

March 1, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: ATTENTION EDITORS, Rutgers-Eagleton Poll Director David Redlawsk may be contacted at 319-400-1134, 732-932-9384, ext. 285, or redlawsk@rutgers.edu. Visit <http://eagletonpoll.blogspot.com> for a link to specific questions and full tables.

NEW JERSEYANS SPLIT OVER GOV. CHRISTIE'S PROPOSED BUDGET

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J – New Jersey voters are split in their evaluation of Gov. Chris Christie's proposed budget for fiscal year 2012, according to a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released today. While 45 percent are pleased with the budget, 48 percent are displeased, and 7 percent are not sure. Negative evaluations of Christie's budget appear motivated both by feelings that its proposals are unfair and by a dislike of the governor's leadership style. Positive evaluations originate in the belief Christie is trying to drastically reduce spending and in favorable personal impressions.

"While the national media give the governor plaudits for making tough budget choices, Garden Staters are not completely pleased, showing the same polarized opinions that we've seen all along," said David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and professor of political science at Rutgers University.

The poll of 912 New Jersey adults was conducted among both landline and cell phone households Feb. 24-26, with a margin of error of +/- 3.3 percentage points. This sample, weighted to match the demographics of adult New Jerseyans, includes 811 registered voters, with a margin of error of +/- 3.4 percentage points for this subsample, reported on here.

Most voters paying attention; reactions mixed

Nearly 70 percent of registered voters have heard or read something about the budget: 27 percent say they heard "a lot," 42 percent "some," 20 percent "a little" and 10 percent say they heard nothing at all.

"As they did last year, New Jerseyans continue to pay lots of attention to the governor's budget, whether they like it or not," said Redlawsk. "Voters recognize he shapes the debate."

Impressions of the budget are mixed from those who have heard at least a little about it. Only 11 percent say they are "very pleased" while another 34 percent are "somewhat pleased." Displeasure is significantly stronger, with 22 percent of voters "very displeased" and 26 percent "somewhat displeased."

"Reactions to this year's budget are very similar to last year's," noted Redlawsk, adding 13 percent were very pleased with Christie's first budget and 29 percent were very displeased. The extent of

the polarization is stark: 87 percent of those pleased with the budget hold a favorable impression of Christie while only 8 percent have an unfavorable impression. Conversely, 8 percent of those displeased with the budget feel favorable toward the governor, while 81 percent hold an unfavorable opinion.

Reactions to the budget

Voters pleased with the budget overwhelmingly point to Christie's budget-cutting decisions (47 percent) and leadership and decision-making style (24 percent) for their favorable views. Ten percent cite his approach to taxes and 9 percent point specifically to the proposal to make state employees contribute more to their benefits packages. Fewer than 5 percent say cuts in schools/education funding is the primary reason for their approval. Three percent say the proposal pleases them because of policies targeting teachers.

Fairness is the key word for those displeased with the budget, with 29 percent saying the proposal is not fair. These voters argue the budget targets the middle class, working people, the poor, or the elderly. Even though Christie proposes increasing school funding over last year, 25 percent are displeased because of cuts to education, while 18 percent cite general cuts in spending.

Thirteen percent are critical of the governor's leadership style, but only 5 percent specifically note their displeasure with requiring state employees to pay a larger share of their benefits. Finally, 4 percent criticize the budget due to the lack of tax cuts, and another 4 percent say they disapprove because it seems to target teachers.

Voters want Christie to compromise; Legislature to protect some programs

Sixty-five percent of those who have heard about the budget want the Legislature to protect some programs from large cuts, while only 28 percent say they support the governor's budget cutting as is. In addition, only 21 percent believe the governor should stick to his beliefs during the budget debate, but 77 percent say he should be willing to compromise.

Not surprisingly, those pleased with the budget are more likely to support budget cuts and are less likely to want compromise. About 59 percent of these voters support the governor's budget cuts, while 33 percent want the Legislature to protect some programs. Even so, 59 percent of those pleased with the budget also call for compromise, while 38 percent say Christie should stick to his beliefs.

