

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL

March 2009

**Franklin & Marshall
College Poll**

**SURVEY OF PENNSYLVANIANS
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

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Table of Contents

METHODOLOGY	2
KEY FINDINGS	4
MARGINAL FREQUENCY REPORT	7

Methodology

The survey findings presented in this release are based on the results of interviews conducted March 17-22, 2009. The interviews were conducted at the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin and Marshall College under the direction of the poll's Director Dr. G. Terry Madonna, Head Methodologist Berwood Yost, and Project Manager Jennifer Harding. The data included in this release represent the responses of 662 adult residents of Pennsylvania. Telephone numbers for the survey were generated using random digit dialing, and respondents were randomly selected from within each household. Survey results were weighted using an iterative weighting algorithm.

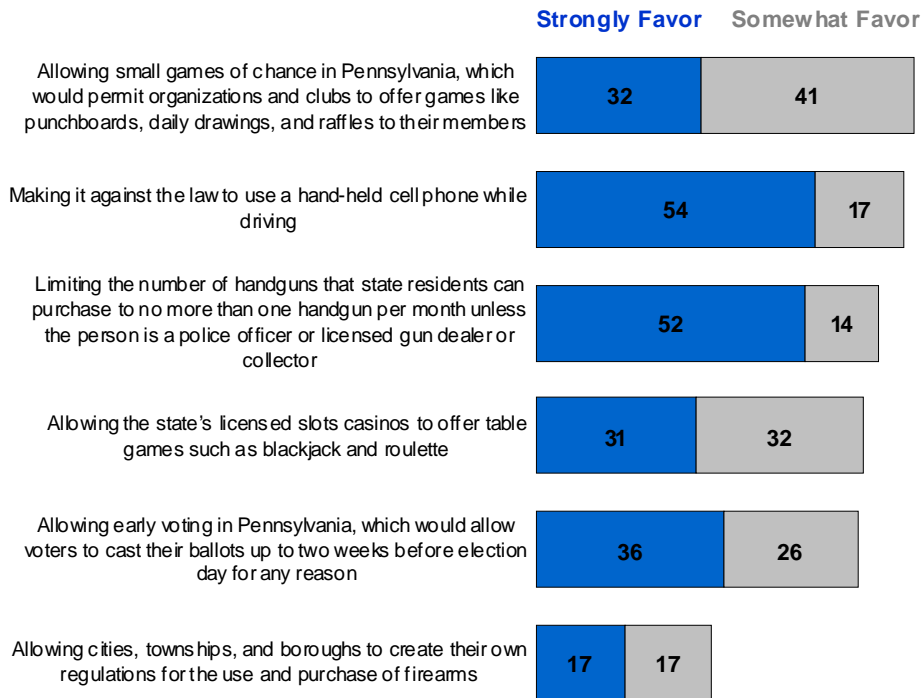
The sample error for this survey is +/- 3.8 percent. The sample error for registered adults is +/- 4.0 percent. In addition to sampling error, this poll is also subject to other sources of non-sampling error. Generally speaking, two sources of error concern researchers most. Non-response bias is created 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 and Marshall College Poll is produced in conjunction with the Philadelphia Daily News, WGAL-TV, Pittsburgh Tribune Review, WTAE-TV, WPVI-TV6/ABC, and Times-Shamrock Newspapers. It may be used in whole or in part, provided any use is attributed to Franklin & Marshall College.

Key Findings

Registered adults in the state support many of the proposals now before the legislature (see Figure 1), such as allowing small games of chance (73% favor, 21% oppose), making it against the law to use a handheld cell phone while driving (71% favor, 27% oppose), limiting the purchasing of handguns to one per month per person (66% favor, 31% oppose), allowing casinos to offer table games (63% favor, 32% oppose), and allowing early voting (62% favor, 35% oppose). On the other hand, more Pennsylvanians oppose (58%) than support (34%) allowing municipalities to regulate firearms within their jurisdiction.

