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Franklin & Marshall College Poll: October 2023

Topline Report

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RightDir. All in all, do you think things in Pennsylvania are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

	Headed in right direction	Off on the wrong track	Do not know
Oct 2023	35%	55%	10%
Aug 2023	39%	48%	13%
Apr 2023	32%	57%	11%
Oct 2022	27%	62%	11%
Sep 2022	28%	59%	13%
Aug 2022	27%	61%	12%
May 2022	25%	63%	12%
Apr 2022	29%	57%	14%
Mar 2022	32%	55%	13%
Oct 2021	30%	57%	14%
Aug 2021	37%	53%	10%
Jun 2021	35%	55%	10%
Mar 2021	36%	54%	10%
Oct 2020	43%	45%	12%

MIP_PA. What do you think is the most important problem facing Pennsylvania today?

	Oct 2023	Aug 2023	Apr 2023	Oct 2022	Sep 2022	Aug 2022	May 2022	Apr 2022	Mar 2022	Oct 2021	Aug 2021	Jun 2021	Mar 2021	Oct 2020
Economy, finances	18%	19%	15%	28%	21%	19%	14%	16%	18%	7%	5%	3%	5%	8%
Government, politicians	18%	11%	17%	17%	23%	22%	21%	20%	19%	20%	20%	30%	27%	16%
Crime, drugs, violence, guns	13%	10%	19%	10%	10%	6%	9%	9%	6%	4%	7%	5%	1%	4%
Education, school	8%	8%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	2%	3%	5%	4%
Unemployment, personal finances	6%	3%	5%	3%	4%	6%	6%	5%	3%	10%	8%	12%	6%	10%
Taxes	5%	7%	5%	6%	4%	7%	8%	8%	9%	6%	7%	8%	5%	6%
Roads, infrastructure, transportation	3%	2%	5%	1%	3%	2%	5%	5%	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%
Social issues	3%	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%
Civil liberties	2%	1%	2%	6%	6%	5%	1%	1%	5%	7%	6%	3%	0%	1%
Election integrity	2%	0%	1%	4%	1%	4%	2%	3%	4%	2%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Environment	1%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Housing and real estate	1%	4%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%
Values, morals	1%	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Energy issues, gas prices	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%
Healthcare, insurance	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	3%

Immigration	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Senior issues, social security	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Personal illness, health problems	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Justice system, lawyers	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Racism	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%
Retaining, attracting businesses	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%
Population, urban sprawl	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bipartisanship	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Conspiracy theories, misinformation	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
COVID-19	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%	3%	7%	17%	7%	31%	27%
Global events	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Joe Biden	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The governor	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Welfare	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Other	5%	8%	3%	6%	4%	5%	7%	7%	8%	6%	5%	7%	5%	3%
Do not know	8%	9%	7%	4%	5%	8%	8%	7%	8%	9%	4%	5%	3%	5%

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?

	Better off	Worse off	About the same	Do not know
Oct 2023	11%	50%	39%	0%
Aug 2023	15%	39%	45%	1%
Apr 2023	11%	46%	43%	1%
Oct 2022	10%	49%	41%	0%
Sep 2022	10%	53%	36%	1%
Aug 2022	12%	43%	43%	2%
May 2022	15%	43%	41%	1%
Apr 2022	15%	36%	49%	0%
Mar 2022	18%	35%	45%	2%
Oct 2021	14%	31%	55%	0%
Aug 2021	15%	26%	60%	0%
Jun 2021	17%	25%	58%	0%
Mar 2021	11%	19%	69%	2%
Oct 2020	27%	13%	59%	1%

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?

	Better off	Worse off	About the same	Do not know
Oct 2023	15%	35%	40%	10%
Aug 2023	20%	27%	45%	7%
Apr 2023	16%	33%	41%	10%
Oct 2022	16%	33%	41%	11%
Sep 2022	16%	36%	36%	12%
Aug 2022	22%	29%	36%	13%
May 2022	17%	34%	40%	10%
Apr 2022	18%	28%	45%	9%
Mar 2022	16%	30%	41%	13%
Oct 2021	16%	31%	47%	6%
Aug 2021	17%	27%	52%	5%
Jun 2021	22%	24%	50%	4%
Mar 2021	21%	17%	55%	8%
Oct 2020	25%	5%	53%	17%

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions dealing with state issues.

PS4. A Commonwealth Court judge recently ruled that Pennsylvania's school funding system violates the state constitution because it underfunds poor school districts. Do you think the public schools in your community have enough funding to properly prepare their students for college and the workplace, or not?

	Oct 2023
Yes, definitely	24%
Yes, probably	23%
No, probably not	23%
No, definitely not	22%
Do not know	8%

PS5. Do you think that most public school districts in the state have enough funding to properly prepare their students for college and the workplace, or not?

