

**IssuesPA Polling Program**  
**\*\* Health Care/Community Vitality Survey \*\***

**PRINCETON SURVEY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES for**  
**PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMY LEAGUE**  
**THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS**

**FINAL TOPLINE RESULTS**  
March 28, 2006

**N= 1504 Pennsylvania adults, 18+**

Margin of error: Plus or minus 3 percentage points

Field period: March 15-22, 2006

**Job #: 26022**

*Notes: Because percentages are rounded they may not total 100%.  
An asterisk indicates less than 1 percent.*

**INTRODUCTION:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm calling for Princeton Survey Research. We're conducting a statewide opinion survey in Pennsylvania and it's very important that we include your household. **READ IF NECESSARY:** This survey is for research purposes ONLY – we won't ask you for money or try to sell you anything.

May I please speak with the YOUNGEST MALE age 18 or older, who is now at home? **(IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW:** Then, may I please speak with the YOUNGEST FEMALE age 18 or older who is now at home) **(REPEAT INTRODUCTION IF RESPONDENT DID NOT ANSWER THE TELEPHONE.)**

1. Here's my first question... All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today?

| <u>Current</u> |                    | <u>11/05</u> <sup>1</sup> | <u>9/05</u> <sup>2</sup> | <u>5/05</u> <sup>3</sup> | <u>12/04</u> <sup>4</sup> | <u>8/04</u> <sup>5</sup> | <u>4/04</u> <sup>6</sup> | <u>9/03</u> <sup>7</sup> | <u>Natl 06</u> <sup>8</sup> |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 48             | Satisfied          | 47                        | 48                       | 50                       | 50                        | 44                       | 48                       | 51                       | 30                          |
| 42             | Dissatisfied       | 45                        | 45                       | 42                       | 41                        | 49                       | 46                       | 41                       | 64                          |
| 11             | Don't know/Refused | 8                         | 7                        | 7                        | 9                         | 7                        | 6                        | 8                        | 6                           |

2. What do you think is the MOST important problem facing Pennsylvania today? **OPEN-END QUESTION. RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE.)**

| <u>Current</u> |   | <u>11/05</u> | <u>9/05</u> | <u>5/05</u> | <u>12/04</u> | <u>8/04</u> | <u>4/04</u> | <u>9/03</u> |
|----------------|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 48             | Net – Economic  | 47           | 52          | 46          | 50           | 48          | 49          | 52          |
| 22             | Taxes   | 23           | 19          | 20          | 18           | 13          | 16          | 17          |
| 19             | Jobs  | 17           | 21          | 18          | 27           | 27          | 26          | 25          |
| 6              | Gas/fuel prices   | 6            | 11          | 6           | n/a          | n/a         | n/a         | 7           |
| 10             | Crime and drugs   | 8            | 4           | 8           | 5            | 5           | 7           | 5           |
| 10             | Health Care (incl. malpractice/ insurance issues and senior health care/Medicare) | 8            | 8           | 7           | 8            | 12          | 12          | 7           |
| 9              | Government/Leadership/ Politicians  | 14           | 11          | 7           | 6            | 6           | 5           | 6           |
| 7              | Education   | 10           | 8           | 8           | 7            | 8           | 10          | 10          |
| 6              | Infrastructure  | 6            | 3           | 6           | 7            | 3           | 3           | 5           |

*Note: "Don't know" and responses mentioned by less than 5 percent are not shown.*

<sup>1</sup> All November 2005 trend results from the Issues PA 2005 Benchmark survey, conducted Nov. 10-21, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> All September 2005 trend results from the Issues PA 2005 Workforce survey, conducted September 8-18, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> All May 2005 trends results from the Issues PA 2005 Values survey, conducted April 21-May 8, 2005.

<sup>4</sup> All December 2004 trend results from the Issues PA 2004 Benchmark survey, conducted December 2-15, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> All August 2004 trend results from the Issues PA 2004 Health Care survey, conducted August 13-22, 2004.

<sup>6</sup> All April 2004 trend results from the Issues PA 2004 Primary Season survey, conducted April 15-26, 2004.

<sup>7</sup> All September 2003 trend results from the Issues PA 2003 Benchmark survey, conducted September 4-28, 2003.

<sup>8</sup> National comparison results are from a Newsweek survey conducted March 16-17, 2006.

3. What kind of job do you think Pennsylvania's STATE government is doing OVERALL in dealing with the issues you consider most important? Would you say state government is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?

| <u>Current</u> |                    | <u>11/05</u> | <u>9/05</u> | <u>5/05</u> | <u>12/04</u> | <u>8/04</u> | <u>4/04</u> | <u>9/03</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1              | Excellent          | 2            | 1           | 1           | 2            | 1           | 1           | 1           |
| 20             | Good               | 17           | 19          | 23          | 21           | 22          | 27          | 27          |
| 46             | Only fair          | 50           | 49          | 51          | 52           | 54          | 49          | 47          |
| 29             | Poor               | 30           | 28          | 23          | 22           | 20          | 20          | 20          |
| 3              | Don't know/Refused | 2            | 2           | 3           | 4            | 4           | 3           | 4           |

4. Please tell me how much confidence you have in the following state elected officials to deal with the issues you consider most important. (First,) in general, how much confidence do you have in... **(INSERT—READ ITEMS a-b IN ORDER THEN ROTATE ORDER OF ITEMS c-d)** (to deal with important issues)? (A lot of confidence, some confidence, not too much, or no confidence at all?)

|  |                 | <u>A lot</u> | <u>Some</u> | <u>Not too much</u> | <u>None at all</u> | <u>DK/Ref.</u> |
|--|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| a. Governor Ed Rendell                           |                 | 19           | 36          | 23                  | 17                 | 4              |
|  | November 2005:  | 16           | 41          | 22                  | 17                 | 4              |
|  | September 2005: | 16           | 43          | 21                  | 16                 | 4              |
|  | May 2005:       | 18           | 41          | 21                  | 16                 | 4              |
|  | December 2004:  | 18           | 41          | 22                  | 14                 | 5              |
|  | August 2004:    | 16           | 43          | 20                  | 15                 | 7              |
|  | April 2004:     | 19           | 45          | 19                  | 13                 | 4              |
|  | September 2003: | 21           | 42          | 17                  | 12                 | 8              |
| b. The Pennsylvania state legislature as a whole |                 | 7            | 46          | 27                  | 15                 | 5              |
|  | November 2005:  | 6            | 42          | 28                  | 18                 | 5              |
|  | September 2005: | 6            | 46          | 28                  | 16                 | 4              |
|  | May 2005:       | 8            | 55          | 22                  | 10                 | 6              |
|  | December 2004:  | 6            | 55          | 24                  | 9                  | 6              |
|  | August 2004:    | 7            | 57          | 19                  | 8                  | 8              |
|  | April 2004:     | 8            | 56          | 21                  | 8                  | 6              |
|  | September 2003: | 9            | 54          | 21                  | 10                 | 7              |

*Q4 continued on next page*

*Q.4 continued*

|                                  | <u>A lot</u> | <u>Some</u> | <u>Not too<br/>much</u> | <u>None<br/>at all</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref.</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| c. Your own state senator        | 16           | 44          | 18                      | 11                     | 10                  |
| November 2005 <sup>9</sup> :     | 16           | 46          | 20                      | 13                     | 5                   |
| September 2005:                  | 14           | 51          | 21                      | 11                     | 4                   |
| May 2005:                        | 21           | 49          | 15                      | 8                      | 7                   |
| December 2004:                   | 20           | 49          | 15                      | 8                      | 8                   |
| August 2004:                     | 18           | 53          | 14                      | 7                      | 9                   |
| April 2004:                      | 21           | 51          | 14                      | 7                      | 7                   |
| September 2003:                  | 21           | 48          | 14                      | 8                      | 9                   |
| d. Your own state representative | 19           | 44          | 18                      | 10                     | 10                  |
| November 2005:                   | 16           | 46          | 20                      | 13                     | 5                   |
| September 2005:                  | 14           | 51          | 21                      | 11                     | 4                   |
| May 2005:                        | 21           | 49          | 15                      | 8                      | 7                   |
| December 2004:                   | 20           | 49          | 15                      | 8                      | 8                   |
| August 2004:                     | 18           | 53          | 14                      | 7                      | 9                   |
| April 2004:                      | 21           | 51          | 14                      | 7                      | 7                   |
| September 2003:                  | 21           | 48          | 14                      | 8                      | 9                   |

RV. These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you, yourself, now registered to vote in the precinct or election district where you now live?

- 77 Yes, registered in current district
- 22 No, not registered
- 1 Don't know/Refused

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<sup>9</sup> Trends for items c and d read "Your own state senator or state representative."

5. Now, thinking about the coming elections for offices like governor and state legislator... In general, what issue or concern will be MOST important this year in determining how you vote? **IF NECESSARY:** Just tell me the first thing that comes to mind... **OPEN-END QUESTION.**

*Based on registered voters (n=1229)*

- 24 Taxes
- 17 The Economy/Jobs
- 11 Education
- 9 Health care
- 6 Social/Moral issues
- 5 Candidate's Campaign Promises/Record/Ethics
- 5 Government/Leadership/Politicians

*Note: "Don't know", "No issue" and responses mentioned by less than 5 percent are not shown.*

6. Now thinking specifically about the 2006 election for GOVERNOR, which ONE of the following will be most important in determining your vote... (READ AND RANDOMIZE 1-4)

*Based on registered voters (n=1229)*

- 43 The candidates' stands on specific issues
- 24 The candidates' experience and qualifications
- 20 The candidates' personal qualities and leadership ability
- 8 The candidates' political parties
- 1 (VOL.) None of these/Other
- 3 Don't know/Refused

7. Now I have some questions about the two leading candidates for governor this year, Ed Rendell and Lynn Swann. (First,) what is your overall opinion of ... (INSERT—READ AND ROTATE; FORM 1 ASK IN ORDER; FORM 2 ASK IN REVERSE ORDER)? Is it very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable or very unfavorable?

|               | Very Fav. | Mostly Fav. | Mostly Unfav. | Very Unfav. | Never heard of | Can't rate | Ref. |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|------------|------|
| a. Ed Rendell | 17        | 36          | 22            | 15          | 2              | 7          | 1    |
| May 2005:     | 13        | 45          | 20            | 14          | 1              | 6          | *    |
| b. Lynn Swann | 13        | 26          | 10            | 7           | 14             | 28         | 1    |
| May 2005:     | 6         | 22          | 5             | 2           | 40             | 24         | *    |