At the same time, 93 percent of those displeased with the budget are looking for compromise, while 94 percent want the Legislature to protect some programs from large cuts, compared to 6 percent who support the large cuts in the governor's budget.

"What's most interesting is how strong the desire for compromise is," said Redlawsk. "We would expect those opposing the budget to want Christie to compromise, but so do those who support his budget cutting efforts. Voters clearly want both sides to come together in making budget decisions."

More support for Sweeney health benefits proposal versus Christie proposal

As the debate over requiring public workers in New Jersey to pay a larger share of their health benefit costs grows, Christie and Democratic State Senate President Stephen Sweeney have unveiled dueling proposals; Christie calls for all public workers to pay 30 percent of health insurance costs and Sweeney proposes a phased-in sliding scale from 12 percent to 30 percent.

About one-third of respondents were asked specifically about Christie's proposal, one-third about Sweeney's, and one-third were told both had proposed similar changes. All were told these changes would triple costs for most public workers.

Among voters learning about Christie's proposal, 42 percent support the idea, while 54 percent oppose it. Sweeney's proposal fares better, with 50 percent in support and 45 percent opposed. Finally, when voters are told about bipartisan support for requiring public workers to pay more, support is highest, with 53 percent in favor and 44 percent opposed.

"New Jersey voters are ready to see public workers pay more for their health care, but the strength of their support depends on who is proposing the plan, and the small differences between them," said Redlawsk. "Christie's plan gets less support, probably because of a combination of partisan effects and his polarizing nature. Sweeney, on the other hand, is less visible and does not get as many hackles up. His proposed sliding scale may also seem a little fairer."

Across all three versions of the question, voters are evenly split, with 48 percent in support of increasing health insurance payments for public workers and 48 percent opposed. Voters' own health care situation influences their position on this issue. Those who pay the full cost of their health care strongly favor asking public employees to contribute more, with 63 percent support. But among those who pay only a portion of their own costs, 53 percent support increasing costs for public workers, while only 27 percent of those whose employer pays the full cost agree. About a third (35 percent) with no health care insurance say the same. Among those on Medicare or Medicaid, 45 percent support increasing worker contributions.

Shared sacrifice: support for public worker benefits cut and millionaire's tax

Besides cuts in health benefits, voters support the outlines of the governor's proposed overhaul of the state pension plan, raising costs and cutting benefits. More than half support his pension overhaul plan, with 28 percent offering strong support and 26 percent saying they somewhat support the overhaul. Of the 40 percent opposed, 17 percent somewhat oppose the plan, and 23 percent strongly oppose it. At the same time, a strong majority also wants the so-called "millionaire's tax" back on the table. Of the nearly three-quarters who express support for the tax, 52 percent strongly support a legislative attempt to increase taxes on the rich to help close budget gaps. An additional 20 percent say they would somewhat support this tax. Only 27 percent oppose it, 12 percent "somewhat" and 15 percent "strongly."

Voters have become more supportive of taxing high income earners since February 2010, when 62 percent of registered voters opposed eliminating the surtax for those making more than \$400,000 annually. Moreover, support for increased taxation of rich Garden Staters remains broad today, with 82 percent of Democrats, 72 percent of independents, and even 53 percent of Republicans supporting an increased tax rate for incomes above \$1 million.

“While voters are more than willing to have public employees see significant cuts in pension and health benefits, they also strongly believe the sacrifice should be shared,” said Redlawsk. “While the governor uses the mantra of shared sacrifice, voters specifically believe that costs should also be paid by those at the top of the income scale.”

Most important priority

Asked to pick the most important proposals in Christie’s budget speech, reforming the pension system is first (28 percent), followed by increasing property tax rebates (21 percent), eliminating teacher tenure (18 percent), requiring public employees to pay more of their benefits cost (14 percent) and cutting business taxes (12 percent).

