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**FOR RELEASE: MARCH 16, 2017**

**MORE MONEY FOR SCHOOLS, NOT SO MUCH FOR PENSIONS,  
NEW JERSEY VOTERS TELL QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL;  
SUPPORT FOR MILLIONAIRE'S TAX TOPS 3-1**

New Jersey voters are solidly behind spending more money to improve the Garden State's public schools, but send mixed messages on the subject of funding public employee pensions, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

The State Legislature should spend more money to improve all of New Jersey's public schools, voters say 63 – 34 percent, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

By a similar 65 – 32 percent, voters say the State Legislature should spend more to improve public schools in the state's poorest districts. Republicans oppose increased spending 59 – 40 percent and white men are divided 49 – 47 percent. Every other party, gender, racial, age and education group listed supports the spending by wide measures.

Voters support 62 – 30 percent the State Supreme Court decision ordering the State Legislature to spend more money to improve public schools in the state's poorest districts. Again, Republicans oppose the court decision 59 – 30 percent and white men are divided 47 – 46 percent, while all other groups support the court decision.

The state should provide poor school districts additional funds per student, 58 percent of New Jersey voters say, while 37 percent say all districts should get the same amount of funding.

“New Jerseyans don't like taxes, but they do like school kids. Almost two-thirds want to spend more money for school kids – not just poor kids, but all kids,” said Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“Was the State Supreme Court – much criticized by politicians for the Abbott decisions that give more of the state education money to poor schools – right? Yes, voters say.”

New Jersey voters support 74 – 22 percent, with Republicans divided 48 – 49 percent, a so-called “millionaire's tax,” with the money going to public schools.

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## **Quinnipiac University Poll/March 16, 2017**

By a similar 70 – 27 percent, voters support a “millionaire’s tax” with the money going to public employee pensions. Republicans oppose this idea 55 – 42 percent.

Voters oppose 66 – 30 percent an across-the-board tax hike to help fund public employee pensions. Democrats oppose this idea 56 – 41 percent, with every other listed group opposed.

But in a different question, New Jersey voters say 49 – 45 percent that the state has an obligation to fix public employee pensions, even if it means raising taxes. Republicans oppose this idea 62 – 31 percent. Support is 61 – 33 percent among Democrats. Independent voters are divided, with 48 percent saying there is an obligation and 44 percent saying no.

To help balance the state budget, state employees should pay more for health care, New Jersey voters say 60 – 31 percent, with support from every listed group.

But voters oppose 52 – 41 percent reducing public employee pension benefits as a way to balance the budget. Republicans support pension cuts 64 – 30 percent, with Democrats opposed 68 – 24 percent. Independent voters are divided, with 45 percent supporting cuts and 47 percent opposed.

“New Jerseyans’ generosity shrinks – but it’s still there – when it comes to pensions for state workers. Voters wouldn’t cut pensions,” Carroll said.

“How about raising taxes to fix the pension system? It depends how the question is asked.

“But there’s one tax raising plan that almost everyone likes – the millionaire’s tax. The Quinnipiac University Poll didn’t ask what percentage of our respondents are millionaires.”

From March 9 – 13, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,098 New Jersey voters with a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

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13. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in New Jersey today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Very satisfied	2%	3%	-	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Smwht satisfied	34	38	36	31	34	34	33	33
Smwht dissatisfied	40	34	39	43	39	40	44	41
Very dissatisfied	24	24	25	23	24	25	22	24
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Very satisfied	3%	-	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Smwht satisfied	56	30	24	30	33	33	33	38
Smwht dissatisfied	21	47	47	42	44	42	43	34
Very dissatisfied	20	22	28	25	22	23	23	26
DK/NA	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

18. To help balance the state budget do you support or oppose more state employee contributions for health care?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	60%	67%	56%	58%	61%	58%	59%	66%
Oppose	31	24	33	34	31	30	32	26
DK/NA	10	9	11	8	8	12	9	7

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Support	66%	53%	60%	62%	66%	59%	62%	55%
Oppose	26	39	32	23	28	30	29	34
DK/NA	8	8	8	15	6	11	9	11

19. To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose reducing pension benefits for new state workers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	41%	64%	24%	45%	51%	32%	49%	49%
Oppose	52	30	68	47	43	60	45	43
DK/NA	7	6	7	7	6	8	7	8

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Support	28%	40%	47%	45%	57%	42%	49%	26%
Oppose	65	56	45	43	37	50	44	67
DK/NA	7	3	8	12	6	8	7	7

