



**Muhlenberg College/Morning Call**  
**Pennsylvania 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**  
**2018 Midterm Election Survey**  
**October**

**Key Findings:**

1. With less than three weeks to go until the much anticipated 2018 midterm election Democrat Susan Wild holds a 7 point lead (48%-41%) over Republican Marty Nothstein in the contest in the 7th Congressional District, with Libertarian Tim Silfies drawing support from 5% of likely voters
2. A majority (54%) of likely voters in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District disapprove of the job that President Trump is doing in office with just over 4 out of 10 (42%) approving of the 45<sup>th</sup> President's job performance.
3. 7<sup>th</sup> District voters identified the economy and health care as the most important issues in terms of their vote in the race, with taxes, education and support or opposition to President Trump also prominently noted.
4. While 7<sup>th</sup> District men are about evenly split in their preferences between Wild and Nothstein, women voters in the district favor Wild by a 51% to 38% margin.
5. Voters in the 7<sup>th</sup> District are very divided on the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh as a Supreme Court Justice with 48% approving of the confirmation and 47% disapproving of the decision.

**Methodological Statement**

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of 411 likely voters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between October 14 and 18, 2018. Respondents were interviewed in English on both landlines (184) and cell phones (227). 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 age to reflect voter population parameters in the district. 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 individuals who voted in at least 2 of the last 4 general elections or who had voted in either the 2018 primary elections or 2017 general election or if they were a new registrant since the 2016 Presidential Election. 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).

## INSTRUMENT AND FREQUENCIES

### PENNSYLVANIA 7<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT POLL

October 2018

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

1. Democrat.....47%
2. Republican..... 40%
3. Independent..... 12%
4. Other Party..... 1%
5. Not Registered to Vote in Pennsylvania ....(END SURVEY)

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?

1. Definitely Going to Vote.....82%
2. Very Likely To Vote..... 18%
3. Not Too Likely to Vote..... (END SURVEY)
4. Definitely Not Voting ..... (END SURVEY)

Q3: Thinking about the upcoming midterm elections in November, would you say that you are very interested, somewhat interested or not interested at all in the 2018 elections?

1. Very Interested.....89%
2. Somewhat Interested..... 9%
3. Not Interested At All..... 1%

Q4: 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 Donald Trump?

- 1. Approve.....42%
- 2. Disapprove .....54%
- 3. No opinion (Volunteered)..... 4%

Q5:Next, Governor Tom Wolf?

- 1. Approve.....55%
- 2. Disapprove .....30%
- 3. No opinion (Volunteered).....15%

**ROTATE QUESTION 6-8**

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 them is favorable or unfavorable.

First , Marty Nothstein

- 1. Favorable.....29%
- 2. Unfavorable.....32%
- 3. Neutral/Not Sure..... 19%
- 4. Haven't heard of him..... 21%

Q7: Susan Wild

- 1. Favorable.....41%
- 2. Unfavorable.....32%
- 3. Neutral/Not Sure..... 15%
- 4. Haven't heard of Her..... 12%

Q8: And Tim Silfies

- 1. Favorable..... 7%
- 2. Unfavorable..... 9%
- 3. Neutral/Not Sure..... 27%
- 4. Haven't heard of him..... 57%

Q9: If the election in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District was being held today and the race was between Susan Wild the Democrat, Marty Nothstein the Republican and Tim Silfies the Libertarian who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

- 1.Susan Wild.....47%
- 2. Marty Nothstein.....40%
- 3. Tim Silfies..... 5%
- 4. Neither/Other ..... 2%
- 5. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 7%

Q10: Are you leaning more toward voting for Susan Wild, Marty Nothstein or Tim Silfies?  
(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE ANSWERING NOT SURE IN Q9 – N= 28)

- 1.Susan Wild.....11%
- 2. Marty Nothstein.....11%
- 3. Tim Silfies..... 0%
- 4. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 78%

**CONGRESSIONAL RACE WITH LEANERS**

- 1.Susan Wild.....48%**
- 2. Marty Nothstein.....41%**
- 3. Tim Silfies..... 5%**
- 4. Neither/Other ..... 2%**
- 5. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 5%**

Q11: What issue do you consider the most important in terms of deciding your vote in the 2018 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Election? (Open ended responses coded into categories)

- Economic Issues/Jobs.....20%
- Health Care.....19%
- Stopping Trump/Democrat Control..... 8%
- Taxes..... 8%
- Education.....5%
- Helping Trump/Republican Control.....5%
- Immigration..... 4%
- Gun Issues.....3%
- Women’s Issues.....3%
- Honesty/Character.....2%
- Civil Rights/Voting Rights.....2%
- Environment/Climate Change.....2%
- Fiscal Matters.....2%
- Other.....6%
- Not Sure/None.....12%

Q12: Will your vote for Congress in November 2018 be a vote to send a message that we need:  
(Read Options)

- 1. More Democrats to be a check and balance to Donald Trump.....45%
- 2. More Republicans who will help Donald Trump pass his agenda.....36%
- 3. Neither (volunteered).....12%
- 4 Not Sure (volunteered)..... 6%

Q13: Do you think President Trump is in touch with the concerns of most people in the United States today or is he out of touch?