QUESTIONS AND TABLES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGE

*New Jersey 2012 Budget Reactions
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll*

**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll February 24-26, 2011
Questions and Tables**

The questions covered in the release of March 1, 2011 are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are Registered Voters.

Q. How much have you heard or read about Governor Christies proposed state budget? Is it:

A lot	28%
Some	42%
A little	20%
Nothing at all	10%
DK	1%
N=	808

	Party ID			Ideology			Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Cons	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union
A lot	26%	28%	30%	29%	25%	34%	30%	43%	24%
Some	41%	39%	48%	36%	45%	43%	41%	39%	43%
A little	20%	22%	15%	23%	20%	14%	20%	12%	21%
Nothing	12%	10%	6%	12%	9%	9%	7%	5%	11%
DK	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%
N=	283	326	186	170	461	164	64	128	611

	Employment				Race				Education			
	Full Time	Part Time	Retire	Not Empl	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
A lot	29%	21%	34%	23%	28%	34%	20%	27%	18%	30%	23%	38%
Some	42%	43%	43%	41%	44%	42%	33%	32%	38%	40%	48%	39%
A little	19%	22%	13%	26%	20%	11%	21%	25%	29%	18%	19%	15%
Nothing	10%	13%	9%	9%	8%	9%	26%	16%	14%	10%	9%	7%
DK	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	1%
N=	416	105	148	136	585	70	51	80	168	205	235	195

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	Male	Female
A lot	22%	24%	36%	32%	25%	30%	29%	34%	30%	26%
Some	34%	46%	40%	43%	42%	36%	50%	46%	38%	46%
A little	22%	21%	18%	16%	19%	22%	16%	16%	21%	18%
Nothing	22%	8%	7%	7%	14%	11%	4%	5%	10%	10%
DK	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
N=	135	336	198	138	200	247	127	135	397	411

[FOLLOWING BUDGET QUESTIONS ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO HEARD AT LEAST “A LITTLE’ ABOUT THE BUDGET]

Q. Overall are you very pleased, somewhat pleased, somewhat displeased, or very displeased with the Governor’s proposed budget?

Very pleased	11%
Somewhat pleased	34%
Somewhat displeased	26%
Very displeased	22%
DK	8%
N=	719

	Heard about the Budget		
	A lot	Some	A little
Very or Somewhat Pleased	43%	49%	39%
Very or Somewhat Displeased	53%	46%	43%
DK	4%	5%	18%
N=	224	339	157

Note: Crosstab tables for this question were corrected March 1, 2011 9:34AM

	Party ID			Ideology			Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Cons	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union
Very pleased	1%	11%	24%	1%	9%	27%	8%	5%	13%
Somewhat pleased	18%	41%	44%	20%	34%	45%	30%	27%	35%
Somewhat displeased	36%	24%	16%	39%	27%	11%	35%	29%	25%
Very displeased	37%	16%	9%	32%	23%	6%	17%	33%	19%
DK	9%	7%	7%	8%	6%	10%	9%	6%	8%
N=	244	291	174	148	414	149	59	120	536

	Employment				Race				Education			
	FT	PT	Ret	Not Emp	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Very pleased	10%	9%	14%	13%	14%	0%	5%	8%	11%	10%	11%	13%
Somewhat pleased	37%	33%	36%	21%	36%	10%	46%	28%	30%	35%	40%	27%
Somewhat displeased	27%	24%	23%	30%	24%	44%	24%	26%	25%	23%	25%	32%
Very displeased	21%	20%	20%	25%	19%	35%	7%	34%	24%	20%	18%	25%
DK	5%	13%	8%	11%	7%	11%	18%	5%	11%	11%	6%	3%
N=	372	90	133	121	532	61	38	67	141	181	212	180

