



Monday, Jan. 23, 2012

2 pp.

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Not Much Fuel for Debate: New Jersey voters don't want to pump gas

New Jersey voters are pumped up about not pumping gas. According to the most recent statewide poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind™, 63% of voters say they support the Garden State rule that requires a gas station attendant to pump their gas. Just 23% say they oppose it. And 14% say they're not sure, or they have mixed views.

There are no differences by age. The majority opinion is consistent from the very youngest drivers to the very oldest.

"Clearly, this is an aspect of life in the Garden State that Jerseyans have embraced," said Peter Woolley, a political scientist and director of the poll.

However, women are significantly more likely to support the rule than men. Female support is very strong at 72%-15%, while men support it by 55%-31%.

"I don't call it pampering," said Woolley, "until I go to Pennsylvania and try to figure out how the pump works."

But there are some political undercurrents. Self-described conservatives support the rule by 55%-29%, while liberals approve by the much more robust margin of 70%-21%. Republicans approve by a hardy 61%-25%, but Democrats by a hardier 72%-19%.

"Some voters think the regulation is government interference," said Woolley. "Others think it's sensible and convenient."

New Jersey is not unique in this respect. Oregon also forbids customers to pump gas.

"We'll run the question again in summer, when it's not snowing or pouring rain, and it's not too hot either," said Woolley. "Perhaps then drivers will be more inclined to get out of the car to work the pump themselves."

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 800 registered voters statewide was conducted by telephone using both landlines and cell phones from Jan. 2 through Jan. 8, 2012, and has a margin of error of +/-3.5 percentage points.

In New Jersey, as you know, you can't pump your own gas, the gas station must pump it for you. Do you support or oppose this rule?													
	All	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	lib	Mod	cons	Dem	ind	Rep	men	women
Support	63%	67	62	61	65	70	65	55	72	56	61	55	72
Oppose	23%	20	23	26	22	21	20	29	19	26	25	31	15
Unsure/mixed	14%	13	15	13	14	10	16	16	9	17	14	15	13

Methodology, questions, and tables on the web at: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>
 Radio actualities at 201.692.2846 For more information, please call 201.692.7032

Methodology, Questions, and Tables

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from Jan. 2, 2012, through Jan. 8, 2012, using a randomly selected sample of 800 registered voters statewide. The margin of error for a sample of 800 randomly selected respondents is +/- 3.5 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies by the size of that subgroup. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling error. This kind of error, which cannot be measured, arises from a number of factors including, but not limited to, non-response (eligible individuals refusing to be interviewed), question wording, the order in which questions are asked, and variations among interviewers. PublicMind interviews are conducted by Opinion America of Cedar Knolls, NJ, with professionally-trained interviewers using a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection is achieved by computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a land line phone number (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected. Landline households are supplemented with a separate, randomly selected sample of cell-phone-only-households, interviewed in the same time frame. The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, race and gender.

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1.-3B Released Jan. 13, 2012.

NJ1-5 released Jan. 10, 2012.

NJ6. In New Jersey, as you know, you can't pump your own gas, the gas station must pump it for you. Do you support or oppose this rule?

Sample Characteristics (%)

Gender

Male	49
Female	51

Age

18-29	12
30-44	26
45-59	31
60+	29
Ref.	3

In addition to being American, would you say you are...?

White	71
Black	13
Hispanic or Latino	8
Asian	4
Other/ref.	4

Public Employee Household?

yes	24
No	75
not sure/ref.	2

Party ID

Dem. + lean Dem.	47
ind. + unsure + ref.	17
Rep. + lean Rep.	35

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