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FINAL STATEWIDE ALIMONY SURVEY
For the New Jersey Alimony Reform
& the
New Jersey Women for Alimony Reform

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Center for Public Interest Polling (CPIP) at the Eagleton Institute of Politics conducted a statewide survey on behalf of the New Jersey Alimony Reform (NJAR) and the New Jersey Women for Alimony Reform (NJWAR). NJAR/NJWAR is interested in gathering data on the awareness of and attitudes toward alimony reform in New Jersey. One of the goals of this survey is to identify public attitudes towards alimony, particularly its purpose and whether lifetime alimony is still relevant today.

METHODOLOGY

The Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling, Rutgers University, completed a survey on public attitudes towards alimony at the request of the New Jersey Alimony Reform (NJAR) and the New Jersey Women for Alimony Reform, conducted September 3-9, 2013.

The survey was part of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll conducted by telephone with a scientifically selected random sample of 925 New Jersey adults. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey adult population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to US Census Bureau data. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 782 landline and 143 cell phone adults, all acquired through random digit dialing.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for 925 adults is +/-3.2 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey adults favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 46.8 and 53.2 percent (50 +/-3.2) if all New Jersey adults were interviewed, rather than just a sample.

Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects. Column totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

For the findings described in this report, crosstabs for all questions are available with the Demographic Banners. Additionally, the regions described in the statewide sample include the following counties: Urban (Essex, Hudson); Suburban (Bergen, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, Union); Ex-Urban (Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Warren); Phil/South (Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem); and Shore (Atlantic, Monmouth, Ocean).

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research Incorporated and the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house.

This report was prepared by Debbie Borie-Holtz, Project Manager, and Amanda Marziliano of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling staff.

OVERVIEW

- Nearly two-thirds of all New Jersey adults said the MOST important purpose of alimony is to provide financial support until the former spouse becomes financially independent.
- There were no statistical difference found between men and women on the MOST important purpose for alimony or among those adults with or without dependent children in the home.
- The biggest distinctions in gender were found when it came to whether or not “permanent alimony” should end (39 percent of males agreed compared to 27 percent of females and whether lifetime alimony should continue as is (20 percent of women agreed as compared to 12 percent of men).
- Overall, one-third of all New Jersey adults said “permanent alimony” should end while 11 percent said it should continue as is. Just 24 percent of the older adults (65+) thought permanent alimony should end as compared to younger adults (18-29) who said they thought it should end.
- Views about whether “permanent alimony” should end also varied by income and by party ID. Forty-three percent of the highest wage earners (\$150k+) felt the practice should end as compared to about 30 percent of those earning less.
- Just 27 percent of Democrats said the practice should end as compared to 39 percent of Republicans. There were no statistically significant differences found by marital or parental status.
- Overall, 75 percent of adults opposed a recent court ruling that found a supported spouse in a marriage lasting 15 years or longer must be paid alimony for life. Fewer women (67 percent) opposed the decision compared to men (79 percent), but both genders opposed the decision.
- Among those who opposed the court ruling, 46 percent said lifetime alimony should be abolished, 39 percent said lifetime alimony should only be awarded when one spouse cannot support themselves after the end of the marriage and 10 percent said the length of a marriage alone should not determine whether a spouse gets alimony for life.
- About half of all New Jersey adults surveyed (47 percent) said alimony payments should be an amount that provides for basic needs, while one-third (34 percent) said it should be

set so that both parties may maintain the same standard of living even if lower than before the divorce. Just 8 percent said the same standard of living shared during the marriage should be the basis for alimony, regardless if the payer can maintain the level. There were no significant differences by gender in the criteria that should be used to establish alimony payments.

- When it comes to establishing criteria for setting the level or amount of alimony payments, it appears that factors such as age, education and employment status influence the criteria respondents thought should be used in determining alimony payments.

RESULTS

I. Most Important Purpose of Alimony

We first asked respondents what should be the MOST important purpose of alimony.

Respondents were provided with a brief overview of the alimony laws in New Jersey which were described as follows:

In a divorce, a court may order one party to pay alimony, an amount paid to the other for a period of time or for the rest of their life to allow that person to maintain the lifestyle they had in the marriage. Either the former husband or wife may have to pay alimony if they were the primary wage-earner. Child support is different and separate and alimony is ordered even in childless marriages. New Jersey is currently considering reforming alimony laws through bills pending in the legislature.

Respondents were then asked what should be the MOST important purpose of alimony. As displayed in Table 1, five randomized responses were provided.

Table 1: Most Important Purpose of Alimony	
Financial support until the former spouse becomes financially independent	65%
Compensation to the former spouse for not working during the marriage	12%
Financial support for the rest of the former spouse's life	8%
Punish a spouse for wrongdoing during the marriage	4%
No purpose	5%
Don't Know	8%
Total	906

Almost two thirds (65 percent) of New Jersey adults believe the MOST important purpose of alimony should be to provide financial support for a limited time to enable the former spouse to become financially independent. Another 12 percent of respondents said the MOST important purpose was to compensate the former spouse for not working during the marriage.

