

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL

**October 2010**

**Franklin & Marshall  
College Poll**

**SURVEY OF PA 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional  
District  
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

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## Methodology

The survey findings presented in this release are based on the results of interviews conducted October 5-10, 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 493 registered adult residents of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in Pennsylvania, including 276 Democrats, 177 Republicans, 34 registered as Independent/Other, and 6 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>).

The sample error for registered adults is +/- 4.4 percentage points and is slightly higher for registered Democrats (+/- 5.9 percentage points) and registered Republicans (+/- 7.4 percentage points). The subsample of likely voters (n=414) 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

- Lou Barletta has an advantage over incumbent Paul Kanjorski among all registered adults, 45% to 38%, with about one in seven (16%) adults still undecided. Barletta's advantage is the same among those more likely to vote, 47% to 40%, with 12% undecided. The survey finds that Barletta's advantage increases as the likely voter screen becomes more restrictive.
- Less than two in five (36%) registered adults in the district rate Representative Kanjorski's job performance as "excellent" or "good." The same proportion (36%) believe he deserves re-election while more than half (57%) believes it is time for a change.
- Many registered adults in the 11<sup>th</sup> CD are still undecided about their choices for US Senate (35%) and Governor (35%). Joe Sestak leads Pat Toomey in the district among all registered adults, 33% to 31%; however, this lead disappears among likely voters, 35% to 35%. Dan Onorato leads Tom Corbett among registered adults, 35% to 30%, and more narrowly among likely voters, 37% to 34%. Both the Republican candidates improve their positions as the likely voter screen becomes more restrictive.
- Unemployment and the economy (52%) are the primary issues facing respondents and their families in the district.
- The positive job performance rating for President Obama (36%) is similar to his overall state-wide rating. Governor Rendell's positive job performance rating (26%) is lower in the 11<sup>th</sup> CD than his statewide number.
- More voters in the 11<sup>th</sup> CD believe that policy makers in Washington should be concerned with stimulating the economy (52%) than with reducing the deficit (37%).

## 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) Lou Barletta, the Republican, and Paul Kanjorski, the Democrat, would you vote for Lou Barletta, Paul Kanjorski, or aren't you sure how you would vote? (414 likely voters)

	Barletta	Kanjorski	Other	Do not know
<b>Party*</b>				
Republican	78%	12%	2%	8%
Democrat	25%	60%	1%	14%
Independent	50%	25%	8%	17%
<b>Ideology*</b>				
Liberal	18%	78%	0%	4%
Moderate	29%	55%	3%	13%
Conservative	76%	13%	1%	11%
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	46%	42%	2%	10%
Female	48%	37%	2%	14%
<b>Age</b>				
18-34	50%	40%	0%	10%
35-54	52%	33%	1%	14%
55 and over	45%	42%	2%	11%
<b>Education</b>				
High school or less	50%	34%	1%	14%
Some college	50%	40%	0%	11%
College degree	40%	45%	4%	11%
<b>Household Income</b>				
Less than \$35,000	48%	39%	1%	12%
\$35-75,000	48%	41%	1%	10%
Over \$75,000	40%	43%	2%	15%
<b>Race</b>				
Non-white	27%	46%	0%	27%
White	47%	40%	2%	11%
<b>Marital Status</b>				
Not currently married	49%	41%	2%	8%
Single, never married	32%	51%	2%	15%
Married	49%	38%	2%	12%
<b>Religious Affiliation*</b>				
Other/unaffiliated	45%	39%	2%	14%
Protestant	56%	31%	4%	10%
Catholic	42%	44%	1%	14%
<b>Born Again Christian or Fundamentalist*</b>				
Yes	56%	28%	4%	13%
No	44%	43%	1%	12%
<b>Household Union Member</b>				
Yes	36%	46%	2%	16%
No	50%	37%	2%	11%
<b>Military Veteran</b>				
Yes	56%	35%	1%	9%
No	44%	41%	2%	13%
<b>Employment</b>				
Fulltime	46%	37%	3%	14%
Other	55%	31%	1%	13%
Retired	44%	45%	1%	10%

\* 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?

36% Republican  
 56% 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	13%	17%	10%	16%	22%	22%
PAT TOOMEY	12%	13%	10%	15%	24%	26%
TOM CORBETT	12%	12%	9%	11%	28%	28%
DAN ONORATO	13%	19%	9%	9%	24%	28%

*Strongly and somewhat favorable and strongly and somewhat unfavorable combined:*

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Undecided	Don't know
JOE SESTAK	30%	26%	22%	22%
PAT TOOMEY	25%	25%	24%	26%
TOM CORBETT	24%	20%	28%	28%
DAN ONORATO	32%	18%	24%	28%

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?

