



**Muhlenberg College/*Morning Call***  
**Pennsylvania Presidential Election Survey**  
**SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Key Findings:**

1. In the latest Muhlenberg College/*Morning Call* poll of the 2024 election season, former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris are locked in a 48% to 48% tie in their contest to secure Pennsylvania's coveted 19 Electoral College votes.
2. A large gender gap is a defining feature of the presidential race in the Keystone State with Trump holding a 59% to 36% lead among male voters and Harris holding a 59% to 38% among female voters.
3. As with gender, a large educational attainment divide is playing out in the 2024 race with Trump maintaining a 19 point advantage (58% to 37%) over Harris among voters without a four year college degree, with Harris holding a 32 point lead (65% to 33%) over Trump among Pennsylvania voters with a four year college degree.
4. In the U.S. Senate race in the Commonwealth three-term Democratic incumbent Bob Casey Jr. holds a 5 point lead over his Republican challenger Dave McCormick.
5. Both Casey and McCormick have seen their favorability ratings decline since the last MCIPO poll in April, with the intensive negative campaign ads permeating the state likely impacting voter images of these candidates.
6. Pennsylvania voters are evenly divided in terms of their party preferences within their congressional districts, with 45% intending to vote for a Democrat in the upcoming election and 45% planning to vote Republican in their U.S. House race.
7. Among the issues voters consider relevant in deciding their vote in the 2024 presidential election the economy/inflation stands out, with 35% of respondents citing this as the most important issue. Economic concerns are followed in importance by abortion/reproductive rights, cited by 13% of respondents, with

immigration and border concerns rounding out the top 3 self-identified most important issues of this presidential contest at 11%.

8. Political party plays a substantial role in issue importance. Among registered Democrats, 25% cite abortion/reproductive rights as their priority issue, compared to only 3% of registered Republicans. Registered Democrats also highlight the economy/inflation, with 18% identifying it as a priority issue area. This pales in comparison to registered Republicans however, 55% of whom cite the economy as most important in determining their presidential vote. This is followed by immigration, cited by 21% of registered Republicans as a top priority issue, as compared to only 2% of registered Democrats. Notably, 11% of registered Democrats cite the protection of democracy/democratic norms as their most important issue, compared to only 2% of registered Republicans.
9. As the election season unfolds in Pennsylvania the state's voters continue to give Governor Josh Shapiro high marks for his performance in office with just under 6 in 10 voters (59%) approving of the first term Democrat's work as the Commonwealth's Chief Executive.
10. There is a wide partisan gap in confidence among voters regarding mail votes in Pennsylvania being accurately cast and counted, with 61% of Democrats "very confident" in this voting method, compared to only 8% of Republicans.

### **Methodological Statement:**

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of (450) likely voters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between September 16 and 19, 2024. Respondents were interviewed in English on both landlines (111) and cell phones (339). With a randomly selected sample of respondents the margin of error for the surveys is +/- 6% 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. Interviewing was conducted by Communication Concepts of Easton, Pennsylvania under protocols established by the MCIPO. The data has been weighted to gender, age, region, party, race and educational attainment to reflect voter population parameters. The calculation of sampling error takes into account design effects due to the weighting identified above. In order to reach a representative sample of registered voters both land lines and cell phones were called up to 3 times. The sampling frame for the study is from the registered voters files of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To determine likely voters, only voters who have voted in 1 or more of the last 4 general elections (2020-2023), or who is a new registrant since November of 2020 were included in the sampling frame. In addition, only survey respondents from this frame who indicated that they were "definitely" or "very likely" to vote in the November election were included in the sample. 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 and Dr. Lindsay Burt of the MCIPO. 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](mailto:cborick@muhlenberg.edu)

**INSTRUMENT and FREQUENCIES**

**Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion**

**September 2024 PA Election Poll**

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

- 1. Democrat.....45%
- 2. Republican .....44%
- 3. Independent..... 9%
- 4. Other Party .....3%
- 5. Not Registered to Vote in Pennsylvania (END SURVEY)
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered) (END SURVEY)
- 99. Refused (Volunteered) (END SURVEY)

Q2: How likely are you to vote in the November 2024 presidential election? Are you definitely going to vote, very likely to vote, not too likely to vote or definitely not voting?