With a sampling margin of error of +/- 3.2 percent, there was no statistical difference between women and men (Table 2).

	All	Male	Female
Financial support until the former spouse becomes financially independent	65%	68%	61%
Compensation to the former spouse for not working during the marriage	12%	8%	14%
Financial support for the rest of the former spouse's life	8%	8%	8%
Punish a spouse for wrongdoing during the marriage	4%	3%	5%
No purpose	5%	5%	4%
Don't Know	8%	9%	8%
Total	906	414	492

Among those who were widowed, 59 percent said the MOST important purpose of alimony was to provide financial support for a limited time as compared to 72 percent of those who have never been married and 64 percent of those who are married (Table 3). There was no difference observed based on parental status.

	All	MARITAL STATUS					PARENTAL STATUS	
		Married	Committed relationship	Widowed	Divorced	Never married	Yes	No
Limited time until financially independent	65%	64%	61%	59%	56%	72%	62%	65%
Compensate for lost earnings	12%	13%	10%	10%	10%	8%	14%	10%
Support for life	8%	7%	12%	8%	11%	7%	5%	9%
Punish for wrong-doing	4%	4%	2%	4%	11%	0%	4%	4%
No longer has a purpose	5%	5%	8%	7%	2%	3%	6%	4%
DK	8%	7%	7%	12%	10%	9%	9%	8%
Unwght N	906	519	59	100	73	121	228	673

There appear to be only small differences about among adults based on education. Fifty-six percent of respondents with a high school or less said the MOST important purpose of alimony is to provide financial support to the former spouse until s/he becomes financially independent, as compared to 67 percent of those with some college education or higher (Table 4).

Table 4: Most Important Purpose of Alimony by Education					
	All	HS or Less	Some College	College Grad	Grad Work
Limited time until financially independent	65%	56%	67%	67%	67%
Compensate for lost earnings	12%	7%	8%	14%	15%
Support for life	8%	9%	11%	6%	7%
Punish for wrong-doing	4%	7%	3%	3%	2%
No longer has a purpose	5%	10%	4%	2%	3%
DK	8%	11%	6%	8%	6%
Unwght N	906	210	226	253	212

Employment status also appeared to affect views on alimony (Table 5). Seventy percent of those who worked full time felt financial support should be provided for a limited time until the former spouse becomes financially independent, as compared to 58 percent of those adults who were retired or not employed. Seventeen percent of those who work part-time felt alimony should provide support for life, as opposed to 4 percent of those who work full time and 8% of those adults who were retired.

Table 5: Most Important Purpose of Alimony by Employment					
	All	Full Time	Part Time	Retired	Not Employed
Limited time until financially independent	65%	70%	65%	58%	58%
Compensate for lost earnings	12%	11%	8%	13%	12%
Support for life	8%	4%	17%	8%	10%
Punish for wrong-doing	4%	3%	3%	4%	7%
No longer has a purpose	5%	5%	2%	5%	6%
DK	8%	8%	5%	12%	7%
Unwght N	906	380	89	276	135

II. Permanent Alimony

Respondents were also asked about “permanent alimony” which was described as alimony that is paid until the recipient dies or remarries.

After hearing this description, respondents were then asked if they think New Jersey should end the practice of permanent alimony, continue the practice as is, OR should permanent alimony be continued but limited to those who prove they cannot support themselves.

Just one in ten adults (11 percent) believes the practice should continue as is. Nearly half (48 percent) of all respondents said the practice should be limited to those who cannot support themselves while 32 percent said permanent alimony should end.

Table 6: Permanent Alimony	
Limit to those who cannot support themselves	48%
End permanent alimony	32%
Continue as is	11%
Don't Know	9%
Total	897

Gender differences in this question are displayed in Table 7. Almost four in ten men (39 percent) favored ending permanent alimony as compared to 27 percent of women. Women are more likely to say it should be continued as is, but for both genders, the top response is to limit permanent alimony to those who cannot support themselves, with woman more likely than men to choose this option.

Table 7: Permanent Alimony by Gender			
	All	Male	Female
Limit to those who cannot support themselves	48%	45%	51%
End permanent alimony	32%	39%	27%
Continue as is	11%	8%	13%
Don't Know	9%	8%	9%
Total	897	409	488

A sharp contrast appeared between young and older adults. Forty percent of those between the ages of 18-29 support ending permanent alimony, while only 24 percent of those 65 years and older do (Table 8).

	All	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Limit to those who cannot support themselves	48%	43%	48%	50%	49%
End permanent alimony	32%	40%	33%	34%	24%
Continue as is	11%	8%	12%	10%	12%
Don't Know	9%	9%	7%	6%	16%
Total	906	85	215	311	286

Income also created an important difference—40 percent of those whose household income was less than \$50,000 a year said that permanent alimony should be limited to those who prove they cannot support themselves, while 56 percent of those whose household income was between \$100,000 and \$150,000 said it should be limited (Table 9).

About three in 10 adults earning \$150k or less said permanent alimony should be ended as compared to 43 percent of those earning \$150k or more.

