

Muhlenberg College/Morning Call

Pennsylvania Statewide Survey

AUGUST 2011

Frequency Report

Number of Interviews: 407 Adult Pennsylvanians

Number of Registered Voters for Election Qs: 380

Margin of Error: +/- 5.5% at a 95% level of confidence.

Fielding Dates – August 11 – August 18, 2011

Method Of Interviewing: Telephone, Live interviewer

Method of Sampling: Random Digit Dialing (RDD) including cell phones

Data Weighted by Age, Gender, Race, Education and Income

INTRODUCTION AND CONSENT REQUEST

Q1: Thank you. In which of the following categories does your current age fall? (READ LIST)

Category	Percent
18 -29	17%
30-49	40%
50-65	24%
65 and Over	17%
Refused	1%

Q2:

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 Barack Obama

	August 2011	March 2011	September 2010	April 2010	April 2009
Approve	35%	48%	40%	45%	61%
Disapprove	58%	44%	56%	46%	24%
Not Sure/Refused	7%	9%	4%	9%	15%

Q3:

Governor Tom Corbett?

	August 2011	May 2011 (Lehigh Valley Only)	March 2011
Approve	35%	39%	36%
Disapprove	33%	31%	15%
Not Sure/Refused	32%	30%	49%

Q4:

Senator Pat Toomey?

	August 2011	May 2011 (Lehigh Valley Only)	March 2011
Approve	40%	40%	39%
Disapprove	30%	30%	19%
Not Sure	30%	29%	38%
Refused	<1%	2%	4%

Q5:

And Senator Bob Casey, Jr.?

	August 2011	May 2011 (Lehigh Valley Only)	March 2011
Approve	40%	41%	48%
Disapprove	35%	19%	22%
Not Sure	25%	37%	26%
Refused	<1%	3%	4%

Q:6:

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

	August 2011	March 2011	April 2010
Democrat	39%	36%	39%
Republican	39%	36%	34%
Independent	13%	11%	12%
Other Party	2%	2%	1%
Not registered	6%	9%	9%
Not Sure/refused	1%	2%	4%

NOTE: Q7 to Q 10 are only asked of Registered Voters in Pennsylvania (n = 380)

Q7:

Do you feel that Barack Obama deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	August 2011	March 2011
Yes	36%	40%
No	55%	45%
Not Sure/Refused	9%	14%

Q8:

If the 2012 election for President was being held today, do you think you would vote for Barack Obama the Democratic candidate, or the Republican candidate?

	August 2011	March 2011
Obama	36%	37%
Republican	31%	33%
Depends on Candidate (Vol)	31%	22%
Not Sure/Refused	3%	8%

Q9:

Do you feel that Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey, Jr. deserve to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	August 2011	March 2011
Yes	41%	48%
No	30%	24%
Not Sure	29%	25%
Refused	1%	3%

Q10:

If the 2012 election for United States Senator were being held today, do you think you would vote for Bob Casey Jr. the Democratic candidate, or the Republican candidate?

	August 2011	March 2011
Casey	33%	41%
Republican	25%	27%
Depends on Candidate (Vol)	25%	18%
Not Sure/Refused	18%	24%

Q11:

How would you describe the state of the nation's economy today?
Would you say that it is excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	August 2011	March 2011
Excellent	<1%	<1%
Good	3%	11%
Not So Good	32%	51%
Poor	64%	31%
Not Sure/Refused	1%	5%

Q12:

Do you think the nation's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	August 2011	April 2011
Getting Better	12%	28%
Getting Worse	55%	27%
Staying the Same	29%	38%
Not Sure/Refused	3%	5%

Q13:

Do you think President Obama's policies have helped the economy, hurt the economy, or haven't made a difference?

	August 2011	April 2011
Helped the economy	23%	28%
Hurt the economy	41%	28%
Haven't made a difference	32%	31%
Not Sure	4%	7%
Refused	>1%	6%

Q14:

During recent years there has been an increased level of natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania's Marcellus (MAR-cell-us) shale deposits. Currently there is no tax on the extraction of natural gas in the state. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the creation of a tax on natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania?

