

2005 SURVEY – NOT FOR CIRCULATION



**Cornell University**  
Survey Research Institute

**Cornell University**  
*Empire State Poll 2005*

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**Section 1: Eligibility (all respondents)**

1. Are you currently a legal resident of New York State?

**1. Yes**

**0. No (ineligible)**

**Section 2: Current Employment Status (employed only)**

1. Last week, did you do ANY work for either pay or profit? Include any job from which you were temporarily “absent” or “on layoff”.

**1. Yes**

**0. No (Go to Section 7)**

2. Which of the following best describes your main job? (By main job we mean the one at which you usually work the most hours.)

**1. Full-time, all year round**

**2. Part-Time, all year round**

**3. Temporary**

**4. Seasonal or Part Year**

**5. Contract or On Call**

3. How many hours per week do you USUALLY work at across all your other jobs not including your primary job?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hrs/Wk**

4. Are you self-employed (i.e. consultant, freelancer w/out employees)?

**1. Yes (Skip to Section 3 question 2)**

**0. No**

**Section 3: Employment/Working Conditions (employed only)**

1. Counting just the location where you work, what is the total number of persons who work for this employer? (please choose one answer)

- 1. Less than 10
- 2. 10 – 24
- 3. 25 – 49
- 4. 50 – 99
- 5. 100 – 249
- 6. 250 - 499
- 7. 500 - 999
- 8. 1000 – 9999
- 9. 10,000 or more

2. The next questions are about benefits, policies, and informal arrangements on your job. Does your employer provide...?

	Available, use it	Available, do not use it	Not available
a. Health Insurance?	1	2	3
b. Flex time? <i>(i.e. the ability to choose or arrange a regular work week schedule to meet personal or family needs)</i>	1	2	3
c. Child care subsidies or a child care center at or near your location?	1	2	3
d. A 401K or pension program?	1	2	3
e. Paid Time Off (vacation, holiday, sick leave)?	1	2	3
f. Paid or Unpaid Time off for volunteering?	1	2	3

**(if answered 1 on S3Q2a)**

3. What portion of your health insurance premium do you pay?

- 1. None
- 2. Some
- 3. All

**(if answered 1 on S3Q2d)**

4. How much does your employer contribute to your pension or 401k plan?

- 1. None
- 2. Some
- 3. All

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5. How are you compensated for the work you perform, in other words, what is your primary form of income?

1. **Salary**
2. **Hourly wage**
3. **Sales Commission**
4. **Tips**
5. **Lump sum/contract/deliverable/piece rate**

**Section 4: Workplace Associations (employed only)**

1. Regardless of whether you currently belong to a labor union or your current eligibility to join one, how likely would you be to join a labor union at your workplace if you had the option?

- 1. Very unlikely
- 2. Somewhat Unlikely
- 3. Somewhat Likely
- 4. Very Likely

**Section 5: Employment Expectations/Satisfaction (employed only)**

1. Think of a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 means you are certain you will lose your present job and 100 means you are certain you will be able to keep it. On this scale, how certain is it that during the next 12 months you will be able to keep it? (Assuming you want to keep it)

(0-100) \_\_\_\_\_

2. In the last four weeks have you looked for new work or a new job?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

3. Has your employer laid off any workers in the last 12 months at your location?  
(If self-employed: Have you laid off any workers in the last 12 months?)

- 1. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ workers
- 0. No

**Section 6: Not employed (unemployed only)**

1. In the last four weeks have you looked for work or a new job?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No (skip to question 3)

2. Would you like to be employed either full-time or part-time?

- 1. Yes, full-time (skip to question 4)
- 2. Yes, part-time (skip to question 4)

3. Why not?

- 1. Homemaker
- 2. Retired
- 3. Disabled
- 4. Student
- 5. Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are you receiving unemployment benefits, retirement benefits from the Social Security Administration, or disability-related benefits from the Social Security Administration?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

**Section 7: Social Security (all respondents)**

1. Some people have suggested allowing individuals to invest portions of their Social Security taxes on their own, which might allow them to make more money for their retirement, but would involve greater risk. How much do you support or oppose this idea? Do you strongly oppose, somewhat oppose, somewhat support, or strongly support this change?

- 1. Strongly oppose
- 2. Somewhat oppose
- 3. Somewhat support
- 4. Strongly support

**Section 8: Community (all respondents)**

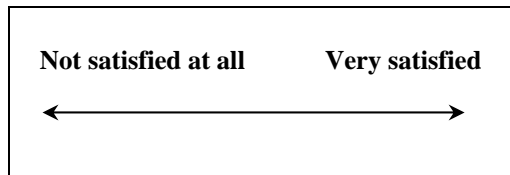
1a. Do you expect to be living in your community (approximately your county) five years from now?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No (why not?) \_\_\_\_\_ (goto S8Q2a)

1b. When you leave your community, where do you plan to go?

