Muhlenberg College/*Morning Call*

Fall 2014 Pennsylvania Policy Survey

Methodological Statement

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of 503 adult Pennsylvanians (age 18 or older) **[5]** between November 19 and December 10, 2014**.[14]** Respondents were interviewed in English on both land lines (378) and cell phones (175) by the staff of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Pubic Opinion (MCIPO) **[2]** in Allentown, Pennsylvania on the Institute's Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system. Of the 175 cell phone respondents 133 had no landlines in their household. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by the Marketing Systems Group (MSG), Horsham, Pennsylvania. Both landline and cell phones were chosen randomly**[9][10]** from sampling frames of Pennsylvania landline and cell numbers**[6][7]** provided by MSG**.** With a randomly selected sample of 503 respondents the margin of error for the surveys is +/- 6% at a 95% level of confidence**.[11]** Margins of error for questions with smaller sample sizes will be larger**.[13]** In addition to sampling error, one should consider that question wording and other fielding issues can introduce error or bias into survey results. The sample data has been weighted by age, race, educational attainment and gender to reflect 2013 population parameters for these factors provided by the United States Census Bureau. The calculation of sampling error takes into account design effects due to the weighting identified above**.[12]** In order to reach a representative sample of adult Pennsylvanians both land lines and cell phones are called up to 8 times. The response rate for this survey as calculated using the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) RRII formula is 12%. Due to rounding the totals provided in the frequency report may not total 100%. The survey instrument (presented in it's 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**.[1][3]**For more detailed information on the methods employed please contact the MCIPO at 484-664-3444 or email Dr. Borick at cborick@muhlenberg.edu**.[15]**

Frequency Report [4]

Q1: In which of the following age categories does your current age fall. READ LIST:

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18-29…………………..20%
30-49…………………..27%
50-64…………………..29%
65 and Over……………24%
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Q2: What county do you currently reside in? (Coded into Regions)

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Southeastern PA………..42%
Southwestern PA………..20%
Remainder of PA………..39%
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Q3: Next, I'd like to ask you some questions about the disease Ebola. How worried are you, if at all, that the United States will see a large number of Ebola cases in the next twelve months? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

Very Worried…..…………16%
Somewhat Worried...……27%
Not Too Worried…..……28%
Not at All Worried....……27%
Not Sure……….…………1%

Q4: How worried are you, if at all, that you or someone in your family will get sick from Ebola? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?

Very Worried……………………..11%
Somewhat Worried………………17%
Not Too Worried…………………26%
Not at All Worried………………..44%
Not Sure……………………………1%

Q5: Do you think the U.S. Government is doing enough or not doing enough to protect Americans from Ebola?

Doing Enough……………………43%
Not Doing Enough………………48%
Not Sure…………………………...8%

Q6:. Next I would like to ask a few questions about issues related to firearms. In general, do you think gun control laws should be made more strict, less strict or kept as they are now?

More Strict………………………46%
Less Strict………………………14%
Kept the Same…………………..37%
Not Sure…………………………3%

TIME SERIES

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014
More Strict	47%	49%	46%
Less Strict	6%	13%	14%
Kept The Same	44%	36%	37%
Not Sure	3%	3%	3%

Q7: Do you favor or oppose a federal law requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers?

Favor……………………………….91%
Oppose……………………………..8%
Not Sure…………………………...2%

TIME SERIES

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014
Favor	89%	89%	91%
Oppose	9%	9%	8%
Not Sure	3%	2%	2%

Q8: How much do you think stricter gun laws would do to help prevent gun violence? Would laws help a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

A Lot…………………………….19%
Some………………………….28%
Not Much……………………...24%
Not At All……………………..28%
Not Sure……………………….2%

TIME SERIES

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014
A Lot	20%	21%	19%
Some	30%	31%	28%
Not Much	20%	16%	24%
Not At All	28%	31%	28%
Not Sure	1%	2%	2%

 Q9: Next, I would like to ask you a few questions about marijuana. First, do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose the complete legalization of the use of marijuana for any purpose?

