

For release March 11, 2021

Franklin & Marshall College Poll: March 2021

Topline Report

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RightDir All in all, do you think things in Pennsylvania are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

	Headed in Right Direction	Off on the Wrong Track	Do not know
Mar 2021	36%	54%	10%
Oct 2020	43%	45%	12%
Jan 2020	51%	34%	15%
Oct 2019	57%	31%	12%
Mar 2019	49%	37%	15%
Oct 2018	51%	37%	11%
Mar 2018	46%	40%	15%
Sep 2017	37%	48%	16%
Feb 2017	35%	52%	13%
Mar 2016	24%	66%	10%
Oct 2015	26%	62%	12%
Mar 2015	39%	47%	15%
Oct 2014	28%	61%	11%
Jan 2014	25%	62%	13%
Oct 2013	25%	61%	13%
Aug 2012	31%	56%	13%
Jan 2012	38%	47%	15%
Oct 2011	38%	49%	13%
Mar 2011	37%	53%	10%
Oct 2010	27%	64%	9%
Mar 2010	32%	58%	10%

MIP PA. What do you think is the most important problem facing Pennsylvania today?

	Mar 2021	Oct 2020	Sep 2020	Aug 2020	Jul 2020	Jan 2020	Oct 2019	Jul 2019	Mar 2019	Oct 2018	Sep 2018	Aug 2018	Jun 2018	Mar 2018	Sep 2017
COVID-19	31%	27%	25%	31%	32%	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Government, politicians	27%	16%	15%	18%	13%	18%	12%	12%	9%	14%	14%	16%	13%	16%	30%
Unemployment, personal finances	6%	10%	14%	12%	7%	13%	9%	12%	6%	12%	9%	14%	5%	12%	9%
Economy, finances	5%	8%	10%	10%	5%	3%	2%	4%	9%	5%	6%	3%	9%	5%	7%
Taxes	5%	6%	3%	5%	5%	11%	16%	16%	14%	14%	12%	10%	12%	15%	11%
Education, school	5%	4%	3%	5%	6%	6%	11%	13%	12%	9%	11%	13%	7%	9%	11%
Roads, infrastructure, transportation	4%	3%	0%	2%	1%	5%	7%	3%	6%	5%	4%	5%	7%	3%	2%
Crime, drugs, violence, guns	1%	4%	3%	3%	3%	8%	10%	8%	9%	7%	6%	6%	8%	10%	6%
Healthcare, insurance	1%	3%	4%	2%	3%	8%	6%	7%	7%	8%	4%	3%	5%	2%	4%
Racism	1%	3%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Retaining, attracting businesses	1%	3%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Environment	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	6%	4%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Values, morals	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Housing and real estate	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Senior issues, social security	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Welfare	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Energy issues, gas prices	0%	2%	0%	%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	0%	3%
Social issues	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	3%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%	1%	6%	1%
Civil liberties	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Global events	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Justice system, Lawyers	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Immigration	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%
Personal illness, health problems	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bipartisanship	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%	1%	2%
Align with political views/platforms	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Population, urban sprawl	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Daycare	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Transportation, availability	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Population loss, movement out of state	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Other	5%	3%	6%	1%	12%	5%	2%	4%	4%	5%	4%	7%	3%	5%	2%
Do not know	3%	5%	7%	7%	7%	8%	11%	9%	10%	10%	14%	12%	14%	13%	5%

Legal_MJ. Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

	Yes	No	Do not know
Mar 2021	59%	33%	8%
Sep 2020	58%	35%	8%
Oct 2019	58%	36%	5%
Mar 2019	59%	34%	7%
Sep 2017	59%	31%	9%
May 2017	56%	37%	7%
Jun 2015	40%	54%	6%
Jun 2014	35%	57%	7%
Jan 2014	36%	58%	6%
May 2013	38%	54%	8%
Feb 2013	36%	55%	9%
May 2010	33%	60%	7%
May 2006	22%	72%	6%

MinWage. During his budget address, Governor Wolf proposed raising the state's minimum wage. Do you favor or oppose raising the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$12.00 per hour?

