

# Quinnipiac university Poll

Maurice Carroll, Assistant Director,  
(212) 362-9217

Rubenstein  
Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026

---

**FOR RELEASE: DECEMBER 7, 2016**

## **CASINOS HAVE NOT BEEN GOOD FOR NEW JERSEY, VOTERS SAY, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; MANY WOULD LEAVE GARDEN STATE IF THEY COULD**

Casino gambling, approved for Atlantic City in 1976, has not been good for New Jersey, voters say 62 – 29 percent in a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

Garden State voters also say 60 – 35 percent that casino gambling has not been good for Atlantic City, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds.

Voters oppose 79 – 19 percent expanding casino gambling into other areas of the state.

Almost no party, gender, racial, age or regional group measured supports casino gambling in any of the questions on the subject. Voters 18 to 34 years old say 55 – 39 percent that casinos have been good for Atlantic City and Hispanic voters are divided 48 – 46 percent.

A total of 63 percent of New Jersey voters say the quality of life in the state is “excellent” or “good,” while 36 percent say it is “not so good” or “poor.”

Only 9 percent of voters say the quality of life in New Jersey has gotten better, while 39 percent say it has gotten worse and 50 percent say it has stayed the same.

A total of 42 percent of voters are “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the way things are going in the Garden State, while 58 percent are “somewhat dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied.”

And 46 percent of voters say they would move out of the Garden State if they had the opportunity, while 52 percent say they would remain. Men say 51 – 47 percent they would move, while women say 56 – 42 percent they would stay.

“Forty years after New Jersey voters approved casino gambling limited to Atlantic City, they say more than 2-1 that it was not the magic bullet it was cracked up to be,” said Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“And by wide margins, voters say casinos have not even helped Atlantic City.”

**-more-**

## **Quinnipiac University Poll/December 7, 2016 – page 2**

“Is it time to forget those Jersey jokes? Most of the neighbors would stay here, even if they had the chance to get out, but a lot of them would go if they could,” Carroll said.

“The quality of life is OK, most New Jerseyans say, but it’s not getting any better.”

### **Taxes, Pensions**

In an open-ended question, allowing for any answer, 42 percent of New Jersey voters list taxes as the most important problem facing the state, followed by 14 percent who cite the economy and 8 percent who say “politicians” or “political corruption.”

New Jersey voters are divided on the issue of state employee pensions as 45 percent say the state “has an obligation to fix public employee pensions, even if it means raising taxes,” and 48 percent say no.

Voters support 70 – 27 percent raising taxes on people who earn more than one million dollars to help fund public employee pensions, but oppose 69 – 27 percent “raising taxes across the board” to help fund pensions.

With support from all parties and most measured groups, voters support 59 – 31 percent increasing state employee contributions for health care. Voters in union households are opposed 47 – 41 percent.

But there are wide party and gender splits as voters oppose 51 – 43 percent reducing pension benefits for new state employees. Republicans support pension cuts 52 – 44 percent, with Democrats opposed 62 – 33 percent. Independent voters are divided 47 – 46 percent. Men are divided 48 – 47 percent, with women opposed to cuts 55 – 39 percent.

New Jersey voters oppose 55 – 34 percent having the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey spend \$10 to \$11 billion to build a new bus terminal in Manhattan. Only 10 percent of New Jersey voters say they commute to work in New York City and of that group, 21 percent say they commute by bus.

From November 28 – December 4, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,318 New Jersey voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 percentage points. Live interviewers call landlines 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, North Carolina, Georgia and the nation as a public service and for research.

Visit [poll.qu.edu](http://poll.qu.edu) or [www.facebook.com/quinnipiacpoll](https://www.facebook.com/quinnipiacpoll)  
Call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/QuinnipiacPoll) @QuinnipiacPoll.

17. Compared to a few years ago, do you think the quality of life in New Jersey has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Gotten better	9%	11%	9%	8%	9%	9%	9%	6%		
Gotten worse	39	36	40	42	33	44	38	40		
Stayed same	50	52	50	49	57	44	51	52		
DK/NA	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Gotten better	17%	9%	5%	5%	8%	7%	7%	8%	17%	
Gotten worse	35	34	44	42	34	44	39	49	33	
Stayed same	46	56	50	51	57	46	52	42	50	
DK/NA	2	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	-	

18. Regardless of whether you will move, if you had the opportunity, would you like to move out of New Jersey, or would you rather remain in New Jersey?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Move	46%	47%	40%	50%	51%	42%	46%	42%		
Remain	52	52	57	48	47	56	52	56		
DK/NA	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	2		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Move	49%	50%	53%	32%	50%	40%	44%	43%	50%	
Remain	47	50	45	66	49	58	54	53	49	
DK/NA	4	-	2	2	1	2	2	4	1	

