



Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District

October 2026 Election Survey

Key Findings:

1. With Election Day less than two weeks away, the race to represent Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District is once again competitive. The latest Muhlenberg College poll finds candidate Bob Brooks (D) holding a 49% to 43% lead over incumbent Ryan Mackenzie (R).
2. Brooks is polling particularly well among women, respondents who hold at least a 4-year college degree, and young people ranging in age from 18-34.
3. Incumbent Governor Josh Shapiro (D) maintains a solid 59% to 34% lead over his Republican challenger Stacy Garritty among survey respondents.
4. Shapiro's lead is in part due to his cross-party appeal, drawing 21% of surveyed registered Republican voters and 19% of self-identified Trump 2024 voters.
5. The economy and cost of living remain the primary concern driving voting behavior, with 80% of voters identifying these as shaping their election decisions "to a large extent". President Trump's record, health care, and immigration also register as high priorities for voters. At the same time ongoing international conflicts, for example, Iran, hold particular importance for younger voters (18-34).
6. 68% of respondents either "somewhat" or "strongly oppose" the construction of a data center in their community to support artificial intelligence or other technologies, compared to 22% of respondents who are either "somewhat" or "strongly" in favor.
7. Respondents generally feel confident that the upcoming elections in Pennsylvania will be conducted in a way that is safe, secure and accurate, with 73% reporting that they are "very" or "somewhat" confident.

Methodological Statement:

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of 529 likely voters in the Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District between October 6 and October 15, 2026. Respondents were interviewed in English on both landlines and cell phones. With a randomly selected sample

of respondents the margin of error for the surveys is +/- 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. Interviewing was conducted by Communication Concepts of Easton, Pennsylvania under protocols established by the MCIPO. The data has been weighted to gender, age, party, race and educational attainment 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 registered voters both land lines and cell phones were called up to 3 times. The sampling frame for the study is from the registered voters files of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To determine likely voters, only voters who have voted in 1 or more of the last 4 general elections (2020-2024), or who is a new registrant since November of 2022 were included in the sampling frame. In addition, only survey respondents from this frame who indicated that they were “definitely” or “very likely” to vote in the November election were included in the sample. 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 (Lehigh University) and Dr. Lindsay Burt of the MCIPO. Additional insights were provided by Dr. Lanethea Mathews-Schultz (Muhlenberg College). The survey was funded exclusively by the MCIPO. For more detailed information on the methods employed please contact the MCIPO at 484-664-3444 or email Dr. Burt at pollinginstitute@muhlenberg.edu.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

PENNSYLVANIA 7th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT POLL

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

Democrat	43%
Republican	42%
Independent	14%
Other Party	2%

Q2: How likely are you to vote in the 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?

Definitely going to vote	83%
Very likely to vote	17%

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 or she is doing their job.

First, President Donald Trump?

Approve	37%
Disapprove	59%
No opinion (Vol)	4%

Q4: Next, Governor Josh Shapiro?

Approve	62%
Disapprove	29%
No opinion (Vol)	9%

Q5: Next, Senator John Fetterman?

Approve	39%
Disapprove	46%
No opinion (Vol)	16%

Q6: Next, Congressman Ryan Mackenzie?

Approve	36%
Disapprove	46%
No opinion (Vol)	18%

Q7: 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, Josh Shapiro:

Favorable	59%
Unfavorable	28%
Neutral/Not sure	12%
Haven't heard of him	1%

Q8: Stacy Garrity:

Favorable	23%
Unfavorable	35%
Neutral/Not sure	23%
Haven't heard of her	20%

Q9: Bob Brooks:

Favorable	29%
Unfavorable	35%
Neutral/Not sure	23%
Haven't heard of him	14%

Q10: Ryan Mackenzie:

Favorable	39%
Unfavorable	44%
Neutral/Not sure	14%
Haven't heard of him	4%

Q11: Now, if the election in the 7th Congressional District was being held today and the race was between Democrat Bob Brooks and Republican Ryan Mackenzie, who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

Bob Brooks	49%
Ryan Mackenzie	43%
Neither/Other (Vol)	3%
Not sure (Vol)	5%

Q12: Are you leaning more toward voting for Bob Brooks or Ryan Mackenzie? (ASKED ONLY OF THOSE THAT SAID "NOT SURE" IN Q11)

