



New York Empire State Poll 2005

Special Report: Education Omnibus Results

The ILR Survey Research Institute, Cornell University, B12 Ives Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853

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Key Findings

Statewide, 68% of respondents selected higher education as a “high priority” for the New York state budget. However, there was significant regional variation, with nearly three-quarters (73%) of downstate residents selecting higher education as a high priority compared to only 59% of upstate residents who selected the same.

Across demographic categories, Democrats (76%), respondents between 18 and 35 years of age (75%), members of households with less than \$35,000 in annual income (72%), non-white respondents (80%), or members of households containing children between the ages of 12-17 (80%) were the most likely to select higher education as a high budget priority. In comparison, smaller percentages of Republicans (56%), respondents 56 years or older (60%), members of high-income (\$75,000+) households (62%), members of households with no children (62%), or white respondents (62%) selected education as a “high priority” for the state budget.

Awareness of Cornell’s status as New York’s land grant institution was very low across the state, with only 22% of respondents statewide correctly selecting Cornell University. However, there was significant regional variation with nearly a third (30%) of upstate residents aware of Cornell’s land grant status compared to 17% of downstate residents.

Awareness of Cornell varied significantly across few demographic categories. Respondents between 36 and 55 years of age (26%), from high-income (\$75,000+) households (29%), or who were white (28%) were the most likely to correctly select Cornell as New York State’s land grant institution. In comparison, smaller percentages of respondents between 18 and 35 years old (14%), from low-income households (\$35,000 or less) (18%), or who were non-white (10%) were aware of Cornell’s land grant status.

Statewide, 29% of respondents reported either frequently or occasionally participating in a Cornell Cooperative Extension program or receiving information from a local extension office. This rate varied significantly across regions, with 42% of upstate respondents reporting frequent or occasional use of Cornell extension compared only half the percentage of downstate residents (21%) who reported the same.

Reported use of Cornell Cooperative Extension services varied across several key demographic categories. Respondents who were 56 years or older (37%), from middle-income (\$35,000-\$75,000) households (36%), had some form of graduate education (34%), women (32%), or white (36%) were the most likely to report using Cornell extension services frequently or occasionally. In comparison, respondents between the ages of 18 and 35 (14%), from low-income (\$35,000 or less) households (24%), with a high school or below education (21%), male (26%), or non-white (21%) reported lower levels of use.

The tables below provide statewide results, as well as breakdowns by selected demographics including geography (upstate NY vs. downstate NY), educational attainment, household income level, number of children in household, gender, and party affiliation, and age.

Budget Priority for Higher Education in NYS

Respondents to the ESP 2005 were asked the following question regarding how much of a budget priority higher education should be within NYS:

When considering spending priorities in New York State, how much of a priority should public support for higher education have within the overall state budget compared to other funding needs? Should state financial support for higher education be ranked a LOW PRIORITY, a MIDDLE PRIORITY, or a HIGH PRIORITY?

Table 1 provides the results by selected demographic groupings.

Table 1 Budget Priority for Higher Education in NYS (%)

Demographic	Low	Middle	High	DK/ Refused
<u>Geography</u>				
Statewide	4	26	68	3
Upstate	5	33	59	2
Downstate	3	31	73	3
<u>Party Affiliation</u>				
Republicans	9	34	56	2
Democrats	1	20	76	3
Independents	4	27	67	2
<u>Age</u>				
18 – 35 years old	2	21	75	2
36 – 55 years old	5	27	68	0
56+ years old	5	29	60	5
<u>Household Income</u>				
\$35,000 or less	3	21	72	4
\$35,001 to \$75,000	5	27	67	3
\$75,001 or more	6	32	62	0
<u>Educational Attainment</u>				
High School or below	4	22	69	5
Some/Completed College	4	28	67	2
Graduate/MD/PhD/JD	6	24	68	2
<u>Children in Household</u>				
No Children	6	28	62	4
Children Under 12 yrs old	2	25	72	1
Children 12-17 yrs old	1	19	80	0
<u>Gender</u>				
Men	4	28	64	3
Women	4	23	71	3
<u>Race</u>				
White	5	31	62	2
Non-white	2	14	80	4

Awareness of Land Grant Status

Respondents to the ESP 2005 were asked the following question regarding awareness of Cornell University's status as New York's land grant institution:

Every state has a land grant educational institution that has been historically designated by its state legislature so that members of the general public can obtain a liberal, practical education. Land grant educational institutions are also mandated to disseminate research findings and practical advice to the public through cooperative extension services and programs.

