State Income Tax Funds Should <u>Not</u> <u>Be Used</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September, 1991</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>53%</b> <b>(800)</b>		<b>34%</b>	<b>13%</b>

"This year the homestead rebate was changed to provide larger rebates to those with less income. How much have you read or heard about these changes--a lot, some a little, or nothing at all?" [Q.39]

	<u>A Lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>A Little</u>	<u>Nothing</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September, 1991</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>29%</b> <b>(800)</b>		<b>27%</b>	<b>25%</b>

Home Ownership

--Owns	23	32	25	19	0	99	(575)
--Rents	10	20	35	36	0	101	(192)

"The new homestead rebate plan provides larger rebates to those with lower income levels, but the same property taxes. For example, someone whose property taxes are \$2,000 and has an income of \$40,000 a year receives a smaller rebate than someone whose property taxes are the same but earns \$30,000 a year.

Do you think people with less income should receive a larger homestead rebate, or should the rebate be the same regardless of a person's income?" [Q.40]

	Lower Income Should Get <u>Higher Rebate</u>	Rebate Should Be <u>The Same</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September, 1991</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>45%</b> <b>(800)</b>		<b>47%</b>	<b>7%</b>

Party

--Democrat	53	42	5	100	(217)	
--Independent	44	44	47	9	100	(316)
--Republican	41	41	53	7	101	(223)

Age

--18 - 29	40	40	54	5	99	(136)
--30 - 49	41	41	53	6	100	(341)
--50 or more	51	51	39	10	100	(310)

Income

--under \$20,000	52	52	38	9	99	(117)
--\$20,001 - \$30,000	50	50	44	5	99	(93)
--\$30,001 - \$50,000	44	44	48	8	100	(215)

--Over \$50,000	41	54	5	100	(291)
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"In order to qualify for a homestead rebate, it is necessary to complete a special section on the state income tax forms. Did you complete this section on the state income tax form when you filed this year?" [Q.41]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Didn't File</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September, 1991</b>		<b>65%</b>		<b>22%</b>		<b>5%</b>
<b>8%</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>(800)</b>			

Home Ownership

--Owns	77	13	3	7	100	(576)
--Rents	45	40	7	7	99	(192)

"Did your household receive a homestead rebate check from the state of New Jersey within the past few months? If "yes": What was the approximate amount of the check?" [Q.42, Q.43a]

	<u>Did Not Receive Rebate</u>	<u>\$150 Or Less</u>	<u>\$151 - \$299</u>	<u>\$300 - \$499</u>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>Don't Know How Much</u>	<u>Don't Know If Received</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>September, 1991</b>		<b>25%</b>		<b>21%</b>		<b>4%</b>		<b>5%</b>
<b>25%</b>		<b>11%</b>		<b>9%</b>		<b>100%</b>		

Age

--18 - 29	39	13	2	4	7	12	23	100
--30 - 49	28	27	6	7	17	9	5	99
--50 - 64	11	29	5	3	34	17	1	100
--65 or older	18	9	2	7	56	5	3	100

Income

--Under \$20,000	26	8	4	10	44	6	2	100
--\$20,001 - \$30,000	26	11	5	3	38	11	7	101
--\$30,001 - \$50,000	23	26	4	5	24	9	8	99
--Over \$50,000	26	36	6	5	12	12	6	103

Home Ownership

--Owns	17	22	5	5	33	11	5	98
--Rents	43	21	3	6	8	11	7	99

"Was the amount of the homestead rebate check higher than what you expected, lower than what you expected, or the same as what you expected?" [Q.43b]

Among Those Who Received A Rebate

	<u>Higher Than Expected</u>	<u>Got What Expected</u>	<u>Lower Than Expected</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September, 1991</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>41%</b> <b>(551)</b>		<b>23%</b>
<u>Income</u>						
--Under \$20,000	46	32	16	6	100	(85)
--\$20,001 - \$30,000	29	47	15	10	101	(63)
--\$30,001 - \$50,000	25	39	23	13	100	(158)
--Over \$50,000	13	47	32	8	100	(197)
<u>Home Ownership</u>						
--Owns	29	42	21	7	99	(443)
--Rents	15	37	29	20	101	(98)

"And was the amount of the homestead rebate check higher, lower, or about the same as what you received last year?" [Q.43c]

	<u>Higher Than Last Year</u>	<u>Same As Last Year</u>	<u>Lower Than Last Year</u>	<u>Not Receive Last Year Or This Year</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September, 1991</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10%</b> <b>(800)</b>	<b>23%</b>		<b>18%</b>
<u>Age</u>							
--18 - 29	8	8	16	29	40	101	(136)
--30 - 49	22	13	28	20	16	99	(341)
--50 or older	48	10	22	9	10	99	(310)
<u>Income</u>							
--Under \$20,000	48	4	6	22	21	101	(117)
--\$20,001 - \$30,000	38	10	14	24	14	100	(93)
--\$30,001 - \$50,000	29	11	27	17	16	100	(215)
--Over \$50,000	18	15	37	14	16	100	(251)
<u>Home Ownership</u>							
--Owns	38	11	27	9	15	100	(576)
--Rents	10	10	13	43	25	101	(192)