

PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE

May 25-26, 2010
Project: #10384

N=500 Likely Voters
Margin of Error = $\pm 4.38\%$

D. How likely would you say you are to vote in the November elections for Governor, U.S. Senate, Congress and other state and local offices? Are you ...

88% VERY LIKELY
12% SOMEWHAT LIKELY

1. Now, generally speaking, would you say that things in Pennsylvania are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off the wrong track?

24% RIGHT DIRECTION
63% WRONG TRACK

13% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with 100 meaning a VERY WARM or FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD or UNFAVORABLE feeling; and 50 meaning not particularly warm or cold. Of course, you can use any number from zero to one hundred, the higher the number, the more favorable your feelings are toward that person or organization. If you have no opinion or never heard of that person or organization, please say so.

	51-100	50	0-49	
	Warm	Neutral	Cool	Mean
Ranked by Mean Score				
5.	Sandra Day O'Connor			
	48%	21%	17%	61.6
3.	Tom Ridge			
	50%	21%	22%	58.4
4.	Dick Thornburgh			
	35%	21%	16%	56.2
8.	Joe Sestak			
	37%	22%	23%	54.7
6.	Tom Corbett			
	35%	23%	18%	54.7
9.	Pat Toomey			
	30%	19%	24%	52.3
7.	Dan Onorato			
	27%	22%	23%	50.8
2.	Ed Rendell			
	39%	13%	44%	46.5
10.	The Tea Party Movement			
	33%	13%	37%	45.9
11.	Ron Castille			
	9%	12%	12%	43.4

And, generally speaking...

12. Do you APPROVE or DISAPPROVE of the job the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is doing?

6% STRONGLY APPROVE
42% SOMEWHAT APPROVE
16% SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE
9% STRONGLY DISAPPROVE

25% DON'T KNOW
2% REFUSED

48% TOTAL APPROVE
25% TOTAL DISAPPROVE

13. Now, from what you know, are Supreme Court and other statewide judges usually selected by the governor, are they elected by voters in partisan statewide elections, or are you unsure?

13% SELECTED BY THE GOVERNOR
42% ELECTED BY VOTERS

44% UNSURE/DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

14. (As you know, / Actually,) Supreme Court justices and other statewide judges are elected by voters in partisan statewide elections. Thinking back to the last partisan elections for judges in Pennsylvania, how much information would you say you had about the statewide judge candidates in those elections?

3% A GREAT DEAL
26% SOME
51% NOT VERY MUCH
18% NONE AT ALL

1% DON'T KNOW

30% TOTAL GREAT DEAL/SOME
69% TOTAL NOT MUCH/NONE

15. And do you believe that the system of selecting judges in statewide elections is working well, or do you believe it is broken and needs fixing?

36% WORKING WELL
53% BROKEN AND NEEDS FIXING

11% DON'T KNOW
1% REFUSED

16. Now, as you may know, the Pennsylvania legislature is considering legislation to replace the current system of electing statewide judges in favor of a judicial merit selection system where an independent, broad-based committee of citizens recommends judicial candidates based on experience and qualifications.

The Governor would then nominate statewide judges from a list of candidates submitted by the committee and they would be confirmed by the State Senate.

After an initial four-year term, the public would vote in a yes/no retention election on whether that judge should remain on the bench for a full ten-year term.

Would you favor or oppose replacing the current system of electing judges with this merit selection approach?

31% STRONGLY FAVOR
31% SOMEWHAT FAVOR
11% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
24% STRONGLY OPPOSE

3% DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

62% TOTAL FAVOR
35% TOTAL OPPOSE

Q17 ASKED IF FAVOR/OPPOSE

17. And, what are the main reasons why you say you would (favor/oppose) replacing the current system of electing judges with this merit selection approach?

SEE VERBATIM RESPONSES

Now, I'm going to read you a list of words and phrases some people use to describe judges in Pennsylvania courts. For each word or phrase, please tell me whether it describes Pennsylvania judges very well, somewhat well, not very well or not well at all.

	TOTAL WELL	TOTAL NOT WELL	VERY WELL	SMWT WELL	NOT VERY	NOT AT ALL	DK	REF
<i>Ranked by d/s Describes Well - Describes Not Well</i>								
20. Qualified	79%	13%	27%	51%	9%	4%	8%	*
19. Fair	73%	17%	19%	55%	12%	5%	9%	*
21. Beholden to special interests	64%	23%	22%	42%	18%	5%	12%	1%
22. Impartial	63%	27%	16%	48%	19%	8%	8%	1%
23. Tend to rule in favor of campaign contributors	57%	23%	27%	31%	17%	6%	19%	1%
24. Swayed by public opinion	49%	42%	14%	35%	29%	13%	9%	*
18. Corrupt	44%	45%	13%	31%	30%	15%	11%	*

25. And, generally speaking, do you believe the most qualified person usually wins judicial elections or not?

21% YES, MOST QUALIFIED USUALLY WINS
73% NO, MOST QUALIFIED DOES NOT USUALLY WIN
7% DON'T KNOW

26. And, how much of a problem do you believe corruption is among the state's statewide judges? Is it...

17% VERY SERIOUS
44% SOMEWHAT SERIOUS
27% NOT VERY SERIOUS
5% NOT AT ALL SERIOUS
7% DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

61% TOTAL SERIOUS
32% TOTAL NOT SERIOUS

Y1. And, how much influence do you think campaign contributions made to judges have on their decisions?

