

Gov. Christie income tax cut has support, but many overestimate what they'd get, survey finds

TRENTON — More than half of New Jersey registered voters support Gov. Chris Christie's plan to cut income taxes by 10 percent, according to a new Eagleton-Rutgers poll, though many voters were uncertain of or overestimate how much money they would save.

Support for the plan was nearly equal across the economic spectrum, including among lower-income respondents whose benefit would be less because their bills and New Jersey tax rates are lower.

Christie is expected to include the first installment of a three-year plan to reduce income taxes by 10 percent in the budget he outlines in a speech to a joint session of the Legislature at 2 p.m. today.

The Eagleton-Rutgers Poll 52 percent of registered voters support the proposal, while 36 percent oppose.

Even among those who expect to save \$200 or less, there was nearly as much support as opposition.

Many voters expect the savings to be much higher, though.

While one-third of voters wouldn't venture a guess about how much the plan would save their family, 14 percent thought it would exceed \$2,000.

Eight percent more thought it would be between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

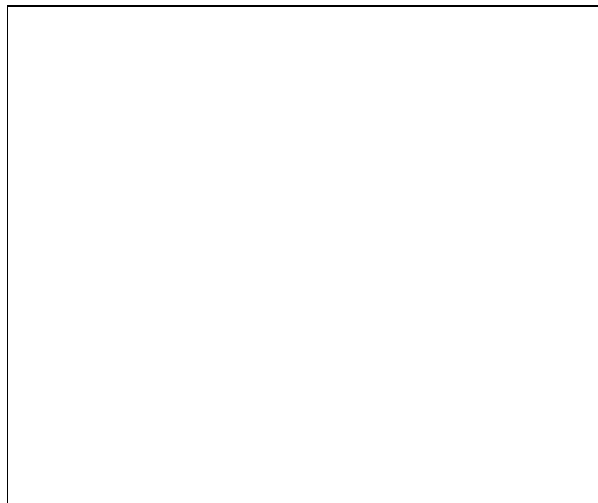
The average estimated savings among those who responded was \$2,364. The median — meaning half said more, half said less — was \$746.

A household would need taxable income of a little over \$180,000 to see a \$746 benefit from a 10 percent cut in income taxes.

"People do not have a good sense of how much they pay in state income tax and what a 10 percent savings means," said poll director David Redlawsk.

"This leads them to overestimate their own

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gain, which may affect their support for the proposal.”

Ten percent of respondents with incomes under \$50,000 thought they would save more than \$2,000. Their total state tax bill is \$805 or less.

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