**Questions 8 and 9 were asked in random order.**

8. Please tell me what ONE WORD best describes your impression of Ed Rendell. (Just tell me the first word that comes to mind...) **OPEN-END QUESTION.**

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| Politician (92 mentions) |
| Good (71)                |
| Experienced (52)         |
| Fair (34)                |
| Crook (32)               |
| Leader (32)              |
| Honest (31)              |
| Tries/Trying (24)        |
| Confident (21)           |
| Liar (20)                |

*Note: Table shows top 10 one word descriptions only. Results are not weighted. The figures shown in parentheses are unweighted counts of mentions for each word; they are NOT weighted percentages.*

9. Please tell me what ONE WORD best describes your impression of Lynn Swann. (Just tell me the first word that comes to mind...) **OPEN-END QUESTION.**

|  |
|--|
| Football/Football player (139 mentions)                                      |
| Honest (67)  |
| Inexperienced (61)   |
| Other athletic career mentions (Steeler, Hall of Famer, receiver, etc.) (39) |
| Good (36)  |
| Unknown (28)   |
| Athlete (27)   |
| Unqualified (25)   |
| Fair (22)  |
| Integrity (19)   |
| Personable (19)  |

*Note: Table shows top 10 one word descriptions only. Results are not weighted. The figures shown in parentheses are unweighted counts of mentions for each word; they are NOT weighted percentages.*

**Questions 10a and 10b were asked in random order.**

- 10a. If Ed Rendell is on the ballot as the Democratic party's candidate for governor this November, will you definitely vote for him, CONSIDER voting for him, or definitely NOT vote for him?

*Based on registered voters (n=1229)*

- 58 Total Definitely Vote/Consider Voting
- 21 Definitely vote
- 37 Consider voting
- 35 Definitely not vote for him
- 7 Don't know/Refused

- 10b. If Lynn Swann is on the ballot as the Republican party's candidate for governor this November, will you definitely vote for him, CONSIDER voting for him, or definitely NOT vote for him?

*Based on registered voters (n=1229)*

- 60 Total Definitely Vote/Consider Voting
- 19 Definitely vote
- 42 Consider voting
- 28 Definitely not vote for him
- 12 Don't know/Refused

10a/b Summary of responses to 10a and 10b<sup>10</sup>

***Based on registered voters (n=1229)***

- 29 Total Likely Rendell
- 35 Total Likely Swann
- 34 Could vote for either (swing voters)
- 2 Wouldn't vote for either

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<sup>10</sup> DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES USED FOR GUBERNATORIAL PREFERENCE SUMMARY

Likely Rendell: Will definitely vote for Rendell in Q10a OR Will definitely not vote for Swann in Q10b and would consider/not sure about voting for Rendell in Q10a

Likely Swann: Will definitely vote for Swann in Q10b OR Will definitely not vote for Rendell in Q10a and would consider/not sure about voting for Swann in Q10b

Swing voters: Would consider/not sure about voting for Rendell in Q10a AND Would consider/not sure about voting for Swann in Q10b

Wouldn't vote for either: Will definitely not vote for Rendell in Q10a AND Will definitely not vote for Swann in Q10b

11. Now turning to the topic of HEALTH CARE... All things considered, do you think that health care in Pennsylvania is better or worse today than it was four years ago, or just about the same?
- 10 Better  
43 Worse  
40 Same  
7 Don't know/Refused
12. Now, as I name some different health care issues, please tell me how important each will be in determining your vote in this year's elections for offices like governor and state legislator.  
(First,) what about... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? Will this be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important (in determining your vote)?

*Based on registered voters (n=1229)*

|  | <u>Very</u> | <u>Somewhat</u> | <u>Not too</u> | <u>Not at all</u> | <u>DK/Ref.</u> |
|--|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| a. The candidates' positions on how to reduce health care costs  | 77          | 17              | 3              | 1                 | 2              |
| b. The candidates' positions on how to improve the quality of health care  | 70          | 24              | 3              | 1                 | 2              |
| c. The candidates' positions on how to ensure that similar health care services are available throughout the state | 64          | 28              | 5              | 1                 | 2              |
| d. The candidates' plans to prepare for public health emergencies like the avian flu                               | 53          | 32              | 9              | 3                 | 3              |
| e. The candidates' plans to deal with the medical malpractice issue  | 50          | 35              | 8              | 4                 | 4              |
| <i>Items f &amp; g asked in order</i>  |             |                 |                |                   |                |
| f. The candidates' positions on how to provide health care for the uninsured                                       | 65          | 25              | 5              | 2                 | 2              |
| g. The candidates' positions on how to provide health insurance for uninsured CHILDREN                             | 80          | 16              | 2              | 1                 | 1              |

13. Which of the health care issues you rated very important will be MOST important to your vote? **(IF NECESSARY, READ ITEMS RATED “VERY IMPORTANT” IN Q.12)**

*Based on registered voters (n=1229)*

- 29 Reducing health care costs
- 17 Providing health insurance for uninsured children
- 13 Improving the quality of health care
- 13 Providing health care for the uninsured
- 8 Ensuring that health care services are available throughout the state
- 7 Dealing with the medical malpractice issue
- 4 Preparing for public health emergencies
- 2 None of these/Other (VOL.)
- 6 None rated very important
- 2 Don't know/Refused

14. Do you have something in mind that you want done to... **(INSERT LANGUAGE BELOW FOR ITEM RATED MOST IMPORTANT IN Q.12/13), or not?**

*Based on registered voters (n=1229)*

| Percent Who Have Something in Mind to... |   |
|--|---|
| 11                                       | Reduce health care costs  |
| 7  | Provide health care for the uninsured                               |
| 6  | Improve the quality of health care                                  |
| 5  | Provide health insurance for uninsured children                     |
| 4  | Deal with the medical malpractice issue                             |
| 3  | Ensure that health care services are available throughout the state |
| 2  | Prepare for public health emergencies                               |

*Note: “No”, “Don't know” and “Didn't rate” responses are not shown.*

- 15a. Please tell me in your own words what you would like to see done (to reduce health care costs). **OPEN-END QUESTION. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES.)**

*Based on those who want something done to reduce health care costs (n=135)*

- 18 Health care (free/affordable) for everyone/Universal coverage
- 15 Reduce health care costs (restated)
- 11 Tort reform/Malpractice issue
- 11 Cost of prescription medicines
- 9 Monitor/Regulate health care/health insurance industry
- 40 Other specific suggestion/comment

*Note: “Don't know” responses not shown. Responses for items b-g are too small to report.*

16. On a slightly different topic... How much responsibility do you feel you have for your own health... **(READ)**
- 86 A lot of responsibility
  - 11 Some
  - 1 Not too much, OR
  - 1 No responsibility at all?
  - 1 Don't know/Refused
17. How much control do you feel you have over the COSTS of your own health care... **(READ)**
- 16 A lot of control
  - 24 Some
  - 24 Not too much, OR
  - 35 No control at all?
  - 1 Don't know/Refused
18. How much do doctors generally tell you and other family members about the COSTS of the medical procedures they recommend and the medicines they prescribe... **(READ)**
- 19 A lot
  - 22 Some
  - 27 Not too much, OR
  - 30 Nothing at all?
  - 3 Don't know/Refused
19. Please tell me who you think should be responsible for covering MOST of the costs for different kinds of health care services for working Pennsylvanians – the individual and their family, their employer, or the government. (First,) who should cover most of the costs of... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)?** (The individual and their family, their employer, or the government?)

|  | <u>Indiv.</u> | <u>Employer</u> | <u>Govt</u> | <u>Other/<br/>Combination</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref.</u> |
|--|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. Preventive and routine health care, such as annual checkups and routine tests           | 34            | 34              | 22          | 5                             | 5                   |
| b. Catastrophic and other major medical care that is very expensive, such as major surgery | 12            | 27              | 46          | 8                             | 7                   |
| c. Continuing care for long-term chronic diseases and conditions                           | 16            | 16              | 55          | 6                             | 7                   |
| d. Prescription drugs  | 19            | 30              | 38          | 6                             | 7                   |

20. Now thinking about the issue of patient safety and preventing medical errors... Please tell me how important you think it is for Pennsylvania to do each of the following to improve patient safety. (First,) (to improve patient safety,) how important is it to... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? (Very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?)

|   | <u>Very</u> | <u>Somewhat</u> | <u>Not too</u> | <u>Not at<br/>all</u> | <u>DK/Ref.</u> |
|---|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| a. Provide more information on the records and outcome of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers | 70          | 25              | 3              | 1                     | 1              |
| b. Increase government regulation and oversight of health care  | 50          | 35              | 7              | 5                     | 3              |
| c. Invest in new systems and technologies   | 70          | 24              | 2              | 2                     | 2              |
| d. Hold doctors and other health care providers financially liable for medical errors                         | 57          | 32              | 7              | 2                     | 3              |

21. Now I have some questions about the situation in your COMMUNITY. All things considered, do you think the overall quality of life in your community is better or worse today than it was four years ago, or just about the same?

15 Better  
 27 Worse  
 54 Same  
 4 Don't know/Refused

22. Now, as I name some issues that might affect the quality of life in your community, please tell me how important each will be in determining your vote in this year's elections for offices like governor and state legislator. (First,) what about... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? Will this be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important (in determining your vote)?

