

COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION PA STATEWIDE SURVEY

Interview Schedule



May 12-18, 2022
Project #: 220251
N=600 Registered Voters
Credibility Interval= \pm 4.56%

**Denotes result under 0.5%*

^Denotes rounding. Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half percent.

A. Are you registered to vote in Pennsylvania?

100% YES

B. Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed by a newspaper, television or radio station, or a political party, or by a candidate for political office?

100% NO

D2. Please record your gender

48% MALE
52% FEMALE

D1. In what year were you born?

6% 18 - 24
14% 25 - 34
21% 35 - 44
16% 45 - 54
19% 55 - 64
25% 65 AND ABOVE

1. Would you say that things in Pennsylvania are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

32% RIGHT DIRECTION
68% WRONG TRACK

2. If the election for Governor were being held today, for whom would you vote... **(ROTATE FIRST TWO)**

the Republican candidate,
the Democratic candidate,
...OR...
Other?

45% REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE
47% DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

8% OTHER

3. Which political party's policies do you think will be better for the economy... **(ROTATE FIRST TWO)**

the Republican candidate,
the Democratic candidate,
...OR...
Other?

48% REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE
44% DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

8% OTHER

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Tom Wolf is doing as Governor?

17% STRONGLY APPROVE
36% SOMEWHAT APPROVE
20% SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE
27% STRONGLY DISAPPROVE

53% TOTAL APPROVE
47% TOTAL DISAPPROVE

5. Thinking now about the election this fall... Which ONE of the following issues are MOST important to you in deciding how to vote for Governor and the State Legislature? (**RECORD FIRST CHOICE, ASK SECOND IMPORTANCE AND REMOVE FIRST CHOICE**) (RANDOMIZE)

<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Comb</u>	
5%	3%	8%	Election Integrity
19%	22%	42%	The economy and jobs
2%	5%	7%	Education
7%	8%	15%	Health care
9%	21%	30%	Taxes and spending
4%	3%	7%	COVID-19
10%	6%	17%	Abortion
40%	26%	66%	Rising prices and inflation
3%	5%	8%	Public Safety
1%	1%	1%	Other (Specify: _____)

Now thinking about some institutions, please indicate whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each institution. If there is one you are not familiar with, please mark that and move on. **(RANDOMIZE)**

	TOTAL FAV	TOTAL UNFAV	VERY FAV	SMWT FAV	SMWT UNFAV	VERY UNFAV	NOT FAM
6. Large Corporations	38%^	57%	6%	33%	36%	21%	5%
7. Small Businesses	92%	5%	53%	39%	4%	1%	3%
8. Government Employee Unions	46%	38%	10%	36%	19%	19%	17%
9. The Federal Government	30%	68%^	5%	25%	36%	31%	3%
10. The State Government	42%^	55%	6%	35%	36%	19%	4%
11. K-12 Public Schools	66%	29%	21%	45%	21%	8%	5%
12. K-12 Charter Schools	59%	25%	19%	40%	16%	9%	17%
13. K-12 Private and Religious Schools	61%	28%	22%	39%	20%	8%	11%
14. Teachers Unions	57%^	32%	20%	38%	15%	18%	10%
15. The News Media	37%^	60%^	6%	30%	28%	31%	3%

Now please read some goals that people might have for Pennsylvania right now, and rate how important you personally consider each goal to be is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not very important to you?

	EXTRM IMPT	VERY IMPT	SMWT IMPT	NOT VERY IMPT
16. Ensuring all K-12 students have access to an excellent education.	59%	32%	8%	1%
	91%		9%	
17. Reducing government spending and regulatory red tape.	44%	37%	15%	4%
	81%		19%	
18. Reforming welfare and protecting the dignity of work.	35%	37%	21%	6%
	72%		28%^	
19. Improving election integrity.	42%	31%	19%	8%
	73%		27%	
20. Increasing the number of Pennsylvanians in the workforce.	42%	42%	14%	3%
	83%^		17%	
21. Reducing the tax burden on Pennsylvania families.	59%	30%	9%	2%
	89%		11%	
22. Restoring public sector workers' rights.	28%	38%	26%	8%
	65%^		35%^	
23. Making health care more accessible and affordable.	61%	28%	10%	2%
	88%^		12%	
24. Making government more accountable and transparent.	61%	30%	8%	1%
	91%		9%	

Continued...

