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**Three in 10 New Jerseyans Say Abortion Is Primary Factor in 2024 Vote Choice**

*Three-quarters say abortion should be legal in all or most cases; three-quarters are concerned bans would lead to unnecessary health issues.*

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (May 9, 2024) – As abortion reenters the spotlight on the national election stage, three in 10 New Jerseyans say they would only vote for a candidate who shares their stance on abortion, according to the latest poll in the New Jersey [Health Matters](#) series by the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute in partnership with the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.

Three-quarters say they are concerned about bans on abortion causing unnecessary health issues, and a large majority say abortion should be legal in all or most cases.

When asked to think about how the issue of abortion may influence their vote next year, 28 percent say they would only vote for a candidate who shares their views on abortion. Another 50 percent say a candidate’s position on abortion is just one of many important factors. Sixteen percent claim abortion isn’t an important factor to their vote at all.

Fifty-eight percent are “very concerned” that bans on abortion would lead to unnecessary health problems among pregnant patients who experience complications, and another 20 percent are “somewhat concerned.” Less than one in five say they are “not too concerned” (11 percent) or “not at all concerned” (6 percent).

Regarding abortion, more generally, 46 percent of New Jerseyans say it should be “legal in all cases” and another 31 percent say, “most cases.” Twelve percent say it should be “illegal in most cases” and 4 percent say it should be “illegal in all cases.”

“New Jerseyans mirror [public opinion nationwide](#) when it comes to how abortion will affect their vote, but they are even more concerned than Americans, as a whole, when it comes to the health problems abortion may cause and are more supportive of abortion, in general,” said Ashley Koning, an assistant research professor and director of the [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling](#) (ECPIP) at [Rutgers University–New Brunswick](#). “At a statewide level, we have consistently seen New Jerseyans supportive of reproductive health measures throughout the [decades](#) and, more recently, worried about the implications of [Roe being overturned](#) and ranking reproductive issues as an important factor in their [2022 midterm vote](#).”

When it comes to who to vote for in 2024, abortion seems likely to be a factor for many demographic groups, but less than four in 10 of any group say it will be the primary one. Democrats (39 percent) and 18- to 34-year-olds (35 percent) are most likely to say they would only vote for a candidate who shares their views on abortion. Women are more likely than men to say this (32 percent to 24 percent). The likelihood that abortion is the primary factor to someone’s vote increases with income and education but decreases with age. Republicans, on the other hand, are the most likely of any group to say the issue isn’t an important factor to their vote choice.

Concern that abortion bans might lead to unnecessary health problems among pregnant patients is high across the board: A majority of every demographic is “very concerned” about this, with the exception of Republicans (at 27 percent). While more than half of Republicans say they are at least “somewhat” concerned, they express the least concern of any group, with 23 percent saying they are “not too concerned” and 16 percent “not at all concerned.”

At least four in 10 of every demographic group say abortion should be legal in all cases and a solid majority in each group say it should be legal in all or most. The only exception is Republicans, though more than half of this group believe it should be legal in all (24 percent) or most (31 percent) cases. Democrats and women are the two groups where support for legalization in all cases crosses the 50 percent threshold (62 percent and 52 percent, respectively).

“Our Health Matters poll shows widespread support for abortion in all or most situations,” said Linda Schwimmer, president and CEO of the [New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute](#). “Access to reproductive health care services are a critical part of overall health and

wellbeing.”

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,512 adults contacted through the probability-based [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) via web and live calling from March 26 to April 8. The full sample has a margin of error of +/- 2.9 percentage points.

# # #

**Broadcast interviews:** Rutgers University–New Brunswick has broadcast-quality television and radio studios available for remote live or taped interviews with Rutgers experts. For more information, contact Jessica Ronan-Frisch at [jronan@eagleton.rutgers.edu](mailto:jronan@eagleton.rutgers.edu).

