KEY FINDINGS:

1. A majority of Pennsylvanians continue to rate the state positively as a place to live and raise a family.

2. Despite positive ratings of current quality of life in the state, Pennsylvanians remain pessimistic about the direction of the commonwealth.

3. For the first time in the three year history of this project, more Pennsylvanians rated the state’s economy positively than rated it negatively.

4. With the improved view of the state’s economy, there has been an increase in the number of Pennsylvanians who indicate that they feel secure in their employment.

5. Over 7 out of 10 Pennsylvanians report that they are satisfied with their current job, marking the highest level of satisfaction in the past three years.

6. For the third year in a row ratings of the quality of transportation in the state grew worse, with over 4 out of 10 Keystone State residents now rating this aspect of life in the state negatively.

7. Among the aspects of life in the state that has seen the most movement in the last three years is the environment. Most notably the survey results indicate increasing levels of concern with both air and drinking water in the state.

METHODOLOGY: The following key findings report summarizes data collected in a telephone survey of residents of the state of Pennsylvania between Feb 19th and March 5th 2005. Individual households throughout Pennsylvania were selected randomly for inclusion in the study. The sample of phone numbers used in the survey was generated by Genesys Sampling Systems of Ft. Washington, PA. Interviewing was conducted by the staff of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion, with 450 surveys completed. This number of completions results in a margin of error of +/- 4.6% at the 95% confidence interval. However the margin of errors for sub groups (i.e. women, income groups, age categories) is larger due to smaller sample size. Percentages throughout the survey have been rounded upward at the .5 mark, thus many totals in the results will not equal 100%. The data was weighted to more accurately represent the demographic makeup of citizens throughout the commonwealth. The survey questionnaire was designed by Christopher Borick, Ph.D and Sarah Niebler of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion in consultation with staff members of the Morning Call. Analysis and report writing were completed by the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion under the direction of Dr. Borick.
ANALYSIS: This is the third in a series of annual observations of citizen views on life in the state of Pennsylvania. The study is designed to take an annual “snapshot” of how individuals in the commonwealth view quality of life here, and how such perceptions evolve over time. In this study, we ask respondents to rate both elements of life in the state and personal levels of satisfaction with their individual lives. By doing so, we strive to gain a more complete understanding of how citizens of Pennsylvania view life here.

Overall Perceptions of Quality of Life In Pennsylvania

In general, little change exists between the ratings that Pennsylvanians give to living in the commonwealth in comparison to either 2003 or 2004. Overall, state residents continue to see life positively, with 90% of respondents in 2005 rating life here as either excellent (28%) or good (62%). These ratings show a slight (but statistically insignificant) increase over the ratings in 2003, when 87% of Pennsylvanians saw the state as an excellent or good place to live.

Keystone State citizens also continue give positive rating to the state as a place to raise a family. As in the past two years, nearly 9 out of 10 commonwealth residents said the state was either an excellent (30%) or good (58%) place to raise a family.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE ONE: “Pennsylvania as a Place to Raise a Family”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Too Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure/Refused</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite their initial satisfaction with living in the commonwealth, residents of Pennsylvania remain pessimistic about the direction in which the state is heading. As in 2004, 43% of respondents said that life in the state is getting worse, while only 30% said life was improving. Eighteen percent responded that the quality of life in Pennsylvania was staying the same. These results are statistically identical to the results from both 2003 and 2004.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE TWO: “Is Life in Pennsylvania Getting Better or Worse”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direction of The State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Worse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying the Same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perceptions of the Economy and Employment in Pennsylvania

Attitudes of Pennsylvanians about the status of the commonwealth’s economy continue to improve as the number of residents responding that the state’s economy was either excellent or good climbed from 36% in 2003 to just less than 50% in 2005. This is the first time in 3 years that the percentage of Pennsylvania residents rating the economy favorably is larger than the percentage rating it negatively.

### TABLE THREE
Rating of Pennsylvania Economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not so good</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As Pennsylvania residents have become more optimistic about the economy than they were in 2004, their confidence in avoiding unemployment has grown. More specifically, the survey results indicate that 44% of commonwealth residents are not concerned at all about becoming unemployed, marking the third year in a row that this number increased. As might be expected these findings are strongly correlated with decreasing unemployment rates in the state as demonstrated in Table Four.

### TABLE FOUR
Changes in Unemployment Rates and Levels of Concern About Becoming Unemployed Among Pennsylvania Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of PA Residents Not Concerned at all About Becoming Unemployed</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania Unemployment Rate*</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The 2003 and 2004 unemployment rates are the annual averages as measured by the Department of Labor (DOL). The 2005 unemployment rate is the DOL estimate for January 2005.

Transportation

Pennsylvanians are more dissatisfied with the quality of transportation in the commonwealth than they have been in the past two years. Last year, 56% of respondents rated the transportation as either excellent or good, while 39% rated it as either not too good or poor. This year, 50% of Pennsylvania residents rated transportation favorably, while 43% rated it unfavorably.
TABLE FIVE
Ratings of Pennsylvania’s Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too good</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure/Refused</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While there are numerous factors that may be causing the growing dissatisfaction with transportation in the state, a few possibilities stand out. First, the spike in gas prices over the last year may be shaping citizen perspectives on transportation. Secondly, increasing commuting times in many areas of the commonwealth may be causing increased sensitivity towards travel in the state. Finally, the on-going financial dilemmas of the state’s major public transit systems may be manifesting in public doubt about the future of such systems.

Environment
Pennsylvania residents’ concerns about the environment have increased substantially in the past year. While there appears to be a small decrease in overall satisfaction with the environment in Pennsylvania, there is more significant concern for particular facets of the state’s natural resources. When asked how concerned they are with the quality of their water and air, resident responses indicated that Pennsylvanians are increasingly worried about key environmental factors.

