



**Muhlenberg College/*Morning Call***  
**Pennsylvania Registered Democrat Survey**  
**April 2019**

**Key Findings:**

1. With the 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary in Pennsylvania just over one year away, former Vice President Joe Biden holds an early lead in the state over a crowded field of fellow Democrats seeking their party's nomination.
2. Just over a quarter (28%) of registered Democrats identified Biden as their choice if the election were held today, with Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders garnering support from 16% of those polled and fellow Democratic Senators Elizabeth Warren (MA) and Kamala Harris (CA) receiving 8% each.
3. Health care was identified as the most important issue registered Democrats in the state are considering for the 2020 race with 1 in 3 voters polled identifying this issue. Beating President Trump in the next election was the second most common issue identified by voters with 10% of respondents indicating this issue.
4. When asked to choose between a candidate that they agree with more but who would struggle to beat President Trump and one that they agree with less but would be more likely to beat the President in the 2020 race, 55% chose the candidate that they agreed with less on issues but was more likely to win.
5. A majority (56%) of Democrats in the Keystone State prefer that their representatives in Congress compromise with Republicans compared with only 34% who would prefer Democrats in Congress stick to their beliefs at the cost of little getting done.
6. A strong majority of registered Democrats in Pennsylvania support varied forms of "Medicare for All" plans that are being discussed in the race.
7. Registered Democrats in Pennsylvania expressed similar degrees of favorability to socialism and capitalism as economic systems, with half indicating that they would consider voting for a candidate who described his or her self as a "socialist."

## Methodological Statement:

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of 405 registered Democrat voters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between April 3 and 10, 2019. Respondents were interviewed in English on both landlines (158) and cell phones (247). 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. 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 only voters that are registered as Democrats included in the frame. 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](mailto:cborick@muhlenberg.edu)

### Pennsylvania Registered Democrat Survey Spring 2019

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

1. Democrat
2. Republican (Terminate)
3. Independent (Terminate)
4. Other Party (Terminate)
5. Not registered to vote in Pennsylvania (Terminate)
6. Not Sure (Volunteered) (Terminate)

Q2: If the 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary election was being held today and the race was between the following candidates who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

- |                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Joe Biden.....               | 28% |
| 2. Bernie Sanders.....          | 16% |
| 3. Kamala Harris.....           | 8%  |
| 4. Elizabeth Warren.....        | 8%  |
| 5. Peter Buttigieg.....         | 4%  |
| 6. Beto O'Rourke.....           | 3%  |
| 7. Amy Klobuchar.....           | 3%  |
| 8. Cory Booker.....             | 3%  |
| 9. Other (volunteered)...       | 6%  |
| 10. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... | 20% |

Q3: Next I'm going to read you a list of individuals that are running or are considering running for President in 2020. For each candidate I mention tell me if that person is someone you would be excited about voting for, comfortable voting for, or uncomfortable about voting for? First, Joe Biden:

- 1. Excited.....19%
- 2. Comfortable.....50%
- 3. Uncomfortable.....24%
- 4. Not Sure..... 7%

Q4: Now, Bernie Sanders

- 1. Excited.....17%
- 2. Comfortable.....42%
- 3. Uncomfortable.....30%
- 4. Not Sure.....12%

Q5: Kamala Harris

- 1. Excited.....12%
- 2. Comfortable.....37%
- 3. Uncomfortable.....24%
- 4. Not Sure.....27%

Q6: Elizabeth Warren

- 1. Excited.....14%
- 2. Comfortable.....35%
- 3. Uncomfortable.....28%
- 4. Not Sure.....23%

Q7: Beto O'Rourke

- 1. Excited.....10%
- 2. Comfortable.....31%
- 3. Uncomfortable.....31%
- 4. Not Sure.....28%

Q8: What is the most important issue that YOU will consider when you make your choice in the 2020 Democratic primary election? (OPEN ENDED)

1. Health Care.....33%
2. Beating Trump.....10%
3. Character/Honesty.....6%
4. Education.....5%
5. Economy.....5%
6. Environment..... 5%
7. Immigration.....4%
8. Income Inequality.....3%
9. Civil Rights/Racial Issues.....3%
10. Taxes.....2%
11. Other.....13%
12. Not Sure.....12%

Q9: Which type of candidate would you prefer if you had to make a choice between: a Democrat you agree with on most issues but would have a hard time beating Donald Trump or a Democrat you do NOT agree with on most issues but would be a stronger candidate against Donald Trump? (Options Rotated)

1. Agree Most but hard time beating Trump.....30%
2. Agree Less but better chance to beat Trump.....55%
3. Not Sure.....15%

Q10: Do you think it's more important that Democrats in Congress compromise with Republicans in order to get things done or stick to their beliefs even if it means little gets done in Congress?

1. Compromise.....56%
2. Stick to Beliefs.....34%
3. Not Sure.....10%

Q11: If all else is equal do you think it's more important to elect candidates that are younger with new ideas or older with more experience?

1. Younger.....49%
2. Older.....32%
3. Not Sure.....20%

Q12: Next, I'm going to read you some different health care proposals. For each one, please let me know if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose it. First having a national health plan, sometimes called Medicare-for-all, in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan.

- 1. Strongly Favor.....47%
- 2. Somewhat Favor.....27%
- 3. Somewhat Oppose.....11%
- 4. Strongly Oppose..... 7%
- 5. Not Sure (Vol)..... 9%

Q13: Next, an optional government administered health plan similar to Medicare that would be open to anyone, but would allow people to keep the coverage they have if they prefer.

