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Top Line Survey Results
Statewide Voter Attitude Survey
Interviews Conducted August 26- September 4, 2020
Sample Size: 498 Registered/Likely Voters

SUMMARY OVERVIEW, SP&R STATEWIDE VOTER ATTITUDE POLL

(Tuesday, September 8th) - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Susquehanna Polling and Research today releases its newest Pennsylvania statewide poll in the Presidential race showing the race between Democratic Joe Biden and Republican Donald Trump is a statistical tie with less than 60 days remaining before the November 3 election. In the telephone poll, conducted between August 26th and September 4th with 498 likely voters, Joe Biden leads Donald Trump by a 2-point, or 44% to 42% margin. Seven (7) percent remain undecided with a combined 6% either choosing another candidate or declining to answer the question. The margin of error for the poll is +/-4.3%, putting Biden's 2-point lead clearly within the poll's margin of error or a statistical tie. It is noteworthy that in 2016, SP&R's publicly released polling was proven to be some of the most accurate of any firm according to the highly reputable website www.realclearpolitics.com. For instance, SP&R's last poll before the 2016 election showed the race between then-Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump a 45:43 statistical tie. Other firms showed Clinton leading Trump by as much as eleven (11) points less than 5 days before the election.

In the current survey, available at www.susquehannapolling.com, and attached to this release, Biden's lead has been cut from 6 points in April (48:42 margin), to 5 points in June (46:41), to now a 2-point margin. Momentum for Donald Trump in the current poll seems to be the result of a surge in voters who believe "restoring law and order" to U.S. cities facing looting, rioting and violent protests should be a top priority for federal lawmakers. For instance, when voters are asked to choose the top two issues (from a list of 7) they

want federal lawmakers to concentrate on, “restoring law and order to cities and communities” is chosen by 37%, ranking this issue in third place among all issues and nearly tied with “improving access and affordability to health care” (at 38%) and “strengthening the economy and job creation”, ranking highest at 40%. Perhaps most significantly, not only does restoring law and order to U.S. cities *outrank* concern among those who believe improving race relations in the country should be a top priority (tied for 4th place at 21%), but “law and order” voters prefer Donald Trump over Joe Biden by a 74% to 16% margin. This is the clearest evidence yet that violent protests and rioting across the USA are hurting Biden’s chances in a must-win state like Pennsylvania. Conversely, voters who believe “improving race relations” should be a top priority are voting for Biden over Trump by a 78:11 margin.

COVID AND GOV. WOLF’S RESPONSE

Gov. Tom Wolf’s approval rating of the COVID response in the current poll is 50%, while 36% disapprove of the job he is doing. This shows little change from June when Wolf’s ratio in approve to disapprove was 49:42, but it shows a big drop from April when 68% of Pennsylvania voters said they approved of the job Tom Wolf was doing managing the corona virus. Governor Wolf has faced steady and heated criticism both from a Republican-controlled General Assembly and organized groups on social media platforms for what they believe is a governor who has been unsympathetic to the hardships faced by small businesses struggling to stay profitable during state-ordered shutdowns. The governor has also faced unrelenting criticism by Republicans for failing to produce scientific data that validates his rationale for allowing restaurants to only accommodate up to 25% of their normal dining capacity. Republicans disapprove of Wolf’s handling of the crisis by a 76:14 margin, while Democrats approve 93:6.

On other COVID-related issues dealing with the resumption of Fall Sports and the potential for further lockdowns, Republican both remain highly skeptical and vehemently opposed to the Governor’s recommendations, while Democrat voters largely side with the governor. For instance, despite Wolf’s recommendation that high school sports be postponed until 2021, Republican voters reject this notion and

instead believe Fall sports should resume as normal this Fall, by a 77:15 margin. Democrat voters, by a 72:23 margin, want Fall sports postponed until 2021. On the issue of children returning to the classroom for in-person instruction and learning, a 56% majority of Republicans believe children in grades K through 12 should return to the classroom permanently and completely. By comparison, Democrat voters are more divided, with 39% favoring an exclusively online/remote learning approval, versus 36% who prefer a hybrid model of online and some in-classroom instruction. Only 16% of Democrats favor the approach largely favored by Republicans that children should return to the physical classroom on a full-time, permanent basis.

An issue that Republicans and Democrats seem to agree on is avoiding another shutdown or lockdown of the economy if corona virus cases continue unabated. Among the statewide audience of voters, by a 67:25 margin most voters believe businesses and other activities should continue to be allowed in the event that COVID cases continue to rise. This includes 91% of Republicans, 47% of Democrats and 65% of Independents.



