



INSTITUTE OF  
PUBLIC OPINION  

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MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

*The Morning Call /*

**Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion**

**Pennsylvania Politics and Policy:**

**The Public Perspective**



**Key Findings Report  
December 12, 2011**

## **KEY FINDINGS:**

1. As his first year in office draws to a close Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett receives generally strong marks from state residents regarding his performance as the Commonwealth's chief executive.
2. Pennsylvanians remain generally negative about economic conditions, although more express optimism about the direction of economy than during the summer of 2011.
3. State residents strongly support the adoption of a state tax on the extraction of natural gas in the Marcellus shale formations.
4. A majority of Pennsylvanians prefer that local governments, rather than the state government, have control over the locations of natural gas drilling rigs.
5. Most Keystone State residents would pay more in car registration and driver license fees if the money raised from those payments went to repairing roads and bridges in the state, but a majority do not support an increased tax on the distribution of gasoline for the purpose of road improvements.
6. Pennsylvanians remain highly divided regarding the adoption of a school choice plan in the Commonwealth, with half in favor of the state adopting such a plan and just under half opposing this education reform in the state.
7. A solid majority of state residents continue to support the sale of state owned liquor stores, however the number of Pennsylvanians opposing such a plan has grown over the last year.
8. For the first time since Muhlenberg College and the *Morning Call* have polled on this matter, a majority of Pennsylvanians believe that same-sex marriages should be legalized recognized.

**METHODOLOGY:** The following key findings report summarizes data collected in a telephone survey of registered voters of the state of Pennsylvania between November 28 and December 7, 2011. Individual households and cell phones throughout Pennsylvania were selected randomly for inclusion in the study. The sample of phone numbers used in the survey was generated by Genesys Sampling Systems of Ft. Washington, PA. Interviewing was conducted by the staff of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion, with 447 surveys completed, of which 422 were registered voters. Of the 447 surveys 317 were completed on land lines and 130 were completed on cell phones. The total number of completions results in a margin of error of +/- 5% at the 95% confidence interval. However the margin of errors for sub groups (i.e. women, income groups, age categories) is larger due to smaller sample size. Percentages throughout the survey have been rounded upward at the .5 mark, thus many totals in the results will not equal 100%. The data has been weighted by the following categories: age, gender, educational attainment, race and region. The instrument was designed by Christopher Borick, PhD in consultation with staff members of the *Morning Call*. The analysis was written Dr. Borick.

**OVERVIEW:** With the Pennsylvania General Assembly debating a large array of policy matters as 2011 draws to a close, Commonwealth residents stand in agreement on a number of key matters while sharp divisions can be observed on other major issues. While solid majorities of Keystone State residents support a state level extraction tax on natural gas in Pennsylvania and the sale of state owned liquor stores, Pennsylvanians are more torn on the adoption of a school voucher program in the state. Meanwhile, as Governor Corbett’s first year in office draws to a close a majority of the Commonwealth’s citizens approve of the way he is handling his job. These are among the findings in the most recent Morning Call/ Muhlenberg College survey of the Pennsylvania Public.

**VIEWS ON GOVERNOR CORBETT**

After drawing mixed reviews from Pennsylvania residents on his performance during the first part year, first-term Republican Governor Tom Corbett’s work in office is now viewed positively by a majority of citizens in the Commonwealth. After the difficult and divisive budget debates that dominated the first half of the year, Pennsylvanians were fairly divided on the job performance of Corbett, with about a third approving of his work, a third disapproving of his work and a third unsure about his performance. By December the governor was able to convince many of those unsure citizens that he is doing a good job as the state’s chief executive.