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	<100K	<150K	150K+	M	F
Very pleased	5%	11%	11%	17%	9%	12%	11%	12%	14%	8%
Somewhat pleased	28%	32%	36%	38%	21%	35%	37%	43%	38%	30%
Somewhat displeased	26%	28%	30%	17%	23%	30%	30%	22%	22%	30%
Very displeased	26%	22%	19%	19%	33%	17%	18%	18%	17%	25%
DK	14%	7%	4%	9%	13%	7%	5%	5%	9%	6%
N=	104	305	184	125	171	215	122	129	353	366

Q. In just a couple words, please tell me what is it about the Governor's budget proposal that makes you feel [INSERT ANSWER TO PREVIOUS QUESTION] with it?

[RECORD OPEN ENDED]

Summary of Open Ended Responses

Spending Cuts	32%
Christie Leadership	18%
Proposal is Unfair	16%
Education Cuts/Policy	16%
Benefit Changes for State Employees	7%
Taxes	5%
Teachers	4%
Property Tax Rebates	3%
N=	520

	Reaction to Budget	
	Pleased	Displeased
Spending Cuts	47%	18%
Christie Leadership	24%	13%
Benefit Changes for State Employees	10%	5%
Education Cuts/Policy	5%	25%
Taxes	5%	4%
Teachers	3%	4%
Property Tax Rebates	5%	1%
Proposal is Unfair	0%	29%
N=	243	276

[FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ASKED OF ALL RESPONDENTS]

Q. Of the following issues Governor Christie addressed in his budget, which ONE should be the first thing the legislature acts on? Is it: [ROTATE ITEMS]

Reforming the state pension system	28%
Increasing property tax rebates	21%
Eliminating automatic teacher tenure	18%
Requiring public employees to pay more for health benefits	14%
Cutting taxes for businesses	12%
DK	6%
N=	802

*New Jersey 2012 Budget Reactions
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll*

	Reaction to Budget		
	Pleased	Displeased	DK
Reforming the state pension system	35%	23%	20%
Increasing property tax rebates	14%	27%	32%
Eliminating automatic teacher tenure	19%	16%	22%
Requiring public employees to pay more for health benefits	19%	12%	8%
Cutting taxes for business	10%	12%	15%
DK	3%	10%	4%
N=	322	338	54

	Party ID			Ideology			Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Cons	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union
Pension	23%	31%	33%	29%	26%	34%	28%	26%	28%
Tax Rebates	27%	15%	20%	22%	22%	19%	27%	25%	20%
Tenure	17%	20%	16%	21%	17%	17%	15%	18%	18%
Health Benefits	13%	15%	15%	10%	16%	15%	12%	8%	16%
Business Tax Cuts	10%	14%	11%	13%	12%	11%	12%	13%	12%
DK	10%	4%	4%	5%	7%	4%	6%	11%	6%
N=	279	324	186	164	458	166	64	126	607

	Employment				Race				Education			
	FT	PT	Ret	Not Empl	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Pension	28%	34%	26%	27%	28%	15%	37%	28%	24%	31%	27%	30%
Tax Rebates	18%	18%	16%	18%	17%	15%	13%	28%	19%	16%	19%	19%
Tenure	20%	19%	25%	22%	22%	27%	20%	10%	19%	25%	22%	17%
Health Benefits	14%	15%	14%	17%	16%	16%	9%	11%	16%	15%	15%	11%
Business Tax Cuts	14%	10%	9%	11%	11%	15%	20%	13%	13%	9%	12%	16%
DK	6%	4%	10%	6%	6%	13%	2%	10%	9%	4%	6%	8%
N=	410	107	144	136	579	69	51	80	166	207	234	190

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	<100K	<150K	150K+	Male	Female
Pension	30%	27%	29%	28%	25%	30%	32%	33%	34%	23%
Tax Rebates	20%	19%	17%	14%	17%	16%	19%	19%	18%	18%
Tenure	18%	23%	18%	24%	18%	24%	22%	19%	19%	23%
Health Benefits	8%	18%	13%	17%	15%	15%	15%	8%	12%	17%
Business Tax Cuts	16%	11%	13%	9%	14%	11%	8%	14%	12%	12%
DK	8%	3%	9%	8%	11%	5%	4%	7%	6%	7%
N=	134	333	197	135	198	247	124	135	392	409

*New Jersey 2012 Budget Reactions
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll*

Q. The Governor wants to make large cuts in many programs to help close the budget deficit. Do you support the governor's budget or do you think the Legislature should find ways to protect some programs from cuts?

