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Bob Casey has double-digit leads over GOP field

Raleigh, N.C. – 40% of Pennsylvanians approve of Sen. Bob Casey’s job performance, and 34% disapprove. These are not overwhelming numbers: 46 out of the 86 other senators on which PPP has polled have constituents who are more positive toward them. But Casey is certainly held in higher esteem than the president in this state, and only one of his Senate colleagues who have competitive re-election races next fall have constituents who give them a bigger thumb’s up. Because of Casey’s relative strength, no heavyweights have so far joined the crowded GOP primary race to oppose him, and he is close to the 50% mark against all of the candidates who have.

Casey tops primary leader Sam Rohrer by 11 points (47-36), Steve Welch by 14 (47-33), Tim Burns by 15 (49-34), and Tom Smith by 16 (48-32). Like President Obama, Casey has some weakness with his own party, losing 8-12% of their vote. But he wins 14-17% of the GOP vote, and loses independents only to Rohrer, and by just two points.

One could certainly chalk up Casey’s leads to the anonymity of his announced opponents. Only 17-29% of voters are familiar enough with the four to determine whether they have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of them. But even if Rohrer were to win all the remaining undecided Republicans and independents, he would still have to earn 19% of the Democratic vote to win.

Plus, the man Casey beat five years ago, current presidential contender Rick Santorum, would fall by ten points himself (49-39) if he were to switch races. Santorum is better-known than even Casey; only 16% have no opinion on him personally, versus 26% on Casey.

“Bob Casey is probably going to have a tougher race than he did in the Democratic wave year of 2006,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But he’s still in a pretty solid position for reelection.”

PPP surveyed 500 Pennsylvania voters from November 17th to 20th. 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. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Pennsylvania Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Bob Casey's job performance?

Approve40% Not sure26%
Disapprove.....34%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tim Burns?

Favorable..... 7%
Unfavorable 19%
Not sure74%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sam Rohrer?

Favorable..... 11%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure71%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tom Smith?

Favorable..... 4%
Unfavorable 14%
Not sure82%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve Welch?

Favorable..... 4%
Unfavorable 13%
Not sure84%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Santorum?

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure16%

Q7 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Bob Casey and Republican Tim Burns, who would you vote for?

Bob Casey 49%
Tim Burns 34%
Undecided..... 17%

Q8 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Bob Casey and Republican Sam Rohrer, who would you vote for?

Bob Casey 47%
Sam Rohrer 36%
Undecided..... 16%

Q9 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Bob Casey and Republican Tom Smith, who would you vote for?

Bob Casey 48%
Tom Smith..... 32%
Undecided..... 20%

Q10 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Bob Casey and Republican Steve Welch, who would you vote for?

Bob Casey 47%
Steve Welch..... 33%
Undecided..... 20%

Q11 If the candidates for Senate next year were Democrat Bob Casey and Republican Rick Santorum, who would you vote for?

Bob Casey 49%
Rick Santorum 39%
Undecided..... 11%





Q12 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	11%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	18%
<i>Moderate</i>	26%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	28%
<i>Very conservative</i>	18%

Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	52%
<i>Man</i>	48%

Q14 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	49%
<i>Republican</i>	41%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	9%

Q15 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	84%
<i>African-American</i>	12%
<i>Other</i>	4%

