

For release August 25, 2022

# Franklin & Marshall College Poll: August 2022

## *Summary of Findings*

For media or other inquiries:

Berwood Yost, Director  
byost@fandm.edu  
717.358.3922

@FandMPoll  
[getrevue.co/profile/fandmpoll](https://getrevue.co/profile/fandmpoll)

## Table of Contents

Key Findings	3
Detailed Findings	5
<i>Direction of State and Personal Finances</i>	5
<i>Most Important Problem</i>	6
<i>Abortion</i>	6
<i>The 2022 Gubernatorial Race</i>	7
<i>January 6<sup>th</sup></i>	8
<i>President Biden: Job Performance</i>	8
<i>The 2022 US Senate Race</i>	9
Methodology	10
Further Reading	12
Table A-1: Financial Status	13
Table A-2: Gubernatorial Race	14
Table A-3: Presidential Job Performance	15
Table A-4: Senate Race	16

## Key Findings

The August 2022 Franklin & Marshall College Poll finds little change in the mood of Pennsylvania’s registered voters since our May Poll, with economic concerns remaining high and voters continuing to feel deeply frustrated and mostly dissatisfied with President Biden’s performance. More than two in five (43%) respondents say they are “worse off” financially than a year ago. Many Republicans and conservatives say they are “worse off” than last year, but a quarter of Democrats (24%) and almost half of independents (47%) also say they are “worse off” financially. Pennsylvania voters remain pessimistic about conditions in the state and the nation as well: only one in four (27%) registered voters believes the state is “headed in the right direction.” Concerns about the economy (27%), including unemployment, personal finances, and gas prices, remain the most important problems facing Pennsylvania according to voters. About one in three (34%) registered voters in Pennsylvania believes President Biden is doing an “excellent” or “good” job as president, which is unchanged since May. Republicans continue to lead in the generic ballot in Pennsylvania, 44% to 42%.

Support for abortion rights in Pennsylvania appears to have increased somewhat since May. Nearly nine in ten registered Pennsylvania voters believes abortion should be legal under certain circumstances (52%) or under any circumstance (37%). Nearly three in five (59%) registered voters oppose amending the state constitution to say there is no constitutional right to abortion in the state.

More than two in five (43%) of the state’s registered voters say they have not watched any of the January 6th Committee hearings, including three in five (62%) Republicans and half

(56%) of independents. Though voters are divided on the purpose of the Committee hearings, most (87%) believe that the actions of protesters who entered the Capitol on January 6th were not justified, and most (81%) believe these individuals should face criminal charges.

Democrat Josh Shapiro currently holds an advantage over Republican Doug Mastriano in the 2022 race for Pennsylvania Governor, 44% to 33%. Shapiro receives a larger share of Democrats (76%) than Mastriano receives among Republicans (66%), and Shapiro also leads among independent voters 40% to 24%. Shapiro is viewed more favorably (44%) than unfavorably (32%) by the state's voters, while Mastriano tends to be viewed more unfavorably (49%) than favorably (28%). More voters believe Shapiro best understands the concerns of Pennsylvanians (47% to 33%) and is closest to their views on social issues (45% to 32%), but the two candidates are relatively close when it comes to being viewed as having policies that will improve voters' economic circumstances (36% to 33%).

Democrat John Fetterman currently holds an advantage over Republican Mehmet Oz in the 2022 race for Pennsylvania US Senator, 43% to 30%, although the race is a bit closer when those who are leaning toward a candidate are included (45% to 36%, Fetterman). Fetterman receives a larger share of Democrats (76%) than Oz receives among Republicans (62%), and he also leads among independent voters 34% to 17%. Fetterman is viewed more favorably (43%) than unfavorably (36%) by the state's voters, while Oz tends to be viewed more unfavorably (57%) than favorably (27%). More voters believe Fetterman best understands the concerns of Pennsylvanians (52% to 28%) and is closest to their views on social issues (46% to 32%), but the two candidates are relatively close when it comes to being viewed as having policies that will improve voters' economic circumstances (37% to 33%).