35% A GREAT DEAL
40% SOME
19% JUST A LITTLE
4% NONE AT ALL
1% DON'T KNOW

76% TOTAL GREAT DEAL/SOME
23% TOTAL LITTLE/NONE

Now, I'd like to read you some brief arguments made by those who SUPPORT changing the current system of electing statewide judges in partisan elections, and please tell me whether you find each one to be a very convincing, somewhat convincing or not very convincing argument. The (first/next) one is...

TOTAL CONV	VERY CONV	SMWT CONV	NOT VERY CONV	DK	REF
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Ranked by % Very Convincing

- | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---|
| 30. Too many qualified people are discouraged from running for judge because of the cost of running a political campaign. This new system of selecting judges will bring more qualified people into the judicial system from various backgrounds across the state. | 80% | 46% | 35% | 18% | 1% | * |
| 33. Pennsylvania's voters will play a key role in the merit selection of statewide judges; after four years in office each judge will stand for a retention election where they can be retained or kicked out of office. Voters, not politicians, have the final say. | 77% | 42% | 35% | 22% | 1% | — |
| 27. Under this new system judges will be chosen based on their qualifications, not based on their political party or on the support of special interest groups that may later appear before the judge. | 72% | 42% | 29% | 27% | 1% | * |
| 31. With recent news stories across the state about Pennsylvania judges caught taking bribes and kickbacks and engaging in illegal campaign activities, we need to change the system of selecting judges. Merit selection and retention elections will make it easier to get judges of the highest integrity. | 77% | 39% | 39% | 22% | 1% | * |
| 28. Currently, more than sixty percent of cases before the PA Supreme Court involve a lawyer, law firm or party who contributed to the election campaign of at least one justice deciding the case. Merit Selection will take money out of the courtroom because judges won't have to run political campaigns and raise money from lawyers and special interest groups who appear before them. | 79% | 38% | 41% | 20% | 1% | * |
| 32. Governors Tom Ridge, Ed Rendell, and Dick Thornburgh all support the merit selection of judges and believe it will improve the quality of the judges in the state and help take politics out of the judicial election process. | 68% | 28% | 40% | 31% | 1% | — |
| 29. Because the judges selected will all have been recommended by an independent broad-based committee of citizens, it ensures that judges are qualified. | 70% | 27% | 43% | 29% | 1% | — |
-

Now, I'd like to read you some brief arguments made by those who OPPOSE changing the current system of electing statewide judges in partisan elections, and please tell me whether you find each one to be a very convincing, somewhat convincing or not very convincing argument.

TOTAL CONV	VERY CONV	SMWT CONV	NOT VERY CONV	DK	REF
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Ranked by % Very Convincing

37. This is an effort to take away our right to vote for appellate court judges, and put the choice of judges in the hands of politicians and other lawyers. They say we can kick them out after four years, but Pennsylvanians should be allowed a choice between two candidates instead of just one.

69%	38%	31%	30%	1%	–
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36. This new approach is simply replacing one type of politics with another; as long as the Governor gets the final say on who gets selected judge, politics is still a major part of this process. This proposed approach could make the selection of judges even more political than it is now.

75%	33%	42%	23%	1%	–
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38. This approach is an insult to the voters of the state. The supporters are basically saying that they don't trust voters to make the right decision in selecting judges. This new approach should be rejected.

51%	29%	22%	47%	1%	–
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35. Instead of allowing voters to choose between two candidates for statewide judge, this new approach puts the power to select judges in the hands of politicians and trial attorneys.

57%	28%	28%	41%	2%	–
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39. Now that you've heard a little more about this issue... Do you favor or oppose replacing the current system of electing statewide judges with a merit selection system where an independent, broad-based committee of citizens recommends judicial candidates based on experience and qualifications to the Governor for nomination and Senate confirmation, and where after four years the public would vote in a yes/no retention election on whether each judge would remain on the bench for a full ten-year term?

Initial Informed

31%	35%	STRONGLY FAVOR
31%	30%	SOMEWHAT FAVOR
11%	9%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
24%	21%	STRONGLY OPPOSE

3%	4%	DON'T KNOW
-	*	REFUSED

62%	65%	TOTAL FAVOR
35%	30%	TOTAL OPPOSE

Support Messages Asked First

65%	65%	TOTAL FAVOR
31%	30%	TOTAL OPPOSE

Oppose Messages Asked First

59%	66%	TOTAL FAVOR
38%	30%	TOTAL OPPOSE

Now, on another topic, how much have you seen, read or heard about each of the following...

41. Recent reports that three justices on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court improperly disposed of excess campaign funds left over from their own campaigns? Have you seen, read or heard...