#### ***ABOUT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY–NEW BRUNSWICK***

*Rutgers University–New Brunswick is where Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, began more than 250 years ago. Ranked among the world’s top 60 universities, Rutgers’s flagship university is a leading public research institution and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. It is home to internationally acclaimed faculty and has 12 degree-granting schools and a Division I Athletics program. It is the Big Ten Conference’s most diverse university. Through its community of teachers, scholars, artists, scientists and healers, Rutgers is equipped as never before to transform lives.*

#### ***ABOUT THE EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST POLLING***

*Home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) was established in 1971 and is the oldest and one of the most respected university-based statewide polling operations in the United States. Now in its 52nd year and with the publication of over 200 polls, ECPIP’s mission is to provide scientifically sound, nonpartisan information about public opinion. To read more about ECPIP and view all of our press releases, published research and data archive, please visit our website: [eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu](http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu). You can also visit us on [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#).*

#### ***ABOUT THE EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS***

*The Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling is a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. The Eagleton Institute studies how American politics and government work and change, analyzes how the democracy might improve and promotes political participation and civic engagement. The Institute explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. To learn more about Eagleton programs and expertise, visit [eagleton.rutgers.edu](http://eagleton.rutgers.edu).*

#### ***ABOUT THE RUTGERS-EAGLETON/SSRS GARDEN STATE PANEL***

*The [Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel](#) is a probability-based panel of New Jersey adults age 18 or older. Members are recruited randomly based on statewide representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design. The ABS sample is drawn from the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) maintained by the*

**Abortion  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

*U.S. Postal Service. Population coverage of the DSF is in the 98%-99% range. During the recruitment process, full demographic information on panelists is collected. This data is stored securely and used to determine eligibility for specific studies (if needed). The Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel is a multi-mode panel. Internet households participate via web while all non-internet households (including those who have internet but are unwilling to take surveys online) participate via phone. Panelists also have the option of taking surveys in their preferred language (English or Spanish).*

***About the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute***

*The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute's (Quality Institute) mission is to improve the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone. Our membership comes from all stakeholders in health care. Together with our 100 plus members, we are working towards a world where all people receive safe, equitable, and affordable health care and live their healthiest lives.*

**QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**

**Questions and Tables**

*The questions covered in this release are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are New Jersey adults; all percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with samples sizes under 100 with extreme caution.*

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**Q2. Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases, or illegal in all cases?**

Legal in all cases	46%
Legal in most cases	31%
Illegal in most cases	12%
Illegal in all cases	4%
Don't know	6%
Unweighted N=	1483

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>Legal all</b>	62%	42%	24%	40%	52%	46%	45%	47%	46%	48%	47%	48%	41%
<b>Legal most</b>	27%	35%	31%	34%	28%	32%	30%	27%	32%	29%	30%	30%	35%
<b>Illegal most</b>	5%	12%	28%	15%	10%	13%	7%	13%	12%	10%	12%	12%	16%
<b>Illegal all</b>	2%	4%	8%	4%	4%	3%	8%	5%	2%	6%	4%	4%	2%
<b>DK</b>	4%	7%	9%	7%	6%	5%	10%	8%	8%	6%	8%	5%	6%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	595	601	279	727	756	911	139	256	176	382	354	398	345

**Abortion  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50 K	\$50K- <\$100 K	\$100K - <\$150 K	\$150K +	Urba n	Subur b	Exurba n	Phil/ South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>Legal all</b>	48%	44%	46%	47%	45%	49%	45%	42%	48%	45%	46%	50%	46%
<b>Legal most</b>	29%	31%	31%	34%	36%	30%	27%	31%	32%	27%	29%	33%	36%
<b>Illegal most</b>	10%	14%	18%	10%	7%	12%	16%	14%	14%	15%	12%	10%	11%
<b>Illegal all</b>	4%	5%	2%	2%	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	5%	5%	3%	2%
<b>DK</b>	10%	5%	3%	6%	8%	5%	9%	9%	3%	7%	8%	4%	5%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	391	400	260	319	237	504	178	261	303	352	340	353	437

