Muhlenberg College/Morning Call

2018 Midterm Election Survey

September Wave

Key Findings:

1. With less than two months remaining before the much anticipated 2018 elections Democratic candidates are in strong positions across an array of races within Pennsylvania.

2.   Incumbent Governor Tom Wolf has retained a solid leads over State Senator Scott Wagner in his bid to win a second term as the Commonwealth's chief executive, with the Democrat maintaining a 55%-36% lead over his Republican challenger.

3. In the United States Senate race in Pennsylvania Democrat incumbent Bob Casey Jr. maintains a substantial 53%-35% lead over his Republican challenger Congressman Lou Barletta.

4. In a generic ballot in the midterm congressional elections in Pennsylvania the state's voters continue to favor Democrats over Republican candidates with 50% of voters preferring the Democrat in their district compared with 39% supporting a Republican.

5. President Trump's job approval among likely voters in the Commonwealth appears to be a drag on Republicans on the November ballot with a majority (55%) disapproving of his performance as President.

Methodological Statement

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of 404 likely voters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between September 13 and 19, 2018**.** Respondents were interviewed in English on both landlines (191) and cell phones (213). With a randomly selected sample of respondents the margin of error for the surveys is +/- 5.5% at a 95% level of confidence**.** Margins of error for questions with smaller sample size will be larger**.** In addition to sampling error, one should consider that question wording and other fielding issues can introduce error or bias into survey results. The data has been weighted to gender and region to reflect voter population parameters in Pennsylvania. The calculation of sampling error takes into account design effects due to the weighting identified above**.** In order to reach a representative sample of likely voters both land lines and cell phones were called up to 3 times. The response rate for this survey as calculated using the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) RRII

formula is approximately 8%. The sampling frame for the study is from the registered voters files of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with individuals who voted in at least 2 of the last 4 general elections or who had voted in either the 2018 primary elections or 2017 general election or if they were a new registrant since the 2016 Presidential Election. Due to rounding the totals provided in the frequency report may not total 100%. The survey instrument (presented in its entirety below) was designed by Dr. Christopher P. Borick of the MCIPO is conjunction with the staff of the *Morning Call*. The survey was funded exclusively by the *Morning Call* and the MCIPO**.** For more detailed information on the methods employed please contact the MCIPO at 484-664-3444 or email Dr. Borick at cborick@muhlenberg.edu**.**

SURVEY INSTRUMENT AND FREQUENCY REPORT

Q1: Thank you. Which of the following categories best describes your current voting status? Are you registered as a _____? (READ LIST)

1. Democrat……………………………47%
2. Republican…………………………. 40%
3. Independent………………………... 11%
4. Other Party…………………………. 2%
5. Not Registered to Vote in Pennsylvania (END SURVEY)
6. Not Sure (Volunteered) (END SURVEY)

Q2: How likely are you to vote in the midterm elections this November? Are you definitely going to vote, very likely to vote, not too likely to vote or definitely not voting in the November Election?

1. Definitely Going to Vote……………………..80%
2. Very Likely To Vote…………………………20%
3. Not Too Likely to Vote (END SURVEY)
4. Definitely not voting (END SURVEY)
5. Not Sure (Volunteered) (END SURVEY)

Q3: Thinking about the upcoming midterm elections in November, would you say that you are very interested, somewhat interested or not interested at all in the 2018 elections?

1. Very Interested…………………..86%
2. Somewhat Interested……………14%
3. Not Interested At All……………<1%
4. Not Sure…………………………<1%

Q4: Next, I would like for you to rate the performance of a few political officials. For each name that I read, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way he is doing his job.

First, President Donald Trump?

1. Approve…………………………41%
2. Disapprove ……………………...55%
3. No opinion (Volunteered)……… 4%

	April	September
Approve	39%	41%
Disapprove	55%	55%
No Opinion	5%	4%

Q5:Next, Governor Tom Wolf?

1. Approve…………………………53%
2. Disapprove ……………………...33%
3. No opinion (Volunteered)……… 15%

	April	September
Approve	46%	53%
Disapprove	35%	33%
No Opinion	19%	15%

Q6: And Senator Bob Casey Jr.?