	EXTRM IMPT	VERY IMPT	SMWT IMPT	NOT VERY IMPT
(SPLIT SAMPLE A, N=296)				
25.	Reducing energy costs.			
	53%	34%	13%	1%
	87%		13%^	
(SPLIT SAMPLE B, N=304)				
26.	Increasing energy production.			
	38%	37%	21%	4%
	75%		25%	

27. Do you think the state of Pennsylvania is **(ROTATE FIRST TWO)** better for businesses than it was 10 years ago, worse for businesses than it was 10 years ago, or about the same for businesses than it was 10 years ago?
- 14% BETTER
53% WORSE
33% ABOUT THE SAME
-

28. Have you or someone you know thought about leaving Pennsylvania for a different state due to Pennsylvania's policies? **(ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES FOR :1-3)**
- 24% YES, I HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING
15% YES, SOMEONE I KNOW HAS THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING
12% YES, SOMEONE I KNOW HAS LEFT
- 58% NO
- 42% TOTAL YES**
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(RANDOMIZE SERIES)

EDUCATION SERIES Q29-Q33

ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS SERIES Q34-Q38

WORKER WELFARE SERIES Q39-Q44

STATE GOVERNMENT SERIES Q45-Q48

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERIES Q49-Q51

PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS SERIES Q52-Q57

29. Now, thinking a little more about K-12 education in Pennsylvania... How would you grade Pennsylvania's K-12 school system? **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**
- 5% A
30% B
45% C
12% D
8% F FOR FAIL
- 2.1 GPA**
-

Thinking about K-12 education in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal. **(RANDOMIZE)**

	STRNG SUPP	SMWT SUPP	SMWT OPP	STRNG OPP
30. Expanding tax credit scholarships, which allow businesses to donate money to nonprofit organizations that provide scholarships to low-income and middle-income children in Pennsylvania to attend pre-kindergarten or K-12 private school.	40%	46%	10%	5%
	85%^		15%	
31. Creating education opportunity accounts, a government-funded account that parents can use for restricted educational expenses, including tuition, tutoring, online education programs, and therapies for students with special needs.	34%	50%	11%	5%
	84%		16%	
32. Establishing an independent authorizer for charter schools, such as a state board or universities, which would approve and renew charter schools; rather than the current system in which only school districts can approve charter schools.	27%	53%	14%	6%
	80%		20%	
33. Creating an A through F grading system that would give every one of Pennsylvania's K through 12 schools a grade based on factors including state achievement, learning gains in assessment scores and graduation rates.	34%	47%	14%	4%
	82%^		18%	

34. Now, thinking a little more about Pennsylvania's economy... How would you rank Pennsylvania's economic competitiveness? **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

- 1% AMONG THE BEST STATES
- 12% BETTER THAN AVERAGE
- 52% AVERAGE
- 30% WORSE THAN AVERAGE
- 6% AMONG THE WORST STATES
- 12%^ TOTAL ABOVE AVERAGE**
- 36% TOTAL BELOW AVERAGE**

Thinking about economic competitiveness in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal. **(RANDOMIZE)**

	STRNG SUPP	SMWT SUPP	SMWT OPP	STRNG OPP
35. Passing a state constitutional amendment that would limit increases in government spending to the rate of inflation plus the rate of population growth. The limit could be exceeded with agreement from two-thirds of both houses of the General Assembly.	36%	46%	12%	6%
	82%		18%	
36. Lowering Pennsylvania's tax rate for all business by eliminating \$1 billion in state government funded subsidies to select companies.	35%	45%	14%	6%
	80%		20%	
37. Requiring a vote by the state legislature to approve any new state regulation that would cost more than \$1 million.	38%	40%	18%	5%
	77%^		23%	
38. Withdrawing Pennsylvania from the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative because Governor Wolf entered into the agreement without legislative approval, and because it imposes additional taxes on electricity production.	34%	28%	24%	14%
	62%		38%	

39. Now, thinking a little more about the role of state government programs... Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

The state government should promote policies that encourage Pennsylvanians to become less dependent on the government.