	All	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	>150K
Limit to those who cannot support themselves	48%	40%	54%	56%	48%
End permanent alimony	32%	31%	30%	30%	43%
Continue as is	11%	15%	12%	10%	4%
Don't Know	9%	14%	5%	4%	4%
Total	906	193	270	122	108

There also appeared to be differences between Democrats (53 percent) who said permanent alimony should be limited to those who cannot support themselves and 42 percent of all Republicans.

Those who were retired also said permanent alimony should end (24 percent) as compared to those 38 percent of those working full-time.

III. Court Ruling on Lifetime Alimony

Next, respondents were asked whether they agreed with a recent court ruling that found that a supported spouse in a marriage lasting 15 years or longer must be paid alimony for life. Three-quarters of all adults opposed the court ruling while only 14 percent supported the decision (Table 10).

Table 10: Court Ruling on Lifetime Alimony	
Oppose	75%
Support	14%
Don't Know	9%
Total	895

Given this wide margin, we still found gender differences with 67 percent of females opposed to the decision as compared to 79 percent of all men (Table 11).

Table 11: Court Ruling on Lifetime Alimony by Gender			
	All	Male	Female
Oppose	75%	79%	67%
Support	14%	12%	20%
DK	11%	9%	14%
Total	895	409	486

Three-quarters of respondents who worked full time opposed the ruling, while less than two-thirds of those unemployed did so (Table 12).

Table 12: Court Ruling on Lifetime Alimony by Employment Status					
	All	Full Time	Part Time	Retired	Not Employed
Oppose	75%	77%	67%	76%	63%
Support	14%	13%	26%	11%	27%
DK	11%	11%	7%	14%	10%
Unwght N	895	381	87	271	131

Among those who opposed the ruling, a follow-up question was asked as to which of the following actions the court should have taken in determining the case:

- The length of a marriage alone should not determine whether a spouse gets alimony for life

- Alimony for life should only be awarded when one spouse cannot support themselves after the end of the marriage
- Alimony for life should be abolished

Almost half of this group (46 percent) felt that alimony for life should be permanently abolished, while 39 percent said it should be provided to those who could not support themselves. Ten percent said the length of the marriage should not determine whether a spouse receives alimony for life (Table 13).

It is important to note that this is only the group that opposed the court decision, hence this group is more likely to support ending lifetime alimony (at 46 percent) than the population as a whole supports the elimination of “permanent alimony” (32 percent) from the earlier question.

	All
Lifetime alimony should be abolished	46%
Lifetime alimony given to those who cannot support themselves	39%
Length of marriage shouldn't determine alimony	10%
DK	5%
Unwght N	664

There were no significant differences among this group when it came to gender within this group. Those with a high school education or less were less likely to feel that alimony should be limited to circumstances of extreme financial need (32%) as opposed to those with college degrees (43%).

What did seem to matter was employment status. More than half (53 percent) of those currently unemployed felt lifetime alimony should be given to those who cannot support themselves, compared to 35 percent of those who work full time. The reverse was true for abolishing lifetime alimony (Table 14).

	All	Full Time	Part Time	Retired	Not Employed
Lifetime alimony should be abolished	46%	50%	48%	45%	36%
Lifetime alimony given to those who cannot support themselves	39%	35%	34%	38%	53%
Length of marriage shouldn't determine alimony	10%	11%	8%	8%	8%
DK	5%	3%	10%	9%	3%
Unwght N	664	295	60	206	86

V. Alimony Payments

Finally, respondents were asked what criteria should be used to establish alimony payments and were provided with the following criteria in random order from which to make a selection:

- An amount that allows the recipient enough for current basic needs such as for housing, clothing and food.
- An amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before the divorce.
- An amount allowing the recipient to maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, whether or not the payer can maintain his or her own standard of living.

About half of all adults surveyed said alimony should be an amount that provides for basic needs while one-third said it should be set so that both parties may maintain the same standard of living even if lower than before the divorce. Just 8 percent said the same standard of living that existed during the marriage should be the basis for alimony, regardless if payers can maintain their own standard of level; 11 percent of adults surveyed did not know (Table 15).

Table 15: Amount of Alimony Payments	
	All
Amount that allows for basic needs of spouse	47%
Amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before	34%
An amount that maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, regardless of impact on payer	8%
Don't Know	11%
Total	880

There were no significant differences by gender, but age differences continued to be important. Fifty-six percent of those between the ages of 30-49 said that alimony should be only allowed for basic needs; this declines to 44 percent among those 65 years and older (Table 16).

Table 16: Amount of Alimony by Age					
	All	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Amount that allows for basic needs of spouse	47%	49%	56%	45%	44%
Amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before	34%	28%	29%	37%	33%
An amount that maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, regardless of impact on payer	8%	9%	9%	7%	9%
Don't Know	11%	14%	5%	11%	14%
Total	880	81	211	303	285

In addition to age, education and employment status are the most important factors influencing the views about the amount of alimony payments that should be paid to a spouse. Just 29 percent of those between the ages of 18-29 said both parties should maintain the same standard as compared to 40 percent of those 65 years and older (Table 17).

