



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sestak evens it up with Toomey

Raleigh, N.C. – The race for Senate in Pennsylvania has seen dramatic movement over the last two months and Joe Sestak has now taken the slightest lead over Pat Toomey, 46-45. On PPP's previous survey of the state, in mid-August, Toomey led by a 45-36 margin.

Three things have happened in the last 2 months to move this race back to toss up status: Sestak has made up a large deficit with independents, he's consolidated his base, and Democratic interest in the election has picked up with election day moving closer.

In that August survey Toomey held a commanding lead with independents, 50-23. Sestak has picked up the support of virtually all of the undecided independents and has pulled into a virtual tie with Toomey with that voting group, trailing now only 49-48.

Also on that August survey there was a tremendous party unity gap with Toomey winning over 74% of Republicans while Sestak was getting just 64% of Democrats. Although Toomey is still benefiting from a more unified party base the disparity is not nearly as large as it was at that time- Toomey is pulling 82% of Republican voters while Sestak gets 77% of Democrats.

Finally, as PPP is seeing across the country, the closer to the election we get the more Democratic voters are tuning in. In August those planning to vote in Pennsylvania this fall reported having voted for John McCain by a 1 point margin in 2008. Now the likely voter poll for this year supported Barack Obama by 4 points. That still suggests a large drop in Democratic turnout from 2008, but it may not be quite as dramatic as it appeared over the summer.

“This has become a toss up race,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “No one would have expected that a month ago but just as he did in the primary Joe Sestak is closing strong. Whether he continues that momentum right on through election day or Pat Toomey can turn things back in his favor will be the ultimate determiner of who wins this race.”

PPP surveyed 718 likely Pennsylvania voters on October 17th and 18th. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.7%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





Pennsylvania Survey Results

Q1 The candidates for US Senate this fall are Democrat Joe Sestak and Republican Pat Toomey. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Joe Sestak..... 46%
Pat Toomey..... 45%
Undecided..... 9%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Joe Sestak?

Favorable..... 43%
Unfavorable 39%
Not sure 19%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Pat Toomey?

Favorable..... 41%
Unfavorable 41%
Not sure 18%

Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 43%
Disapprove..... 51%
Not sure 6%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Arlen Specter's job performance?

Approve 32%
Disapprove..... 57%
Not sure 11%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Bob Casey's job performance?

Approve 40%
Disapprove..... 37%
Not sure 23%

Q7 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 45%
Barack Obama..... 49%
Someone else/Don't remember 5%

Q8 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 19%
Moderate..... 44%
Conservative..... 37%

Q9 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 51%
Man..... 49%

Q10 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..... 41%
Independent/Other..... 11%

Q11 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 87%
African-American 9%
Other..... 4%

Q12 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29..... 7%
30 to 45..... 20%
46 to 65..... 46%
Older than 65..... 27%





Crosstabs

| | Base | 2008 Vote | | |
|----------------------|------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | | John McCain | Barack Obama | Someone else/Don't remember |
| Sestak/Toomey | | | | |
| Joe Sestak | 46% | 7% | 81% | 42% |
| Pat Toomey | 45% | 85% | 10% | 36% |
| Undecided | 9% | 8% | 8% | 21% |

| | Base | 2008 Vote | | |
|----------------------------|------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | | John McCain | Barack Obama | Someone else/Don't remember |
| Sestak Favorability | | | | |
| Favorable | 43% | 10% | 75% | 29% |
| Unfavorable | 39% | 67% | 12% | 39% |
| Not sure | 19% | 23% | 13% | 32% |

| | Base | 2008 Vote | | |
|----------------------------|------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | | John McCain | Barack Obama | Someone else/Don't remember |
| Toomey Favorability | | | | |
| Favorable | 41% | 74% | 12% | 32% |
| Unfavorable | 41% | 10% | 72% | 34% |
| Not sure | 18% | 16% | 17% | 34% |

| | Base | 2008 Vote | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | | John McCain | Barack Obama | Someone else/Don't remember |
| Obama Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 43% | 5% | 80% | 30% |
| Disapprove | 51% | 92% | 12% | 60% |
| Not sure | 6% | 2% | 8% | 10% |