Bob Brooks	18%
Ryan Mackenzie	33%
Not sure (Vol)	49%

Q13: If the election for PA Governor were being held today and the race was between Democrat Josh Shapiro and Republican Stacy Garrity, who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

Josh Shapiro	59%
Stacy Garrity	34%
Neither/Other (Vol)	2%
Not sure (Vol)	5%

Q14: Are you leaning more toward voting for Josh Shapiro or Stacy Garrity? (ASKED ONLY OF THOSE THAT SAID, "NOT SURE" ON Q13)

Josh Shapiro	23%
Stacy Garrity	21%
Not sure (Vol)	55%

Q15: What is the single most important issue for you in terms of deciding your vote in the 2026 midterm elections? (Open Ended)

Economy/Cost of living	40%
In Favor or Against Specific Candidate or Party	14%
Not Sure	7%
Immigration	6%
Democracy/Democratic Norms	5%
Foreign Policy/International Conflicts	5%
Health care/Social Security	4%
Women's Rights/Reproductive rights	2%
Other	15%

(QUESTIONS 16-22 ROTATED)

To what extent, if at all, did each of the following issues shape your voting decisions today:

	To a large extent	To a limited extent	Not at all	Not sure (V)
Q16: The conflict in Iran	50%	27%	20%	3%
Q17: Israel and Gaza	44%	31%	21%	4%
Q18: Transgender rights	40%	20%	36%	4%
Q19: Immigration	63%	26%	10%	2%
Q20: Cost of living/economy	80%	14%	6%	1%
Q21: Health care	69%	19%	10%	2%
Q22: President Trump and his record	74%	11%	13%	2%

Q23: Overall, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the construction of a data center in your community to support artificial intelligence or other technologies?

Strongly favor	9%
Somewhat favor	13%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	52%
Not sure (Vol)	10%

Q24: How confident are you that the November 2026 elections in Pennsylvania will be conducted in a way that is safe, secure and accurate?

Very confident	39%
Somewhat confident	34%
Not too confident	16%
Not at all confident	7%
Not sure (Vol)	4%

Q25: Which of these best describes your actions in the 2024 presidential election? Did you vote for:

Kamala Harris	47%
Donald Trump	45%
A candidate other than Harris or Trump	2%
Did you not vote in 2024	4%
Not sure (Vol)	1%
Refused (Vol)	1%

Q26: Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? Are you (READ LIST):

White/Caucasian	80%
African-American	4%
Hispanic	5%
Latino	2%
Asian	2%
Native American	<1%
Mixed race	3%
Other	4%

Q27: Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST):

Catholic	33%
----------	-----

Protestant	23%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Hindu	1%
Other religion (including Agnostic)	23%
Atheist	7%
Not sure (Vol)	9%

Q28: What is your highest level of education? (READ LIST)

Less than High School	1%
High School graduate	23%
Some College or Technical School	33%
College graduate (4-year only)	23%
Graduate or professional degree	20%

Q29: Which of the following categories best describes your family income? Is it (READ LIST):

Under \$20,000	4%
\$20,000 - \$40,000	11%
\$40,000 - \$60,000	13%
\$60,000 - \$80,000	15%
\$80,000 - \$100,000	13%
Over \$100,000	33%
Not sure (Vol)	10%

Q30: Which of the following categories does your current age fall in? Is it (READ LIST):

18 – 34	18%
35 – 50	21%
51 – 64	25%
65 and over	36%

Q31: Finally, to which gender identity do you most identify? (READ LIST)

Male	49%
Female	50%
Or do you identify in some other way	1%

SELECTED CROSSTABS

Brooks vs. Mackenzie

	Brooks	Mackenzie	Neither/Other	Not Sure
Overall	49%	43%	3%	5%
Male	44%	46%	4%	6%
Female	55%	39%	3%	3%
White	49%	44%	3%	4%
Person of Color	52%	38%	5%	6%
No 4-Year Degree	45%	45%	3%	6%
4-Year Degree or higher	55%	40%	3%	3%
18-34	66%	25%	2%	7%
35-50	59%	32%	7%	2%
51-64	42%	54%	1%	3%
Over 65	41%	50%	3%	6%
Harris 2024	89%	3%	3%	5%
Trump 2024	6%	89%	2%	3%
Democrat	88%	4%	4%	5%
Republican	9%	89%	1%	1%
Independent	53%	29%	8%	10%
“Definitely Voting”	51%	42%	3%	4%
“Very Likely to Vote”	44%	45%	3%	8%
Catholic	34%	60%	2%	4%
Protestant	47%	48%	3%	3%
Non-Christian/No Religion	62%	27%	5%	6%
Under 60K/year	45%	43%	3%	9%
Over 60K/year	53%	42%	3%	3%