- 1. Definitely Voting.....91%
- 2. Very Likely to Vote..... 9%
- 3. Not Too Likely to Vote (**TERMINATE**)
- 4. Definitely Not Voting (**TERMINATE**)
- 5. Unsure (**VOLUNTEERED/TERMINATE**)

Q3: Now, I would like to ask your overall impression of a few political figures. For each name I read, please tell me if your impression of him or her is favorable or unfavorable. (ROTATE)

First, Kamala Harris

- 1. Favorable.....47%
- 2. Unfavorable.....50%
- 3. Neutral/Not Sure..... 3%

Q4: Next, Donald Trump

- 1. Favorable.....45%
- 2. Unfavorable.....52%
- 3. Neutral/Not Sure..... 3%

	December 2023	April 2024	September 2024
Favorable	33%	39%	<b>45%</b>
Unfavorable	56%	55%	<b>52%</b>
Neutral/Not Sure	11%	6%	<b>3%</b>
Haven't heard of Him	0%	0%	<b>0%</b>

Q5: Bob Casey Jr.

- 1. Favorable.....33%
- 2. Unfavorable.....38%
- 3. Neutral/Not Sure..... 23%
- 4. Haven't Heard of Him..... 6%

	April 2024	September 2024
Favorable	39%	<b>33%</b>
Unfavorable	33%	<b>38%</b>
Neutral/Not Sure	20%	<b>23%</b>
Haven't heard of Him	8%	<b>6%</b>

Q6: David McCormick

- 1. Favorable.....28%
- 2. Unfavorable.....38%
- 3. Neutral/Not Sure..... 24%
- 4. Haven't Heard of Him.....10%

	April 2024	September 2024
Favorable	28%	<b>28%</b>
Unfavorable	26%	<b>38%</b>
Neutral/Not Sure	29%	<b>24%</b>
Haven't heard of Him	17%	<b>10%</b>

Q7: Next, do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President?

- 1. Approve.....36%
- 2. Disapprove..... 58%
- 3. No opinion (Volunteered)..... 5%

	December 2023	April 2024	September 2024
Approve	34%	35%	<b>36%</b>
Disapprove	57%	61%	<b>58%</b>
No Opinion	9%	5%	<b>5%</b>

Q8: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Josh Shapiro is handling his job as Governor of Pennsylvania?

- 1. Approve..... 59%
- 2. Disapprove ..... 27%
- 3. No opinion (Volunteered) ..... 14%

	December 2023	April 2024	September 2024
Approve	51%	64%	<b>59%</b>
Disapprove	21%	19%	<b>27%</b>
No Opinion	28%	17%	<b>14%</b>

Q9: Now, if the 2024 presidential election was being held today and the race was between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

- 1. Trump (Skip to Q 11).....47%
- 2. Harris (Skip to Q11).....47%
- 3. Neither/Other (Volunteered) (Skip to Q11).....4%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered).....2%

Q10: Are you leaning more toward voting for Donald Trump or Kamala Harris? (OPTIONS ROTATED) (ASKED ONLY OF THOSE THAT SAID, “NOT SURE” ON Q9) (n = 10)

- 1. Trump..... 53%
- 2. Harris..... 20%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 28%

**PRESIDENTIAL RACE WITH LEANERS**

- TRUMP.....48%**
- HARRIS.....48%**
- NEITHER/OTHER..... 4%**
- NOT SURE..... 1%**

Q11 Next, if the 2024 United States Senate race in Pennsylvania was being held today and the race was between Bob Casey Jr. the Democrat and David McCormick the Republican, who would you vote for.