## Detailed Findings

### *Direction of State and Personal Finances*

Voters remain dissatisfied with their personal finances (Figure 1). More than two in five (43%) respondents say that they are “worse off” financially than a year ago, the same proportion as in our May survey. Fewer than one in five (12%) respondents say they are “better off” financially than they were last year. One in four (29%) registered voters expects they will be “worse off” financially a year from now, which is a small improvement in the sentiments expressed in our May survey. Many Republicans and conservatives say they are “worse off” than last year, but a quarter of Democrats (24%) and almost half of independents (47%) also say they are worse off financially (see Table A-1).

### Personal Finances, Registered Pennsylvania Voters, 2016-2022

*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?*

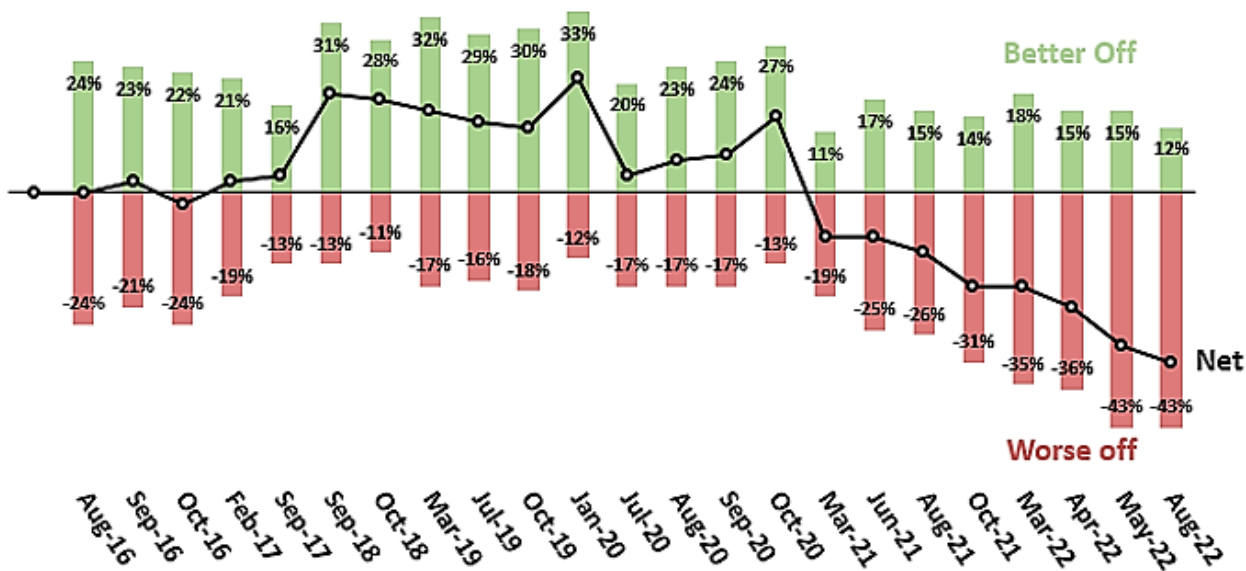


Figure 1. This figure shows how registered voters in Pennsylvania rate their personal economic circumstances at selected times since 2016.

Pennsylvania voters remain pessimistic about conditions in the state and the nation. Only one in four (29%) registered voters believes the state is “headed in the right direction,” which is significantly lower than the recent, pre-pandemic high of 57 percent reported in October 2019. Three in four (75%) Pennsylvania voters believe that things in the US are “on the wrong track.”

### *Most Important Problem*

Concerns about the economy (27%), including unemployment, personal finances, and gas prices, remain the most important problems facing Pennsylvania according to voters. Concerns about government and politicians (22%) in the state remain high, with that sentiment being driven by divisiveness and an inability to address the state’s major issues.

