Muhlenberg College

Institute of Public Opinion

Muhlenberg College/Morning Call

Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District

2018 Midterm Election Survey

April/May

Key Findings:

1. In the wake of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ordered redistricting, voters in Lehigh, Northampton and southern Monroe County will now be voting in the newly constructed Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District.

2. A majority (53%) of registered voters in the 7th Congressional District disapprove of the job that President Trump is doing in office with just under 4 out of 10 (39%) approving of the 45th President's job performance.

3. An enthusiasm gap appears to have emerged among voters in the 7th Congressional District with 64% of Democrats "very interested" in the midterm election in November compared to 53% of Republicans.

4. In a generic congressional ballot 7th District voters give Democrats an 11% lead over Republicans (46%-35%).

5. Voters in the 7th Congressional District are generally not familiar with the array of Democrat and Republican candidates running for their party's nomination as a candidate for Congress.

6. In potential match-ups of leading Democrat and Republican challengers in the 7th Congressional District the Democrats outperform their Republican Counterparts with leads ranging between 7% and 18%.

7. The job performance of Congressman Charlie Dent, who currently represents a large portion of the newly constructed 7th Congressional District, is rated fairly positively with 43% of voters in the 7th District approving of Dent's work compared to 25% who disapprove of his performance in the House of Representatives.

The following report contains the results of a telephone survey of 408 voters in the 7th Congressional District of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania between April 24 and May 3, 2018. Respondents were interviewed in English on both landlines (173) and cell phones (235). With a randomly selected sample of respondents the margin of error for the survey is +/- 5.5% at a 95% level of confidence. Margins of error for questions with smaller sample size will be larger. In addition to sampling error, one should consider that question wording and other fielding issues can introduce error or bias into survey results. The data has been weighted by gender and party registration to reflect voter population parameters in the 7th Congressional District in Pennsylvania. The calculation of sampling error takes into account design effects due to the weighting identified above. In order to reach a representative sample of likely voters both land lines and cell phones were called up to 3 times. The response rate for this survey as calculated using the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) RRII formula is approximately 11%. The sampling frame for the study is from the registered voters files of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Due to rounding the totals provided in the frequency report may not total 100%. The survey instrument (presented in its entirety below) was designed by Dr. Christopher P. Borick of the MCIPO is conjunction with the staff of the *Morning Call*. The survey was funded exclusively by the *Morning Call* and the MCIPO. For more detailed information on the methods employed please contact the MCIPO at 484-664-3444 or email Dr. Borick at cborick@muhlenberg.edu.

INSTRUMENT AND FREQUENCIES

PENNSYLVANIA 7th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT POLL

Spring 2018

Q1: Thank you. Which of the following categories best describes your current voting status? Are you registered as a _____? (READ LIST)

1. Democrat…………………………………46%
2. Republican………………………………39%
3. Independent……………………………12%
4. Other Party……………………………… 2%
5. Not Registered to Vote in Pennsylvania (END SURVEY)
6. Not Sure (Volunteered) (END SURVEY)

Q2: Thinking about the upcoming midterm elections in November, would you say that you are very interested, somewhat interested or not interested at all in the 2018 elections?

1. Very Interested………………..…56%
2. Somewhat Interested……………….30%
3. Not Interested At All……………….12%
4. Not Sure……………………………. 2%

Q3: Next, I would like for you to rate the performance of a few political officials. For each name that I read, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way he is doing his job.

First, President Donald Trump?

1. Approve…………………………………39%
2. Disapprove ……………………………53%
3. No opinion (Volunteered)……………….. 8%

Q4:Next, Governor Tom Wolf?

1. Approve…………………………………41%
2. Disapprove ……………………………32%
3. No opinion (Volunteered)……………..26%

Q5: And Congressman Charlie Dent?

1. Approve…………………………………43%
2. Disapprove ……………………………25%
3. No opinion (Volunteered)……………..32%

Q6: If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for? The Democratic Party's candidate or the Republican Party's candidate? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. Democrat…………………………………46%
2. Republican……………………………... 35%
3. Neither/Other………………………….. 4%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered)………………... 15%

ROTATE Questions 7-14

Q7 Now, I would like to ask your overall impression of a few political figures.
For each name I read, please tell me if your impression of them is favorable
or unfavorable. First, Dean Browning.

1. Favorable…………………………………14%
2. Unfavorable……………………………. 8%
3. Neutral/Not Sure………………………..21%
4. Haven't heard of him………………….....58%

Q8: Next, Marty Nothstein

1. Favorable…………………………………19%
2. Unfavorable……………………………..12%
3. Neutral/Not Sure………………………… 20%
4. Haven't heard of him……………….. 49%

Q9: David Clark

1. Favorable…………………………………… 9%
2. Unfavorable………………………………… 6%
3. Neutral/Not Sure…………………………… 20%
4. Haven't heard of him……………………….. 65%

Q10: Rick Daugherty

1. Favorable……………………………………13%
2. Unfavorable………………………………… 8%
3. Neutral/Not Sure…………………………… 24%
4. Haven't heard of him……………………….. 54%

Q11: Greg Edwards

1. Favorable……………………………………14%
2. Unfavorable………………………………… 6%
3. Neutral/Not Sure…………………………… 21%
4. Haven't heard of him………………………..59%

Q12: John Morganelli

1. Favorable……………………………………33%
2. Unfavorable…………………………………15%
3. Neutral/Not Sure…………………………… 16%
4. Haven't heard of him……………………….. 37%