**TABLE ONE  
APPROVAL RATINGS FOR GOVERNOR TOM CORBETT  
AMONG PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
March 2011	36%	15%	49%
August 2011	35%	33%	32%
December 2011	51%	30%	19%

Corbett’s improved standing reflects strong ratings from Republicans and independent voters in the state, with a majority of both groups indicating that they approve of the governor’s work in office. Not surprisingly the GOP governor’s work is viewed less positively among Democrats in the Keystone State, with 47% disapproving of his performance compared to 38% approving

**TABLE TWO  
APPROVAL RATINGS FOR GOVERNOR TOM CORBETT  
BY PARTY REGISTRATION STATUS**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
Democrats	38%	47%	15%
Republicans	59%	15%	25%
Independents	53%	32%	15%

## PERCEPTIONS OF THE ECONOMY

Pennsylvanians continue to view the economy in a very negative light, but there are some modest signs of increased optimism among citizens of the Commonwealth. As with the results of our last poll in August, 2 out of 3 residents of the state categorized the national economy as poor, compared to less than 1 in 10 who rated the economy as either excellent or good.

While negative views about the condition of the economy abound in the Commonwealth, a declining number of Pennsylvanians believe that things are getting worse economically. More specifically there has been a 21% decrease since August in the number of Keystone State residents who believe that the economy is getting worse. The drop in negativity regarding the direction of the economy hasn't translated into large increases in the number of Pennsylvanians that think the economy is in a good condition, but does reflect slightly less pessimistic feelings about the direction of economic matters.

**TABLE THREE  
VIEWS ON THE DIRECTION OF THE ECONOMY  
AMONG PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS**

	Getting Better	Getting Worse	Staying About The Same	Not Sure/Refused
April 2011	28%	27%	38%	5%
August 2011	12%	55%	29%	3%
<b>December 2011</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>&lt;1%</b>

## MARCELLUS SHALE

As legislators in Harrisburg continue to debate proposals to create impact fees on the extraction of natural gas from the Marcellus shale deposits, Pennsylvanians continue to express very strong support for a statewide tax on drilling for this resource. Since September of 2010 support for an extraction tax has increased steadily with 7 out of 10 Pennsylvanians now supporting such a tax with 43% strongly supporting such a measure.

**TABLE FOUR  
VIEWS ON TAXING THE EXTRACTION OF NATURAL GAS  
AMONG PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS**

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
September 2010	32%	21%	11%	24%	12%
March 2011	34%	23%	12%	14%	17%
August 2011	37%	25%	15%	15%	11%
<b>December 2011</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>9%</b>

One of the key elements of the proposals being considered in the state legislature regarding natural gas has revolved around whether the state or local governments can determine where drilling sites can be placed. The findings from the poll indicate that a solid majority of Commonwealth residents prefer that local governments maintain regulatory authority over the locations of drilling activities.

**TABLE FIVE  
PREFERENCES OF PENNSYLVANIANS REGARDING CONTROL  
OVER NATURAL GAS DRILLING LOCATIONS**

Level Of Government	Percent Responding
Local Level	59%
State Level	26%
Both	5%
Neither	<1%
Not Sure	11%

**TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

With Pennsylvania facing significant needs in terms of road and bridge repair and maintenance, leaders in Harrisburg are considering proposals to find funding sources to finance the infrastructure repairs. One of the major proposals to increase funding for transportation calls for higher automobile registration and driver’s license fees to be adopted in the state. The survey finds that a majority of Pennsylvanians are willing to pay higher fees if that money raised goes to improving the Commonwealth’s roadways.

**TABLE SIX  
WILLINGNESS TO PAY HIGHER FEES FOR REPAIRS OF  
STATE ROADS AND BRIDGES**

Level Of Government	Percent Responding
Willing to pay higher fees	57%
Not willing to pay higher fees	35%
No Opinion	3%
Not Sure	6%

While generally supportive of higher driver’s licensee and car vehicle registration fees to fund transportation infrastructure repairs, Pennsylvanians are less enthusiastic about paying higher prices for gasoline as part of a tax on the distribution of fuels. A proposal being discussed in Harrisburg would increase taxes on gasoline for fuel distributors, with the money raised from the tax going only for repairing and rebuilding Pennsylvania’s road and bridges. By a 2 to 1 margin residents of the Keystone State oppose the tax on gas distribution in the state if that tax would add 10 cents to the price of gasoline.