### *Abortion*

Support for abortion rights in Pennsylvania appear to have increased somewhat since May (see Figure 2). Nearly nine in ten registered Pennsylvania voters believe abortion should be legal under certain circumstances (52%) or under any circumstance (37%). Nearly three in five (59%) registered voters oppose amending the state constitution to say there is no constitutional right to abortion in the state.

## Abortion Rights

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

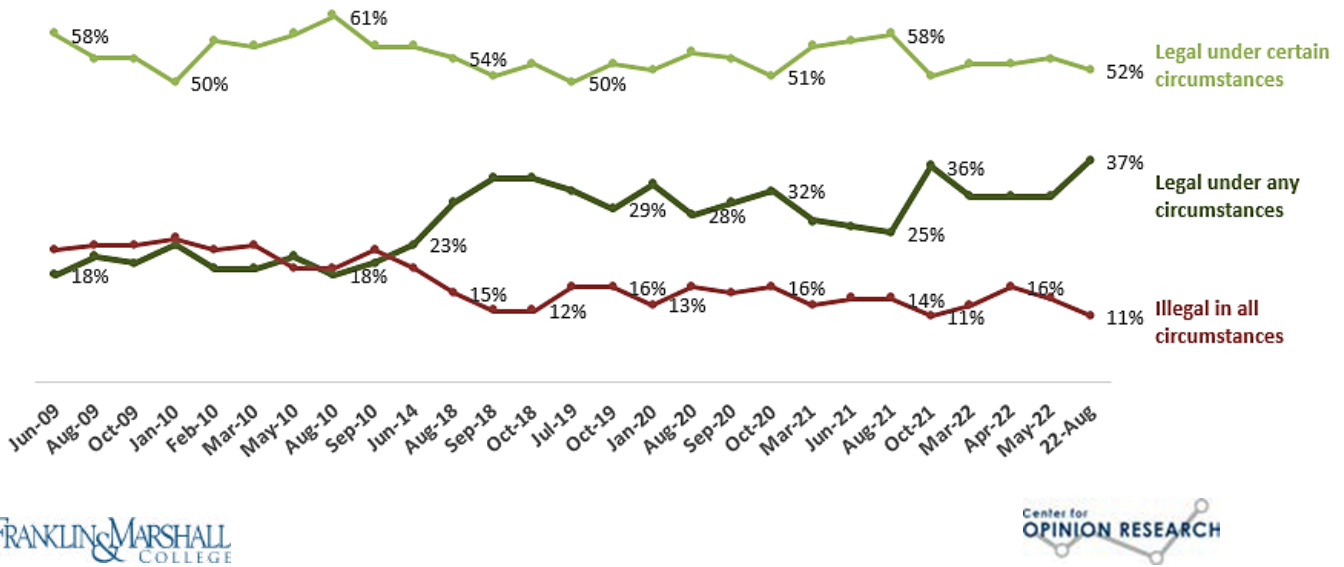


Figure 2. This figure shows support for abortion rights among registered Pennsylvania voters 2009-2022

### The 2022 Gubernatorial Race

Democrat Josh Shapiro currently holds an advantage over Republican Doug Mastriano in the 2022 race for Pennsylvania Governor, 44% to 33%. Shapiro receives a larger share of Democrats (76%) than Mastriano receives among Republicans (66%), and Shapiro also leads among independent voters 40% to 24% (see Table A-2).

Shapiro is viewed more favorably (44%) than unfavorably (32%) by the state's voters, while Mastriano tends to be viewed more unfavorably (49%) than favorably (28%). More voters believe Shapiro best understands the concerns of Pennsylvanians (47% to 33%) and is closest to their views on social issues (45% to 32%), but the two candidates are relatively close when it comes to being viewed as having policies that will improve voters' economic circumstances (36% to 33%).