2%	A LOT
16%	SOME
26%	NOT VERY MUCH
55%	NOTHING

1%	DON'T KNOW
*	REFUSED

19%	TOTAL A LOT/SOME
81%	TOTAL NOT MUCH/NOTHING

42. What is called the "kids for cash" scandal involving two Luzerne County judges who were charged with federal fraud counts that involved the judges receiving \$2.6 million in exchange for sentencing children to private prisons? Have you seen, read or heard...

24% A LOT
19% SOME
15% NOT VERY MUCH
41% NOTHING

* DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

44% TOTAL A LOT/SOME
56% TOTAL NOT MUCH/NOTHING

43. Criminal charges brought against State Sen. Jane Orie and her sister Janine Orie, alleging that they illegally used Senator Orie's legislative office and other state resources to help their other sister win a Supreme Court seat in the Fall?

13% A LOT
24% SOME
17% NOT VERY MUCH
45% NOTHING

* DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

37% TOTAL A LOT/SOME
62% TOTAL NOT MUCH/NOTHING

44. Now, do these recent scandals in the Pennsylvania court system make you more likely to favor replacing the current system of electing statewide judges with a merit selection system, or doesn't it make any difference to you?

30% MUCH MORE LIKELY
25% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
4% LESS LIKELY

39% NO DIFFERENCE

2% DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

55% TOTAL MORE LIKELY
43% TOTAL LESS LIKELY/NO DIFFERENCE

- Y2. Finally, please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement.

The people of Pennsylvania deserve the right to vote on whether to change the way we select statewide appellate court judges.

76% STRONGLY AGREE
17% SOMEWHAT AGREE
2% SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
2% STRONGLY DISAGREE

2% DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

93% TOTAL AGREE
4% TOTAL DISAGREE

Now, I have just a few more questions for statistical purposes only...

E. In what year were you born?

2%	18 - 24
12%	25 - 34
21%	35 - 44
19%	45 - 54
25%	55 - 64
20%	65 AND ABOVE

* REFUSED

45. What is the last grade you completed in school?

*	SOME GRADE SCHOOL (1-8)
4%	SOME HIGH SCHOOL (9-11)
30%	GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL (12)
4%	TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL (12)
21%	SOME COLLEGE (13-15)
24%	GRADUATED COLLEGE (16)
15%	GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL (16 OR MORE)
*	REFUSED

35% HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS

25% SOME COLLEGE

40% COLLEGE+

46. Now, regardless of your present feelings about politics and current events, do the voter registration records currently show you to be registered as...

a Republican,
a Democrat,
or something else?

22%	STRONG REPUBLICAN
15%	NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN
2%	LEAN REPUBLICAN
4%	SOMETHING ELSE/INDEPENDENT/UNDECLARED
4%	LEAN DEMOCRAT
23%	NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT
28%	STRONG DEMOCRAT
2%	REFUSED
37%	TOTAL REPUBLICAN
51%	TOTAL DEMOCRAT
10%	TOTAL LEAN/INDEPENDENT

Thinking a little about your political attitudes...

47. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be conservative, moderate, or liberal on most issues?

19%	VERY CONSERVATIVE
21%	SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE
15%	LEAN CONSERVATIVE
6%	MODERATE
16%	LEAN LIBERAL
13%	SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
8%	VERY LIBERAL
2%	DON'T KNOW
1%	REFUSED
40%	TOTAL CONSERVATIVE
57%	TOTAL MODERATE/LIBERAL

48. And, do you support or oppose the goals and objectives of the Tea Party movement?

19%	STRONGLY SUPPORT
20%	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
13%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
21%	STRONGLY OPPOSE
25%	DON'T KNOW
1%	REFUSED
39%	TOTAL SUPPORT
35%	TOTAL OPPOSE

49. And thinking back to the presidential election in 2008...

Regardless of how you may feel today...for which of the following candidates did you vote for President...

Voted	Total	
43%	40%	John McCain
52%	48%	Barack Obama
1%	1%	Ralph Nader
	...OR...	
*	*	Bob Barr
4%	3%	SOMEONE ELSE
--	3%	DID NOT VOTE
--	1%	DON'T KNOW/DON'T RECALL
--	4%	REFUSED

50. Other than being an American, what is your main ethnic or racial heritage?

83%	CAUCASIAN OR WHITE
8%	AFRICAN-AMERICAN OR BLACK
1%	HISPANIC OR LATINO
1%	NATIVE AMERICAN
1%	ASIAN
2%	OTHER
3%	REFUSED

51. Gender. Are you employed outside of the home, are you a homemaker, or are you retired?

31%	MALE/EMPLOYED
*	MALE/HOMEMAKER
12%	MALE/RETIRED
4%	MALE/NOT IN LABOR FORCE
26%	FEMALE/EMPLOYED
7%	FEMALE/HOMEMAKER
16%	FEMALE/RETIRED
3%	FEMALE/NOT IN LABOR FORCE
*	MALE REFUSED
48%	TOTAL MALE
52%	TOTAL FEMALE