	Mar 2021	Mar 2019	Feb 2017
Strongly Favor	45%	47%	39%
Somewhat Favor	22%	22%	22%
Somewhat Oppose	15%	15%	15%
Strongly Oppose	18%	14%	22%
Do not know	1%	3%	2%

C1. Do you think the state of Pennsylvania should do more to address the problems associated with climate change, or not?

	Mar 2021	Mar 2019	Feb 2017
Yes, definitely	42%	56%	47%
Yes, probably	15%	12%	20%
No, probably not	15%	14%	14%
No, not at all	23%	17%	16%
Do not know	5%	2%	3%

C2. Do you think climate change is causing problems now, do you think the problems created by climate change will not happen until sometime in the future, or do you think climate change will never create any serious problems?

	Mar 2021	Mar 2019	Feb 2017
Causing problems now	54%	67%	62%
Problems will not happen until sometime in the future	16%	14%	17%
Will never create any serious problems	17%	13%	12%
Doesn't believe that climate change is happening (<i>accepted if volunteered</i>)	6%	4%	5%
Do not know	7%	3%	4%

C3. Have you personally experienced any problems that you think are related to climate change, or not? (*Respondents who believe climate change is happening.*)

	Mar 2021 n=551	Mar 2019 n=521	Feb 2017 n=402
Yes	33%	37%	39%
No	60%	58%	53%
Do not know	7%	6%	8%

V1. Have you received a vaccine shot for COVID-19?

Yes 31%
 No 67%

V2. If a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were to be available to you today, would you definitely get the vaccine, probably get the vaccine, probably not get the vaccine, or definitely not get the vaccine?

n=521

Definitely get the vaccine 48%
 Probably get the vaccine 16%
 Probably not get the vaccine 11%
 Definitely not get the vaccine 22%
 Do not know 3%

V3. How much confidence, if any, do you have that the research and development process has produced a vaccine for COVID-19 in the U.S. that is safe and effective? Do you have a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not much confidence, or no confidence at all?

A great deal of confidence	43%
A fair amount of confidence	35%
Not much confidence	11%
No confidence at all	9%
Do not know	1%

COVID. Do you think The Federal Government or The State Government should be mainly responsible for organizing a response to the COVID-19 outbreak?

The Federal Government	30%
The State Government	21%
Both are equally responsible	46%
Do not know	4%

FinToday. We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were a year ago?

	Better off	Worse off	About the same	Do not know
Mar 2021	11%	19%	69%	2%
Oct 2020	27%	13%	59%	1%
Jan 2020	33%	12%	54%	0%
Oct 2019	30%	18%	52%	0%
Mar 2019	32%	17%	52%	0%
Oct 2018	28%	11%	61%	0%
Sep 2018	31%	13%	56%	1%
Sep 2017	16%	13%	69%	2%
Feb 2017	21%	19%	60%	1%
Oct 2016	22%	24%	53%	1%
Sep 2016	23%	21%	56%	1%

FinFut. Now looking ahead, do you think that a year from now, you and your family will be better off financially than you are now, worse off, or about the same as you are now?

	Better off	Worse off	About the same	Do not know
Mar 2021	21%	17%	55%	8%
Oct 2020	25%	5%	53%	17%
Jan 2020	31%	6%	53%	10%
Oct 2019	31%	11%	51%	8%
Mar 2019	29%	11%	54%	7%
Oct 2018	27%	11%	56%	6%
Feb 2017	28%	15%	49%	8%
Oct 2016	25%	7%	49%	19%
Sep 2016	25%	7%	52%	16%

RightDirUS. All in all, do you think things in the United States are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

	Headed in Right Direction	Off on the Wrong Track	Do not know
Mar 2021	35%	60%	5%
Oct 2020	31%	62%	8%
Jan 2020	38%	58%	4%
Oct 2019	35%	59%	6%
Mar 2019	30%	65%	6%
Oct 2018	35%	61%	4%
Feb 2017	29%	66%	6%
Oct 2016	35%	58%	7%
Jul 2016	38%	57%	5%

REG. Some people are registered to vote, and many others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address?

Yes 100%
 No 1%

RegPARTY. Are you currently registered as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or as something else?

