New Jersey economic issues poll
April 5-14, 2018
Stockton Polling Institute
Weighted frequencies

Q1. How would you rate the U.S. economy:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Excellent	47	6.6	6.6	6.6
	Good	302	42.1	42.1	48.7
	Fair	258	36.0	36.0	84.7
	Or poor?	101	14.1	14.1	98.8
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	8	1.1	1.1	99.9
	REFUSE	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q2. Which do you think is a better indicator of how the economy is doing:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The stock market	124	17.3	17.3	17.3
	The employment rate	556	77.6	77.6	94.9
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	33	4.7	4.7	99.6
	REFUSE	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q3. We would like to know whether or not the federal tax cuts passed in December are having an impact on your household's take-home pay. Have you noticed:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A significant increase in take-home pay	45	6.2	6.2	6.2
	A small increase	202	28.2	28.2	34.5
	No difference	222	31.0	31.0	65.5
	A small decrease	33	4.6	4.6	70.1
	A significant decrease in take-home pay	14	2.0	2.0	72.0
	Or does this question not apply to you?	191	26.7	26.7	98.7
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	9	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

AMONG RESPONDENTS WITH TAKE-HOME PAY AFFECTED BY PAYROLL TAX CHANGES:
Q3. We would like to know whether or not the federal tax cuts passed in December are having an impact on your household's take-home pay. Have you noticed:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A significant increase in take-home pay	45	6.2	8.7	8.7
	A small increase	202	28.2	39.1	47.8
	No difference	222	31	43.0	90.9
	A small decrease	33	4.6	6.4	97.3
	A significant decrease in take-home pay	14	2	2.7	100.0
	Total with take-home pay	516		100.0	
	Or does this question not apply to you?	191	26.7		98.7
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	9	1.3		100
	Total	717	100		

Q4. The federal tax reform law passed in December capped the deduction for state income taxes and property taxes at $10,000. What kind of impact do you think this will have on the New Jersey economy:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A major positive effect	39	5.4	5.4	5.4
	A small positive effect	119	16.6	16.6	22.0
	No effect	97	13.5	13.5	35.5
	A small negative effect	212	29.6	29.6	65.2
	Or a major negative effect?	177	24.7	24.7	89.9
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	69	9.7	9.7	99.6
	REFUSE	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q5. Which one of the following would best characterize your view of the national debt:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	A major problem	562	78.3	78.3	78.3
	A minor problem	112	15.6	15.6	93.9
	Or not a problem at all?	31	4.3	4.3	98.3
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	11	1.6	1.6	99.9
	REFUSE	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q6. Would you support or oppose a Constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget, even if it required major spending cuts?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SUPPORT	358	50.0	50.0	50.0
	OPPOSE	272	38.0	38.0	88.0
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	82	11.5	11.5	99.5
	REFUSE	4	.5	.5	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q7. Please tell me whether you would support or you would oppose spending cuts in the following areas to balance the budget. The military

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SUPPORT	145	20.2	40.4	40.4
	OPPOSE	213	29.7	59.3	99.8
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	1	.1	.2	100.0
	Total	358	50.0	100.0	
Missing	System	359	50.0		
Total		717	100.0		

Q8. Please tell me whether you would support or you would oppose spending cuts in the following areas to balance the budget. Safety-net programs such as welfare or Medicaid

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SUPPORT	172	24.0	47.9	47.9
	OPPOSE	178	24.8	49.6	97.5
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	8	1.1	2.3	99.7
	REFUSE	1	.1	.3	100.0
	Total	358	50.0	100.0	
Missing	System	359	50.0		
Total		717	100.0		

Q9. Please tell me whether you would support or you would oppose spending cuts in the following areas to balance the budget. Entitlement programs such as Social Security or Medicare

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SUPPORT	86	12.1	24.1	24.1
	OPPOSE	264	36.8	73.6	97.7
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	7	.9	1.8	99.5
	REFUSE	2	.2	.5	100.0
	Total	358	50.0	100.0	
Missing	System	359	50.0		
Total		717	100.0		

