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# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

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## **NEW JERSEY VOTERS BACK WAGE FREEZE, NIX GAS TAX HIKE, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; VOTERS SPLIT ON RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA**

New Jersey voters support 53 – 42 percent a wage freeze for state workers, but oppose 65 – 33 percent raising the gas tax to balance the state budget, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

A total of 87 percent of voters say New Jersey’s budget problems are “very serious” or “somewhat serious,” the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

By a 57 – 32 percent margin, voters say cut services rather than raise taxes to balance the budget. Voter opinions on possible options are:

- Oppose 57 – 38 percent layoffs for state workers;
- 48 percent oppose state worker furloughs, with 43 percent in favor;
- Support 55 – 40 percent reduced pension benefits for new state workers.

None of the listed sub-groups wants to raise the gas tax. Opposition ranges from 56 – 42 percent among Democrats to 77 – 21 percent among Republicans.

In an open-ended question, allowing for any answer, 26 percent of New Jersey voters cite taxes as the top priority for Gov. Christopher Christie and the State Legislature, with 18 percent naming the economy or jobs, 16 percent listing education and 5 percent citing the state budget or spending.

“While the George Washington Bridge scandal dominates the headlines, voters are starting to recognize that the budget squeeze is a big problem and they’re prepared to look at cuts in public-employee pensions,” said Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“Sure it’s a labor-friendly state, but voters would consider limiting benefits for public employees. Layoffs? No. Furloughs? It’s close. And a bit more than half of voters would support a wage freeze.”

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“One thing that unites all voters in this most partisan state is opposition to a gas tax hike,” Carroll said. “We’re all against it.”

### Recreational Marijuana

With yawning gender, age and partisan gaps, New Jersey voters are divided 48 – 48 percent on the issue of legalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use.

Men support legalization 54 – 43 percent, with women opposed 52 – 43 percent. Voters 18 to 29 years old are for it 56 – 43 percent, with voters over 65 years old opposed 63 – 33 percent. Democrats are for legalization 55 – 41 percent, with Republicans opposed 61 – 34 percent. Independent voters are divided with 48 – 48 percent.

Only 41 percent of New Jersey voters, including 56 percent of voters under 30, acknowledge that they’ve smoked marijuana.

Marijuana is just as dangerous as alcohol, 49 percent of voters say, while 16 percent say it is more dangerous and 31 percent say it is less dangerous.

Marijuana use does not lead to other drug use, New Jersey voters say 50 – 42 percent.

If personal marijuana possession were legal in New Jersey, 60 percent of voters say it would not bother them if a neighbor grew marijuana in their home.

But 87 percent of voters say they would be “somewhat uncomfortable” or “very uncomfortable” riding in a car driven by someone who had consumed a moderate amount of marijuana.

“There’s enormous interest in the proposal to legalize marijuana, but voters split down the middle. Republicans say no; Democrats say yes and the highest support comes from younger voters,” Carroll said.

“Most New Jerseyans think that alcohol is as dangerous or more dangerous than marijuana. If their neighbor wanted to grow marijuana, most wouldn’t object but almost nobody would want to ride in a car driven by a pot smoker.”

From April 2 – 7, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,356 New Jersey voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

**For more information, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).**

11. What do you think should be the top priority for Governor Christie and the State Legislature in 2014?

	Tot
Economy (General)	4%
Jobs/Unemployment	13
Economy (Other Specific)	1
Wages/Minimum Wage	1
Budget (General)	3
Government spending	1
Budget deficit	1
Taxes (General)	15
Property taxes	10
Taxes (Other Specific)	1
Education (General)	12
Teachers	1
Funding/Spending education	1
Education (Other Specific)	2
Unions (General)	3
Hurricane Sandy Recovery	3
Healthcare	2
Elderly Issues	1
Gun Issues/Policy/Control	1
Housing/Affordable housing	1
Immigration Issues	1
Marijuana	1
Roads/Traffic/Infrastructure	1
Social Issues	1
Bipartisan/Cross party lines/ Coop to get things done	1
Government Corruption/Ethics	1
Replace Governor	1
Other	8
DK/NA	8

40. How serious do you think New Jersey's budget problems are; very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Very serious	43%	37%	43%	46%	44%	42%	25%	47%	44%	44%
Somewhat serious	44	48	45	43	43	45	49	42	46	43
Not too serious	8	11	6	7	9	7	17	6	5	11
Not at all serious	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	1
DK/NA	3	2	5	2	3	3	6	3	4	1

TREND: How serious do you think New Jersey's budget problems are; very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

	Apr 10 2014	Apr 21 2011	Feb 10 2011	Nov 11 2010	Jan 20 2010	VERY+SMWHT....	
						High	Low
						Nov 11 2010	Dec 11 2002
Very serious	43	79	82	86	80	86	35
Somewhat serious	44	18	15	13	17	13	51
Not too serious	8	1	2	-	2	-	10
Not at all serious	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
DK/NA	3	1	1	1	1	1	3

41. To balance the state budget, if you had to choose, would you prefer raising taxes or cutting government programs and services?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Raising taxes	32%	11%	56%	23%	32%	33%	39%	35%	30%	29%
Cutting services	57	82	33	66	61	54	56	58	58	56
DK/NA	11	7	12	11	8	13	6	7	11	15

