# Dickinson College Exit Poll
# Fall 2016

**Methodology**

**Number of Interviews:** 482 Voters in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Several questions were asked of less than the full sample of respondents. Smaller numbers of respondents will be noted next to relevant questions.

**Margin of Error:** +/- 4.6% at a 95% level of confidence. Smaller sample sizes have larger margins of error.

**Date:** November 8, 2016

**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 places in envelopes with precinct identifiers.

**Weighting:** Data were weighted by the final vote percentage (Democrat and Republican) of Cumberland County in the Presidential race. Individuals who reported voting for someone other than Clinton or Trump, or not voting at all in the presidential contest were weighted at 1.00.

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**

Gender

| Female | 53.8% |
|--------|-------|
| Male | 46.2% |

Race/Ethnicity

| | |
|---|---|
| White | 89.9% |
| Black | 4.8% |
| Latino | 2.2% |
| Other | 2.7% |
| Biracial (volunteered by checking multiple responses) | 0.3% |

In the election for president, did you just vote for…

| | |
|---|---|
| Hillary Clinton, the Democratic candidate | 37.9% |
| Donald Trump, the Republican candidate | 56.2% |
| Gary Johnson, the Libertarian candidate | 2.0% |
| Jill Stein, the Green candidate | 1.4% |
| Someone else | 2.0% |
| I did not vote in that particular race | 0.5% |

What issue did you consider the most important in terms of deciding your vote in the presidential election?  [NOTE: Half of the respondents' surveys had "national security" as the second option and half the respondents' surveys had "terrorism" as the second option.]

| | |
|---|---|
| Economy and jobs | 29.7% |
| National security/Terrorism | 10.1% |
| Health care | 9.1% |
| Immigration | 5.5% |
| Climate change | 3.8% |
| Other | 19.8% |
| Multiple issues selected | 22.0% |

Regardless of who you just voted for, how confident are you that votes for president […] will be accurately counted this year?

| […] = across the country (n=237) | |
|---|---|
| Very confident | 35.0% |
| Somewhat confident | 45.6% |
| Not too confident | 13.5% |
| Not confident at all | 5.9% |

| […] = in Pennsylvania (n=240) | |
|---|---|
| Very confident | 47.1% |
| Somewhat confident | 40.8% |
| Not too confident | 8.8% |
| Not confident at all | 3.3% |

Was the vote you just cast for president mostly a vote for the candidate you chose because of his/her qualifications, or mostly a vote against another candidate?

| | |
|---|---|
| Mostly a vote for the candidate I chose | 52.5% |
| Mostly a vote against another candidate | 22.0% |
| Both equally | 25.5% |

In the election for U.S. Senate, did you just vote for…

| | |
|---|---|
| Katie McGinty, the Democratic candidate | 38.7% |
| Patrick (Pat) Toomey, the Republican candidate | 55.7% |
| Someone else | 3.4% |
| I did not vote in that particular race | 2.2% |

In the election for U.S. House of Representatives, did you just vote for…

| | |
|---|---|
| The Democratic candidate | 38.9% |
| The Republican candidate | 58.6% |
| Someone else | 1.0% |
| I did not vote in that particular race | 1.5% |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Approve | 40.3% |
| Disapprove | 52.8% |
| Don't know | 6.9% |

We'd like to get your feelings toward a number of groups on a "feeling thermometer". A rating of 0 degrees means you feel as cold and negative as possible. A rating of 100 degrees means you feel as war and positive as possible. You would rate the group at 50 degrees if you don't feel particularly positive or negative toward the group. [NOTE: Not all respondents were asked about all groups.]

| Group | Mean Rating | Number of Respondents |
|---|---|---|
| Democratic Party | 43.1 | 461 |
| Republican Party | 50.1 | 455 |
| Christians | 73.2 | 110 |
| Muslims | 55.7 | 165 |
| LGBTQ Community | 59.2 | 153 |
| Congress | 38.5 | 230 |
| Supreme Court | 56.7 | 207 |
| Police | 77.1 | 224 |
| Black Lives Matter | 48.8 | 222 |
| Immigrants from Latin American countries like Mexico | 54.4 | 115 |
| Immigrants from Asian countries like China | 63.0 | 106 |
| Immigrants from Middle Eastern countries like Syria | 51.1 | 89 |
| Refugees from Middle Eastern countries like Syria | 43.1 | 125 |

How much trust do you have in […] when it comes to making decisions about issues facing our country?