TOP LINE SURVEY RESULTS, CROSS-TABULATIONS AND TREND LINE COMPARISONS

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is **(YOUR FIRST NAME)**. I am calling on behalf of Susquehanna Polling and Research a public opinion research firm. May I speak to (name on list) or another registered voter in your household? **(If name on list or another registered voter is not available, TERMINATE)**

INTRODUCTION: We are conducting a survey of attitudes and opinions concerning some important issues Pennsylvania today. May we have just 5 to 6 minutes of your time to complete a brief survey?

Great, thank you...

F1: First to confirm, our records indicate you are a registered voter in Pennsylvania. Is this accurate?

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------|--|
| 1. If Yes | 498 | (100%) | CONTINUE |
| 2. If No | --- | | THANK YOU ANYWAY, BUT WE CANNOT CONTINUE THE INTERVIEW |

Q1. Thinking ahead to the general elections in November for President and other races, on a scale anywhere from 1 to 10 how likely are you to vote this November (where 1 means you are “not at all” likely to vote and the highest score of 10 means you are “definitely” voting)?

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----|--------|--|
| 1. If 1 to 5 | --- | | THANK YOU ANYWAY, BUT YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PART OF THE SURVEY |
| 2. If 6 to 10 | 498 | (100%) | PROCEED TO Q2 |
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Q2. Aside from health concerns about the corona virus, which two of the following seven issues should be the top priorities for your elected officials in Washington, D.C. to concentrate on? Is it... (ROTATE ITEMS – PROBE FOR TWO ANSWERS)...strengthening the economy and job creation, fixing highways and the nation’s infrastructure, improving the environment and addressing climate change, fighting terrorism and protecting the homeland, improving race relations, restoring law and order to cities and communities, improving access and affordability in health care?

1. Strengthening the economy/job creation	201	40%
2. Fixing highways and infrastructure	73	15%
3. Improving the environment/climate change	103	21%
4. Fighting terrorism/protecting homeland	54	11%
5. Improving race relations	105	21%
6. Restoring law/order to cities/communities	182	37%
7. Improving access/affordability to health care	187	38%
8. Other	21	04%
9. Undecided	10	02%
10. Refuse	3	01%

Q3. If the general election for President were being held today, would you vote for Donald Trump, the Republican, or Joe Biden, the Democrat, or another candidate? (Test Intensity...)

			<u>6/23/20</u>	<u>4/14/20</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1. Definitely Trump	189	38%			
2. Probably Trump	18	04%			
Total Trump:	207	42%	41%	42%	--
3. Definitely Biden	205	41%			
4. Probably Biden	16	03%			
Total Biden:	221	44%	46%	48%	-4
5. Other	16	03%	05%	01%	+2
6. Undecided	35	07%	08%	08%	-1
7. Refuse	17	03%	00%	01%	+2

Q4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Governor Tom Wolf is doing managing the corona virus issue?

			<u>6/23/20</u>	<u>4/14/20</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1. Approve	247	50%	49%	68%	-18
2. Disapprove	180	36%	42%	18%	+18
3. Undecided	69	14%	09%	13%	+1

Q5. When it comes to the issue of children grades K through 12 returning to school in the Fall, and assuming that social distancing policies are in place, what is the best approach? (ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 THROUGH 3)

160	(32%)	Have children physically attend school in the classroom for all instructional learning, or...
185	(37%)	Adopt a hybrid model that includes both online learning from home as well as in-classroom instruction, or...
122	(24%)	Have children stay at home and do all learning online via the internet, or...
16	(03%)	Undecided (Do Not Read)
12	(02%)	Other/None (Do Not Read)

Q6. If Pennsylvania continues to show new cases of the corona virus before a vaccine is found, should the state consider another shutdown of the economy, or should businesses and other activities continue to reopen as long as social distancing policies are in place?

1. State should consider another shutdown	126	25%
2. Businesses/other activities should continue to reopen	334	67%
3. Undecided	29	06%
4. Refuse	9	02%

Q7. Governor Wolf recently recommended that all high school sports be postponed until January of next year, but the governing body for high school sports called PIAA announced high school sports can start as originally planned this Fall. Which do you support?

1. High school sports should be postponed until January	212	43%
2. High school sports can/should start in Fall	241	48%
3. Undecided	38	08%
4. Refuse	7	01%

Q8. Do you support or oppose legalizing marijuana for recreational use in Pennsylvania?

			<u>9/30/19</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1. Strongly support	206	41%		
2. Support	71	14%		
Total Support:	277	56%	37%	+19
3. Strongly oppose	147	30%		
4. Oppose	37	07%		
Total Oppose:	184	37%	48%	-11
5. Not Sure	33	07%	15%	-8
6. Decline to answer	4	01%	00%	+1

Now, I just have a few more questions for demographic purposes and we'll be through....