1. Approve…………………………47%
2. Disapprove ……………………...32%
3. No opinion (Volunteered)……… 20%

	April	September
Approve	41%	47%
Disapprove	28%	32%
No Opinion	31%	20%

Q7: Now, if the 2018 governor's election was being held today and the race was between Democrat Tom Wolf , Republican Scott Wagner, Green Party Candidate Paul Glover and Libertarian Ken Krawchuk, who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. Tom Wolf (GO TO Q9)…………………………53%
2. Scott Wagner (GO TO Q9)……………………34%
3. Paul Glover (GO TO Q9)……………………... 1%
4. Ken Krawchuk (GO TO Q9)…………………... 2%
5. None/Other (Volunteered) (GO TO Q9)……… 3%
6. Not Sure (Volunteered)………………………... 6%

	April	September
Wolf	47%	53%
Wagner	31%	34%
Other/Neither*	5%	6%
Not Sure	16%	5%

*Note: 3rd Party Candidates were not identified as options in April survey

Q8: Are you leaning more toward voting for Tom Wolf , Scott Wagner, Paul Glover or Ken Krawchuk? (ONLY ASKED OF THOSE NOT SURE OF PREFERENCE –N= 22)

1. Tom Wolf………………………………………27%
2. Scott Wagner………………………………...46%
3. Paul Glover ………………………………… 0%
4. Ken Krawchuk……………………………… 0%
5. Not Sure (Volunteered)……………………...27%

GOVERNOR'S RACE INCLUDING LEANERS

1. Tom Wolf………………………………… 55%
2. Scott Wagner……………………………….. 36%
3. Paul Glover ……………………………… 1%
4. Ken Krawchuk……………………………… 2%
5. Neither/Other……………………………….. 3%
6. Not Sure (Volunteered)……………………... 2%

Q9:   What issue do you consider the most important in terms of deciding your vote in the Pennsylvania governor's election?

1. Economy/Jobs……………………21%
2. Education………………………...12%
3. Taxes……………………………..12%
4. Health Care………………………. 9%
5. Morals/Honesty…………………. 5%
6. Need Democrats/Check Trump… 4%
7. Fiscal/Budget Policy……………. 4%
8. Abortion…………………………. 3%
9. Social Welfare Issues…………… 3%
10. Immigration……………………. 2%
11. Senior Issues…………………… 2%
12. Drugs…………………………… 2%
13. Supporting Republicans/Trump....1%
14. Crime……………………………1%
15. Environment……………………..1%
16. Other……………………………. 6%
17. Not Sure……………………… 13%

Q10: Now, if the 2018 United States Senate election was being held today and the race was between Democrat Bob Casey Jr., Republican Lou Barletta, Green Party candidate Neal Gale and Libertarian Dale Kerns Jr. who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. Bob Casey Jr. (GO TO Q12)…………………..51%
2. Lou Barletta (GO TO Q12)……………………34%
3. Neal Gale (GO TO Q12)……………………… 1%
4. Dale Kerns Jr (GO TO Q12)………………….. 2%
5. Neither/Other (Volunteered) (GO TO Q12)….. 3%
6. Not Sure (Volunteered)……………………….. 9%

	April	September
Casey	48%	51%
Barletta	32%	34%
Other/Neither*	2%	6%
Not Sure	18%	9%

*Note: 3rd Party Candidates were not identified as options in April survey

Q11: Are you leaning more toward voting for Bob Casey Jr., Lou Barletta, Neal Gale or Dale Kerns Jr? (ONLY ASKED OF THOSE NOT SURE OF PREFERENCE – N=37)

1. Bob Casey Jr……………………………22%
2. Lou Barletta……………………………14%
3. Neal Gale………………………………… 5%
4. Dale Kerns Jr……………………………... 5%
5. Not Sure (Volunteered) …………………..54%

SENATE RACE INCLUDING LEANERS

1. Bob Casey Jr……………………………53%
2. Lou Barletta……………………………35%
3. Neal Gale………………………………… 2%
4. Dale Kerns Jr……………………………... 2%
5. Neither/Other…………………………….. 3%
5. Not Sure (Volunteered) ………………….. 6%

Q12:   What issue do you consider the most important in terms of deciding your vote in the United States Senate's election?

1. Need Democrats/Check Trump…..18%
2. Economy/Jobs……..……………...14%
3. Taxes……………………………..12%
4. Immigration………………………. 7%
5. Health Care……………………… 6%
6. Supporting Republicans/Trump… 4%
7. Fiscal/Budget Policy……………. 4%
8. Abortion………………………… 3%
9. Social Welfare Issues…………… 3%
10. Immigration…………………… 2%
11. Senior Issues…………………… 2%
12. Supreme Court…..…………… 2%
13. National Security……………...... 2%
14. Education……………………….. 2%
15. Environment…………………… 2%
16. Other……………………………. 5%
17. Not Sure……………………… 12%

Q13: If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for? The Democratic Party's candidate or the Republican Party's candidate? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. Democrat…………………………………….50%
2. Republican…………………………………... 39%
3. Neither/Other…………………………….….. 3%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered)……………………... 9%

	April	September
Democrats	47%	50%
Republican	38%	39%
Other/Neither	3%	3%
Not Sure	11%	9%

Q14: Will your vote for Congress in November 2018 be a vote to send a message that we need: (Read Options)

1.More Democrats to be a check and balance to Donald Trump…………….48%
2.More Republicans who will help Donald Trump pass his agenda…………36%
3.Neither (volunteered)……………………………………………………10%
4 Not Sure (volunteered)…………………………………………………….. 6%

Q15: Do you think President Trump is in touch with the concerns of most people in the United States today or is he out of touch?