- 1. In touch.....42%
- 2. Out of touch.....49%
- 3. Neither (volunteered)..... 4%
- 4. Not Sure (volunteered)..... 5%

Q14: Overall would you say President Trump's use of tariffs in trade policy will help, hurt or have no effect on the local economy?

- 1. Help.....36%
- 2. Hurt.....46%
- 3. No Impact on local Economy..... 8%
- 4. Not Sure (Volunteered).....10%

Q15: Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove of the U.S. Senate's vote to confirm Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court?

- 1. Strongly Approve.....42%
- 2. Somewhat Approve..... 6%
- 3. Somewhat Disapprove.....10%
- 4. Strongly Disapprove..... 37%
- 5. Not Sure (VOL)..... 5%

Q16: Does the debate over Kavanaugh's confirmation make you more likely to support Democratic candidates in the midterm election, more likely to support Republican candidates, or does it make no difference in your vote?

- 1. Democrats.....30%
- 2. Republicans..... 32%
- 3. Make No Difference..... 36%
- 4. Not Sure (VOL)..... 3%

Q17: Charlie Dent represented large parts of this Congressional district for many years. In general would you like to see the next member of Congress from this area be more conservative than Dent, more liberal than Dent, or about the same as Dent in terms of political views?

- 1. More Conservative than Dent..... 25%
- 2. More Liberal than Dent..... 25%
- 3. About the same as Dent..... 38%
- 4. Not familiar with Dent (Vol)..... 2%
- 5. Not Sure (Vol) ..... 9%

Q18: Which of the following best describes your activity in the 2016 Presidential Election? Did you vote for:

- 1. Donald Trump..... 44%
- 2. Hillary Clinton.....44%
- 3. Some other candidate..... 5%
- 4. Or did you not vote in that election..... 5%
- 5. Not Sure (VOL)..... 1%
- 6.

Q19: Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? Are you (READ LIST)?

- 1. White/Caucasian..... 85%
- 2. African-American..... 3%
- 3. Hispanic..... 3%
- 4. Latino..... 2%
- 5. Asian.....<1%
- 6. Native American..... <1%
- 7. Mixed race..... 2%
- 8. or other..... 4%

Q20: Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST)?

- 1. Catholic..... 28%
- 2. Protestant..... 38%
- 3. Jewish..... 4%
- 4. Muslim..... <1%
- 5. Hindu..... <1%
- 6. Other Religion (Including agnostic)..... 18%
- 7. or Atheist ..... 3%
- 8. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 7%

Q21: What is your highest level of education? (READ LIST)

- 1. Less than High School..... 1%
- 2. High School Graduate.....26%
- 3. Some college or technical school..... 26%
- 4. College graduate (4 yr only)..... 29%
- 5. Graduate or professional degree.....18%

Q22: Which of the following categories best describes your family income? Is it (READ LIST)?

- 1. Under \$20,000..... 6%
- 2. \$20,000-\$40,000..... 14%
- 3. \$40,000-\$60,000..... 15%
- 4. \$60,000-\$80,000..... 18%
- 5. \$80,000-\$100,000..... 12%
- 6. Over \$100,000..... 33%
- 7. Not Sure.....1%

Q23: Which of the following categories does your current age fall in? Is it (READ LIST)?

- 1. 18-29..... 13%
- 2. 30-49..... 27%
- 3. 50-64.....30%
- 4. 65- and over.....30%

Q24: Finally to which gender identity do you most identify? (READ LIST)

- 1. Male.....48%
- 2. Female.....52%
- 3. Transgender Male..... <1%
- 4. Transgender Female..... 0%
- 5. Or you do not identify as male, female or transgender..... <1%

### SELECTED CROSSTABS

	<b>Wild</b>	<b>Nothstein</b>	<b>Silfies</b>
Democrat	80%	7%	5%
Republican	13%	79%	4%
Independent/Other	43%	40%	6%
Male	46%	45%	4%
Female	51%	38%	6%
2016 Trump	12%	78%	4%
2016 Clinton	85%	7%	2%
18-29	45%	31%	8%
30-49	51%	35%	7%
50-64	50%	43%	3%
65+	46%	45%	4%
High School or Less	53%	36%	6%
Some College	32%	56%	6%
College Degree	55%	38%	3%
Grad or Professional Degree	51%	31%	6%
Definitely Vote	52%	38%	3%
Very Likely to Vote	26%	55%	13%

*Note: Not Sure of Vote Choice or Other Candidate Besides Offered Choices Not Included*