- 1. Strongly Favor.....55%
- 2. Somewhat Favor.....36%
- 3. Somewhat Oppose..... 2%
- 4. Strongly Oppose..... 2%
- 5. Not Sure (Vol)..... 6%

Q14: Allowing people who don't get health insurance at work to buy health insurance through their state Medicaid program instead of purchasing a private plan.

- 1. Strongly Favor.....34%
- 2. Somewhat Favor.....44%
- 3. Somewhat Oppose..... 4%
- 4. Strongly Oppose..... 6%
- 5. Not Sure (Vol)..... 12%

Q15: Next I have a few questions about political and economic systems. For each system I mention tell me if you generally have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative view about that system. First, socialism:

- 1. Very Positive.....17%
- 2. Somewhat Positive.....37%
- 3. Somewhat Negative.....13%
- 4. Very Negative.....14%
- 5. Not Sure (Vol).....19%

Q16: Next, Capitalism.

- 1. Very Positive.....14%
- 2. Somewhat Positive.....35%
- 3. Somewhat Negative.....20%
- 4. Very Negative.....16%
- 5. Not Sure (Vol).....14%

Q17: Would you or would you not consider voting for a candidate for president that described themselves as a socialist?

- 1. Would.....50%
- 2. Would Not.....30%
- 3. Not Sure (Vol).....20%

Q18: The New Green deal calls for the investment of tax dollars in the development of renewable energy and more energy efficient buildings and infrastructure? Overall do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the new Green Deal?

- 1. Strongly Support.....54%
- 2. Somewhat Support.....28%
- 3. Somewhat Oppose..... 5%
- 4. Strongly Oppose..... 5%
- 5. Not Sure..... 8%

Q19: Which of the following do you think the federal government should be doing right now? Cutting taxes, cutting spending and reducing regulations or Increasing spending on things such as infrastructure, education, and health care?

- 1. Cutting Taxes.....20%
- 2. Increasing Spending.....67%
- 3. Neither (Vol)..... 7%
- 4. Not Sure..... 7%

Q20: In general would you describe yourself politically as Very Conservative, Somewhat Conservative, Moderate, Somewhat Liberal or Very Liberal?

- 1. Very Conservative..... 6%
- 2. Somewhat Conservative.....12%
- 3. Moderate.....27%
- 4. Somewhat Liberal.....26%
- 5. Very Liberal.....25%
- 6. Not Sure..... 5%

Q21. Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. First, what is your current marital status? What is your highest level of education? Is it (READ LIST)?

- 1. Less than High School..... 5%
- 2. High School graduate.....18%
- 3. Some college or technical school.....28%
- 4. College graduate (4 yr only)..... 26%
- 5. Graduate or professional degree.....22%

Q22. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? (READ LIST)

- 1. White/Caucasian.....67%
- 2. African-American.....18%
- 3. Hispanic..... 4%
- 4. Latino..... 2%
- 5. Asian..... 2%
- 6. Native American..... <1%
- 7. Mixed race..... 5%
- 8. or other..... 2%

Q23. Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation?  
Are you (READ LIST)?

- 1. Catholic.....27%
- 2. Protestant.....26%
- 3. Jewish..... 7%
- 4. Muslim..... 1%
- 5. Hindu.....<1%
- 6. Other Religion (Including agnostic)...28%
- 7. or Atheist ..... 7%
- 8. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 3%

Q24. Which of the following categories best describes your family income? (READ LIST)

- 1. Under \$20,000.....15%
- 2. \$20,000-\$40,000.....19%
- 3. \$40,000-\$60,000.....17%
- 4. \$60,000-\$80,000.....13%
- 5. \$80,000-\$100,000.....13%
- 6. Over \$100,000.....19%
- 7. Not sure (Volunteered)..... 4%

Q25: In which of the following age categories does your current age fall. READ LIST \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. 18-29.....22%
- 2. 30-49.....25%
- 3. 50-65.....25%
- 4. or Over 65.....27%

Q26: What county do you live in? (CODED INTO REGIONS)

- 1. Southeast.....39%
- 2. Southwest.....20%
- 3. Remainder of State.....41%

Q27: Finally, to which gender identity do you most identify? (READ LIST)

- 1. Male.....46%
- 2. Female.....53%
- 3. Transgender Male... <1%
- 4. Transgender Female.....<1%
- 5. Or you do not identify as male or female ..... 1%
- 6. Other (Vol).....<1%

**Candidate Preferences By Ideology**

	<b>Biden</b>	<b>Sanders</b>	<b>Harris</b>	<b>O'Rourke</b>	<b>Warren</b>	<b>Klobuchar</b>	<b>Buttigieg</b>	<b>Booker</b>	<b>Other/Not Sure</b>
<b>Very Conservative (6%)</b>	44%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	0%	0%	44%
<b>Somewhat Conservative (12%)</b>	44%	13%	0%	0%	6%	0%	0%	0%	38%
<b>Moderate (27%)</b>	38%	8%	10%	4%	3%	0%	4%	1%	32%
<b>Somewhat Liberal (26%)</b>	26%	19%	13%	1%	4%	3%	9%	6%	20%
<b>Very Liberal (25%)</b>	12%	27%	8%	3%	22%	6%	0%	6%	16%