Q16 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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	16%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	40%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Casey Approval						
Approve	40%	51%	65%	54%	24%	16%
Disapprove	34%	17%	18%	26%	42%	60%
Not sure	26%	32%	17%	21%	34%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Burns Favorability						
Favorable	7%	9%	6%	4%	7%	11%
Unfavorable	19%	25%	22%	24%	10%	16%
Not sure	74%	66%	72%	72%	82%	73%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Rohrer Favorability						
Favorable	11%	7%	3%	5%	14%	26%
Unfavorable	18%	19%	28%	21%	10%	14%
Not sure	71%	74%	68%	74%	76%	60%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Smith Favorability						
Favorable	4%	7%	1%	3%	2%	7%
Unfavorable	14%	13%	21%	15%	10%	16%
Not sure	82%	80%	79%	82%	88%	77%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Welch Favorability						
Favorable	4%	4%	5%	4%	1%	7%
Unfavorable	13%	14%	19%	12%	9%	11%
Not sure	84%	83%	76%	84%	89%	82%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Santorum Favorability						
Favorable	31%	21%	12%	13%	46%	58%
Unfavorable	53%	64%	74%	72%	31%	32%
Not sure	16%	15%	14%	15%	23%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Casey/Burns						
Bob Casey	49%	71%	72%	69%	28%	13%
Tim Burns	34%	12%	16%	13%	53%	67%
Undecided	17%	17%	12%	18%	19%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Casey/Rohrer						
Bob Casey	47%	72%	72%	67%	26%	13%
Sam Rohrer	36%	19%	13%	14%	56%	72%
Undecided	16%	9%	15%	19%	19%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Casey/Smith						
Bob Casey	48%	73%	77%	68%	25%	10%
Tom Smith	32%	15%	11%	13%	49%	64%
Undecided	20%	13%	13%	19%	26%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Casey/Welch						
Bob Casey	47%	72%	75%	67%	24%	11%
Steve Welch	33%	16%	8%	15%	52%	63%
Undecided	20%	13%	16%	18%	23%	26%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Casey/Santorum						
Bob Casey	49%	79%	77%	73%	22%	12%
Rick Santorum	39%	11%	16%	14%	67%	75%
Undecided	11%	10%	8%	13%	11%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Casey Approval			
Approve	40%	45%	36%
Disapprove	34%	25%	43%
Not sure	26%	30%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Burns Favorability			
Favorable	7%	5%	9%
Unfavorable	19%	16%	21%
Not sure	74%	78%	70%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rohrer Favorability			
Favorable	11%	7%	15%
Unfavorable	18%	17%	19%
Not sure	71%	75%	66%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Smith Favorability			
Favorable	4%	1%	6%
Unfavorable	14%	14%	15%
Not sure	82%	84%	79%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Welch Favorability			
Favorable	4%	3%	5%
Unfavorable	13%	12%	13%
Not sure	84%	85%	82%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	31%	28%	34%
Unfavorable	53%	51%	55%
Not sure	16%	21%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Casey/Burns			
Bob Casey	49%	55%	42%
Tim Burns	34%	27%	42%
Undecided	17%	19%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Casey/Rohrer			
Bob Casey	47%	52%	42%
Sam Rohrer	36%	29%	44%
Undecided	16%	19%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Casey/Smith			
Bob Casey	48%	54%	42%
Tom Smith	32%	24%	41%
Undecided	20%	23%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Casey/Welch			
Bob Casey	47%	53%	42%
Steve Welch	33%	26%	40%
Undecided	20%	22%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Casey/Santorum			
Bob Casey	49%	56%	43%
Rick Santorum	39%	32%	47%
Undecided	11%	12%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Casey Approval				
Approve	40%	55%	23%	40%
Disapprove	34%	23%	46%	36%
Not sure	26%	22%	31%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Burns Favorability				
Favorable	7%	7%	8%	2%
Unfavorable	19%	23%	12%	28%
Not sure	74%	70%	80%	70%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rohrer Favorability				
Favorable	11%	6%	16%	17%
Unfavorable	18%	23%	11%	22%
Not sure	71%	72%	73%	61%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Smith Favorability				
Favorable	4%	3%	4%	2%
Unfavorable	14%	19%	8%	20%
Not sure	82%	78%	88%	78%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Welch Favorability				
Favorable	4%	5%	3%	1%
