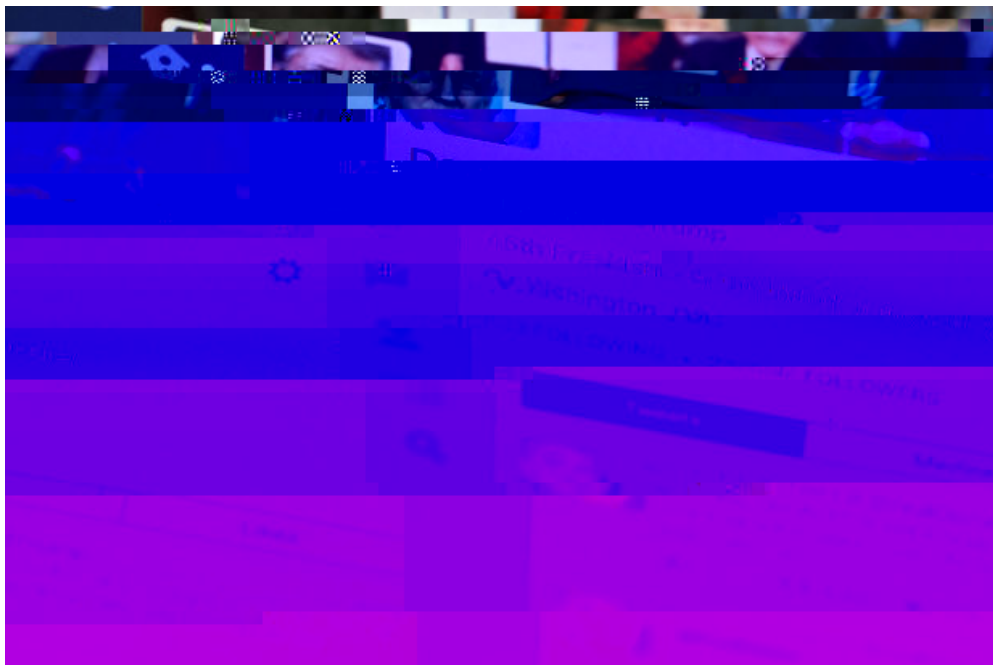

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When it comes to social media, less than 5 percent of all age groups, from 18 to 65 and over, plan to use it to get news about New Jersey elections. (J. David Ake | Associated Press)

The next 10 months in New Jersey government and politics will set the state's direction for many years to come. With a budget to be passed by June 30, a governor to be elected and the entire Legislature up for election or re-election in November, it is imperative that we engage as many residents as possible in understanding the issues and voting for New Jersey's future in the next election.

Unfortunately, the presidential election campaign, fake news and charges of media bias are having a pervasive effect on New Jersey residents of all ages. The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University delved into this issue to see just how serious it has become and whom it has affected.

Our Stockton Polling Institute conducted a telephone interview of 786 adult New Jersey residents during mid February, and the results exemplify how muddled the media milieu is right now.

