



Muhlenberg College/Morning Call

2018 Midterm Election Survey

October Wave

Key Findings:

1. As the midterm election season nears its end Democratic candidates hold large leads in the races in Pennsylvania for Governor and the United States Senate.
2. Governor Tom Wolf holds a commanding lead over State Senator Scott Wagner in his campaign to win a second term as the Keystone State's chief executive, with the incumbent Democrat maintaining a 58%-37% lead over his Republican challenger.
3. Democrat incumbent Bob Casey Jr. maintains a substantial 54%-40% lead over his Republican challenger Congressman Lou Barletta in the United States Senate race in Pennsylvania
4. President Trump's job approval rating among Pennsylvania voters has slightly improved since September but a majority (52%) of likely voters in the Commonwealth still indicated disapproval of Trump's handling of the presidency.

Methodological Statement

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of 421 likely voters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between October 28 and November 1, 2018. Respondents were interviewed in English on both landlines (194) and cell phones (227). With a randomly selected sample of respondents the margin of error for the surveys is +/- 5.5% at a 95% level of confidence. Margins of error for questions with smaller sample size will be larger. In addition to sampling error, one should consider that question wording and other fielding issues can introduce error or bias into survey results. The data has been weighted to gender and region to reflect voter population parameters in Pennsylvania. The calculation of sampling error takes into account design effects due to the weighting identified above. In order to reach a representative sample of likely voters both land lines and cell phones were called up to 3 times. The response rate for this survey as calculated using the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) RRII formula is approximately 7%. The sampling frame for the study is from the registered voters files of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with individuals who voted in at least 2 of the last 4 general elections or who had voted in either the 2018 primary elections or 2017 general election or if they were a new registrant since the 2016 Presidential Election. Due to rounding the totals provided in the frequency report may not total 100%. The survey instrument (presented in its

entirety below) was designed by Dr. Christopher P. Borick of the MCIPO in conjunction with the staff of the *Morning Call*. The survey was funded exclusively by the *Morning Call* and the MCIPO. For more detailed information on the methods employed please contact the MCIPO at 484-664-3444 or email Dr. Borick at cborick@muhlenberg.edu.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT AND FREQUENCY REPORT

Q1: Thank you. Which of the following categories best describes your current voting status? Are you registered as a _____? (READ LIST)

1. Democrat.....47%
2. Republican..... 40%
3. Independent..... 10%
4. Other Party..... 2%
5. Not Registered to Vote in Pennsylvania (END SURVEY)
6. Not Sure (Volunteered) (END SURVEY)

Q2: How likely are you to vote in the midterm elections this November? Are you definitely going to vote, very likely to vote, not too likely to vote or definitely not voting in the November Election?

1. Definitely Going to Vote.....81%
2. Very Likely To Vote.....19%
3. Not Too Likely to Vote (END SURVEY)
4. Definitely not voting (END SURVEY)
5. Not Sure (Volunteered) (END SURVEY)

Q3: Thinking about the upcoming midterm elections in November, would you say that you are very interested, somewhat interested or not interested at all in the 2018 elections?

1. Very Interested.....87%
2. Somewhat Interested.....12%
3. Not Interested At All..... 0%
4. Not Sure.....<1%

Q4: Next, I would like for you to rate the performance of a few political officials. For each name that I read, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way he is doing his job.

First, President Donald Trump?

1. Approve.....43%
2. Disapprove52%
3. No opinion (Volunteered)..... 6%

| | April | September | October |
|------------|-------|-----------|---------|
| Approve | 39% | 41% | 43% |
| Disapprove | 55% | 55% | 52% |
| No Opinion | 5% | 4% | 6% |

Q5:Next, Governor Tom Wolf?

1. Approve.....57%
2. Disapprove33%
3. No opinion (Volunteered)..... 10%

| | April | September | October |
|------------|-------|-----------|---------|
| Approve | 46% | 53% | 57% |
| Disapprove | 35% | 33% | 33% |
| No Opinion | 19% | 15% | 10% |

Q6: And Senator Bob Casey Jr.?

1. Approve.....50%
2. Disapprove29%
3. No opinion (Volunteered)..... 21%

| | April | September | October |
|------------|-------|-----------|---------|
| Approve | 41% | 47% | 50% |
| Disapprove | 28% | 32% | 29% |
| No Opinion | 31% | 20% | 21% |

Q7: Now, I would like to ask your overall impression of a few political figures. For each name I read, please tell me if your impression of him is favorable or unfavorable.

