



## **Muhlenberg College/Morning Call**

### **2018 Midterm Election Survey**

#### **April Wave**

##### **Key Findings:**

1. With about 7 months remaining before the 2018 elections Democratic candidates are in strong positions across an array of races within Pennsylvania.
2. Incumbent Governor Tom Wolf (D) has solid leads over an array of potential Republican nominees in his bid to win a second term as the Commonwealth's chief executive.
3. In the United States Senate race in Pennsylvania Democrat incumbent Bob Casey Jr. holds substantial leads against two potential Republican challengers: Congressman Lou Barletta and State Representative Jim Christiana.
4. In a generic ballot in the midterm congressional elections in Pennsylvania the state's voters are leaning towards Democrats over Republican candidates with 47% of voters preferring the Democrat in their district compared with 38% supporting a Republican.
5. A majority (55%) of Pennsylvania voters disapprove of President Donald Trump's job performance with just under 4 in 10 (39%) supporting Trump's performance as the nation's chief executive.
6. In regard to Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 Election, 7 out of 10 voters in the Keystone State believe Mueller should be able to finish the investigation.

##### **Methodological Statement**

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of 414 voters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between April 4 and 12, 2018. Respondents were interviewed in English on both landlines (189) and cell phones (225). 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 in Pennsylvania. 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 9%. The sampling frame for the study is from the registered voters files of the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. 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 GUBERNATORIAL POLL

APRIL 2018

### INSTRUMENT AND FREQUENCIES

Q1: Thank You. Which of the following categories does your current age fall in? Is it (READ LIST)?

- 1. 18-34..... 22%
- 2. 35-50..... 24%
- 3. 51-64.....22%
- 4. 65- and over.....33%

Q2: Thank you. Which of the following categories best describes your current voting status? Are you registered as a \_\_\_\_\_? (READ LIST)

- 1. Democrat.....48%
- 2. Republican.....40%
- 3. Independent.....10%
- 4. Other Party.....2%
- 5. Not Registered to Vote in Pennsylvania (END SURVEY)

Q3: 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..... 77%
- 2. Very Likely To Vote..... 23%
- 3. Not Too Likely to Vote (END SURVEY)
- 4. Definitely not voting (END SURVEY)
- 5. Not Sure (Volunteered) (END SURVEY)

Q4: Next, I would like for you to rate the performance of a few political officials and institutions. 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.....39%
- 2. Disapprove.....55%
- 3. No opinion (Volunteered) ..... 5%

Q5:Next, Governor Tom Wolf?

- 1. Approve..... 46%
- 2. Disapprove..... 35%
- 3. No opinion (Volunteered) .....19%

Q6: Senator Bob Casey Jr?

- 1. Approve..... 41%
- 2. Disapprove.....28%
- 3. No opinion (Volunteered) .....31%

Q7: And finally the United States Congress?

- 1. Approve..... 12%
- 2. Disapprove..... 78%
- 3. No opinion (Volunteered) .....10%

Q8: Now, if the 2018 governor's election was being held today and the race was between Tom Wolf the Democrat and Scott Wagner the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

- 1. Tom Wolf ..... 47%
- 2. Scott Wagner..... 31%
- 3. Neither/Other..... 5%
- 4. Not Sure (Volunteered).....16%

Q9: Next, if the 2018 governor's election was being held today and the race was between Tom Wolf the Democrat and Paul Mango the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

- 1. Tom Wolf ..... 47%
- 2. Paul Mango ..... 27%
- 3. Neither/Other..... 5%
- 4. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 22%

Q10: And if the 2018 governor's election was being held today and the race was between Tom Wolf the Democrat and Laura Ellsworth the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

- 1. Tom Wolf..... 46%
- 2. Laura Ellsworth..... 26%
- 3. Neither/Other..... 4%
- 4. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 24%

Q11: Next, if the 2018 U.S. Senate election in Pennsylvania was being held today and the race was between Bob Casey Jr. the Democrat and Lou Barletta the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

- 1. Bob Casey Jr. .... 48%
- 2. Lou Barletta..... 32%
- 3. Neither/Other..... 2%
- 4. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 18%

Q12: And if the 2018 U.S. Senate election in Pennsylvania was being held today and the race was between Bob Casey Jr. the Democrat and Jim Christiana the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

- 1. Bob Casey Jr. .... 48%
- 2. Jim Christiana..... 29%
- 3. Neither/Other ..... 3%
- 4. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 20%

Q13: 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)

- 1. Democrat..... 47%
- 2. Republican..... 38%
- 3. Neither/Other..... 3%
- 4. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 11%

Q14: What issue do you consider the most important in terms of deciding your vote in the 2018 Midterm elections?