### *January 6<sup>th</sup>*

More than two in five (43%) of the state's registered voters say they have not watched any of the January 6th Committee hearings, including three in five (62%) Republicans and half (56%) of independents. Voters are divided on the purpose of the Committee hearings, with nearly equal numbers thinking the hearings are mostly an attempt to find the truth about the events of January 6th (47%) or that they are mostly an attempt to damage President Trump's reputation (45%). Despite this division, most (87%) registered voters believe that the actions of protesters who entered the Capitol on January 6th were not justified, and most (81%) believe these individuals should face criminal charges.

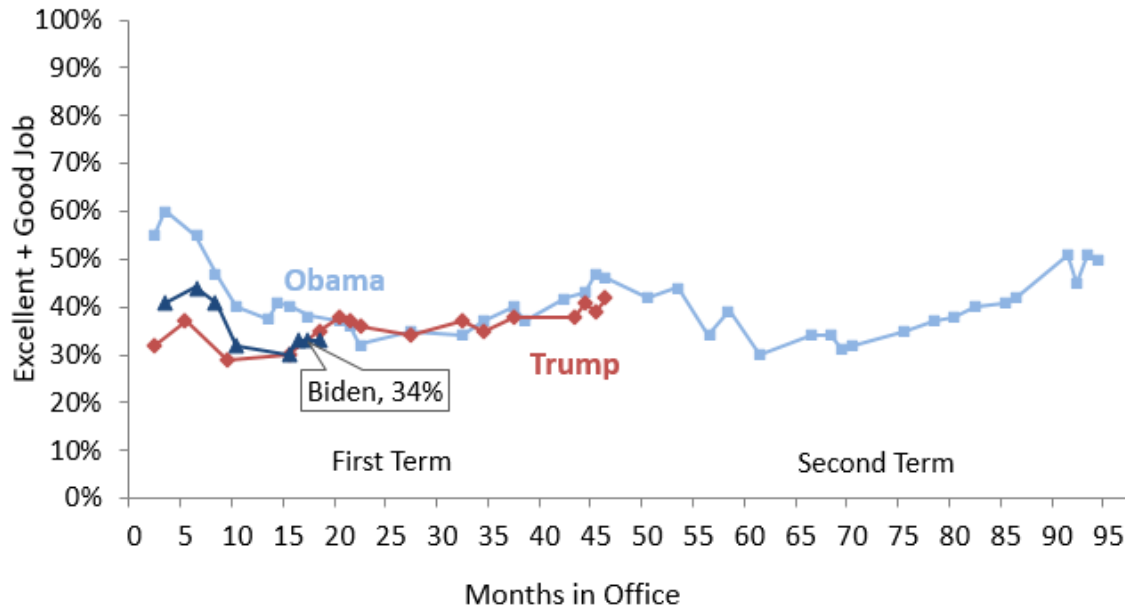
### *President Biden: Job Performance*

About one in three (34%) registered voters in Pennsylvania believes President Biden is doing an "excellent" or "good" job as president, which is the same as his ratings in May. Figure 3 compares President Biden's job ratings to President Obama's and President Trump's job ratings; President Biden's current rating is lower than President Trump's and President Obama's ratings in Pennsylvania at the same point in their terms. A majority of Democrats (62%) rate the President's performance positively, while fewer Republicans (5%) or independents (23%) do so (see Table A-3).



### Comparison of Presidents' Job Performance Ratings, Pennsylvania registered voters, August 2022

*How would you rate the way that [fill President] 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?*



*Figure 3. This figure shows how registered voters in Pennsylvania rate the performance of President Biden in relation to Presidents Obama (blue line) and Trump (red line) at similar points in their terms.*

#### The 2022 US Senate Race

Democrat John Fetterman currently holds an advantage over Republican Mehmet Oz in the 2022 race for Pennsylvania US Senator, 43% to 30%. The race is a bit closer when those who are leaning toward a candidate are included (45% to 36%, Fetterman). Fetterman receives a larger share of Democrats (76%) than Oz receives among Republicans (62%), and he also leads among independent voters 34% to 17% (see Table A-4).

