

## Stockton Polling Institute

NJ Issues

Sept. 25-30, 2025

Weighted Results

**For the most part, do you think the country is headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Right direction	33%	234
2	Wrong direction	58%	410
3	Not sure/refuse	9%	61
	Total	100%	705

**For the most part, do you think the state of New Jersey is headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Right direction	30%	208
2	Wrong direction	48%	335
3	Not sure/refuse	23%	162
	Total	100%	705

**Do you approve or disapprove of Phil Murphy's job performance as governor?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Approve	42%	297
2	Disapprove	42%	298
3	Not sure/refuse	16%	110
	Total	100%	705

**Do you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump's job performance as president?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Approve	38%	265
2	Disapprove	56%	392
3	Not sure/refuse	7%	48
	Total	100%	705

**[CANDIDATE ORDER ROTATED]**

**Please rate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Jack Ciattarelli, or are you unfamiliar with him?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Favorable	32%	226
2	Unfavorable	38%	270
3	Unfamiliar	24%	170
4	Not sure/refuse	6%	40
	Total	100%	705

**Please rate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Mikie Sherrill, or are you unfamiliar with her?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Favorable	34%	240
2	Unfavorable	35%	246
3	Unfamiliar	25%	174
4	Not sure/refuse	6%	45
	Total	100%	705

**If you had to choose one, what is the most important issue to you personally in this year's election for New Jersey governor? [OPEN-ENDED, RECODED]**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Abortion (pro-choice)	2%	11
2	Abortion (anti-abortion, pro-life)	0%	2
3	Budget, debt, or deficit	1%	10
4	Crime	3%	18
5	Climate change	1%	8
6	Energy issues/utility costs	4%	29
7	Economy	9%	61
8	Healthcare	4%	26
9	Immigration (anti-immigration)	2%	17
10	Immigration (pro-immigration)	3%	23
11	Affordability or cost of living	12%	82
12	Jobs	1%	8
13	Preserving democracy/Upholding the Constitution	4%	28
14	Taxes	25%	175
15	Wealth or income inequality	1%	10
16	Some other issue (please specify)	9%	63
17	Not sure/refuse	6%	40
18	Education	6%	41
19	Opposing Trump	3%	24
20	Freedom of Speech	1%	7
21	Housing	3%	23
	Total	100%	705

**Rate your level of satisfaction with the current state of the economy. Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Very satisfied	6%	42
2	Somewhat satisfied	25%	179
3	Somewhat dissatisfied	23%	160
4	Very dissatisfied	44%	312
5	Not sure/refuse	2%	13
	Total	100%	705

**Compared to one year ago, would you say you and your family's financial situation is better, worse, or about the same?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Better	20%	142
2	Worse	39%	275
3	About the same	39%	276
4	Not sure/refuse	2%	12
	Total	100%	705

**Which of the following best describes your view when it comes to New Jersey's energy supply? [RESPONSE OPTIONS ROTATED]**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Expanding renewable energy sources like wind and solar is a more important priority than expanding fossil fuels	50%	349
2	Expanding fossil fuels like oil and gas is a more important priority than expanding renewable energy sources	37%	261
3	Not sure/refuse	13%	94
	Total	100%	705

**In the last 12 months, how often, if at all, have you personally used AI tools, such as chatbots like ChatGPT?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Often as in daily or almost daily	19%	135
2	Sometimes as in weekly or a few times a month	18%	129
3	Rarely as in once a month or less	21%	151
4	Never	40%	279
5	Not sure/refuse	2%	11
	Total	100%	705

**For the most part, do you think society's increased use of AI will make your life better, worse, or have no impact?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Better	27%	193
2	Worse	42%	293
3	No impact	15%	103
4	Not sure/refuse	16%	116
	Total	100%	705

**Do you think New Jersey should do more to regulate AI technology, less, or about the same as it does now?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	More	54%	383
2	Less	6%	44
3	About the same	24%	171
4	Not sure/refuse	15%	107
	Total	100%	705

**If New Jersey leaders were to focus on one area of AI policy, which of the following should be the top priority? [RESPONSE OPTIONS WERE RANDOMIZED]**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Protecting jobs and workers	19%	136
2	Preventing misuse like misinformation or deepfakes	27%	190
3	Avoiding bias in algorithms	5%	38
4	Supporting innovation and ensuring New Jersey is a leader in AI	5%	32
5	Protecting personal privacy	18%	124
6	Investing in AI education and skills training for New Jerseyans	8%	57
7	Minimizing the environmental impact of AI data centers	8%	55
8	Other (please specify)	3%	20
9	Not sure/refuse	7%	52
	Total	100%	705

