

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL

September 2010

**Franklin & Marshall
College Poll**

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

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September 22, 2010

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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 |
|------|------------|

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 |

Hispanic. 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 |