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for Center for Education Reform

Survey of 300 Registered Voters in Camden, New Jersey

Pre-Test PRELIMINARY Topline Results

March 2006

Completed Interviews to Date: 212 Registered Voters in Camden, New Jersey

Field Dates: March 27-28, 2006

Final Margin of Error: +/- 5.6% (based on 300 interviews)

A. Are you 18 years of age or older and registered to vote here in New Jersey as a Republican, a Democrat, and Independent, or are you not registered to vote?

10% YES, REPUBLICAN
34% YES, DEMOCRAT
56% YES, INDEPENDENT

Charter School Awareness Support

1. When you hear the term “charter schools” what is the first thing that you think of? How would you define or explain a “charter school?” (RECORDED VERBATIM, OPEN ENDED, ANYTHING ELSE?)

2. How would you classify charter schools—as (ROTATED) public schools, private schools, religious/parochial schools, or magnet schools?

30% PUBLIC SCHOOL
36% PRIVATE SCHOOL
5% RELIGIOUS/PAROCHIAL SCHOOL
10% MAGNET SCHOOL

4% OTHER (VOLUNTEERED)
14% DO NOT KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
* REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

SPLIT SAMPLE QUESTION 3.

- 3A. Do you support or oppose allowing communities to create **new public schools** - called charter schools - that would be held accountable for student results and would be required to meet the same academic standards/testing requirements as other public schools but not cost taxpayers any additional money? N = 104

85% TOTAL SUPPORT (NET)

60% STRONGLY SUPPORT
25% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT

12% TOTAL OPPOSE (NET)

9% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
3% STRONGLY OPPOSE

4% DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
- REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

- 3B. Do you support or oppose allowing communities to create **new neighborhood public schools** - called charter schools - that would be held accountable for student results and would be required to meet the same academic standards/testing requirements as other public schools but not cost taxpayers any additional money? N = 108

71% TOTAL SUPPORT (NET)

55% STRONGLY SUPPORT
16% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT

22% TOTAL OPPOSE (NET)

9% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
13% STRONGLY OPPOSE

7% DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
- REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

4. Currently, children attending public schools in New Jersey are assigned to the school they attend by the school district based on where they live. Some have suggested, however, that parents should have the option to send their children to a number of different public schools, with no additional cost, based on which is the best match for the child. Which do you believe is better: (ROTATED) assigning children to one public school based solely on where they live or allowing the parent to choose from a number of public schools?

17% ONE SCHOOL
77% A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SCHOOLS
5% DEPENDS/UNSURE/ DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
- REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

Political Currency

5. Imagine for a moment that all you knew about a candidate running for state office here in New Jersey was that he or she is in favor of allowing communities to create charter schools that would be held accountable for student results and would be required to meet the same academic standards/testing requirements as other public schools but not cost taxpayers any additional money. Would you be (ROTATED) more or less likely to vote for this candidate?

72% TOTAL MORE LIKELY (NET)
46% MUCH MORE LIKELY
26% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
13% TOTAL LESS LIKELY (NET)
6% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
7% MUCH LESS LIKELY
11% IT DEPENDS (VOLUNTEERED)
4% DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
- REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

6. And again, imagine all you knew about a candidate running for state office here in New Jersey was that he or she was in favor of allowing parents the option of sending their children to one of a number of different public schools—at no additional cost—based on which is the best match for the child. Would you be (ROTATED) more or less likely to vote for this candidate?

72% TOTAL MORE LIKELY (NET)

- 47% MUCH MORE LIKELY
25% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY

13% TOTAL LESS LIKELY (NET)

- 7% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
6% MUCH LESS LIKELY

9% IT DEPENDS (VOLUNTEERED)
6% DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
- REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

Demographics

Now I have a few more questions for statistical purposes...

7. Which of the following media sources do you consider your primary source of news and information? Would it be...?

- 18% A LOCAL NEWSPAPER
4% A NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SUCH AS USA TODAY
37% YOUR LOCAL EVENING TV NEWS
15% CABLE TELEVISION NEWS CHANNELS
6% NATIONAL NETWORK EVENING NEWS
6% RADIO
6% INTERNET

- 6% ALL (VOLUNTEERED)
1% NONE (VOLUNTEERED)
* DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
1% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

8. Which of the following media sources do you consider your primary source of news and information **ON SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION**? Would it be...?