	Oct 2023
Yes, definitely	11%
Yes, probably	17%
No, probably not	34%
No, definitely not	27%
Do not know	12%

PS6. What, if anything, do you think the state should do to make school funding more equitable?

	Oct 2023
Base budget on economic makeup; more funding to lower income areas	8%
School choice	8%
Stop wasteful spending in school districts	7%
Change tax system (general)	7%
Equal per capita funding	5%
Less reliance on property tax	3%
Increase funding/sources (general)	3%
Prioritize funds for students, not administrators	3%
Raise taxes for corporations and the wealthy	3%
Don't allow tax dollars for charter/private schools, only public	2%
Allow charter/private schools to receive funding	2%
Consolidate school districts	1%
Nothing	2%
Other	12%
Do not know	36%

SRO1. A recently introduced bill in the state legislature would require every school district in the state to employ an armed security person at every school during school hours. Do you favor or oppose requiring that all public schools have armed security personnel? Is that strongly or somewhat [favor/oppose]?

	Oct 2023
Strongly favor	42%
Somewhat favor	27%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	16%
Do not know	3%

SRO2. Do you think public schools will be much safer, somewhat safer, or not any safer if every school has armed security personnel?

	Oct 2023
Much safer	28%
Somewhat safer	45%
Not any safer	25%
Do not know	3%

CPC1. The governor has announced that he will discontinue state funding for a group that runs several dozen crisis pregnancy centers in Pennsylvania. The owner of these crisis pregnancy centers describes itself as a pro-life nonprofit that provides counseling on alternatives to abortion and material resources such as baby formula. It does not provide any medical care. Do you favor or oppose using state tax dollars to fund these crisis pregnancy centers? Is that strongly or somewhat [favor/oppose]?

	Oct 2023
Strongly favor	33%
Somewhat favor	23%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	26%
Do not know	4%

Do you personally support or oppose...

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Do not know
Oct 2023					
GR1. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?	56%	18%	7%	17%	2%
GR2. Laws that require transgender students to use bathrooms that correspond to their sex at birth?	45%	9%	8%	30%	7%
GR3. Laws that protect gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people against discrimination in jobs, public accommodations, and housing?	64%	18%	7%	8%	3%

REG. Some people are registered to vote, and many others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

	Oct 2023
Yes	100%

REGPARTY. Are you currently registered as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or as something else?

	Oct 2023
Republican	40%
Democrat	46%
Independent or something else	14%
Do not know	1%

Vote_Nov. Many people will vote in the election this November, however, many other people will not. What would you say are the chances you will vote in this November's 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 this November's election?

	Oct 2023
Certain to vote	83%
Will probably vote	8%
Fifty-fifty chance of voting	6%
Will NOT vote	2%
Do not know	1%

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 2023 elections?

	Oct 2023
Very much interested	51%
Somewhat interested	39%
Not very interested	10%

Intfav. Is your opinion of each of the following people favorable, unfavorable, or haven't you heard enough about them to have an opinion?

Oct 2023	Strongly favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Strongly unfavorable	Don't know
Josh Shapiro	31%	26%	15%	14%	15%
Donald Trump	20%	21%	8%	50%	2%
Joe Biden	19%	21%	11%	47%	1%
Bob Casey	18%	24%	13%	17%	29%
Daniel McCaffery	5%	11%	5%	4%	76%
Carolyn Carluccio	4%	8%	7%	10%	71%

Aug 2023	Strongly favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Strongly unfavorable	Don't know
Josh Shapiro	28%	28%	13%	13%	18%
Donald Trump	16%	18%	9%	55%	2%
Joe Biden	12%	28%	11%	47%	1%
Bob Casey	12%	27%	17%	13%	30%

RateGov. How would you rate the way that Josh Shapiro is handling his job as governor? Would you say he is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as governor?

	Excellent job	Good job	Only a fair job	Poor job	Don't know
Oct 2023	19%	30%	24%	18%	8%
Aug 2023	18%	29%	25%	15%	13%
Apr 2023	15%	28%	23%	13%	21%

RateSenC1. How would you rate the way that Bob Casey is handling his job as U.S. senator? Would you say he is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as U.S. senator?