First, Tom Wolf

1. Favorable.....54%
2. Unfavorable.....36%
3. Neutral/Not Sure (Vol).....10%
4. Haven't heard of him (Vol).....<1%

Q8: Next Scott Wagner

1. Favorable.....29%
2. Unfavorable.....46%
3. Neutral/Not Sure (Vol).....19%
4. Haven't heard of him (Vol)..... 6%

Q9: Bob Casey Jr.

1. Favorable.....50%
2. Unfavorable.....36%
3. Neutral/Not Sure (Vol)..... 13%
4. Haven't heard of him (Vol).....<1%

Q10: and Lou Barletta

1. Favorable.....29%
2. Unfavorable.....30%
3. Neutral/Not Sure (Vol).....29%
4. Haven't heard of him (Vol).....12%

Q11: Now, if the 2018 governor's election was being held today and the race was between Democrat Tom Wolf and Republican Scott Wagner would you vote for?
(OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. Tom Wolf (GO TO Q13).....56%
2. Scott Wagner (GO TO Q13).....36%
3. Neither/Other (Volunteered) (GO TO Q13)..... 4%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 3%

| | April | September | October |
|---------------|-------|-----------|---------|
| Wolf | 47% | 53% | 56% |
| Wagner | 31% | 34% | 36% |
| Other/Neither | 5% | 6% | 4% |
| Not Sure | 16% | 5% | 3% |

Q12: Are you leaning more toward voting for Tom Wolf or Scott Wagner?
(Asked only of those who answered "Not Sure" in Q 11: N=14)

1. Tom Wolf.....43%
2. Scott Wagner..... 14%
3. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 43%

GOVERNOR'S RACE INCLUDING LEANERS

- 1. Tom Wolf..... 58%**
- 2. Scott Wagner..... 37%**
- 3. Neither/Other..... 4%**
- 4. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 1%**

Q13: Now, if the 2018 United States Senate election was being held today and the race was between Democrat Bob Casey Jr. and Republican Lou Barletta would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. Bob Casey Jr. (GO TO Q15).....53%
2. Lou Barletta (GO TO Q15).....38%
3. Neither/Other (Volunteered) (GO TO Q15)..... 5%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered).....4%

| | April | September | October |
|---------------|-------|-----------|---------|
| Casey | 48% | 51% | 53% |
| Barletta | 32% | 34% | 38% |
| Other/Neither | 2% | 6% | 5% |
| Not Sure | 18% | 9% | 4% |

Q14: Are you leaning more toward voting for Bob Casey Jr. or Lou Barletta?
(Asked only of those who answered “Not Sure” in Q 13: N=17)

1. Bob Casey Jr. 12%
2. Lou Barletta 41%
3. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 47%

SENATE RACE INCLUDING LEANERS

- 1. Bob Casey Jr.....54%**
- 2. Lou Barletta.....40%**
- 3. Neither/Other..... 5%**
- 3. Not Sure (Volunteered) 2%**

Q15: Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? Are you (READ LIST)?

1. White/Caucasian.....87%
2. African-American..... 6%
3. Hispanic..... 3%
4. Latino.....<1%
5. Asian..... 1%
6. Native American.....<1%
7. Mixed race..... 1%
8. or other..... 2%

Q16: Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST)?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Catholic..... | 27% |
| 2. Protestant..... | 31% |
| 3. Jewish..... | 3% |
| 4. Muslim..... | <1% |
| 5. Hindu..... | <1% |
| 6. Other Religion (Including agnostic)..... | 28% |
| 7. or Atheist..... | 5% |
| 8. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... | 4% |

Q:17 What is your highest level of education? (READ LIST)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Less than High School..... | 2% |
| 2. High School Graduate..... | 19% |
| 3. Some College or Technical School..... | 26% |
| 4. College graduate (4 yr only)..... | 31% |
| 5. Graduate or professional degree..... | 21% |

Q18: Which of the following categories best describes your family income? Is it (READ LIST)?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Under \$20,000..... | 8% |
| 2. \$20,000-\$40,000..... | 21% |
| 3. \$40,000-\$60,000..... | 16% |
| 4. \$60,000-\$80,000..... | 17% |
| 5. \$80,000-\$100,000..... | 13% |
| 6. Over \$100,000..... | 25% |
| 7. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... | 1% |

Q19: Which of the following categories does your current age fall in? Is it (READ LIST)?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. 18-34..... | 17% |
| 2. 35-50..... | 25% |
| 3. 51-64..... | 27% |
| 4. 65- and over..... | 31% |

Q20: Finally to which gender identity do you most identify? (READ LIST)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Male..... | 48% |
| 2. Female..... | 52% |
| 3. Transgender Male..... | <1% |
| 4. Transgender Female..... | <1% |
| 5. Or you do not identify as male, female or transgender..... | <1% |