



For immediate release... **Tuesday, March 19, 2013** 6 pp.
Contact: Krista Jenkins Office: 973.443.8390 Cell: 908.328.8967
kjenkins@fdu.edu

DO THE RIGHT THING! GARDEN STATE RESIDENTS ON REBUILDING AFTER SANDY

As the power outages and felled trees from Hurricane Sandy grow increasingly distant in New Jersey's rearview mirror, attention to ongoing rebuilding efforts continues to come increasingly into focus. The most recent poll from Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind finds that registered voters in the Garden State, by an approximate two-to-one margin, believe property owners should be required to rebuild in a way that makes their property better protected against significant weather events (64%), rather than being allowed to rebuild in whatever manner they choose (31%). A majority also favors the forfeiture of future assistance for future weather events should one rebuild in defiance of FEMA recommendations (58%), with a third (33%) who say individuals should be able to rebuild in whatever manner they choose and maintain their federal assistance.

"This is a touchy subject. On the one hand, there are the rights of property owners who wish to maintain their freedom to rebuild in the manner they both choose and can afford, while one must also consider the public's right to make sure money isn't spent on those who fail to take adequate precautions against the darker side of Mother Nature," said Krista Jenkins, director of PublicMind and professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Garden Staters of all political and social stripes agree with mandated rebuilding in a specific way. Education is about the only clear predictor of attitudes toward rebuilding, with the educated more strongly in favor of directed rebuilding than those with less than a college degree. Those with college degrees are significantly more likely to say those affected should be required to rebuild in a specific way (72%) or run the risk of forfeiting future assistance (66%) as compared with those with high school degrees (53 and 45%) or some college (56 and 56%). Even partisanship, something that often divides Garden Staters on issues related to public spending and government intrusion into private matters, is unrelated to attitudes toward rebuilding.

Although the vast majority of Garden Staters were either unaffected personally by Sandy (64%) or are now completely recovered (21%), one in seven (15%) still say they're struggling to get back what was lost over four months ago. Their plight is not going unacknowledged by many New Jersey residents. When asked if they were satisfied or unsatisfied with the pace of federal assistance to the state, half (51%) report dissatisfaction, while significantly fewer (30%) are satisfied.

“Taken as a whole, these numbers suggest that Garden Staters are looking for everyone to act responsibly in the aftermath of Sandy. Property owners should rebuild with adequate protections in place, and the federal government should do more to help the hardest hit,” said Jenkins.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University statewide poll of 702 registered voters was conducted by telephone with both landline and cell phones from March 4 through March 10, 2013, and has a margin of error of +/-3.7 percentage points.

*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

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from March 4th through March 10th, 2013 using a randomly selected sample of 702 registered New Jersey voters. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of plus or minus 3.7 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 respondents interviewed in the same time frame. The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, race and gender.

Sandy recovery

Should individuals who lost homes due to Hurricane Sandy be allowed to rebuild in whatever manner they choose, or should they be required to rebuild in a way that makes their business or home better protected against weather events like Hurricane Sandy?

	All	Party			Gender		Age			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Rebuild in whatever manner	31%	29	36	33	34	29	46	40	24	25
Rebuild in a specific way	64%	67	58	61	62	65	51	58	71	68
Unsure (vol)	4%	3	3	5	3	5	4	3	4	5
Refused (vol)	1%	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	2

Education			Race	
HS or less	Some college	College grad	White	Non-white
41	39	24	31	33
53	56	72	63	64
4	4	4	4	3
1	1	1	1	-

Sandy recovery cont.

Should individuals who lost homes due to Hurricane Sandy forfeit assistance if they rebuild in defiance of FEMA recommendations, or should homeowners be permitted to rebuild in any manner they choose and still receive assistance if their property is damaged or lost by a significant weather event?

	All	Party			Gender		Age			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Forfeit	58%	59	60	59	60	57	52	58	62	58
Not forfeit	33%	36	29	32	32	34	40	38	32	27
Unsure (vol)	8%	5	9	10	8	8	8	3	6	13
Refused (vol)	1%	1	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	1

Education			Race	
HS or less	Some college	College grad	White	Non-white
45	56	66	62	49
44	36	27	30	43
10	9	6	8	8
2	-	1	1	-

Sandy recovery cont.

If you were personally affected by Hurricane Sandy, how close to full recovery are you? Are you...

	All	Party			Gender		Age			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Not at all recovered	3%	2	9	3	3	3	4	2	4	4
Somewhat recovered	6%	7	6	5	4	7	6	7	6	4
Almost recovered	6%	5	2	9	7	5	2	7	6	6
Completely recovered	21%	19	27	19	22	20	30	22	20	16
Not affected	64%	66	56	64	63	65	58	61	64	71

Education			Race	
HS or less	Some college	College grad	White	Non-white
4	4	3	4	1
5	5	6	4	7
5	6	6	7	5
18	20	23	23	16
68	65	62	61	72

Federal Assistance to NJ

Are you satisfied or unsatisfied with the pace of federal assistance to New Jersey?

	All	Party			Gender		Age			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Satisfied	30%	37	30	23	35	27	49	34	23	27
Unsatisfied	51%	47	51	56	46	56	41	48	56	56
Unsure (vol)	17%	15	18	20	18	17	10	17	20	15
Refused (vol)	1%	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1

Education			Race	
HS or less	Some college	College grad	White	Non-white
32	40	24	26	41
53	49	52	55	43
14	10	23	18	14
1	1	1	1	1

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1 and US2 released March 13, 2013

NJ1 through NJ3; NJ5 through NJ8 released March 12, 2013

NJ4 released March 13, 2013

S1 Should individuals who lost homes due to Hurricane Sandy be allowed to rebuild in whatever manner they choose, or should they be required to rebuild in a way that makes their business or home better protected against weather events like Hurricane Sandy?

[Rotate response choices]

- 1 Rebuild in whatever manner they choose
- 2 Required to rebuild in a specific way
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

S2 Should individuals who lost homes due to Hurricane Sandy forfeit assistance if they rebuild in defiance of FEMA recommendations, or should homeowners be permitted to rebuild in any manner they choose and still receive assistance if their property is damaged or lost by a significant weather event? [Rotate response choices]

- 1 Forfeit assistance
- 2 Not forfeit assistance
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

S3 If you were personally affected by Hurricane Sandy, how close to full recovery are you? Are you....

- 1 Not at all recovered
- 2 Somewhat recovered
- 3 Almost recovered
- 4 Completely recovered
- 5 Not personally affected
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

S4 Are you satisfied or unsatisfied with the pace of federal assistance to New Jersey?

[Randomize unsatisfied/satisfied]

- 1 Satisfied
- 2 Unsatisfied
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Sample characteristics – Registered voters**Gender**

Male	49
Female	51

Age

18-29	13
30-44	28
45-59	31
60+	26
Refused	2

Race/Ethnicity

White	69
Black/African-American	13
Latino or Hispanic	10
Asian	4
Other/refused	4

Public employee household

Yes	23
No	75
Unsure/refused	2

Party identification

Democrat/Lean Democrat	46
Independent/DK/refused	20
Republican/Lean Republican	34