Table 17: Amount of Alimony by Education					
	All	HS or less	Some College	College Grad	Grad Work
Amount that allows for basic needs of spouse	47%	48%	53%	51%	46%
Amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before	34%	29%	29%	31%	40%
An amount that maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, regardless of impact on payer	8%	8%	8%	10%	6%
Don't Know	11%	15%	10%	8%	8%
Total	880	204	221	245	205

Similarly, 21 percent of those employed part-time agreed that alimony payments should be set so that both parties maintain the same standard of living, as compared to 37 percent of those employed full-time said both parties (Table 18).

Table 18: Amount of Alimony by Employment Status					
	All	Full Time	Part Time	Retired	Not Employed
Amount that allows for basic needs of spouse	47%	49%	60%	45%	49%
Amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before	34%	37%	21%	29%	30%
An amount that maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, regardless of impact on payer	8%	7%	11%	9%	11%
Don't Know	11%	7%	8%	16%	11%
Total	880	370	85	272	128

CONCLUSIONS

Nearly two-thirds of all New Jersey adults said the MOST important purpose of alimony is to provide financial support until the former spouse becomes financially independent. This perspective did not appear to vary between men or women and was not dependent upon parental status.

Gender did have an influence on the question as to whether or not “permanent alimony” should end or continue. Thirty-nine percent of males agreed the practice should end as compared to 27 percent of females. Similarly, more women (13 percent) believed lifetime alimony should continue “as is” as compared to just 8 percent of men.

Overall, the majority of all New Jersey adults said “permanent alimony” should be changed in one form or another. Almost one-third (32 percent) said the practice should end while 48 percent said “permanent alimony” should be limited to those who prove they cannot support themselves. In addition to gender, the highest income wage earners were more inclined to say that “permanent alimony” should end.

The majority of adults surveyed (75 percent) opposed a recent court ruling that found a supported spouse in a marriage lasting 15 years or longer must be paid alimony for life. Fewer women (67 percent) opposed the decision as compared to men (79 percent), but both genders opposed the decision. Among those who opposed the court ruling, 46 percent said lifetime alimony should be abolished, 39 percent said lifetime alimony should only be awarded when one spouse cannot support themselves after the end of the marriage and 10 percent said the length of a marriage alone should not determine whether a spouse gets alimony for life.

When it comes to establishing criteria for setting the level or amount of alimony payments, it appears that factors such as age, education and employment status had the most influence. Overall, 47 percent of all New Jersey adults surveyed said alimony payments should be an amount that provides for basic needs, while one-third (34 percent) said it should be set so that both parties may maintain the same standard of living even if lower than before the divorce. Just 8 percent said the same standard of living shared during the marriage should be the basis for alimony, regardless if the payer can maintain the level. Here again, there were no significant differences by gender in the criteria that should be used to establish alimony payments.

APPENDIX
September 3 – 8, 2013
Sample: 925 NJ ADULTS
Weighted Results

ALIMONY QUESTIONS

Next, I am going to ask you some questions about divorce and alimony laws in New Jersey.

In a divorce, a court may order one party to pay alimony, an amount paid to the other for a period of time or for the rest of their life to allow that person to maintain the lifestyle they had in the marriage. Either the former husband or wife may have to pay alimony if they were the primary wage-earner. Child support is different and separate and alimony is ordered even in childless marriages. New Jersey is currently considering reforming alimony laws through bills pending in the legislature.

QAL1 Which of the following should be the MOST important purpose of alimony? Should it be:

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OPTIONS 1-4; READ OPTIONS 1-4 ONLY]

- 64% To provide financial support for a limited time to enable the former spouse to become financially independent.
- 12% To provide compensation to the former spouse for earnings lost due to not working during the marriage.
- 8% To provide financial support for the rest of the former spouse's life.
- 4% To punish a spouse for any wrongdoing during the marriage.
- 5% Alimony no longer has a purpose/Doesn't believe alimony should exist (vol)
- 8% Don't Know (vol)

N= 906

QAL2 One type of alimony is called "Permanent Alimony," meaning it is paid until the recipient dies or remarries. Do you think New Jersey should end the practice of Permanent Alimony, continue the practice as it is OR should permanent alimony be continued but limited to those who prove they cannot support themselves.

- 48% Limit the payment of Permanent Alimony to those who prove they cannot support themselves.
- 32% End Permanent Alimony
- 11% Continue Permanent Alimony as is
- 9% Don't know (vol)

N=897

QAL3 A New Jersey court recently ruled that a supported spouse in a marriage lasting 15 years or longer must be paid alimony for life. That means even if a couple gets divorced at relatively young age alimony may have to be paid until one of them dies. Do you support or oppose this decision?

- 75% Oppose
- 14% Support
- 11% Don't Know

N=895

[ASK ONLY IF QAL3 = 2 (OPPOSE)]

QAL4 Which of the following should the court should have said?

