

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL

**February 2011**

**Franklin & Marshall  
College Poll**

**PHILADELPHIA – STATE OF THE CITY  
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

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## Methodology

The survey findings presented in this release are based on the results of interviews conducted January 31 – February 7, 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 Managers Angela Knittle and Kelly Frey. The data included in this release represent the responses of 400 adult residents of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, including 320 registered voters. Telephone numbers for the survey were generated from three separate sampling frames: an address-based sampling frame based on the USPS delivery sequence file, a landline random digit dialing frame, and a cell phone random digit dialing frame. Respondents were randomly selected from within each sampled household. Survey results were weighted (age, education, race, gender, and telephone service) using an iterative weighting algorithm.

The sample error for this survey is +/- 4.9 percentage points. The sample error for registered adults is +/- 5.5 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.

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

- About half (47%) of city residents rate Philadelphia as an excellent or good place to live.
- Nearly two in three (63%) city residents believe Philadelphia is better or the same as a place to live compared to four years ago.
- City residents believe that crime (31%) and the economy (21%) are the most important problems facing the city. Far fewer city residents cite crime as the city's most important problem than they did four years ago when 71% rated it as the most important problem.
- More residents have a favorable (50%) than unfavorable (32%) opinion of Mayor Nutter. More white (60%) respondents than blacks (42%) have a favorable opinion of the mayor.
- One-third (34%) of city voters say that Mayor Nutter has done an excellent or good job as mayor while most (66%) say he has done only a fair or poor job. More whites (50%) than blacks (23%) rate the mayor's performance excellent or good.
- The Nutter administration receives below average and failing grades for creating jobs (50%) and reducing poverty (47%) in the city. It receives its best grades for improving the city's image (34% give the administration an A or B) and fighting crime (31% give the administration an A or B).
- Residents of the city are evenly divided on whether the state should relinquish control of the city public schools; 43 percent think control should be returned to the city while 43 percent say it should not be returned.
- More residents believe the quality of the city's public schools over the past few years has gotten worse (33%) than believe it has gotten better (17%).
- A majority of city residents (58%) believes that one casino license is enough for the city.
- In a general election match up against Independent candidate Tom Knox, Mike Nutter leads 46 percent to 28 percent with 26 percent undecided at this time.
- In a Democratic primary match up, Mayor Nutter (39%) leads Bill Green (17%) and Anthony Williams (17%) with 27 percent undecided.

# Marginal Frequency Report

Responses may not total 100% due to rounding.

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Previous Survey Information:

	Sample Characteristics
<b>Feb 2011</b>	<b>All adults</b>
Jan 2007	All adults
Jul 2006	All adults
Mar 2003	All adults
Mar 1995	All adults

RightDir All in all, do you think things in PHILADELPHIA 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
<b>Feb 2011</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>9%</b>
Jan 2007	31%	61%	8%
Jul 2006	28%	64%	8%
Mar 2003	47%	45%	8%
Mar 1995	46%	37%	17%

RatePhil As a place to live, do you think PHILADELPHIA is... excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know
<b>Feb 2011</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Jan 2007	12%	37%	38%	12%	1%
Jul 2006	8%	35%	39%	17%	1%
Mar 2003	14%	42%	34%	10%	0%
Mar 1995	8%	34%	40%	16%	2%

Phil\_bw All things considered, do you think Philadelphia has gotten BETTER or WORSE than it was FOUR YEARS AGO, or has it stayed about the same as a place to live?

	Better	Worse	About the same	Don't know
<b>Feb 2011</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Jan 2007	16%	50%	31%	3%
Jul 2006	15%	55%	27%	3%
Mar 2003	31%	34%	31%	4%
Mar 1995	30%	38%	27%	4%

MIP\_Ph. What do you think is the MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM facing PHILADELPHIA today?

<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	
<u>2007</u>	<u>2011</u>	
71%	31%	Crime, drugs, violence
5%	21%	Unemployment, economy
2%	15%	Government, politicians, leadership
8%	8%	Education, schools, programs
2%	6%	Improving city cleanliness, appearance, entertainment
3%	5%	Social problems
1%	1%	Housing
2%	1%	Taxes
4%	9%	Other
2%	2%	Do not know

IntFav I'd like to ask you a few questions about some people involved in Philadelphia politics. Please let me know if your opinion of the person is favorable, not favorable, undecided, or if you haven't heard enough about the person to have an opinion.

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Undecided	Not heard	Don't know
<b>Michael Nutter</b>					
Feb 2011	50%	32%	12%	7%	0%
Jan 2007	28%	12%	15%	42%	3%
Jul 2006	30%	9%	14%	45%	2%
<b>Tom Knox</b>					
Feb 2011	16%	11%	13%	57%	4%
Jan 2007	32%	4%	16%	46%	2%
<b>Bill Green</b>					
Feb 2011	24%	7%	11%	53%	5%
<b>Anthony Williams</b>					
Feb 2011	23%	6%	17%	48%	5%

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

**[This section for registered voters only (n=320)]**

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

14% Republican  
75% Democrat  
5% Independent  
5% Something else  
3% Don't know

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

30%	Liberal
27%	Moderate
33%	Conservative
10%	Don't know

DemPrim If the DEMOCRATIC primary election for Philadelphia's mayor were being held today and the candidates were Bill Green, Michael Nutter, or Anthony Williams (*rotated*), would you vote for...Bill Green, Michael Nutter, or Anthony Williams (*rotated*)? [Democrats only (n=233)]

17%	Bill Green
39%	Michael Nutter
17%	Anthony Williams
27%	Do not know

Vote\_Myr If the general election for Philadelphia's mayor was being held today and the candidates were Michael Nutter, the Democrat, and Tom Knox, the Independent (*rotated*), would you vote for Michael Nutter or Tom Knox (*rotated*)?

