



***FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON POLL FINDS SUPPORT FOR QUARTERLY
PENSION PAYMENTS, BUT CONCERNS OVER BUDGET CUTS AND TAX
INCREASES***

Fairleigh Dickinson University, January 21, 2016 –The most recent statewide survey of adults in the Garden State from Fairleigh Dickinson University’s PublicMind finds residents largely unaware of a proposed ballot measure that would mandate quarterly payments to the public employee pension fund, and yet supportive of the proposed change. More than half (58%) say they’ve heard little or nothing at all about a proposed amendment to require the state to make quarterly payments to the public employee pension system in order to address the pension deficit. Despite limited awareness, virtually the same (59%) number support the proposed amendment.

Those from public employee union households are following this issue the most closely (65%), and offer the strongest support for the proposed amendment (77%).

“Although New Jersey wouldn’t be the only state to enshrine protections for the state’s public employee pension in its constitution, it would be the first to require quarterly payments. Even though the hurdles necessary for the ballot measure to appear in November remain, it looks like the public campaign already has a head start,” said Krista Jenkins, professor of political science and director of PublicMind.

Support for the amendment drops off when people are asked if they’d still endorse the amendment given state budget cuts or increased taxes. Twenty-seven percent of those who said they favored the amendment would reconsider their support if it meant reduced government spending, and almost half (46%) would change their mind from a yea to a nay if more taxes were on the table.

Jenkins continued: “These findings raise questions about what people would like to see cut in the budget, and it’s likely that no two people would cut the same thing. But many residents are hostile to big spending – unless of course the money is being spent on them. Things become even more complicated for the proposal when tax increases are mentioned. If the state needs to find the money somewhere for quarterly payments, don’t look to taxpayers unless policymakers want to risk the support of the public.”

Methodology - The Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind survey was conducted by landline and cellular telephone January 4-10, 2016 among a random statewide sample of 902 adult residents. Results have a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.6 points, including the design effect.

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 January 4-10, using a randomly selected sample of 902 adult residents in New Jersey. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of +/- 3.6 percentage points, including the design effect. 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 landline 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 gender, age, education, and race. 541 interviews were conducted on landlines and 361 were conducted on cellular telephones.

The sample was purchased from Marketing Systems Group and the research was funded by Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Tables

I'd like to ask you about a number of proposed amendments to the state constitution that might be on the ballot in November of this year. Can you please tell me how much you've heard or read about each of the following?

<i>A proposed amendment to require the state to make quarterly payments to the public employee pension system in order to address the pension deficit</i>													
		PID			Gender		Race		Age			Union Household	
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-59	60+	Self/other	No
A lot	21%	24	23	19	22	21	23	16	9	22	28	43	13
Some	21%	18	25	23	20	21	21	19	15	24	22	22	19
Just a little	22%	22	25	19	23	21	21	24	21	21	22	14	24
Nothing at all	36%	36	27	39	34	37	34	40	54	33	27	20	42
DK (vol)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Refused (vol)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<i>Do you favor or oppose [rotate] amending the state constitution and requiring the state to make quarterly payments to the public employee pension system in order to address the pension deficit?</i>													
		PID			Gender		Race		Age			Union household	
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-34	35-59	60+	Self/other	No
Favor	59%	69	54	51	59	59	58	61	65	56	58	77	54
Oppose	29%	20	32	38	31	27	30	25	21	33	29	18	32
DK (vol)	11%	11	12	10	9	13	10	14	13	10	10	4	13
Refused (vol)	1%	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	2

	<i>If it means raising taxes to fully fund state pension payments, would you still support the amendment? [Asked only of those who said they favor the proposed amendment] [N = 459]</i>	<i>If it means cutting the state budget to fully fund state pension payments, would you still support the amendment? [Asked only of those who said they favor the proposed amendment] [N =459]</i>
<i>Favor</i>	50%	65%
<i>Oppose</i>	46%	27%
<i>Don't know (Vol)</i>	3%	7%
<i>Refused (Vol)</i>	0	0

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1 and US2 withheld

NJ1 through NJ6 released January 12, 2016

I'd like to ask you about a number of proposed amendments to the state constitution that might be on the ballot in November of this year. Can you please tell me how much you've heard or read about each of the following?

PENS1 A proposed amendment to require the state to make quarterly payments to the public employee pension system in order to address the pension deficit.

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Just a little
- 4 Nothing at all
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

PENS2 Do you favor or oppose [rotate] amending the state constitution and requiring the state to make quarterly payments to the public employee pension system in order to address the pension deficit?

- 1 Favor Ask PENS2A
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Rotate PENS2A and PENS2B

PENS2A. If it means raising taxes to fully fund state pension payments, would you still support the amendment?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

PENS2B. If it means cutting the state budget to fully fund state pension payments, would you still support the amendment?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Weighted sample characteristics

Gender	<i>Male</i>	49%
	<i>Female</i>	51%
Age	<i>18-34</i>	28%
	<i>35-59</i>	41%
	<i>60+</i>	30%
	<i>Refused</i>	1%
Race	<i>White</i>	64%
	<i>African American</i>	12%
	<i>Hispanic</i>	4%
	<i>Asian</i>	15%
	<i>Other/Refused</i>	4%
Party (with leaners)	<i>Dem</i>	43%
	<i>Ind/DK/Refused</i>	21%
	<i>Repub</i>	36%