[READ 1-3]

- 46% Alimony for life should be abolished
- 39% Alimony for life should only be awarded when one spouse cannot support themselves after the end of the marriage
- 10% The length of a marriage alone should not determine whether a spouse gets alimony for life
- 5% Don't Know

N=670

QAL5 Which of the following should be the used to set the amount of alimony payments?

[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-3; READ OPTIONS 1-3]

- 47% An amount that allows the recipient enough for current basic needs such as for housing, clothing and food.
- 34% An amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before the divorce.
- 8% An amount allowing the recipient to maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, whether or not the payer can maintain his or her own standard of living.
- 11% Don't know (vol)

N=880

DEMOGRAPHICS

We're almost finished. Now we have a few last questions to help us understand our results.

QD8 Age
21% 18-29
34% 30-49
28% 50-64
17% 65+

N=925

QD5A And what county do you live in?

[Choose from list of NJ Counties]

2% Atlantic
7% Bergen
6% Burlington
5% Camden
2% Cape May
1% Cumberland
11% Essex
4% Gloucester
6% Hudson
3% Hunterdon
5% Mercer
11% Middlesex
6% Monmouth
4% Morris
6% Ocean
3% Passaic
1% Salem
7% Somerset
2% Sussex
8% Union
2% Warren

N=925

QD26 Respondent Gender

48% Male
52% Female

N=925

QD2 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or something else?

39% Democrat → **SKIP TO QD4**
18% Republican → **SKIP TO QD4**
43% Independent

N=899

QD3 Would you say that you lean toward the Democrats, the Republicans, or neither party?

25% Democrat
20% Republican
55% Neither

N=540

QD4 Do you consider yourself to be liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?

26% Liberal
56% Conservative
18% Somewhere in between

N=891

QD6 What was the last grade in school you completed? [**CODE TO LIST**]

1% 8th Grade Or Less
3% High School Incomplete (Grades 9, 10 and 11)
19% High School Complete (Grade 12)
2% Vocational/Technical School
11% Some College
12% Junior College Graduate (2 Year, Associates Degree)
30% 4 Year College Graduate (Bachelor's Degree)
22% Graduate Work (Masters, Law/Medical School, Etc.)

N=915

QD9 What is your primary employment status? Are you: **[READ 1-8]**

[IF RESPONDENT SAYS SELF-EMPLOYED, PROMPT WITH “AND ARE YOU SELF-EMPLOYED FULL TIME OR PART TIME?”]

49% Employed full time
12% Employed part time
2% Laid off from a job
7% A homemaker or stay at home parent
20% Retired
1% Student
3% Otherwise Not Employed
4% Disabled

N=917

QD13 Do you or any member of your household belong to a labor union?

22% Yes
77% No
1% Don't Know (VOL)

N=915

QD17 Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Spanish background?

17% Yes
82% No
1% Don't know (VOL)

N=909

QD18 Are you white, Black or of Asian origin, or are you some other race, or multi-racial?

58% White
14% Black (accept African-American)
10% Asian
8% Hispanic / Latino / Spanish (VOL)
0.2% OTHER, SPECIFY: _____
6% Multi-racial
1.3% Don't know (VOL)

N=898

QD19 Are you married, in a committed relationship, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

53%	Married
10%	Committed relationship
7%	Widowed
7%	Divorced
2%	Separated
20%	Never married

N=904

QD20 Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 now living in your home?

33%	Yes
67%	No

N=915

QD21 Last year, that is in 2012, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. **[READ LIST]**

9%	Less than \$25,000
14%	25 to under \$50,000
15%	50 to under \$75,000
15%	75 to under \$100,000
13%	100 to under \$150,000
12%	\$150,000 or more
7%	Don't know [VOL. – DO NOT READ]

N=765

WEIGHTED BANNERS

Weighted Banners by Gender and Age		ALL	GENDER		AGE GROUP			
			Male	Female	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Most Important Purpose of Alimony	To provide financial support for a limited time to enable the former spouse to become financially independent.	65%	68%	61%	65%	63%	66%	64%
	To provide compensation to the former spouse for earnings lost due to not working during the marriage.	12%	8%	14%	8%	13%	12%	10%
	To provide financial support for the rest of the former spouses life.	8%	8%	8%	11%	8%	6%	6%
	To punish a spouse for any wrongdoing during the marriage.	4%	3%	5%	1%	4%	6%	4%
	Alimony no longer has a purpose.	5%	5%	4%	7%	5%	3%	5%
	DK	8%	9%	8%	8%	7%	7%	11%
	Unwght N	906	414	492	85	214	316	291
Permanent Alimony	Limit the payment of Permanent Alimony to those who prove they cannot support themselves.	48%	45%	51%	43%	48%	50%	49%
	End Permanent Alimony	32%	39%	27%	40%	33%	34%	24%
	Continue Permanent Alimony as is	11%	8%	13%	8%	12%	10%	12%
	DK	9%	8%	9%	9%	7%	6%	16%
	Unwght N	897	409	488	85	215	311	286
Lifetime alimony	Support	14%	12%	20%	18%	18%	14%	11%
	Oppose	75%	79%	67%	68%	71%	76%	77%
	DK	11%	9%	14%	13%	11%	10%	12%
	Unwght N	895	409	486	85	215	310	285
If opposed, what alternatives	Alimony for life should be abolished	46%	49%	44%	58%	43%	47%	42%
	Alimony for life should only be awarded when one spouse cannot support themself after the end of the marriage	39%	37%	40%	29%	44%	36%	42%
	The length of a marriage alone should not determine whether a spouse gets alimony for life	10%	8%	11%	5%	10%	11%	10%
	DK	5%	5%	5%	7%	3%	6%	7%
	Unwght N	664	333	331	57	152	236	219
Alimony payments	An amount that allows the recipient enough for current basic needs such as for housing, clothing and food.	47%	51%	48%	49%	56%	45%	44%
	An amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before the divorce.	34%	32%	32%	28%	29%	37%	33%
	An amount allowing the recipient to maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, whether or not payer can maintain his/her standard of living	8%	6%	11%	9%	9%	7%	9%
	DK	11%	11%	10%	14%	5%	11%	14%
	Unwght N	880	399	481	81	211	303	285