Support the Governors budget	28%
Find ways to protect programs	65%
DK	6%
N=	811

	Reaction to Budget		
	Pleased	Displeased	DK
Support the Governors budget	59%	5%	13%
Find ways to protect programs	33%	94%	72%
DK	8%	2%	15%
Refused	0%	0%	0%
N=	321	342	54

	Party ID			Ideology				Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Cons	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union	
Support Budget	10%	31%	54%	13%	26%	51%	22%	22%	30%	
Protect programs	85%	61%	40%	84%	67%	39%	67%	73%	63%	
DK	5%	8%	5%	3%	6%	10%	11%	5%	6%	
N=	283	325	185	169	462	164	64	128	611	

	Employment				Race				Education			
	FT	PT	Ret	Not Empl	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Support Budget	32%	22%	27%	23%	33%	3%	21%	25%	20%	27%	34%	31%
Protect programs	63%	71%	62%	70%	60%	96%	72%	68%	70%	69%	58%	65%
DK	5%	6%	11%	6%	7%	1%	7%	7%	10%	5%	8%	4%
N=	415	106	147	136	583	71	51	80	168	206	234	194

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	<100K	<150K	150K+	Male	Female
Support Budget	21%	28%	34%	29%	21%	26%	36%	39%	38%	19%
Protect programs	71%	67%	61%	58%	74%	68%	60%	55%	55%	74%
DK	7%	5%	4%	13%	5%	6%	4%	6%	7%	6%
N=	134	336	198	137	199	247	127	135	395	412

Q. Thinking about working with the Democratic legislature in Trenton, which is more important: that Governor Christie [ROTATE] stick to his beliefs no matter what or compromise as needed to accomplish things?

Stick to beliefs	21%
Compromise	77%
DK	2%
N=	809

*New Jersey 2012 Budget Reactions
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll*

	Reaction to Budget		
	Pleased	Displeased	DK
Stick to beliefs	38%	6%	20%
Compromise	59%	93%	78%
DK	2%	1%	2%
N=	321	342	54

	Party ID			Ideology				Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Cons	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union	
Stick to beliefs	7%	25%	35%	6%	19%	41%	28%	13%	22%	
Compromise	92%	73%	61%	93%	79%	56%	71%	87%	76%	
DK	1%	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	1%	0%	3%	
N=	282	327	186	170	460	166	64	128	613	

	Employment				Race				Education			
	Full Time	Part Time	Ret	Not Empl	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Stick to beliefs	22%	19%	16%	24%	23%	7%	23%	17%	21%	21%	21%	20%
Compromise	77%	79%	78%	73%	23%	7%	23%	17%	76%	78%	76%	78%
DK	1%	2%	5%	3%	3%	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	2%	2%
N=	416	106	148	136	585	70	51	82	168	206	235	195

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	Male	Female
Stick to beliefs	15%	21%	23%	21%	19%	20%	19%	27%	26%	16%
Compromise	84%	76%	76%	74%	80%	79%	78%	72%	73%	81%
DK	1%	2%	1%	5%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	3%
N=	134	336	199	138	199	249	127	135	397	412

Q. Now, on to some other topics. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose Governor Christies proposed state worker pension overhaul, which would cut benefits and increase worker contributions?

Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	23%
DK	6%
N=	808

*New Jersey 2012 Budget Reactions
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll*

	Party ID			Ideology			Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Conserv	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union
Strongly support	12%	35%	41%	19%	24%	46%	23%	17%	31%
Somewhat support	30%	21%	30%	17%	30%	27%	20%	19%	28%
Somewhat oppose	21%	18%	9%	23%	17%	11%	25%	21%	16%
Strongly oppose	32%	20%	15%	33%	23%	14%	27%	40%	20%
DK	5%	6%	4%	7%	6%	2%	5%	3%	6%
N=	282	326	186	170	459	166	64	128	612

	Employment				Race				Education			
	FT	PT	Ret	Not Empl	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Strongly support	29%	23%	30%	28%	33%	4%	31%	15%	22%	28%	30%	32%
Somewhat support	28%	28%	26%	20%	26%	21%	19%	33%	23%	25%	29%	26%
Somewhat oppose	17%	22%	10%	20%	15%	20%	31%	29%	19%	19%	17%	14%
Strongly oppose	22%	20%	27%	26%	20%	48%	15%	22%	26%	24%	20%	23%
DK	5%	7%	7%	6%	6%	7%	4%	1%	10%	4%	5%	4%
N=	416	106	147	136	583	71	51	82	167	207	235	195

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	50K-100K	100K-150K	150K+	Male	Female
Strongly support	15%	26%	36%	35%	21%	28%	28%	35%	33%	24%
Somewhat support	25%	29%	24%	22%	20%	24%	35%	33%	29%	23%
Somewhat oppose	26%	20%	11%	11%	20%	22%	13%	10%	14%	20%
Strongly oppose	25%	21%	24%	26%	33%	24%	20%	14%	19%	27%
DK	9%	4%	5%	6%	6%	2%	3%	8%	4%	7%
N=	134	336	199	137	200	247	127	135	396	413

[SPLIT BALLOT; RANDOMLY ASSIGN 1/3 TO EACH VERSION A, B, C]

[VERSION A]

Q. To save the state money, Democratic State Senate President Steve Sweeney wants public employees to pay a larger share of their health insurance costs than they do now. He would set up a sliding scale from 12 to 30 percent of premium costs, based on income. This would more than triple the cost for some workers. Do you support or oppose Sweeney's plan?

Support	50%
Oppose	45%
DK	4%
N=	549

**New Jersey 2012 Budget Reactions
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Party ID			Ideology			Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Conserv	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union
Support	44%	57%	52%	63%	44%	59%	42%	36%	54%
Oppose	53%	40%	42%	35%	52%	34%	51%	64%	41%
DK	3%	3%	7%	3%	4%	8%	7%	0%	5%
N=	92	96	69	59	151	47	16	41	205

	Employment				Race				Education			
	Full Time	Part Time	Retire	Not Empl	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Support	53%	35%	54%	52%	53%	29%	55%	45%	54%	51%	46%	52%
Oppose	43%	65%	35%	23%	41%	66%	45%	55%	41%	45%	50%	42%
DK	4%	0%	11%	1%	5%	2%	0%	0%	5%	4%	3%	6%
N=	130	31	48	50	191	28	18	20	52	60	83	66

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	50K-100K	100K-150K	150K+	Male	Female
Support	54%	51%	46%	52%	39%	47%	53%	70%	59%	42%
Oppose	41%	45%	50%	42%	54%	50%	46%	22%	37%	54%
DK	5%	4%	3%	6%	8%	3%	1%	8%	5%	4%
N=	52	60	83	66	66	76	51	46	135	127

[VERSION B]

Q. To save the state money, Governor Chris Christie wants public employees to pay a larger share of their health insurance costs than they do now. He would require all workers to pay 30 percent of premium costs no matter what their income. This would more than triple the cost for some workers. Do you support or oppose Christie's plan?