Q9. Are you registered to vote as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or with some other political party?

1. Republican	194	39%
2. Democrat	212	43%
3. Independent/Other	80	16%
4. Refuse	12	02%

Q10. Regardless of how you are registered to vote, do you tend to think of yourself more as a Republican, more as a Democrat or more as an Independent voter?

1. Republican	128	26%
2. Democrat	116	23%
3. Independent	234	47%
4. None of the above	14	03%
5. Refuse	6	01%

Q11. What was your age on your last birthday? (Use brackets below)

1. 18-29	64	13%
2. 30-44	103	21%
3. 45-54	91	18%
4. 55-64	97	19%
5. 65 and older	134	27%
6. Refuse	9	02%

Q12. When it comes to your political ideology or philosophy on public policy issues, do you consider yourself to be more of a conservative, more of a moderate, more of a liberal, more of a progressive, more as a Libertarian or something else

1. Conservative	147	30%
2. Moderate	151	30%
3. Liberal	66	13%
4. Progressive	51	10%
5. Libertarian	23	05%
6. Other	41	08%
7. None	12	02%
8. Refuse	7	01%

Q13. What is your main racial or ethnic background?

1. White/Caucasian	418	84%
2. Black/African American	34	07%
3. Hispanic/Latino	14	03%
4. Asian	3	01%
5. Other	20	04%
6. Refuse	9	02%

Q14. What is your highest level of education? (UNAIDED)

1. High school diploma or less	102	20%
2. Some college, but no college degree	72	14%
3. 2-year college degree/Technical or trade degree	76	15%
4. 4-year college degree	124	25%
5. Post-graduate degree/Masters/Doctorate studies	120	24%
6. Refuse	4	01%

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY. HAVE A GOOD DAY.

Gender (by observation):

1. Male	244	49%
2. Female	254	51%

Vote History Universe (from record, based on G19, G18, G17 and/or G16 plus new registrants):

0X	18	04%
1X	68	14%
2X	129	26%
3X	136	27%
4X	147	30%

Regional Grouping (from record):

38	(08%)	1. Northwest [Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Venango, Warren, Forest]
49	(10%)	2. Southwest [Lawrence, Beaver, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland, Indiana, Armstrong, Butler]
60	(12%)	3. The "T"/Central [Jefferson, Elk, McKean, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Centre, Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Huntingdon, Blair, Potter, Tioga, Bradford, Susquehanna, Wyoming, Sullivan, Lycoming, Clinton, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Mifflin]
75	(15%)	4. Northeast/Lehigh Valley [Luzerne, Carbon, Monroe, Schuylkill, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne]
73	(15%)	5. South Central [Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Berks, Juniata]
100	(20%)	6. Southeast [Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks]
48	(10%)	7. Allegheny County
55	(11%)	8. Philadelphia

METHODOLOGY, SAMPLE FRAME CONSTRUCTION AND DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

This poll was conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc¹. Interviews were conducted August 26-September 4, 2020 with 498 registered/likely voters in Pennsylvania. Survey respondents are randomly contacted using random selection procedures, and all telephone interviews are conducted using live telephone agents. The sample frame was compiled using random telephone sequence methods, and includes both landline and cellular households, purchased from a certified list vendor; all households are pre-screened to eliminate household telephone numbers on the federal Do Not Call registry in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws. Only known registered voters were contacted, compiled from a list of households with prior vote history in 1 of 4 or better general elections using G19, G18, G17 and/or G16 as the base universe. Voters who registered to vote after the 2019 general election are included and also eligible to participate.

¹ Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc. is a nationally recognized polling and focus group company and conducts polling for political, media and corporate clients mainly in PA, NY, IN, FL, NJ, MD, DE, SC, NC and other states. SP&R's polling has been featured on many national platforms, including the Rush Limbaugh Radio Show, FOX News Channel, The O'Reilly Factor, the Bill Maher Show and MSNBC. The internet news service **Sunshine State News** of Florida referred to SP&R as "*one of the most prominent pollsters in the country*" for its accurate polling in the 2010 Florida Gubernatorial Republican Primary election. The website www.realcLEARpolitics.com lists SP&R's publicly released polling in Pennsylvania as some of the most accurate polling in the 2016 Presidential election.

Interviews are closely monitored to ensure a representative sample of the Pennsylvania electorate is achieved based on party registration, geography, gender, age and other demographics; results are sometimes statistically weighted to adjust for coverage bias or non-response error.

The margin of error for a sample size of 498 interviews is +/-4.3% at the 95% confidence level.
