

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL

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**Franklin & Marshall
College Poll**

**SURVEY OF PA 3rd Congressional District
PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS**

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Methodology

The survey findings presented in this release are based on the results of interviews conducted September 14-19, 2010. The interviews were conducted at the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall College under the direction of the poll’s Director Dr. G. Terry Madonna, Head Methodologist Berwood Yost, and Senior Project Manager Angela Knittle. The data included in this release represent the responses of 482 registered adult residents of the 3rd Congressional District in Pennsylvania, including 222 Democrats, 216 Republicans, 35 registered as Independent/Other, and 9 who refused to identify party. Telephone numbers for the survey were randomly generated using state voter registration lists. Voter Contact Services generated the sample using a registration-based sampling (RBS) scheme to identify survey respondents. A detailed description of the RBS scheme can be found on their website (<http://www.vcsnet.com/rbshelp.html>).

The sample error for registered adults is +/- 4.5 percentage points and is slightly higher for registered Democrats (+/- 6.6 percentage points) and registered Republicans (+/- 6.7 percentage points). The subsample of likely voters (n=418) has a sample error of +/- 4.8 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, this poll is also subject to other sources of non-sampling error. Generally speaking, two sources of error concern researchers most. Non-response bias is created when selected participants either choose not to participate in the survey or are unavailable for interviewing. Response errors are the product of the question and answer process. Surveys that rely on self-reported behaviors and attitudes are susceptible to biases related to the way respondents process and respond to survey questions.

The Franklin & Marshall College Poll is produced in conjunction with the Philadelphia Daily News, WGAL-TV (South Central PA), Pittsburgh Tribune Review, WTAE-TV (Pittsburgh), WPVI-TV6/ABC (Philadelphia), Times-Shamrock Newspapers, Harrisburg Patriot-News, and Lancaster Newspapers. It may be used in whole or in part, provided any use is attributed to Franklin & Marshall College.

Key Findings

- Mike Kelly has a slight advantage over incumbent Kathy Dahlkemper among all registered adults, 42% to 38%, with about one in five (20%) adults still undecided. Kelly's advantage is slightly larger among those more likely to vote, 44% to 38%, with 18% undecided. The survey finds that Kelly's advantage increases as the likely voter screen becomes more restrictive.
- Kelly leads Dahlkemper in every county that constitutes the 3rd District, except for Erie.
- Less than two in five (38%) registered adults in the district rate Representative Dahlkemper's job performance as "excellent" or "good." About the same proportion (39%) believe she deserves re-election while almost half (47%) believes it is time for a change.
- Many registered adults in the 3rd CD are still undecided about their choices for US Senate (37%) and Governor (31%). Pat Toomey leads Joe Sestak in the district among all registered adults, 34% to 28%, and among likely voters, 37% to 30%. Tom Corbett leads Dan Onorato among registered adults, 41% to 28%, and among likely voters, 43% to 27%.
- Unemployment and the economy (48%) are the primary issues facing respondents and their families in the district.
- The positive job performance ratings for both President Obama (36%) and Governor Rendell (30%) are low in the district but are similar to their overall state-wide ratings.

Table A-1 – Congressional District Choice Demographics

If the November general election for the US House of Representatives were being held today and the candidates were (rotate) Mike Kelly, the Republican, and, Kathy Dahlkemper, the Democrat, would you vote for Mike Kelly, Kathy Dahlkemper, or aren't you sure how you would vote? (418 likely voters)

	Kelly	Dahlkemper	Other
Party*			
Republican	74%	9%	17%
Democrat	15%	67%	19%
Independent	39%	35%	26%
Other	40%	20%	40%
Gender			
Male	45%	39%	16%
Female	43%	36%	21%
Age			
18-34	50%	17%	33%
35-54	46%	29%	24%
55 and over	43%	41%	17%
Education			
High school or less	43%	39%	18%
Some college	48%	33%	19%
College degree	41%	40%	19%
Household Income			
Less than \$35,000	42%	39%	19%
\$35-75,000	42%	41%	17%
Over \$75,000	53%	31%	16%
Race*			
Non-white	0%	50%	50%
White	45%	37%	18%
Marital Status*			
Not currently married	36%	47%	17%
Single, never married	25%	39%	36%
Married	47%	36%	17%
Religious Affiliation*			
Other/unaffiliated	38%	51%	11%
Protestant	55%	27%	18%
Catholic	29%	48%	23%
Born Again Christian or Fundamentalist*			
Yes	60%	23%	17%
No	32%	48%	20%
Household Union Member*			
Yes	39%	48%	12%
No	45%	34%	20%
Military Veteran*			
Yes	46%	45%	9%
No	43%	35%	22%
Employment			
Fulltime	49%	32%	19%
Other	49%	34%	16%
Retired	39%	42%	19%

* Significant differences ($p < .05$)

Marginal Frequency Report

Responses may not total 100% due to rounding.