1. In touch……………………………….41%
2. Out of touch………………………..55%
3. Neither (volunteered)……………… 2%
4. Not Sure (volunteered)…………….. 2%

Q16: Overall would you say President Trump's use of tariffs in trade policy will help, hurt or have no effect on the Pennsylvania economy?

1. Help………………………………… 31%
2. Hurt………………………………… 51%
3. No Impact on PA Economy………... 7%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered)…………….. 12%

Q17: From what you have read or heard about Robert Mueller, the special counsel in the Russia investigation, do you think the investigation is fair or not fair?

1. Fair…………………………………….56%
2. Not Fair……………………….........31%
3. Not Sure (Vol)……………………….. 13%

	April	September
Fair	52%	56%
Not Fair	29%	31%
Not Sure	19%	13%

Q18: Next I have some questions regarding religious issues in PA. First, do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the Catholic Church?

1. Favorable…………………………29%
2. Unfavorable………………………53%
3. Not Sure (Vol)……………………18%

Q19: Next I have a few questions about the recent investigation and grand jury report regarding sexual abuse with the clergy of the Catholic Church? First, how closely have you been following the news regarding the sexual abuse cases in the Catholic Church. (Read List)

1. Very Closely…………………………….40%
2. Somewhat Closely………………………39%
3. Not Too Closely…………………………14%
4. Not At All…………………………………. 6%

Q20: Should individuals who allege they were sexually abused by Catholic clergy decades ago have a two-year window to bring lawsuits against the church or should the existing statute of limitations on such suit continue to apply in these cases?

1. Should get two-year window…………….42%
2. Statute of limitations apply………………40%
3. Not Sure (Vol)……………………………18%

Q21: Do you believe that current Pennsylvania Catholic Bishops have or have not taken accountability for the role of church leadership in the cases of sexual abuse that have been reported?

1. Have taken accountability………………..17%
2. Have not taken accountability……………66%
3. Not Sure (Vol)……………………………18%

Q22: Do you think Pope Francis should or should not resign over the way the Catholic Church has handled cases of sexual abuse against its priests?

1. Should Resign……………………………21%
2. Should Not Resign………………………56%
3. Not Sure (Vol)……………………………23%

Q23: Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? Are you (READ LIST)?

1. White/Caucasian…………………………..86%
2. African-American………………………… 6%
3. Hispanic…………………………………… 2%
4. Latino……………………………………… 1%
5. Asian……………………………………… 1%
6. Native American…………………………..<1%
7. Mixed race………………………………… 1%
8. or other………………………………….. 3%

Q24: Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST)?

1. Catholic…………………………………………25%
2. Protestant…………………………………… 33%
3. Jewish…………………………………….. 3%
4. Muslim…………………………………… 1%
5. Hindu…………………………………………<1%
6. Other Religion (Including agnostic)…………..27%
7. or Atheist………………………………….. 6%
8. Not Sure (Volunteered)……………………… 3%

Q25: What is your highest level of education? (READ LIST)

1. Less than High School……………………….. 2%
2. High School Graduate……………………….. 20%
3. Some College or Technical School………….. 26%
4. College graduate (4 yr only)…………………. 30%
5. Graduate or professional degree……………... 22%

Q26: Which of the following categories best describes your family income? Is it (READ LIST)?

1. Under $20,000……………………………….. 9%
2. $20,000-$40,000……………………………...20%
3. $40,000-$60,000……………………………...16%
4. $60,000-$80,000……………………………...15%
5. $80,000-$100,000……………………………12%
6. Over $100,000……………………………….26%
7. Not Sure (Volunteered)……………………… 2%

Q27: Which of the following categories does your current age fall in? Is it (READ LIST)?

1. 18-34……………………………………………16%
2 35-50……………………………………………26%
3. 51-64……………………………………………26%
4. 65- and over………………………………………..31%

Q28: Finally to which gender identity do you most identify? (READ LIST)

1. Male………………………………………………………………….49%
2. Female…………………………………………………………….51%
3. Transgender Male……………………………………………….<1%
4. Transgender Female…………………………………………… 0%
5. Or you do not identify as male, female or transgender……….. <1%