Shapiro vs. Garrity

	Shapiro	Garrity	Neither/Other	Not Sure
Overall	59%	34%	2%	5%
Male	55%	37%	4%	5%
Female	65%	30%	1%	5%
White	59%	35%	3%	4%
Person of Color	61%	31%	1%	7%
No 4-Year Degree	56%	37%	1%	5%
4-Year Degree	63%	30%	3%	4%
18-34	65%	26%	3%	6%
35-50	70%	24%	3%	3%
51-64	51%	44%	2%	4%
Over 65	56%	37%	2%	6%
Harris 2024	95%	2%	1%	2%
Trump 2024	19%	71%	3%	8%
Democrat	93%	3%	3%	2%
Republican	21%	72%	1%	6%
Independent	75%	19%	3%	3%
“Definitely Voting”	60%	33%	3%	5%
“Very Likely to Vote”	57%	38%	0%	6%
Catholic	43%	51%	3%	4%
Protestant	62%	32%	1%	5%
Non-Christian/No Religion	71%	22%	2%	5%
Under 60K/year	59%	34%	2%	5%
Over 60K/year	61%	33%	3%	3%

To what extent, if at all, did each of the following issues shape your voting decisions today?

Immigration

	To a large extent	To a limited extent	Not at all	Not Sure
Overall	63%	26%	10%	2%
Male	51%	32%	14%	3%
Female	75%	18%	6%	<1%
White	62%	27%	10%	2%
Person of Color	66%	22%	11%	1%
No 4-Year Degree	65%	23%	10%	2%
4-Year Degree	60%	29%	9%	1%
18-34	66%	24%	10%	0%
35-50	57%	32%	10%	1%
51-64	64%	23%	11%	2%
Over 65	63%	25%	10%	3%
Harris 2024	62%	26%	11%	1%
Trump 2024	66%	26%	7%	1%
Democrat	65%	23%	11%	1%
Republican	66%	25%	6%	2%
Independent	46%	35%	18%	1%
“Definitely Voting”	63%	26%	9%	1%
“Very Likely to Vote”	60%	24%	12%	5%
Catholic	62%	29%	7%	2%
Protestant	57%	31%	11%	1%
Non-Christian/No Religion	66%	20%	12%	2%
Under 60K/year	64%	22%	13%	1%
Over 60K/year	62%	28%	9%	2%

Cost of living/the Economy

	To a large extent	To a limited extent	Not at all	Not Sure
Overall	80%	14%	6%	1%
Male	76%	15%	8%	1%
Female	83%	13%	3%	1%
White	80%	14%	5%	1%
Person of Color	79%	14%	7%	1%
No 4-Year Degree	81%	12%	6%	1%
4-Year Degree	77%	17%	5%	1%
18-34	86%	14%	0%	0%

35-50	85%	13%	2%	0%
51-64	77%	12%	10%	1%
Over 65	74%	17%	7%	2%
Harris 2024	90%	7%	2%	1%
Trump 2024	68%	22%	9%	1%
Democrat	89%	7%	3%	1%
Republican	70%	20%	9%	1%
Independent	78%	15%	5%	1%
“Definitely Voting”	81%	13%	6%	1%
“Very Likely to Vote”	73%	20%	3%	3%
Catholic	77%	14%	9%	1%
Protestant	79%	17%	3%	1%
Non-Christian/No Religion	81%	13%	5%	1%
Under 60K/year	81%	14%	5%	1%
Over 60K/year	80%	14%	6%	1%