Figure 1. Support for Legislative Proposals

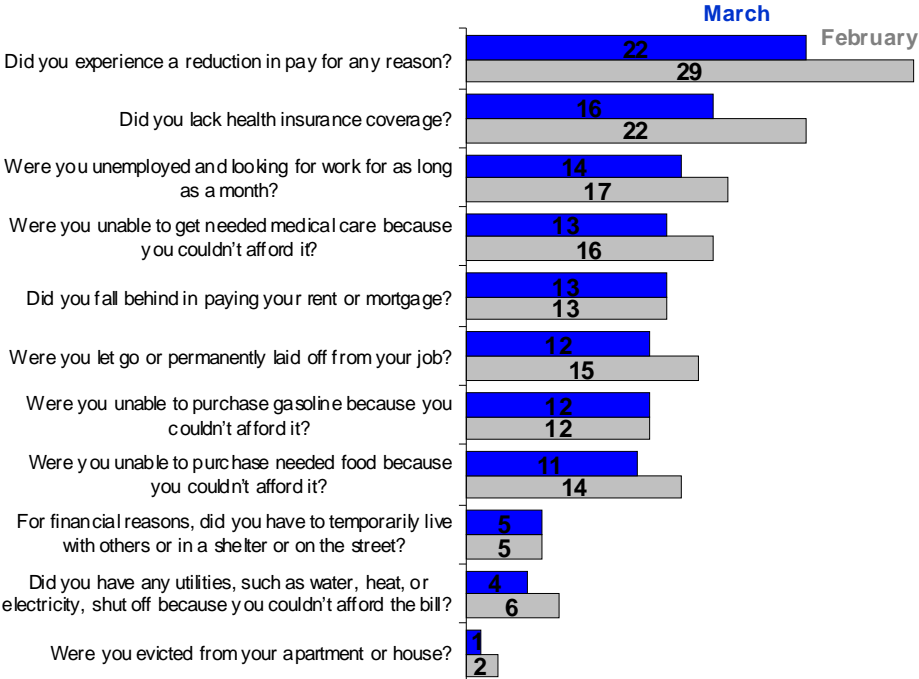


Senator Arlen Specter's job performance has improved since February, when 43 percent positively rated his job performance (8% excellent and 35% good). This month Specter's positive ratings increased to 52 percent (13% excellent and 39% good). In a hypothetical matchup with two of Specter's likely primary opponents, four in ten (42%) Republicans have no preference at the moment. Among this small sample, Specter leads with 33 percent to Pat Toomey's 18 percent and Peg Luksik's two percent. More registered adults say it is time for a change (46%) than believe Specter deserves re-election (40%); half (51%) of Republicans believe it is time for a change.

Even though Pennsylvanians are dealing with difficult economic times, they see better times ahead and express confidence in the Obama administration. Six in ten (62%) Pennsylvanians say that economic conditions in the country are bad, but more predict that conditions will be better (40%) a year from now than worse (13%). In February one in four (24%) Pennsylvanians said that economic conditions would be worse a year from now. Furthermore, seven in ten (72%) registered adults are confident in President Obama's ability to manage the country's economic problems, and six in ten (60%) rate his job performance as excellent (23%) or good (37%).

This month fewer Pennsylvanians indicate they are worse off financially than they were a year ago (36% compared to 44% in February) and experienced at least one of the 11 economic hardships presented in the survey (47% compared to 53% in February). In particular fewer report a reduction in pay (22% compared to 29% in February) and a lack of health insurance coverage (16% compared to 22% in February) during the past year (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Economic Hardships Faced by Pennsylvanians



Marginal Frequency Report

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
Mar 2009	48%	41%	11%
Feb 2009	40%	49%	11%
Aug 2007	47%	44%	9%
Jun 2007	42%	45%	13%
Feb 2007	46%	42%	12%
Oct 2006*	47%	42%	11%
Sep 2006*	52%	36%	12%
Aug 2006*	50%	40%	10%
Feb 2006	45%	46%	9%
Nov 2005	39%	52%	10%
Sep 2005	46%	46%	8%
Jun 2005	43%	45%	12%
Mar 2005	50%	44%	6%
Oct 2004*	48%	39%	13%
Sep 2004*	46%	41%	13%
Aug 2004*	43%	40%	17%
Mar 2004*	33%	50%	18%
Feb 2004	37%	49%	14%
Nov 2003	45%	45%	10%
Apr 2003	55%	33%	12%
Sep 2002*	52%	32%	16%
Jun 2002*	55%	32%	13%
Jul 1999	64%	27%	9%
Sep 1998*	67%	15%	18%
Jul 1998	60%	26%	14%
Mar 1998	65%	24%	11%
Oct 1996	49%	31%	21%
Sep 1996*	49%	34%	17%
Jul 1996	41%	41%	18%
Apr 1995	52%	32%	17%

*Question asked of registered respondents only

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

88% Yes
12% No

Questions RegPARTY through DesRECD were only asked of registered respondents (n = 586).

