

May 23, 2012

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PA blacks shift quickly in favor of gay marriage

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama's announcement that he supports same-sex marriage is rapidly shifting the opinions of black voters around the country; PPP has found this already in North Carolina and nationally. Nearly all of the slight movement in Pennsylvania toward acceptance of same-sex marriage since PPP last polled on the issue in November is with black voters. Whereas only 36% of all Pennsylvanians thought gay marriage should be legal and 52% illegal last fall, now that is a 39-48 spread. That is because African Americans have moved from being against it by a strong margin (34-52) to being split, 42-41 for it.

"We've now found in both North Carolina and Pennsylvania that black voters have moved more toward support of gay marriage in the wake of Barack Obama's announcement," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "The media's been asking the wrong question- the big issue isn't how Obama's stance will affect his reelection hopes. It's how Obama's stance will move public opinion on gay marriage."

Tom Smith has not done much for his public profile since beating a host of unknowns in the Pennsylvania Republican Senate primary almost a month ago. Now 45% of voters have an opinion on him, up from 25% in March. But whereas voters were split previously—12% favorable and 13% unfavorable—now they are decidedly negative, 16-29. Because of that, freshman Sen. Bob Casey is able to survive his continuously tepid approval numbers (39% approve, 38% disapprove) to post a lead over Smith quite similar to that before the primary. He led 49-31 then, and 49-33 now.

There has been very little movement among Democrats, Republicans, or independents. But the silver lining for Smith is that if he improves upon his 59% of the GOP vote and brings it more towards Casey's 76% of his own party, he is bound to tighten the race. But he will also have to cut into Casey's nearly 20-point lead with independents.

Democrats have slight edges in three other statewide races, but with even more undecided than in the Senate contest. Kathleen Kane leads David Freed for Attorney General, 42-33, and the Democrats in the Treasurer and Auditor General races have identical 35-34 edges over their GOP opponents.

PPP surveyed 671 Pennsylvania voters from May 17th to 20th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.8%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.

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Pennsylvania Survey Results

Q1	Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Casey's job performance?	Bob	Q6	The candidates for Treasurer are Democratic Rob McCord and Republican Diana Irey-		
	Approve39% Not sure	23%		Vaughan. If the election was today, who work you vote for?		
	Disapprove38%			Rob McCord	35%	
Q2	Do you have a favorable or unfavorable op of Tom Smith?	oinion		Diana Irey-Vaughan	.34%	
	Favorable	16%		Undecided		
	Unfavorable		Q7	If there was an election for Congress today would you vote Democratic or Republican?		
	Not sure			Democratic	.45%	
Q3	The candidates for US Senate are Democrat Bob Casey and Republican Tom Smith. If the			Republican	.42%	
	election was today, who would you vote fo			Not sure	.13%	
	Bob Casey		Q8	Do you think same-sex marriage should be	!	
	Tom Smith	33%		legal or illegal?	200/	
	Undecided	19%		Legal		
Q4	The candidates for Attorney General are			Illegal		
	Democrat Kathleen Kane and Republican David Freed. If the election was today, who	0		Not sure	.13%	
	would you vote for?		Q9	Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples shoul		
	Kathleen Kane	42%		be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples		
	David Freed	33%		should be allowed to form civil unions but n legally marry, or there should be no legal	ot	
	Undecided	25%		recognition of a gay couple's relationship?		
Q5	The candidates for Auditor General are Democrat Eugene DePasquale and			Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	.35%	
	Republican John Maher. If the election wat today, who would you vote for?			Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry		
	Eugene DePasquale	35%		There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	,	
	John Maher	34%		Not sure	. 3%	
	Undecided	31%	Q10	Who did you vote for President in 2008?		
				John McCain	.44%	
				Barack Obama		
				Someone alsa/Don't remember	7%	