- 1. Casey.....46%
- 2. McCormick.....42%
- 3. Neither/Other (Volunteered)..... 4%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 7%

	April 2024	September 2024
Casey	45%	<b>46%</b>
McCormick	41%	<b>42%</b>
Neither/Other	5%	<b>4%</b>
Not Sure	7%	<b>7%</b>

Q12: Are you leaning more toward voting for Bob Casey Jr. or David McCormick? (OPTIONS ROTATED) (ASKED ONLY OF THOSE THAT SAID, "NOT SURE" ON Q11) (n = 17)

- 1. Casey..... 27%
- 2. McCormick..... 7%
- 3. Neither/Other (Volunteered)..... 16%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered).....50%

**SENATE RACE WITH LEANERS**

- CASEY..... 48%**
- MCCORMICK..... 43%**
- NEITHER/OTHER..... 5%**
- NOT SURE..... 4%**

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

- 1. Democrat..... 45%
- 2. Republican.....45%
- 3. Neither/Other (Volunteered)..... 3%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 7%

	December 2023	April 2024	September 2024
Democrat	42%	45%	<b>45%</b>
Republican	41%	44%	<b>45%</b>
Neither/Other	16%	5%	<b>3%</b>
Not Sure	1%	7%	<b>7%</b>

Q14: What is the most important issue for you in terms of deciding your vote in the 2024 presidential election? (Open Ended) (Coded Into Categories)

Economy/Inflation.....	35%
Abortion/Reproductive Rights.....	13%
Immigration.....	11%
Democracy/Democratic Norms.....	7%
Character of Candidate.....	4%
Health Care.....	3%
Foreign Policy/National Security.....	2%
International Conflicts.....	2%
Climate Change.....	2%
Violent Crime.....	1%
Gun Control.....	1%
Inequality.....	< 1%
Supreme Court.....	< 1%
Not Sure.....	3%
Other.....	17%

Q15: How important is it for the U.S. to take an active role in world affairs? Would you say it is: (READ LIST)

- 1. Extremely Important.....34%
- 2. Very Important..... 36%
- 3. Somewhat Important..... 19%
- 4. Not Too Important..... 4%
- 5. Not at All Important..... 5%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 1%

Q16: Which of the following statements best matches your view in terms of the foreign policy of the United States? (READ OPTIONS)

- 1. In foreign policy, the U.S. should take into account the interests of its allies even if it means making compromises with them.....46%
- 2. In foreign policy, the U.S. should follow its own national interests even when its allies strongly disagree..... 39%
- 3. Neither (Volunteered)..... 4%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered).....11%

How confident are you that, across the country, votes cast in the following methods will be accurately cast and counted in this November's elections.? First: (ROTATE OPTIONS)

	<b>Very Confident</b>	<b>Somewhat Confident</b>	<b>Not Too Confident</b>	<b>Not at all Confident</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Q17: Paper Ballots	51%	21%	11%	12%	5%
Q18: Electronic Voting systems	47%	21%	13%	14%	5%
Q19: Mail ballots	35%	19%	14%	29%	3%

Q20. Which of the following do you think is the biggest threat to Pennsylvania having a safe, secure and accurate election in 2024? (ROTATE OPTIONS)

- 1. Foreign interference in the election.....13%
- 2. Voting machines malfunctioning..... 6%
- 3. Voter fraud.....32%
- 4. The use of mail ballots .....13%
- 5. Suppression of individuals from voting.....24%
- 6. Other factor (Volunteered)..... 5%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 8%

Q21: 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.....74%
- 2. Black/African-American..... 10%
- 3. Hispanic/Latino..... 6%
- 4. Asian..... 3%
- 5. Native American..... 1%
- 6. Mixed race..... 4%
- 7. or other..... 2%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... <1%



Q22: Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST)?

- 1. Catholic.....30%
- 2. Protestant..... 29%
- 3. Jewish..... 3%
- 4. Muslim..... <1%
- 5. Hindu..... 1%
- 6. Other Religion (Including agnostic)..... 28%
- 7. or Atheist ..... 5%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 5%

Q23: What is your highest level of education? (READ LIST)

- 1. Less than High School..... 2%
- 2. High School Graduate..... 30%
- 3. Some college or technical school..... 29%
- 4. College graduate (4 yr only)..... 23%
- 5. Graduate or professional degree..... 16%

Q24: In the 2020 Presidential election did you vote for:

- 1. Donald Trump.....43%
- 2. Joe Biden.....46%
- 3. Another Candidate..... 3%
- 4. Or did you not vote in the 2016 presidential election..... 7%
- 98. Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 1%

Q25: Which of the following categories best describes your family income? Is it (READ LIST)?