**Q3. How concerned are you, if at all, that bans on abortion would lead to unnecessary health problems among pregnant patients who experience complications?**

Very concerned	58%
Somewhat concerned	20%
Not too concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	6%
Don't know	5%
Unweighted N=	1482

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>Very</b>	78%	53%	27%	51%	65%	57%	63%	55%	61%	62%	56%	55%	59%
<b>Somewhat</b>	13%	24%	28%	23%	18%	22%	15%	19%	20%	16%	23%	24%	18%
<b>Not too</b>	4%	12%	23%	14%	8%	11%	9%	12%	9%	12%	8%	9%	15%
<b>Not at all</b>	2%	6%	16%	7%	6%	6%	2%	8%	6%	5%	8%	7%	4%
<b>DK</b>	3%	6%	7%	5%	4%	4%	11%	6%	3%	5%	5%	5%	4%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	595	600	279	727	755	911	138	256	176	381	354	398	345

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K-<\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K +	Urban	Suburban	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>Very</b>	59%	57%	56%	64%	62%	58%	56%	54%	61%	51%	57%	64%	64%
<b>Somewhat</b>	24%	18%	21%	18%	24%	20%	17%	22%	19%	23%	17%	22%	18%

**Abortion  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

<b>Not too</b>	6%	13%	15%	9%	6%	11%	12%	12%	11%	13%	11%	8%	10%
<b>Not at all</b>	4%	8%	6%	6%	3%	7%	10%	4%	7%	6%	9%	4%	5%
<b>DK</b>	7%	4%	2%	4%	5%	4%	6%	8%	2%	6%	6%	2%	4%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	390	400	260	319	237	504	178	261	302	351	340	353	437



**Abortion  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

**Q4.** Thinking about how the issue of abortion might affect your vote this year, which comes closer to your view:

I would only vote for a candidate who shares my views on abortion	28%
A candidate's position on abortion is just one of many important factors	50%
Abortion is not an important factor in my vote choice	16%
Don't know	7%
<b>Unweighted N=</b>	<b>1479</b>

	Party ID			Gender		Race or Ethnicity				Age			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Man	Woman	Wht	Blk	Hisp	Other	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
<b>Share views</b>	39%	22%	18%	24%	32%	30%	30%	26%	20%	35%	24%	26%	27%
<b>One of many</b>	50%	50%	47%	52%	47%	49%	52%	46%	55%	46%	52%	50%	51%
<b>Not impt</b>	5%	19%	30%	19%	12%	16%	12%	16%	17%	12%	17%	17%	18%
<b>DK</b>	5%	9%	5%	5%	8%	5%	5%	12%	9%	8%	7%	7%	4%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	594	601	276	726	753	909	139	254	176	383	351	398	343

	Income				Region					Education			
	<\$50K	\$50K-<\$100K	\$100K - <\$150K	\$150K+	Urban	Suburban	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	HS or less	Some college	College grad	Grad work
<b>Share views</b>	27%	27%	33%	29%	28%	26%	30%	29%	31%	26%	23%	34%	31%
<b>One of many</b>	48%	49%	50%	54%	49%	53%	46%	45%	49%	48%	49%	53%	50%

**Abortion  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

<b>Not impt</b>	14%	18%	14%	13%	11%	14%	19%	23%	15%	18%	19%	11%	13%
<b>DK</b>	10%	6%	3%	4%	12%	7%	5%	4%	6%	9%	9%	3%	5%
<b>Unwt N=</b>	390	398	259	319	236	503	176	261	303	349	340	352	437

## Methodology

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted from March 26 to April 8, 2024, with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,512 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. Sample came from the [Rutgers-Eagleton/Garden State Panel](#).

The Rutgers-Eagleton/Garden State Panel is a probability-based panel of New Jersey adults age 18 or older. Members are recruited randomly based on statewide representative ABS (Address Based Sample) design. ABS sample is drawn from the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) maintained by the U.S. Postal Service. Population coverage of the DSF is in the 98%-99% range. During the recruitment process, full demographic information on panelists is collected. The Rutgers/SSRS Garden State Panel is a multi-mode panel.