Q11	Would you describe yourself as very liberal,
	somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat
	conservative, or very conservative?
	\/am, libaral

	conservative, or very conservative?	
	Very liberal	12%
	Somewhat liberal	18%
	Moderate	28%
	Somewhat conservative	
	Very conservative	19%
Q12	If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, pre	
	Woman	50%
	Man	50%
Q13	If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Repub press 2. If you are an independent or idenwith another party, press 3.	
	Democrat	46%

Republican.....42% Independent/Other......12%

Q14	If you are white, press 1.	If African-American,
	press 2. If other, press 3	

	White	.85%
	African-American	. 11%
	Other	. 4%
Q15	If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.	to
	18 to 29	.16%
	30 to 45	26%
	46 to 65	.38%
	Older than 65	20%



		2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember	
Casey Approval					
Approve	39%	20%	59%	24%	
Disapprove	38%	54%	22%	48%	
Not sure	23%	26%	19%	27%	

		2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember	
Smith Favorability		·			
Favorable	16%	28%	6%	11%	
Unfavorable	29%	17%	39%	31%	
Not sure	55%	55%	54%	59%	

		2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember	
Casey/Smith		•			
Bob Casey	49%	17%	81%	26%	
Tom Smith	33%	63%	7%	26%	
Undecided	19%	20%	12%	48%	

		2008 Vo	2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember		
AG: Kane/Freed		-				
Kathleen Kane	42%	17%	67%	30%		
David Freed	33%	58%	11%	24%		
Undecided	25%	25%	22%	46%		





		2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember	
Auditor: De Pas quale/Maher					
Eugene De Pasquale	35%	11%	57%	27%	
John Maher	34%	62%	11%	16%	
Undecided	31%	27%	31%	57%	

		2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember	
Treasurer: McCord/Diana Irey- Vaughan					
Rob McCord	35%	13%	55%	39%	
Diana Irey-Vaughan	34%	58%	14%	15%	
Undecided	31%	29%	31%	46%	

		2008 Vo	2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember		
Generic Cong. Ballot		-				
Dem ocratic	45%	9%	80%	29%		
Republican	42%	83%	6%	30%		
Not sure	13%	8%	13%	41%		

		2008 Vo	2008 Vote					
	Base		Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember				
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal		-						
Legal	39%	17%	61%	23%				
Illegal	48%	70%	26%	63%				
Not sure	13%	13%	14%	14%				





		2008 Vo	te	
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	13%	57%	20%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	33%	39%	27%	38%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	28%	45%	13%	38%
Not sure	3%	3%	4%	4%

		ldeology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Casey Approval			-	<u>-</u>	='	
Approve	39%	58%	52%	51%	26%	15%
Disapprove	38%	23%	27%	27%	50%	59%
Not sure	23%	19%	21%	22%	24%	27%

		ldeolog	deology					
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somew hat conservative			
Smith Favorability		_	-	_	-	='		
Favorable	16%	12%	6%	9%	22%	32%		
Unfavorable	29%	48%	38%	31%	21%	15%		
Not sure	55%	40%	56%	60%	58%	53%		

		Ideolog	deology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somew hat conservative		
Casey/Smith		-	-	-	='	-	
Bob Casey	49%	79%	72%	63%	31%	9%	
Tom Smith	33%	3%	11%	19%	53%	68%	
Undecided	19%	18%	17%	18%	16%	24%	





		ldeology					
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somewhat conservative	Very conservative	
AG: Kane/Freed		-	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>			
Kathleen Kane	42%	76%	62%	49%	30%	7%	
David Freed	33%	11%	14%	22%	48%	62%	
Undecided	25%	13%	24%	29%	22%	32%	

		Ideology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Auditor: De Pas quale/Maher		=	•		-	
Eugene DePasquale	35%	72%	53%	41%	18%	5%
John Maher	34%	11%	11%	26%	49%	63%
Undecided	31%	17%	36%	33%	33%	32%

		ldeology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal	Moderate	Somew hat conservative	Very conservative
Treasurer: McCord/Diana Irey- Vaughan						
Rob McCord	35%	75%	48%	44%	20%	3%
Diana Irey-Vaughan	34%	10%	16%	22%	48%	64%
Undecided	31%	15%	36%	34%	31%	33%