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

- 51% Democrat
- 36% Republican
- 10% Independent
- 2% Other
- 1% Don't know

IntFav. I'm going to ask you a few questions about some PEOPLE involved in POLITICS today. 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. (rotated)

	Favorable	Not Favorable	Undecided	Don't know
ED RENDELL				
Mar 2009	45%	35%	15%	5%
Feb 2009	42%	38%	13%	7%
Aug 2007	47%	36%	12%	5%
Jun 2007	48%	38%	10%	4%
Feb 2007	53%	36%	8%	3%
Oct 2006	54%	30%	12%	4%
Sep 2006	52%	29%	16%	3%
Aug 2006	49%	33%	14%	4%
May 2006	48%	32%	16%	4%
Feb 2006	41%	40%	14%	5%
Nov 2005	39%	38%	18%	6%
Sep 2005	42%	36%	16%	6%
Jun 2005	41%	33%	17%	9%
Mar 2005	48%	28%	18%	7%
Aug 2004	46%	31%	17%	6%
Feb 2004	40%	32%	15%	14%
Nov 2003	46%	26%	21%	7%
Apr 2003	50%	19%	17%	16%
Oct 2002	50%	24%	18%	9%
Sep 2002	43%	19%	25%	14%
Jun 2002	40%	18%	26%	16%
Oct 2001	30%	8%	13%	50%
Apr 2001	29%	7%	11%	52%
Jul 1999	30%	7%	9%	54%
ARLEN SPECTER				
Mar 2009	48%	24%	14%	14%
Feb 2009	42%	29%	15%	14%
Jun 2007	42%	33%	16%	9%
Oct 2004	45%	28%	17%	10%
Sep 2004	42%	26%	25%	8%
Aug 2004	39%	26%	24%	11%
Mar 2004	41%	25%	23%	11%
Feb 2004	41%	25%	13%	21%
Nov 2003	46%	26%	17%	11%
Apr 2003	46%	23%	14%	17%
Sep 1998	57%	17%	19%	7%

	Favorable	Not Favorable	Undecided	Don't know
ARLEN SPECTER cont.				
Jul 1998	57%	19%	15%	9%
Mar 1998	53%	27%	15%	5%
Oct 1997	52%	20%	18%	10%
Apr 1995	32%	31%	23%	14%
Oct 1992	34%	30%	26%	7%
Apr 1992	55%	28%	17%	--
BOB CASEY, JR.				
Mar 2009	34%	16%	19%	31%
Feb 2009	30%	17%	21%	32%
Jun 2007	29%	22%	23%	26%
Oct 2006	39%	29%	16%	16%
Sep 2006	29%	22%	22%	27%
Aug 2006	31%	20%	18%	31%
May 2006	30%	13%	20%	37%
Feb 2006	30%	8%	16%	45%
Nov 2005	30%	9%	20%	40%
Sep 2005	32%	7%	22%	39%
Jun 2005	40%	9%	15%	36%
Mar 2005	33%	10%	19%	38%
Oct 2001	28%	7%	22%	43%
Apr 2001	33%	9%	22%	36%
Jun 1999	29%	11%	17%	44%
BARACK OBAMA				
Mar 2009	59%	21%	18%	2%
Feb 2009	56%	23%	17%	4%
Oct 2008	53%	33%	12%	3%
Sep 2008	49%	30%	17%	3%
Aug 2008	43%	29%	23%	5%
Feb 2008	46%	27%	21%	6%
Jan 2008	41%	27%	23%	9%
Aug 2007	37%	21%	23%	19%
Jun 2007	32%	21%	20%	27%
Feb 2007	31%	15%	20%	34%

RepPrim. If the 2010 Republican primary election for U.S. SENATOR were being held today and the candidates included (*rotated*) Arlen Specter, Pat Toomey, and Peg Luksik, would you vote for Arlen Specter, Pat Toomey, Peg Luksik, some other candidate, or aren't you sure how you would vote?