Weighted Banners by Education & Party ID		ALL	EDUCATION				PARTY ID		
			HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Most Important Purpose of Alimony	To provide financial support for a limited time to enable the former spouse to become financially independent.	65%	56%	67%	67%	67%	68%	62%	60%
	To provide compensation to the former spouse for earnings lost due to not working during the marriage.	12%	7%	8%	14%	15%	11%	12%	11%
	To provide financial support for the rest of the former spouses life.	8%	9%	11%	6%	7%	8%	7%	11%
	To punish a spouse for any wrongdoing during the marriage.	4%	7%	3%	3%	2%	5%	3%	5%
	Alimony no longer has a purpose.	5%	10%	4%	2%	3%	3%	5%	7%
	DK	8%	11%	6%	8%	6%	5%	11%	7%
	Unwght N	906	210	226	253	212	335	367	178
Permanent Alimony	Limit the payment of Permanent Alimony to those who prove they cannot support themselves.	48%	42%	50%	52%	46%	53%	45%	42%
	End Permanent Alimony	32%	33%	31%	32%	36%	27%	37%	39%
	Continue Permanent Alimony as is	11%	12%	14%	8%	10%	12%	9%	9%
	DK	9%	13%	5%	8%	8%	8%	9%	11%
	Unwght N	897	207	225	250	210	336	364	172
Lifetime alimony	Support	14%	17%	18%	13%	16%	20%	12%	15%
	Oppose	75%	68%	76%	74%	73%	69%	75%	76%
	DK	11%	15%	6%	13%	11%	11%	13%	9%
	Unwght N	895	209	223	249	209	333	364	174
If opposed, what alternatives	Alimony for life should be abolished	46%	52%	49%	43%	43%	48%	45%	45%
	Alimony for life should only be awarded when one spouse cannot support themselves after the end of the marriage	39%	32%	38%	43%	41%	41%	36%	42%
	The length of a marriage alone should not determine whether a spouse gets alimony for life	10%	10%	5%	11%	13%	8%	12%	5%
	DK	5%	6%	8%	3%	4%	3%	7%	7%
	Unwght N	664	137	175	194	156	233	280	136
Alimony payments	An amount that allows the recipient enough for current basic needs such as for housing, clothing and food.	47%	48%	53%	51%	46%	50%	48%	53%
	An amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before the divorce.	34%	29%	29%	31%	40%	30%	35%	29%
	An amount allowing the recipient to maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, whether or not payer can maintain his/her standard of living	8%	8%	8%	10%	6%	13%	5%	7%
	DK	11%	15%	10%	8%	8%	7%	12%	11%
	Unwght N	880	204	221	245	205	329	354	172

