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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

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NEW JERSEY VOTERS GO 50 – 47 PERCENT FOR GAS TAX HIKE, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; SUPPORT ALMOST 2-1 FOR MILLIONAIRES' TAX TO PAY PENSIONS

New Jersey voters tip 50 – 47 percent toward increasing the gas tax to finance road improvements and mass transit, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 62 – 37 percent opposition in a January 21 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University and it is the first time ever that support for a gas tax hike edges past opposition.

Support is 63 – 35 percent among Democrats with opposition at 56 – 43 percent among Republicans and 51 – 46 percent among independent voters. There is almost no gender gap, but age gaps open: Voters 18 to 34 years old are divided 47 – 52 percent and voters 35 to 54 years old are divided 48 – 50 percent. Voters over 55 years old back a gas tax hike 56 – 42 percent.

A total of 92 percent of New Jersey voters say the state's budget problems are "very serious" or "somewhat serious."

"All the talk of fiscal doom seems to have sunk in. The perennial no-no of New Jersey politics – a gasoline tax hike – is reversed by a margin thinner than the yellow line on the highway," said Quinnipiac University Poll Assistant Director Maurice Carroll.

"Precisely 50 percent of voters, who have been hearing politicians warn for months that the Garden State is running out of money for road repairs and transit improvements, now say they'd pay more at the pump.

"No one needs to convince New Jerseyans that the state has big budget problems. At just about every public event, Gov. Christopher Christie has been touting his complicated plan to attack the pension problem. Today's poll results suggest that people are listening."

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“Solutions? Voters like a millionaire’s tax, which Gov. Christie has said he’d veto. On the broader idea of balancing the state budget, 53 percent would prefer to cut services, while 34 percent would rather raise taxes,” Carroll added.

New Jersey voters support 64 – 33 percent raising taxes on people who make more than \$1 million to help fund public employee pensions. Among those opposed to the so-called “Millionaires’ Tax,” 30 percent who shift to support the tax if public employees increased their contributions to the pension funds.

The state has an obligation to fix public employee pensions, even if it means raising taxes, voters say 51 – 40 percent.

Public employees should use a 401 (k) type of retirement plan, instead of a set pension, voters say 55 – 35 percent. Support for the shift to a 401 (k) type plan is 72 – 17 percent among Republicans and 60 – 29 percent among independent voters. Democrats support traditional public employee pensions by a slim 49 – 42 percent.

A total of 89 percent of New Jersey voters say it is “very important” or “somewhat important” to repair the existing rail tunnel between the Garden State and Manhattan.

A total of 68 percent of voters say it is “very important” or “somewhat important” to add a second rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan.

“The deterioration of the rail tunnel to New York – requiring a multi-multi-million dollar fix – is a big problem, especially for the 11 percent of New Jersey voters who commute to New York,” Carroll said.

From April 9 – 14, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,428 New Jersey voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.6 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](#) @QuinnipiacPoll.

44. Would you describe the state of New Jersey's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Excellent	1%	2%	-	-	1%	-	-	1%	1%
Good	28	45	23	24	29	28	35	34	22
Not so good	47	41	52	49	45	48	42	43	53
Poor	23	11	24	25	23	23	22	22	23
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	-	2

TREND: Would you describe the state of New Jersey's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor? (*Low also 7% Feb 2009)

	Apr 21 2015	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	EXCLNT+GOOD...	
						High Oct 18 2001	Low Aug 12 2009*
Excellent	1	1	1	1	-	3	-
Good	28	37	35	33	35	54	7
Not so good	47	43	44	46	47	37	46
Poor	23	19	19	19	16	5	45
DK/NA	1	1	2	1	2	2	1

45. Do you think New Jersey's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Better	16%	22%	12%	16%	17%	15%	19%	16%	14%
Worse	23	19	24	23	21	24	26	21	22
The same	59	58	61	58	61	57	45	62	62
DK/NA	3	1	3	3	2	4	10	1	2

TREND: Do you think New Jersey's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Apr 21 2015	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Aug 07 2014	Apr 09 2014	BETTER.....	
						High Jul 10 2013	Low Mar 11 2009
Better	16	23	20	20	19	33	3
Worse	23	19	20	23	17	14	61
The same	59	57	59	56	61	51	35
DK/NA	3	1	2	1	3	2	2

46. 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.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Very serious	53%	45%	56%	55%	56%	50%	42%	54%	56%
Smwht serious	39	46	36	37	36	40	47	37	38
Not too serious	4	6	2	4	5	3	5	4	3
Not at all serious	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	-
DK/NA	4	2	4	4	3	5	4	4	3

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 21 2015	Apr 10 2014	Apr 21 2011	Feb 10 2011	Nov 11 2010	VERY+SMWHT....	
						High Nov 11 2010	Low Dec 11 2002
Very serious	53	43	79	82	86	86	35
Somewhat serious	39	44	18	15	13	13	51
Not too serious	4	8	1	2	-	-	10
Not at all serious	1	1	1	1	-	-	1
DK/NA	4	3	1	1	1	1	3

47. 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.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Raising taxes	34%	11%	55%	30%	36%	32%	46%	31%	33%
Cutting services	53	82	29	59	55	51	47	56	52
DK/NA	13	7	15	11	8	17	7	13	14

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

	Apr 21 2015	Apr 10 2014	Apr 21 2011	Feb 10 2011	Nov 11 2010	RAISE TAXES...	
						High Apr 21 2015	Low Nov 24 2009
Raising taxes	34	32	32	26	26	34	23
Cutting services	53	57	59	64	62	53	68
DK/NA	13	11	9	9	13	13	9

48. Would you support or oppose raising taxes on people who earn more than one million dollars to help fund public employee pensions?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Support	64%	34%	86%	62%	58%	69%	72%	66%	63%
Oppose	33	64	13	35	39	29	28	33	34
DK/NA	2	2	1	3	2	2	-	2	3

48A. (If oppose q48) How about if public employees also increased their contributions to their pension funds? Would you support or oppose raising taxes on people who earn more than one million dollars to help fund public employee pensions?

