

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL

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**Franklin & Marshall
College Poll**

**SURVEY OF PA 7th 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 5-11, 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 471 registered adult residents of the 7th Congressional District in Pennsylvania, including 172 Democrats, 249 Republicans, 39 registered as Independent/Other, and 11 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 +/- 4.5 percentage points and is slightly higher for registered Democrats (+/- 7.5 percentage points) and registered Republicans (+/- 6.2 percentage points). The subsample of likely voters (n=400) has a sample error of +/- 4.9 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

- Pat Meehan has a slight advantage over Bryan Lentz among all registered adults, 33% to 28%, with about two in five (37%) adults still undecided. Meehan's advantage is about the same among those more likely to vote, 34% to 31%, with 34% undecided, but his advantage increases as the likely voter screen becomes more restrictive.
- Many registered adults in the 7th CD are still undecided about their choices for US Senate (22%) and Governor (32%). Joe Sestak leads Pat Toomey in the district among all registered adults, 43% to 34%, and among likely voters, 45% to 37%. Dan Onorato and Tom Corbett are in a dead heat among registered adults, 35% to 34%, and among likely voters, 37% to 36%. Both republican candidates improve their positions as the likely voter screen becomes more restrictive.
- Unemployment and the economy (49%) are the primary issues facing respondents and their families in the district.
- The positive job performance ratings for both President Obama (44%) and Governor Rendell (52%) are higher in the district compared 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) Pat Meehan, the Republican, Bryan Lentz, the Democrat, and Jim Schneller, the Independent, would you vote for Pat Meehan, Bryan Lentz, Jim Schneller or aren't you sure how you would vote? (400 likely voters)

	Meehan	Lentz	Schneller	Do not know
Party*				
Republican	59%	7%	1%	34%
Democrat	4%	64%	1%	31%
Independent	23%	23%	10%	45%
Ideology*				
Liberal	7%	70%	1%	21%
Moderate	25%	35%	2%	38%
Conservative	61%	5%	1%	33%
Gender				
Male	36%	30%	1%	34%
Female	32%	31%	2%	35%
Age				
18-34	14%	33%	5%	48%
35-54	34%	25%	3%	39%
55 and over	34%	34%	1%	31%
Education				
High school or less	32%	20%	1%	48%
Some college	36%	29%	1%	34%
College degree	34%	35%	2%	29%
Household Income				
Less than \$35,000	36%	17%	0%	48%
\$35-75,000	36%	35%	2%	27%
Over \$75,000	31%	34%	2%	33%
Race*				
Non-white	5%	26%	11%	58%
White	35%	31%	1%	33%
Marital Status				
Not currently married	35%	30%	1%	34%
Single, never married	21%	47%	0%	32%
Married	35%	29%	2%	35%
Religious Affiliation*				
Other/unaffiliated	13%	53%	2%	32%
Protestant	38%	23%	2%	37%
Catholic	44%	23%	1%	33%
Born Again Christian or Fundamentalist*				
Yes	47%	10%	3%	40%
No	32%	35%	1%	32%
Household Union Member*				
Yes	17%	32%	7%	44%
No	37%	30%	1%	33%
Military Veteran				
Yes	41%	23%	0%	36%
No	32%	32%	2%	34%
Employment				
Fulltime	31%	31%	2%	36%
Other	35%	28%	3%	33%
Retired	37%	31%	0%	32%

* 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?

54% Republican
 37% Democrat
 8% 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	27%	21%	11%	19%	15%	8%
PAT TOOMEY	16%	11%	9%	26%	18%	21%
TOM CORBETT	12%	14%	11%	12%	21%	30%
DAN ONORATO	14%	18%	6%	8%	22%	33%

Strongly and somewhat favorable and strongly and somewhat unfavorable combined:

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Undecided	Don't know
JOE SESTAK	48%	30%	15%	8%
PAT TOOMEY	27%	35%	18%	21%
TOM CORBETT	26%	23%	21%	30%
DAN ONORATO	32%	14%	22%	33%

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?