Crosstabs

| | Base | 2008 Vote | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | | John McCain | Barack Obama | Someone else/Don't remember |
| Specter Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 32% | 7% | 54% | 47% |
| Disapprove | 57% | 87% | 29% | 49% |
| Not sure | 11% | 5% | 17% | 4% |

| | Base | 2008 Vote | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | | John McCain | Barack Obama | Someone else/Don't remember |
| Casey Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 40% | 16% | 63% | 32% |
| Disapprove | 37% | 62% | 14% | 34% |
| Not sure | 23% | 22% | 23% | 34% |

| | Base | Ideology | | |
|----------------------|------|----------|----------|--------------|
| | | Liberal | Moderate | Conservative |
| Sestak/Toomey | | | | |
| Joe Sestak | 46% | 87% | 59% | 8% |
| Pat Toomey | 45% | 7% | 35% | 78% |
| Undecided | 9% | 6% | 7% | 14% |

| | Base | Ideology | | |
|----------------------------|------|----------|----------|--------------|
| | | Liberal | Moderate | Conservative |
| Sestak Favorability | | | | |
| Favorable | 43% | 78% | 55% | 11% |
| Unfavorable | 39% | 13% | 26% | 66% |
| Not sure | 19% | 9% | 19% | 23% |





Crosstabs

| | Base | Ideology | | |
|----------------------------|------|----------|----------|--------------|
| | | Liberal | Moderate | Conservative |
| Toomey Favorability | | | | |
| Favorable | 41% | 11% | 29% | 70% |
| Unfavorable | 41% | 76% | 54% | 10% |
| Not sure | 18% | 14% | 17% | 20% |

| | Base | Ideology | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------|----------|--------------|
| | | Liberal | Moderate | Conservative |
| Obama Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 43% | 87% | 53% | 9% |
| Disapprove | 51% | 9% | 38% | 88% |
| Not sure | 6% | 4% | 9% | 3% |

| | Base | Ideology | | |
|-------------------------|------|----------|----------|--------------|
| | | Liberal | Moderate | Conservative |
| Specter Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 32% | 54% | 44% | 8% |
| Disapprove | 57% | 34% | 44% | 83% |
| Not sure | 11% | 13% | 12% | 9% |

| | Base | Ideology | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------|----------|--------------|
| | | Liberal | Moderate | Conservative |
| Casey Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 40% | 67% | 48% | 18% |
| Disapprove | 37% | 12% | 29% | 58% |
| Not sure | 23% | 21% | 23% | 24% |





Crosstabs

| | Base | Gender | |
|----------------------|------|--------|-----|
| | | Woman | Man |
| Sestak/Toomey | | | |
| Joe Sestak | 46% | 49% | 42% |
| Pat Toomey | 45% | 41% | 50% |
| Undecided | 9% | 10% | 8% |

| | Base | Gender | |
|----------------------------|------|--------|-----|
| | | Woman | Man |
| Sestak Favorability | | | |
| Favorable | 43% | 44% | 41% |
| Unfavorable | 39% | 34% | 43% |
| Not sure | 19% | 21% | 16% |

| | Base | Gender | |
|----------------------------|------|--------|-----|
| | | Woman | Man |
| Toomey Favorability | | | |
| Favorable | 41% | 36% | 46% |
| Unfavorable | 41% | 43% | 40% |
| Not sure | 18% | 21% | 14% |

| | Base | Gender | |
|-----------------------|------|--------|-----|
| | | Woman | Man |
| Obama Approval | | | |
| Approve | 43% | 47% | 40% |
| Disapprove | 51% | 46% | 57% |
| Not sure | 6% | 8% | 3% |





Crosstabs

| | Base | Gender | |
|-------------------------|------|--------|-----|
| | | Woman | Man |
| Specter Approval | | | |
| Approve | 32% | 33% | 32% |
| Disapprove | 57% | 52% | 61% |
| Not sure | 11% | 15% | 7% |

| | Base | Gender | |
|-----------------------|------|--------|-----|
| | | Woman | Man |
| Casey Approval | | | |
| Approve | 40% | 42% | 38% |
| Disapprove | 37% | 29% | 44% |
| Not sure | 23% | 29% | 17% |

| | Base | Party | | |
|----------------------|------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| | | Democrat | Republican | Independent/Other |
| Sestak/Toomey | | | | |
| Joe Sestak | 46% | 77% | 8% | 48% |
| Pat Toomey | 45% | 14% | 82% | 49% |
| Undecided | 9% | 10% | 10% | 3% |

| | Base | Party | | |
|----------------------------|------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| | | Democrat | Republican | Independent/Other |
| Sestak Favorability | | | | |
| Favorable | 43% | 70% | 11% | 45% |
| Unfavorable | 39% | 14% | 67% | 39% |
| Not sure | 19% | 16% | 22% | 16% |