TABLE SIX
Overall Rating of the Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too good</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure/Refused</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE SEVEN
“How concerned are you with the air quality in your community?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too concerned</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not concerned at all</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure/Refused</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE EIGHT

“How concerned are you with the quality of drinking water in your community?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too concerned</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not concerned at all</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure/Refused</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recent publicity about mercury pollution in Pennsylvania water bodies and the ongoing debate over President Bush’s Clear Skies initiative may help explain the increased levels of concern regarding the state’s environment. The highest levels of concern for environmental conditions are found among Pennsylvanians with children and who are between the ages of 35 and 54.

CONCLUSION

This survey continues a series of annual examinations of citizen views on life in Pennsylvania. The survey provides evidence that in 2005 Pennsylvanians are generally satisfied with life in the “Keystone State,” but are concerned with the direction of the commonwealth. In a positive trend, Pennsylvanians continue to express greater confidence in the state’s economy and employment security. However, state residents are demonstrating greater concern with transportation and environmental quality in Pennsylvania.
### TIME SERIES RESULTS FOR STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH STUDY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Not too good</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Not sure/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>05 04 03</td>
<td>05 04 03</td>
<td>05 04 03</td>
<td>05 04 03</td>
<td>05 04 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life in PA</td>
<td>28% 29% 27%</td>
<td>61% 59% 60%</td>
<td>6% 8% 8%</td>
<td>3% 3% 4%</td>
<td>2% 2% 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA as a place to raise a family</td>
<td>30% 32% 29%</td>
<td>58% 55% 61%</td>
<td>5% 9% 5%</td>
<td>3% 1% 2%</td>
<td>3% 3% 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>16% 14% 14%</td>
<td>54% 53% 56%</td>
<td>17% 19% 18%</td>
<td>9% 11% 10%</td>
<td>4% 3% 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>2% 3% 2%</td>
<td>47% 43% 35%</td>
<td>34% 35% 44%</td>
<td>13% 18% 18%</td>
<td>4% 1% 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>4% 7% 6%</td>
<td>46% 49% 55%</td>
<td>28% 26% 24%</td>
<td>15% 13% 10%</td>
<td>7% 5% 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools</td>
<td>11% 11% 12%</td>
<td>53% 53% 53%</td>
<td>19% 19% 18%</td>
<td>10% 7% 9%</td>
<td>7% 10% 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>14% 11% 11%</td>
<td>66% 71% 72%</td>
<td>10% 11% 10%</td>
<td>5% 5% 6%</td>
<td>5% 2% 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race Relations</td>
<td>6% 6% 4%</td>
<td>67% 61% 64%</td>
<td>15% 18% 18%</td>
<td>6% 5% 6%</td>
<td>7% 2% 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>8% 8% 9%</td>
<td>60% 62% 66%</td>
<td>22% 21% 18%</td>
<td>7% 7% 6%</td>
<td>3% 2% 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>8% 9% 8%</td>
<td>68% 68% 70%</td>
<td>16% 15% 14%</td>
<td>4% 6% 5%</td>
<td>4% 3% 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Services</td>
<td>6% 6% 5%</td>
<td>58% 55% 64%</td>
<td>21% 19% 19%</td>
<td>9% 10% 6%</td>
<td>7% 11% 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Opportunities</td>
<td>25% 26% 24%</td>
<td>53% 53% 55%</td>
<td>14% 11% 14%</td>
<td>5% 6% 6%</td>
<td>3% 3% 2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Somewhat satisfied</th>
<th>Not too satisfied</th>
<th>Not satisfied at all</th>
<th>Not sure/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>05 04 03</td>
<td>05 04 03</td>
<td>05 04 03</td>
<td>05 04 03</td>
<td>05 04 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal health</td>
<td>51% 55% 56%</td>
<td>39% 35% 32%</td>
<td>6% 5% 8%</td>
<td>2% 4% 4%</td>
<td>2% 1% N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>60% 66% 64%</td>
<td>34% 28% 30%</td>
<td>2% 4% 4%</td>
<td>1% 2% 2%</td>
<td>2% 1% N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Relationships</td>
<td>72% 76% 74%</td>
<td>23% 18% 20%</td>
<td>3% 3% 3%</td>
<td>1% 2% 2%</td>
<td>2% 1% 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Safety</td>
<td>60% 64% 63%</td>
<td>30% 27% 28%</td>
<td>5% 5% 7%</td>
<td>4% 3% 2%</td>
<td>2% 1% 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Level</td>
<td>32% 32% 36%</td>
<td>49% 45% 43%</td>
<td>11% 10% 11%</td>
<td>4% 7% 6%</td>
<td>4% 6% 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Job</td>
<td>40% 37% 35%</td>
<td>31% 28% 30%</td>
<td>5% 5% 7%</td>
<td>4% 6% 5%</td>
<td>24% 25% 24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools in Your Community</td>
<td>37% 36% 36%</td>
<td>35% 35% 38%</td>
<td>10% 11% 9%</td>
<td>9% 7% 7%</td>
<td>10% 11% 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>18% 20% 19%</td>
<td>51% 52% 54%</td>
<td>16% 13% 14%</td>
<td>10% 9% 10%</td>
<td>5% 6% 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Leisure Time</td>
<td>35% 38% 37%</td>
<td>37% 36% 37%</td>
<td>16% 13% 15%</td>
<td>9% 10% 10%</td>
<td>3% 3% 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>Not too concerned</td>
<td>Not concerned at all</td>
<td>Not sure/Refused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
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<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>05</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming Unemployed</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety of Drinking Water</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety of Air Quality</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming the Victim of a Crime</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>