42%	STRONGLY AGREE
43%	SOMEWHAT AGREE
13%	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
3%	STRONGLY DISAGREE

85%	TOTAL AGREE
15%^	TOTAL DISAGREE

Thinking about worker welfare in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal. **(RANDOMIZE)**

	STRNG SUPP	SMWT SUPP	SMWT OPP	STRNG OPP
40. Requiring healthy adults (excluding seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those with young children) who receive welfare benefits to work, seek work or job training, or volunteer in their communities to continue receiving benefits.	50%	32%	12%	6%
	82%		18%	
41. Ensuring that individuals are eligible for welfare by verifying income, residency and household composition twice a year.	51%	37%	9%	3%
	88%		12%	
42. Granting Pennsylvania businesses and individuals tax credits for donations to approved charitable organizations that provide basic needs such as childcare, medical care, food, clothing, shelter, and job placement.	41%	46%	10%	3%
	87%		13%	
43. Allowing certified nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania to work without the supervision of a doctor to increase access to health care.	23%	48%	21%	8%
	71%		29%	
44. Tying the length of time an individual can receive unemployment benefits to economic conditions. For example, shorter benefit periods when the unemployment rate is low; and longer benefit periods during a recession. This would encourage work and help shore up Pennsylvania's depleted unemployment trust fund.	35%	43%	16%	6%
	78%		22%	

45. Now, thinking a little more about Pennsylvania's state government... How well does Pennsylvania's state government function compared to other states? **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

2% AMONG THE BEST STATES
 13% BETTER THAN AVERAGE

 54% ABOUT AVERAGE

 24% WORSE THAN AVERAGE
 7% AMONG THE WORST STATES

15% TOTAL ABOVE AVERAGE
31% TOTAL BELOW AVERAGE

Thinking about state government in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal. **(RANDOMIZE)**

	STRNG SUPP	SMWT SUPP	SMWT OPP	STRNG OPP
46. Enrolling all newly hired government employees into a 401(k) style retirement plan, similar to what most employees in the private sector receive, instead of a guaranteed pension for life, to create predictable and affordable retirement benefits.	43%	41%	11%	6%
	83%^		17%	
47. Removing government control of the sale and distribution of wine and liquor by selling all state-run liquor stores, and allowing private retail stores and wholesalers to sell alcohol.	43%	35%	15%	6%
	78%		22%^	
48. Modernizing Pennsylvania election laws to include voter identification; clear voting deadlines; and limits on private, third-party funding of elections.	49%	36%	9%	5%
	86%^		14%	

49. Now, thinking a little more about the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania... Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

In addition to public safety, Pennsylvania's criminal justice system should focus on rehabilitating people to become productive members of society.

47% STRONGLY AGREE
42% SOMEWHAT AGREE
8% SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
3% STRONGLY DISAGREE

89% TOTAL AGREE
11% TOTAL DISAGREE

Thinking about the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal. **(ROTATE)**

STRNG SUPP	SMWT SUPP	SMWT OPP	STRNG OPP
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50. Reforming Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to encourage alternatives to institutionalization, such as community-based rehabilitation programs for first-time and low-risk offenders.

47%	42%	9%	3%
89%		11%^	

51. Reducing outdated Pennsylvania licensing restrictions that prevent anyone with a criminal conviction who has paid their debt to society from getting a job.

45%	46%	7%	2%
91%		9%	

52. Now, thinking a little more about public sector unions in Pennsylvania... Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Government unions have too much influence over the Pennsylvania government.

27% STRONGLY AGREE
 46% SOMEWHAT AGREE
 23% SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
 4% STRONGLY DISAGREE

73% TOTAL AGREE
27% TOTAL DISAGREE

Thinking about public sector unions in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal. **(RANDOMIZE)**

	STRNG SUPP	SMWT SUPP	SMWT OPP	STRNG OPP
53. Stopping the use of taxpayer-funded public payroll systems to collect campaign contributions and other funds that government union leaders use for political purposes.	54%	33%	9%	4%
	87%		13%	
54. Requiring state and local governments to post labor contracts before voting on them, to give taxpayers transparency on the cost of government union contracts.	51%	40%	8%	2%
	90%^		10%	
55. Requiring regular elections for government employees to vote on their union representation, something that has not happened for more than 30 years.	47%	41%	9%	3%
	88%		12%	
56. Requiring state and local governments notify all employees of their legal rights to join or not join a union.	53%	40%	6%	1%
	93%		7%	
57. Allowing government union members the right to end their union membership at any time.	45%	44%	9%	2%
	89%		11%	

58. These policies are part of a plan called the Better Pennsylvania 2023. The Better Pennsylvania 2023 plan is designed to unleash Pennsylvania's potential to lead the nation and usher in a new era of prosperity for future generations. From what you have learned, would you say you support or oppose the Better Pennsylvania 2023 plan?

22% STRONGLY SUPPORT
65% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
10% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
3% STRONGLY OPPOSE

86%^ TOTAL SUPPORT
14%^ TOTAL OPPOSE

59. And would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate running for political office in Pennsylvania who supports the Better Pennsylvania 2023 Plan, or would it make no difference to your vote?

