

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 17, 2010**

**INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Toomey Takes Large Lead Over Sestak**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – In PPP’s previous survey of the Pennsylvania Senate race in June, Republican Pat Toomey and Democrat Joe Sestak were dead even at 41% among occasional voters. In the first survey using its likely-voter model, however, PPP now finds Toomey jumping out to a 9-point lead, 45-36, with 20% still undecided.

The likely 2010 electorate reports voting for John McCain by 1 point over Barack Obama, as opposed to Obama’s actual 10-point victory. But that does not explain the difference between this poll and the June results, which also showed a one-point McCain advantage. This electorate is simply more conservative, and there are more Republicans and fewer Democrats than in the overall registered electorate. Those Democrats who do intend to vote are less favorable toward Obama, and more of them remain undecided in the horse race than before. In an electorate with a 50-42 Democratic identification edge, Sestak maintained parity with Toomey by getting almost as much of his party’s support as Toomey pulled of his, despite a 41-21 Toomey advantage with the small set of independents. But with only a two-point Democratic advantage, Sestak gets only 64% of Democrats to Toomey’s 74% of Republicans, and Toomey’s support among unaffiliateds is now a majority, 50-23. Sestak also now has a net-negative favorability rating by 10 points, after breaking even in June, while Toomey keeps a barely positive mark.

Arlen Specter, a recently converted Democrat but longtime Republican, may not have as clear a drag on Sestak’s chances as other unpopular retiring incumbents do on their party’s nominees, and Sestak did separate himself from Specter in a nasty primary challenge. But Specter is one of the least popular senators PPP has polled on in 2010.

“This race is suddenly looking less a toss-up than previously, and while Democrats have a large registration advantage, they are simply looking less inclined to vote than are Republicans, and the state’s poor economy is surely having an effect on the incumbent party,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 585 likely Pennsylvania voters from August 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.1%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.



## Pennsylvania Survey Results

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

*Approve* ..... 40%  
*Disapprove*..... 55%  
*Not sure*..... 5%

**Q2** Do you support or oppose President Obama's health care plan, or do you not have an opinion?

*Support*..... 39%  
*Oppose*..... 54%  
*No opinion*..... 7%

**Q3** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Arlen Specter's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 27%  
*Disapprove*..... 57%  
*Not sure* ..... 16%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Joe Sestak?

*Favorable*..... 28%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 38%  
*Not sure* ..... 34%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Pat Toomey?

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

**Q6** 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*..... 36%  
*Pat Toomey* ..... 45%  
*Undecided*..... 20%

**Q7** Who did you vote for President in 2008?

*John McCain*..... 47%  
*Barack Obama*..... 46%  
*Someone else/Don't remember* ..... 6%