Q10. Which one of the following statements would best characterize your view on U.S. tariffs imposed on imports of foreign products? Overall do tariffs:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Help the U.S. economy	218	30.4	30.4	30.4
	Hurt the U.S. economy	343	47.8	47.8	78.3
	Or do they have no impact?	74	10.4	10.4	88.6
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	80	11.1	11.1	99.7
	REFUSE	2	.3	.3	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q11. How would you rate the New Jersey state economy:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Excellent	9	1.3	1.3	1.3
	Good	151	21.1	21.1	22.4
	Fair	345	48.2	48.2	70.6
	Or poor?	195	27.1	27.1	97.7
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	15	2.1	2.1	99.9
	REFUSE	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q12. In 2011, the New Jersey governor and Legislature approved a 2 percent cap on local spending increases to try to address property taxes. Which of the following best describes how you feel that law has worked:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	It has failed to control property taxes	323	45.0	45.0	45.0
	It has slowed property tax growth to a reasonable level	237	33.0	33.0	78.0
	It has been very effective at controlling property taxes	66	9.2	9.2	87.2
	DON'T PAY PROPERTY TAXES/OWN PROPERTY	27	3.8	3.8	91.0
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	61	8.5	8.5	99.5
	REFUSE	4	.5	.5	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q13. On January 1st of this year, New Jersey's sales tax rate was decreased to 6.625 percent. Governor Phil Murphy has proposed returning the sales tax to an earlier rate of 7 percent to help fund schools and higher education. Would you support or oppose raising the sales tax for this purpose?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SUPPORT	435	60.7	60.7	60.7
	OPPOSE	271	37.8	37.8	98.5
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	8	1.1	1.1	99.5
	REFUSE	3	.5	.5	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q14. Would you support having a state government agency use public money to finance zero-interest or low-interest student loans?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SUPPORT	465	64.9	64.9	64.9
	OPPOSE	206	28.7	28.7	93.6
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	41	5.8	5.8	99.4
	REFUSE	4	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q15. Governor Phil Murphy has proposed having the state of New Jersey establish a public bank owned by the taxpayers to generate state revenue and make low-interest loans for public purposes. Would you support or would you oppose such a move, or do you not know enough to say?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SUPPORT	194	27.1	27.1	27.1
	OPPOSE	141	19.7	19.7	46.8
	DON'T KNOW ENOUGH	368	51.4	51.4	98.1
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	10	1.4	1.4	99.6
	REFUSE	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q16. I'm going to read a list of factors that may or may not affect the New Jersey state economy. Please tell me if you think each has a major positive impact, small positive impact, no impact, small negative impact, or a major negative impact? Development of clean energy such as wind and solar power

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	MAJOR POSITIVE	323	45.1	45.1	45.1
	SMALL POSITIVE	187	26.1	26.1	71.2
	NO IMPACT	87	12.1	12.1	83.3
	SMALL NEGATIVE	42	5.9	5.9	89.2
	MAJOR NEGATIVE	31	4.3	4.3	93.6
	NS/DK	42	5.9	5.9	99.4
	REFUSE	4	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q17. Impact on the economy: Opioid addiction or drug addiction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	MAJOR POSITIVE	84	11.8	11.8	11.8
	SMALL POSITIVE	31	4.3	4.3	16.1
	NO IMPACT	47	6.5	6.5	22.6
	SMALL NEGATIVE	125	17.5	17.5	40.1
	MAJOR NEGATIVE	387	54.0	54.0	94.1
	NS/DK	38	5.3	5.3	99.3
	REFUSE	5	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q18. Impact on the economy: College student debt

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	MAJOR POSITIVE	61	8.5	8.5	8.5
	SMALL POSITIVE	53	7.3	7.3	15.8
	NO IMPACT	81	11.3	11.3	27.1
	SMALL NEGATIVE	170	23.7	23.7	50.8
	MAJOR NEGATIVE	302	42.1	42.1	92.9
	NS/DK	46	6.4	6.4	99.3
	REFUSE	5	.7	.7	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q19. Impact on the economy: Greater investment in higher education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	MAJOR POSITIVE	333	46.5	46.5	46.5
	SMALL POSITIVE	163	22.7	22.7	69.3
	NO IMPACT	87	12.1	12.1	81.3
	SMALL NEGATIVE	52	7.3	7.3	88.7
	MAJOR NEGATIVE	37	5.2	5.2	93.9
	NS/DK	37	5.2	5.2	99.0
	REFUSE	7	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Q20. Impact on the economy: The current condition of New Jersey roads and bridges

