

Franklin & Marshall College Poll

SURVEY OF PENNSYLVANIANS SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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The Franklin & Marshall College Poll is produced in conjunction with the Philadelphia Daily News, WGAL-TV (South Central PA), Pittsburgh Tribune Review, WTAE-TV (Pittsburgh), WPVI-TV6/ABC (Philadelphia), Times-Shamrock Newspapers, Harrisburg Patriot-News, and Lancaster Newspapers. It may be used in whole or in part, provided any use is attributed to Franklin & Marshall College.

Key Findings

The October 2011 Franklin & Marshall College Poll finds that despite his tepid support among Pennsylvania voters President Barack Obama continues to lead his main Republican challengers. The survey also shows Pennsylvania voters are unenthusiastic about the performance of the state's leading political figures. The poll shows minor improvements in the ratings for most politicians since August. Finally, the poll shows transportation funding is the only issue on the state legislature's fall agenda that a majority of state residents believes is a top issue.

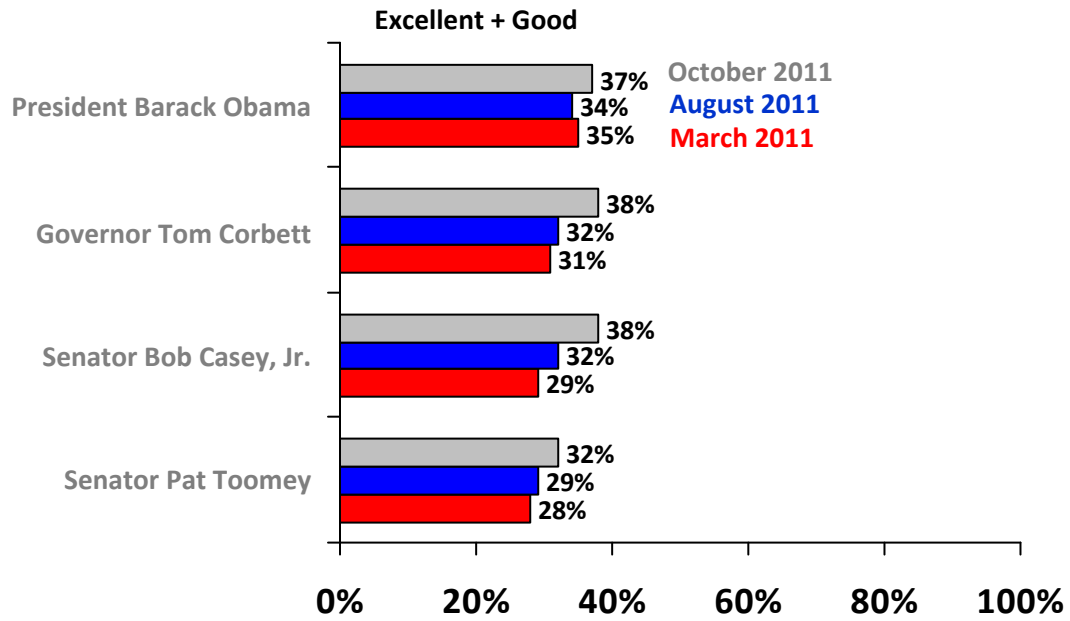
The Direction of the State

Most (49%) Pennsylvania adults believe the state is headed in the wrong direction, a sentiment that is little changed during the past two years. The last time a majority of adults believed the state was headed in the right direction was September 2006.

Pennsylvania voters remain pessimistic about the performance of the state's leading political figures although there has been some slight improvement in their ratings since August. The job performance ratings for President Barack Obama, Governor Tom Corbett, and senators Bob Casey and Pat Toomey are each more negative than positive (see Figure 1). Governor Corbett's job performance rating is below the ratings Ed Rendell and Tom Ridge received at this point in their gubernatorial tenures but not as markedly low as in previous surveys. In 30 surveys conducted between 1991 and 2011, the average positive gubernatorial job performance rating was 46%. Attachment A displays job performance ratings by partisan affiliation.

