

Dickinson College Exit Poll

Fall 2014

Methodology

Number of Interviews: 402 Voters in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

Margin of Error: +/- 5% at a 95% level of confidence

Date: Election Day 2014 – November 4, 2014

Methods of Interviewing: All interviews were conducted in person, but were anonymous. Upon exiting the polling place, voters were asked if they wanted to participate. If voters agreed, they were given a clipboard with the survey and asked to complete both sides of the questionnaire. Upon completion, surveys were placed in envelopes with precinct identifiers.

Weighting: Data were weighted by the final vote percentage (Democrat and Republican) of Cumberland County in the PA Governor's race.

The exit poll was conducted by students enrolled in Dickinson College Political Science classes POSC 239: Research Methods, and POSC 390: Campaigns and Elections Senior Seminar, under the direction of Professor Sarah Niebler. For further information, please contact Professor Niebler at: nieblers@dickinson.edu; or 717-254-8093.

Survey Questionnaire and Results:

Sex

Male	46.4%
Female	53.6%

Race/Ethnicity

White	93.6%
Black	2.6%
Hispanic/Latino	0.9%
Other	2.5%
Multiple Responses	0.4%

In the election for PA Governor, did you just vote for...

Tom Corbett, the Republican candidate	57.5%
Tom Wolf, the Democratic candidate	41.2%
Someone else	0.8%
I did not vote in that particular race	0.5%

What issue do you consider the most important in terms of deciding your vote in the PA Governor's election?

Education	17.7%
Taxes	18.6%
Economy	11.6%
Fracking/Gas/Energy	5.2%
Environment	0.7%
State Budget/Pensions	5.3%
Health Care	2.5%
Other	6.5%
Multiple Issues Selected	31.9%

From which of the following did you get your information about the PA Governor's Race?
(Please check all that apply.)

Newspaper	61.3%
Television	73.9%
Radio	37.6%
Social Media, like Facebook and/or Twitter	26.8%
Other	16.2%

Of those media sources you selected, which did you rely on most heavily?

Newspaper	22.8%
Television	34.4%
Radio	9.3%
Social Media, like Facebook and/or Twitter	5.7%
Other	12.9%
Multiple Responses	15.0%

In the election for US House of Representatives, did you just vote for...

The Democratic candidate	29.3%
The Republican candidate	66.8%
Someone else	1.5%
I did not vote in that particular race	2.4%

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

Approve	31.1%
Disapprove	65.0%
Don't know	3.9%

"Feeling Thermometer" – Democrats (0-100; Very Cold to Very Warm)

Average	39.99
Standard Deviation	31.84

"Feeling Thermometer" - Republicans (0-100; Very Cold to Very Warm)

Average	51.74
Standard Deviation	34.37

"Feeling Thermometer" - Independents (0-100; Very Cold to Very Warm)

Average	38.91
Standard Deviation	28.52

In order to help reduce the state's budget shortfalls, some have called for PA to sell its state-owned liquor stores. Do you support or oppose the sale of the state-owned liquor stores to private companies?

Support	64.5%
Oppose	22.7%
Don't know	12.8%

Some people say the minimum wage should be raised to help low-income workers get by. Others say raising the minimum wage will lead some businesses to cut jobs. Given these arguments, do you support or oppose raising the minimum wage?

Support	53.6%
Oppose	34.9%
Don't know	11.5%

Would you say the state's budget is in better shape now than it was a few years ago, worse shape, or about the same shape?

Better shape now	30.2%
Worse shape now	34.4%
About the same	26.4%
Don't know	9.0%

Do you support or oppose expanding the use of hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) on state-owned forestland? (Fracking is a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations.)

Support	47.8%
Oppose	41.2%
Don't know	11.1%

Regardless of whether you support or oppose fracking, when Pennsylvania permits it, do you think oil and gas companies should pay an extraction tax, which would be based on the volume and value of natural gas that was drilled?

Yes, support	69.3%
No, oppose	21.9%
Don't know	8.8%

Do you think government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	49.0%
Decrease	9.1%
Stay about the same	38.0%
Don't know	3.9%

Which comes closer to your view about the use of marijuana by adults?

Legal for personal use*	30.7%
Legal for medicinal use only	53.7%
Not legal at all	13.0%
Don't know	2.6%

*Individuals who selected both "legal for personal use" and "legal for medicinal use only" were placed into the "legal for personal use" response category

Party Identification

Strong Democrat	8.6%
Weak Democrat	11.9%
Lean Democrat	6.4%
Independent	16.2%
Lean Republican	16.7%
Weak Republican	17.1%
Strong Republican	23.1%

Employment Status

Employed full-time	55.4%
Employed part-time	12.6%
Not employed	3.9%
Retired	28.1%

Age Group

18-24 years old	3.4%
25-34 years old	8.6%
35-44 years old	16.7%
45-54 years old	19.4%
55-64 years old	27.0%
65 or over	24.8%

Education

Less than high school	0.3%
High school graduate	15.0%
Some college or technical school	29.1%
4-year college graduate	27.7%
Graduate or professional degree	27.9%

Income

Under \$20,000	2.5%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	12.3%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	18.7%
\$60,000 - \$79,999	19.8%
\$80,000 - \$99,999	13.5%
\$100,000 or more	33.2%