		Ideolog	deology					
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Som ew hat conservative	Very conservative		
Generic Cong. Ballot			_		='			
Democratic	45%	84%	74%	57%	21%	5%		
Republican	42%	8%	13%	24%	69%	86%		
Not sure	13%	8%	13%	19%	10%	9%		





		ldeology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal	Moderate	Som ew hat conservative	Very conservative
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal						
Legal	39%	74%	65%	43%	15%	13%
Illegal	48%	18%	24%	36%	75%	76%
Not sure	13%	8%	11%	21%	10%	11%

		Ideolog	ду			
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal	Moderate	Somew hat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	73%	56%	39%	13%	10%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	33%	12%	30%	40%	41%	31%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	28%	11%	12%	18%	41%	57%
Not sure	3%	5%	2%	3%	5%	3%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Casey Approval		-	
Approve	39%	41%	38%
Disapprove	38%	30%	46%
Not sure	23%	29%	16%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Smith Favorability		-	
Favorable	16%	12%	20%
Unfavorable	29%	28%	30%
Not sure	55%	61%	50%





		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Casey/Smith		-	
Bob Casey	49%	53%	45%
Tom Smith	33%	23%	42%
Undecided	19%	24%	13%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
AG: Kane/Freed		-	
Kathleen Kane	42%	47%	37%
David Freed	33%	25%	40%
Undecided	25%	28%	23%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Auditor: De Pas quale/Maher			
Eugene De Pasquale	35%	36%	34%
John Maher	34%	25%	43%
Undecided	31%	39%	24%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Treasurer: McCord/Diana Irey- Vaughan			
Rob McCord	35%	38%	32%
Diana Irey-Vaughan	34%	26%	41%
Undecided	31%	36%	27%





		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Generic Cong. Ballot		-	
Democratic	45%	52%	39%
Republican	42%	36%	48%
Not sure	13%	12%	13%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal			
Legal	39%	41%	37%
Illegal	48%	44%	52%
Not sure	13%	15%	11%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	38%	33%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	33%	31%	35%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	28%	26%	31%
Not sure	3%	5%	2%

		Party				
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other		
Casey Approval		='				
Approve	39%	56%	22%	38%		
Disapprove	38%	23%	54%	39%		
Not sure	23%	21%	24%	23%		





		Party			
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other	
Smith Favorability		,			
Favorable	16%	9%	26%	8%	
Unfavorable	29%	36%	20%	34%	
Not sure	55%	55%	54%	57%	

		Party				
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other		
Casey/Smith						
Bob Casey	49%	76%	21%	42%		
Tom Smith	33%	11%	59%	24%		
Undecided	19%	13%	20%	34%		

		Party				
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other		
AG: Kane/Freed		='				
Kathleen Kane	42%	70%	16%	26%		
David Freed	33%	10%	60%	26%		
Undecided	25%	20%	24%	48%		

		Party				
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other		
Auditor: DePasquale/Maher						
Eugene De Pasquale	35%	61%	9%	26%		
John Maher	34%	9%	63%	28%		
Undecided	31%	30%	28%	47%		





		Party	Party					
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other				
Treasurer: McCord/Diana Irey- Vaughan								
Rob McCord	35%	59%	10%	29%				
Diana Irey-Vaughan	34%	12%	61%	20%				
Undecided	31%	29%	29%	52%				

		Party	Party					
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other				
Generic Cong. Ballot		=	•	-				
Democratic	45%	82%	10%	30%				
Republican	42%	10%	83%	20%				
Not sure	13%	8%	7%	50%				

		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal		-	•	
Legal	39%	54%	20%	51%
Illegal	48%	32%	69%	34%
Not sure	13%	14%	11%	16%