Fetterman is viewed more favorably (43%) than unfavorably (36%) by the state's voters, while Oz tends to be viewed more unfavorably (57%) than favorably (27%). More voters

believe Fetterman best understands the concerns of Pennsylvanians (52% to 28%) and is closest to their views on social issues (46% to 32%), but the two candidates are relatively close when it comes to being viewed as having policies that will improve voters' economic circumstances (37% to 33%).

## Methodology

The survey findings presented in this release are based on the results of interviews conducted August 15 - 21, 2022. The interviews were conducted at the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall. The data included in this release represent the responses of 522 registered Pennsylvania voters, including 234 Democrats, 214 Republicans, and 74 independents.<sup>1</sup> The sample of voters was obtained from Marketing Systems Group. All sampled respondents were notified by mail about the survey. Interviews were completed over the phone and online depending on each respondent's preference. Survey results were weighted (age, gender, education, geography, vote history, and party registration) using an iterative weighting algorithm to reflect the known distribution of those characteristics. Estimates for age, geography, and party registration are based on active voters within the PA Department of State's voter registration data. Gender and education is estimated using data from the November 2018 CPS Voter Registration Supplement.<sup>2</sup>

The sample error for this survey is +/- 5.3 percentage points when the design effects from weighting are considered. An alternative means of calculating the variation in a sample is to take a series of bootstrap samples from the original sample and to use those bootstrapped samples to produce an estimate of sampling error.<sup>3</sup> The procedure involves

---

<sup>1</sup> The data reported here is voter REGISTRATION and is consistent with past reporting practices. The survey also asked about self-reported voter IDENTIFICATION, which shows a slightly different partisan split: 45% identify as Republican (n=229), 10% as Independent (n=52), and 42% as Democrat (n=212) and the balance not offering a response. Partisan comparisons in this summary show self-reported registration.

<sup>2</sup> Data downloaded from IPUMS-CPS, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org), accessed 12/31/2021

<sup>3</sup> Canty, Angelo. 2002. "Resampling Methods in R: The boot Package." R News 2/3 (December): 2-7

resampling a data set, calculating a statistic for each bootstrapped sample, accumulating the results of these samples and calculating a sample distribution. The standard deviation of the mean of 10,000 bootstrapped samples for the estimated positive job approval for President Biden was 2.1% and 95% of the samples fell within a range of 30% and 38%.

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.

## Further Reading

- 2022 Pennsylvania Primary Recap – [2022 Primary Recap: Turnout, Geography, and Issues](#)
- Party Factions in Pennsylvania Politics - [Medvic, Stephen K; Yost, Berwood A. \(2021, November 4-5\). \*Party Factions Among the Voters\*. 2021 State of the Parties: 2020 and Beyond, Virtual Conference](#)