85% 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?

51% Very much interested
 39% Somewhat interested, or
 10% Not very interested in the 2010 elections?

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

92%	Yes
7%	No
1%	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?
(467 registered respondents who voted in 2008 presidential election)

54%	Obama
42%	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?

43%	Joe Sestak
34%	Pat Toomey
1%	Some other candidate
22%	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? (369 registered respondents with vote choice)

85%	Certain to vote
14%	Still making up mind
1%	Do not know

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?

34%	Tom Corbett
35%	Dan Onorato
0%	Some other candidate
32%	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? (321 registered respondents with vote choice)

78%	Certain to vote
21%	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) Pat Meehan, the Republican, Bryan Lentz, the Democrat, and, Jim Schneller, the Independent, would you vote for Pat Meehan, Bryan Lentz, Jim Schneller, or aren't you sure how you would vote?

33%	Pat Meehan
28%	Bryan Lentz
2%	Jim Schneller
37%	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? (296 registered respondents)

80%	Certain to vote
19%	Still making up mind
1%	Do not know

LeanCD. As of today, do you lean more to (rotate) Pat Meehan, the Republican, Bryan Lentz, the Democrat, or Jim Schneller, the Independent? (175 registered respondents)

23%	Pat Meehan
16%	Bryan Lentz
3%	Jim Schneller
1%	Some other candidate
58%	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
41%	Reducing the deficit
7%	Do not know

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

10%	Excellent job
34%	A good job
26%	Only a fair job
29%	A poor job

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

10%	Excellent job
42%	A good job
35%	Only a fair job
10%	A poor job
2%	Do not know

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

33%	Economy (in general)
16%	Personal finances, unemployment
12%	Health care, insurance
8%	Government, politicians
8%	Taxes
3%	Education, schools
3%	Senior issues, social security
2%	Foreign policy, terrorism, war
2%	Personal illness, health problems
1%	Civil liberties
1%	Environment
1%	Personal family issues
1%	Social issues
1%	Values and morality
2%	Other
5%	Nothing
3%	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? (432 with an issue facing them or their family)

58%	With the help of the government
34%	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?

12%	Better off
29%	Worse off
59%	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?

27%	Better off
13%	Worse off
51%	About the same
9%	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?

42%	Former President Bush
12%	President Obama
20%	Both are equally to blame
8%	No one is really to blame
13%	The Congress
6%	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?

19%	Chester
71%	Delaware
11%	Montgomery

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

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

2%	18-24
5%	25-34
8%	35-44
23%	45-54
23%	55-64
39%	65 and older

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

2%	Non high school graduate
20%	High school graduate or GED
14%	Some college
10%	Two-year or tech degree
26%	Four year college degree
28%	Post graduate degree

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

9%	Single, Never Married
73%	Married
2%	Separated
5%	Divorced
11%	Widow or widower

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

21%	Liberal
42%	Moderate
33%	Conservative
4%	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?

22%	Strong Republican
12%	Republican
12%	Lean Republican
7%	Pure Independent
14%	Lean Democrat
9%	Democrat
22%	Strong Democrat
2%	Don't know

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

15%	Yes
85%	No

VET. Are you a military veteran?

18%	Yes
82%	No

Hispanic. Are you Hispanic or Latino, or not?

2%	Yes
98%	No

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

95%	White
5%	Non-white

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

29%	Protestant
46%	Catholic
13%	Some other religion
12%	Not affiliated with any religion

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

14%	Yes
85%	No
1%	Do not know

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

41%	Full-time
15%	Part-time
1%	Going to school
6%	Keeping house
3%	Unemployed
1%	Disabled
32%	Retired

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

7%	Under \$25,000
8%	\$25-\$35,000
11%	\$35-50,000
20%	\$50-75,000
17%	\$75-100,000
34%	Over \$100,000
5%	Don't know

DONE. Sex of respondent:

46%	Male
54%	Female