*Based on registered voters (n=1229)*

|   | <u>Very</u> | <u>Somewhat</u> | <u>Not too</u> | <u>Not at all</u> | <u>DK/Ref.</u> |
|---|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| a. The candidates' positions on managing growth and development, including preserving open space and farmland                   | 59          | 30              | 7              | 3                 | 1              |
| b. The candidates' positions on how to best ensure clean air and water in the state   | 67          | 27              | 3              | 1                 | 1              |
| c. The candidates' positions on how to best revitalize the state's cities and towns   | 51          | 39              | 6              | 2                 | 2              |
| d. The candidates' positions on how to reduce crime   | 72          | 22              | 3              | 1                 | 2              |
| e. The candidates' positions on how to best prepare for emergencies, like natural disasters, blackouts, and terrorist incidents | 66          | 26              | 5              | 2                 | 1              |
| f. The candidates' positions on providing services like roads, bridges, and mass transit and reducing traffic congestion        | 52          | 39              | 6              | 1                 | 1              |
| g. The candidates' positions on how the state can help provide better arts and cultural opportunities                           | 28          | 42              | 20             | 8                 | 2              |
| h. The candidates' positions on how to best keep taxes as low as possible   | 71          | 23              | 3              | 1                 | 1              |

23. Which of the issues you rated very important will be MOST important to your vote? (**IF NECESSARY, READ ITEMS RATED “VERY IMPORTANT” IN Q.22**)

*Based on registered voters (n=1229)*

- 28 Keeping taxes as low as possible
- 22 Reducing crime
- 10 Preparing for emergencies
- 10 Managing growth and development
- 9 Ensuring clean air and water
- 7 Revitalizing the state’s cities and towns
- 6 Providing services like roads, bridges, mass transit and reduce traffic
- 1 Providing better arts and cultural opportunities
- 2 None of these/Other (VOL.)
- 4 None rated very important
- 1 Don’t know/Refused

24. Do you have something in mind that you want done to... (**INSERT LANGUAGE BELOW FOR ITEM RATED MOST IMPORTANT IN Q.22/23**), or not?

*Based on registered voters (n=1229)*

| Percent Who Have Something in Mind to... |   |
|--|---|
| 12                                       | Reduce crime  |
| 12                                       | Keep taxes as low as possible   |
| 4  | Manage growth and development   |
| 4  | Provide services like roads, bridges, mass transit and reduce traffic |
| 4  | Revitalize the state’s cities and towns                               |
| 4  | Ensure clean air and water  |
| 3  | Prepare for emergencies   |
| *  | Provide better arts and cultural opportunities                        |

*Note: “No”, “Don’t know” and “Didn’t rate” responses are not shown.*

- 25d. Please tell me in your own words what you would like to see done (to reduce crime). **OPEN-END QUESTION. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES.**

*Based on those who want something done to reduce crime (n=150)*

- 33 Better police protection/More police
- 15 More for teenagers to do/Get youth off the street
- 14 Stricter enforcement/Harsher punishments
- 13 Gun control
- 10 Eliminate drugs/Drug dealers
- 1 Reduce crime (restated)
- 26 Other specific suggestion/comment

*Note: “Don’t know” responses are not shown.*

- 25h. Please tell me in your own words what you would like to see done (to keep taxes as low as possible). **OPEN-END QUESTION. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES.**

*Based on those who want something done to keep taxes as low as possible (n=168)*

- 34 Revamp tax laws/rates
- 23 Control/Cut spending
- 12 Reduce government size
- 9 Cut school taxes/Remove taxing power from the Board of Education
- 6 Allow gambling
- 4 Keep taxes as low as possible (restated)
- 4 Reduce government salaries
- 18 Other specific suggestion/comment

*Note: "Don't know" responses are not shown. Responses for items a-c and e-g are too small to report.*

26. Now I'm going to read some pairs of statements. After I read both statements, please tell me whether the **FIRST** or the **SECOND** statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. Here's the first/next pair... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)**... (Which comes closer to your own views?)

|   | <u>Statement 1</u> | <u>Statement 2</u> | (VOL.)<br><u>Neither/<br/>Both equally</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref.</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| a. It's important for govt to play a major role in funding arts and culture OR It should be left to the private sector and govt shouldn't get involved  | 32                 | 63                 | 3  | 2                   |
| b. The best way to protect the environment is through tougher environmental laws, such as higher miles-per-gallon fuel economy standards for cars and SUVs OR By encouraging voluntary conservation like tax breaks for buying a hybrid vehicle or efficient home heating equipment | 33                 | 58                 | 5  | 4                   |
| c. The govt should have the right to take properties for private economic development projects after paying the owners fair market value OR It should NEVER have the right to take properties for such private projects even if they pay the owners fair market value               | 21                 | 73                 | 3  | 3                   |

## Q.26 continued

|   | <u>Statement 1</u> | <u>Statement 2</u> | (VOL.)<br>Neither/<br><u>Both equally</u> | DK/<br><u>Ref.</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| d. New development should be allowed even if it means using tax dollars to build new schools, roads, sewer and water systems OR It should generally be limited to areas with existing schools, roads, sewer and water systems     | 47                 | 47                 | 3   | 3                  |
| e. The federal govt in Washington should be mainly responsible for dealing with major natural or man-made disasters OR State and local governments in places affected by major disasters should be in charge of dealing with them | 51                 | 39                 | 7   | 2                  |

27. Please tell me which one of the following THREE choices comes close to your views about gun control laws...(READ)

- 31 Only federal or state government should have the power to restrict the sale and possession of firearms
- 40 Local communities should be able to place additional restrictions on guns if they want to
- 24 No level of government should be able to restrict gun sales and possession
- 4 Don't know/Refused

**DEMOGRAPHICS (ASK ALL)****D1. RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX:**

- 47 Male
- 53 Female

**D2.** Finally, I have just a few questions so we can describe the people who took part in our survey... Which of the following best describes the type of community where you now live? Is it...(READ)

- 17 A large city
- 32 A small city or town
- 25 A suburb, OR
- 24 A rural area?
- 2 Don't know/Refused

**D3a.** In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

- 31 Republican
- 37 Democrat
- 25 Independent
- 4 No party/Not interested in politics (VOL)
- \* Other party (VOL)
- 4 Don't know/Refused

**D3b.** As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

- 38 Total Republican/Lean Republican
  - 31 Republican
  - 7 Lean Republican
- 48 Total Democrat/Lean Democrat
  - 37 Democrat
  - 11 Lean Democrat
- 9 Non Lean Independent
- 5 All Others

- D4. In general, would you describe your political views as... **(READ)**
- 8 Very conservative
  - 28 Conservative
  - 41 Moderate
  - 13 Liberal OR
  - 4 Very liberal?
  - 5 Don't know/Refused
- D5. Are you now employed full -time, part-time, are you retired, or are you not employed for pay? **INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF R ASKS WHAT “ FULL-TIME” MEANS, IT IS DEFINED AS 35 HOURS OR MORE PER WEEK. LESS THAN 34 HOURS IS CONSIDERED PART TIME.**
- 44 Employed full-time
  - 11 Employed part-time
  - 24 Retired
  - 11 Not employed
  - 4 **(VOL.)** Disabled
  - 2 **(VOL.)** Student
  - 1 **(VOL.)** Other
  - 2 Don't know/Refused
- D6a. Are you married, living with a partner, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?
- 55 Married
  - 5 Living with a partner
  - 9 Widowed
  - 7 Divorced
  - 2 Separated
  - 19 **(VOL.)** Never married/Single
  - 2 Refused

- D6b. Is your (husband/wife/partner) now employed full-time, part-time, retired, or not employed for pay? **INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF R ASKS WHAT “FULL-TIME” MEANS, IT IS DEFINED AS 35 HOURS OR MORE PER WEEK. LESS THAN 34 HOURS IS CONSIDERED PART TIME.**

*Based on those who are married or living with a partner (n=968)*

- 57 Employed full-time
- 9 Employed part-time
- 21 Retired
- 10 Not employed
- 2 (VOL.) Disabled
- \* (VOL.) Student
- 1 (VOL.) Other
- 1 Don't know/Refused

- D7. Are you the parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of any children under age 18?

- 34 Yes
- 64 No
- 2 Don't know/ Refused

- D8. Do you own or rent your home?

- 71 Own
- 22 Rent
- 4 Other arrangement
- 3 Refused

- D9. What is your age?

- 18 18-29
- 38 30-49
- 20 50-64
- 19 65 and older
- 4 Refused

- D10. What is the last grade or class you completed in school? **(DO NOT READ)**
- 2 None, or grade 1 to 8
  - 9 High school incomplete (Grades 9-11)
  - 40 High school graduate, Grade 12, or GED certificate
  - 5 Trade, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
  - 17 Some college, but no four-year degree (includes associates degree)
  - 16 College or university graduate (BA, BS or other four-year degree received)
  - 8 Post graduate or professional schooling after college (including work towards an MA, MS, Ph.D., JD, DDS, or MD degree)
  - 2 Refused
- D11. Are you of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or other Spanish background?
- D12. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, American Indian or some other race? **IF R SAYS HISPANIC OR LATINO, PROBE:** Do you consider yourself a WHITE (Hispanic/Latino) or a BLACK (Hispanic/Latino)?
- 80 White, non-Hispanic
  - 16 Total Non-white
    - 9 Non-Hispanic Black or African-American
    - 4 Hispanic
    - 1 Asian or Pacific Islander
    - 1 American Indian or Alaskan Native
    - 1 Other/Mixed-race
  - 4 Undesignated
- D13. Last year, that is in 2005, approximately what was your total household income from all sources, before taxes – just tell me when I get to the right category. **(READ—IF INCOME OVERLAPS TWO CATEGORIES, RECORD IN THE LOWER CATEGORY)**
- 15 Under \$20,000
  - 14 Between \$20,000 and \$30,000
  - 12 Between \$30,000 and \$40,000
  - 9 Between \$40,000 and \$50,000
  - 15 Between \$50,000 and \$75,000
  - 8 Between \$75,000 and \$100,000
  - 7 Over \$100,000
  - 5 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
  - 16 **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

D14a. Reporters from Pennsylvania newspapers may want to call back people who participated in our survey to talk about some of the issues we discussed. Would you be willing to talk with a reporter at a later date?