20. Do you believe the state of New Jersey has an obligation to fix public employee pensions, even if it means raising taxes, or don't you think so?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes/Obligation	49%	31%	61%	48%	51%	47%	52%	39%
No	45	62	33	44	43	46	40	53
DK/NA	7	7	6	7	5	8	8	8

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Yes/Obligation	64%	52%	45%	43%	49%	44%	46%	54%
No	32	43	48	49	45	47	46	42
DK/NA	4	5	7	8	6	10	8	4

21. Would you support or oppose raising taxes on people who earn more than one million dollars to help fund public employee pensions?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	70%	42%	91%	67%	63%	77%	66%	68%
Oppose	27	55	7	29	34	21	31	30
DK/NA	3	2	2	4	3	3	3	2

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Support	73%	73%	66%	74%	60%	73%	67%	78%
Oppose	24	26	31	24	38	24	31	19
DK/NA	4	1	3	3	2	3	2	3

22. Would you support or oppose raising taxes across the board to help fund public employee pensions?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	30%	19%	41%	27%	30%	30%	28%	29%
Oppose	66	78	56	69	66	67	68	66
DK/NA	4	3	3	4	5	3	4	4

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Support	39%	34%	26%	26%	30%	28%	29%	33%
Oppose	57	65	70	66	65	69	67	63
DK/NA	4	1	4	8	5	3	4	3

23. Do you think the state legislature should spend more tax dollars to improve the public schools in New Jersey's poorest areas or don't you think so?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes	65%	40%	82%	59%	57%	72%	60%	55%
No	32	59	15	37	40	26	37	42
DK/NA	3	1	3	4	4	2	3	3
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Yes	85%	65%	57%	60%	49%	64%	57%	79%
No	15	33	39	36	47	33	39	19
DK/NA	-	2	3	5	4	3	3	2

24. Do you think the state legislature should spend more tax dollars to improve all of New Jersey's public schools or don't you think so?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes	63%	45%	77%	59%	56%	70%	58%	62%
No	34	53	21	36	39	29	39	35
DK/NA	3	2	2	5	5	2	3	3
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Yes	74%	69%	56%	60%	57%	63%	60%	70%
No	25	28	41	36	38	36	37	27
DK/NA	2	3	3	4	5	1	3	3

25. Do you think the state Supreme Court was right to order the state legislature to spend more money to improve the public schools in New Jersey's poorest areas or don't you think the state Supreme Court should have done this?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes/Right	62%	30%	84%	57%	54%	70%	55%	51%
No/Shouldn't have	29	59	11	35	38	22	36	39
DK/NA	8	10	6	9	9	8	8	10
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Yes/Right	84%	66%	53%	53%	47%	59%	54%	78%
No/Shouldn't have	11	29	38	36	46	30	37	15
DK/NA	5	4	8	10	8	10	9	7

26. Would you support or oppose the so called "millionaire's tax", if the money went to New Jersey's public schools?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	Yes No
Support	74%	48%	92%	72%	68%	79%	69%	68%
Oppose	22	49	5	22	29	15	28	26
DK/NA	5	2	3	6	3	6	4	6
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Support	82%	80%	67%	71%	62%	74%	69%	84%
Oppose	11	17	30	22	34	20	27	11
DK/NA	7	3	4	7	4	6	5	4

27. Do you think the state should provide every school district the same amount of funding per student, or do you think the state should continue to provide low income school districts with additional funding per student to make up for lower funding from property taxes?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	Yes No
Same funding	37%	60%	18%	43%	45%	30%	41%	44%
Additional funds	58	32	79	52	49	66	55	48
DK/NA	5	8	3	5	6	5	4	8
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Same funding	20%	39%	44%	40%	49%	37%	42%	27%
Additional funds	77	59	52	50	44	58	52	69
DK/NA	3	2	4	11	7	5	6	4

28. As you may know, charter schools are operated by private or non-profit organizations. The schools are paid for with tax dollars. Do you think there should be an expansion of charter schools in New Jersey or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	Yes No
Yes/Expansion	37%	63%	25%	35%	43%	31%	33%	37%
No	55	29	69	56	51	59	59	57
DK/NA	8	7	6	9	6	9	7	7
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Yes/Expansion	30%	36%	40%	37%	43%	28%	35%	40%
No	56	61	53	53	52	64	58	51
DK/NA	13	3	6	10	5	8	7	9