Favor………………………….34%
Oppose……………………….36%
Neither Favor or Oppose……...29%
Not Sure……………………...2%

TIME SERIES

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014
Favor	33%	38%	34%
Oppose	40%	35%	36%
Neither Favor Or Oppose	24%	22%	29%
Not Sure	3%	4%	2%

Q10. Should the regulations of marijuana be more strict than those for alcohol, the same as those for alcohol, or less strict as those for alcohol?

More Strict…………..……….31%
The Same……....……………….51%
Less Strict……………..….…..14%
Not Sure…………………………..5%

TIME SERIES

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014
More Strict	28%	33%	31%
The Same	60%	53%	51%
Less Strict	5%	11%	14%
Not Sure	4%	3%	5%

Q11: If the sale and possession of marijuana were made legal, do you think it would increase crime, reduce crime, or have no effect on crime?

Increase Crime………………….22%
Reduce Crime...……………….35%
No Effect on Crime…....………39%
Not Sure………………………..5%

TIME SERIES

	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Fall 2014
Increase Crime	27%	22%	22%
Reduce Crime	32%	28%	35%
No Effect On Crime	33%	42%	39%
Not Sure	8%	7%	5%

Q12: Next I have a few questions regarding social issues in the United States. First, do you think marriages between gay and lesbian couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

Should be Recognized……………….62%
Should not be Recognized………...…32%
Not Sure……………………………....6%

TIME SERIES

	2004	2009	2011	2014
Should be Recognized	35%	42%	52%	62%
Should not be Recognized	54%	51%	37%	32%
Not Sure	12%	7%	9%	6%

Q13: Do you think the laws on whether same–sex marriage is legal or not should be decided by each state or should it be decided for the entire country by federal law?

Each State…………………………39%
Federal Law……………………..56%
Not Sure…………………………….6%

Q14: Regardless of your own preference on the issue, do you think that the part of the United States Constitution providing Americans with equal protection under the law does or does not give gays and lesbians the legal right to marry?

Does Provide…………………………48%
Does Not Provide……………..……..37%
Not Sure …………………………....15%

Q15. Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. First, what is your current marital status?

1. Single…………………………19%
2. Married………………………..63%
3. Separated……………………1%
4. Divorced………………………8%
5. Widowed……………………7%
6. Partnered…………………….1%
7. Not sure (Volunteered)….…...1%

Q16. What is your highest level of education? Is it (READ LIST)?

1. Less than High School………………3%
2. High School graduate………………33%
3. Some college or technical school ….25%
4. College graduate (4 yr only)………..25%
5. Graduate or professional degree……13%
6. Not sure (Volunteered)……………….1%

Q17. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? (READ LIST)

1. White/Caucasian……………………..77%
2. African-American……………………10%
3. Hispanic………………………………5%
4. Latino…………………………………2%
5. Asian…………………………………..2%
6. Native American……………………...<1%
7. Mixed race……………………………1%
8. or other………………………………..1%
9. Not Sure (Volunteered)……………….2%

Q18. Which of the following categories best describes your current voting status? Are you registered as a (READ LIST)?

1. Democrat …………………………………40%
2. Republican……………………………....33%
3. Independent……………………………..15%
4. Other Party………………………………..1%
5. Not registered to vote in Pennsylvania …..7%
6. Not Sure (Volunteered) …………………..3%

Q19. Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST)?

1. Catholic……………………………………30%
2. Protestant…………………………………..40%
3. Jewish……………………………………..3%
4. Muslim……………………………………1%
5. Hindu…………………………………….<1%
6. Other Religion (Including agnostic)………..19%
7. or Atheist …………………………………3%
8. Not Sure (Volunteered)……………………..4%

Q20. How many children do you have under 18? (Coded into Categories)

1. No Children …………….. 77%
2. One or More Children ..… 23%

Q21. Which of the following categories best describes your family income? (READ LIST)

1. Under $20,000...................11%
2. $20,000-$40,000…………17%
3. $40,000-$60,000…………12%
4. $60,000-$80,000…………10%
5. $80,000-$100,000…………8%
6. Over $100,000……………12%
7. Not sure (Volunteered)…….3%
8. Refused (Volunteered)……27%

Q22. Thank you for your help with the survey. We appreciate your time. (Gender determined by Voice Recognition)

1. Male………..48%
2. Female……..52%