- 1. Under \$20,000.....7%
- 2. \$20,000-\$40,000.....17%
- 3. \$40,000-\$60,000.....15%
- 4. \$60,000-\$80,000.....15%
- 5. \$80,000-\$100,000.....12%
- 6. Over \$100,000.....30%
- 98: Not Sure (Volunteered)..... 4%

Q26: In which of the following age categories does your current age fall. READ LIST \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. 18-29.....16%
- 2. 30-49.....28%
- 3. 50-65.....28%
- 4. or Over 65.....29%

Q27: Finally, to which gender identity do you most identify? (READ LIST)

- 1. Male.....48%
- 2. Female.....51%
- 3. Or another category besides Male or Female..... 1%

Q28: Thank you. Would you be open to commenting on the issues in this survey and be interested in being contacted by a reporter?

- 1. Yes.....33%
- 2. No.....67%

## Selected Crosstabs

### Trump vs. Harris (Including Leaners)

	Trump	Harris	Neither/Other	Not Sure
<b>Overall</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>
Male	59%	36%	4%	1%
Female	38%	59%	3%	0%
White	54%	42%	3%	1%
Person of Color	27%	66%	5%	1%
No 4 Year Degree	58%	37%	5%	<1%
4 Year Degree	33%	65%	2%	1%
18-29	35%	61%	4%	0%
30-49	53%	44%	3%	0%
50-65	59%	37%	2%	1%
Over 65	42%	53%	4%	1%
Biden 2020	6%	92%	1%	1%
Trump 2020	97%	2%	1%	0%
Democrat	5%	93%	2%	1%
Republican	95%	4%	2%	1%
Independent	40%	45%	16%	0%
“Definitely Voting”	48%	49%	3%	<1%
“Very Likely to Vote”	50%	33%	15%	3%
Catholic	46%	46%	6%	2%
Protestant	61%	38%	1%	0%
Non-Christian/No Religion	40%	56%	4%	1%

**Casey vs. McCormick  
(Including Leaners)**

	<b>Casey</b>	<b>McCormick</b>	<b>Neither/Other</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Male	38%	53%	5%	4%
Female	57%	34%	5%	5%
White	44%	47%	5%	4%
Person of Color	59%	28%	8%	4%
No 4 Year Degree	37%	52%	7%	4%
4 Year Degree	63%	29%	3%	5%
18-29	59%	35%	1%	4%
30-49	47%	45%	7%	1%
50-65	36%	51%	6%	8%
Over 65	53%	38%	5%	4%
Biden 2020	89%	4%	3%	3%
Trump 2020	4%	87%	4%	5%
Democrat	89%	5%	2%	5%
Republican	6%	84%	6%	5%
Independent	54%	33%	13%	0%
“Definitely Voting”	48%	43%	5%	4%
“Very Likely to Vote”	38%	45%	12%	5%
Catholic	46%	42%	6%	6%
Protestant	39%	57%	2%	2%
Non-Christian/No Religion	56%	34%	7%	4%

### Congress: Democrat vs. Republican

	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Neither/Other</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Male	34%	54%	5%	8%
Female	57%	36%	2%	6%
White	40%	50%	2%	7%
Person of Color	63%	26%	6%	5%
No 4 Year Degree	36%	54%	3%	7%
4 Year Degree	60%	30%	4%	6%
18-29	58%	29%	9%	4%
30-49	42%	50%	4%	4%
50-65	36%	54%	0%	10%
Over 65	50%	40%	3%	8%
Biden 2020	85%	6%	2%	7%
Trump 2020	3%	92%	1%	4%
Democrat	91%	3%	2%	5%
Republican	2%	98%	1%	6%
Independent	39%	26%	13%	23%
“Definitely Voting”	46%	45%	3%	6%
“Very Likely to Vote”	42%	39%	7%	12%
Catholic	47%	43%	4%	7%
Protestant	33%	60%	2%	5%
Non-Christian/No Religion	53%	34%	4%	9%