	Excellent job	Good job	Only a fair job	Poor job	Don't know
Oct 2023	12%	24%	21%	22%	21%
Aug 2023	7%	24%	30%	20%	19%
Apr 2023	9%	20%	24%	24%	22%
Oct 2018	12%	31%	25%	23%	9%
Sep 2018	13%	29%	25%	20%	14%
Aug 2018	9%	32%	27%	19%	13%
Jun 2018	10%	32%	29%	14%	15%
Mar 2018	7%	30%	32%	11%	20%
Sep 2017	8%	29%	27%	15%	22%
May 2017	10%	28%	33%	17%	13%
Feb 2017	10%	27%	31%	14%	18%
Oct 2013	5%	25%	34%	17%	20%
Aug 2013	5%	23%	39%	15%	19%
Oct 2012	6%	31%	33%	18%	12%
Sep 2012	7%	31%	32%	15%	16%
Aug 2012	4%	32%	37%	11%	16%
Jun 2012	5%	33%	32%	8%	21%
Feb 2012	4%	26%	43%	12%	15%
Jan 2012	4%	31%	36%	11%	19%
Oct 2011	5%	33%	38%	9%	16%
Aug 2011	5%	27%	43%	9%	16%
Mar 2011	3%	26%	39%	9%	23%
Feb 2009	7%	31%	32%	10%	20%
Aug 2007	5%	37%	36%	7%	15%

RatePres. How would you rate the way that Joe Biden is handling his job as president? Would you say he is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as president?

	Excellent job	Good job	Only a fair job	Poor job	Don't know
Oct 2023	13%	17%	19%	51%	1%
Aug 2023	9%	21%	20%	50%	1%
Apr 2023	10%	17%	22%	50%	1%
Oct 2022	10%	26%	13%	52%	0%
Sep 2022	7%	21%	19%	51%	2%
Aug 2022	8%	26%	14%	51%	2%
May 2022	11%	22%	17%	49%	0%
Apr 2022	9%	24%	17%	50%	1%
Mar 2022	10%	20%	18%	51%	1%
Oct 2021	5%	27%	20%	47%	1%
Aug 2021	16%	25%	14%	44%	1%
Jun 2021	20%	24%	13%	43%	1%
Mar 2021	17%	24%	19%	36%	24%

RepPrim1. If the 2024 Republican primary election for president were being held today would you vote for: (rotated) Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis, Mike Pence, Nikki Haley, Asa Hutchinson, Chris Christie, Vivek Ramaswamy, Tim Scott, Larry Elder, Doug Burgum, Francis Suarez, or Will Hurd? (*Republicans only*)

	Oct 2023	Aug 2023	Apr 2023
	n=306	n=274	n=227
Donald Trump	55%	39%	40%
Ron DeSantis	14%	21%	34%
Nikki Haley	9%	5%	4%
Vivek Ramaswamy	5%	9%	---
Chris Christie	4%	3%	---
Tim Scott	3%	6%	0%
Mike Pence	2%	5%	6%
Asa Hutchinson	0%	1%	---
Francis Suarez	0%	1%	---
Doug Burgum	0%	0%	---
Will Hurd	0%	0%	---
Someone else	2%	3%	4%
Do not know	7%	8%	11%

RepPrim2. Which candidate would be your second choice? (*Republicans only*)

	Oct 2023	Aug 2023	Apr 2023
	n=289	n=252	n=202
Ron DeSantis	30%	27%	33%
Vivek Ramaswamy	13%	12%	---
Nikki Haley	13%	5%	10%
Donald Trump	11%	14%	18%
Chris Christie	6%	7%	---
Mike Pence	5%	9%	8%
Tim Scott	4%	12%	4%
Larry Elder	2%	2%	---
Doug Burgum	1%	1%	---
Asa Hutchinson	0%	0%	---
Francis Suarez	0%	0%	---
Will Hurd	0%	---	---
Someone else	5%	2%	7%
Do not know	10%	10%	15%

PRES24. If the 2024 election for president were being held today and the candidates were Joe Biden, the Democrat, and Donald Trump, the Republican, would you vote for Joe Biden or Donald Trump?

	Oct 2023	Aug 2023	Apr 2023
Joe Biden	44%	42%	36%
Donald Trump	42%	40%	35%
Someone else	11%	16%	23%
Do not know	3%	2%	6%

IntDesPres. Regardless of how you plan to vote, who do you think is best described by each of the following statements? Do you think Joe Biden or Donald Trump:

	Joe Biden	Donald Trump	Both	Neither	Do not know
Best understands the concerns of ordinary Americans?	42%	41%	0%	17%	1%
Is most prepared to handle the economy?	38%	49%	1%	11%	2%
Is closest to your views on values issues, such as abortion and gay marriage?	46%	35%	1%	13%	5%
Will better handle the job of commander in chief of the military?	39%	47%	1%	12%	2%
Has the character and good judgment needed to be president?	42%	32%	1%	25%	1%
Is the most honest and trustworthy?	41%	30%	1%	27%	1%
Is too old to serve another term?	41%	4%	43%	10%	2%

SEN24. If the 2024 election for U.S. Senate were being held today and the candidates were Bob Casey, the Democrat, and David McCormick, the Republican, would you vote for Bob Casey OR David McCormick?