- 0. Stay within New York State, but go to another community/county
- 1. Leave New York State
- 2. Do Not Know

2. Every community has good points and bad points about living within it. On a scale where one is not satisfied at all, and 10 is very satisfied, rate your level of satisfaction with the following within your local community.



a. Public Education	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
b. Local Taxes (i.e. property and sales)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
c. Social & Human Services (i.e. medical, welfare, etc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
d. Local City or Town Government	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
e. Economic Growth	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
f. Land Development and Planning (i.e. zoning, building, environment)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
g. Employment (quality and availability of jobs)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
h. Safety and crime	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
i. Cultural Activities & Opportunities (music, theatre, art, etc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
j. Local natural environment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

3. Would you say over the past year it has gotten harder for people within your community to find jobs, stayed about the same, or gotten easier for people to find jobs?

- 1. Harder
- 2. About the same
- 3. Easier



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4. Which of the following have you done in the past 12 months?

	Never	Occasionally	Frequently
a. Written a letter to a newspaper editor or called into a public affairs radio talk show.	0	1	2
b. Attended a community forum or public meeting (including town meetings, zoning boards, school boards, planning boards, land-use planning, etc.).	0	1	2
c. Contacted a government official or politician?	0	1	2

5. Next I would like to talk with you about volunteer activity. By volunteer activity, I mean not just belonging to an organization, but actually spending your time helping without being paid for it. In the PAST YEAR have you volunteered your time to:

	Yes	No
a. Work with any church or religious group	1	0
b. Any child or youth development programs, such as day care centers, schools, tutoring, scouts or little league	1	0
c. Any arts or cultural organization, like a theater or music group, museum, or public TV station	1	0
d. Any neighborhood, civic or community group such as a block association or a neighborhood watch?	1	0
e. Any organization to help the poor, sick, elderly, or homeless	1	0

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## **Section 9: Government/Attitudes/Politics (all respondents)**

1. The following statements deal with your perceptions of safety and security. Would you tell me how much you agree with each of the following statements?

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
a. A future terrorist attack somewhere in the United States is likely in the next 12 months.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
b. I am personally in danger of being a victim of a terrorist attack.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

2. Please tell me your level of agreement with the following statements...

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
a. I believe the NY State government looks out for my best interests.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
b. Sometimes New York State government and politics is so complicated that people like me really can't know what is going on.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

3. In your opinion, what do you think is the SINGLE most important problem facing people in New York state is today?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. State Economy</b></li> <li><b>2. Employment</b></li> <li><b>3. Education</b></li> <li><b>4. Environment</b></li> <li><b>5. State Budget</b></li> <li><b>6. Immigration (foreign)</b></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>7. Security/Threat of Terrorism</b></li> <li><b>8. Health Care</b></li> <li><b>9. Crime</b></li> <li><b>10. State Taxes</b></li> <li><b>11. People leaving the State</b></li> <li><b>12. Other, please specify</b></li> </ol> |
|--|---|

4. On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is untrustworthy and 10 is trustworthy, how would you rate the trustworthiness of the following:

	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>Untrustworthy</b></span> <span><b>Trustworthy</b></span> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;"> </div>									
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
a. Large Corporations	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
b. Local Businesses	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
c. Local Government	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
d. State Government	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
e. Labor Unions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
f. News Media	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
g. Other People in general	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**Section 10: Economics (all respondents)**

1. We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you (and your household) are better off, worse off, or just about the same financially as you were a year ago?

**3. Better                      2. About the same                      1. Worse**

2. Now looking ahead, do you think that a year from now you (and your family living here) will be better off financially, worse off, or just about the same as now?

**3. Better                      2. About the same                      1. Worse**

3. Now thinking about the economy in the New York state as a whole, would you say that OVER THE PAST YEAR the state’s economy has gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?

**3. Better                      2. About the same                      1. Worse**

4. What about THE NEXT 12 MONTHS? Do you expect the economy, in New York state as a whole, to get better, stay about the same, or get worse?

**3. Better                      2. About the same                      1. Worse**

5. Please rate New York State on each of the following areas, on a scale of excellent, good, fair, or poor.

	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
a. The Environment	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
b. Economic Growth	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
c. State Taxes	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
d. Employment (overall availability and quality of jobs)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
e. Mass transit infrastructure (buses, trains, subways, etc.)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
f. Quality of Public Education	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
g. State Budget	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
h. Performance of NYS Government	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
i. Human and Social Services (health, welfare)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

**Section 11: Media Use (all respondents)**

1. On average, how many days a week do you read a local newspaper that is focused on news or content about your local community or area?

- 0. never read**
- 1. one**
- 2. two**
- 3. three**
- 4. four**
- 5. five**
- 6. six**
- 7. seven or everyday**

2. When you come across stories in the newspaper about politics, the economy, and social issues in your local community, how much attention do you pay to them? Here, one means VERY LITTLE ATTENTION, and ten means VERY CLOSE ATTENTION, and zero means NO ATTENTION AT ALL.

- 0. No attention at all**
- 1. Very little attention**
- 2-9**
- 10. Very close attention**

3. On the average weekday evening, about how many hours of television do you watch after 5 pm?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Hours 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes**

4. On average, how often do you watch the local evening news at 5pm, 6pm, or 11pm? Let's use a ten-point scale where one means RARELY, ten means ALL THE TIME, and zero means NEVER.