### Confidence in mail ballots being accurately cast and counted

	<b>Very Confident</b>	<b>Somewhat Confident</b>	<b>Not very Confident</b>	<b>Not Confident at All</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Male	30%	15%	16%	36%	3%
Female	40%	22%	13%	22%	3%
White	37%	17%	15%	29%	3%
Person of Color	34%	26%	13%	26%	2%
No 4 Year Degree	27%	15%	15%	39%	5%
4 Year Degree	48%	24%	13%	15%	0%
18-29	44%	17%	17%	16%	7%
30-49	33%	16%	12%	37%	2%
50-65	28%	17%	14%	41%	1%
Over 65	41%	21%	15%	20%	4%
Biden 2020	66%	20%	8%	5%	1%
Trump 2020	5%	14%	19%	58%	4%
Democrat	61%	23%	10%	5%	2%
Republican	8%	14%	19%	55%	5%
Independent	46%	21%	10%	23%	0%
“Definitely Voting”	37%	18%	14%	29%	3%
“Very Likely to Vote”	22%	29%	17%	29%	2%
Catholic	37%	19%	13%	29%	2%
Protestant	27%	23%	17%	32%	1%
Non-Christian/No Religion	39%	14%	14%	28%	5%

**Which of the following do you think is the biggest threat to Pennsylvania having a safe, secure and accurate election in 2024?**

	Foreign interference in the election	Voting machines malfunctioning	Voter fraud	The use of mail ballots	Suppression of individuals from voting	Other Factor	Not Sure
Male	13%	6%	32%	19%	21%	6%	5%
Female	14%	6%	32%	7%	26%	4%	10%
White	14%	6%	33%	12%	24%	5%	6%
Person of Color	13%	6%	29%	11%	25%	5%	11%
No 4 Year Degree	12%	6%	41%	14%	13%	6%	9%
4 Year Degree	16%	6%	20%	11%	39%	4%	5%
18-29	15%	7%	33%	6%	32%	6%	1%
30-49	12%	4%	33%	11%	29%	5%	6%
50-65	13%	8%	35%	15%	18%	4%	7%
Over 65	14%	5%	28%	15%	19%	6%	13%
Biden 2020	22%	4%	11%	5%	43%	6%	9%
Trump 2020	5%	7%	51%	23%	3%	5%	7%
Democrat	21%	5%	13%	6%	44%	6%	6%
Republican	7%	7%	53%	19%	4%	4%	7%
Independent	13%	5%	24%	13%	24%	8%	13%
“Definitely Voting”	14%	6%	32%	13%	23%	5%	7%
“Very Likely to Vote”	10%	8%	30%	13%	28%	3%	10%
Catholic	19%	7%	31%	12%	18%	4%	10%
Protestant	11%	6%	37%	14%	20%	6%	6%
Non-Christian/No Religion	11%	6%	31%	13%	30%	6%	4%

## TIME SERIES FOR ELECTION PROCESS QUESTIONS

### Confidence in Voting Methods

	Very Confident			Somewhat Confident			Not Too Confident			Not Confident At All		
	2021	APR 2024	Sept 2024	2021	APR 2024	Sept 2024	2021	APR 2024	Sept 2024	2021	APR 2024	Sept 2024
Paper Ballots	36%	36%	51%	29%	37%	21%	15%	15%	11%	18%	11%	12%
Electronic Voting systems	37%	51%	47%	32%	33%	21%	14%	9%	13%	17%	8%	14%
Mail ballots	29%	29%	35%	21%	28%	19%	13%	21%	14%	37%	22%	29%

### Biggest Threat to Integrity of Next Election

	FEBRUARY 2020	AUGUST 2020	OCTOBER 2020	DECEMBER 2020	DECEMBER 2021	APRIL 2024	SEPT 2024
Foreign interference in the election	17%	14%	8%	5%	8%	13%	13%
Voting machines malfunctioning	22%	7%	3%	5%	6%	7%	6%
Voter fraud	25%	39%	40%	33%	24%	25%	32%
The Use of Mail Ballots	NA	NA	NA	NA	19%	19%	12%
Suppression of individuals from voting	21%	30%	34%	30%	35%	32%	24%
Other Factor (Vol)	15%	4%	5%	13%	5%	3%	5%
Not Sure	1%	7%	11%	15%	4%	1%	7%

*Note: "The Use of Mail Ballots" was not included in survey waves before 2021*