**TABLE SEVEN**  
**SUPPORT FOR AN INCREASED TAX ON FUEL DISTRIBUTION TO REPAIR**  
**STATE ROADS AND BRIDGES**

	Percent Responding
Support Tax	30%
Oppose Tax	62%
Not Sure	9%

**SALE OF STATE LIQUOR STORES**

Another major policy item with fiscal implications for state government involves the privatization of the Commonwealth’s liquor store system. The sale of “state stores” to private owners has reemerged since Republican control in Harrisburg began last January with the legislature actively considering proposals to move the liquor stores to private hands. The poll results indicate just under 6 out of 10 Pennsylvanians support the sale of state-owned liquor stores to help reduce budget shortfall in the state. While most Pennsylvanians continue to support a sell-off of the state stores, opposition to the plan has crept up since the fall of 2010, with 31% of state residents currently opposing the sale proposal.

**TABLE EIGHT**  
**SUPPORT FOR SALE OF THE STATE LIQUOR STORE SYSTEM**

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure/Refused
September 2010	37%	28%	10%	10%	13%
March 2011	34%	24%	12%	15%	16%
August 2011	36%	27%	16%	13%	9%
<b>December 2011</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>11%</b>

The survey included questions that queried state residents on their preferences for the use of funds generated from the potential sales of state owned liquor stores, with a number of potential options presented. Pennsylvanians expressed the highest level of support for using funds from the sale of state stores for funding public schools (30%) and for building and repairing roads and bridges (24%) in the state. The least popular option for use of revenue generated from the sale of state stores was to use that money to provide checks for each resident of the state.

**TABLE NINE  
PREFERENCES FOR THE USE OF FUNDS FROM THE SALE  
OF STATE LIQUOR STORES**

OPTION	Percent Responding
Build and repair the state's road and bridges	24%
Reduce taxes for citizens of the state	12%
Help fund public schools in the state	30%
Provide a check for each resident of the state	4%
To balance the state budget next year	17%
Other	4%
Not Sure	10%

**SCHOOL CHOICE IN PENNSYLVANIA**

Among the most controversial items on the General Assembly's agenda is a proposal to allow low-income families in Pennsylvania the ability to receive vouchers to pay for primary and secondary education in the state. School choice programs have periodically been discussed in the Commonwealth, but have had little success in terms of movement through the legislative process. However, the rise of GOP control in the state has once again opened the door for vouchers to move forward in Pennsylvania. The survey results indicate a highly divided public on this matter, with 50% of Pennsylvanians favoring the introduction of vouchers and 44% opposing such a policy.

**TABLE TEN  
POSITIONS OF PENNSYLVANIANS ON SCHOOL VOUCHERS**

OPTION	Percent Responding
Support	50%
Oppose	44%
Not Sure	6%

Pennsylvanians also remain highly divided on whether school vouchers should be able to be used at schools that are funded by religious organizations with 46% of state residents supporting the use of vouchers in religious-affiliated institutions and 43% opposing such an option being employed in the state.

**TABLE ELEVEN  
POSITION ON THE USE OF VOUCHERS AT  
SCHOOLS FUNDED BY RELIGIOUS ORGANIATIONS**

OPTION	Percent Responding
Support	46%
Oppose	43%
No Opinion/Not Sure	8%

**GAY MARRIAGE**

For the first time since the Muhlenberg College/*Morning Call* Poll began asking state residents their views on this matter in 2005, a majority of Pennsylvanians indicated that they believe marriage between same-sex couples should be legally recognized. In the latest poll 52% of Commonwealth residents indicated that marriages between gay and lesbian couples should be recognized by law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriage. This finding marks a 10% increase in support for gay marriage since 2009 and 17% increase since 2005.

**TABLE TWELVE  
VIEWS OF PENNSYLVANIANS ON GAY MARRIAGE**

	Should Be Recognized	Should Not Be Recognized	Not Sure/Refused
2004	35%	54%	12%
2009	42%	51%	7%
2011	52%	37%	9%

As might be expected there are significant differences in support for gay marriage depending on one's political standing. While majorities of both Democrats and independents indicated a belief that same sex couples should be allowed to legally wed, most Republicans in the Commonwealth oppose such a policy.

