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Obama and Casey up comfortably in Pennsylvania

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP's newest Pennsylvania poll finds Barack Obama's lead in the state declining by 5 points over the last month, but he still has a 7 point advantage at 51-44. He led 52-40 in mid-September.

Pennsylvania voters narrowly approve of the job Obama is doing, with 49% giving him good marks to 47% who disapprove. Romney continues to have trouble connecting with voters in the Keystone State, as 44% express a favorable opinion of him to 49% who see him negatively.

Obama is competitive with white voters, trailing Romney only 49/46. Add in Obama's 86/7 lead with African Americans and it gives him his overall advantage. He also leads with both women (53/42) and men (48/46). Finally he has a 51/41 advantage with independents.

The Pennsylvania Senate race isn't looking terribly competitive. Bob Casey leads Republican challenger Tom Smith 50-39, an 11 point lead that's pretty similar to the 10 point one we found for Casey at 46-36 in July. Casey has a 44-36 advantage with independents and he continues to enjoy greater than normal crossover support for a Democrat, taking 17% of the GOP vote.

Pennsylvanians continue to be closely divided on Casey's job performance with 37% approving of him to 39% who disapprove. That's largely because he's at only 58% approval with Democrats, but even though they're not necessarily thrilled with Casey most of them are still planning to vote for him. Smith hasn't proven to be a very popular challenger, with only 33% of voters rating him favorably to 36% with a negative opinion. 31% still aren't familiar with him.

“Barack Obama and Bob Casey still look like pretty clear favorites in Pennsylvania,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “They might not win by as much as they did last time but they don’t look terribly vulnerable either.”

PPP surveyed 500 likely Pennsylvania voters from October 12th to 14th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.4%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



Pennsylvania Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 49%
Disapprove..... 47%
Not sure 4%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 44%
Unfavorable 49%
Not sure 7%

Q3 The candidates for President are Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 51%
Mitt Romney..... 44%
Undecided..... 6%

Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Bob Casey's job performance?

Approve 37% *Not sure* 24%
Disapprove..... 39%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tom Smith?

Favorable..... 33%
Unfavorable 36%
Not sure 31%

Q6 The candidates for US Senate are Democrat Bob Casey and Republican Tom Smith. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Bob Casey..... 50%
Tom Smith..... 39%
Undecided..... 11%

Q7 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 9%
Somewhat liberal 17%
Moderate..... 36%
Somewhat conservative..... 23%
Very conservative 15%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 55%
Man..... 45%

Q9 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 48%
Republican..... 37%
Independent/Other..... 15%

Q10 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 84%
African-American 10%
Other..... 6%

Q11 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 12%
30 to 45..... 24%
46 to 65..... 44%
Older than 65..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	49%	84%	89%	55%	25%	7%
Disapprove	47%	16%	7%	38%	71%	93%
Not sure	4%	-	4%	7%	4%	-

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	44%	14%	8%	34%	70%	87%
Unfavorable	49%	86%	85%	55%	24%	9%
Not sure	7%	-	7%	11%	6%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	51%	84%	91%	56%	25%	10%
Mitt Romney	44%	11%	6%	36%	71%	84%
Undecided	6%	5%	3%	8%	4%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Casey Approval						
Approve	37%	69%	65%	41%	14%	12%
Disapprove	39%	23%	19%	30%	63%	58%
Not sure	24%	8%	16%	29%	24%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Smith Favorability						
Favorable	33%	23%	8%	24%	55%	59%
Unfavorable	36%	61%	64%	38%	19%	11%
Not sure	31%	16%	28%	39%	26%	30%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Casey/Smith						
Bob Casey	50%	89%	76%	58%	29%	9%
Tom Smith	39%	10%	11%	28%	61%	77%
Undecided	11%	1%	13%	13%	10%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	49%	52%	46%
Disapprove	47%	45%	49%
Not sure	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	44%	40%	49%
Unfavorable	49%	52%	46%
Not sure	7%	8%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	51%	53%	48%
Mitt Romney	44%	42%	46%
Undecided	6%	5%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Casey Approval			
Approve	37%	36%	38%
Disapprove	39%	35%	44%
Not sure	24%	29%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Smith Favorability			
Favorable	33%	28%	41%
Unfavorable	36%	36%	35%
Not sure	31%	36%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Casey/Smith			
Bob Casey	50%	50%	50%
Tom Smith	39%	35%	43%
Undecided	11%	15%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	77%	13%	49%
Disapprove	47%	20%	84%	40%
Not sure	4%	3%	3%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	44%	19%	81%	37%
Unfavorable	49%	75%	15%	49%
Not sure	7%	7%	5%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	51%	78%	14%	51%
Mitt Romney	44%	16%	81%	41%
Undecided	6%	6%	4%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Casey Approval				
Approve	37%	58%	14%	24%
Disapprove	39%	20%	63%	43%
Not sure	24%	22%	24%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Smith Favorability				
Favorable	33%	17%	60%	23%
Unfavorable	36%	55%	14%	28%
Not sure	31%	28%	26%	49%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Casey/Smith				
Bob Casey	50%	76%	17%	44%
Tom Smith	39%	15%	71%	36%
Undecided	11%	9%	12%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	44%	86%	57%
Disapprove	47%	52%	11%	34%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	44%	50%	7%	29%
Unfavorable	49%	43%	83%	69%
Not sure	7%	7%	10%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	51%	46%	86%	58%
Mitt Romney	44%	49%	7%	28%
Undecided	6%	5%	7%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Casey Approval				
Approve	37%	36%	48%	31%
Disapprove	39%	42%	22%	29%
Not sure	24%	22%	29%	40%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Smith Favorability				
Favorable	33%	36%	17%	26%
Unfavorable	36%	35%	51%	28%
Not sure	31%	29%	32%	46%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Casey/Smith				
Bob Casey	50%	47%	73%	50%
Tom Smith	39%	43%	13%	26%
Undecided	11%	10%	15%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	49%	53%	58%	47%	43%
Disapprove	47%	45%	39%	49%	52%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	4%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	44%	43%	32%	47%	54%
Unfavorable	49%	50%	56%	48%	41%
Not sure	7%	8%	12%	5%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	51%	54%	59%	49%	44%
Mitt Romney	44%	41%	32%	47%	52%
Undecided	6%	5%	8%	5%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Casey Approval					
Approve	37%	33%	46%	34%	36%
Disapprove	39%	40%	22%	44%	48%
Not sure	24%	28%	32%	22%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Smith Favorability					
Favorable	33%	43%	19%	37%	39%
Unfavorable	36%	33%	41%	34%	36%
Not sure	31%	25%	41%	29%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Casey/Smith					
Bob Casey	50%	51%	58%	48%	45%
Tom Smith	39%	33%	31%	41%	46%
Undecided	11%	15%	12%	11%	10%