		Party				
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other		
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	48%	17%	47%		
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	33%	30%	37%	31%		
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	28%	17%	44%	18%		
Not sure	3%	4%	2%	4%		





		Race		
	Base	White	African- American	Other
Casey Approval				
Approve	39%	38%	53%	39%
Disapprove	38%	39%	29%	45%
Not sure	23%	24%	17%	16%

		Race		
	Base	White	African- American	Other
Smith Favorability				
Favorable	16%	17%	11%	17%
Unfavorable	29%	27%	36%	42%
Not sure	55%	56%	53%	42%

		Race		
	Base	White	African- American	Other
Casey/Smith				
Bob Casey	49%	46%	68%	48%
Tom Smith	33%	36%	10%	17%
Undecided	19%	17%	22%	35%

		Race		
	Base	White	African- American	Other
AG: Kane/Freed				
Kathleen Kane	42%	39%	66%	48%
David Freed	33%	36%	13%	14%
Undecided	25%	25%	21%	38%





		Race		
	Base	White	African- American	Other
Auditor: DePasquale/Maher				
Eugene DePasquale	35%	31%	62%	40%
John Maher	34%	37%	14%	28%
Undecided	31%	32%	24%	32%

		Race		
	Base	White	African- American	Other
Treasurer: McCord/Diana Irey- Vaughan				
Rob McCord	35%	32%	59%	41%
Diana Irey-Vaughan	34%	36%	18%	31%
Undecided	31%	33%	23%	28%

		Race		
	Base	White	African- American	Other
Generic Cong. Ballot				
Dem ocratic	45%	41%	74%	55%
Republican	42%	46%	18%	18%
Not sure	13%	13%	7%	27%

		Race				
	Base	White	African- American	Other		
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal						
Legal	39%	38%	42%	50%		
Illegal	48%	50%	41%	28%		
Not sure	13%	12%	18%	22%		





		Race				
	Base	White	African- American	Other		
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition		-		-		
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	35%	31%	48%		
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	33%	31%	52%	18%		
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	28%	31%	9%	30%		
Not sure	3%	3%	8%	4%		

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29		46 to 65	Older than 65
Casey Approval					
Approve	39%	38%	35%	43%	40%
Disapprove	38%	40%	38%	38%	35%
Not sure	23%	23%	27%	19%	25%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Smith Favorability					
Favorable	16%	19%	13%	16%	18%
Unfavorable	29%	34%	31%	27%	26%
Not sure	55%	47%	56%	57%	56%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29		46 to 65	Older than 65
Casey/Smith					
Bob Casey	49%	49%	47%	51%	46%
Tom Smith	33%	26%	34%	32%	37%
Undecided	19%	25%	20%	16%	17%





		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45		Older than 65
AG: Kane/Freed					
Kathleen Kane	42%	45%	33%	45%	48%
David Freed	33%	28%	38%	33%	28%
Undecided	25%	26%	29%	22%	24%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45		Older than 65
Auditor: De Pas quale/Maher					
Eugene De Pasquale	35%	43%	28%	38%	31%
John Maher	34%	30%	40%	34%	29%
Undecided	31%	26%	33%	28%	39%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	
Treasurer: McCord/Diana Irey- Vaughan					
Rob McCord	35%	47%	28%	36%	34%
Diana Irey-Vaughan	34%	28%	38%	34%	31%
Undecided	31%	25%	34%	31%	35%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Cong. Ballot					
Democratic	45%	54%	35%	49%	45%
Republican	42%	28%	52%	40%	43%
Not sure	13%	18%	13%	11%	13%





		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45		Older than 65
Same-sex Marriage Legal/Illegal					
Legal	39%	48%	40%	38%	32%
Illegal	48%	42%	46%	48%	53%
Not sure	13%	10%	13%	13%	15%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition		-			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	35%	48%	36%	33%	29%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	33%	26%	30%	36%	37%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	28%	24%	31%	28%	29%
Not sure	3%	2%	4%	3%	5%