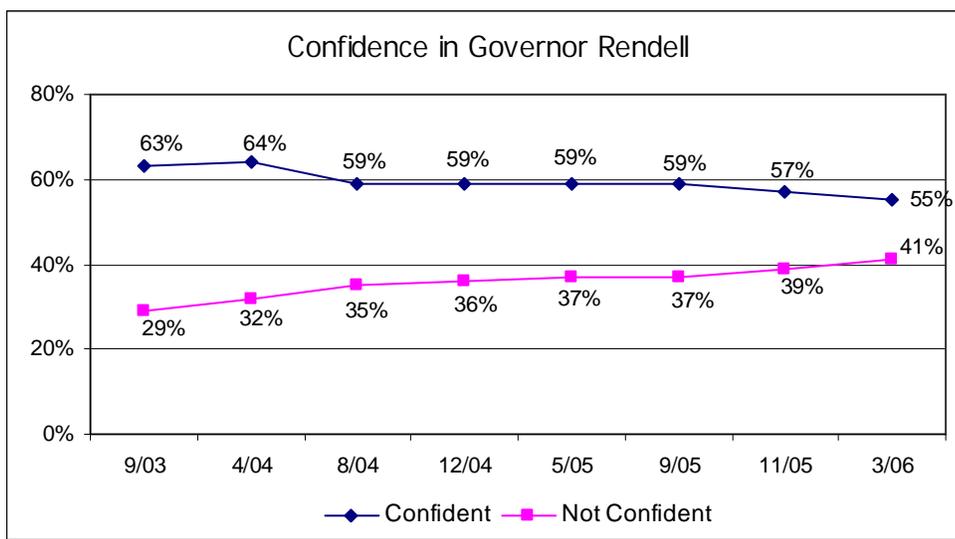
42 Yes  
54 No  
4 Refused

*Note: Results for this table are unweighted*

**END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT:** That completes the interview. Thank you very much for cooperation.

## IssuesPA/Pew March 2006 Survey: Major Findings for Political Questions

1. Ed Rendell's confidence ratings are down at the beginning of this gubernatorial election year.



Overall, 55% of Pennsylvanians say they have a lot or some confidence in Rendell to deal with important problems. That figure is four points below the 59% recorded last September and nine below the 64% recorded just two years ago in April 2004. The Governor's current personal favorability ratings mirror his confidence ratings: 53% of state residents view him favorably; 37% view him unfavorably.

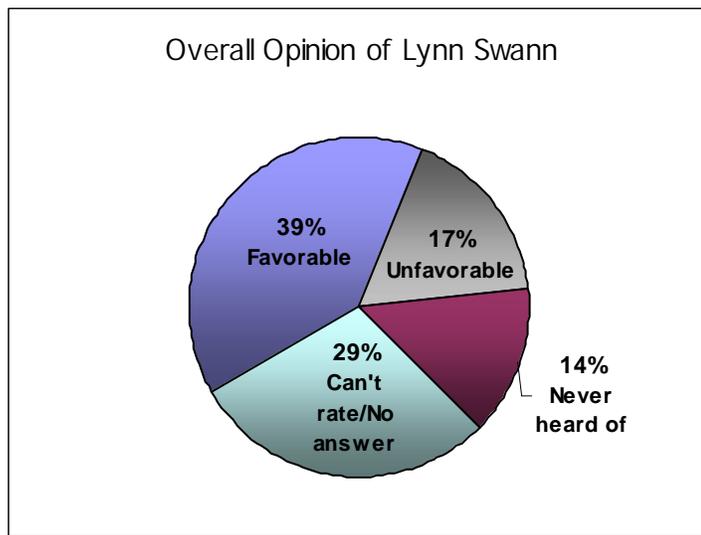
When asked to name one word they feel best describes Ed Rendell, state residents are generally flattering in their responses. The top 10 list includes the words "good," "experienced," "honest," and "confident." But at the very top of this list of word associations for Rendell is "politician," at a time of growing dissatisfaction with government and politics in Pennsylvania. The list of most popular one word descriptors for Rendell also includes some clear negatives – "crook" and "liar."

### Top 10 One Word Descriptions of Ed Rendell

1. Politician (92 mentions)
2. Good (71)
3. Experienced (52)
4. Fair (34)
- 5T. Leader (32)
- 5T. Crook (32)
7. Honest (31)
8. Tries/Trying (24)
9. Confident (21)
10. Liar (20)

Regional Highlights: Consistent with previous polling, Rendell receives his highest confidence ratings in the city of Philadelphia (70% have lot or some confidence in him) and the SE Pa. suburbs (68%), and his lowest ratings in SW Pa. (45%) and "Rest of State" (47%). He gets higher confidence ratings from those residing in large cities (67%) and suburbs (60%) and lower ratings from those living in small cities and towns (51%) and rural communities (47%).

2. Lynn Swann, the presumptive Republican candidate for governor, is still not very well known to many Pennsylvanians.



More than four in 10 state residents draw a blank when asked their overall opinion of Swann. Fourteen percent have never heard of him; another 29% say they don't know enough about him to have an opinion. Having achieved celebrity status as a Hall of Fame wide receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers championship teams of the 1970s, Lynn Swann is generally liked by those who know him. Statewide, the ratio of favorable to unfavorable opinions of Swann is two to one positive (39%/17%).

Pennsylvanian's top 10 list of one-word descriptions for Lynn Swann tell the story of a man primarily known for his athletic career. The word "football" is named almost twice as often as any other word. Miscellaneous football-related words and "athlete" also make the list. This top 10 list also shows the typical strengths and weaknesses of a non-politician running for a major political office. On one hand, the words "honest" and "integrity" make the list, but not the antonyms ("crook," "liar") seen on the Rendell top 10 list. On the other hand, the Swann list also includes the words "inexperienced," "unknown," and "unqualified." Swann's chances of unseating Rendell could hinge on whether voters ultimately see his lack of political experience as more of a plus or a minus.

### Top 10 One Word Descriptions of Lynn Swann

1. Football/Football player (139 mentions)
2. Honest (67)
3. Inexperienced (61)
4. Other athletic career mentions (Steeler, Hall of Famer, receiver, etc.) (39)
5. Good (36)
6. Unknown (28)
7. Athlete (27)
8. Unqualified (25)
9. Fair (22)
- 10T. Integrity (19)
- 10T. Personable (19)

Although Swann is still not very well established as a political figure, opinion of him does vary significantly by partisan identification. Republicans are solidly positive in their views of him (53% favorable/10% unfavorable) while Democrats have mixed views (30%/27%).

**Regional Highlights:** Not surprisingly, Swann's favorability ratings are highest in SW Pa., home of the NFL champion Steelers (57% favorable/19% unfavorable). His ratings are least positive in SE Pa., Philadelphia Eagles territory (25% favorable/20%unfavorable).

**Demographic Highlights:** Party ID seems to have a bigger influence than race on Pennsylvanian's views of Swann, who is African-American. African-Americans are slightly less familiar with him than whites and much less positive in their opinions. Black opinion breaks 21% favorable/26% unfavorable/49% don't know or can't rate); white opinion breaks 42% favorable/17% unfavorable/40% don't know or can't rate. One additional factor in African-Americans' lukewarm views of Swann is the absence of a strong "Steelers factor." Pennsylvania's African-Americans mostly live outside of Steelers country in SE Pa. A December 2004 IssuesPA/Pew poll found only 11% of African-Americans describing themselves as Steelers fans, while 63% cheer for the Philadelphia Eagles.

3. The 2006 gubernatorial race starts out very competitive – fully a third of Pennsylvania voters are up for grabs.

| <b>GUBERNATORIAL PREFERENCES OF REGISTERED VOTERS</b> |                       |                     |                     |                       |      |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------|
|   | <u>Likely Rendell</u> | <u>Likely Swann</u> | <u>Swing Voters</u> | <u>Neither/ Other</u> |      |
|   | %                     | %                   | %                   | %                     |      |
| STATEWIDE   | 29                    | 35                  | 34                  | 2                     | =100 |
| Philadelphia City                                     | 60                    | 12                  | 25                  | 3                     | =100 |
| SE Pa. Suburbs  | 32                    | 30                  | 36                  | 2                     | =100 |
| SW Pa.  | 23                    | 42                  | 33                  | 2                     | =100 |
| SC Pa.  | 13                    | 46                  | 39                  | 2                     | =100 |
| NE Pa.  | 30                    | 30                  | 38                  | 2                     | =100 |
| Rest of State   | 20                    | 42                  | 35                  | 3                     | =100 |

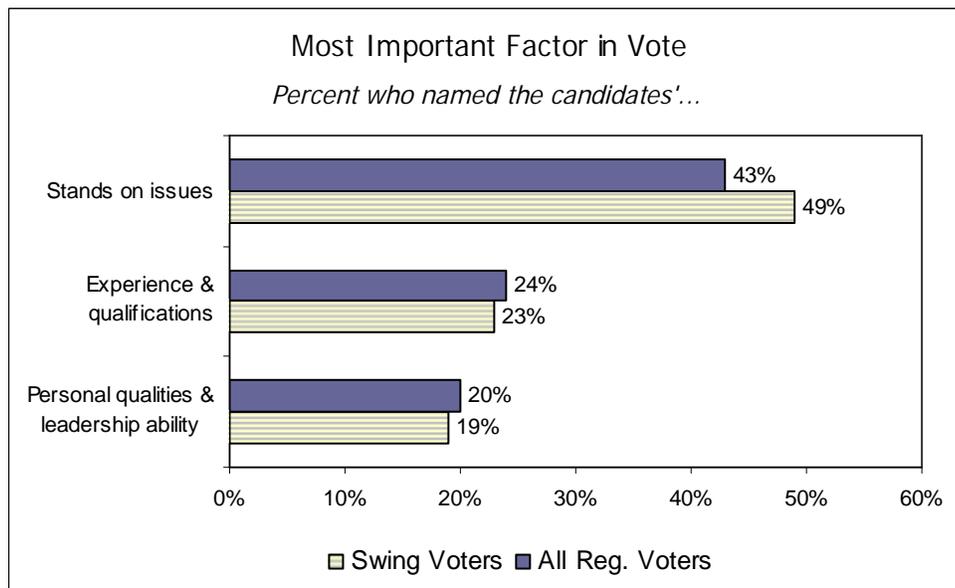
When asked separately about their chances of voting for Ed Rendell and Lynn Swann as the gubernatorial candidates of their respective parties in November, about six in 10 (58%) registered voters statewide say they will definitely vote or consider voting to re-elect Rendell and a similar number (60%) say they will definitely vote or consider voting for Swann to become the new governor. At this point, however, the incumbent attracts more strong opposition than the challenger – 35% say they definitely will *not* vote for Rendell; 28% say they definitely will *not* vote for Swann.

Combining response to these two questions, 35% of voters are classified as likely Swann voters, 29% are likely Rendell voters, and 34% are swing voters open to voting for either major party candidate. Swing voters are found across the political spectrum, but concentrated in the middle. By party/ideology, those most likely to qualify as swing voters are Independents (44%) and moderate-to-liberal Republicans (43%). The percentage of swing voters is lowest among conservative Republicans (25%) and liberal Democrats (24%).