**TABLE THIRTEEN  
VIEWS OF PENNSYLVANIANS ON GAY MARRIAGE  
BY RESPONDENT'S PARTY AFFILIATION**

	Should Be Recognized	Should Not Be Recognized	Not Sure/Refused
Democrats	67%	30%	3%
Republicans	36%	52%	11%
Independents	52%	29%	18%



Views on gay marriage are also strongly related to the age of the survey respondent. By a 2 to 1 margin Pennsylvanians between the ages of 18 and 34 support the legal recognition of same-sex marriage, while only about 1 in 3 senior citizen's in the Commonwealth are in favor of legalizing this practice.

**TABLE FOURTEEN  
VIEWS OF PENNSYLVANIANS ON GAY MARRIAGE  
BY RESPONDENT'S AGE**

	Should Be Recognized	Should Not Be Recognized	Not Sure/Refused
18-34	64%	28%	9%
35-49	59%	31%	9%
50-64	48%	41%	10%
65 and Over	36%	56%	8%

**CONCLUSION**

As elected officials in Harrisburg scramble to make progress on a number of major legislative initiatives as 2011 draws to a close, Pennsylvanians continue to offer a variety of positions on key agenda items. Residents of the Commonwealth continue to strongly favor a tax on the extraction of gas from the state's Marcellus shale formation and remain supportive of the sale of the state's liquor stores. Keystone State residents remain more divided on ways to finance repairs of roads and infrastructure sand the establishment of a school voucher program in the state. At the same time Governor Corbett receives positive job rating from a majority of state residents as his first year office draws to a close, and a majority Pennsylvanians now support legalization of gay marriage.

**Muhlenberg College/Morning Call**  
**December 2011 Pennsylvania State Survey**  
**Final Frequency Report**  
**Sample - 447 Adult Pennsylvanians**  
**422 Registered Voters**  
**Fielding Dates: November 28 – December 7, 2011**  
**Margin of Error = +/- 5% at 95% Level of Confidence**  
**AAPOR RR1 – Response Rate = 20%**  
**5 Callback Attempts**

**Data Weighted by Age, Race, Educational Attainment, Gender and Region**

Q1: Thank you. In which of the following categories does your current age fall? (READ LIST)

- 1. 18-34.....20%
- 2. 35-49.....26%
- 3. 50-64.....34%
- 4. Or over 65.....21%

Q2:

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 Barack Obama

- 1. Approve.....45%
- 2. Disapprove.....50%
- 3. Not Sure.....5%

**TREND**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
April 2009	61%	24%	15%
April 2010	45%	46%	9%
September 2010	40%	56%	4%
March 2011	48%	44%	9%
August 2011	35%	58%	7%
<b>December 2011</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>5%</b>

Q3:

Governor Tom Corbett?

1. Approve.....51%
2. Disapprove..... 30%
3. Not Sure.....19%

TREND

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
March 2011	36%	15%	49%
August 2011	35%	33%	32%
December 2011	51%	30%	19%

Q4:

Senator Pat Toomey?

1. Approve.....44%
2. Disapprove.....28%
3. Not Sure.....28%

TREND

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
March 2011	39%	19%	42%
August 2011	40%	30%	31%
December 2011	44%	28%	28%

Q5:

And Senator Bob Casey, Jr.?

1. Approve.....54%
2. Disapprove.....24%
3. Not Sure.....22%

TREND

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
March 2011	48%	22%	30%
August 2011	40%	35%	26%
December 2011	54%	24%	22%

Q6:

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

- 1. Democrat.....45%.
- 2. Republican..... 40%
- 3. Independent.....11%
- 4. Other Party.....1%
- 5. Not registered to Vote in Pa.....3%
- 6. Not Sure.....1%

Q7:

Do you feel that Barack Obama deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

- 1. Reelected.....41%
- 2. Not reelected.....51%
- 3. Not Sure.....8%

TREND

	Yes	No	Not Sure
March 2011	40%	45%	14%
August 2011	36%	55%	9%
<b>December 2011</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>8%</b>

Q8: Now, if the 2012 presidential election was being held today do you think you would vote for Barack Obama, the Democratic candidate, or the Republican Candidate?

