



INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC OPINION
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

Muhlenberg College/*Morning Call*
2012 Pennsylvania Presidential Election **Survey**

Release Date

September 28, **2012**

Survey Methodology

Number of Interviews: 427 Likely Voters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Margin of Error: +/-5% at a 95% level of confidence

Fielding Dates – September 22 – 26, 2012

Method of Interviewing: Live telephone interviewers

Method of Sampling: Pennsylvania Voter Registration Files- Individuals who voted in at least 1 of the last 8 general or primary elections in Pennsylvania OR who had registered to vote in the state since 2009.

Likely Voter Screens: (1) Currently Registered; (2) Expressed Likelihood (Q1;Q2)

Weighting: The data was weighted by gender and region of the state.

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Instrument Design: Dr. Christopher P. Borick of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion in conjunction with staff members of the *Morning Call*.

CONTACT:

Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion 484-664-3066

FREQUENCY REPORT AND SURVEY INSTRUMENT

INTRODUCTION

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

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Democrat	49%	49%	47%
Republican	40%	39%	39%
Independent	10%	8%	12%
Other Party	2%	4%	2%
Not Registered (END SURVEY)	Na	Na	Na
Not Sure (END SURVEY)	Na	Na	Na

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?

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Definitely Going to Vote	84%	82%	85%
Very Likely To Vote	16%	18%	15%
Very Likely To Vote (END SURVEY)	Na	Na	Na
Definitely not voting (END SURVEY)	Na	Na	Na
Not Sure (END SURVEY)	Na	Na	Na

Q3: 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 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Approve	43%	47%	47%
Disapprove	47%	44%	45%
No Opinion	10%	9%	8%

Q4: How about Governor Tom Corbett?

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Approve	30%	30%	31%
Disapprove	46%	46%	45%
No Opinion	24%	25%	25%

Q5: and Senator Bob Casey Jr.?

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Approve	37%	37%	33%
Disapprove	28%	31%	31%
No Opinion	35%	32%	36%

Q6: 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, Mitt Romney

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Favorable	37%	40%	39%
Unfavorable	49%	48%	51%
Neutral/Not Sure	13%	12%	10%
Haven't heard of him	<1%	<1%	<1%

Q7: Next, Barack Obama

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Favorable	48%	50%	49%
Unfavorable	45%	42%	45%
Neutral/Not Sure	7%	7%	6%
Haven't heard of him	0%	<1%	<1%

Q8: How about Bob Casey Jr.?

	August 2012	September 2012	Late September 2012
Favorable	40%	35%	34%
Unfavorable	26%	31%	33%
Neutral/Not Sure	31%	31%	31%
Haven't heard of him	2%	3%	3%

Q9: and Tom Smith?

	August 2012	September 2012	Late September 2012
Favorable	18%	20%	23%
Unfavorable	13%	18%	21%
Neutral/Not Sure	40%	35%	36%
Haven't heard of him	30%	27%	20%

Q10: Now, if the 2012 presidential election was being held today and the race was between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

	August 2012	September 2012	Late September 2012
Barack Obama	48%	49%	49%
Mitt Romney	38%	41%	41%
Neither/Other	6%	5%	4%
Not Sure (Volunteered)	7%	5%	6%

NOTE Q11 was asked only to respondents who responded "not sure" in Q10 (n =27)

Q11: Are you leaning more toward voting for Mitt Romney or Barack Obama?

	August 2012	September 2012	Late September 2012
Obama	10%	13%	15%
Romney	20%	16%	15%
Neutral/Not Sure	70%	71%	70%

PRESIDENTIAL RACE WITH LEANERS

	August 2012	September 2012	Late September 2012
Barack Obama	49%	50%	49%
Mitt Romney	40%	41%	42%
Neither/Other	6%	5%	4%
Not Sure (Volunteered)	5%	4%	5%

Q12: Now, if the 2010 U.S. Senate election was being held today and the race was between Bob Casey Jr. and Tom Smith, who would you vote for?

	August 2012	September 2012	Late September 2012
Bob Casey Jr	46%	44%	42%
Tom Smith	28%	30%	34%
Neither/Other	3%	5%	7%
Not Sure (Volunteered)	24%	21%	17%

NOTEQ13 was asked only to respondents who responded “not sure” in Q12 (n =71)

Q13: Are you leaning more toward voting for Bob Casey Jr. or Tom Smith?

	August 2012	September 2012	Late September 2012
Bob Casey Jr	14%	8%	13%
Tom Smith	9%	13%	9%
Not Sure (Volunteered)	76%	78%	77%

SENATE RACE WITH LEANERS

	August 2012	September 2012	Late September 2012
Bob Casey Jr	49%	45%	44%
Tom Smith	30%	33%	36%
Neither/Other	3%	5%	7%
Not Sure (Volunteered)	18%	18%	13%

Q14: Next, if the 2010 Pennsylvania Attorney General’s election was being held today and the race was between Dave Freed the Republican and Kathleen Kane the Democrat, who would you vote for?

	Late September 2012
Dave Freed	27%
Kathleen Kane	33%
Other	2%
Not Sure	38%

**NOTE Q15 was asked only to respondents who responded “not sure” in Q14
(n = 164)**

Q15: Are you leaning more toward voting for Dave Freed or Kathleen Kane?