Regional Highlights: Philadelphia city is the only region where one candidate has a clear majority in his column (60% likely Rendell). Swann, however, starts out with a substantial advantage in SC Pa. (46%-13%) and also enjoys a clear lead in SW Pa. (42%-23%) and “Rest of State” (42%-20%). Shaping up as key battlegrounds in this race are the closely contested SE Pa. suburbs (32% likely Rendell/30% likely Swann/36% swing voters) and NE Pa. (30%/30%/38%)

Demographic Highlights: At this point, just 8% of African-American voters are in the “likely Swann” column, with the majority (57%) likely to vote for Rendell. Swann, however, has potential to perform better among blacks than Republican candidates have historically, since 29% of African-American voters are now in play as swing voters.

4. Issues will play a major role in determining the outcome of this year's gubernatorial race.



When Pennsylvania voters are asked what will most influence their voting decision this year, the largest number say the candidates' stands on specific issues will matter most (43%), followed by the candidates' experiences and qualifications (24%), and the candidates' personal qualities and leadership ability (20%). Issues matter even more to the swing voters who will be most instrumental in determining the election outcome. Roughly half (49%) of swing voters say issues will be the critical factor in their decision.

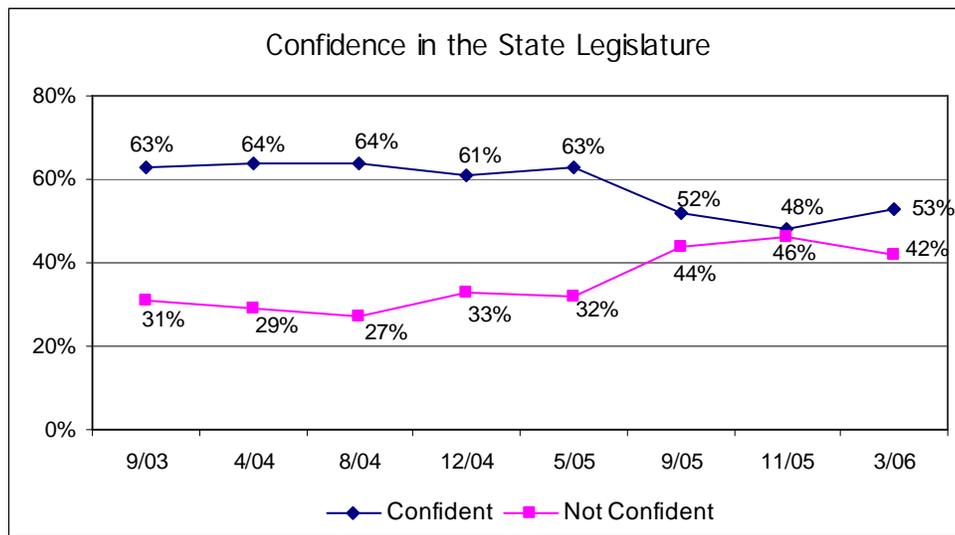
The new poll finds taxes as the number one issue on Pennsylvania voters' minds this year, followed by the economy/jobs. About one in four (24%) voters say taxes will be the single most important issue or concern affecting their vote for offices like governor and state legislator; one in six (17%) say the economy/jobs will matter most. Next on voters' lists are education (11%), and health care (9%).

For likely Swann voters, taxes are the clear number one issue (mentioned by 32% compared with 15% economy/jobs). Likely Rendell voters rate taxes (19%) and the economy/jobs (17%) about equally. Swing voters are more like Rendell voters in their similar rating of taxes (21%) and the economy/jobs (19%). But they also differ from committed voters in giving a higher priority to education (14%) and health care (12%) as key voting issues.

Regional Highlights: Taxes are one of the top two issues in every region of state except the city of Philadelphia (where no single issue stands out) and are the clear number one issue in the SE Pa. suburbs (30%) and SC Pa. (33%). Taxes and the economy/jobs are statistically tied for the top slot in the other three regions of state -- SW Pa., NE Pa. and "Rest of State."

Demographic Highlights: Education matters much more to voters with high incomes. Twenty percent of voters with household incomes over \$75,000 say education is the most critical issue, compared with just 6% of voters with incomes under \$30,000.

5. The state legislatures' confidence ratings have bounced back only slightly from the slippage seen after last year's controversial pay raise.



The new IssuesPA/Pew poll finds 53% of Pennsylvanians saying they have a lot or some confidence in the state legislature as a whole. That is a modest improvement from the low point of 48% last November, but nonetheless significantly below the confidence levels (ranging from 61% to 64%) recorded in polls taken from September 2003 to May 2005, before the legislative pay raise passed last summer. It would appear that the pay raise continues to sully the image of the legislature even though it was rescinded several months ago.

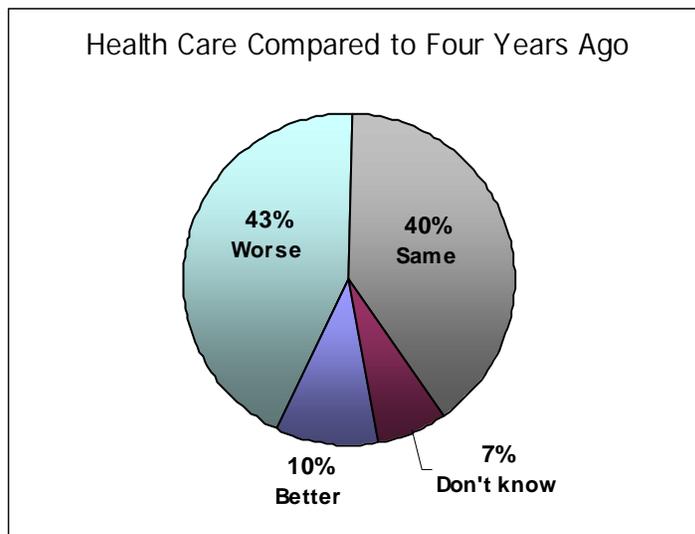
How vulnerable are incumbent state legislators in this year's elections? While confidence ratings are down somewhat from pre-pay raise levels, people's own state senators and representatives continue to be held in much higher regard than state legislators collectively. Sixty percent of state residents have a lot or some confidence in their own state senator and 63% have similar confidence in their own state representative. Political Independents, a bellwether of anti-incumbent sentiment, are more likely to have confidence in their own state senator (55%) and representative (55%) than in Governor Rendell (50%) and the legislature as a whole (44%).

Only 2% of state voters specifically mentioned the legislative pay raise as the most important issue in their voting decisions this year, additional evidence that most incumbents may not be seriously hurt by this issue at the ballot box.

**Demographic Highlights:** The SW Pa. region continues to show the highest levels of dissatisfaction with the direction of the state and express the least confidence in state political officeholders. Only about half (48%) the residents of SW Pa. have confidence in the state legislature as a whole, and the ratings for their own state senator (54%) and state representative (57%) are below the statewide averages.

## IssuesPA/Pew March 2006 Survey: Major Findings for Health Care Questions

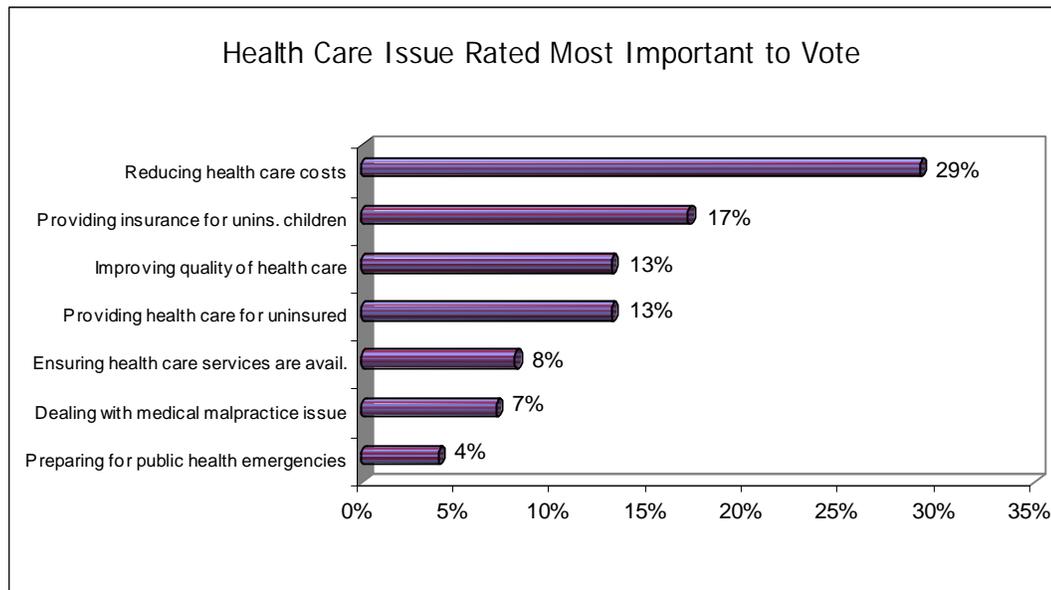
1. More people think health care has gotten worse in Pennsylvania since Ed Rendell took office than think it has improved. Swing voters in the governor's race are more likely than committed voters to see their state losing ground on health care.



Forty-three percent of state residents think health care is worse now than it was four years ago, while just 10% think it is better. Health care shows potential to be a pivotal issue in the gubernatorial race. While health care is ranked third among all issues Swing voters who will ultimately determine the outcome are more likely to think the health care has gotten worse than those already aligned with a candidate (50% vs. 37% of likely Rendell voters and 44% of likely Swann voters). Swing voters are also more likely to name health care as the issue that will be most important in deciding which candidate to back (12% vs. 8% of likely Rendell voters and 5% of likely Swann voters).

**Demographic Highlights:** The poll finds sharp differences by age in perceptions of health care over the past four years. Those most likely to think the situation has gotten worse are in the pre-retirement age group not yet eligible for Medicare (51% of 50-64 year olds think health care is worse). In contrast, significantly fewer seniors age 65+ (36%) and those under 50 years of age (43%) think the state has been losing ground on health care.

2. Rising medical costs and the problem of the uninsured are the top health care concerns of Pennsylvania voters this year.