Republican 40%
 Democrat 46%
 Independent or something else 14%

Is your opinion of each of the following people favorable, unfavorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about them to have an opinion? (rotated)

	Strongly favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Strongly unfavorable	Undecided	Do not know
DONALD TRUMP						
Mar 2021	27%	16%	7%	47%	2%	1%
Oct 2020	30%	12%	5%	52%	1%	0%
Sep 2020	28%	12%	7%	50%	3%	0%
Aug 2020	29%	14%	6%	50%	1%	0%
Jul 2020	29%	13%	3%	53%	1%	1%
Jan 2020	28%	13%	7%	48%	2%	1%
Oct 2019	23%	15%	8%	52%	2%	0%
Jul 2019	26%	13%	6%	52%	3%	1%
Mar 2019	24%	14%	9%	52%	2%	1%
Oct 2018	25%	11%	6%	55%	2%	1%
Sep 2018	26%	14%	4%	55%	0%	1%
Aug 2018	26%	13%	5%	52%	3%	1%
Jun 2018	26%	14%	7%	51%	3%	0%
Mar 2018	21%	15%	11%	49%	2%	2%
Sep 2017	21%	22%	9%	36%	6%	6%
Feb 2017	23%	14%	6%	51%	6%	1%
Oct 2016	23%	12%	6%	56%	3%	1%
Sep 2016	20%	12%	6%	54%	6%	1%
Aug 2016	23%	14%	7%	51%	5%	1%
Jul 2016	20%	13%	5%	57%	5%	0%
Mar 2016	13%	14%	9%	56%	7%	1%
Feb 2016	12%	15%	11%	51%	10%	1%
JOE BIDEN						
Mar 2021	29%	23%	8%	37%	2%	2%
Oct 2020	30%	22%	8%	39%	1%	1%
Sep 2020	28%	20%	12%	34%	2%	3%
Aug 2020	29%	19%	11%	38%	3%	1%
Jul 2020	22%	26%	10%	38%	2%	2%
Jan 2020	13%	30%	18%	29%	5%	6%
Oct 2019	17%	29%	15%	30%	6%	4%
Jul 2019	16%	30%	19%	25%	7%	4%
JOHN FETTERMAN						
Mar 2021	13%	16%	7%	13%	8%	44%
MALCOM KENYATTA						
Mar 2021	3%	7%	1%	5%	7%	76%
MITCH MCCONNELL						
Mar 2021	2%	16%	23%	41%	6%	11%

RatePres. How would you rate the way that Joe Biden is handling his job as president? Would you say he is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as President?

	Excellent Job	Good Job	Only a Fair Job	Poor Job	Don't Know
Mar 2021	17%	24%	19%	36%	24%

RatePresCV. How would you rate the way that Joe Biden is managing the CORONAVIRUS outbreak? Would you say he is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job of managing the CORONAVIRUS outbreak?

	Excellent Job	Good Job	Only a Fair Job	Poor Job	Don't Know
Mar 2021	25%	25%	25%	23%	3%
<i>(Trump)</i> Oct 2020	13%	20%	12%	53%	2%

Vot20. Did you vote in the last presidential election in 2020, or not?

Yes 97%
 No 3%

Vot20pref. Did you vote for Joe Biden, Donald Trump, or for some other candidate in 2020?

n=569
 Joe Biden 50%
 Donald Trump 48%
 Some other candidate 1%

TRPR. In general, do you think the Trump presidency was good or bad for the United States?

Very good 29%
 Mostly good 21%
 Mostly bad 10%
 Very bad 38%
 Do not know 2%

VCERT. Eight of Pennsylvania's representatives in Congress voted against certifying Pennsylvania's election results for the 2020 Presidential election. Do you approve or disapprove of their vote?