## Table A-1: Financial Status

*Pennsylvania registered voters, August 2022*

*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
<b>Party*</b>				
Republican	2%	63%	32%	2%
Democrat	20%	24%	54%	2%
Independent or something else	14%	47%	39%	0%
<b>Ideology*</b>				
Liberal	22%	20%	55%	3%
Moderate	13%	37%	50%	0%
Conservative	6%	61%	32%	1%
<b>Gender*</b>				
Male	12%	47%	40%	1%
Female	12%	40%	47%	1%
<b>Age**</b>				
Under 35	21%	37%	37%	5%
35-54	14%	39%	46%	1%
Over 55	10%	45%	44%	1%
<b>Education**</b>				
HS or less	10%	48%	38%	4%
Some college	9%	48%	42%	1%
College degree	15%	37%	46%	2%
<b>Race</b>				
White	12%	43%	43%	2%
Nonwhite	11%	43%	42%	4%
<b>Race &amp; Education, White Voters**</b>				
White, No College Degree	9%	48%	40%	2%
White, College Degree	10%	49%	41%	0%
<b>Employment*</b>				
Fulltime	14%	45%	40%	0%
Other	12%	34%	46%	7%
Retired	8%	45%	46%	1%
<b>Income*</b>				
Under \$35,000	4%	52%	41%	3%
\$35,000-\$75,000	11%	46%	42%	0%
Over \$75,000	19%	34%	46%	1%
<b>"Born-again" or evangelical Christian*</b>				
Yes	14%	51%	34%	0%
No	12%	39%	47%	2%
<b>Region**</b>				
Philadelphia & Southeast	13%	30%	54%	3%
Northeast	12%	52%	34%	2%
Allegheny & Southwest	9%	44%	45%	2%
Northwest	8%	49%	42%	2%
Central	14%	52%	33%	1%
<b>Urban-Rural Classification*</b>				
Large Central Metro	13%	36%	45%	5%
Large Fringe Metro	11%	33%	55%	1%
Medium Metro	12%	49%	38%	1%
Small Metro	18%	50%	30%	2%
Micropolitan	6%	57%	37%	0%
Noncore	4%	70%	21%	5%
* p<0.01    ** p<0.05				

## Table A-2: Gubernatorial Race

Pennsylvania registered voters, August 2022

If the 2022 election for governor were being held today would you vote for:

	Mastriano	Shapiro	Other	Do not know
<b>Party*</b>				
Republican	66%	10%	3%	21%
Democrat	6%	76%	3%	14%
Independent or something else	24%	40%	9%	27%
<b>Ideology*</b>				
Liberal	0%	92%	1%	6%
Moderate	19%	55%	7%	19%
Conservative	71%	9%	3%	16%
<b>Gender*</b>				
Male	40%	38%	5%	18%
Female	26%	51%	3%	19%
<b>Age*</b>				
Under 35	19%	39%	10%	32%
35-54	33%	44%	5%	19%
Over 55	36%	49%	2%	14%
<b>Education*</b>				
HS or less	43%	31%	4%	21%
Some college	38%	41%	4%	17%
College degree	24%	53%	3%	19%
<b>Race</b>				
White	34%	45%	4%	17%
Nonwhite	29%	40%	3%	28%
<b>Race &amp; Education, White Voters*</b>				
White, No College Degree	40%	37%	5%	18%
White, College Degree	40%	36%	0%	24%
<b>Employment*</b>				
Fulltime	33%	44%	4%	20%
Other	26%	40%	8%	26%
Retired	39%	49%	1%	11%
<b>Income</b>				
Under \$35,000	34%	40%	6%	20%
\$35,000-\$75,000	27%	51%	4%	18%
Over \$75,000	37%	47%	2%	14%
<b>"Born-again" or evangelical Christian*</b>				
Yes	50%	26%	6%	18%
No	28%	50%	3%	18%
<b>Region*</b>				
Philadelphia & Southeast	18%	61%	1%	20%
Northeast	51%	33%	7%	10%
Allegheny & Southwest	41%	41%	4%	14%
Northwest	39%	28%	0%	33%
Central	35%	37%	7%	21%
<b>Urban-Rural Classification</b>				
Large Central Metro	23%	53%	2%	23%
Large Fringe Metro	27%	56%	1%	17%
Medium Metro	43%	34%	7%	17%
Small Metro	40%	34%	7%	19%
Micropolitan	32%	40%	8%	19%
Noncore	44%	25%	0%	31%

