



79% of New Jerseyans Say Property Taxes Are Up

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Galloway, NJ – According to a poll conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute, 79 percent of New Jerseyans say property taxes have gone up in the last three years.

With nearly one in four likely voters identifying property taxes as their top priority (23 percent) in the poll, the results suggest that voters are still concerned about an issue that has been the focus of governors and legislators for decades. Respondents pointed to jobs as the top issue (24 percent) facing New Jersey.

Of likely voters surveyed, 39 percent think property taxes have gone up “a lot” and 40 percent property taxes have gone up “a little.” About 10 percent say they have stayed the same, 4 percent say they have decreased “a little” and less than 1 percent says they have decreased “a lot.”

The poll was conducted with 741 likely voters from June 8–13. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. The survey has a margin of error of +/-3.6 percent. The Stockton Polling Institute is part of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

“Money matters most – taxes, the economy and jobs are the top issues New Jerseyans care about,” said Daniel J. Douglas, Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

When asked to identify the most important issue facing New Jersey, respondents identified the top two issues as jobs (24 percent) and property taxes (23 percent).

Taxes (12 percent), the economy (9 percent) and K-12 education (5 percent) were the next issues identified. No other issue received more than 3 percent.

With control of the state Senate and the General Assembly at stake this November, those surveyed were closely split at about 36 percent for the Democratic legislative candidates and 35 percent for the Republicans; 7 percent say they would split their vote in the generic legislative matchup; and, 19 percent were not sure or would support another candidate.

Only 30 percent have a favorable opinion of the New Jersey Legislature's job performance, while 62 percent have an unfavorable opinion.

"State legislators can take some solace from the fact that their overall job performance rating, while quite low, is higher than that of the United States Congress, which gets favorable ratings from only 10 percent of New Jerseyans," said Douglas.

Likely voters were also asked about three possible ballot questions in the general election:

- 73 percent support raising the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$8.25 an hour and providing cost of living increases; 21 percent oppose.
- 53 percent favor requiring the state to use \$200 million in existing tax revenues for open space preservation; 32 percent oppose.
- 55 percent support the idea that the state should allow terminally ill patients to end their lives; 31 percent oppose.

Methodology

Interviews were conducted at the Stockton Polling Institute by live interviewers calling from the Stockton College campus. The poll was conducted with 741 likely voters from June 8 -13. Respondents qualified as likely voters if they said they are registered to vote in New Jersey, voted in the November 2012 general election, and are likely or almost certain to vote on Nov. 5. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. All prospective respondent households in the source telephone list have the same chance of joining the sample because of the random digital dialing system (RDD). The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.6 percent at 95% confidence level. Data is weighted based on United States Census Bureau demographics for New Jersey voter age population and on Census Bureau demographic profiles of New Jersey voters when available.

About the Hughes Center

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy (www.stockton.edu/hughescenter) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College. The Hughes Center can be found at www.facebook.com/Hughes.Center.Stockton.College and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.