

**FINAL REPORT FOR CHARTER SCHOOL QUESTION
EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST POLLING**

June 30, 2011

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll surveyed 399 New Jersey adults from June 22-29, 2011, as part of a larger project surveying residents of Indiana and New Jersey. The survey was by telephone using a mixed sample of random digit dial of landline telephones and a random digit dial sample of cell phone users. The margin of sampling error for 399 adults is +/- 4.9 percentage points. This means that we are confident that 95% of the time the results for the sample will be within +/-4.9 percentage points of the results we would achieve if we could survey every NJ adult. All data are weighted to match the 2010 US Census NJ adult population on sex, race, age, and Hispanic ethnicity. All results are reported using these weights. Data collection was in-house, overseen by Prof. David Redlawsk, Director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling.

Respondents were asked the following question about Charter Schools, following a series of unrelated questions about the role of presidents and governors, and before demographic questions:

OK, now I have a question about charter schools, publicly-funded schools controlled by their own boards instead of the local school board. In New Jersey, charter schools are approved by the state Department of Education, not by local voters.

Since charter schools get students and funding from existing public schools, some say local voters should have to approve new charter schools. Others say having the state make the decision to approve new charter schools works well.

How about you? Should the state be allowed to open new charter schools without local approval, or should voters be required to approve any new charter school in their community?

RESULTS

23%	Allow state to open schools without local approval
73%	Voters should be required to approve new charter schools
4%	Don't Know/Refused

The results show that New Jersey residents overwhelmingly support requiring voter approval before new Charter Schools are approved. This support is broad; there are few important demographic differences. For the most part race and sex of respondent make little difference in the responses. Having a child at home also makes little difference in support. The only small differences are seen between conservatives, and those who are liberal or moderate. Conservatives and Republicans are somewhat more likely to support allowing the state to open Charter Schools without local approval. Likewise, 30-49 year old respondents, and those 65 and over are more likely to support local decision making. Cross tabulations by demographic characteristics follow on the next two pages.

Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling, June 28, 2011

Charter School Approval Process * Age Crosstabulation

% within Age

	Age					Total
	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65 +	
No Voter Approval	24%	16%	16%	34%	20%	23%
Voter Approval Needed	71%	80%	84%	59%	73%	73%
Don't Know	5%	4%	0%	7%	6%	4%
Weighted N=	87	70	82	97	63	399

Charter School Approval Process * Party

% within Party

	Party				Total
	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other	
No Voter Approval	19%	26%	21%	33%	23%
Voter Approval Needed	78%	73%	73%	61%	73%
Don't Know	4%	1%	6%	6%	4%
Weighted N=	140	84	117	46	387

Charter School Approval Process * Ideology

% within Ideology

	Ideology			Total
	Liberal	Conservative	Middle of the Road	
No Voter Approval	17%	36%	21%	23%
Voter Approval Needed	75%	60%	77%	72%
Don't Know	8%	4%	2%	5%
Weighted N=	105	95	180	380

Charter School Approval Process * Children in Household

% within Children in Household

	Children Under 18		Total
	No	Yes	
No Voter Approval	22%	23%	23%
Voter Approval Needed	74%	72%	73%
Don't Know	4%	5%	4%
Weighted N=	225	171	396

Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling, June 28, 2011

Charter School Approval Process * Race/Ethnicity

% within Race/Ethnicity

	Race				
	White	Black	Asian	Hispanic	Total
No Voter Approval	25%	20%	17%	19%	22%
Voter Approval Needed	72%	72%	78%	75%	73%
Don't Know	3%	8%	6%	6%	5%
Weighted N=	218	50	36	68	372

Charter School Approval Process * Sex

% within Sex

	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
No Voter Approval	25%	21%	23%
Voter Approval Needed	70%	75%	73%
Don't Know	5%	4%	4%
Weighted N=	195	204	399