19. What do you think is the most important problem facing New Jersey today?

	Tot
Taxes Total	42%
Taxes general	27
Property tax	13
Gas tax	1
Taxes other	1
Economy Total	14%
Economy general	3
Unemployment/Jobs	6
Cost of living	4
Minimum wage too low	1
Politicians Total	8%
Political corruption	4
Governor/State ldrshp/Legislature	3
Politicians other	1
Budget Total	6%
Budget general	1
Pensions	2
Budget priorities	1
Gov too big/Gov spending	1
Budget other	1
Education Total	6%
Education general	4
Education other	2
Crime Total	3%
Crime/Violence general	2
Drugs	1
Infrastructure	2%
Mass Transit Total	2%
Traffic/Congestion	1
Poor conditions roads/highways	1
Housing Costs/Availability	1%
Gas prices	1%
Class inequality	1%
Immigration	1%
Environment/Pollution	1%
Healthcare	1%
Overcrowding/Over population	1%
Other	5%
DK/NA	5%

20. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in New Jersey today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Very satisfied	2%	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%	2%	3%		
Smwht satisfied	40	47	40	38	40	39	38	40		
Smwht dissatisfied	41	33	44	42	43	39	46	39		
Very dissatisfied	17	17	13	19	13	19	14	17		
DK/NA	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-		

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		COLLEGE DEG			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Very satisfied	3%	2%	1%	3%	3%	2%	3%	-	1%	
Smwht satisfied	48	41	34	39	39	39	39	39	48	
Smwht dissatisfied	36	45	44	40	43	42	43	38	35	
Very dissatisfied	12	12	20	18	14	16	15	22	15	
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	

21. 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	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Excellent	1%	3%	1%	-	2%	1%	1%	1%		
Good	40	43	40	36	46	34	43	40		
Not so good	44	40	45	48	39	49	44	43		
Poor	14	12	14	15	12	15	12	16		
DK/NA	1	2	-	1	1	1	1	1		

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		COLLEGE DEG			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Excellent	5%	-	-	-	1%	-	1%	4%	1%	
Good	55	49	30	28	47	36	41	28	43	
Not so good	32	44	50	49	39	47	43	56	40	
Poor	8	7	19	19	13	15	14	10	14	
DK/NA	1	-	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Better	10%	12%	10%	7%	11%	9%	8%	8%		
Worse	35	31	37	37	28	40	31	35		
The same	54	56	51	55	58	50	60	55		
DK/NA	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2		

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		COLLEGE DEG			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Better	14%	9%	9%	7%	11%	5%	8%	8%	16%	
Worse	26	30	38	40	27	38	33	51	30	
The same	57	60	52	49	60	55	58	40	52	
DK/NA	3	1	-	3	2	1	2	1	2	

23. Would you say that you are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....				
							COLLEGE DEG		Yes	No	
Better off	33%	33%	32%	32%	41%	27%	36%	29%			
Worse off	37	38	38	36	32	42	34	43			
SAME (VOL)	29	29	28	30	27	31	29	28			
DK/NA	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	-			
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....						
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Better off	56%	39%	26%	15%	40%	26%	32%	37%	35%		
Worse off	22	36	46	40	33	43	38	32	36		
SAME (VOL)	21	25	27	43	27	31	29	29	29		
DK/NA	2	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	-		

24. To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose more state employee contributions for health care?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....				
							COLLEGE DEG		Yes	No	
Support	59%	63%	56%	59%	61%	58%	58%	60%			
Oppose	31	30	35	30	31	31	35	30			
DK/NA	9	7	10	11	8	11	6	10			
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....						
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Support	65%	57%	60%	55%	62%	57%	59%	48%	69%		
Oppose	30	34	30	34	32	34	33	42	18		
DK/NA	6	9	10	11	6	10	8	9	14		
	Union Hshlds										
Support	41%										
Oppose	47										
DK/NA	13										

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Support	43%	52%	33%	47%	48%	39%	50%	48%		
Oppose	51	44	62	46	47	55	46	45		
DK/NA	6	4	5	7	5	6	4	7		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Support	26%	53%	52%	40%	55%	43%	49%	35%	27%	
Oppose	70	45	42	52	40	50	45	64	65	
DK/NA	5	3	5	8	5	6	6	1	9	
	Union Hshlds									
Support	34%									
Oppose	63									
DK/NA	3									

26. 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?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Yes/Obligation	45%	33%	53%	47%	46%	43%	48%	41%		
No	48	60	38	46	48	48	45	51		
DK/NA	7	6	9	7	6	9	7	9		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Yes/Obligation	48%	41%	48%	46%	46%	43%	45%	43%	47%	
No	45	52	47	43	47	48	48	47	51	
DK/NA	7	7	6	11	7	8	8	10	2	
	Union Hshlds									
Yes/Obligation	53%									
No	37									
DK/NA	9									

27. 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	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG				
							Yes	No			
Support	70%	51%	89%	68%	63%	77%	66%	65%			
Oppose	27	47	9	29	34	21	32	31			
DK/NA	3	2	2	3	4	2	2	4			
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....						
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Support	77%	71%	66%	72%	60%	70%	65%	88%	81%		
Oppose	22	27	32	25	37	27	32	9	17		
DK/NA	-	2	2	4	3	2	3	3	1		
	Union Hshlds										
Support	74%										
Oppose	23										
DK/NA	3										