46%	Michael Nutter
28%	Tom Knox
26%	Do not know

MyrPri1 Should the next mayor's top priority be cutting taxes, improving city services (*rotated*), or something else?

<u>Jan</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Feb</u> <u>2011</u>	
23%	28%	Cutting taxes
35%	44%	Improving city services
40%	25%	Something else
2%	3%	Do Not Know

RateMyr How would you RATE the way MICHAEL NUTTER is handling his job as Mayor? Would you say he is doing an excellent, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?

4%	Excellent job
30%	Good job
42%	Fair job
24%	Poor job
0%	Do Not Know

DesReMyr Do you believe that MICHAEL NUTTER has done a good enough job as mayor to deserve re-election, or do you believe it is time for a change?

37%	Deserve reelection
53%	Time for a change
10%	Do not know

RateCC How would you RATE the way CITY COUNCIL is handling its job? Would you say it is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?

1% Excellent job  
 16% Good job  
 49% Fair job  
 27% Poor job  
 8% Do Not Know

**[All residents asked remaining questions]**

IntGrMyr I am going to read you a list of problems and issues that the city government is supposed to take care of. For each item, please tell me how well Mayor Nutter's administration has performed in each area, using an A, B, C, D, or F. How about \_\_\_\_\_(rotated)? Would you rate the Mayor's performance... A for excellent, B for very good, C for average, D for below average or F for failing?

	A	B	C	D	F	Don't know
Improving the city's financial condition	4%	18%	32%	22%	22%	3%
Improving conditions in your neighborhood	6%	20%	30%	16%	24%	4%
Improving the city's image	7%	27%	33%	17%	14%	2%
Fighting crime	6%	25%	32%	14%	21%	2%
Helping to create new jobs	2%	16%	27%	23%	27%	4%
Reducing poverty and homelessness	3%	11%	29%	25%	22%	10%
Improving public education	8%	21%	33%	16%	17%	5%

PubSch1 The state government has been in control of Philadelphia public schools since 2001. Do you think control of the schools should be returned to the city of Philadelphia, or not?

<u>Jan</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Feb</u> <u>2011</u>	
48%	43%	Yes
33%	43%	No
19%	14%	Do Not Know

PubSch2 Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and FAIL to show the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools in Philadelphia were graded in the same way. What grade would YOU give them?

5% A  
 10% B  
 33% C  
 29% D  
 17% Fail  
 6% Don't know



PubSch3 Over the past few years, do you think the quality of education in Philadelphia's public schools has gotten better, stayed about the same, or become worse?

17%	Gotten better
45%	Stayed about the same
33%	Become worse
5%	Do Not Know

PhCas1 Generally speaking, do you think having casinos in Philadelphia has been more positive than negative OR more negative than positive for the city?

<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	
<u>2007</u>	<u>2011</u>	
43%	45%	More positive than negative
47%	45%	More negative than positive
10%	10%	Do Not Know

PhCas2 Philadelphia has two casino licenses. One casino is open, and the other has not been able to open because of financial issues. Do you think that Philadelphia should be allowed to keep both casino licenses, or do you think that having one casino in Philadelphia is enough (*rotated*)?

38%	Keep both casino licenses
58%	Having one casino is enough
5%	Do Not Know

DROP City employees can participate in a deferred retirement option plan known as the DROP program, where they can set a retirement date up to four years before they plan to retire. This program encourages city employees to stay on the job longer and also helps the city better plan for retirements.

When city employees enroll in DROP, their pension benefits are frozen and these payments start building up in an interest-bearing account. Employees receive those payments in a lump sum when they retire, in addition to their pension.

Recent studies have found the Deferred Retirement Option Plan, or DROP program, costs the city more than paying its traditional retirement plan.

Do you think the city should allow the DROP program to continue, or do you think the program should be phased out (*rotated*)?

22%	Allow DROP program to continue
70%	Program should be phased out
8%	Do Not Know

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

CNTY. What is the name of the COUNTY you live in?

100% Philadelphia

AGE What was your AGE on your last birthday?

10%	18-24
26%	25-34
11%	35-44
24%	45-54
14%	55-64
17%	65 and older

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

12%	Non high school graduate
45%	High school graduate (or GED)
15%	Some college
6%	Two-year or tech degree
15%	Four year college degree
8%	Postgraduate degree

Hisp. Are you Hispanic or Latino, or NOT?

8%	Yes
92%	No

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

44%	White
43%	Black or African American
13%	Other

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

17%	Yes
83%	No

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

28%	Under \$25,000
20%	\$25-\$35,000
11%	\$35-50,000
16%	\$50-75,000
9%	\$75-100,000
10%	Over \$100,000
7%	Don't know

DONE. Sex of respondent:

45%	Male
55%	Female