Support	41%
Oppose	54%
DK	4%
N=	270

	Party ID			Ideology			Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Conserv	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union
Support	29%	47%	54%	33%	40%	53%	22%	27%	47%
Oppose	66%	49%	44%	62%	57%	41%	73%	70%	49%
DK	5%	3%	2%	5%	3%	6%	4%	2%	4%
N=	102	109	56	54	158	55	23	39	205

**New Jersey 2012 Budget Reactions
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Employment				Race				Education			
	Full Time	Part Time	Retire	Not Empl	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Support	44%	32%	41%	44%	48%	8%	26%	50%	29%	40%	49%	47%
Oppose	53%	63%	49%	56%	48%	92%	74%	50%	64%	56%	50%	48%
DK	3%	4%	10%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	6%	5%	1%	5%
N=	131	44	49	46	196	23	16	24	59	73	79	58

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	50K-100K	100K-150K	150K+	Male	Female
Support	26%	57%	37%	46%	30%	46%	43%	58%	47%	37%
Oppose	70%	55%	61%	44%	66%	53%	55%	38%	51%	57%
DK	4%	4%	1%	9%	4%	1%	3%	3%	2%	6%
N=	46	115	64	43	63	87	38	42	126	144

[VERSION C]

Q. To save the state money, Governor Chris Christie and Democratic State Senate President Steve Sweeney [ROTATE NAMES] both want public employees to pay a larger share of their health insurance costs than they do now. Although they differ on details both proposals would more than triple the cost for some workers. Do you support or oppose such proposals?

Support	53%
Oppose	44%
DK	3%
N=	279

	Party ID				Ideology			Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Conserv	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union	
Support	31%	60%	68%	37%	49%	78%	61%	23%	59%	
Oppose	64%	38%	30%	60%	47%	22%	30%	74%	39%	
DK	4%	2%	2%	3%	4%	0%	9%	4%	2%	
N=	90	123	61	57	152	64	26	48	205	

	Employment				Race				Education			
	Full Time	Part Time	Retire	Not Empl	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Support	49%	71%	56%	51%	61%	22%	63%	21%	52%	55%	55%	49%
Oppose	48%	29%	40%	49%	37%	73%	28%	79%	47%	44%	41%	47%
DK	4%	0%	4%	0%	3%	5%	9%	0%	2%	2%	4%	4%
N=	154	33	51	40	197	20	17	37	57	75	73	71

*New Jersey 2012 Budget Reactions
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll*

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	Male	Female
Support	34%	52%	62%	61%	38%	54%	51%	71%	53%	52%
Oppose	66%	43%	38%	36%	58%	42%	45%	29%	43%	46%
DK	0%	5%	1%	3%	4%	4%	4%	0%	4%	2%
N=	46	123	61	49	72	85	39	48	137	142

[END SPLIT SAMPLE]

[ALL THREE VERSIONS COMBINED: SUPPORT OR OPPOSE INCREASING HEALTH CARE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR STATE WORKERS]

Support	48%
Oppose	48%
DK	4%
N=	811

	Party ID			Ideology			Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Conserv	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union
Support	34%	55%	58%	45%	44%	64%	43%	28%	53%
Oppose	61%	42%	39%	52%	52%	32%	46%	72%	46%
DK	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	1%	0%	2%
N=	284	326	186	170	462	167	64	128	614

	Employment				Race				Education			
	Full Time	Part Time	Retire	Not Empl	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Support	49%	45%	50%	49%	54%	20%	49%	35%	45%	48%	50%	50%
Oppose	48%	53%	42%	50%	42%	76%	49%	65%	51%	48%	47%	46%
DK	4%	2%	8%	1%	4%	4%	2%	0%	4%	3%	3%	5%
N=	417	107	147	135	585	71	51	82	168	207	234	194

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	Male	Female
Support	33%	51%	52%	52%	36%	49%	50%	67%	53%	44%
Oppose	65%	45%	47%	40%	59%	49%	48%	30%	43%	52%
DK	2%	4%	2%	8%	5%	2%	2%	4%	4%	4%
N=	135	335	196	137	200	249	127	135	397	413

Q. Which of the following best describes your own current health insurance?

Pay part of the cost	51%
Pay full cost	13%
Medicare/Medicaid	16%
Employer pays full cost	11%
No Coverage	7%
Parent/Other person pays	2%
N=	808

Support/Oppose Increased State Worker Health Costs

Which of the following best describes your own current health insurance?

