

## Stockton Poll: N.J. Residents Uneasy About the Economy



New Jersey adults rate the national economy as only so-so, but they feel even worse about the economy in New Jersey, according to a Stockton University poll released today.

Only 1 percent rate the state economy as excellent, and 21 percent say it is good, according to the poll of 709 adult state residents. Nearly half (48 percent) rate the New Jersey economy as fair, with 27 percent calling it poor and 2 percent unsure.

"But statistics support this feeling," Klein said, "As of March 2018, New Jersey's unemployment rate of 4.6 percent was seventh highest in the U.S., tied with Illinois and New York. While New Jersey has cut its unemployment rate by more than half since its peak of 9.8 percent from November 2009 to January 2010,

A slight majority of 51 percent say they do not know enough to have an opinion about Murphy's idea of creating a public bank to generate state revenue and make low-interest loans for public purposes. Twenty-seven percent support the idea and 20 percent oppose it.

The Hughes Center for Public Policy issued a report on April 10 that found a state public bank for New Jersey would have a positive effect on jobs and state earnings. The report, "Exploring a Public Bank for New Jersey: Economic Impact and Implementation Issues," was prepared by Deborah M. Figart, Distinguished Professor of Economics at Stockton.

Figart estimates that every \$10 million in new credit or lending by a state bank would yield between \$15 million

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