Figure 1: Job Performance of Political Figures, Pennsylvania October 2011

How would you rate the way that [fill name] is handling his job as [fill title]? Would you say he is doing...an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as [fill title]?



Note: Chart displays registered voters.

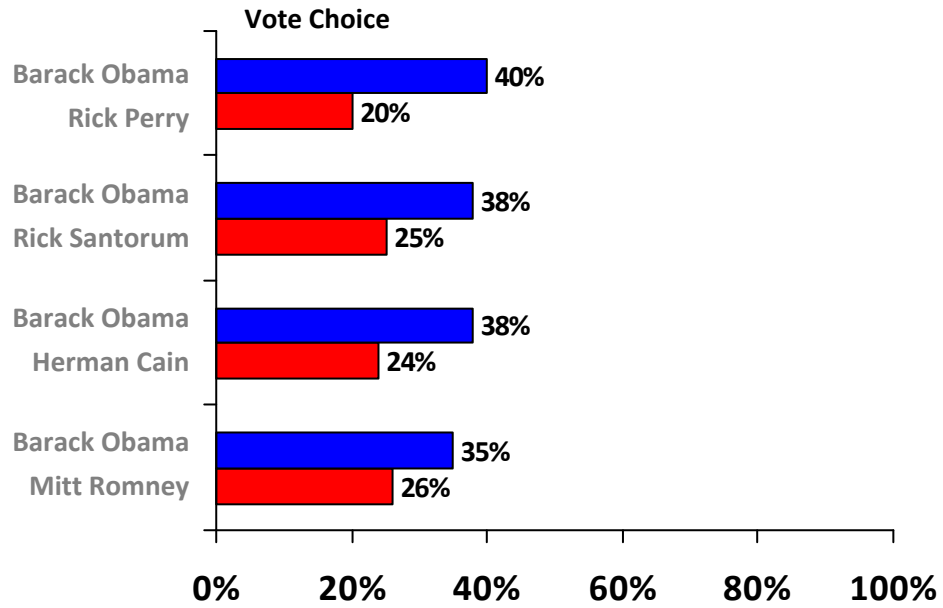
Presidential Politics

More (52%) of the state's voters believe it is time for a change than believe President Obama deserves re-election (42%), a perspective that is unchanged since August. Attachment B displays the hard re-elect question by selected demographic characteristics. Still, Pennsylvania is a state where Democrats hold a tremendous voter registration advantage over Republicans. Consequently, President Obama leads in match-ups with several Republican opponents (see Figure 2), but a large number of voters remain undecided in each of these match-ups. Mitt Romney fares best against the president in Pennsylvania, while Rick Perry trails the president significantly. President Obama has improved his relative position generally against each of the Republican challengers tested, but he has improved most against Rick Perry.

More than one in seven (15%) voters says they are less likely to vote for Mitt Romney because he is a Mormon, but almost eight in ten (79%) say it makes no difference. Reluctance to support Romney because of his religion is higher among Independents (16%) and Democrats (18%) than Republicans (9%).

Figure 2: Presidential Horse Races, Pennsylvania October 2011

If the November 2012 general election for president were being held today and the candidates were [rotate] [fill candidate] the Republican and Barack Obama the Democrat, would you vote for [rotate] [fill candidate] or Barack Obama, some other candidate, or aren't you sure how you would vote?



Note: Chart displays registered voters.