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

*Liberal*..... 16%  
*Moderate*..... 39%  
*Conservative*..... 44%

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

*Woman* ..... 54%  
*Man*..... 46%

**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*..... 46%  
*Republican*..... 44%  
*Independent/Other*..... 9%

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

*White* ..... 85%  
*African-American* ..... 12%  
*Other*..... 3%

**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*..... 9%  
*30 to 45*..... 22%  
*46 to 65*..... 44%  
*Older than 65*..... 24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	40%	4%	78%	26%
<b>Disapprove</b>	55%	93%	15%	63%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	3%	7%	12%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	39%	3%	78%	20%
<b>Oppose</b>	54%	93%	13%	62%
<b>No opinion</b>	7%	4%	9%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Specter Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	27%	6%	49%	18%
<b>Disapprove</b>	57%	86%	28%	58%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	9%	22%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Sestak Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	9%	49%	16%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	38%	56%	18%	46%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	35%	33%	37%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Toomey Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	36%	59%	14%	28%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	33%	10%	56%	28%
<b>Not sure</b>	31%	31%	30%	44%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Sestak/Toomey</b>				
<b>Joe Sestak</b>	36%	7%	68%	15%
<b>Pat Toomey</b>	45%	78%	10%	46%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	15%	22%	38%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	40%	84%	52%	12%
<b>Disapprove</b>	55%	14%	40%	84%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	2%	8%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	39%	81%	53%	11%
<b>Oppose</b>	54%	10%	38%	84%
<b>No opinion</b>	7%	8%	9%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Specter Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	27%	55%	35%	8%
<b>Disapprove</b>	57%	35%	42%	80%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	10%	23%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Sestak Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	65%	33%	10%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	38%	17%	28%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	19%	39%	36%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Toomey Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	36%	10%	23%	57%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	33%	62%	42%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	31%	28%	34%	30%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Sestak/Toomey</b>				
<b>Joe Sestak</b>	36%	75%	51%	8%
<b>Pat Toomey</b>	45%	10%	25%	75%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	15%	25%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	40%	42%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	55%	51%	60%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	7%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Health Care</b>			
<b>Support</b>	39%	42%	35%
<b>Oppose</b>	54%	50%	58%
<b>No opinion</b>	7%	7%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Specter Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	27%	28%	26%
<b>Disapprove</b>	57%	52%	63%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	20%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Sestak Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	26%	30%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	38%	35%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	38%	29%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Toomey Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	36%	29%	44%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	33%	34%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	31%	37%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Sestak/Toomey</b>			
<b>Joe Sestak</b>	36%	35%	37%
<b>Pat Toomey</b>	45%	40%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	25%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	40%	68%	11%	32%
<b>Disapprove</b>	55%	25%	85%	63%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	7%	4%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	39%	69%	9%	32%
<b>Oppose</b>	54%	22%	85%	63%
<b>No opinion</b>	7%	10%	5%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Specter Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	27%	47%	8%	15%
<b>Disapprove</b>	57%	34%	81%	63%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	19%	11%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Sestak Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	47%	9%	21%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	38%	22%	54%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	31%	37%	38%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Toomey Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	36%	19%	54%	37%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	33%	50%	15%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	31%	31%	32%	32%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Sestak/Toomey</b>				
<b>Joe Sestak</b>	36%	64%	9%	23%
<b>Pat Toomey</b>	45%	15%	74%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	21%	17%	27%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	40%	33%	80%	66%
<b>Disapprove</b>	55%	61%	20%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	6%	-	5%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Health Care</b>				
<b>Support</b>	39%	33%	80%	56%
<b>Oppose</b>	54%	60%	16%	32%
<b>No opinion</b>	7%	8%	4%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Specter Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	27%	23%	48%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	57%	61%	36%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	16%	16%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Sestak Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	25%	40%	51%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	38%	40%	28%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	35%	32%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Toomey Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	36%	39%	16%	20%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	33%	29%	56%	46%
<b>Not sure</b>	31%	32%	28%	34%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Sestak/Toomey</b>				
<b>Joe Sestak</b>	36%	31%	64%	51%
<b>Pat Toomey</b>	45%	50%	12%	22%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	19%	24%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	40%	47%	37%	41%	37%
<b>Disapprove</b>	55%	47%	58%	54%	57%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	7%	5%	5%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Health Care</b>					
<b>Support</b>	39%	47%	34%	42%	35%
<b>Oppose</b>	54%	45%	62%	50%	56%
<b>No opinion</b>	7%	9%	4%	8%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Specter Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	27%	26%	26%	29%	24%
<b>Disapprove</b>	57%	59%	61%	55%	58%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	15%	13%	16%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Sestak Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	30%	27%	28%	28%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	38%	38%	37%	37%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	33%	36%	36%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Toomey Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	36%	34%	35%	37%	37%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	33%	32%	34%	31%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	31%	34%	31%	32%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Sestak/Toomey</b>					
<b>Joe Sestak</b>	36%	33%	35%	36%	38%
<b>Pat Toomey</b>	45%	38%	44%	45%	46%
<b>Undecided</b>	20%	29%	21%	19%	16%

