PA Statewide Topline Survey Results
SP&R Fall Omnibus Poll
Commonwealth Foundation
Conducted September 14-23, 2015
Sample Size: 700 Registered Voters
[With Comparison to 2014, 2012, 2008, and 2005 Surveys]

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

Great, thank you…

F1. Before we get started, are you, or is anyone in your household employed by a newspaper, television, radio station or internet news service including writing for a political blog or other media outfit?

1. Yes   (TERMINATE)
2. No   700   100%

Q1. Generally speaking, what is the single most important problem facing Pennsylvania today? That is, the one that concerns you the most on a daily basis. (DO NOT READ CHOICES - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Property Taxes	67	**10%**
Other Taxes (general)	29	**04%**
Crime/Violence/Public Safety	28	**04%**
Economy/Jobs	**144**	**21%**
Economy (general)	52	07%
Jobs (general)	87	12%
Home foreclosures	00	00%
Income Inequality	02	00%
Other	03	00%
Transportation/Growth	**36**	**05%**
Road Conditions/Infrastructure	33	05%
Traffic congestion	01	00%
Open space/farmland preservation	02	00%
Too much growth/building	00	00%
Parking-cost/not enough	00	00%
Public Transportation	00	00%
Other	00	00%
Gov't Spending/Budget	**85**	**12%**
Gov't spending (general)	21	03%
Federal (too much/not enough)	00	00%
State budget	50	07%
Local (too much/not enough)	02	00%
State Pension issue	07	01%
Other	05	01%
Politicians/Government	**45**	**06%**
Corruption (general)	11	02%
Federal (Obama/Congress)	02	00%
State (Wolf/Harrisburg)	22	03%
Local (general)	01	00%
General anti-incumbent	02	00%
Honesty/Ethics (general)	05	01%
Other	02	00%
Environment/Pollution	**14**	**02%**
Other	**13**	**02%**
Refuse	**03**	**00%**

Education/Schools	**97**	**14%**
Lack of funding (state/local)	78	11%
School safety	01	00%
Student Performance	03	00%
Voucher/Charter Schools	03	00%
Lack of parental involvement	00	00%
Common Core Curriculum	03	00%
Other	10	01%
Health & Welfare	**36**	**05%**
Healthcare (general)	24	03%
Welfare Dependence/Abuse	05	01%
Social Security	01	00%
Medicare/Medicaid	01	00%
Veterans/Senior Issues	02	00%
Medical Marijuana	02	00%
Other	01	00%
Social/Cultural issues	**13**	**02%**
Abortion	02	00%
Racial tensions	01	00%
Gay Marriage	02	00%
Guns	00	00%
Death Penalty	00	00%
Religion	01	00%
Gambling	00	00%
Illegal Immigration	06	01%
Other	02	00%
Quality of Life	**07**	**01%**
Litter/trash	01	00%
Neighborhoods/housing	00	00%
Poverty/homelessness	03	00%
Parks/recreation	00	00%
Other	02	00%
Consumer Prices	**14**	**02%**
Cost of goods/services/inflation	13	02%
Utility bills	01	00%
Interest rates/College tuition	00	00%
Other	00	00%
Natural Gas Drilling (Specific)	**18**	**03%**
Undecided	**50**	**07%**

Now, turning to some issues being discussed in Harrisburg…

Q2. Current law allows the state, local governments and school districts to collect union dues from the paychecks of teachers and other government employees through payroll deductions using state resources. Those dues are then transferred to union bank accounts and used for political action efforts like to support candidates for elective office. State legislators in Harrisburg are considering a law that would prohibit using taxpayer resources for collection of these union dues and instead require unions to collect these funds directly from workers. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose this proposed new law? (Test Intensity…)

1. Strongly support	360	51%
2. Somewhat support	108	15%
Total support	**467**	**67%**
3. Strongly oppose	146	21%
4. Somewhat oppose	33	05%
Total oppose	**179**	**26%**
5. Undecided	48	07%
6. Refuse	06	01%

Q3. Pennsylvania lawmakers are considering a law that would limit increases in government spending to the rate of inflation plus the rate of population growth. For example, if we had three percent inflation and one percent population growth, government spending could increase no more than four percent for that year. The limit could only be exceeded by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the General Assembly or by a declared emergency. Do you support or oppose this proposed new law? (Test Intensity…)