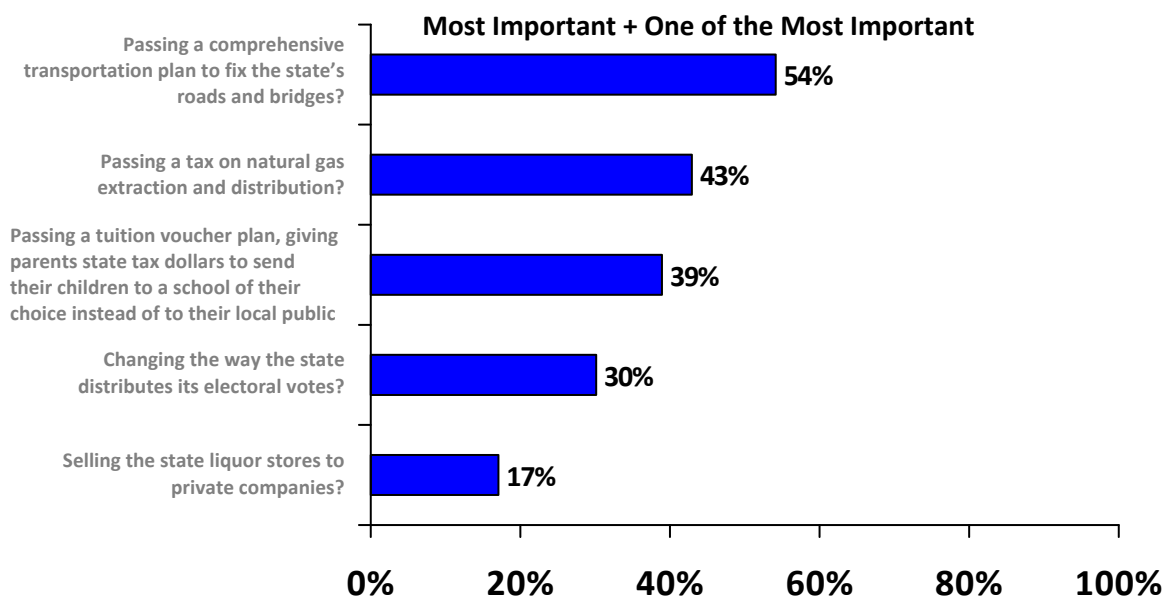
State Government's Fall Agenda

The state legislature has discussed a tax on natural gas extraction, the sale of the state's liquor stores, Electoral College reform, education reform, and transportation funding during its fall legislative session. Transportation funding is the only issue under discussion by the state legislature that a majority of the state's voters considers as being a top issue facing the state (see Figure 3). Surprisingly, there are no significant differences by party affiliation in the assessment of the importance of these issues.

Only one in five voters (22%) believes the state legislature is doing an excellent or good job, but this is an improvement over recent surveys; it is the first time since June 2009 that the legislature's positive job performance rating has risen above twenty percent.

Figure 3: Important Issues Faces the State, Pennsylvania October 2011

I am going to read you a list of problems and issues the governor and state legislature are currently considering. For each item I read I would like you to tell me if it is...THE MOST important issue the state should address, ONE of the MOST important issues the state should address, just ONE OF MANY issues the state should address or one of the LEAST important issues the state should address? First, is...



Methodology

The survey findings presented in this release are based on the results of interviews conducted October 24-30, 2011. The interviews were conducted at the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall College under the direction of the poll's Director Dr. G. Terry Madonna, Head Methodologist Berwood Yost, and Senior Project Manager Angela Knittle. The data included in this release represent the responses of 525 adult residents of Pennsylvania, including 419 registered adults (201 Democrats, 154 Republicans, 51 registered as Independent/Other, and 13 who refused to identify party). Telephone numbers for the survey were generated using random digit dialing with a cell phone supplement, and respondents were randomly selected from within each household. Survey results were weighted (age, education, race, region, and gender) using an iterative weighting algorithm.

The sample error for this survey is +/- 4.3 percentage points. The sample error for registered adults is +/- 4.8 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, this poll is also subject to other sources of non-sampling error. Generally speaking, two sources of error concern researchers most. Non-response bias is created when selected participants either choose not to participate in the survey or are unavailable for interviewing. Response errors are the product of the question and answer process. Surveys that rely on self-reported behaviors and attitudes are susceptible to biases related to the way respondents process and respond to survey questions.