- 0. Never**
- 1. Rarely**
- 2-9**
- 10. All the time**

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5. When you come across politics, economy, and social issues in your local community on TV, how much attention do you pay to them? Here, one means VERY LITTLE ATTENTION, and ten means VERY CLOSE ATTENTION, and zero means NO ATTENTION AT ALL.

- 0. No attention at all**
- 1. Very little attention**
- 2-9**
- 10. Very close attention**

**Section 12: Special Topics (all respondents)**

1. Now I have some questions on a completely different topic. As you may know, President Bush has limited Federal funding of stem cell research to existing stem cell lines and has curtailed funding for the development of new stem cell lines. This past November, citizens in the state of California passed a proposition that authorizes state bonds to fund stem cell research within California. Specifically, the initiative establishes a California Institute for Regenerative Medicine to regulate and fund stem cell research and establishes a constitutional right to conduct such research and an oversight committee. However, it prohibits funding of human reproductive cloning research. The bond proposition costs the state a total \$6 Billion over thirty years and provides funding of \$200 million annually.

If a similar proposition were placed before voters in New York State, how likely would you be to vote for such an initiative? Would you say you would be...?

1. **Very unlikely**
2. **Somewhat unlikely**
3. **Somewhat likely (skip to section 13)**
4. **Very likely (skip to section 13)**

2. What is the primary reason that you would be unlikely to vote for and support such an initiative within NYS?

1. **Oppose retrieving stem cells from aborted fetuses**
2. **Oppose the financial expense/debt to the state budget that such an initiative may incur**
3. **Believe Stem cell research is unethical/immoral and violates Gods laws**
4. **Believe Stem cell research medical benefits are overblown or exaggerated**
5. **Believe that the possible economic benefits to NYS are overblown or exaggerated**
6. **Other reason not mentioned (please specify)**

**Section 13: Demographics (all respondents)**

1. How long have you lived at your current residence?

**0. Less than 1 year**      **or**      **\_\_\_\_\_ years**

2. How long have you lived in New York State?

**0. Less than 1 year**      **or**      **\_\_\_\_\_ years**

3. What year were you born?

**19\_\_\_\_ (year)**

4. Are you a United States citizen?

**1. Yes**

**0. No**

5. Gender?

**1. Male**

**2. Female**

6. Do you personally, or a member of your immediate household, belong to a labor union?

**0. No**

**1. Yes, I do**

**2. Yes, another member of household belongs to a labor union**

**3. Yes, both self and another member belong to a labor union**

5. What is your marital status?

1. **Single**
2. **Married**
3. **Divorced/Separated**
4. **Widowed**
5. **Partnered/Cohabitation (unmarried)**
6. **Other, please specify**

6. When it comes to social issues, do you usually think of yourself as extremely liberal, liberal, slightly liberal; moderate or middle of the road, slightly conservative, conservative, or extremely conservative?

1. **Extremely Liberal**
2. **Liberal**
3. **Slightly Liberal**
4. **Moderate; Middle of the road**
5. **Slightly Conservative**
6. **Conservative**
7. **Extremely Conservative**

7. Generally speaking, when it comes to political parties in the United States, how would you best describe yourself?

1. **Strongly Republican**
2. **Leaning toward Republican**
3. **Political Independent**
4. **Leaning toward Democrat**
5. **Strongly Democrat**
6. **Other party affiliation (please specify)**



8. What is your highest completed level of education?

1. **Less than high school**
2. **High school degree or equivalent**
3. **Some college but no degree**
4. **Associate's Degree – Vocational/Occupational**
5. **Associate's Degree – Academic**
6. **Bachelor's Degree (e.g., BA, BS, AB)**
7. **Master's Degree (e.g., MA, MS, MBA, MSW, MEng, MED)**
8. **Doctorate Degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, M.D.)**

9. What best describes your race?

1. **White or Caucasian**
2. **White/Caucasian Latino or Hispanic**
3. **Black or African American**
4. **Black Hispanic or Latino**
5. **American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo**
6. **American Indian Hispanic or Latino**
7. **Asian or Pacific Islander**
8. **Asian or Pacific Islander Hispanic or Latino**
9. **Other (please specify)**

10. Regarding religious affiliation, do you consider yourself Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, or something else?

1. **Christian, NOT Roman Catholic (please specify)**
2. **Roman Catholic**
3. **Jewish**
4. **Muslim**
5. **No Affiliation**
6. **Other (please specify)**

11. How many total people (including yourself) in your household are... ?

**Adults 18+** \_\_\_\_\_

**Children (12-17)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Children (under 12)** \_\_\_\_\_

12. I'm going to read you the list of income categories. Please tell me which of them best describes your total household income in 2004 before taxes from all sources.

1. **Less than \$10,000**
2. **\$10,001 to \$22,000**
3. **\$22,001 to \$35,000**
4. **\$35,001 to \$50,000**
5. **\$50,001 to \$75,000**
6. **\$75,001 to \$100,000**
7. **\$100,001 to \$150,000**
8. **\$150,001 to \$200,000**
9. **\$200,001 and up**