RegPARTY. Are you currently registered as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or as something else?

46% Republican
 47% Democrat
 6% Independent
 1% Something else

IntFav. Please let me know your opinion of some people involved in politics today. Is your opinion of [FILL name] favorable, unfavorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about [FILL name] to have an opinion? (*rotated*)

	Strongly favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Strongly unfavorable	Undecided	Don't know
JOE SESTAK	10%	11%	10%	14%	21%	34%
PAT TOOMEY	13%	11%	8%	14%	22%	33%
TOM CORBETT	17%	18%	6%	5%	21%	33%
DAN ONORATO	9%	16%	7%	10%	22%	36%

Strongly and somewhat favorable and strongly and somewhat unfavorable combined:

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Undecided	Don't know
JOE SESTAK	21%	24%	21%	34%
PAT TOOMEY	24%	22%	22%	33%
TOM CORBETT	36%	11%	21%	33%
DAN ONORATO	25%	17%	22%	36%

Vote_Nov. Many people will vote in the election for governor and congress in November, however, many other people will not. What would you say are the chances you will vote in the November election? Are you certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances fifty-fifty you will vote, OR don't you think that you will vote in the November election?

84% Certain to vote
 12% Will probably vote
 3% Chances 50-50 will vote
 1% Don't think will vote

Pol_Int. Some people don't pay much attention to political campaigns. How about you? Would you say that you are...very much interested, somewhat interested or not very interested in the 2010 elections?

48% Very much interested
 45% Somewhat interested, or
 7% Not very interested in the 2010 elections?

Vot06. Did you vote in the last election for governor in Pennsylvania in 2006, or not?

93%	Yes
3%	No
4%	Do not know

Vot08. Did you vote in the last presidential election in 2008, or not?

99%	Yes
1%	No

Vot08pref. Did you vote for Barack Obama, John McCain, or some other candidate in 2008?
(482 registered respondents who voted in 2008 presidential election)

45%	Obama
48%	McCain
5%	Other
1%	Do not know

Vote_Sen If the 2010 election for U.S. SENATOR were being held today and the candidates included (*rotated*) Joe Sestak, the Democrat, and Pat Toomey, the Republican, would you vote for Joe Sestak, Pat Toomey, or aren't you sure how you would vote?

28%	Joe Sestak
34%	Pat Toomey
1%	Some other candidate
37%	Do not know

Cert_Sen. Are you absolutely CERTAIN you will vote FOR [fill] in the election, or are you still making up your mind? (305 registered respondents with vote choice)

75%	Certain to vote
25%	Still making up mind

Vote_Gov. If the 2010 election for GOVERNOR were being held today and the candidates included (*rotated*) Tom Corbett, the Republican, and Dan Onorato, the Democrat, would you vote for Tom Corbett, Dan Onorato, or aren't you sure how you would vote?

41%	Tom Corbett
28%	Dan Onorato
1%	Some other candidate
31%	Do not know

Cert_Gov. Are you absolutely CERTAIN you will vote FOR [fill Gov] in the election, or are you still making up your mind? (333 registered respondents with vote choice)

72%	Certain to vote
27%	Still making up mind
1%	Do not know

CD10. If the November general election for the US House of Representatives were being held today and the candidates were (rotate) Mike Kelly, the Republican, and, Kathy Dahlkemper, the Democrat, would you vote for Mike Kelly, Kathy Dahlkemper, or aren't you sure how you would vote?

42%	Mike Kelly
38%	Kathy Dahlkemper
20%	Do not know

CertCD. Are you absolutely certain you will vote for [fill CD10] in the election or are you still making up your mind? (384 registered respondents)

86%	Certain to vote
14%	Still making up mind

LeanCD. As of today, do you lean more to (rotate) Mike Kelly, the Republican, or Kathy Dahlkemper, the Democrat? (98 registered respondents)

28%	Mike Kelly
22%	Kathy Dahlkemper
2%	Some other candidate
48%	Do not know

RateCD. How would you rate the way that Kathy Dahlkemper is handling her job as a member of Congress? Would you say that she is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as a member of Congress?

9%	Excellent job
29%	A good job
31%	Only a fair job
24%	A poor job
7%	Do not know

DesRECD. Do you believe that Kathy Dahlkemper has done a good enough job in the United States CONGRESS to DESERVE RE-ELECTION, or do you believe it is TIME FOR A CHANGE?