28. Would you support or oppose raising taxes across the board to help fund public employee pensions?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG				
							Yes	No			
Support	27%	22%	34%	25%	30%	25%	26%	27%			
Oppose	69	75	63	71	69	70	71	69			
DK/NA	3	3	3	3	1	5	3	4			
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....						
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Support	34%	27%	23%	25%	29%	25%	27%	28%	33%		
Oppose	64	71	74	69	69	71	70	68	64		
DK/NA	3	2	3	6	2	5	4	5	4		
	Union Hshlds										
Support	37%										
Oppose	61										
DK/NA	3										



29. As you may know, the gasoline tax has been raised 23 cents per gallon. Do you think the extra money from the gas tax hike should go mainly to improvements to roads and bridges or mainly to improvements to mass transit or to both equally?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Roads/Bridges	40%	53%	32%	37%	46%	35%	36%	50%
Mass Transit	3	3	2	3	4	2	5	3
Both	56	43	64	57	49	62	58	45
DK/NA	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	3

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Roads/Bridges	33%	38%	44%	41%	46%	40%	43%	35%	23%
Mass Transit	6	2	1	3	5	2	4	-	-
Both	59	59	54	53	47	56	52	64	74
DK/NA	2	-	1	3	2	1	2	1	3

	AREA.....					COMMUTE TO NYC	
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore	Yes	No
Roads/Bridges	25%	38%	46%	45%	47%	25%	42%
Mass Transit	7	2	1	1	4	7	2
Both	65	59	51	52	48	64	55
DK/NA	3	1	2	1	2	4	1

30. As you may know, there is a plan by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey to spend 10 to 11 billion dollars to build a new bus terminal in Manhattan. Do you support or oppose this plan?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	34%	29%	43%	31%	36%	33%	38%	25%
Oppose	55	62	45	57	54	56	51	64
DK/NA	11	9	12	11	10	11	12	11

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Support	41%	45%	29%	27%	31%	32%	31%	38%	46%
Oppose	49	48	57	62	57	58	57	53	46
DK/NA	10	8	14	11	12	10	11	10	7

	AREA.....					COMMUTE TO NYC	
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore	Yes	No
Support	45%	40%	34%	22%	27%	60%	31%
Oppose	47	49	53	70	60	32	58
DK/NA	8	11	14	8	13	7	11

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....			
							Yes	No		
Yes/Commute	10%	6%	12%	12%	12%	7%	11%	4%		
No	90	94	88	88	87	92	89	96		
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Yes/Commute	13%	18%	8%	1%	11%	4%	8%	10%	17%	
No	87	81	92	98	88	96	92	90	82	
DK/NA	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	AREA.....									
	Philly									
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore					
Yes/Commute	18%	12%	7%	4%	7%					
No	82	88	93	96	93					
DK/NA	1	-	1	-	-					

31a. (If yes q31) How do you get to work: by car, train, bus, or ferry?

COMMUTE TO NYC Q31

Car	33%
Train	43
Bus	21
Ferry	1
DK/NA	2

32. Do you think casino gambling has been good for the state of New Jersey, or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....			
							Yes	No		
Yes/Good	29%	34%	25%	30%	34%	25%	29%	35%		
No	62	58	68	59	58	65	63	58		
DK/NA	9	8	7	11	8	10	8	7		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Yes/Good	45%	28%	25%	24%	36%	28%	32%	17%	33%	
No	47	62	68	67	57	63	60	70	58	
DK/NA	8	10	7	9	7	8	7	13	9	
	AREA.....									
	Philly									
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore					
Yes/Good	28%	25%	24%	40%	32%					
No	61	68	63	52	61					
DK/NA	11	8	13	8	7					

33. Do you think casino gambling has been good for Atlantic City, or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG				
							Yes	No			
Yes/Good	35%	38%	35%	31%	39%	31%	32%	34%			
No	60	57	60	64	55	64	64	61			
DK/NA	5	4	5	5	6	5	4	4			
AGE IN YRS.....											
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	WHITE.....						
					Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Yes/Good	55%	34%	31%	23%	36%	31%	33%	28%	48%		
No	39	63	65	71	59	66	63	66	46		
DK/NA	6	3	4	6	5	3	4	6	6		
AREA.....											
Philly											
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore						
Yes/Good	37%	33%	27%	40%	38%						
No	57	62	68	55	57						
DK/NA	6	5	5	5	5						

34. Do you support or oppose expanding casino gambling into more areas of New Jersey?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG				
							Yes	No			
Support	19%	21%	13%	22%	25%	14%	17%	17%			
Oppose	79	77	84	76	74	84	81	80			
DK/NA	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	3			
AGE IN YRS.....											
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	WHITE.....						
					Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp		
Support	31%	23%	11%	12%	23%	11%	17%	14%	36%		
Oppose	67	75	86	87	75	86	81	86	63		
DK/NA	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	-	1		
AREA.....											
Philly											
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore						
Support	28%	22%	19%	10%	13%						
Oppose	72	76	79	88	84						
DK/NA	1	2	2	2	3						