Unfavorable	13%	15%	7%	24%
Not sure	84%	79%	91%	75%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	31%	15%	50%	31%
Unfavorable	53%	69%	33%	55%
Not sure	16%	16%	17%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Casey/Burns				
Bob Casey	49%	78%	17%	31%
Tim Burns	34%	11%	63%	24%
Undecided	17%	10%	19%	45%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Casey/Rohrer				
Bob Casey	47%	77%	16%	31%
Sam Rohrer	36%	12%	66%	33%
Undecided	16%	11%	18%	36%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Casey/Smith				
Bob Casey	48%	79%	15%	31%
Tom Smith	32%	9%	60%	27%
Undecided	20%	12%	25%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Casey/Welch				
Bob Casey	47%	79%	14%	31%
Steve Welch	33%	8%	63%	28%
Undecided	20%	13%	23%	41%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Casey/Santorum				
Bob Casey	49%	80%	16%	40%
Rick Santorum	39%	13%	71%	38%
Undecided	11%	8%	13%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Casey Approval				
Approve	40%	40%	45%	36%
Disapprove	34%	36%	22%	18%
Not sure	26%	23%	33%	47%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Burns Favorability				
Favorable	7%	6%	13%	4%
Unfavorable	19%	17%	26%	37%
Not sure	74%	77%	61%	59%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Rohrer Favorability				
Favorable	11%	11%	9%	11%
Unfavorable	18%	15%	30%	35%
Not sure	71%	73%	62%	54%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Smith Favorability				
Favorable	4%	3%	5%	9%
Unfavorable	14%	12%	28%	23%
Not sure	82%	85%	68%	68%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Welch Favorability				
Favorable	4%	2%	13%	11%
Unfavorable	13%	10%	19%	35%
Not sure	84%	87%	68%	54%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	31%	34%	15%	14%
Unfavorable	53%	52%	64%	40%
Not sure	16%	14%	22%	47%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Casey/Burns				
Bob Casey	49%	45%	73%	41%
Tim Burns	34%	37%	14%	28%
Undecided	17%	17%	14%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Casey/Rohrer				
Bob Casey	47%	45%	68%	42%
Sam Rohrer	36%	40%	14%	27%
Undecided	16%	15%	18%	30%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Casey/Smith				
Bob Casey	48%	44%	75%	38%
Tom Smith	32%	35%	9%	29%
Undecided	20%	20%	16%	33%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Casey/Welch				
Bob Casey	47%	44%	72%	40%
Steve Welch	33%	36%	9%	25%
Undecided	20%	19%	19%	36%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Casey/Santorum				
Bob Casey	49%	45%	82%	36%
Rick Santorum	39%	44%	9%	37%
Undecided	11%	11%	9%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Casey Approval					
Approve	40%	35%	33%	47%	41%
Disapprove	34%	33%	33%	34%	36%
Not sure	26%	33%	33%	19%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Burns Favorability					
Favorable	7%	10%	4%	8%	5%
Unfavorable	19%	28%	16%	19%	15%
Not sure	74%	63%	80%	73%	80%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rohrer Favorability					
Favorable	11%	10%	14%	11%	9%
Unfavorable	18%	28%	16%	19%	10%
Not sure	71%	63%	71%	70%	81%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Smith Favorability					
Favorable	4%	5%	-	4%	5%
Unfavorable	14%	25%	14%	13%	10%
Not sure	82%	70%	86%	83%	85%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Welch Favorability					
Favorable	4%	5%	2%	4%	5%
Unfavorable	13%	23%	10%	12%	9%
Not sure	84%	73%	88%	85%	85%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	31%	30%	20%	34%	40%
Unfavorable	53%	57%	53%	55%	45%
Not sure	16%	13%	27%	12%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Casey/Burns					
Bob Casey	49%	57%	53%	47%	39%
Tim Burns	34%	23%	31%	36%	42%
Undecided	17%	20%	16%	17%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Casey/Rohrer					
Bob Casey	47%	53%	49%	48%	40%
Sam Rohrer	36%	30%	37%	37%	39%
Undecided	16%	18%	14%	15%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Casey/Smith					
Bob Casey	48%	55%	51%	48%	39%
Tom Smith	32%	25%	31%	33%	36%
Undecided	20%	20%	18%	19%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Casey/Welch					
Bob Casey	47%	57%	49%	46%	39%
Steve Welch	33%	23%	33%	34%	37%
Undecided	20%	20%	18%	19%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Casey/Santorum					
Bob Casey	49%	57%	51%	50%	39%
Rick Santorum	39%	28%	37%	40%	50%
Undecided	11%	15%	12%	9%	11%

