

With some states taking a stand against Trump policies, respondents were asked what state leaders should do if they believe federal laws are a bad idea. Should all laws be implemented as instructed, or should state leaders defy the feds and not enact federal laws for which they disagree? On this question, Garden Staters are decidedly on the side of not going against federal laws. Half (49%) say all federal laws should be implemented, regardless of what state leaders think, with a third (37%) who say state leaders should act in defiance. Support for implementation is strongest among Republicans (73%) with half of independents (50%) and 35 percent of Democrats who endorse the same.

“Democrats reign in New Jersey. As much as the public seems to favor Democratic leadership, there’s a limit to their tolerance for state leaders taking a stand against Trump policies,” said Jenkins.

President Trump

Turning to the president, he remains largely unpopular across the Garden State, with 60 percent who disapprove as compared with 31 percent who approve. He remains under water with New Jersey residents, and his approval rating doesn’t appear to be budging. Women reject the president by a more than two-to-one ratio (25% approve, 66% disapprove) with men slightly more supportive (37% approve, 53% disapprove).

Garden Staters also remain pessimistic about the health of the country. More are concerned (58%) than are content (33%). Partisan views are split, with independents about evenly divided between those who say things are going well (40%) versus those who think otherwise (47%).

“It’s interesting that both Murphy and Trump – two polar opposites politically – are neighbors when it comes to public approval in New Jersey. Murphy’s right side up with the public, while Trump is upside down, but both men are getting about a third the public to say good things about them. Trump’s numbers are fairly fixed, as few are unable to assess the president, but the jury remains out for many when it comes to Murphy, even though he just came off an expensive gubernatorial election,” said Jenkins.

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 Fairleigh Dickinson University poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone January 24-28, 2018 among a random sample of 810 adults in New Jersey. Results have a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.8 percentage points, including the design effect.

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 Key Research of Provo, Utah 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.

The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, sex, and race. 426 interviews were conducted on landlines and 384 were conducted on cellular telephones.

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

The FDU Poll received an “A” rating from statistician Nate Silver’s FiveThirtyEight blog. The ratings measure both accuracy and bias for all major polling services in the United States, providing an update to similar research the poll watchers conducted in 2014. The FDU Poll’s “A” rating puts it in the top 14 of the more than 380 polling institutes reviewed and graded from A+ through F. The FDU Poll was found to have a 94 percent accuracy rate for predicting election results, and is one of only two A-rated polling institutes with zero bias to their rankings.

Tables

<i>And turning to New Jersey, do you approve or disapprove [rotate] of the job Phil Murphy is doing as governor?</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	35%	55	25	9	32	37	31	44	34	36	44	33	31
Disapprove	21%	5	22	46	21	20	24	14	25	17	8	24	27
DK (vol)	40%	37	49	42	43	38	40	40	37	43	46	39	39
Ref. (vol)	4%	3	5	4	3	5	5	2	4	4	2	5	3

<i>In your opinion, do you think things in New Jersey are moving in the right direction or are they on the wrong track [rotate]?</i>													
		PID			Gender		Race		Education		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white	HS/Some college	College+	18-34	35-59	60+
Right direction	39%	57	28	14	37	40	34	50	39	39	53	34	34
Wrong track	43%	23	50	74	44	42	48	31	42	43	29	46	48
DK (vol)	17%	19	19	12	16	17	17	16	17	16	15	17	17
Ref. (vol)	2%	2	2	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	2	3	1

<i>In your opinion, should states, including New Jersey, be allowed to ignore federal laws if state leaders don't agree with the federal government, or should states implement all federal laws regardless of what state leaders think?</i>													
		PID			Gender		Race		Education		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white	HS/Some college	College+	18-34	35-59	60+
Ignore federal laws	37%	50	26	21	36	37	33	45	37	37	53	34	27
Implement federal laws	49%	35	50	73	51	47	52	44	49	49	36	53	55
DK (vol)	12%	13	17	6	9	14	13	10	11	11	8	11	15
Refused (vol)	2%	2	7	1	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2

<i>Do you approve or disapprove [rotate] of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?</i>													
		3PID			Gender		Race		Education		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white	HS/Some college	College+	18-34	35-59	60+
Approve	31%	3	35	75	37	25	39	14	33	29	17	34	39
Disapprove	60%	92	45	16	53	66	53	72	54	64	69	57	56
DK (vol)	8%	6	13	9	9	7	6	12	12	5	13	7	5
Ref. (vol)	2%	0	7	0	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1

<i>In your opinion, do believe the country is moving in the right direction or is it on the wrong track [rotate]?</i>													
		PID			Gender		Race		Education		Age		
	All	Dem	Ind	Repub	Male	Female	White	Non-white	HS/Some college	College+	18-34	35-59	60+
Right direction	33%	6	40	76	41	26	42	18	34	33	22	36	40
Wrong track	58%	86	47	18	49	66	50	73	53	61	65	56	53
DK (vol)	8%	7	12	6	9	6	7	9	12	5	12	7	6
Ref. (vol)	1%	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Question wording and order

US1. *First, do you approve or disapprove [rotate] of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?*

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

	1/17	3/17	10/17*	1/18
Approve	37	28	31	31
Disapprove	50	61	62	60

*Respondents were registered voters with a known history of voting in past elections

US2. *In your opinion, do you believe the country is moving in the right direction or is it on the wrong track [rotate]?*

- 1 Right direction
- 2 Wrong track
- 8 DK
- 9 Refused (vol)

	1/17	3/17	10/17*	1/18
Right direction	39	31	31	33
Wrong track	51	58	63	58

*Respondents were registered voters with a known history of voting in past elections

NJ1. *And turning to New Jersey, do you approve or disapprove [rotate] of the job Phil Murphy is doing as governor?*

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

NJ2. *In your opinion, do you think things in New Jersey are moving in the right direction or are they on the wrong track [rotate]?*

- 1 Right direction
- 2 Wrong track
- 8 DK
- 9 Refused (vol)

NJ3 Using one word only, what comes to mind when you think of Governor Murphy?

- Open-ended
- 99 Don't know/refused (vol)

NJ4 *In your opinion, should states, including New Jersey, be allowed to ignore federal laws if state leaders don't agree with the federal government, or should states implement all federal laws regardless of what state leaders think? [Rotated version: In your opinion should states, including New Jersey, enact all federal laws regardless of what state leaders believe, OR should states be allowed to defy federal laws if state leaders don't agree with the federal government?]*

- 1 IGNORE federal laws
- 2 IMPLEMENT all federal laws
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Sample characteristics

Male	49%
Female	51%
Democrat (with leaners)	51%
Republican (with leaners)	30%
Independent	15%
18-34	27%
35-59	43%
60+	29%
White	64%
African-American	13%
Latino	15%
Asian	5%
Other/refused	3%