Strongly approve 18%
 Somewhat approve 13%
 Somewhat disapprove 10%
 Strongly disapprove 51%
 Do not know 8%

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (rotated)

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Do Not Know
A leader may sometimes need to break the rules to get things done.	7%	24%	24%	43%	2%
All citizens deserve an equal say in how our government runs.	76%	18%	3%	3%	1%
Citizens should be allowed to say whatever they think even if their views are unpopular.	66%	26%	5%	1%	2%
Decisions from federal judges are, generally speaking, fair and impartial.	17%	45%	21%	11%	7%
Generally speaking, the actions of the US House and Senate represent the collective will of the America people.	6%	23%	28%	40%	3%
In general, elections in the United States are free and fair.	27%	32%	17%	23%	1%
It is important to have established rights that protect defendants in civil and criminal trials, including the presumption of innocence.	80%	14%	3%	1%	2%
The federal government has very little official corruption.	3%	8%	26%	57%	5%
The federal government's operations are open and transparent.	4%	17%	31%	44%	3%
The media should never be allowed to report false information.	76%	13%	5%	5%	2%
There should be NO barriers to voting in our country.	46%	16%	12%	23%	3%

Do you think each of the following is definitely true, probably true, probably false, or definitely false?

	Definitely True	Probably True	Probably False	Definitely False	Do Not Know
The Founding Fathers intended the United States to be a Christian nation?	24%	28%	15%	22%	5%
The Founding Fathers were evangelical Christians?	10%	26%	17%	19%	16%
The United States' founding documents are based on biblical principles?	19%	37%	18%	16%	6%
America's power in the world is dependent on its obedience to God?	17%	19%	16%	39%	4%

CNTY. Region of state (What is the name of the county you live in?)

Central	31%
Southeast	22%
Southwest	11%
Northeast	12%
Philadelphia	8%
Northwest	8%
Allegheny	8%

AGE. What was your age on your last birthday?

Under 35	10%
35-54	35%
Over 55	55%

EDUC. What was the highest level of schooling you have completed?

High school graduate or less	24%
Some college	35%
College degree	42%

MAR. What is your current marital status?

Married	62%
Single, Never Married	17%
Divorced	10%
Widow or widower	9%
Separated	1%

IDEO. Politically speaking, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, a moderate, or a conservative?

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Don't know
Mar 2021	20%	36%	38%	6%
Oct 2020	26%	35%	35%	4%
Jan 2020	24%	38%	34%	5%
Oct 2019	24%	40%	30%	6%
Mar 2019	31%	32%	33%	4%
Oct 2018	29%	36%	35%	0%
Mar 2018	27%	40%	33%	0%
Feb 2017	27%	42%	31%	0%
Oct 2016	33%	29%	34%	4%
Mar 2016	24%	35%	37%	3%
Feb 2016	27%	33%	37%	3%
Oct 2015	22%	38%	37%	4%

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Don't know
Sept 2014	22%	36%	38%	5%
Aug 2014	20%	39%	36%	5%
Jan 2014	24%	43%	28%	5%
Oct 2013	24%	39%	31%	6%
Feb 2013	26%	36%	35%	3%
Oct 2012	22%	39%	35%	5%
Feb 2012	17%	39%	40%	4%
Oct 2011	20%	39%	33%	8%
Mar 2011	16%	33%	41%	10%
Oct 2010	16%	37%	39%	8%
May 2010	19%	32%	40%	9%

PARTY. Regardless of how you are registered in politics, as of today, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

Strong Republican	23%
Republican	12%
Lean Republican	12%
Independent	8%
Lean Democrat	12%
Democrat	9%
Strong Democrat	22%
Do not know	3%

RFact. The Republican Party includes several different wings or factions. In the Republican Party, for example, there seems to be a faction that embraces Donald Trump's brand of politics and another that is aligned with a more traditional brand of Republican politics. Do you think of yourself as a Trump Republican, a traditional Republican, or something else?

	<i>n=267</i>
Trump Republican	42%
Traditional Republican	38%
Something else	17%
Do not know	4%

DFact. The Democratic Party includes several different wings or factions. In the Democratic Party, for example, there seems to be a faction that embraces a consistently progressive brand of politics and another that is aligned with a more pragmatic, centrist brand of politics. Do you think of yourself as a progressive Democrat, a centrist Democrat, or something else?

	<i>n=243</i>
Progressive Democrat	33%
Centrist Democrat	45%
Something else	15%
Do not know	7%

GUN. Are you a gun owner?

Yes	44%
No	56%

GUN2. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose creating more laws that regulate gun ownership?