**How big of a problem do you think political violence is in the U.S. today, if at all?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	A very big problem	71%	503
2	Somewhat of a problem	22%	153
3	Not much of a problem	4%	27
4	Not a problem at all	2%	11
5	Not sure/refuse	2%	11
	Total	100%	705

**[DISPLAYED FOR THOSE WHO SAID POLITICAL VIOLENCE IS A PROBLEM TO ANY EXTENT]**

**Some people say that different groups contribute to inciting political violence. Who among the following, if any, do you think bears some responsibility for instigating such violence? You can choose all that apply. [RESPONSE OPTIONS WERE RANDOMIZED]**

#	Answer	%	Count
2	The Republican party	46%	322
1	The Democratic party	67%	470
7	Some other entity (Please specify)	6%	42
9	Some other entity: Donald Trump [RECODED BASED ON TEXT ENTRY RESPONSES]	3%	19
6	Social media companies	46%	326
8	Not sure/refuse	5%	34
5	News media	50%	351
4	Extremists on the right	49%	347
3	Extremists on the left	50%	354
	Total	100%	

**To what extent do you feel comfortable sharing your political opinions publicly, if at all?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Very comfortable	29%	205
2	Somewhat comfortable	31%	221
3	Not too comfortable	20%	141
4	Not at all comfortable	17%	122
5	Not sure/refuse	2%	14
	Total	100%	704

**Which of the following best represents your view?**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Free speech should be protected even if the views expressed are considered offensive or hateful to others	57%	399
2	Protecting people from discrimination and harassment is more important than allowing unlimited free speech	31%	217
3	Not sure/refuse	12%	88
	Total	100%	704

**Please rate your level of confidence in the federal government to provide accurate public health guidance.**

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Very confident	6%	44
2	Somewhat confident	25%	180
3	Not too confident	22%	156
4	Not at all confident	43%	306
5	Not sure/refuse	3%	19
	Total	100%	705

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

#	Answer	%	Count
1	18-29	14%	100
2	30-44	20%	144
3	45-64	32%	228
4	65 and older	30%	214
5	Refuse	3%	19
	Total	100%	705

Region

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Gateway	59%	416
2	Northwest, Skylands	9%	64
3	South Jersey	11%	78
4	Jersey Shore	18%	128
5	Refuse	3%	18
	Total	100%	705

Hispanic or Latino Origin

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes, Hispanic or Latino	14%	98
2	No	82%	575
3	Refuse	5%	33
	Total	100%	705

Race

#	Answer	%	Count
1	White	68%	476
2	Black or African American	13%	92
3	Asian or Pacific Islander	2%	15
4	Other/Multiracial	10%	70
5	Refuse	7%	53
	Total	100%	705

Education Level

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Less than a four-year college degree	53%	370
2	A four-year college degree or more	45%	314
3	Refuse	3%	20
	Total	100%	705

## Household Income

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Less than \$50,000	17%	122
2	\$50,000 to less than \$100,000	24%	166
3	\$100,000 or more	45%	316
4	Refuse	14%	102
	Total	100%	705

## Party Affiliation

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Democrat	31%	218
2	Republican	27%	191
3	Independent	27%	192
4	Other/Not Sure/Refuse	15%	103
	Total	100%	705

## Gender

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Man	45%	321
2	Woman	52%	366
3	Identify another way/refuse	3%	19
	Total	100%	705

## METHODOLOGY

The poll of New Jersey residents was sponsored and conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University. Data collection took place from Sept. 25-30, 2025, using NJ voter list sample. A total of 705 New Jersey registered voters were interviewed. Responses were recorded via telephone or online in English. Overall, 94% of interviews were conducted on cell phones and 6% on landline phones. In terms of mode, 71% were reached via dialing with the survey administered by a live interviewer and 29% were reached via text-to-web. The live calls were conducted by Opinion Services. The text messages were sent by Stockton Polling Institute staff from the university's Galloway campus and included a single-use link to take the survey online. The data were weighted to balance the sample demographics using iterative proportional fitting. Weights were based on U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2023 data for the voting eligible population in New Jersey on variables of age, ethnicity, education level, region, and sex. The poll's margin of error is +/- 3.7 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. The margin of sampling error is higher for subsets. Sampling error does not account for other potential sources of bias in polls such as measurement error or non-response. The poll has a design effect of 1.27. The design effect reflects the increase in sampling variance introduced by weighting adjustments.