

Stockton Poll: New Jersey Residents Uneasy About State and National Economies

For immediate release: With video

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Galloway, N.J. - New Jersey adults rate the national economy as only so-so, but they feel even worse about the economy in New Jersey, according to a Stockton University poll released today.

Only 1 percent rate the state economy as excellent, and 21 percent say it is good, according to the poll of 709 adult state residents. Nearly half (48 percent) rate the New Jersey economy as fair, with 27 percent calling it poor and 2 percent unsure.

Residents of southern New Jersey are a bit more pessimistic than counterparts to the north. In the eight southernmost counties, only 18 percent give positive ratings to the state economy, but 80 percent rate New Jersey's economy as fair or poor. In the 13 counties to the north, 24 percent rate New Jersey's economy positively, while 73 percent rate New Jersey's economy as fair or poor.

At the national level, 49 percent rated the overall U.S. economy as either excellent (7 percent) or good (42 percent). A roughly equal cumulative response of 50 percent rated the U.S. economy as fair (36 percent) or poor (14 percent). Reflecting the current partisan environment, a majority of Republicans give positive ratings to the national economy under Republican President Donald Trump, while a majority of Democrats give it negative marks.

"The feeling of a hangover from the Great Recession appears to linger among New Jersey residents," said Michael W. Klein, interim executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, which includes the Stockton Polling

Governor Murphy has proposed returning the state sales tax, which has decreased by fractions of a percent since early 2017, to its earlier rate of 7 percent to help fund schools and higher education. According to the Stockton Poll, 61 percent support the increase for that purpose, while 38 percent oppose it.

A slight majority of 51 percent say they do not know enough to have an opinion about Murphy's idea of creating a public bank to generate state revenue and make low-interest loans for public purposes. Twenty-seven percent support the idea and 20 percent oppose it.

The Hughes Center for Public Policy issued a report on April 10 that found a state public bank for New Jersey would have a positive effect on jobs and state earnings. The report, "Exploring a Public Bank for New Jersey: Economic Impact and Implementation Issues," was prepared by Deborah M. Figart, Distinguished

cultural issues facing New Jersey, and promotes the civic life of New Jersey through engagement, education and research. The center is named for William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton. The Hughes Center can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/StocktonHughesCenter> and can be followed on Twitter @hughescenter.

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