**[…] = elected officials (n=238)**

| A great deal | 9.7% |
|---|---|
| A fair amount | 47.5% |
| Not very much | 35.3% |
| None at all | 6.7% |
| Don't know | 0.8% |

**[…] = the American people (n=238)**

| A great deal | 13.0% |
|---|---|
| A fair amount | 46.2% |
| Not very much | 35.3% |
| None at all | 2.9% |
| Don't know | 2.5% |

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

| Better shape now | 24.1% |
|---|---|
| About the same | 24.9% |
| Worse shape now | 48.7% |
| Don't know | 2.3% |

Do you support or oppose stricter gun laws in the United States? **(n=225)**

| Support | 50.5% |
|---|---|
| Oppose | 40.5% |
| Don't know | 8.9% |

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? **(n=233)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Support | 49.5% |
| Oppose | 38.3% |
| Don't know | 12.3% |

Do you support or oppose a blanket ban on the immigration of any person who lives in a country where there has been a history of terrorism against the west? **(n=226)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Support | 36.3% |
| Oppose | 47.8% |
| Don't know | 15.9% |

Do you support or oppose banning all Muslims from entering the U.S.? **(n=229)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Support | 16.2% |
| Oppose | 62.4% |
| Don't know | 21.4% |

Do you think […] doing enough to address climate change, doing too much, or do you think more needs to be done to address climate change?

**[…] = the United States (n=217)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Doing enough | 18.0% |
| Doing too much | 10.1% |
| More needs to be done | 56.7% |
| Don't know | 15.2% |

**[…] = countries other than U.S. (n=240)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Doing enough | 19.2% |
| Doing too much | 10.0% |
| More needs to be done | 60.4% |
| Don't know | 10.4% |

Which of the following do you think are reasons why more women do not hold elected office in the United States? **(Respondents could select more than one option.)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Women are held to higher standards than men | 20.2% |
| Many Americans aren't ready to elect a woman to higher office | 35.1% |
| Women who are active in politics get less support from party leaders | 33.9% |
| Fewer women have the experience to run for office | 11.0% |
| Family responsibilities don't leave time for politics | 11.0% |
| Women aren't tough enough for politics | 3.9% |
| Other | 18.4% |

Which of the following statements do you agree with? **(Respondents could select more than one option.)**

| | |
|---|---|
| How candidates treat women in a legitimate issue in the presidential election | 48.2% |
| In my experience, Trump's comments about his sexual advances toward women are typical locker-room talk by men | 37.3% |
| Trump's comments impacted my decision about who to vote for in the presidential race | 30.4% |

Regardless of how you voted today, on a scale from one to seven, where one indicates a strong Democrat and seven indicates a strong Republican, where would you place yourself?

| 1 = Strong Democrat | 14.2% |
|---|---|
| 2 | 8.4% |
| 3 | 6.1% |
| 4 = Independent | 18.2% |
| 5 | 14.1% |
| 6 | 14.5% |
| 7 = Strong Republican | 24.5% |

Which of the following best describes you?

| Very liberal | 13.2% |
|---|---|
| Somewhat liberal | 17.8% |
| Neither liberal nor conservative | 20.4% |
| Somewhat conservative | 25.3% |
| Very conservative | 20.3% |
| Don't know | 3.0% |

From which of the following do you get political information? **(Respondents could select more than one option.)**

| Newspapers (either in print or online) | 58.6% |
|---|---|
| Television | 78.2% |
| Radio | 44.7% |
| Social media including Facebook and/or Twitter | 41.2% |
| Friends | 30.6% |
| Other | 13.5% |

What is your present religion?

| Evangelical Protestant | 19.9% |
|---|---|
| Mainline Protestant | 23.7% |
| Catholic | 18.5% |
| Jewish | 1.9% |
| Agnostic or Atheist | 12.5% |
| Other | 23.5% |

Are you currently…

| Employed full-time | 57.7% |
|---|---|
| Employed part-time | 12.9% |
| Not employed | 5.8% |
| A stay-at-home parent | 2.6% |
| Retired | 21.1% |

What is your current age?

| | |
|---|---|
| 18-29 years old | 15.6% |
| 30-49 years old | 32.3% |
| 50-64 years old | 35.0% |
| 65 or over | 17.1% |

Do you have children under 18?

| | |
|---|---|
| Yes, at least one daughter | 9.9% |
| Yes, at least one son | 9.9% |
| Yes, at least one child of each gender | 9.5% |
| No | 70.7% |

What is your highest level of education?

| | |
|---|---|
| Less than high school | 0.5% |
| High school graduate | 19.5% |
| Some college or technical school | 33.9% |
| 4-year college graduate | 23.7% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 22.4% |

Which of the following categories best describes your family income?

| | |
|---|---|
| Under $20,000 | 4.2% |
| $20,000 - $39,999 | 14.8% |
| $40,000 - $59,999 | 23.4% |
| $60,000 - $79,999 | 18.6% |
| $80,000 - $99,999 | 13.1% |
| $100,000 or more | 25.9% |