



TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Brock McCleary, President
Date: September 21, 2015
RE: Key Poll Findings – Pennsylvania Statewide Survey

Direction of Pennsylvania

Sixty-three percent of likely voters in Pennsylvania say that things in the state are on the wrong track (25% right direction). This pessimism holds among Republicans (82% wrong track) and Independents (67%) and a plurality of Democrats say things in the state are on the wrong track (41%/46%).

Wolf Image

Governor Tom Wolf's image has narrowed to a favorability margin of +3% (49% favorable, 46% unfavorable).

Wolf Image	10/26/14	5/7/15	9/10/15
Favorable	53%	49%	49%
Unfavorable	39%	43%	46%

Wolf's image is a solid positive among Democrats (76%/20%) and self-identified Somewhat Liberal voters (86%/5%). His image is a net negative among Independents (41% favorable, 54% unfavorable) and positive among self-identified Moderates (65%/32%).

Senate Candidate Images

Incumbent Senator Pat Toomey has a solid favorable image among likely voters (49% favorable, 38% unfavorable) and a significant advantage over his challengers in name identification (13% not sure). His image is a net positive among Republicans (65%/25%) and Independent voters (49%/42%). A majority of Democrats have an unfavorable opinion of the Senator (35%/51%). Forty-four percent of likely voters do not have an opinion on Katie McGinty and her image is slightly underwater (25% favorable, 30% unfavorable), which is often characteristic of candidates with low hard name identification. She is viewed positively by Moderates (31%/27%) and Somewhat Liberal voters (31%/23%) and unfavorably by Independents (16%/33%). Joe Sestak's image is a narrower net negative (31%/34%) with just over a third of voters not sure (35%). His image is stronger among Moderates (37%/32%) and Somewhat Liberals (46%/18%) than McGinty's.

Senate Ballot Tests

Q: If the election for United States Senate were held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for: Pat Toomey, Republican or Joe Sestak, Democrat?

Toomey vs. Sestak	% of Vote
Pat Toomey	47%
Joe Sestak	37%
Undecided	15%

Senator Toomey leads Democrat Joe Sestak by 10%. He continues to hold a lead among women (42-41%) and holds a majority among men (53-34%). Toomey trails in Southeast Pennsylvania (36-48%) but leads in all other regions of the state (Northern Tier: 52-28%, Pittsburgh: 55-36%, Scranton: 42-41%, South Central: 57-27%). He receives stronger party support (78% of Republicans) than Sestak (65% of Democrats) and leads among Independents (55-26%).

Q: If the election for United States Senate were held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for: Pat Toomey, Republican or Katie McGinty, Democrat?

Toomey vs. Sestak	% of Vote
Pat Toomey	48%
Katie McGinty	34%
Undecided	18%

Pat Toomey has an even more significant party advantage against McGinty (Republicans: 81% Toomey, Democrats: 63% McGinty) and extends his lead among Independents (55-19%). He leads McGinty among both women (42-36%) and men (55-32%).

Pennsylvania Budget

Budget Impact: Only 11% of those surveyed say the “ongoing failure to pass a state budget” is having a “significant impact” on “you and your family.” Twenty-one percent say it is having “somewhat of an impact” for a combined 32% saying it is having somewhat or a significant impact. Sixty-two percent say the lack of a budget is having “not a lot of impact” (35%) or “no impact at all” (27%). Majorities of voters from all parties (Republicans: 66%, Democrats: 56%, Independents: 68%) say the budget is having “not a lot of impact” or “no impact at all.”

Budget Responsibility: A 35% plurality says both Governor Wolf and the state legislature are responsible for the budget impasse. Voters are fairly split on whether Governor Wolf (31%) or the state legislature (31%) is most responsible. Following predictable party lines, Republicans mostly blame Governor Wolf (52%) while Democrats (53%) blame the legislature. Independents are split between Governor Wolf (37%) and both equally (36%). Regionally, voters from Pittsburgh blame Governor Wolf (37%) while Philadelphia (39% legislature) and Scranton/Lehigh Valley voters (37%) blame the legislature. Pluralities in the Northern Tier (43% both) and South Central (40%) regions of the state say both the Governor and the legislature are responsible.

METHODOLOGY:

The sample size for the survey is 700 likely voters in Pennsylvania and the margin of error is +/-3.7%. Responses were gathered through land line interviews conducted using Interactive Voice Response (IVR). The survey was conducted September 9-10, 2015 by Harper Polling. The demographic profile of the survey sample is as follows: Female 52%, Male 48%; Republican 40%, Democrat 45%, Independent/Other Party 15%; White 86%, African-American 9%, Something else 5%. The total percentages for responses may not equal 100% due to rounding.