Weighted Banners by Ideology & Income		ALL	IDEOLOGY			INCOME			
			Lib.	Mod	Con.	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	>150K
Most Important Purpose of Alimony	To provide financial support for a limited time to enable the former spouse to become financially independent.	65%	64%	63%	68%	61%	70%	71%	65%
	To provide compensation to the former spouse for earnings lost due to not working during the marriage.	12%	13%	11%	8%	7%	12%	10%	18%
	To provide financial support for the rest of the former spouses life.	8%	8%	8%	7%	10%	6%	4%	7%
	To punish a spouse for any wrongdoing during the marriage.	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	1%
	Alimony no longer has a purpose.	5%	4%	5%	7%	7%	5%	3%	3%
	DK	8%	7%	9%	6%	12%	4%	7%	6%
	Unwght N	906	226	457	192	197	270	121	109
Permanent Alimony	Limit the payment of Permanent Alimony to those who prove they cannot support themselves.	48%	49%	52%	40%	40%	54%	56%	48%
	End Permanent Alimony	32%	28%	33%	39%	31%	30%	30%	43%
	Continue Permanent Alimony as is	11%	12%	8%	13%	15%	12%	10%	4%
	DK	9%	11%	7%	8%	14%	5%	4%	4%
	Unwght N	897	226	455	186	193	270	122	108
Lifetime alimony	Support	14%	15%	17%	12%	19%	14%	16%	12%
	Oppose	75%	68%	74%	80%	69%	75%	74%	83%
	DK	11%	17%	9%	9%	12%	10%	10%	5%
	Unwght N	895	224	453	188	193	270	121	109
If opposed, what alternatives	Alimony for life should be abolished	46%	50%	46%	45%	47%	46%	47%	42%
	Alimony for life should only be awarded when one spouse cannot support themselves after the end of the marriage	39%	36%	41%	35%	37%	44%	32%	46%
	The length of a marriage alone should not determine whether a spouse gets alimony for life	10%	8%	10%	9%	8%	8%	17%	7%
	DK	5%	6%	3%	11%	8%	2%	4%	5%
	Unwght N	664	151	341	156	134	215	90	91
Alimony payments	An amount that allows the recipient enough for current basic needs such as for housing, clothing and food.	47%	46%	49%	57%	49%	56%	49%	40%
	An amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before the divorce.	34%	34%	35%	22%	29%	29%	39%	48%
	An amount allowing the recipient to maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, whether or not payer can maintain his/her standard of living	8%	10%	7%	8%	8%	9%	10%	3%
	DK	11%	10%	9%	13%	14%	6%	2%	8%
	Unwght N	880	222	441	188	188	266	121	106

Weighted Banners by Employment & Union HH		ALL	EMPLOYMENT STATUS				UNION HOUSEHOLD		
			Full Time	Part Time	Retired	Not Empl	Public Union	Private Union	No Union
Most Important Purpose of Alimony	To provide financial support for a limited time to enable the former spouse to become financially independent.	65%	70%	65%	58%	58%	60%	75%	64%
	To provide compensation to the former spouse for earnings lost due to not working during the marriage.	12%	11%	8%	13%	12%	12%	5%	12%
	To provide financial support for the rest of the former spouses life.	8%	4%	17%	8%	10%	14%	6%	7%
	To punish a spouse for any wrongdoing during the marriage.	4%	3%	3%	4%	7%	5%	3%	3%
	Alimony no longer has a purpose.	5%	5%	2%	5%	6%	3%	6%	5%
	DK	8%	8%	5%	12%	7%	5%	4%	9%
	Unwght N	906	380	89	276	135	129	59	688
Permanent Alimony	Limit the payment of Permanent Alimony to those who prove they cannot support themselves.	48%	45%	49%	49%	52%	42%	51%	49%
	End Permanent Alimony	32%	38%	35%	24%	26%	32%	34%	33%
	Continue Permanent Alimony as is	11%	10%	10%	12%	14%	14%	9%	11%
	DK	9%	7%	6%	16%	9%	12%	6%	8%
	Unwght N	897	379	88	272	132	129	59	679
Lifetime alimony	Support	14%	13%	26%	11%	27%	17%	13%	16%
	Oppose	75%	77%	67%	76%	63%	69%	77%	73%
	DK	11%	11%	7%	14%	10%	14%	11%	10%
	Unwght N	895	381	87	271	131	130	57	678
If opposed, what alternatives	Alimony for life should be abolished	46%	50%	48%	45%	36%	49%	63%	44%
	Alimony for life should only be awarded when one spouse cannot support themselves after the end of the marriage	39%	35%	34%	38%	53%	36%	26%	41%
	The length of a marriage alone should not determine whether a spouse gets alimony for life	10%	11%	8%	8%	8%	10%	9%	10%
	DK	5%	3%	10%	9%	3%	5%	2%	6%
	Unwght N	664	295	60	206	86	90	43	510
Alimony payments	An amount that allows the recipient enough for current basic needs such as for housing, clothing and food.	47%	49%	60%	45%	49%	44%	40%	51%
	An amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before the divorce.	34%	37%	21%	29%	30%	29%	34%	33%
	An amount allowing the recipient to maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, whether or not payer can maintain his/her standard of living	8%	7%	11%	9%	11%	15%	9%	7%
	DK	11%	7%	8%	16%	11%	12%	17%	8%
	Unwght N	880	370	85	272	128	127	56	668