This study employed two recruitment methods: calling with live interviewers (n=1,486) and web recruitment (n=26). Distribution of recruitment method in this sample is:

Call	2%
Web	98%

The data were weighted to be representative of the residential adult population of New Jersey. The weighting balances sample demographics to target population parameters. The sample is balanced to match parameters for sex, age, education, race/ethnicity and region. Benchmark parameter distributions were derived from 2022 American Community Survey PUMS data.

Base weights were computed to account for sampling probabilities at the time of the initial recruitment and the sampling from the panel for this particular data collection effort.

The final stage of weighting calibrates sample demographics to match target population benchmark distributions. This weighting was accomplished using SPSSINC RAKE, an SPSS extension module that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using the GENLOG procedure. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on survey estimates. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population.

Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. We calculate the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical

efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response.<sup>1</sup> The total sample design effect is 1.33.

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. Sampling error should be adjusted to recognize the effect of weighting the data to better match the population. In this poll, the simple sampling error for 1,512 New Jersey adults is +/-2.5 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The design effect<sup>2</sup> is 1.33, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 2.9 percentage points. Thus, if 50 percent of New Jersey adults in this sample favor a particular position, we would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 47.1 and 52.9 percent (50 +/- 2.9) if all New Jersey adults had been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

Sampling error is only one possible source of error in a survey estimate. Sampling error does not consider other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as selection bias, non-response bias, question wording, context effects, or reporting accuracy, which may contribute additional error.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by SSRS through the Rutgers-Eagleton/SSRS Garden State Panel. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP). Jessica Roman assisted with analysis and preparation of this report. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, a non-partisan academic center for the study of politics and the political process. Full questionnaires are available on request and can also be accessed through our archives at [eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu](http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu). For more information, please contact [poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu](mailto:poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu).

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<sup>1</sup> The composite design effect for a sample of size  $n$ , with each case having a weight,  $w$ , is computed as  $deff = n \sum w^2 / (\sum w)^2$ .

<sup>2</sup> Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. We calculate the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response.

**Weighted Demographics  
1,512 New Jersey Adults 18+  
Overall Margin of Error = +/- 2.9 percentage points**

*Please note: Totals may equal slightly more or less than 100% due to rounding.*

		def	MOE		deff	MOE
		f				
<b>Man</b>	48	1.35	+/-	<b>White</b>	55%	1.36
	%		4.2%			
<b>Woman</b>	52	1.31	+/-	<b>Black</b>	12%	1.23
	%		4.0%			
<b>18-34</b>	27	1.28	+/-	<b>Hispanic</b>	20%	1.27
	%		5.6%			
<b>35-49</b>	25	1.28	+/-	<b>Other</b>	14%	1.24
	%		5.8%			
<b>50-64</b>	26	1.37	+/-	<b>&lt;50K</b>		1.32
	%		5.7%		30%	
<b>65+</b>	22	1.39	+/- 6.1%	<b>50K-&lt;100K</b>		1.35
	%				29%	
<b>Democrat</b>	39	1.35	+/-	<b>100K-&lt;150K</b>		1.36
	%		4.6%		19%	
<b>Independent</b>	42	1.31	+/-	<b>150K+</b>		1.28
	%		4.5%		22%	
<b>Republican</b>	19	1.32	+/-	<b>Urban</b>	17%	1.27
	%		6.6%			
<b>HS or Less</b>	34	1.18	+/-	<b>Suburb</b>	35%	1.34
	%		5.6%			
<b>Some College</b>	23	1.30	+/-	<b>Exurban</b>	13%	1.29
	%		6.0%			
<b>College Grad</b>	19	1.32	+/-	<b>Phil/South Shore</b>	18%	1.33
	%		5.9%			
<b>Grad Work</b>	24	1.30	+/-	<b>Shore</b>	17%	1.34
	%		5.3%			