- 1. Barack Obama.....45%
- 2. Republican Candidate.....37%
- 3. Depends on the Candidate.....14%
- 4. Not sure.....5%

TREND

	Obama	Republican	Depends on Candidate (vol)	Not Sure
March 2011	37%	33%	22%	8%
August 2011	36%	31%	31%	3%
<b>December 2011</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>5%</b>

Q9:

Now, if the 2012 presidential election was being held today and the race was between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

- 1. Barack Obama.....45%
- 2. Mitt Romney.....41%
- 3. Some other Candidate.....8%
- 4. Not sure.....6%

Q10:

If the 2012 presidential election was being held today and the race was between Barack Obama and Rick Perry, who would you vote for?

- 1. Barack Obama.....48%
- 2. Rick Perry.....30%
- 3. Some other Candidate.....11%
- 4. Not sure.....10%

Q11:

Now, if the 2012 presidential election was being held today and the race was between Barack Obama and Herman Cain, who would you vote for?

- 1. Barack Obama.....55%
- 2. Herman Cain .....28%
- 3. Some other Candidate.....10%
- 4. Not sure.....8%

Q12:

Now, if the 2012 presidential election was being held today and the race was between Barack Obama and Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

- 1. Barack Obama.....52%
- 2. Newt Gingrich .....35%
- 3. Some other Candidate.....6%
- 4. Not sure.....6%

Q13:

Do you feel that Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey, Jr. deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

- 1. Reelected .....54%
- 2. Not Reelected .....27%
- 3. Not Sure.....19%

TREND

	Yes	No	Not Sure/Refused
March 2011	48%	24%	28%
August 2011	41%	30%	30%
<b>December 2011</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>19%</b>

Q14:

If the 2012 election for United States Senator were being held today, do you think you would vote for Bob Casey Jr. the Democratic candidate, or the Republican candidate?

1. Bob Casey Jr. ....49%
2. Republican Candidate.....27%
3. Depends on Candidate.....16%
4. Not Sure.....8%

TREND

	Casey	Republican	Depends on Candidate (vol)	Not Sure/Refused
March 2011	41%	27%	18%	24%
August 2011	33%	25%	25%	18%
<b>December 2011</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>6%</b>

Q15:

If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your congressional district: the Democratic Party's candidate, or the Republican Party's candidate?

1. Democratic Candidate..... 40%
2. Republican Candidate..... 35%
3. Depends on Candidate.....19%
4. Not Sure..... 6%

Q16:

How would you describe the state of the nation's economy today? Would you say that it is excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

1. Excellent.....<1%
2. Good.....7%
3. Not So Good.....27%
4. Poor.....64%
5. Not Sure.....1%

TREND

	Excellent	Good	Not So Good	Poor	Not Sure/Refused
April 2011	<1%	11%	51%	31%	5%
August 2011	<1%	3%	32%	64%	1%
December 2011	<1%	7%	27%	64%	1%

Q17:

Do you think the nation's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

1. Getting Better.....16%
2. Getting Worse.....33%
3. About the same.....50%
4. Not Sure.....<1%

TREND

	Getting Better	Getting Worse	Staying About The Same	Not Sure/Refused
April 2011	28%	27%	38%	5%
August 2011	12%	55%	29%	3%
December 2011	16%	34%	50%	<1%

Q18:

Do you think President Obama's policies have helped the economy, hurt the economy, or haven't made a difference?

1. Helped the economy.....25%
2. Hurt the economy.....38%
3. Made no difference.....33%
4. Not sure.....5%

TREND

	Helped the Economy	Hurt the Economy	Haven't Made a Difference	Not Sure /Refused
April 2011	28%	28%	31%	13%
August 2011	23%	41%	32%	5%
December 2011	25%	38%	33%	5%

Q19:

During recent years there has been an increased level of natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania's Marcellus (MAR-cell-us) shale deposits. Currently there is no tax on the extraction of natural gas in the state. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the creation of a tax on natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania?