14% MUCH MORE LIKELY
45% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
6% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
5% MUCH LESS LIKELY

30% NO DIFFERENCE

59% TOTAL MORE LIKELY
11% TOTAL LESS LIKELY

Now, in this section, we are collecting general data for statistical purposes only. As a reminder, the data are anonymous and your responses will be kept completely confidential. Thinking some more about you...

D3. And what is the last grade you completed in school? **(DO NOT READ CHOICES)**

- * SOME GRADE SCHOOL (GRADES 1-8)
- 2% SOME HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-11)
- 23% GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL (GRADE 12)
- 8% TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
- 23% SOME COLLEGE
- 29% GRADUATED COLLEGE
- 15% POST-GRADUATE

- 25% HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS**
- 31% SOME COLLEGE**
- 44% COLLEGE+**

D4B. Are you registered to vote as ... **(ROTATE FIRST TWO CHOICES)**

a Republican,
a Democrat,
or something else?

(IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, FOLLOW UP SCREEN) Would you call yourself a STRONG (Republican/Democrat) or a NOT-SO-STRONG (Republican/Democrat)?

(IF SOMETHING ELSE, FOLLOW UP SCREEN) Do you think of yourself as closer to **(ROTATE)** the Republican or to the Democratic party?

- 22% STRONG REPUBLICAN
 - 19% NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN

 - 2% LEAN REPUBLICAN
 - 10% UNAFFILIATED / INDEPENDENT / SOMETHING ELSE
 - 2% LEAN DEMOCRAT

 - 21% NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT
 - 24% STRONG DEMOCRAT

 - 41% TOTAL REPUBLICAN**
 - 45% TOTAL DEMOCRAT**
 - 14% TOTAL LEAN/INDEPENDENT**
-

D5A. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM , BOTTOM TO TOP)** conservative, moderate or liberal on most issues?

(IF CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL, FOLLOW UP SCREEN:) And would you say you are VERY (CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL), or just SOMEWHAT (CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL)?

14% VERY CONSERVATIVE
20% SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE

43% MODERATE

13% SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
9% VERY LIBERAL

35%^ TOTAL CONSERVATIVE

23%^ TOTAL LIBERAL

D7A. To ensure that we have a representative sample, would you please indicate whether you are from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background?

4% YES, HISPANIC OR LATINO
96% NO, NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO

(IF D7A:2, ASK)

D7B. And again, for statistical purposes only, other than being an American, what is your main ethnic or racial heritage?

84% CAUCASIAN OR WHITE
10% AFRICAN AMERICAN OR BLACK
4% HISPANIC OR LATINO
2% ASIAN
– AMERICAN INDIAN
– OTHER

D9A. And for statistical purposes only... is your total annual household income greater or less than \$60,000 dollars?

(IF LESS THAN \$60,000, ASK:) Is it...
(ROTATE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)

11% UNDER \$20,000
26% BETWEEN \$20,000 - \$40,000
19% OVER \$40,000

(IF GREATER THAN \$60,000, ASK:) Is it...
(ROTATE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)

15% UNDER \$80,000
12% BETWEEN \$80,000 - \$100,000
17% OVER \$100,000

37% <\$40K
34% \$40K-\$80K
29% \$80K+

D8A. Regardless of how you feel now, for whom did you vote in the 2020 Presidential election...
(ROTATE) Donald Trump or Joe Biden?

(IF SOMEONE ELSE, FOLLOW UP SCREEN ASK) And, did you vote for... **(ROTATE)** Jo Jorgensen or some other candidate?

44% DONALD TRUMP
49% JOE BIDEN

1% JO JORGENSEN
1% SOMEONE ELSE

5% DID NOT VOTE

D9C. Are you currently employed, a student, a stay at home parent, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

57%	EMPLOYED
3%	STUDENT
6%	STAY AT HOME PARENT
28%	RETIRED
6%	UNEMPLOYED AND LOOKING

D9D. Which of the following do you consider the job you have or most recently had:

44%	WHITE COLLAR, LIKE AT A DESK IN AN OFFICE
28%	BLUE COLLAR, LIKE PHYSICAL LABOR OR WORKING IN A FACTORY
26%	SERVICE INDUSTRY, LIKE WORKING IN A RETAIL STORE OR HOSPITAL
2%	HAVE NEVER WORKED

AFTER COMPLETION OF SURVEY:

Once again, thank you for taking the time to provide your input for this important research project.