- 32% A LOCAL NEWSPAPER
- 1% A NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SUCH AS USA TODAY
- 26% YOUR LOCAL EVENING TV NEWS
- 15% CABLE TELEVISION NEWS CHANNELS
- 4% NATIONAL NETWORK EVENING NEWS
- 4% RADIO
- 6% INTERNET

- 4% ALL (VOLUNTEERED)
- 5% NONE (VOLUNTEERED)
- 1% DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
- 2% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

9. Which of the following categories best describes your age range? (READ LIST)

- 8% 18-24
- 19% 25-34
- 18% 35-44
- 17% 45-54
- 18% 55-64
- 9% 65-74
- 9% 75+

- 3% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

10. What is the highest level of education you have had the opportunity to complete? (READ LIST)

- 14% SOME HIGH SCHOOL
- 36% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
- 31% SOME COLLEGE/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
- 13% COLLEGE GRADUATE
- 5% POST GRADUATE

- 1% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

11. And thinking back to when you were in grade school, which of the following best described the type of school you attended (READ AND ROTATED. ACCEPTED MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

- 83% PUBLIC
- 8% PRIVATE
- 8% RELIGIOUS/PAROCHIAL
- MAGNET SCHOOL
- 1% HOME-SCHOOLED

- 1% DO NOT KNOW
- 2% REFUSED

12. Are you currently . . .

- 30% MARRIED
- 42% SINGLE
- 10% DIVORCED
- 5% SEPARATED
- 12% WIDOWED

- 1% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

13. Do you have any children under the aged of 18 currently living in your household? (IF YES: HOW MANY?)

- 36% TOTAL CHILDREN (NET)**
- 13% YES, 1 (ASKED 14)
- 13% YES, 2 (ASKED 14)
- 10% YES, 3 OR MORE (ASKED 14)

- 62% NO (SKIPPED TO 15)

- 1% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED) (SKIPPED TO 15)

14. [ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO SAID “YES” 1-3 IN Q.13] How would you describe the type of school your child/children currently attend? Is it...[READ AND ROTATED. ACCEPTED MULTIPLE RESPONSES] N = 77

- 66% PUBLIC
- 13% CHARTER
- 8% PRIVATE
- 8% RELIGIOUS/PAROCHIAL
- 1% MAGNET SCHOOL
- HOME-SCHOOLED

- 1% DO NOT KNOW
- 4% REFUSED

15. Would you describe your racial or ethnic background as: (READ LIST)

- 20% WHITE/CAUCASIAN
- 45% BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN
- 29% HISPANIC/LATINO
- 2% ASIAN
- MIDDLE EASTERN
- 1% NATIVE AMERICAN

- 2% OTHER (VOLUNTEERED)
- 1% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

16. Thinking for a moment about your social, economic and political views... Do you consider yourself to be a...

- 41% TOTAL CONSERVATIVE (NET)**
- 20% VERY CONSERVATIVE
- 21% SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE

- 26% MODERATE

- 23% TOTAL LIBERAL (NET)**
- 17% SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
- 6% VERY LIBERAL

- 1% LIBERTARIAN (VOLUNTEERED)
- 8% DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

17. Regardless of how you are registered to vote, in politics today, do you consider yourself to be a (ROTATED) Republican, Independent, or Democrat?

- 9% TOTAL REPUBLICAN (NET)**
- 5% STRONG REPUBLICAN
- 2% NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN
- 2% INDEPENDENT LEANING REPUBLICAN

- 18% INDEPENDENT**

- 66% TOTAL DEMOCRAT (NET)**
- 6% INDEPENDENT LEANING DEMOCRAT
- 15% NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT
- 45% STRONG DEMOCRAT

- 1% OTHER(VOLUNTEERED)
- 2% DON'T KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
- 4% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

18. And regarding your family's annual income...Please tell me which of the following categories best describes your family's total annual household income before taxes.

- 33% LESS THAN \$25,000
- 12% \$25,000 TO \$29,999
- 8% \$30,000 TO \$39,999
- 10% \$40,000 TO \$49,999
- 5% \$50,000 TO \$59,999
- 5% \$60,000 TO \$69,999
- 2% \$70,000 TO \$79,999
- 2% \$80,000 TO \$89,999
- 3% \$90,000 OR HIGHER

- 4% DO NOT KNOW (VOLUNTEERED)
- 17% REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

19. How long have you lived in Camden, New Jersey?

- 1% LESS THAN 1 YEAR
- 11% 1-5 YEARS
- 8% 6-10 YEARS
- 8% 11-15 YEARS
- 7% 16-20 YEARS
- 10% 20-25 YEARS
- 31% 26 YEARS OR MORE
- 23% NATIVE/ALL MY LIFE

- 2% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED (VOLUNTEERED)

20. Gender

- 45% MALE
- 55% FEMALE

21. WARD

- 26% WARD 1
- 27% WARD 2
- 23% WARD 3
- 24% WARD 4