Attachment A

Job Performance of Political Figures by Party, Pennsylvania

How would you rate the way that [fill name] is handling his job as [fill title]? Would you say he is doing an...an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as [fill title]?

Job Rating		Column %								
		Republican			Democrat			Independent/ Other		
		March 2011	Aug 2011	Oct 2011	March 2011	Aug 2011	Oct 2011	March 2011	Aug 2011	Oct 2011
Governor Corbett	Excellent + Good	45%	49%	57%	21%	19%	29%	20%	39%	22%
	Fair + Poor	41%	46%	36%	62%	73%	65%	58%	39%	60%
	Do not know	14%	6%	7%	18%	9%	7%	22%	22%	18%
Senator Casey	Excellent + Good	26%	28%	33%	37%	37%	44%	20%	15%	24%
	Fair + Poor	55%	56%	52%	42%	48%	42%	45%	68%	53%
	Do not know	19%	17%	16%	21%	15%	14%	35%	18%	23%
Senator Toomey	Excellent + Good	39%	38%	47%	21%	24%	23%	21%	24%	19%
	Fair + Poor	38%	42%	39%	53%	55%	58%	43%	59%	55%
	Do not know	23%	20%	15%	27%	22%	19%	36%	17%	25%
President Obama	Excellent + Good	15%	12%	16%	50%	49%	53%	46%	20%	38%
	Fair + Poor	84%	88%	84%	49%	50%	46%	54%	80%	62%
	Do not know	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Attachment B

President Obama Hard Re-elect, Pennsylvania August 2011

Do you believe that Barack Obama has done a good enough job as President to deserve reelection, or do you believe it is time for a change? (419 registered voters)

	Deserves Reelection	Time for a change	Do not know
Political Party*			
Republican	15%	83%	2%
Democrat	64%	29%	7%
Independent/Other	42%	51%	7%
Ideology*			
Liberal	75%	23%	2%
Moderate	42%	49%	9%
Conservative	24%	74%	2%
Gender			
Male	40%	55%	5%
Female	44%	50%	6%
Age			
18-34	49%	47%	4%
35-54	39%	55%	6%
55 and over	41%	53%	6%
Education			
High school or less	39%	55%	6%
Some college	39%	58%	3%
College degree	49%	44%	7%
Household Income**			
Less than \$35,000	46%	49%	5%
\$35-75,000	37%	61%	2%
Over \$75,000	46%	46%	8%
Race*			
Non-white	80%	11%	9%
White	36%	58%	5%
Marital Status*			
Not currently married	48%	46%	6%
Single, never married	58%	35%	7%
Married	34%	61%	5%
Religious Affiliation*			
Other/unaffiliated	55%	39%	6%
Protestant	32%	63%	5%
Catholic	42%	51%	7%
Born Again Christian or Fundamentalist			
Yes	36%	59%	5%
No	46%	48%	6%
Household Union Member			
Yes	46%	48%	6%
No	41%	54%	6%
Military Veteran			
Yes	27%	65%	8%
No	44%	51%	6%
Region*			
Northeast	40%	57%	3%
Philadelphia	72%	22%	6%
Southeast	51%	46%	3%
Northwest	30%	63%	7%
Central	31%	63%	6%
Allegheny	39%	51%	10%
Southwest	32%	60%	8%
Employment			
Fulltime	41%	52%	7%
Other	45%	51%	4%
Retired	40%	53%	6%

* p<0.01

** p<0.05

Marginal Frequency Report

Responses may not total 100% due to rounding.