	Oct 2023
Bob Casey	46%
David McCormick	39%
Some other candidate	4%
Do not know	12%

Vot20a. Did you vote in the last presidential election in 2020, or not?

	Oct 2023
Yes	96%
No	4%

Vot20. Did you vote for Joe Biden, Donald Trump, or for some other candidate in 2020?

	Oct 2023
	n=831
Joe Biden	52%
Donald Trump	45%
Some other candidate	4%

TC1a. Mr. Trump has been charged with attempting to illegally overturn the results of the 2020 election. Do you think his actions to try to remain in power after the 2020 election were serious crimes, or not?

	Oct 2023	Aug 2023
Yes, serious crime	56%	58%
No, not a serious crime	40%	35%
Do not know	4%	7%

CNTY. Region of state (What is the name of the county you live in?)

	Oct 2023
Philadelphia & Southeast	32%
Central	30%
Allegheny & Southwest	19%
Northeast	12%
Northwest	8%

AGE. What was your age on your last birthday?

	Oct 2023
Under 35	22%
35-54	34%
Over 55	44%

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

	Oct 2023
High school graduate or less	21%
Some college	36%
College degree	43%

MAR. What is your current marital status?

	Oct 2023
Married	58%
Single, never married	26%
Not currently married	15%

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

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Don't know
Oct 2023	25%	37%	33%	4%
Aug 2023	24%	39%	31%	6%
Apr 2023	24%	42%	33%	2%
Oct 2022	19%	42%	34%	4%
Sep 2022	17%	44%	33%	5%
Aug 2022	22%	34%	37%	7%
May 2022	21%	36%	38%	5%
Apr 2022	21%	38%	37%	5%
Mar 2022	19%	38%	36%	7%
Oct 2021	22%	35%	35%	8%
Aug 2021	23%	38%	37%	3%
Jun 2021	18%	38%	38%	6%
Mar 2021	20%	36%	38%	6%
Oct 2020	26%	35%	35%	4%

PARTY. Regardless of how you are registered in politics, as of today, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

	Oct 2023
Strong Republican	22%
Republican	9%
Lean Republican	15%
Independent	9%
Lean Democrat	12%
Democrat	10%
Strong Democrat	22%
Do not know	1%

GUN. Are you a gun owner?

	Oct 2023
Yes	38%
No	62%

GUN2. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose creating more laws that regulate gun ownership?

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Oct 2023	43%	15%	14%	27%	1%
Aug 2023	43%	16%	12%	26%	3%
Apr 2023	40%	19%	15%	24%	3%
Oct 2022	43%	17%	11%	26%	3%
Sep 2022	41%	19%	10%	29%	1%
Aug 2022	40%	15%	14%	27%	4%
May 2022	39%	13%	12%	31%	4%
Apr 2022	35%	18%	13%	30%	3%
Mar 2022	36%	14%	12%	35%	3%
Oct 2021	34%	20%	8%	34%	4%
Aug 2021	38%	15%	12%	33%	2%
Jun 2021	42%	14%	13%	29%	2%
Mar 2021	34%	19%	10%	34%	3%
Oct 2020	42%	19%	12%	26%	2%

RACE. What is your race or ethnicity?

	Oct 2023
White	80%
Non-white	20%

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

	Oct 2023
Protestant	31%
Catholic	23%
Some other religion	15%
Not affiliated with any religion	31%
Do not know	1%

BAC. Would you describe yourself as a “Born-again” or evangelical Christian, or not?

	Oct 2023
Yes	21%
No	77%
Don't know	3%

ABORT. Do you think that abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

	Legal under any circumstances	Legal under certain circumstances	Illegal in all circumstances	Don't know
Oct 2023	33%	56%	9%	2%
Aug 2023	38%	48%	13%	2%
Apr 2023	33%	57%	8%	1%
Oct 2022	35%	54%	9%	2%
Sep 2022	31%	58%	8%	3%
Aug 2022	37%	52%	11%	1%
May 2022	31%	54%	14%	1%
Apr 2022	31%	53%	16%	1%
Mar 2022	31%	53%	13%	3%
Oct 2021	36%	51%	11%	2%
Aug 2021	25%	58%	14%	3%
Jun 2021	26%	57%	14%	2%
Mar 2021	27%	56%	13%	3%
Oct 2020	32%	51%	16%	2%

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

	Oct 2023
Full-time	55%
Retired	27%
Part-time	8%
Something else	3%
Going to school	3%
Disabled	3%
Unemployed	1%

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

	Oct 2023
Under \$25,000	8%
\$25-\$35,000	8%
\$35-50,000	10%
\$50-75,000	17%
\$75-100,000	18%
Over \$100,000	37%
Don't know	2%

Gender. What is your current gender?

	Oct 2023
Male	49%
Female	49%
Transgender	1%
Use a different term	2%