n = 211 (registered Republicans)

- 33% Arlen Specter
- 18% Pat Toomey
- 2% Peg Luksik
- 5% Some other candidate
- 42% Don't know

IntIdea. I'm going to ask you about some ideas that are being discussed in the state legislature. For each, please tell me if you FAVOR or OPPOSE the proposal. (*rotated*)

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
Making it against the law to use a hand-held cell phone while driving	54%	17%	14%	13%	2%
Limiting the number of handguns that state residents can purchase to no more than one handgun per month unless the person is a police officer or licensed gun dealer or collector	52%	14%	6%	25%	3%
Allowing early voting in Pennsylvania, which would allow voters to cast their ballots up to two weeks before election day for any reason	36%	26%	9%	26%	3%
Allowing small games of chance in Pennsylvania, which would permit organizations and clubs to offer games like punchboards, daily drawings, and raffles to their members	32%	41%	8%	13%	6%
Allowing the state's licensed slots casinos to offer table games such as blackjack and roulette	31%	32%	10%	22%	5%
Allowing cities, townships, and boroughs to create their own regulations for the use and purchase of firearms	17%	17%	12%	46%	8%

RatePres. How would you rate the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Would you say he is doing an...

	Excellent Job	Good Job	Only a Fair Job	Poor Job	Don't Know
Mar 2009	23%	37%	22%	14%	4%
Feb 2009	25%	30%	23%	13%	9%

ConfPres. How confident are you in President Obama's ability to handle the country's economic problems? Are you...

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Very Confident	Not at All Confident	Don't Know
Mar 2009	31%	41%	13%	14%	1%
Feb 2009	27%	43%	14%	15%	1%

RateSenS. How would you rate the way that ARLEN SPECTER is handling his job as U.S. SENATOR? Would you say he is doing an..

	Excellent Job	Good Job	Only a Fair Job	Poor Job	Don't Know
Mar 2009	13%	39%	25%	12%	11%
Feb 2009	8%	35%	32%	17%	8%
Aug 2007	15%	36%	33%	12%	4%
Feb 2004	5%	34%	32%	10%	19%
Nov 2003	7%	35%	37%	11%	10%
Apr 2003	11%	36%	30%	11%	13%
Sep 1998	7%	47%	34%	6%	6%
Jul 1998	10%	44%	31%	9%	6%
Oct 1997	12%	41%	33%	6%	7%
Apr 1992	5%	33%	44%	12%	6%
Oct 1991	11%	39%	41%	9%	--

DesRECD. Do you believe that ARLEN SPECTER has done a good enough job as SENATOR to deserve re-election, or do you believe it is time for a change?

	Deserves Re-election	Time for a Change	Don't Know
Mar 2009	40%	46%	14%
Oct 1997	49%	40%	11%

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	Don't Know
Mar 2009	11%	36%	53%	0%
Feb 2009	10%	44%	46%	0%
Oct 2008*	14%	44%	42%	0%
Sep 2008*	12%	40%	47%	0%
Aug 2008*	16%	37%	46%	1%
Feb 2008*	20%	29%	51%	0%
Jan 2008*	17%	25%	57%	1%
Nov 2005	20%	28%	51%	1%
Sep 2005	17%	36%	47%	0%
Jun 2005	24%	24%	52%	0%
Mar 2005	21%	28%	51%	1%
Nov 2003	17%	29%	53%	1%
Apr 2003	16%	30%	54%	0%
Sep 2002*	25%	26%	47%	1%
Jun 2002*	29%	20%	50%	1%
Jul 1999	31%	16%	52%	1%
Jul 1998	31%	16%	52%	1%
Mar 1998	31%	16%	52%	1%
Jul 1996	21%	22%	56%	1%
Feb 1996	21%	21%	57%	1%
Apr 1995	26%	21%	52%	1%