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	Don't know
Oct 2011	38%	49%	13%
Aug 2011	34%	53%	13%
Mar 2011	37%	53%	10%
Oct 2010	27%	64%	9%
Sep 2010	31%	59%	10%
Aug 2010	30%	58%	12%
May 2010	35%	55%	10%
Mar 2010	32%	58%	10%
Feb 2010	37%	50%	13%
Jan 2010	39%	53%	8%

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

80% Yes
20% No

RegPARTY. Are you currently registered as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or as something else? (419 registered respondents)

38% Republican
49% Democrat
9% Independent
4% Something else
1% Do not know

Pres12MR. If the November 2012 general election for president was being held today and the candidates were [rotate] Mitt Romney the Republican and Barack Obama the Democrat, would you vote for: [rotate] Mitt Romney or Barack Obama, some other candidate, or aren't you sure how you would vote? (419 registered respondents)

	Romney	Obama	Other	Don't know
Oct 2011	26%	35%	10%	30%
Aug 2011	30%	36%	8%	27%

Pres12MB. If the November 2012 general election for president was being held today and the candidates were [rotate] Herman Cain the Republican and Barack Obama the Democrat, would you vote for: [rotate] Herman Cain or Barack Obama, some other candidate, or aren't you sure how you would vote? (419 registered respondents)

	Cain	Obama	Other	Don't know
Oct 2011	24%	38%	10%	29%

Pres12RP. If the November 2012 general election for president was being held today and the candidates were [rotate] Rick Perry the Republican and Barack Obama the Democrat, would you vote for: [rotate] Rick Perry or Barack Obama, some other candidate, or aren't you sure how you would vote? (419 registered respondents)

	Perry	Obama	Other	Don't know
Oct 2011	20%	40%	11%	29%
Aug 2011	27%	38%	10%	26%

Pres12RS. If the November 2012 general election for president was being held today and the candidates were [rotate] Rick Santorum the Republican and Barack Obama the Democrat, would you vote for: [rotate] Rick Santorum or Barack Obama, some other candidate, or aren't you sure how you would vote? (419 registered respondents)

	Santorum	Obama	Other	Don't know
Oct 2011	25%	38%	11%	26%
Aug 2011	31%	39%	10%	20%

Faith1. How important is a presidential candidate's religious faith in determining whether you will vote for that candidate? Is it... (419 registered respondents)

15% Very important
 27% Somewhat important
 21% Not too important, or
 36% Not important at all?
 1% Do not know

Faith2 Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a president with strong religious convictions, or doesn't it make a difference in how you vote? (419 registered respondents)

15% Much more likely
 18% Somewhat more likely
 5% Somewhat less likely
 6% Much less likely
 51% Makes no difference
 4% Do not know

Faith3. As you may know, Mitt Romney is a member of the Mormon faith. Are you more likely or less likely to vote for Mitt Romney because he is a Mormon or won't it make any difference in how you plan to vote? (419 registered respondents)

1% Much more likely
 1% Somewhat more likely
 6% Somewhat less likely
 9% Much less likely
 79% Makes no difference
 5% Do not know

IntImp. I am going to read you a list of problems and issues the governor and state legislature are currently considering. For each item I read I would like you to tell me if it is...THE MOST important issue the state should address, ONE of the MOST important issues the state should address, just ONE OF MANY issues the state should address or one of the LEAST important issues the state should address? First...

Rotated	The most important	One of the most important	Just one of many	One of least important	Don't know
Is passing a tuition voucher plan, giving parents state tax dollars to send their children to a school of their choice instead of to their local public school?	14%	25%	28%	31%	2%
Is passing a comprehensive transportation plan to fix the state's roads and bridges	20%	35%	36%	8%	2%
Is selling the state liquor stores to private companies	5%	12%	27%	52%	4%
Is changing the way the state distributes its electoral votes	11%	18%	33%	29%	9%
Is passing a tax on natural gas extraction and distribution	16%	27%	33%	18%	6%

Rate_Gov. How would you rate the way that Tom Corbett is handling his job as Governor? Would you say he is doing an... (419 registered respondents)

	Excellent Job	Good Job	Only a Fair Job	Poor Job	Don't Know
Oct 11	5%	33%	43%	11%	8%
Aug 2011	6%	26%	46%	14%	9%
Mar 2011	5%	26%	39%	13%	18%

RateSenC. How would you rate the way that Bob Casey, JR. is handling his job as U.S. SENATOR? Would you say he is doing an... (419 registered respondents)