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	MAJOR POSITIVE	88	12.3	12.3	12.3
	SMALL POSITIVE	63	8.8	8.8	21.1
	NO IMPACT	70	9.8	9.8	30.9
	SMALL NEGATIVE	173	24.1	24.1	55.0
	MAJOR NEGATIVE	290	40.5	40.5	95.5
	NS/DK	28	4.0	4.0	99.4
	REFUSE	4	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	717	100.0	100.0	

Demographics

Region of New Jersey

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	North Jersey	484	68.3	68.3	68.3
	South Jersey	225	31.7	31.7	100.0
	Total	709	100.0	100.0	

PHONE. Have I reached you on a cell phone or on a regular landline telephone?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Cell phone	321	45.3	45.3	45.3
	Landline phone	380	53.6	53.6	98.9
	COMPUTER/VOIP (VOL)	2	.3	.3	99.2
	REFUSE	6	.8	.8	100.0
	Total	709	100.0	100.0	

CELL. Thinking about your telephone use, is there at least one telephone inside your home that is currently working and is not a cell phone?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	201	28.3	61.1	61.1
	NO	122	17.2	37.1	98.2
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	1	.1	.3	98.5
	REFUSE	5	.7	1.5	100.0
	Total	329	46.4	100.0	
Missing	System	380	53.6		
Total		709	100.0		

LANDLINE. Thinking about your telephone use, does anyone in your household, including yourself, have a working cell phone?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	357	50.4	93.9	93.9
	NO	21	3.0	5.5	99.5
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	1	.1	.3	99.7
	REFUSE	1	.1	.3	100.0
	Total	380	53.6	100.0	
Missing	System	329	46.4		
Total		709	100.0		

PARTY. Do you consider yourself to be a:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Republican	165	23.3	23.3	23.3
	Democrat	233	32.9	32.9	56.1
	An independent	212	29.9	29.9	86.0
	Or something else?	66	9.3	9.3	95.3
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	14	2.0	2.0	97.3
	REFUSE	19	2.7	2.7	100.0
	Total	709	100.0	100.0	

D1. Which category describes your age:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18 to 29	72	10.2	10.2	10.2
	30 to 49	136	19.2	19.2	29.3
	50 to 64	253	35.7	35.7	65.0
	Or 65 and older?	238	33.6	33.6	98.6
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	1	.1	.1	98.7
	REFUSE	9	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	709	100.0	100.0	

D2. Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino, or not?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	YES	45	6.3	6.3	6.3
	NO	648	91.4	91.4	97.7
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	4	.6	.6	98.3
	REFUSE	12	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	709	100.0	100.0	

D3. Which of the following best describes your race:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	White	516	72.8	72.8	72.8
	Black or African American	74	10.4	10.4	83.2
	Asian or Pacific	29	4.1	4.1	87.3
	Native American	8	1.1	1.1	88.4
	Or do you identify with more than one race?	55	7.8	7.8	96.2
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	6	.8	.8	97.0
	REFUSE	21	3.0	3.0	100.0
	Total	709	100.0	100.0	

D4. Which of the following best describes your highest level of education:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Did not graduate from high school	12	1.7	1.7	1.7
	High school graduate	92	13.0	13.0	14.7
	Some college or associate's degree	198	27.9	27.9	42.6
	A four-year college degree	194	27.4	27.4	70.0
	Or a graduate or professional degree?	205	28.9	28.9	98.9
	REFUSE	8	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	709	100.0	100.0	

D5. Which of the following general categories best represents your household income last year before taxes:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than $25,000	39	5.5	5.5	5.5
	$25,000 to less than $50,000	102	14.4	14.4	19.9
	$50,000 to less than $100,000	211	29.8	29.8	49.6
	$100,000 to $150,000	125	17.6	17.6	67.3
	Or more than $150,000?	142	20.0	20.0	87.3
	NOT SURE/DON'T KNOW	20	2.8	2.8	90.1
	REFUSE	70	9.9	9.9	100.0
	Total	709	100.0	100.0	

D6. I'm required to verify: are you:

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	350	49.4	49.4	49.4
	Or female?	356	50.2	50.2	99.6
	OTHER	3	.4	.4	100.0
	Total	709	100.0	100.0	