- 1. Strongly support.....43%
- 2. Somewhat Support.....28%
- 3. Somewhat oppose..... 9%
- 4. Strongly oppose.....12%
- 5. Not Sure.....9%

TREND

	Strongly Support	Somewhat	Somewhat	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure/Ref
September 2010	32%	21%	11%	24%	12%
March 2011	34%	23%	12%	14%	17%
August 2011	37%	25%	15%	15%	11%
<b>December 2011</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>9%</b>

Q20:

Currently local governments in Pennsylvania are allowed to regulate where natural gas drilling rigs can be placed in their municipalities. There is a proposal in the state legislature that would allow the state to set the rules on where drilling rigs can be placed. Do you think that the rules on where natural gas drilling rigs should be placed are better made at the local or state levels of government in Pennsylvania?

- 1. Local Level.....59%
- 2. State Level..... 26%
- 3. Both (Vol)..... 5%
- 4. Neither (vol).....<1%
- 5. Not sure (Vol).....11%

Q21:

In order to help reduce the state's budget shortfalls some have called for Pennsylvania to sell its state-owned liquor stores. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the sale of the state's liquor stores?

- 1. Strongly support.....34%
- 2. Somewhat Support.....24%
- 3. Somewhat oppose.....16%
- 4. Strongly oppose.....15%
- 5. Not Sure.....11%



TREND

	Strongly Support	Somewhat	Somewhat	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure/Ref
September 2010	37%	28%	10%	10%	13%
March 2011	34%	24%	12%	15%	16%
August 2011	36%	27%	16%	13%	9%
<b>December 2011</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>11%</b>

Q22:

If Pennsylvania did sell its state owned liquor stores which of the following sources would you prefer the money be used for. (READ LIST) To.....

1. Build and repair the state's road and bridges.....24%
2. Reduce taxes for citizens of the state.....12%
3. Help fund public schools in the state.....30%
4. Provide a check for each resident of the state.....4%
5. Or to help balance the state budget next year.. .....17%
6. Other (VOL).....4%
7. Not Sure.....10%

Q23:

Pennsylvania is currently experiencing a shortfall in funds to repair and maintain the state's roads and bridges. Would you be willing to pay higher drivers license and motor vehicle registration fees if the money raised from those fees went directly towards repairing and maintaining state roads and bridges?

1. Willing to pay higher fees.....57%
2. Unwilling to pay higher fees.....35%
3. No opinion.....3%
4. Not sure.....6%.

TREND

	Willing to Pay	Unwilling To Pay	No Opinion/Not Sure
March 2011	53%	31%	15%
August 2011	46%	45%	9%
December 2011	57%	35%	9%

Q24:

Pennsylvania legislators are discussing a proposal that would increase taxes on gasoline for fuel distributors, with the money raised from the tax going only for repairing and rebuilding Pennsylvania's road and bridges. Would you support this increased tax on fuel distribution a means of funding state roads and bridges if it meant that you paid about 10 cents more for a gallon of gas?

- 1. Support.....30%
- 2. Oppose.....62%
- 3. Not Sure.....9%

Q25:

Where is a proposal in the state legislator that would allow low-income families in Pennsylvania the ability to receive vouchers to pay for primary and secondary education. The plan, which would give students a chance to transfer out of the state's most underperforming schools, would begin during the 2012-2013 school year. Do you support or oppose the proposal to establish an educational voucher system for low income families in Pennsylvania?

- 1. Support.....50%
- 2. Oppose..... 44%
- 3. Not Sure..... 6%

Q26:

If the bill is passed, would you prefer that the vouchers be used for public schools, private schools, or both?

- 1. Public schools only.....34%
- 2. Private schools only..... 5%
- 3. Public and private schools.....56%
- 4. Not sure (Volunteered).....6%

Q27:

Would you support or oppose the use of vouchers at a school that is funded by a religious organization?

- 1. Support.....46%
- 2. Oppose..... 43%
- 3. No opinion (Volunteered).....4%
- 4. Not sure (Volunteered).....8%

Q28:

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?

- 1. Should be recognized.....52%
- 2. Should not be recognized.....37%
- 3. Not sure.....9%

TREND

	Should Be Recognized	Should Not Be Recognized	Not Sure/Refused
2004	35%	54%	12%
2009	42%	51%	7%
2011	52%	37%	9%

Q29:

Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman, thus barring marriages between gay and lesbian couples?