Weighted Banners by Region & Race		ALL	REGION					RACE			
			Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	White	Black	Hisp	Other
Most Important Purpose of Alimony	To provide financial support for a limited time to enable the former spouse to become financially independent.	65%	62%	66%	63%	62%	68%	66%	60%	65%	62%
	To provide compensation to the former spouse for earnings lost due to not working during the marriage.	12%	12%	10%	15%	8%	13%	13%	10%	8%	10%
	To provide financial support for the rest of the former spouses life.	8%	10%	9%	7%	8%	5%	7%	8%	8%	10%
	To punish a spouse for any wrongdoing during the marriage.	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%	5%	3%	7%
	Alimony no longer has a purpose.	5%	3%	3%	3%	8%	7%	5%	6%	6%	0%
	DK	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	5%	6%	10%	9%	11%
	Unwght N	906	119	281	173	185	148	647	87	69	81
Permanent Alimony	Limit the payment of Permanent Alimony to those who prove they cannot support themselves.	48%	50%	47%	49%	44%	52%	46%	60%	46%	48%
	End Permanent Alimony	32%	31%	36%	30%	32%	34%	35%	26%	29%	36%
	Continue Permanent Alimony as is	11%	14%	8%	10%	12%	13%	12%	9%	10%	6%
	DK	9%	5%	10%	11%	12%	2%	7%	6%	15%	10%
	Unwght N	897	119	280	170	182	146	639	87	69	79
Lifetime alimony	Support	14%	19%	16%	16%	14%	15%	14%	18%	16%	22%
	Oppose	75%	72%	69%	77%	75%	74%	76%	71%	68%	65%
	DK	11%	9%	15%	7%	11%	11%	10%	11%	16%	13%
	Unwght N	895	117	279	169	183	147	640	87	70	77
If opposed, what alternatives	Alimony for life should be abolished	46%	44%	35%	46%	60%	56%	50%	36%	46%	38%
	Alimony for life should only be awarded when one spouse cannot support themselves after the end of the marriage	39%	40%	46%	38%	31%	32%	36%	47%	45%	39%
	The length of a marriage alone should not determine whether a spouse gets alimony for life	10%	8%	13%	10%	6%	8%	10%	9%	4%	15%
	DK	5%	8%	6%	5%	3%	5%	4%	8%	5%	8%
	Unwght N	664	84	192	135	139	114	488	61	45	51
Alimony payments	An amount that allows the recipient enough for current basic needs such as for housing, clothing and food.	47%	50%	45%	53%	53%	51%	49%	53%	48%	54%
	An amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before the divorce.	34%	28%	32%	36%	30%	34%	37%	28%	25%	22%
	An amount allowing the recipient to maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, whether or not payer can maintain his/her standard of living	8%	11%	11%	5%	7%	7%	6%	9%	13%	12%
	DK	11%	12%	12%	6%	10%	9%	8%	10%	15%	12%
	Unwght N	880	118	276	167	176	143	627	87	68	76

Weighted Banners by Marital & Parental Status		ALL	MARITAL STATUS					PARENTAL STATUS	
			Parental Satus	Committed relationship	Widowed	Divorced	Never married	Yes	No
Most Important Purpose of Alimony	To provide financial support for a limited time to enable the former spouse to become financially independent.	65%	64%	61%	59%	56%	72%	62%	65%
	To provide compensation to the former spouse for earnings lost due to not working during the marriage.	12%	13%	10%	10%	10%	8%	14%	10%
	To provide financial support for the rest of the former spouses life.	8%	7%	12%	8%	11%	7%	5%	9%
	To punish a spouse for any wrongdoing during the marriage.	4%	4%	2%	4%	11%	%	4%	4%
	Alimony no longer has a purpose.	5%	5%	8%	7%	2%	3%	6%	4%
	DK	8%	7%	7%	12%	10%	9%	9%	8%
	Unwght N	906	519	59	100	73	121	228	673
Permanent Alimony	Limit the payment of Permanent Alimony to those who prove they cannot support themselves.	48%	48%	40%	51%	44%	52%	43%	50%
	End Permanent Alimony	32%	33%	49%	22%	34%	30%	36%	31%
	Continue Permanent Alimony as is	11%	11%	4%	12%	15%	12%	13%	10%
	DK	9%	8%	8%	15%	7%	6%	8%	9%
	Unwght N	897	516	59	96	72	120	228	664
Lifetime alimony	Support	14%	14%	10%	15%	19%	20%	17%	15%
	Oppose	75%	74%	77%	67%	73%	74%	68%	75%
	DK	11%	12%	13%	18%	8%	6%	14%	10%
	Unwght N	895	511	59	98	73	120	229	661
If opposed, what alternatives	Alimony for life should be abolished	46%	48%	59%	40%	41%	43%	47%	46%
	Alimony for life should only be awarded when one spouse cannot support themselves after the end of the marriage	39%	38%	30%	48%	43%	43%	36%	40%
	The length of a marriage alone should not determine whether a spouse gets alimony for life	10%	10%	6%	5%	10%	9%	13%	8%
	DK	5%	4%	4%	6%	6%	5%	4%	6%
	Unwght N	664	396	44	66	52	86	160	500
Alimony payments	An amount that allows the recipient enough for current basic needs such as for housing, clothing and food.	47%	47%	56%	51%	49%	54%	50%	50%
	An amount that permits both parties to maintain lifestyles similar to each other, even if lower than before the divorce.	34%	37%	21%	27%	27%	31%	32%	32%
	An amount allowing the recipient to maintain the same standard of living as existed during the marriage, whether or not payer can maintain his/her standard of living	8%	7%	9%	6%	22%	6%	9%	8%
	DK	11%	9%	14%	16%	2%	9%	10%	10%
	Unwght N	880	502	57	99	72	118	221	655