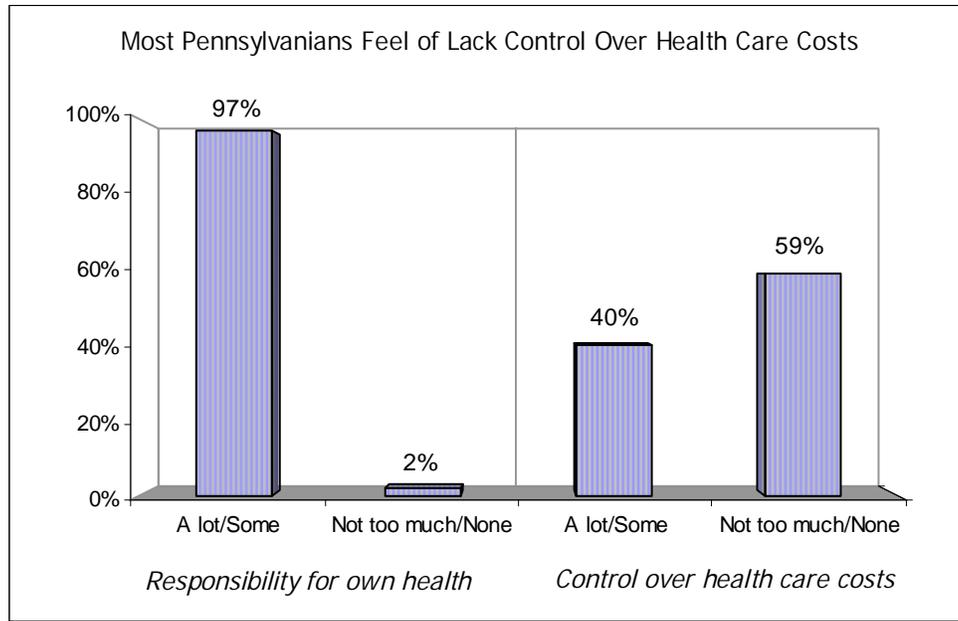
Roughly three in 10 (29%) Pennsylvania voters overall, and the same number of swing voters in the governor's race (29%), identify the candidates' positions on reducing health care costs as the health care related issue that will be most important in determining their vote in this year's elections. Concerns about health care costs have consistently rated first in previous IssuesPA/Pew polling on the topic of health care. An August 2004 survey found a majority (55%) of state residents reporting that their family had trouble paying health care costs or obtaining health insurance in the past year.

Addressing the problem of the uninsured is the second major health care concern of voters this year. Seventeen percent identify providing insurance for uninsured children as the most important health care issue and another 13% put providing health care for the uninsured generally first. The only other health care issue that scores in double digits with voters as a top concern this year is improving the quality of health care (13%).

The survey gave voters a chance to say in their own words what they want done to address these health care problems. Universal health care was mentioned most often by those who rate the uninsured as their top concern. Those whose top issue is reducing costs most often mention universal health coverage, cutting the costs of prescription medicines, and tort reform/dealing with the medical malpractice issue.

Regional Highlights: Statewide, only 7% of voters say the medical malpractice issue is the top health care issue affecting their vote. But among voters in the SE Pa. suburbs, however, that number rises to 17%, second only to reducing health care costs (26%).

3. Pennsylvanians feel responsible for their own health, but most feel frustrated that they cannot control the costs of their health care.



Nearly all (97%) Keystone state residents feel a lot or some personal responsibility for their own health. But many feel powerless when it comes to controlling the medical costs. Six in 10 (59%) Pennsylvanians feel they have little or no control over the costs of their health care. Lack of information from health care providers would seem to play a role in keeping Pennsylvania health care consumers frustrated. A majority (57%) say the doctors generally don't tell them very much about the costs or recommended medical procedures and prescription drugs.

Demographic Highlights: Seniors (65+) are the age group most likely to feel they are in control of their health care costs. Just over half (53%) of seniors feel they have a lot or some control, compared with just 36% of those under 65. Seniors, however, are not significantly more likely to say their doctor keeps them informed about the costs of procedures and Rx drugs – 42% of seniors say doctors tell them a lot or some about the costs, compared with 40% of those under 65.

4. There is widespread sentiment in Pennsylvania that government should pay most of the costs for medical services like catastrophic care and continuing care for chronic conditions.

| <b>PENNSYLVANIANS FEEL GOVERNMENT SHOULD PAY COSTS OF CONTINUING CARE</b>                       |                   |                 |              |                      |                 |      |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------|------|
| <i>Who do you think should pay most of the costs of continuing care for chronic conditions?</i> | <u>Individual</u> | <u>Employer</u> | <u>Govt.</u> | <u>Other/ Shared</u> | <u>DK/ Ref.</u> |      |
|   | %                 | %               | %            | %                    | %               |      |
| STATEWIDE   | 16                | 16              | 55           | 6                    | 7               | =100 |
| Philadelphia City   | 12                | 13              | 69           | 2                    | 4               | =100 |
| SE Pa. Suburbs  | 20                | 17              | 51           | 5                    | 7               | =100 |
| SW Pa.  | 17                | 17              | 52           | 7                    | 7               | =100 |
| SC Pa.  | 16                | 13              | 53           | 9                    | 9               | =100 |
| NE Pa.  | 9                 | 17              | 63           | 4                    | 7               | =100 |
| Rest of State   | 16                | 16              | 52           | 7                    | 9               | =100 |

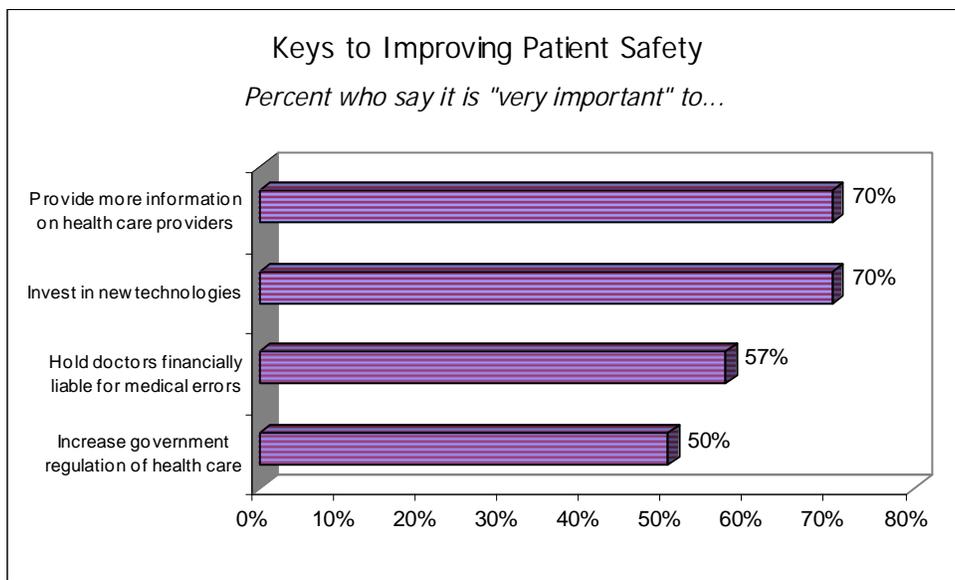
A majority (55%) of state residents believe government should be chiefly responsible for paying most of the costs of long-term chronic care. And close to half (46%) think government should pay most of the bills for catastrophic or other very expensive medical care. As far as prescription drugs, four in 10 (38%) Pennsylvanians feel government should bear most of the costs, but a larger number think employers (30%) or individuals and their families (19%) should pick up the tab. Preventive or routine health care is the one area where people are least likely to want government to play a major role. Less than a quarter (22%) of the statewide public think that government should pay most of the costs of preventive care, while 34% think employers and another 34% think individuals and their families should foot the bill.

Support for a bigger government role in funding health care is about as high among political Independents as it is among Democrats. Majorities of Independents (57%) and Democrats (61%) think government should pay most of the costs of continuing care for chronic conditions. A smaller, but still sizable proportion of Republicans (47%) concur.

Regional Highlights: Support for the idea of government-funded health care is highest in the city of Philadelphia and in NE Pa. Seven in 10 (69%) Philadelphians and six in 10 (63%) of those living in the Northeast say government should pay the largest share of the costs of continuing care for chronic illnesses.

Demographic Highlights: Support for government paying most of the costs for chronic care is highest among non-whites (64%), those with incomes of less than \$20,000 (65%) and young adults under 30 years of age (64%).

5. Pennsylvanians most often see information disclosure about health care providers and technological innovation as the keys to improving patient safety.



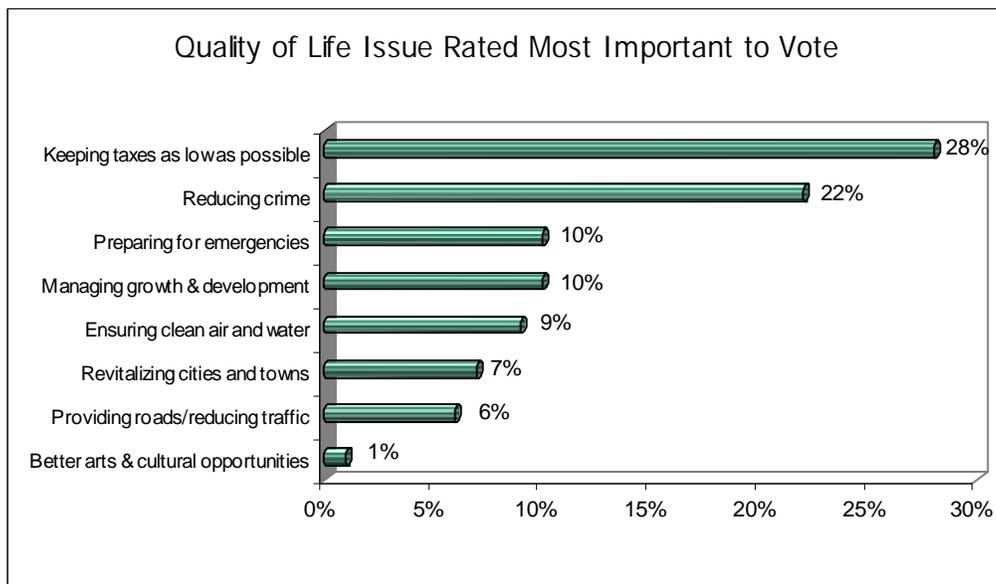
When asked their opinion of different ways to try to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors, the largest numbers of state residents say it is very important to provide more information about the records and outcomes of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers (70%), and to invest in new systems and technologies (70%). A smaller majority of Keystone state residents, however, also think it is very important to hold doctors and other providers financially liable for medical errors (57%); and half (50%) think it is very important to have government step in with more regulation and oversight of health care.