In New York State, which of the following is the land grant educational institution designated by the state legislature?

Table 2 provides the results by selected demographic groupings.

Table 2 Awareness of Cornell as Land Grant Institution (%)

Demographic	Correct	Incorrect Choice	DK
<u>Geography</u>			
Statewide	22	29	49
Upstate	30	16	54
Downstate	17	37	46
<u>Age</u>			
18 – 35 years old	14	33	53
36 – 55 years old	26	26	48
56+ years old	23	30	47
<u>Household Income</u>			
\$35,000 or less	18	30	52
\$35,001 to \$75,000	23	28	48
\$75,001 or more	29	32	39
<u>Educational Attainment</u>			
High School or below	19	24	57
Some/Completed College	23	31	46
Graduate/MD/PhD/JD	24	31	45
<u>Children in Household</u>			
No Children	24	29	47
Children Under 12 yrs old	20	28	52
Children 12-17 yrs old	21	28	51
<u>Gender</u>			
Men	22	32	46
Women	22	26	52
<u>Race</u>			
White	28	25	48
Non-white	10	38	53

Use of Cornell Cooperative Extension

Respondents to the ESP 2005 were asked the following question regarding use of Cornell University's Cooperative Extension services:

Every state has a land grant educational institution that has been historically designated by its state legislature to teach agriculture, military tactics, and the mechanic arts as well as classical studies so that members of the general public could obtain a liberal, practical education. Land grant educational institutions are also mandated to disseminate research findings and practical advice to the public through cooperative extension services and programs.

How often have you participated in a New York State cooperative extension program or received information from a local cooperative extension office, "Frequently," "Occasionally," or "Never."

Table 3 provides the results by selected demographic groupings.

Table 3 Use of Cornell Cooperative Extension in NYS (%)

Demographic	Frequently	Occasionally	Never
<u>Geography</u>			
Statewide	4	25	65
Upstate	7	35	55
Downstate	3	19	71
<u>Age</u>			
18 – 35 years old	2	12	79
36 – 55 years old	5	28	61
56+ years old	5	32	58
<u>Household Income</u>			
\$35,000 or less	4	20	69
\$35,001 to \$75,000	4	32	62
\$75,001 or more	6	28	62
<u>Educational Attainment</u>			
High School or below	3	19	70
Some/Completed College	3	30	63
Graduate/MD/PhD/JD	10	24	62
<u>Children in Household</u>			
No Children	4	26	65
Children Under 12 yrs	3	24	67
Children 12-17 yrs old	6	24	62
<u>Gender</u>			
Men	4	22	69
Women	4	28	61
<u>Race</u>			
White	5	28	62
Non-white	3	18	72

representative of other key demographic criteria (gender, race, income, employment). The margin of error for reported statewide results is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

For More Information

If you are interested in directly accessing data from the Empire State Poll, have questions regarding the methodology, or wish to discuss other services provided by the ILR Survey Research Institute, please contact the SRI representative listed below or go to www.sri.cornell.edu.

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ESP 2005 Survey Methodology

These survey findings are from the Empire State Poll (ESP) 2005, a general survey of New York State residents who are at least 18 years of age. The School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR) Survey Research Institute (SRI) conducts the poll annually.

The poll was conducted between February 7 and February 26, 2005 and consists of 802 interviews with randomly selected residents from both upstate and downstate New York. “Downstate” is defined as New York, Rockland, Kings, Richmond, Westchester, Suffolk, Queens, Nassau, and Bronx counties, with the remaining counties of the state defined as “upstate.” The response rate was 27.4% according to AAPOR standards. The survey was administered in both English and Spanish. All results presented in this report have been weighted based on geography (upstate vs. downstate) to account for population distribution and are otherwise are