	Pay Full Cost	Pay Part Cost	Employer Pay	Medicare Medicaid	No Insurance
Support	63%	53%	27%	45%	35%
Oppose	34%	44%	71%	46%	65%
DK	3%	3%	2%	9%	0%
N=	105	415	86	128	57

Q. Last year, Governor Christie vetoed a tax surcharge on incomes of more than \$1 million. Now the legislature may try again. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a tax surcharge on very high income residents to help close the budget gap?

Strongly support	52%
Somewhat support	20%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	14%
DK	2%
N=	810

	Party ID			Ideology			Union Household		
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Middle	Conserv	Private Union	Public Union	Not Union
Strongly Support	68%	51%	27%	66%	53%	32%	65%	65%	48%
Somewhat support	16%	21%	26%	16%	21%	22%	22%	12%	22%
Somewhat oppose	8%	12%	19%	10%	11%	17%	7%	13%	12%
Strongly oppose	7%	15%	26%	7%	13%	27%	6%	10%	16%
DK	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	0%	2%
N=	284	327	186	170	461	166	64	128	614

**New Jersey 2012 Budget Reactions
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Employment				Race				Education			
	FT	PT	Ret	Not Empl	White	Black	Asian	Hisp	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Strongly Support	51%	46%	62%	48%	54%	56%	37%	39%	51%	48%	46%	64%
Somewhat support	20%	21%	15%	25%	20%	16%	25%	17%	19%	20%	25%	14%
Somewhat oppose	13%	17%	7%	11%	10%	10%	19%	23%	10%	14%	15%	9%
Strongly oppose	16%	12%	12%	15%	13%	15%	18%	20%	17%	17%	13%	13%
DK	1%	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	0%	1%	4%	2%	1%	0%
N=	416	107	148	136	585	71	51	82	168	208	235	195

	Age				Income				Gender	
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	< 50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	Male	Female
Strongly Support	29%	53%	60%	59%	47%	54%	62%	42%	49%	54%
Somewhat support	24%	23%	15%	15%	20%	17%	19%	26%	21%	19%
Somewhat oppose	22%	11%	10%	6%	14%	16%	7%	10%	12%	12%
Strongly oppose	23%	12%	13%	15%	16%	12%	12%	22%	17%	12%
DK	2%	1%	1%	4%	3%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%
N=	135	336	200	138	200	249	127	135	397	413

Historical Data:

Q. [From February 2010/Reg. voter sample]

Do you agree with Governor Christie that the state income tax rate should be cut for those making more than \$400,000 a year?

Yes	34.2
No	61.8
DK	4.0
N=	886

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll February 24-26, 2011
New Jersey Statewide Poll

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone from February 24-26, 2011 with a scientifically selected random sample of 912 New Jersey adults. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to US Census Bureau data. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 775 landline respondents and 137 cell phone respondents, acquired through random digit dialing. Data reported in this release are from a weighted sample of 811 registered voters drawn from the full sample of adults.

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 811 registered voters is +/-3.4 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 46.6 and 53.4 percent (50 +/-3.4) had all New Jersey 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. 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.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research, Inc., of Princeton, New Jersey. The questionnaire was developed and all data analysis was completed in house at the Eagleton Institute of Politics Center for Public Interest Polling. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, a non-partisan academic center focused on the study and teaching of politics and the political process.

Weighted Sample Characteristics (811 New Jersey Registered Voters)			
35% Democrat	49% Male	17% 18-29	74% White
42% Independent	51% Female	41% 30-49	9% Black
23% Republican		24% 50-64	10% Hispanic
		17% 65+	6% Asian
			1% Other

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