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Introduction

This report summarizes the finding pertaining to the legalization of marijuana and attitudes toward natural gas drilling in New York State in the 2010 Empire State Poll (ESP), conducted by the Survey Research Institute at Cornell University. The 2010 ESP queried New York State residents' opinions regarding the most important issues facing their community and New York State as a whole, community satisfaction, economic perceptions, institutional trust, resident mobility, potential new legislation, and the budget. Results of other findings can be found at www.sri.cornell.eduhttps://sri.cornell.edu/sri/esp.reports.cf m).

Methodology

- In total, 800 telephone interviews were conducted between February 1, 2010 and March 29, 2010, equally divided by upstate/downstate, and then weighted to reflect the actual population distribution within the state.
- For regional comparisons, “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 ESP utilizes a random digit dial (RDD) sample of NYS households. Eligible respondents must be residents of NYS and at least 18 years old.
- The cooperation rate was 74.5% using American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) standards.
- The margin of error (MOE) for questions with two response options among 800 respondents is 3.5% and is 4.9% for comparisons based on 400 respondents. The MOE may be smaller for some questions depending on the number of response options.

See Report 1: Introduction & Methodology for a full description at www.sri.cornell.edu.

Natural Gas Drilling

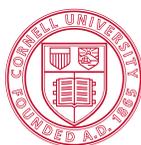
ESP 2010 queried residents' attitudes toward natural gas drilling. The question states: Which statement best reflects your opinion about natural gas drilling in New York State? 1. The revenues that would come to NYS from natural gas drilling outweigh any risk of contaminating the drinking water, 2. The risk of contaminating the drinking water outweighs any revenues that would come to NYS from natural gas drilling, 3. Do not know enough about the natural gas drilling issue.

Table 1 Attitude Toward Natural Gas Drilling in NYS

Revenues versus Risks	% of all respondents		
	NYS	Downstate	Upstate
Revenues outweigh Risks	25	20	35
Risks outweigh revenues	53	59	43
Do not know enough about drilling	22	21	22

Note: Weighting applied to match actual distribution of upstate vs. downstate. Due to rounding, distributions may not add up to 100.

- Across the entire state, respondents were more than twice as likely to state that the risk of contaminating drinking water outweighed any possible revenues compared to those who believe the revenues from natural gas drilling outweigh any risk of contamination the drinking water (53% vs. 25% respectively).
- There is a significant difference between downstate and upstate residents' opinions. Downstate, residents reported that the risks would outweigh the revenues almost three times more frequently (59%) than they reported that the revenues outweigh the risks (20%). Upstate residents' were far less likely to report that the risks outweigh the revenues (43%) and more than one out of three (35%) reported that the revenues outweigh



the risk.

- The percent of respondents that reported that they don't know enough about the natural gas drilling was almost equal for downstate and upstate residents (21% and 22% respectively).
- The majority of Democrats (63%) and the plurality of Independents (48%) believe that the risk of contaminating drinking water outweigh the revenues. Dissimilarly, the plurality of Republicans (42%) believed that the revenues outweigh the risk of drinking water contamination.

Table 2 Attitude Toward Natural Gas Drilling in NYS by Demographic Characteristics

	Percentage		
	Revenues outweigh risks	Risks outweigh revenues	Do not know enough about drilling
<i>Gender</i>			
Male	30	49	21
Female	21	57	22
<i>Race</i>			
Non-white	17	65	19
White	30	46	24
<i>Age</i>			
18-24	14	68	18
25-34	20	58	23
35-44	28	49	23
45-54	25	56	18
55-64	28	48	23
65+	25	53	22
<i>Household income</i>			
Less than \$29,999	20	57	22
\$30,000 to \$49,999	28	47	26
\$50,000 to \$99,999	24	58	18
\$100,000 or more	32	47	21
<i>Ideology</i>			
Liberal	18	60	22
Moderate	24	54	21
Conservative	34	44	22

Note: Weighting applied to match actual distribution of upstate vs. downstate. Due to rounding, distributions may not add up to 100.