**Regional Highlights:** Philadelphia city residents appear most concerned about the issue of patient safety, and are more likely to think all four of these action steps are very important. The biggest difference between Philadelphia city residents and the statewide public at large is on the need for increased government regulation and oversight – 69% of Philadelphia residents think this is very important, compared with 50% statewide.

**Demographic Highlights:** Non-whites and people in low income households are most likely to think it is very important to increase government regulation and hold health care providers financially liable for errors in order to increase patient safety.

## IssuesPA/Pew March 2006 Survey: Major Findings for Community Vitality Questions

1. Taxes and crime top Pennsylvanians' list of issues related to community vitality that will influence their voting decisions this year.



When asked how eight specific quality of life issues will affect their voting decisions, more than a quarter (28%) of Pennsylvania voters say the candidates' positions on how to best keep taxes down will be most important, and just under a quarter (22%) say positions on how to reduce crime will matter most. Next on voters' list are two issues related to the environment – managing growth and development (10%) and ensuring clean air and water (9%)— and a third issue, preparing for emergencies (10%), that captured more attention since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast last year.

The new poll finds a quarter (25%) of registered voters saying life in their community has gotten worse in the past four years. Crime takes on more importance with these disgruntled voters – 29% of this group crime is the key issue, compared with 19% of other voters.. Taxes is mentioned about equally often by those who do and don't think their community's quality of life has slipped (26% and 29%, respectively).

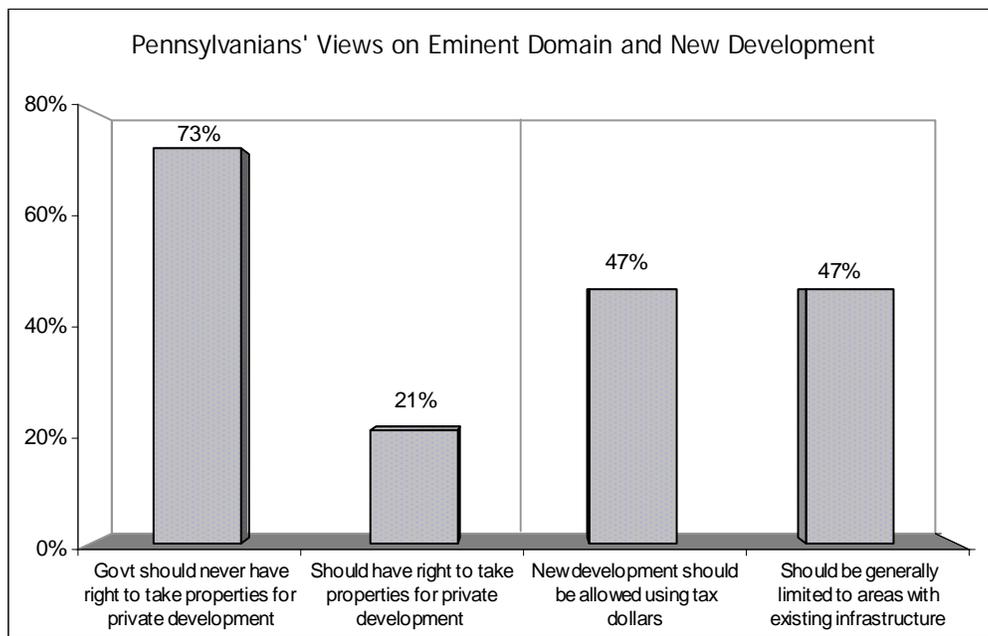
Likely Swann voters in the governor's race name taxes over crime as the key community vitality issue by a two-to-one margin (34%/17%). Likely Rendell voters are more divided in their issue priorities (25% crime/21% taxes). Swing voters also express mixed views (26% taxes/23% crime). Those who select crime as the top issue and say they have something in mind to address this problem most often specify "more police" or "better police

protection.” Those whose main concern is taxes and have something in mind to address this issue most often specify “revamping taxes laws/rates” or taking steps to “control or reduce government spending.”

Regional Highlights: Crime is by far the dominant concern of voters who live in the city of Philadelphia – 43% say crime is most important, leaving taxes a distant second (17%). Taxes are the number one issue for voters SW Pa. (31%), SC Pa. (31%), NE Pa. (34%), and in “Rest of State” (32%). Voters in the SE Pa. suburbs are most likely to look to issues other than taxes and crime as the most important community vitality issue. Less than four in 10 voters in this region say taxes (23%) or crime (13%) is the top issue. The majority of these suburban voters point to some other quality of life concern, including managing growth and development (14%), preparing for emergencies (12%), ensuring clean air and water (10%), and providing roads/reducing traffic (10%).

By size of community, crime is the clear the number one issue for large city residents (39%) and taxes looms largest for those in rural communities (38%). Voters who live in small cities and towns give somewhat more weight to taxes than crime (29%/22%). Suburban voters statewide have the most diverse priorities with five concerns scoring in double-digits: taxes (25%), crime (16%), preparing for emergencies (14%), managing growth and development (11%) and ensuring clean air and water (10%).

2. Pennsylvanians solidly oppose government taking properties for private development projects, and are divided on whether new development should be allowed in areas without existing schools, sewer systems, and other infrastructure.



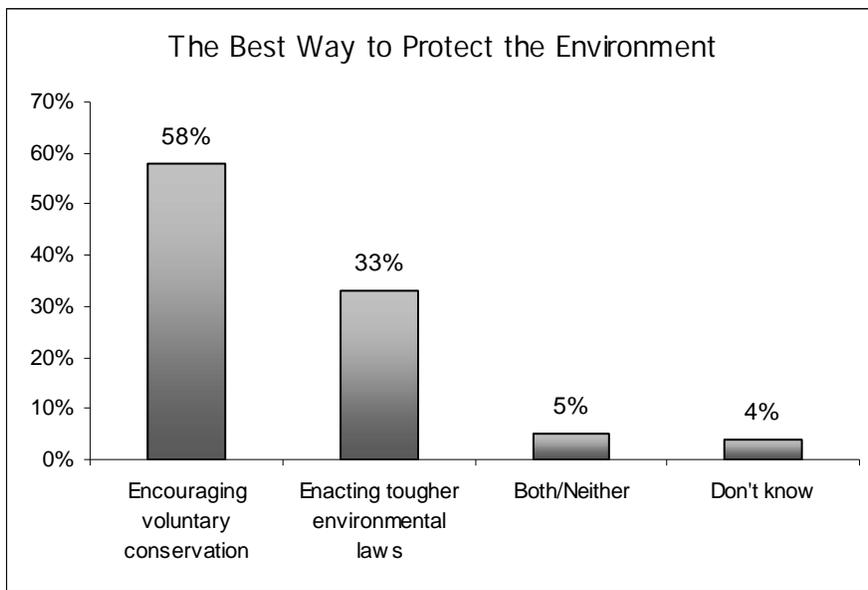
When asked about the use of eminent domain by government to claim private properties for private economic development projects, about three-quarters (73%) of adults statewide say government should *never* have the right to take properties even if the owners are paid fair market value. Just 21% are okay with government taking properties under this scenario. Only small differences are seen across the political spectrum in opinions on this issue. Seventy-eight percent of Republicans, 76% of Independents, and 70% of Democrats are united in their opposition to government using eminent domain in this way.

The idea of allowing new development outside of established communities, even if it means spending tax dollars for new schools and other infrastructure, divides the statewide public right down the middle. Forty-seven percent give their consent to such new development, but an identical 47% want to limit new development to established communities. No significant differences are found by party ID on this question.

**Regional Highlights:** Opposition to new development that might require new infrastructure is highest in SC Pa. (57%), a region where past surveys have shown high public concern about preserving open space and farmland. By size of community, opposition is highest among those living in rural areas (57%), but does not differ significantly among large city, small city/town and suburban residents.

Demographic Highlights: Support for new development outside established communities is highest among non-whites (63%), young adults aged 18-29 (61%), and those who rent their current home (61%).

3. By a wide margin, Keystone state residents prefer voluntary conservation over stricter regulations as the best way for government to try to protect the environment.

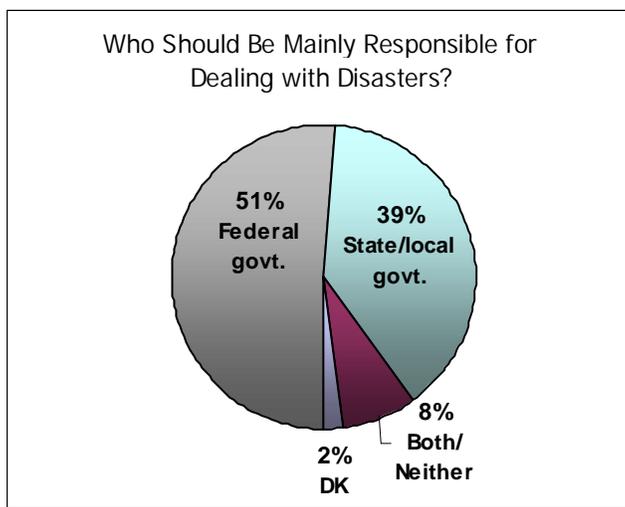


Six in 10 (58%) Pennsylvania adults say that the best way for government to protect the environment is to encourage voluntary conservation, like giving tax breaks for buying a hybrid vehicle or energy-efficient home heating equipment. Only a third (33%) think the better approach is tougher environmental laws such as higher miles-per-gallon standards for cars and SUVs.

The voluntary conservation approach is preferred overwhelmingly by likely Swann voters in this year's governor's race (65%/28% tougher laws). Likely Rendell voters are divided on what is the better approach – while 48% select tougher laws, almost as many (43%) opt for voluntary conservation. This is one issue where the swing voters' opinions are much closer to supporters of the Republican challenger. By a margin of 63% to 29%, swing voters prefer voluntary conservation efforts over tougher environmental statutes.