	August 2011	May 2011 (LV)	March 2011	September 2010
Strongly Support	37%	36%	34%	32%
Somewhat Support	25%	21%	23%	21%
Somewhat Oppose	15%	14%	12%	11%
Strongly Oppose	15%	20%	14%	24%
Not Sure	8%	11%	17%	12%

Q15:

In order to help reduce the state's budget shortfalls some have called for Pennsylvania to sell its state-owned liquor stores. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the sale of the state's liquor stores?

	August 2011	March 2011	Fall 2010
Strongly Support	36%	34%	37%
Somewhat Support	27%	24%	28%
Somewhat Oppose	16%	12%	10%
Strongly Oppose	13%	15%	10%
Not Sure/Refused	9%	16%	13%

Q16:

Pennsylvania is currently experiencing a shortfall in funds to repair and maintain the state's transportation system. Would you be willing to pay higher drivers license and motor vehicle registration fees if the money raised from those fees went directly towards the state's transportation system?

	August 2011	March 2011
Would Pay More	46%	53%
Wouldn't Pay More	45%	31%
Not Sure/Refused	9%	15%

Q17:

Currently, the state has a mix of electricity sources that range from coal, natural gas, and nuclear, to renewable sources such as hydroelectric power, wind, and biomass (such as burning methane from landfills to produce electricity.) To meet the state's growing energy needs, I'm going to ask you whether you think we should INCREASE, DECREASE, or continue with the same amount for each of our major sources of electricity.

First, Coal.

	August 2011
Increase	34%
Decrease	30%
Stay the same	31%
Not Sure/Refused	5%

Q18: Natural Gas

	August 2011
Increase	57%
Decrease	15%
Stay the same	25%
Not Sure/Refused	4%

Q19: Nuclear

	August 2011
Increase	27%
Decrease	46%
Stay the same	23%
Not Sure/Refused	4%

Q20: Hydroelectric

	August 2011
Increase	74%
Decrease	6%
Stay the same	14%
Not Sure/Refused	6%

Q21: Biomass

Date	August 2011
Increase	57%
Decrease	18%
Stay the same	10%
Not Sure/Refused	15%

Q22: and Wind

	August 2011
Increase	82%
Decrease	9%
Stay the same	7%
Not Sure/Refused	3%

Q23: For the following possible reasons to support wind energy, please tell whether you think each is a valid or invalid reason for supporting wind energy.

First, it will decrease our nation's reliance on foreign oil

	August 2011
Valid	80%
Invalid	18%
Not Sure/Refused	2%

Q24: It will decrease our reliance on coal and natural gas

	August 2011
Valid	80%
Invalid	20%
Not Sure/Refused	3%

Q25: It will help the environment

	August 2011
Valid	91%
Invalid	7%
Not Sure/Refused	1%

Q26: It will create jobs in Pennsylvania

	August 2011
Valid	78%
Invalid	11%
Not Sure/Refused	11%

Q27: Of the reasons to support wind energy, which do you consider the strongest reason? (READ LIST)

	August 2011
Decrease our nations dependence on foreign oil	43%
Decrease our reliance on coal and natural gas	8%
It will help the environment	21%
It will create jobs in PA	24%
Other	1%
Not Sure/Refused	3%

Q28: Do you see any potential harmful effects associated with wind energy? If so what?
(OPEN ENDED RESPONSE CODED)

	August 2011
No Harmful Effects	73%
Damage to Birds and Bats	10%
Noise Pollution	4%
Not Cost Effective	3%
Esthetics	1%
Other	2%
Not Sure	7%

Q29: How concerned are you about a nuclear power accident happening here in Pennsylvania? Would you say you are....

	August 2011
Very Concerned	34%
Somewhat Concerned	29%
Not Too Concerned	28%
Not at all Concerned	10%
Not Sure/Refused	<1%

Q30: If the country as a whole were to rely more on renewable sources of electricity such as wind, do you think the country's economy would be.....

	August 2011
Stronger	59%
Weaker	7%
Stay the Same	27%
Not Sure/Refused	7%

Q31: Currently there is a debate surrounding the siting of wind machines in the state. Some say that siting decisions should remain at the local level in community control where the machines are located, while others say it should be a state-level decision to ensure equitable distribution and enough supply to meet our energy needs. Which side's argument is closest to your own view, do you think that wind machine siting should....