Q13: Roger Ruggles

1. Favorable……………………………………7%
2. Unfavorable…………………………………7%
3. Neutral/Not Sure………………………….23%
4. Haven't heard of him………………………..63%

Q14: Susan Wild

1. Favorable……………………………………19%
2. Unfavorable………………………………… 9%
3. Neutral/Not Sure………………………….21%
4. Haven't heard of him………………………..51%

ROTATE Questions 15-20

Q15: Now, if the election in the 7th Congressional District was being held today and the race was between John Morganelli the Democrat and Dean Browning the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. John Morganelli…………………………46%
2. Dean Browning.………………………….28%
3. Neither/Other.…………………………… 7%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered).…………………20%

Q16: If the election in the 7th Congressional District was being held today and the race was between John Morganelli the Democrat and Marty Nothstein the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. John Morganelli.………………………….45%
2. Marty Nothstein.………………………….30%
3. Neither/Other .…………………………… 5%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered).………………….20%

Q17: If the election in the 7th Congressional District was being held today and the race was between Susan Wild the Democrat and Dean Browning the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. Susan Wild.……………………………… 42%
2. Dean Browning.………………………….. 29%
3. Neither/Other .……………………………. 5%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered).…………………….25%

Q18: If the election in the 7th Congressional District was being held today and the race was between Susan Wild the Democrat and Marty Nothstein the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1.Susan Wild.……………………………….42%
2. Marty Nothstein.………………………….31%
3. Neither/Other .……………………………. 5%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered).…………………. 21%

Q19: If the election in the 7th Congressional District was being held today and the race was between the Greg Edwards the Democrat and Dean Browning the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. Greg Edwards.……………………………40%
2. Dean Browning.…………………………. 29%
3. Neither/Other.…………………………… 7%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered).……………………. 24%

Q20: If the election in the 7th Congressional District was being held today and the race was between Greg Edwards the Democrat and Marty Nothstein the Republican who would you vote for? (OPTIONS ROTATED)

1. Greg Edwards ……………………………….40%
2. Marty Nothstein………………………….. 33%
3. Neither/Other…………………………… 5%
4. Not Sure (Volunteered)…………………….22%

Q21: What issue do you consider the most important in terms of deciding your vote in the 2018 Midterm elections? (Open ended responses coded into categories)

Economy/Jobs…………… 20%
Health Care……………… 15%
Education………………....11%
Gun Control………………10%
Taxes…………………… 10%
Immigration ……………. 6%
National Security……........ 5%
Environment……………… 3%
Abortion………………….. 2%
Stopping Trump……………2%
Other/Not Sure……………16%

Q22: Which of the following best describes your activity in the 2016 Presidential Election? Did you vote for:

1. Donald Trump………………………… 41%
2. Hillary Clinton…………………………44%
3. Some other candidate………………….. 5%
4. Or did you not vote in that election……. 9%
5. Not Sure (VOL)………………………… 1%
6. Refused (VOL)

Q23: Finally, I have a few questions about yourself. Which of the following categories best describes your racial identity? Are you (READ LIST)?

1. White/Caucasian………….. 80%
2. African-American………… 6%
3. Hispanic…………………… 6%
4. Latino……………………… 1%
5. Asian………………………. 2%
6. Native American………… <1%
7. Mixed race………………… 3%
8. or other…………………….. 2%

Q24: Which of the following categories best describes your religious affiliation? Are you (READ LIST)?

1. Catholic………………………………… 32%
2. Protestant…………………………….... 30%
3. Jewish…………………………………. 3%
4. Muslim………………………………… 1%
5. Hindu…………………………………. <1%
6. Other Religion (Including agnostic)…… 25%
7. or Atheist ……………………………… 6%
8. Not Sure (Volunteered)…………………….2%   4

Q25: What is your highest level of education? (READ LIST)

1. Less than High School……………… 3%
2. High School Graduate………………21%
3. Some college or technical school…...27%
4. College graduate (4 yr only)……… 30%
5. Graduate or professional degree…….20%

Q26: Which of the following categories best describes your family income? Is it (READ LIST)?

1. Under $20,000…………………12%
2. $20,000-$40,000……………… 18%
3. $40,000-$60,000……………… 16%
4. $60,000-$80,000……………… 18%
5. $80,000-$100,000…………….. 9%
6. Over $100,000…………………26%
7. Not Sure…………………………2%

Q27: Which of the following categories does your current age fall in? Is it (READ LIST)?

1. 18-29……………………….. 18%
2 30-49……………………….. 27%
3. 50-64………………………..25%
4. 65- and over………………...29%

Q28: Finally to which gender identity do you most identify? (READ LIST)

1. Male…………………………………………………..49%
2. Female………………………………………………..50%
3. Transgender Male…………………………………… 0%
4. Transgender Female………………………………… 0%
5. Or you do not identify as male, female or transgender……… 1%
6. Other (Vol)………………………………………… 0%

SELECTED CROSSTABS

Interest in Midterm Election

	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Interested	Not Sure
Democrat	64%	25%	9%	2%
Republican	53%	36%	11%	1%
Independent	49%	28%	19%	5%

President Trump Job Approval Rating

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
Democrat	10%	83%	7%
Republican	73%	20%	7%
Independent	35%	57%	9%

Congressman Dent Job Approval Rating

	Approve	**Disapprove**	**Not Sure**
Democrat	43%	27%	29%
Republican	45%	24%	31%
Independent	35%	21%	44%

Generic Congressional Ballot

	Democrat	**Republican**	**Neither/Other/Not Sure**
Democrat	82%	7%	12%
Republican	11%	75%	14%
Independent	35%	24%	41%