\* p<0.01 \*\* p<0.05

## Table A-3: Presidential Job Performance

*Pennsylvania registered voters, May 2022*

*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/Good	Fair/Poor	Do not know
<b>Party*</b>			
Republican	5%	93%	2%
Democrat	62%	37%	1%
Independent or something else	23%	71%	6%
<b>Ideology*</b>			
Liberal	71%	29%	0%
Moderate	36%	62%	2%
Conservative	6%	93%	1%
<b>Gender*</b>			
Male	27%	71%	1%
Female	40%	59%	1%
<b>Age*</b>			
Under 35	18%	77%	6%
35-54	34%	66%	0%
Over 55	37%	61%	2%
<b>Education*</b>			
HS or less	24%	72%	4%
Some college	28%	70%	1%
College degree	42%	56%	2%
<b>Race</b>			
White	32%	66%	2%
Nonwhite	39%	57%	4%
<b>Race &amp; Education, White Voters*</b>			
White, No College Degree	22%	75%	3%
White, College Degree	52%	48%	0%
<b>Employment*</b>			
Fulltime	30%	70%	0%
Other	39%	55%	6%
Retired	35%	63%	2%
<b>Income</b>			
Under \$35,000	28%	67%	4%
\$35,000-\$75,000	33%	67%	0%
Over \$75,000	34%	65%	1%
<b>"Born-again" or evangelical Christian*</b>			
Yes	23%	77%	0%
No	37%	61%	2%
<b>Region*</b>			
Philadelphia & Southeast	50%	49%	1%
Northeast	28%	70%	2%
Allegheny & Southwest	27%	71%	2%
Northwest	25%	63%	11%
Central	23%	76%	0%
<b>Urban-Rural Classification*</b>			
Large Central Metro	41%	57%	2%
Large Fringe Metro	44%	55%	1%
Medium Metro	25%	71%	5%
Small Metro	19%	80%	1%
Micropolitan	33%	67%	0%
Noncore	19%	81%	0%
* p<0.01    ** p<0.05			

## Table A-4: Senate Race

Pennsylvania registered voters, August 2022

If the 2022 election for US Senate were being held today would you vote for:

	Oz	Fetterman	Other	Do not know
<b>Party*</b>				
Republican	62%	9%	7%	22%
Democrat	6%	76%	3%	15%
Independent or something else	17%	34%	15%	34%
<b>Ideology*</b>				
Liberal	0%	90%	3%	7%
Moderate	20%	53%	8%	18%
Conservative	64%	6%	8%	22%
<b>Gender*</b>				
Male	38%	38%	6%	19%
Female	23%	50%	7%	21%
<b>Age*</b>				
Under 35	11%	44%	11%	34%
35-54	25%	42%	9%	23%
Over 55	37%	47%	2%	13%
<b>Education*</b>				
HS or less	40%	27%	1%	32%
Some college	34%	37%	14%	15%
College degree	21%	57%	3%	19%
<b>Race*</b>				
White	31%	45%	7%	18%
Nonwhite	24%	37%	3%	35%
<b>Race &amp; Education, White Voters*</b>				
White, No College Degree	37%	34%	10%	19%
White, College Degree	34%	31%	0%	36%
<b>Employment</b>				
Fulltime	28%	44%	7%	21%
Other	30%	39%	7%	25%
Retired	34%	45%	5%	16%
<b>Income</b>				
Under \$35,000	30%	43%	3%	24%
\$35,000-\$75,000	27%	46%	9%	18%
Over \$75,000	32%	47%	6%	15%
<b>"Born-again" or evangelical Christian*</b>				
Yes	31%	23%	14%	32%
No	30%	50%	4%	16%
<b>Region*</b>				
Philadelphia & Southeast	19%	62%	3%	16%
Northeast	44%	34%	8%	14%
Allegheny & Southwest	35%	40%	6%	18%
Northwest	35%	29%	0%	36%
Central	32%	32%	11%	25%
<b>Urban-Rural Classification*</b>				
Large Central Metro	22%	52%	6%	20%
Large Fringe Metro	28%	56%	3%	13%
Medium Metro	41%	32%	8%	19%
Small Metro	29%	34%	10%	27%
Micropolitan	32%	30%	0%	37%
Noncore	14%	28%	19%	39%
* p<0.01    ** p<0.05				