39%	Deserve re-election
47%	Time for a change
14%	Do not know

EconPM Do you think that policy makers in Washington should be most concerned with stimulating the economy and creating jobs, even if it means increasing the deficit, or do you think they should be most concerned with reducing the deficit?

40%	Stimulating the economy and creating jobs
47%	Reducing the deficit
14%	Do not know

RatePres. How would you rate the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

10%	Excellent job
27%	A good job
26%	Only a fair job
37%	A poor job
1%	Do not know

RateGov. How would you rate the way that Ed Rendell is handling his job as Governor?

6%	Excellent job
24%	A good job
35%	Only a fair job
31%	A poor job
4%	Do not know

MIP_YF. What do you think is the MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM facing YOU and YOUR FAMILY TODAY?

35%	Economy (in general)
13%	Health care, insurance
13%	Personal finances, unemployment
7%	Taxes
6%	Government, politicians
6%	Senior issues, social security
2%	Personal illness, health problems
1%	Civil liberties
1%	Education, schools
1%	Gasoline, utility prices
1%	Social issues
1%	Values and morality
3%	Nothing
10%	Do not know

Gov. Do you think that the problems facing you and your family can be solved with the help of the government, or are these problems beyond what you think the government can do?

44%	With the help of the government
41%	Beyond what you think the government can do
15%	Do not know

FinToday. We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that YOU and YOUR FAMILY are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were a year ago?

8%	Better off
29%	Worse off
63%	About the same

FinFut. Now looking AHEAD, do you think that A YEAR FROM NOW, YOU and YOUR FAMILY will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?

14%	Better off
20%	Worse off
54%	About the same
13%	Do not know

RespEcon. Who do you feel is most responsible for the country's current economic situation: former President Bush, President Obama, are both equally to blame or is no one really to blame?

32%	Former President Bush
17%	President Obama
19%	Both are equally to blame
8%	No one is really to blame
18%	The Congress
6%	Do not know

DEMO I now have a final few questions for statistical purposes only.

CNTY. Region of state (What is the name of the county you live in?)

3%	Armstrong
20%	Butler
14%	Crawford
40%	Erie
18%	Mercer
1%	Venango
3%	Warren

RESID. How many years have you lived at your current residence?

28.1	Mean years
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AGE. What was your age on your last birthday?

1%	18-24
3%	25-34
6%	35-44
15%	45-54
27%	55-64
47%	65 and older

EDUC. What was the highest grade level of schooling you have completed?

3%	Non high school graduate
40%	High school graduate or GED
15%	Some college
12%	Two-year or tech degree
18%	Four year college degree
12%	Post graduate degree

MAR. What is your CURRENT marital status, are you single, married, separated, divorced, or a widower?

7%	Single, Never Married
77%	Married
1%	Separated
5%	Divorced
10%	Widow or widower

IDEO. Politically speaking, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, a moderate, or a conservative?

12%	Liberal
34%	Moderate
49%	Conservative
7%	Do not know

PRTY1. Regardless of how you are registered, in politics, as of today, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

21%	Strong Republican
11%	Republican
16%	Lean Republican
10%	Pure Independent
12%	Lean Democrat
11%	Democrat
19%	Strong Democrat
2%	Don't know

LABR. Are you or is any member of your household a member of a LABOR UNION?

22%	Yes
78%	No

VET. Are you a military veteran?

25%	Yes
75%	No

Hisp. Are you Hispanic or Latino, or not?

1%	Yes
99%	No

RACE. Which of the following categories best describes your racial background?

98%	White
2%	Non-white

REL. Do you consider yourself to be Protestant, Catholic, some other religion, or not affiliated with any religion?

50%	Protestant
32%	Catholic
7%	Some other religion
10%	Not affiliated with any religion

BAC. Do you consider yourself to be a born-again Christian or fundamentalist, or not?

39%	Yes
59%	No
2%	Do not know

WORK. Are you currently working FULL-time, PART-time, going to school, keeping house or something else?

33%	Full-time
9%	Part-time
1%	Going to school
6%	Keeping house
3%	Unemployed
2%	Disabled
46%	Retired

INC1. And, just for statistical purposes, we need to know if your total family income is above or below \$50,000 per year?

12%	Under \$25,000
20%	\$25-\$35,000
20%	\$35-50,000
25%	\$50-75,000
8%	\$75-100,000
10%	Over \$100,000
6%	Don't know

DONE. Sex of respondent:

49%	Male
52%	Female