Crosstabs

| | Base | Party | | |
|----------------------------|------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| | | Democrat | Republican | Independent/Other |
| Toomey Favorability | | | | |
| Favorable | 41% | 15% | 71% | 42% |
| Unfavorable | 41% | 67% | 11% | 45% |
| Not sure | 18% | 18% | 18% | 13% |

| | Base | Party | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| | | Democrat | Republican | Independent/Other |
| Obama Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 43% | 73% | 8% | 45% |
| Disapprove | 51% | 17% | 90% | 55% |
| Not sure | 6% | 9% | 3% | - |

| | Base | Party | | |
|-------------------------|------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| | | Democrat | Republican | Independent/Other |
| Specter Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 32% | 53% | 11% | 26% |
| Disapprove | 57% | 31% | 83% | 67% |
| Not sure | 11% | 16% | 6% | 8% |

| | Base | Party | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| | | Democrat | Republican | Independent/Other |
| Casey Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 40% | 60% | 18% | 36% |
| Disapprove | 37% | 17% | 58% | 41% |
| Not sure | 23% | 22% | 24% | 23% |





Crosstabs

| | Base | Race | | |
|----------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | White | African-American | Other |
| Sestak/Toomey | | | | |
| Joe Sestak | 46% | 42% | 78% | 54% |
| Pat Toomey | 45% | 49% | 19% | 30% |
| Undecided | 9% | 9% | 3% | 16% |

| | Base | Race | | |
|----------------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | White | African-American | Other |
| Sestak Favorability | | | | |
| Favorable | 43% | 40% | 66% | 51% |
| Unfavorable | 39% | 41% | 15% | 29% |
| Not sure | 19% | 19% | 19% | 20% |

| | Base | Race | | |
|----------------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | White | African-American | Other |
| Toomey Favorability | | | | |
| Favorable | 41% | 44% | 19% | 35% |
| Unfavorable | 41% | 39% | 59% | 49% |
| Not sure | 18% | 17% | 23% | 16% |

| | Base | Race | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | White | African-American | Other |
| Obama Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 43% | 39% | 78% | 56% |
| Disapprove | 51% | 55% | 19% | 41% |
| Not sure | 6% | 6% | 3% | 3% |





Crosstabs

| | Base | Race | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | White | African-American | Other |
| Specter Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 32% | 28% | 64% | 48% |
| Disapprove | 57% | 61% | 20% | 44% |
| Not sure | 11% | 11% | 16% | 8% |

| | Base | Race | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | White | African-American | Other |
| Casey Approval | | | | |
| Approve | 40% | 38% | 66% | 39% |
| Disapprove | 37% | 39% | 17% | 23% |
| Not sure | 23% | 23% | 16% | 38% |

| | Base | Age | | | |
|----------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| | | 18 to 29 | 30 to 45 | 46 to 65 | Older than 65 |
| Sestak/Toomey | | | | | |
| Joe Sestak | 46% | 44% | 39% | 48% | 47% |
| Pat Toomey | 45% | 38% | 53% | 45% | 42% |
| Undecided | 9% | 19% | 8% | 7% | 11% |

| | Base | Age | | | |
|----------------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| | | 18 to 29 | 30 to 45 | 46 to 65 | Older than 65 |
| Sestak Favorability | | | | | |
| Favorable | 43% | 41% | 41% | 44% | 42% |
| Unfavorable | 39% | 35% | 39% | 39% | 38% |
| Not sure | 19% | 24% | 20% | 17% | 20% |





Crosstabs

| | Base | Age | | | |
|----------------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| | | 18 to 29 | 30 to 45 | 46 to 65 | Older than 65 |
| Toomey Favorability | | | | | |
| Favorable | 41% | 31% | 46% | 41% | 39% |
| Unfavorable | 41% | 44% | 37% | 44% | 41% |
| Not sure | 18% | 25% | 17% | 15% | 20% |

| | Base | Age | | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| | | 18 to 29 | 30 to 45 | 46 to 65 | Older than 65 |
| Obama Approval | | | | | |
| Approve | 43% | 63% | 39% | 43% | 43% |
| Disapprove | 51% | 38% | 56% | 51% | 50% |
| Not sure | 6% | - | 5% | 6% | 7% |

| | Base | Age | | | |
|-------------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| | | 18 to 29 | 30 to 45 | 46 to 65 | Older than 65 |
| Specter Approval | | | | | |
| Approve | 32% | 53% | 30% | 31% | 31% |
| Disapprove | 57% | 29% | 63% | 56% | 59% |
| Not sure | 11% | 18% | 7% | 12% | 10% |

| | Base | Age | | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| | | 18 to 29 | 30 to 45 | 46 to 65 | Older than 65 |
| Casey Approval | | | | | |
| Approve | 40% | 50% | 26% | 42% | 46% |
| Disapprove | 37% | 19% | 51% | 36% | 32% |
| Not sure | 23% | 31% | 23% | 23% | 22% |