	Late September 2012
Dave Freed	9%
Kathleen Kane	11%
Not Sure	79%

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S RACE WITH LEANERS

	Late September 2012
Dave Freed	31%
Kathleen Kane	37%
Other	2%
Not Sure	31%

Q16: If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for? The Democratic Party's candidate or the Republican Party's candidate? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

	August 2012	September 2012	Late September 2012
Democrat	44%	46%	42%
Republican	35%	39%	39%
Neither/Other	4%	6%	4%
Not Sure (Volunteered)	17%	9%	15%

Q17: Which of these two descriptions comes closer to your view of what Medicare should look like for people who are now under 55 who would be eligible for Medicare coverage in about ten years? 1. Medicare should continue as it is today, with the government providing seniors with health insurance. OR, 2. Medicare should be changed to a system in which the government would provide seniors with a fixed amount of money toward purchasing private health insurance or Medicare insurance.

	Late September 2012
Continue as it is today	63%
Should be changed	24%
Other/Neither (Vol)	6%
Not Sure	8%

Q18: Which comes closest to your view about the tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003? 1. The tax cuts should be continued for everyone. OR, 2. The tax cuts should only continue for household incomes under \$250,000 a year. OR, 3. The tax cuts should expire for everyone."

	Late September 2012
Tax cuts continued for everyone	38%
Tax cuts should be continued for those under \$250,000	41%
Tax Cuts should expire for everyone	11%
None of the options/other (Vol)	4%
Not Sure (Vol)	6%

Q19: Do you think ILLEGAL immigrants who are living and working in the United States now should be offered a chance to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status, or do you think they should be deported back to their native country?"

	Late September 2012
Offered chance to keep jobs	47%
Deported back to their native country	37%
Neither/Other (Vol)	6%
Not Sure (Vol)	10%

Q20: Which of the following best describes your views on the best way to address federal budget deficits. (READ LIST)

	Late September 2012
The federal budget deficit should be reduced only through spending cuts	25%
The federal budget deficit should be reduced only through tax increases	4%
Or the federal budget deficit should be reduced through a combination of spending cuts and tax	60%
None of those options/ Other option	4%
Not Sure (Vol)	7%

Q21: Which of these comes closest to your view? Abortion should be generally available to those who want it. OR, Abortion should be available, but under stricter limits than it is now. OR, Abortion should not be permitted?

	Late September 2012
Generally Available	35%
Available Under Stricter Limits	38%
Not Permitted	20%
Other Option (VOL)	2%
Not Sure (VOL)	4%

Q22: Do you think it should be legal or not legal for same-sex couples to marry?

	Late September 2012
Legal	44%
Not Legal	45%
Not Sure	11%

Q23: Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? Are you (READ LIST)?

	August 2012	September 2012	Late September 2012
White/Caucasian	90%	88%	86%
African-American	6%	6%	7%
Hispanic	1%	2%	2%
Latino	<1%	<1%	<1%
Asian	1%	1%	1%
Native American	<1%	<1%	1%
Mixed race	1%	2%	2%
Other	1%	1%	1%

Q24: Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST)?

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Catholic	34%	33%	35%
Protestant	47%	45%	43%
Jewish	2%	3%	3%
Muslim	1%	<1%	<1%
Hindu	<1%	<1%	<1%
Other Religions (including agnostic)	13%	13%	12%
Atheist	2%	3%	2%
Not Sure (volunteered)	2%	2%	4%

Q25: What is your current marital status? Are you (READ LIST)?

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Single	14%	16%	14%
Married	65%	62%	65%
Separated	1%	1%	1%
Divorced	6%	6%	6%
Widowed	13%	13%	12%
Partnered	1%	1%	1%

Q26: What is your highest level of education? (READ LIST)

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Less than High School	2%	1%	3%
High School Graduate	31%	29%	26%
Some college or technical school	24%	25%	25%
College graduate (4 yr only)	23%	24%	26%
or Graduate or professional degree	20%	21%	21%

Q27: Which of the following categories best describes your family income? Is it (READ LIST)?

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Under \$20,000	11%	13%	10%
\$20,000-\$40,000	19%	20%	21%
\$40,000-\$60,000	23%	20%	19%
\$60,000-\$80,000	14%	14%	15%
\$80,000-\$100,000	11%	11%	10%
Or Over \$100,000	20%	19%	21%
Not Sure (Volunteered)	2%	4%	5%

Q28: Which of the following categories does your current age fall in? Is it (READ LIST)?

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
18-34	10%	13%	12%
35-50	21%	25%	25%
51-64	34%	29%	31%
Or 65- and over	35%	32%	33%

Q29: Thank you for your help with the survey. We appreciate your time. (GENDER DETERMINED BY VOICE RECOGNITION)

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Male	48%	48%	48%
Female	52%	52%	52%

REGION – CALCULATED FROM VOTER FILES

	August 2012	Early September 2012	Late September 2012
Philadelphia	10%	11%	12%
Suburban Phil/Lehigh Valley	24%	24%	24%
Allegheny	11%	10%	12%
Southwest	9%	10%	10%
Remainder of State	46%	45%	43%

**SELECTED CROSSTABS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE
(INCLUDING LEANERS)**

	Obama	Romney	Neither/Other	Not Sure
OVERALL	49%	42%	4%	5%
Democrat	84%	10%	3%	4%
Republican	12%	79%	5%	4%
Independent	39%	47%	4%	10%
Male	47%	46%	4%	3%
Female	52%	38%	5%	6%
White	45%	47%	4%	4%
Non-White	91%	9%	0%	<1%
College Degree	49%	43%	2%	5%
No College Degree	48%	42%	6%	5%
Under 50 Years Old	51%	40%	4%	6%
Over 50 Years Old	48%	43%	4%	5%
Catholic	51%	40%	3%	6%
Protestant	42%	52%	4%	3%