Economy/Jobs.....23%  
Health Care.....17%  
Education..... 9%  
Immigration ..... 8%  
Gun Control..... 8%  
Taxes..... 8%  
National Security.....7%  
Abortion..... 5%  
Environment..... 2%  
Stopping Trump.....2%  
Other/Not Sure.....12%

Q15: How closely have you been following the decision by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that established new congressional district lines for the 2018 Midterm elections in the state?

1. Very Closely..... 25%  
2. Somewhat Closely.....33%  
3. Not Very Closely..... 22%  
4. Not at All..... 15%  
5. Not sure (vol)..... 4%

Q16: Would you say that you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the decision of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to establish new congressional district lines in the state?

1. Strongly Support..... 32%  
2. Somewhat Support.....16%  
3. Somewhat Oppose..... 9%  
4. Strongly Oppose.....17%  
5. Not Sure (Vol).....25%

Q17: Do you approve or disapprove of the tax reform law that was passed by Congress and signed by the President in December?

1. Approve..... 39%  
2. Disapprove..... 46%  
3. Not Sure (Vol)..... 15%

Q18: Do you think the new tax law will increase your taxes, lower your taxes or not have much impact on your taxes at all?

1. Increase Taxes..... 25%
2. Decrease Taxes..... 28%
3. Not Have Much Impact..... 36%
4. Not Sure (Vol)..... 11%

Q19: Do you favor or oppose building along the U.S. Mexico border to try and stop illegal immigration?

1. Favor..... 37%
2. Oppose.....57%
3. Not Sure (Vol)..... 6%

Q20: In general, do you favor or oppose allowing young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children to remain in the country if they meet certain requirements such as going to school or joining the military, and not having a criminal record?

1. Favor.....81%
2. Oppose.....13%
3. Not Sure (Vol)..... 7%

Q21: From what you have read or heard about Robert Mueller, the special counsel in the Russia investigation, do you think the investigation is fair or not fair?

1. Fair.....52%
2. Not Fair.....29%
3. Not Sure (Vol).....19%

Q22: Do you think Special Counsel Robert Mueller should be fired or should be allowed to finish the investigation?

1. Fired.....16%
2. Allowed to Finish...70%
3. Not Sure..... 13%
4. Refused..... 1%

Q23: 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..... 83%
- 2. African-American..... 7%
- 3. Hispanic..... 4%
- 4. Latino..... 1%
- 5. Asian..... 2%
- 6. Native American..... <1%
- 7. Mixed race..... 2%
- 8. or other..... 2%

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

- 1. Catholic..... 33%
- 2. Protestant..... 34%
- 3. Jewish..... 3%
- 4. Muslim..... 1%
- 5. Hindu..... <1%
- 6. Other Religion (Including agnostic)..... 21%
- 7. or Atheist ..... 5%
- 8. Not Sure (Volunteered).....2%

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

- 1. Single..... 28%
- 2. Married..... 52%
- 3. Separated..... 2%
- 4. Divorced..... 8%
- 5. Widowed..... 9%
- 6. Partnered..... 2%

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

- 1. Less than High School..... 2%
- 2. High School Graduate.....19%
- 3. Some college or technical school.....24%
- 4. College graduate (4 yr only)..... 32%
- 5. Graduate or professional degree.....22%

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

- 1. Under \$20,000.....11%
- 2. \$20,000-\$40,000..... 18%
- 3. \$40,000-\$60,000..... 16%
- 4. \$60,000-\$80,000..... 16%
- 5. \$80,000-\$100,000..... 10%
- 6. Over \$100,000.....27%
- 7. Not Sure.....2%

Q28: Finally to which gender identity do you most identify? (READ LIST)

- 1. Male.....48%
- 2. Female.....50%
- 3. Transgender Male..... 0%
- 4. Transgender Female.....<1%
- 5. Or you do not identify as male, female or transgender..... 1%
- 6. Other (Vol).....<1%