82% Certain to vote  
 8% Will probably vote  
 5% Chances 50-50 will vote  
 4% 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  
 39% Somewhat interested, or  
 13% Not very interested in the 2010 elections?

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

87%	Yes
10%	No
3%	Do not know

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

97%	Yes
2%	No

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

53%	Obama
43%	McCain
3%	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?

33%	Joe Sestak
31%	Pat Toomey
1%	Some other candidate
35%	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? (321 registered respondents with vote choice)

79%	Certain to vote
21%	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?

30%	Tom Corbett
35%	Dan Onorato
0%	Some other candidate
35%	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? (318 registered respondents with vote choice)

78%	Certain to vote
22%	Still making up mind

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

45%	Lou Barletta
38%	Paul Kanjorski
2%	Some other candidate
16%	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? (410 registered respondents)

91%	Certain to vote
9%	Still making up mind

LeanCD. As of today, do you lean more to (rotate) Lou Barletta, the Republican, or Paul Kanjorski, the Democrat? (83 registered respondents)

26%	Lou Barletta
20%	Paul Kanjorski
55%	Some other candidate

RateCD. How would you rate the way that Paul Kanjorski is handling his job as a member of Congress? Would you say that he is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as a member of Congress?

7%	Excellent job
29%	A good job
32%	Only a fair job
26%	A poor job
6%	Do not know

DesRECD. Do you believe that Paul Kanjorski 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?

36%	Deserve re-election
57%	Time for a change
7%	Do not know

RateLOU. How would you rate the way that Lou Barletta is handling his job as a mayor of Hazelton? Would you say that he is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as a member of Congress?

10%	Excellent job
32%	A good job
19%	Only a fair job
17%	A poor job
22%	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?

52%	Stimulating the economy and creating jobs
37%	Reducing the deficit
12%	Do not know

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

10%	Excellent job
26%	A good job
31%	Only a fair job
34%	A poor job

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

4%	Excellent job
22%	A good job
39%	Only a fair job
33%	A poor job
2%	Do not know

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

37%	Economy (in general)
15%	Personal finances, unemployment
13%	Health care, insurance
6%	Government, politicians
6%	Taxes
5%	Senior issues, social security
2%	Education, schools
1%	Business issues, retaining/attracting businesses
1%	Foreign policy, terrorism, war
1%	Housing and real estate
1%	Personal family issues
1%	Personal illness, health problems
7%	Nothing
3%	Other
2%	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?  
(447 with an issue facing them or their family)

60%	With the help of the government
33%	Beyond what you think the government can do
8%	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
34%	Worse off
57%	About the same
1%	Do not know

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?

19%	Better off
19%	Worse off
49%	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?

36%	Former President Bush
12%	President Obama
23%	Both are equally to blame
9%	No one is really to blame
15%	The Congress
5%	Do not know

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

CNTY. What is the name of the county you live in?

9%	Carbon
12%	Columbia
19%	Lackawanna
39%	Luzerne
22%	Monroe

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

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

2%	18-24
3%	25-34
10%	35-44
20%	45-54
24%	55-64
41%	65 and older

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

5%	Non high school graduate
34%	High school graduate or GED
16%	Some college
12%	Two-year or tech degree
18%	Four year college degree
16%	Post graduate degree

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

13%	Single, Never Married
71%	Married
0%	Separated
6%	Divorced
9%	Widow or widower

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

15%	Liberal
40%	Moderate
37%	Conservative
8%	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?

15%	Strong Republican
10%	Republican
12%	Lean Republican
12%	Pure Independent
13%	Lean Democrat
13%	Democrat
22%	Strong Democrat
2%	Don't know

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

24%	Yes
75%	No
1%	Do not know

VET. Are you a military veteran?

19%	Yes
81%	No

Hisp. Are you Hispanic or Latino, or not?

2%	Yes
98%	No

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

97%	White
3%	Non-white

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

33%	Protestant
50%	Catholic
8%	Some other religion
9%	Not affiliated with any religion

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

21%	Yes
77%	No
1%	Do not know

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

37%	Full-time
8%	Part-time
1%	Going to school
6%	Keeping house
5%	Unemployed
2%	Disabled
42%	Retired

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

17%	Under \$25,000
13%	\$25-\$35,000
16%	\$35-50,000
22%	\$50-75,000
11%	\$75-100,000
14%	Over \$100,000
7%	Don't know

DONE. Sex of respondent:

49%	Male
51%	Female