* Question asked of registered respondents only

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	Don't Know
Mar 2009	27%	12%	55%	6%
Feb 2009	29%	19%	45%	7%
Oct 2008*	33%	14%	40%	14%
Sep 2008*	25%	18%	42%	15%
Aug 2008*	28%	15%	45%	12%
Nov 2005	29%	20%	48%	3%
Sep 2005	27%	23%	45%	5%
Jun 2005	32%	15%	48%	5%
Mar 2005	31%	20%	45%	4%
Nov 2003	33%	13%	49%	5%
Apr 2003	27%	17%	51%	5%
Sep 2002*	38%	8%	43%	11%
Jun 2002*	35%	6%	49%	10%
Jul 1999	38%	8%	50%	4%
Jul 1998	41%	9%	45%	5%
Mar 1998	39%	7%	50%	4%
Jul 1996	24%	12%	54%	10%
Feb 1996	29%	16%	49%	6%
Apr 1995	37%	12%	44%	7%

* Question asked of registered respondents only

FinTot. Now turning to business conditions in the country as a whole, do you think that during the next 12 months, we'll have good times financially or bad times?

	Very Good	Good	Bad	Very Bad	Don't Know
Mar 2009	1%	31%	47%	15%	6%
Feb 2009	2%	21%	49%	22%	6%

FinTot2. And how about a year from now, do you expect that in the country as a whole, business conditions will be better or worse than they are at present or just about the same?

	Better	Worse	About the Same	Don't Know
Mar 2009	40%	13%	44%	3%
Feb 2009	39%	24%	35%	2%

IntHard. Now I'm going to ask you about various events that happen to people. I'm interested in those that happened to you at any point during the last 12 months, that is since [fill one year ago's date]. Did any of the following hardships happen to you in the last 12 months?
(rotated)

Mar 2009	Feb 2009	Oct 2008*	Sep 2008*	
% Yes				
22%	29%	19%	21%	Did you experience a reduction in pay for any reason?
16%	22%	10%	15%	Did you lack health insurance coverage?
14%	17%	10%	13%	Were you unemployed and looking for work for as long as a month?
13%	16%	11%	14%	Were you unable to get needed medical care because you couldn't afford it?
13%	13%	8%	10%	Did you fall behind in paying your rent or mortgage?
12%	15%	6%	8%	Were you let go or permanently laid off from your job?
12%	12%	12%	14%	Were you unable to purchase gasoline because you couldn't afford it?
11%	14%	11%	13%	Were you unable to purchase needed food because you couldn't afford it?
5%	5%	2%	3%	For financial reasons, did you have to temporarily live with others or in a shelter or on the street?
4%	6%	4%	5%	Did you have any utilities, such as water, heat, or electricity, shut off because you couldn't afford the bill?
1%	2%	1%	0%	Were you evicted from your apartment or house?

*Question asked of registered respondents only

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?)

28% Central
20% Southeast
13% Northeast
11% Southwest
10% Philadelphia
9% Allegheny
9% Northwest

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

16 Mean

AGE. What was your age on your last birthday?

7% 18-24
20% 25-34
14% 35-44
24% 45-54
12% 55-64
23% 65 and older

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

- 8% Non high school graduate
- 44% High school graduate or GED
- 14% Some college
- 9% Two-year or tech degree
- 16% Four year college degree
- 9% Post graduate degree

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

- 23% Single, Never Married
- 53% Married
- 3% Separated
- 10% Divorced
- 11% Widow or widower

PRTY1. Regardless of how you are registered, in politics, as of today, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

- 16% Strong Republican
- 11% Republican
- 11% Lean Republican
- 7% Pure Independent
- 9% Lean Democrat
- 17% Democrat
- 27% Strong Democrat
- 2% Don't know

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

- 20% Yes
- 79% No
- 1% Don't know

VET. Are you a military veteran?

- 17% Yes
- 83% No

Hispanic. Are you Hispanic or Latino, or not?

- 2% Yes
- 98% No

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

- 86% White
- 14% Non-white

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

40%	Protestant
28%	Catholic
16%	Some other religion
16%	Not affiliated with any religion

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

34%	Yes
65%	No
1%	Don't know

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

26%	One
58%	Two
11%	Three
5%	Four or more

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

47%	Full-time
10%	Part-time
4%	Going to school
5%	Keeping house
6%	Unemployed
6%	Disabled
22%	Retired

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

21%	Under \$25,000
14%	\$25-\$35,000
12%	\$35-50,000
25%	\$50-75,000
10%	\$75-100,000
14%	Over \$100,000
4%	Don't know

DONE. Sex of respondent:

52%	Female
48%	Male