	Excellent Job	Good Job	Only a Fair Job	Poor Job	Don't Know
Oct 11	5%	33%	38%	9%	16%
Aug 2011	5%	27%	43%	9%	16%
Mar 2011	3%	26%	39%	9%	23%
Feb 2009	7%	31%	32%	10%	20%
Aug 2007	5%	37%	36%	7%	15%

RateSenT. How would you rate the way that Pat Toomey is handling his job as U.S. SENATOR? Would you say he is doing an... (419 registered respondents)

	Excellent Job	Good Job	Only a Fair Job	Poor Job	Don't Know
Oct 11	3%	29%	40%	11%	18%
Aug 2011	5%	24%	37%	14%	20%
Mar 2011	3%	25%	36%	10%	27%

RatePres. How would you rate the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president?
(419 registered respondents)

	Excellent job	Good job	Only a fair job	Poor job	Don't know
Oct 11	9%	28%	31%	32%	1%
Aug 2011	9%	25%	33%	33%	1%
Mar 2011	7%	28%	30%	34%	1%
Oct 2010	8%	24%	31%	36%	1%
Sep 2010	10%	26%	33%	30%	0%
Aug 2010	9%	28%	28%	35%	1%
May 2010	14%	24%	32%	29%	1%
Mar 2010	12%	28%	27%	32%	1%
Feb 2010	12%	29%	32%	27%	0%
Jan 2010	11%	27%	32%	29%	1%
Oct 2009	17%	23%	31%	28%	1%
Aug 2009	14%	33%	29%	24%	0%
Jun 2009	20%	35%	25%	19%	1%
Mar 2009	23%	37%	22%	14%	4%
Feb 2009	25%	30%	23%	13%	9%

DesRePres. Do you believe that Barack Obama has done a good enough job as President to deserve re-election, or do you believe it is time for a change? (419 registered respondents)

	Deserves reelection	Time for a change	Do not know
Oct 2011	42%	52%	6%
Aug 2011	41%	52%	7%

Rate_StL. What kind of job do you think the state legislature is doing overall? (419 registered respondents)

	Excellent job	Good job	Only a fair job	Poor job	Don't know
Oct 2011	1%	21%	50%	22%	6%
Jan 2010	0%	16%	51%	23%	10%
Oct 2009	1%	14%	48%	30%	7%
Aug 2009	0%	18%	58%	20%	4%
Jun 2009	1%	26%	49%	18%	6%
Aug 2007	1%	25%	53%	16%	5%
Jun 2007	1%	25%	46%	21%	7%
Feb 2007	1%	23%	48%	18%	10%
May 2006	1%	19%	51%	22%	7%
Sep 2005*	1%	21%	47%	22%	8%
Nov 2003*	1%	22%	55%	17%	5%
Feb 2000*	3%	33%	49%	7%	9%
Jul 1999*	2%	33%	49%	10%	6%

* Question asked of all respondents regardless of registration status

IntMed. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about elected officials. First, do you agree or disagree... (419 registered respondents)

Rotated	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
When it comes to taking positions on important issues, an elected official should always provide strong leadership to the public. (n=218)	69%	25%	3%	1%	2%
When it comes to taking positions on important issues, an elected official should always follow the exact wishes of the public. (n=201)	49%	25%	17%	8%	2%

Rotated	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
When there is disagreement over public policy, elected officials ought to always stick to their position. (n=206)	21%	27%	30%	19%	2%
When there is disagreement over public policy, elected officials ought to be willing to compromise. (n=213)	72%	22%	3%	2%	2%

Rotated	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
We should expect elected officials to have backgrounds and personal characteristics that are similar to those of ordinary citizens. (n=200)	60%	26%	8%	4%	2%
We should expect elected officials to have backgrounds and personal characteristics that are more impressive than those of ordinary citizens. (n=219)	34%	18%	24%	23%	1%

Tea1-4 section rotated with OWS1-3.