- More women than men (57% vs. 49% respectively) reported that the risks of water contamination exceeded the revenues that would be gained from natural gas drilling.

- An overwhelming majority of non-whites (65%) and the plurality of whites (46%) felt that the risk of water contamination was greater than the revenue. More whites than non-whites felt that the revenues from drilling outweigh any risks of water contamination (30% vs. 17% respectively).
- The risk of contaminating drinking water outweighs the revenues was the preferred response in each age bracket.
- Although the risk outweighed the possible revenues was the favored response for each ideology, liberals (60%), moderates (54%) and conservatives (44%), conservatism coincided with a decreasing trend in this opinion. Conservatives had the highest percent of respondents of any subgroup of the demographic characteristics to respond that revenues outweigh the risks (34%) as well as the lowest percentage response that risks outweigh the revenues (44%).
- Respondents with a household income between \$100,000 or more were more likely than the other income brackets to state that revenues outweighed the risks (32%). Respondents with an income between \$50,000 and \$99,999 were more likely to respond that the risks outweigh the benefits than the other income brackets (respondents making less than \$29,999 were marginally second in this response with 57%).
- Amongst the demographics (gender, age, household income, ideology), the plurality, and in some cases the majority, of every subgroup reported that the risks outweighed the revenues.

Legalizing Medicinal Marijuana

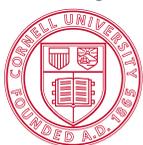
Newly added to the ESP in 2010 was an examination of NYS residents' opinion toward new legislation that would permit the usage of marijuana for medicinal purposes. The question states: Would you support or oppose a law in New York State that would legalize the medical use of marijuana in New York State? 1. Support, 2. Oppose.

Table 3 Marijuana Legalization

Support versus Oppose	% of all respondents		
	NYS	Downstate	Upstate
Support	64	62	67
Oppose	36	38	33

Note: Weighting applied to match actual distribution of upstate vs. downstate. Due to rounding, distributions may not add up to 100.

- Overall, almost two out of three (64%) of respondents



said they would support a law that would make medicinal marijuana legal.

- There is only a minute amount of variance between the supportive responses for upstate and downstate residents (67% vs. 62% respectively).
- The majority of Democrats and Independents (66% and 68% respectively) support the legalization of medicinal marijuana. Contrastingly, the plurality of Republicans oppose its legalization (48%).

legalization of marijuana.

- Although the majority in each income bracket supported the legalization of medicinal marijuana, the percentages of responses that supported the legislation increased with income. 73% of respondents making \$100,000 or more supported the legislation compared to 53% of those making less than \$29,999.
- Almost four out of five liberals (79%) and about three out of five moderates (63%) support the legalization of medicinal marijuana. This support decreases drastically amongst conservatives such that the majority (51%) actually opposes its legalization.
- Amongst the demographics (gender, age, household income, ideology), respondents who classified themselves as conservatives were the only group to have the majority oppose legalization of medicinal marijuana.

Table 4 Marijuana Legalization by Demographic Characterization

	Legalize marijuana in NYS	
	Support	Oppose
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	67	33
Female	61	39
<i>Race</i>		
Non-white	60	40
White	66	34
<i>Age</i>		
18-24	65	35
25-34	73	27
35-44	67	33
45-54	67	33
55-64	65	35
65+	52	48
<i>Household Income</i>		
Less than \$29,999	53	47
30,000 to \$49,999	57	43
50,000 to \$99,999	68	32
\$100,000 or more	73	27
<i>Ideology</i>		
Liberal	79	21
Moderate	63	37
Conservative	49	51

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Citing Results from the ESP:

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Note: Weighting applied to match actual distribution of upstate vs. downstate. Due to rounding, distributions may not add up to 100.

- About two out of three men (67%) and about three out of five women (61%) support the legalization of marijuana.
- More whites than non-whites support the legalization of marijuana (66% vs. 60% respectively).
- The majority in each age bracket support the legalization of marijuana. Albeit, those age 65+ were close to a 50/50 split with 48% opposing the