	August 2011
Stay at Local Level	53%
State Level	38%
Not Sure/Refused	8%

Q32: Would you favor or oppose 8-10 wind power machines being located close to where you live?

	August 2011
Favor	68%
Oppose	24%
Not Sure/Refused	9%

Q33: To significantly increase the state's use of wind energy, how much extra would you be willing to pay each month on your electricity bill? Would you be willing to pay \$2 a month?

Date	August 2011
Yes	63%
No	34%
Not Sure/Refused	3%

(n = 406)

Q34: Would you be willing to pay \$5 a month? (NOTE: ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO SAID YES IN Q33)

	August 2011
Yes	76%
No	23%
Not Sure/Refused	1%

(N = 256)

Q35: Would you be willing to pay \$10 a month? (NOTE: ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO SAID YES IN Q34)

	August 2011
Yes	64%
No	34%
Not Sure/Refused	3%

(n = 194)

Q36: Would you be willing to pay \$15 a month? (NOTE: ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO SAID YES IN Q35)

	August 2011
Yes	66%
No	34%
Not Sure/Refused	<1%

(n = 124)

Q37: Would you be willing to pay \$20 a month? (NOTE: ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO SAID YES IN Q36)

	August 2011
Yes	80%
No	13%
Not Sure/Refused	8%

Q38: Would you be willing to pay MORE than \$20 a month? (NOTE: ASKED ONLY TO THOSE WHO SAID YES IN Q37)

	August 2011
Yes	83%
No	15%
Not Sure/Refused	3%

Q39: Do you have any wind machines other than traditional windmills close to where you live?

	August 2011
Yes	16%
No	80%
Not Sure	4%
Not Sure/Refused	<1%

Q40: How far from you place of residence would you say they are? (READ LIST)

	August 2011
A mile or less	6%
2-5 miles	4%
6-10 miles	7%
More than 10 miles	45%
Not Sure/Refused	39%

Q41: Next I would like to ask you a few questions on the issue of global warming. From what you've read and heard. Is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past four decades?

	August 2011	February 2010	November 2009	October 2008	November 2007
Yes	66%	58%	65%	69%	74%
No	30%	26%	20%	27%	16%
Not Sure	5%	16%	15%	4%	9%
Refused	<1%	0%	0%	2%	<1%

NOTE: QUESTION 42 WAS ASKED ONLY TO INDIVIDUALS WHO RESPONDED "YES" TO Q 41

Q42. What is the primary factor that has caused you to believe that temperatures on earth are increasing? (OPEN ENDED RESPONSES CODED)

Factor	Percent
Observations of Warmer Weather	18%
Changing Weather/Storms	17%
Melting Glaciers and Polar Ice	16%
Scientific Research/Evidence	11%
Human Impact/Pollution	11%
Media Coverage	7%
Natural Patterns	7%
Declining Species	2%
Gore Documentary	1%
Other	3%
Not Sure	5%

NOTE: QUESTION 42 WAS ASKED ONLY TO INDIVIDUALS WHO RESPONDED “NO” TO Q 41

Q43: What is the primary factor that makes you believe that temperatures on earth are not increasing?
(OPEN ENDED RESPONSES CODED)

Factor	Percent
Personal Observations	36%
Natural Patterns	34%
Not Enough Evidence	7%
Media has Misled	6%
Evidence Disproves	8%
No Particular Reason	2%
Not Sure/Other	8%

Finally, I have a few questions about yourself.

Q: 44:

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

Category	Percent
Less than a High School Degree	4%
High School Graduate	28%
Some College or Technical School	30%
College Graduate	22%
Graduate or Professional Degree	12%
Refused/Not Sure	4%

Q: 45

Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? Are you (READ LIST)?

Category	Percent
White/Caucasian	80%
African-American	10%
Hispanic/Latino	5%
Asian	2%
Mixed Race	1%
Other	1%
Not Sure/Refused	3%

Q: 46

Which of the following categories best describes your family income? Is it?

Category	Percent
Under 20 K	9%
20 to 40K	20%
40 to 60K	18%
60 to 80K	20%
80 to 100K	11%
Over 100K	8%
Refused/Not Sure	14%

Q: 47

Thank you for your help with the survey. We appreciate your time. (Gender assigned by voice recognition)

Category	Percent
Male	48%
Female	52%