TREND: To balance the state budget, if you had to choose, would you prefer raising taxes or cutting government programs and services? (\* High also 32% Apr 2011)

	Apr 10 2014	Apr 21 2011	Feb 10 2011	Nov 11 2010	Jan 20 2010	RAISE TAXES...	
						High	Low
						Apr 10 2014*	Nov 24 2009
Raising taxes	32	32	26	26	25	32	23
Cutting services	57	59	64	62	62	57	68
DK/NA	11	9	9	13	13	11	9

42. To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose - layoffs for state employees?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Support	38%	55%	19%	46%	41%	35%	31%	36%	42%	37%
Oppose	57	41	77	50	55	59	67	60	55	55
DK/NA	5	4	4	5	4	6	2	4	3	8

TREND: To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose layoffs for state employees?

	Apr 10 2014	Nov 17 2011	Apr 21 2011	Feb 10 2011	Nov 11 2010
Support	38	39	50	56	54
Oppose	57	54	43	38	39
DK/NA	5	7	7	7	7

43. To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose - furloughs for state employees?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Support	43%	52%	36%	45%	43%	43%	41%	38%	50%	44%
Oppose	48	40	56	46	50	47	46	54	44	46
DK/NA	9	8	8	9	7	10	13	8	6	11

TREND: To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose furloughs for state employees?

	Apr 10 2014	Nov 17 2011	Apr 21 2011	Feb 10 2011	Nov 11 2010
Support	43	49	61	65	63
Oppose	48	37	28	24	25
DK/NA	9	14	11	12	11

44. To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose - a wage freeze for state workers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Support	53%	66%	41%	59%	55%	52%	33%	53%	56%	59%
Oppose	42	29	55	35	42	42	65	42	38	35
DK/NA	5	5	5	5	3	7	2	4	6	6

TREND: To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose a wage freeze for state workers?

	Apr 10 2014	Nov 17 2011	Apr 21 2011	Feb 10 2011	Nov 11 2010	Jan 20 2010	Nov 24 2009
Support	53	62	72	77	78	71	75
Oppose	42	32	23	20	19	23	21
DK/NA	5	6	4	3	3	6	4

45. To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose - reducing pension benefits for new state workers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Support	55%	65%	43%	62%	58%	52%	47%	52%	61%	54%
Oppose	40	29	51	34	38	42	47	43	36	39
DK/NA	5	6	5	4	4	6	6	5	3	7

TREND: To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose reducing pension benefits for new state workers?

	Apr 10 2014	Apr 21 2011	Feb 10 2011
Support	55	63	66
Oppose	40	32	29
DK/NA	5	6	5

46. To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose - an increase in the gasoline tax?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Support	33%	21%	42%	35%	36%	30%	32%	33%	34%	34%
Oppose	65	77	56	64	63	67	67	66	65	63
DK/NA	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	3

TREND: To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax?

	Apr 10 2014	Jan 27 2005	Apr 02 2003
Support	33	23	33
Oppose	65	71	64
DK/NA	2	6	3

47. Do you support or oppose allowing adults in New Jersey to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Support	48%	34%	55%	48%	54%	43%	56%	54%	51%	33%
Oppose	48	61	41	48	43	52	43	42	45	63
DK/NA	4	4	3	4	3	5	1	3	4	4

48. Keeping in mind that all of your answers in this survey are confidential, have you, yourself ever happened to try marijuana?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	41%	37%	42%	41%	46%	37%	56%	45%	50%	19%
No	58	61	57	58	53	62	44	53	49	80
DK/NA	1	2	1	1	1	1	-	2	1	1

49. Do you think marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol, less dangerous than alcohol, or about equally as dangerous as alcohol?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
More	16%	24%	9%	18%	16%	17%	6%	16%	17%	20%
Less	31	21	40	24	36	27	53	35	29	18
Equally	49	52	47	54	45	53	38	47	52	55
NEITHR DANGEROUS (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	3	3	3	3	3	4	2	2	2	6

50. Do you think that for most people, the use of marijuana leads to the use of other drugs, or don't you think so?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	42%	51%	37%	44%	42%	43%	38%	40%	36%	55%
No	50	43	56	48	52	49	57	55	57	34
DK/NA	7	6	7	8	6	8	5	5	7	11

51. In Colorado where marijuana is legal for recreational use, people are allowed to grow the plants in their homes. If marijuana is legalized in New Jersey, would it bother you if one of your neighbors is growing marijuana in their home or wouldn't that bother you?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Yes	38%	50%	32%	39%	31%	45%	32%	37%	29%	54%
No	60	49	66	59	68	54	68	62	70	44
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	1	1	-	1	1	2

52. How comfortable would you be as a passenger in a car, with a driver who has smoked or consumed moderate amounts of marijuana; very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, somewhat uncomfortable, or very uncomfortable?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Very comfortable	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	7%	3%	3%	1%
Smwht comfortable	8	4	10	9	9	7	9	11	9	5
Smwht uncomfortable	18	16	22	14	24	14	28	19	18	13
Very uncomfortable	69	77	63	72	62	75	54	66	69	78
DK/NA	1	-	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2