1. Favor amendment barring same sex marriage.....36%
2. Oppose amendment barring same sex marriage.....57%
3. Not sure.....7%

TREND

	Favor Amendment	Oppose Amendment	Not Sure/Refused
2004	43%	47%	10%
2009	44%	45%	10%
2011	36%	57%	7%

Q30:

Would you favor or oppose a law that would allow homosexual couples to legally form civil unions, giving them some of the legal rights of married couples?

1. Favor law granting civil unions.....63%
2. Oppose law granting civil unions.....30%
3. Not sure..... 7%

TREND

	Favor Civil Unions	Oppose Civil Unions	Not Sure
2004	54%	38%	6%
2009	61%	31%	8%
2011	63%	30%	7%

Q31:

Do you favor or oppose the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, the military policy banning openly gay members from service?

- 1. Yes- favor.....48%.
- 2. No- Oppose.....39%
- 3. Not Sure .....13%

TREND

	Favor Repeal	Oppose Repeal	Not Sure/Refused
2009	39%	42%	19%
2011	48%	39%	13%

Q32:

Does a candidate's position on gay marriage effect how you vote in that race?

- 1. Yes.....31%.
- 2. No.....62%
- 3. Not Sure .....7%

TREND

	Does Effect	Does Not Effect	Not Sure/Refused
2009	34%	60%	7%
2011	31%	62%	7%

Q33:

Do you have any family members or close friends who identify as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender?

- 1. Yes.....49%
- 2. No.....50%
- 3. Not Sure .....1%

TREND

	Yes	No	Not Sure/Refused
2009	50%	46%	4%
2011	49%	50%	1%

Q34:

The unemployment rate measures the portion of the workforce that wants to work but can't find a job. The next few questions ask you to consider the effects of different

government policies on unemployment in the United States. First when the government increases its spending in a given year, does that tend to make unemployment better or worse?

- 1. Better.....26%
- 2. Worse.....44%
- 3. No Effect (Vol).....11%
- 4. Not Sure (Vol).....19%

Q35:

When the government cuts taxes in a given year, does that tend to make unemployment better or worse?

- 1. Better.....46%
- 2. Worse.....22%
- 3. No Effect (Vol).....18%
- 4. Not Sure (Vol).....15%

Q36:

When the Federal Reserve creates more money in a given year, does that tend to make unemployment better or worse?

- 1. Better.....23%
- 2. Worse.....41%
- 3. No Effect (Vol).....11%
- 4. Not Sure (Vol).....25%

Q37:

When the Federal Reserve lowers interest rates in a given year, does that tend to make unemployment better or worse?"

- 1. Better.....46%
- 2. Worse.....16%
- 3. No Effect (Vol).....16%
- 4. Not Sure (Vol).....22%

Finally, I have a few questions about yourself.

Q38:

What county do you reside in?

(CODED INTO REGIONS)

- Southeast.....34%

Southwest.....19%  
Remainder of State.....48%

Q: 39:  
What is your current marital status? (READ LIST)

1. Single .....21%
2. Married.....54%
3. Separated.....3%
4. Divorced.....7%
5. Widowed.....14%
6. Partnered.....1%

Q: 40:  
What is your highest level of education? (READ LIST)

1. Less than HS..... 7%
2. Hs grad.....34%
3. Some college..... 29%
4. College graduate.....19%
5. Graduate or professional degree.....11%
6. Not sure.....1%

Q41:  
Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? Are you (READ LIST)?

1. White/Caucasian.....78%
2. African-American..... 10%
3. Hispanic.....5%
4. Asian American.....2%
5. Native-American.....1%
6. Mixed Race..... 4%
7. Other.....1%

Q 42:  
Which of the following categories best describes your family income? Is it?

1. Under \$20,000.....13%
2. \$20-40,000.....25%
3. \$40-60,000.....21%
4. \$60-80,000.....15%
5. \$80-100,000.....12%
6. Over \$100,000.....12%
7. Not sure.....2%

Q43:

Thank you for your help with the survey. We appreciate your time.

1. Male.....48%

2. Female..... 52%