			10/14	**3/12**	**3/08**	**4/05**	**%CH**
1. Strongly support	269	38%	29%	39%	36%	34%	+04
2. Somewhat support	177	25%	30%	26%	34%	35%	-10
Total support	**446**	**64%**	**59%**	**65%**	**70%**	**69%**	**-05**
3. Strongly oppose	91	13%	16%	12%	11%	08%	+05
4. Somewhat oppose	66	09%	05%	09%	07%	10%	-01
Total oppose	**156**	**22%**	**21%**	**21%**	**18%**	**18%**	**+04**
5. Undecided	94	13%	19%	14%	12%	12%	+01
6. Refuse	04	01%	01%	--	--	--	+01

Q4. State lawmakers are considering a new law that would require government officials to post a fiscal summary on their website of proposed contracts with labor unions before signing these agreements. (ROTATE ARGUMENTS)

Supporters say we need this law because it increases public transparency so taxpayers know how their money is spent,

Opponents say this is a bad idea because it will lead to delayed and more complicated negotiations between the state and unions,

…Which opinion best represents your own?

1. Support/need law to increase public transparency	509	73%
2. Oppose/will lead to delayed/complicated negotiations	114	16%
3. Undecided	72	10%
4. Refuse	02	00%

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

Q5. Are you registered to vote as a Republican, Democrat, Independent or something else?

1. Republican	259	37%
2. Democrat	308	44%
3. Independent/other	104	15%
4. Refuse	29	04%

Q6. What is your age according to the following brackets – 18 to 29, 30 to 44, 45 to 54, 55-64, or 65 and over?

1. 18-29	82	12%
2. 30-44	124	18%
3. 45-54	126	18%
4. 55-64	179	26%
5. 65+	189	27%

Q7. Which of the following best describes the way in which you voted in the last general election - straight Republican, mostly Republican, a few more Republicans than Democrats, about equal, a few more Democrats than Republicans, mostly Democrat or straight Democrat?

1. Straight Republican	106	15%	**Total Republican:** 32%	
2. Mostly Republican	121	17%	**Total Democrat:** 34%	
3. More R's than Ds	42	06%	**Total Swing:** 26%	
4. About equal	102	15%		
5. More D's than R's	39	06%		
6. Mostly Democrat	126	18%		
7. Straight Dem	112	16%		
8. Undecided	26	04%		
9. Refuse	19	03%		
10. Didn't vote	06	01%		

Q8. Is your main racial heritage of Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic, Asian American or another background? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

1. Non-Hispanic White	588	84%
2. African American	66	09%
3. Hispanic/Latino	28	04%
4. Native American/Eskimo	06	01%
5. Asian or Indian	09	01%
6. Arabic	00	00%
7. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	00	00%
8. Other	17	02%
9. Refuse	02	00%

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

Gender (from observation):

1. Male	342	49%
2. Female	358	51%

Area (from Record):

27   (04%) 1. **Northwest** [Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Venango, Warren, Forest]

67   (10%) 2. **Southwest** [Lawrence, Beaver, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland, Indiana, Armstrong, Butler]

84   (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, Juniata]

97   (14%) 4. **Northeast/Lehigh Valley** [Luzerne, Carbon, Monroe, Schuylkill, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne]

111   (16%) 5. **South Central** [Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Berks]

154   (22%) 6. **Southeast** [Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks]

70   (10%) 7. **Allegheny County**

90   (13%) 8. **Philadelphia**

Voted (from record): 1 or better in G14, G13, G12, and/or G11, as well as new registered voters since 2014:

1. 0X	41	06%
2. 1X	78	11%
3. 2X	93	13%
4. 3X	134	19%
5. 4X	353	50%

Phone Type (from record):

1. Landline	490	70%
2. Cellular	210	30%

Methodology: The Commonwealth Foundation commissioned questions in Susquehanna Polling and Research's Fall Statewide Omnibus Poll. Completed interviews were conducted September 14-23, 2015 with 700 registered voters in Pennsylvania who have prior vote history in 1 of 4 or better in G14, G13, G12 and/or G11, as well as new registered voters since 2014. Interviews are randomly selected and conducted via telephone using the professionally-trained survey research staff (live agents) from the Harrisburg telephone call center of Susquehanna Polling and Research. Interviews are closely monitored to ensure a representative sample of Pennsylvania's electorate is achieved based on party, geography, gender, age and other demographics; results are sometimes statistically weighted.

The margin of error for a sample size of 700 is +/-3.7% at the 95% confidence level.