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Mar 2021	34%	19%	10%	34%	3%
Oct 2020	42%	19%	12%	26%	2%
Jan 2020	42%	18%	10%	27%	4%
Oct 2019	46%	14%	12%	24%	3%
Mar 2019	48%	14%	9%	26%	3%
Oct 2018	46%	19%	9%	24%	2%
Mar 2018	52%	20%	7%	19%	3%
Sep 2017	38%	23%	11%	24%	4%
Feb 2017	42%	19%	14%	23%	2%
Oct 2016	38%	27%	12%	21%	4%
Mar 2016	42%	17%	10%	28%	3%
Oct 2015	43%	13%	10%	31%	4%
Oct 2014	42%	12%	8%	37%	2%
Jan 2014	42%	12%	9%	32%	6%
Oct 2013	46%	16%	9%	24%	5%

LABR. Are you or is any member of your household a member of a LABOR UNION?

Yes	20%
No	80%
Do not know	1%

VET. Are you a military veteran?

Yes 13%
 No 86%
 Do not know 1%

HISP. Are you Hispanic or Latino, or not?

Yes 2%
 No 97%
 Do not know 1%

RACE. Which of the following categories best describes your racial background?

White 87%
 Non-white 1%

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Mar 2021	Oct 2020	Sep 2020	Aug 2020	Jul 2020
I am angry that racism exists.	Strongly agree	74%	74%	76%	73%	73%
	Somewhat agree	17%	17%	16%	18%	16%
	Somewhat disagree	5%	5%	3%	4%	5%
	Strongly disagree	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%
	Do not know	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
White people in the US have certain advantages because of the color of their skin.	Strongly agree	43%	43%	41%	36%	38%
	Somewhat agree	21%	21%	24%	24%	24%
	Somewhat disagree	16%	16%	11%	14%	13%
	Strongly disagree	19%	19%	22%	24%	24%
	Do not know	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Racial problems in the US are rare, isolated situations.	Strongly agree	9%	9%	10%	8%	6%
	Somewhat agree	17%	17%	17%	16%	14%
	Somewhat disagree	20%	20%	20%	20%	18%
	Strongly disagree	52%	52%	52%	54%	60%
	Do not know	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
I am fearful of people of other races.	Strongly agree	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%
	Somewhat agree	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%
	Somewhat disagree	12%	12%	11%	14%	14%
	Strongly disagree	83%	83%	83%	80%	81%
	Do not know	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

REL. Do you consider yourself to be Protestant, Catholic, some other religion, or not affiliated with any religion?

Protestant	33%
Catholic	25%
Some other religion	16%
Not affiliated with any religion	25%
Do not know	1%

BAC. Would you consider yourself as a “Born-again” or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes	25%
No	73%
Don’t know	2%

ABORT. Do you think that abortion should be legal under any circumstances, legal under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

	Legal under any circumstances	Legal under certain circumstances	Illegal in all circumstances	Don’t know
Mar 2021	27%	56%	13%	3%
Oct 2020	32%	51%	16%	2%
Jan 2020	33%	52%	13%	3%
Oct 2019	29%	53%	16%	2%
Oct 2018	34%	53%	12%	1%
Sep 2018	34%	51%	12%	2%
Jun 2014	23%	56%	19%	2%
Sep 2010	20%	56%	22%	2%
Feb 2010	19%	57%	22%	2%
Oct 2009	20%	54%	23%	3%
Aug 2007	22%	56%	21%	1%
Feb 2007	20%	53%	26%	1%

NUMC. How many children under 18 years of age currently live in your household?

None	70%
One	10%
2-3	15%
4 or more	2%
Do not know	1%

WORK. Are you currently working fulltime, part-time, going to school, keeping house or something else?

Full-time	45%
Retired	35%
Part-time	9%
Something else	3%
Disabled	4%
Unemployed	1%
Going to school	2%

INCOME. And, just for statistical purposes, we need to know if your total family income is above or below \$50,000 per year?

Under \$25,000	10%
\$25-\$35,000	8%
\$35-50,000	12%
\$50-75,000	22%
\$75-100,000	18%
Over \$100,000	27%
Don't know	4%

DONE. Sex of respondent:

Male	48%
Female	52%

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