	OPPOSE RAISING TAXES Q48		
	Tot	Men	Wom
Support	30%	27%	34%
Oppose	67	71	61
DK/NA	3	2	5

49. Do you believe the state of New Jersey has an obligation to fix public employee pensions, even if it means raising taxes, or don't you think so?

							AGE IN YRS.....		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes/Obligation	51%	32%	68%	49%	53%	49%	55%	49%	53%
No	40	58	24	44	41	39	37	42	38
DK/NA	9	10	9	8	7	12	7	9	9

50. Do you think public employees should continue to receive a set pension when they retire or do you think public employees should use a 401(k) type plan?

							AGE IN YRS.....		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	18-34	35-54	55+
Set pension	35%	17%	49%	29%	34%	35%	34%	35%	36%
401(k) type plan	55	72	42	60	60	52	56	60	53
DK/NA	10	11	9	11	7	13	10	5	11

51. To help finance road improvements and mass transportation, would you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax?

							AGE IN YRS.....		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	18-34	35-54	55+
Support	50%	43%	63%	46%	51%	50%	47%	48%	56%
Oppose	47	56	35	51	46	48	52	50	42
DK/NA	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	2

	AREA.....						
				Philly		COMMUTE TO NYC	
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore	Yes	No
Support	51%	55%	50%	49%	44%	56%	50%
Oppose	46	43	50	48	53	42	48
DK/NA	3	2	-	3	3	2	2

TREND: To help finance road improvements and mass transportation, would you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax?

							SUPPORT.....	
							High	Low
	Apr 21	Jan 21	Dec 10	Aug 11	Nov 10		Apr 21	Dec 11
	2015	2015	2014	2014	2010		2015	2007
Support	50	37	39	36	35		50	24
Oppose	47	62	58	63	63		47	74
DK/NA	2	2	3	1	2		2	2

52. There is currently one rail tunnel carrying Amtrak and NJ Transit trains between New Jersey and Manhattan. How important do you think it is to repair the existing rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan; very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

							AGE IN YRS.....		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	18-34	35-54	55+
Very important	65%	53%	73%	65%	63%	67%	66%	62%	68%
Somewhat important	24	34	19	23	25	24	24	27	23
Not so important	4	5	3	4	4	4	8	3	2
Not important at all	4	4	3	4	6	2	1	4	4
DK/NA	3	3	3	3	2	3	1	4	3

	AREA.....						COMMUTE TO NYC	
	Philly						Yes	No
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore			
Very important	79%	64%	64%	60%	62%	81%	63%	
Somewhat important	12	28	25	24	29	16	26	
Not so important	3	4	8	3	2	2	4	
Not important at all	2	3	2	9	2	1	4	
DK/NA	3	2	1	4	5	-	3	

TREND: There is currently one rail tunnel carrying Amtrak and NJ Transit trains between New Jersey and Manhattan. How important do you think it is to repair the existing rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan; very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

	Apr 21 2015	Jan 21 2015
Very important	65	63
Somewhat important	24	29
Not so important	4	4
Not important at all	4	2
DK/NA	3	2

53. How important do you think it is to add a second rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan; very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

							AGE IN YRS.....		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	18-34	35-54	55+
Very important	35%	21%	43%	36%	38%	32%	42%	35%	34%
Somewhat important	33	40	31	31	31	35	32	35	32
Not so important	17	25	15	15	16	18	20	19	15
Not important at all	10	10	6	12	11	9	4	9	11
DK/NA	5	5	5	5	4	6	2	3	8

	AREA.....						COMMUTE TO NYC	
	Philly						Yes	No
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore			
Very important	50%	35%	31%	30%	31%	51%	33%	
Somewhat important	32	33	37	29	35	26	34	
Not so important	9	19	19	18	18	12	18	
Not important at all	6	8	9	16	9	10	10	
DK/NA	3	5	4	7	7	-	6	

TREND: How important do you think it is to add a second rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan; very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

	Apr 21 2015	Jan 21 2015
Very important	35	32
Somewhat important	33	30
Not so important	17	22
Not important at all	10	10
DK/NA	5	5

54. Do you commute to New York City for work or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....		
							18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	11%	10%	11%	12%	16%	7%	12%	17%	5%
No	89	90	89	88	84	93	88	83	95
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	AREA.....				
	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Yes	25%	13%	7%	3%	6%
No	75	87	93	97	94
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-

TREND: Do you commute to New York City for work or not?

	Apr 21 2015	Jan 21 2015	Dec 10 2014	Nov 17 2011	Dec 21 2010	Nov 10 2010
Yes	11	9	11	10	11	11
No	89	91	89	89	89	89
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	-