

## NO CONSENSUS OVER ENDING DOUBLE-DIPPING AMONG STATE WORKERS

**Fairleigh Dickinson University, March 9, 2016** – Some New Jersey state employees get to retire, start collecting their pension, then go back to work for the state and continue to collect their pension. However, according to the most recent statewide survey of registered voters from Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind finds that almost two thirds (63%) have heard little or nothing about double-dipping and opinion is divided over whether the practice should continue. Just 41 percent of New Jersey voters approve of a proposed bill that would stop state pension payments to retirees who return to work for the county or state, while 49 percent who disapprove of the legislation.

"The fact that so many are in the dark about the issue could be why the practice continues," said Krista Jenkins, professor of political science and director of PublicMind. "A divided electorate means there's room for both proponents and opponents of the legislation to shift the balance in their favor, assuming they're able to make some gains in their public education campaigns."

A majority of Republicans support the legislation (55%), while a majority of Democrats (57%) oppose it, and independents (48%-37%) are more decidedly against the bill that would limit retiree incomes if they seek another job with the state.

"Clearly, a practice that is taken advantage of by both sides of the aisle is not a practice that is easy to end," said Jenkins.

Methodology - The Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind survey was conducted by landline and cellular telephone February 24-28, 2016 among a random statewide sample of 694 self-identified registered voters. Results have a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.9 points, including the design effect.

*Methodology, questions, and tables on the web at: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>*

*Radio actualities at 201.692.2846*

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### Methodology

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from February 24-28, 2016 using a randomly selected sample of 694 self-identified registered voters in New Jersey. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of +/- 3.9 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. 504 interviews were conducted on landlines and 307 were conducted on cellular telephones.

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

### Tables

| <i>Currently, retired state and county workers can currently return to work for the county or state and continue to collect their pension. How much have you heard or read about this issue?</i> |            |     |     |       |        |        |       |           |                 |          |       |       |     |
|--|------------|-----|-----|-------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|-----------------|----------|-------|-------|-----|
|  | PID        |     |     |       | Gender |        | Race  |           | Education       |          | Age   |       |     |
|  | All        | Dem | Ind | Repub | Male   | Female | White | Non-white | HS/Some college | College+ | 18-34 | 35-59 | 60+ |
| A lot  | <b>16%</b> | 18  | 10  | 18    | 18     | 14     | 19    | 10        | 15              | 18       | 7     | 18    | 20  |
| Some   | <b>21%</b> | 19  | 16  | 27    | 19     | 22     | 24    | 15        | 17              | 24       | 17    | 21    | 22  |
| Just a little  | <b>21%</b> | 20  | 25  | 19    | 19     | 22     | 19    | 24        | 22              | 20       | 19    | 21    | 21  |
| Nothing at all   | <b>42%</b> | 43  | 50  | 36    | 42     | 42     | 37    | 51        | 46              | 39       | 56    | 40    | 36  |
| DK (vol)   | <b>0</b>   | 0   | 0   | 1     | 0      | 0      |       | 0         | 0               | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0   |
| Refused (vol)  | <b>0</b>   | 0   | 0   | 0     | 0      | 0      | 0     | 0         | 0               | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0   |

| <i>Do you approve or disapprove [rotate] of a proposed bill that would stop state pension payments to retirees who return to work for the county or state?</i> |            |     |     |       |        |        |       |           |                 |          |       |       |     |
|--|------------|-----|-----|-------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|-----------------|----------|-------|-------|-----|
|  | PID        |     |     |       | Gender |        | Race  |           | Education       |          | Age   |       |     |
|  | All        | Dem | Ind | Repub | Male   | Female | White | Non-white | HS/Some college | College+ | 18-34 | 35-59 | 60+ |
| Approve  | <b>41%</b> | 34  | 37  | 55    | 43     | 39     | 45    | 33        | 38              | 43       | 32    | 44    | 42  |
| Disapprove   | <b>49%</b> | 57  | 48  | 36    | 47     | 51     | 43    | 60        | 53              | 46       | 56    | 47    | 46  |
| DK (vol)   | <b>10%</b> | 9   | 14  | 9     | 9      | 10     | 11    | 6         | 8               | 11       | 11    | 8     | 11  |
| Refused (vol)  | <b>1%</b>  | 1   | 1   | 0     | 1      | 0      | 1     | 0         | 1               | 0        | 0     | 1     | 1   |

### Exact Question Wording and Order

US1 through NJ 2 released March 2

NJ4 *Currently, retired state and county workers can currently return to work for the county or state and continue to collect their pension. How much have you heard or read about this issue?*

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Just a little
- 4 None at all

- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

NJ5 Do you approve or disapprove [rotate] of a proposed bill that would stop state pension payments to retirees who return to work for the county or state?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

**Weighted sample characteristics**

|                             |                         | <b>Registered voters<br/>N = 694; MoE = +/- 3.9</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Gender</b>               | <i>Male</i>             | 50%   |
|                             | <i>Female</i>           | 50%   |
| <b>Age</b>                  | <i>18-34</i>            | 23%   |
|                             | <i>35-59</i>            | 43%   |
|                             | <i>60+</i>              | 34%   |
|                             | <i>Refused</i>          | 1%  |
| <b>Race</b>                 | <i>White</i>            | 66%   |
|                             | <i>African American</i> | 14%   |
|                             | <i>Hispanic</i>         | 13%   |
|                             | <i>Asian</i>            | 4%  |
|                             | <i>Other/Refused</i>    | 3%  |
| <b>Party (with leaners)</b> | <i>Dem</i>              | 50%   |
|                             | <i>Ind/DK/Refused</i>   | 20%   |
|                             | <i>Repub</i>            | 30%   |