Tea1. Have you read, seen, or heard anything about the “tea party movement,” or not? (419 registered respondents)

	Yes	No	Don't know
Oct 2011	73%	26%	1%
May 2010	73%	25%	2%
Feb 2010	62%	35%	3%

Tea3. Do you generally support or oppose the tea party movement? (306 registered respondents aware of “tea party movement”)

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Oct 2011	13%	26%	16%	32%	14%
May 2010	22%	23%	8%	24%	23%
Feb 2010	19%	20%	8%	21%	32%

Tea4. How likely would you be to vote for a candidate who supports the tea party movement's goals? (306 registered respondents aware of “tea party movement”)

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	Don't know
Oct 2011	10%	39%	15%	29%	7%
May 2010	21%	29%	14%	24%	12%
Feb 2010	19%	26%	11%	23%	21%

OWS1. Have you seen, read, or heard the news coverage about the “occupy Wall Street” protests, or not? (419 registered respondents)

	Yes	No	Don't know
Oct 2011	82%	18%	1%

OWS2. Do you generally support or oppose the occupy Wall Street protests? (344 registered respondents aware of “occupy Wall Street” protests)

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Oct 2011	22%	27%	15%	22%	14%

OWS3. How likely would you be to vote for a candidate who supports the occupy Wall Street goals? (344 registered respondents aware of “occupy Wall Street” protests)

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	Don't know
Oct 2011	16%	41%	14%	19%	10%

DEMO I now have a final few questions for statistical purposes only.

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

12%	Philadelphia
13%	Northeast
8%	Allegheny
12%	Southwest
9%	Northwest
28%	Central
18%	Southeast

RESID. How many years have you lived at your current residence?

16.6 Mean

AGE. What was your age on your last birthday?

11%	18-24
17%	25-34
16%	35-44
22%	45-54
13%	55-64
22%	65 and older

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

6%	Non high school graduate
46%	High school graduate or GED
12%	Some college
10%	Two-year or tech degree
15%	Four year college degree
11%	Post graduate degree

MAR. What is your CURRENT marital status, are you single, married, separated, divorced, or a widower?

26%	Single, Never Married
52%	Married
2%	Separated
10%	Divorced
9%	Widow or widower

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

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Don't know
Oct 2011	20%	39%	33%	8%
Aug 2011	24%	32%	37%	7%
Mar 2011	16%	33%	41%	10%
Oct 2010	16%	37%	39%	8%
Sep 2010	15%	34%	40%	10%
Aug 2010	19%	32%	40%	9%
May 2010	19%	32%	40%	9%
Mar 2010	17%	35%	40%	8%
Feb 2010	21%	33%	37%	9%
Jan 2010	19%	30%	42%	9%

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

21% Yes
79% No
1% Don't Know

VET. Are you a military veteran?

10% Yes
90% No

Hisp. Are you Hispanic or Latino, or not?

2% Yes
98% No

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

86% White
10% Non-white
2% Asian
1% American Indian, Alaska Native
2% Other

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

34% Protestant
28% Catholic
20% Some other religion
17% Not affiliated with any religion
1% Do not know

BAC. Do you consider yourself to be a born-again Christian or fundamentalist, or not?

34% Yes
65% No
2% Don't know

NumA. Including yourself, how many adults 18 years of age or OLDER CURRENTLY live in this household?

29%	One
51%	Two
13%	Three
7%	Four or more

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

45%	Full-time
10%	Part-time
6%	Going to school
9%	Keeping house
3%	Unemployed
6%	Disabled
21%	Retired
1%	Do not know

INC1. And, just for statistical purposes, we need to know if your total family income is above or below \$50,000 per year?

17%	Under \$25,000
13%	\$25-\$35,000
12%	\$35-50,000
21%	\$50-75,000
13%	\$75-100,000
16%	Over \$100,000
9%	Don't know

DONE. Sex of respondent:

48%	Female
52%	Male