The Conflict in Iran

	To a large extent	To a limited extent	Not at all	Not Sure
Overall	50%	27%	20%	3%
Male	46%	28%	23%	3%
Female	55%	26%	16%	4%
White	52%	28%	17%	3%
Person of Color	40%	24%	31%	5%
No 4-Year Degree	48%	27%	22%	4%
4-Year Degree	53%	28%	17%	2%
18-34	53%	31%	15%	2%
35-50	46%	34%	17%	3%
51-64	47%	28%	24%	2%
Over 65	53%	22%	21%	5%
Harris 2024	70%	22%	5%	3%
Trump 2024	29%	36%	33%	2%
Democrat	67%	21%	8%	5%
Republican	33%	32%	33%	3%
Independent	51%	26%	22%	1%
“Definitely Voting”	50%	27%	20%	3%
“Very Likely to Vote”	49%	26%	19%	6%
Catholic	43%	31%	24%	3%
Protestant	51%	26%	21%	2%
Non-Christian/No Religion	54%	25%	16%	5%
Under 60K/year	53%	22%	21%	4%
Over 60K/year	51%	29%	19%	1%

Transgender Rights

	To a large extent	To a limited extent	Not at all	Not Sure
Overall	40%	20%	36%	4%
Male	33%	19%	43%	5%
Female	47%	21%	28%	4%
White	39%	22%	35%	4%
Person of Color	45%	12%	38%	5%
No 4-Year Degree	44%	16%	36%	4%
4-Year Degree	35%	25%	36%	5%
18-34	59%	19%	20%	2%
35-50	42%	20%	36%	2%
51-64	34%	21%	41%	5%
Over 65	33%	19%	41%	7%
Harris 2024	50%	23%	24%	3%
Trump 2024	31%	17%	46%	6%
Democrat	50%	22%	25%	3%
Republican	34%	16%	45%	6%
Independent	29%	23%	45%	3%
“Definitely Voting”	41%	20%	34%	5%
“Very Likely to Vote”	32%	22%	42%	3%
Catholic	32%	23%	39%	6%
Protestant	33%	26%	38%	3%
Non-Christian/No Religion	50%	15%	32%	4%
Under 60K/year	45%	13%	36%	5%
Over 60K/year	37%	24%	36%	3%

How confident are you that the November 2026 Elections will be conducted fairly and accurately?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	Not sure
Overall	39%	34%	16%	7%	4%
Male	41%	30%	16%	11%	3%
Female	37%	38%	16%	3%	6%
White	41%	33%	15%	7%	5%
Person of Color	31%	37%	21%	9%	2%
No 4-Year Degree	37%	33%	17%	8%	5%
4-Year Degree	42%	35%	14%	6%	2%
18-34	35%	45%	16%	2%	2%
35-50	32%	32%	23%	9%	3%
51-64	32%	36%	17%	14%	2%
Over 65	49%	28%	12%	4%	7%
Harris 2024	48%	35%	11%	3%	3%
Trump 2024	25%	36%	22%	12%	6%
Democrat	49%	34%	12%	2%	3%
Republican	30%	36%	18%	11%	5%
Independent	36%	33%	19%	11%	1%
“Definitely Voting”	39%	35%	17%	6%	3%
“Very Likely to Vote”	39%	27%	14%	14%	7%
Catholic	36%	36%	17%	6%	2%
Protestant	40%	34%	16%	6%	4%
Non-Christian/No Religion	41%	32%	15%	9%	3%
Under 60K/year	38%	32%	14%	8%	8%
Over 60K/year	41%	35%	15%	8%	2%

Overall, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the construction of a data center in your community to support artificial intelligence or other technologies?

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Overall	9%	13%	16%	52%	10%
Male	10%	14%	20%	47%	9%
Female	7%	12%	12%	58%	12%
White	7%	16%	16%	51%	10%
Person of Color	14%	5%	15%	58%	9%
No 4-Year Degree	5%	12%	18%	53%	13%
4-Year Degree	13%	16%	13%	51%	7%

18-34	4%	10%	12%	71%	4%
35-50	10%	11%	18%	56%	6%
51-64	12%	12%	15%	49%	13%
Over 65	8%	18%	17%	45%	13%
Harris 2024	4%	5%	14%	70%	7%
Trump 2024	15%	24%	16%	32%	14%
Democrat	4%	5%	14%	72%	6%
Republican	13%	23%	16%	34%	13%
Independent	10%	10%	19%	51%	11%
“Definitely Voting”	8%	12%	14%	55%	10%
“Very Likely to Vote”	10%	18%	23%	38%	11%
Catholic	17%	19%	16%	39%	10%
Protestant	5%	19%	17%	43%	16%
Non-Christian/No Religion	5%	6%	15%	67%	7%
Under 60K/year	7%	14%	14%	56%	9%
Over 60K/year	9%	13%	18%	52%	8%