**Demographic Highlights:** No major demographic subgroup of state residents sees passing tougher laws as a better approach than promoting voluntary conservation. However, support for stricter laws is higher among college graduates (41%) than it is among those with some college (31%) or no more than high school education (29%).

4. More Pennsylvanians want the federal government to take charge when disasters strike than to let state and local government officials manage the situation.



Most Pennsylvanians do not have a preference for local control when it comes to responding to disasters. When asked specifically which level of government should take the lead in responding to a natural or man-made disaster, 51% of state residents say the federal government should be mainly responsible, while 39% want the state and local governments in the affected areas to take charge.

Even though the Republicans currently control the federal government, state residents who identify themselves as Democrats are the biggest proponents of putting the feds in charge (58% federal government/34% state and local governments). Independents lean toward giving the federal government authority (47%/41%), while Republicans are most apt to favor local control (46%/48%).

Demographic Highlights: Young adults age 18-29 are most in favor of having the federal government lead the response to a major disaster – 60% feel this way compared with 53% of those 30-49, 42% of those 50-634 and 48% of those age 65+.

5. Four in 10 state residents think local communities should have the authority to go beyond federal and state gun control laws and further restrict firearms. But as many as a quarter of Pennsylvanians think no level of government has any business putting any limits on guns.

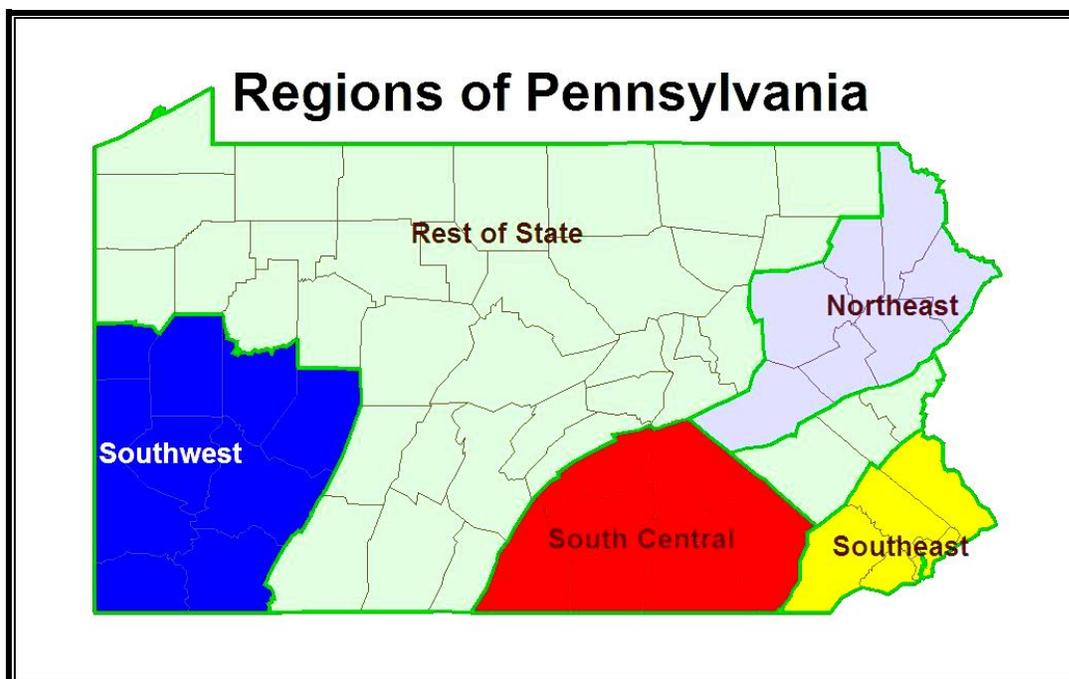
| <b>PENNSYLVANIANS' VIEWS ON GUN CONTROL</b>   |   |   |                                  |                    |      |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|------|
| <i>Which one of the following comes closest to your views about gun control laws?</i> | <u>Only federal/<br/>state govt.<br/>can restrict<br/>sale/possession</u> | <u>Local<br/>communities<br/>can add<br/>restrictions</u> | <u>No govt.<br/>restrictions</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Ref</u> |      |
|   | %   | %   | %                                | %                  |      |
| STATEWIDE   | 31  | 40  | 24                               | 5                  | =100 |
| Philadelphia City   | 38  | 44  | 11                               | 7                  | =100 |
| SE Pa. Suburbs  | 29  | 49  | 19                               | 3                  | =100 |
| SW Pa.  | 32  | 36  | 28                               | 4                  | =100 |
| SC Pa.  | 30  | 36  | 31                               | 3                  | =100 |
| NE Pa.  | 36  | 37  | 25                               | 2                  | =100 |
| Rest of State   | 28  | 38  | 28                               | 6                  | =100 |

There is no consensus on the issue of gun control among Pennsylvanians. While 40% of state residents think local communities should be able to put their own restrictions on firearms sales or possession, 31% think only the federal and state governments should be able to restrict guns, and another 24% think that no level of government should have the power to restrict gun sales and possession.

Likely Swann voters in the governor's race are spread across the three positions on this issue: 32% support local government adding restrictions; 29% think only federal/state government should have the authority; and 35% say no level of government should limit gun sales and possession. A plurality, but not a majority, of likely Rendell voters (46%) and swing voters (43%) support the rights of local communities to have their own gun control laws.

Regional Highlights: Support for local communities passing their own gun control legislation is highest in the SE Pa. suburbs (49%) and Philadelphia city (44%). In all other regions, support for such laws is in the 36%-38% range. Opposition to gun control laws by any level of government is highest among Pennsylvanians who live in rural communities (36% vs. 14% of large city residents, 23% of small city/town residents, and 20% of suburbanites).

Demographic Highlights: Men and women tend to have different views on gun control laws. Women are more likely than men to support a right for local communities to place further limits on guns (43% vs. 37%). Men are more likely than women to oppose restrictions on guns by any level of government (31% vs. 18%).



## PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

### SOUTHEAST REGION

Bucks  
Chester  
Delaware  
Montgomery  
Philadelphia

### SOUTHWEST REGION

Allegheny  
Armstrong  
Beaver  
Butler  
Fayette  
Greene  
Indiana  
Lawrence  
Washington  
Westmoreland

### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Adams  
Cumberland  
Dauphin  
Franklin  
Lancaster  
Lebanon  
Perry  
York

### NORTHEAST REGION

Carbon  
Lackawanna  
Luzerne  
Monroe  
Pike  
Schuylkill  
Wayne

### REST OF STATE

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Bedford    | Lycoming       |
| Berks      | McKean         |
| Blair      | Mercer         |
| Bradford   | Mifflin        |
| Cambria    | Northampton    |
| Cameron    | Northumberland |
| Centre     | Potter         |
| Clarion    | Snyder         |
| Clearfield | Somerset       |
| Clinton    | Susquehanna    |
| Columbia   | Tioga          |
| Crawford   | Union          |
| Elk        | Venango        |
| Erie       | Warren         |
| Fulton     | Wyoming        |
| Huntingdon |                |
| Jefferson  |                |
| Lehigh     |                |

## Methodology

### Health Care and Community Vitality

Prepared by Princeton Survey Research Associates International  
for the Pennsylvania Economy League

March 2006

#### **SUMMARY**

The Health Care and Community Vitality Survey, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Economy League, obtained telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of 1,504 adults living in Pennsylvania telephone households. The survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Interviews were done in English by Braun Research, Inc. from March 15 to March 22, 2006. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is  $\pm 3.0\%$ .

Details on the design, execution and analysis of the survey are discussed below.

#### **DESIGN AND DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES**

##### **Sample Design**

The sample was designed to represent all Pennsylvania telephone households. The telephone sample was provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC (SSI) according to PSRAI specifications. The sample was drawn using standard *list-assisted random digit dialing* (RDD) methodology. *Active blocks* of telephone numbers (area code + exchange + two-digit block number) – those containing three or more residential directory listings – were selected with probabilities in proportion to their share of listed telephone households; after selection two more digits were added randomly to complete the number. This method guarantees coverage of every assigned phone number regardless of whether that number is directory listed, purposely unlisted, or too new to be listed. After selection, the numbers were compared against business directories and matching numbers purged.

For sampling, Pennsylvania was divided into six strata based on county of residence – Philadelphia, Southeast (without Philadelphia), Southwest, South Central, Northeast and rest of state.<sup>11</sup> Sample was drawn disproportionately across the strata to ensure sufficient interviews in each region for analysis. This disproportionality was corrected in the weighting of the data.

### **Questionnaire Development and Testing**

The questionnaire was developed by PSRAI in collaboration with staff of the Pennsylvania Economy League. In order to improve the quality of the data, the questionnaire was pretested with a small number of respondents using RDD telephone number sample. The pretest interviews were monitored by PSRAI staff and conducted using experienced interviewers who could best judge the quality of the answers given and the degree to which respondents understood the questions. Some final changes were made to the questionnaire based on the monitored pretest interviews.

### **Contact Procedures**

Interviews were conducted from March 15 to March 22, 2006. As many as 10 attempts were made to contact every sampled telephone number. Sample was released for interviewing in replicates, which are representative subsamples of the larger sample. Using replicates to control the release of sample ensures that complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample.

Calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chance of making contact with potential respondents. Each household received at least one daytime call in an attempt to find someone at home. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult male currently at home. If no male was available, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest female at home. This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

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<sup>11</sup> A list of regional definitions can be found on page 9.

## WEIGHTING AND ANALYSIS

Weighting is generally used in survey analysis to compensate for patterns of nonresponse that might bias results. The interviewed sample of all adults was weighted by form to match Pennsylvania parameters for sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region (U.S. Census definitions). These parameters came from a special analysis of the Census Bureau's 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) that included all households in the continental United States that had a telephone.

Weighting was accomplished using Sample Balancing, a special iterative sample weighting program that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using a statistical technique called the *Deming Algorithm*. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the national population. Table 1 compares weighted and unweighted sample distributions to population parameters.

**Table 1: Sample Demographics**

|                       | Parameter              | Unweighted | Weighted |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------|----------|
| <i>Gender</i>         |                        |            |          |
|                       | Male                   | 47.1       | 47.9     |
|                       | Female                 | 52.9       | 52.1     |
| <i>Age</i>            |                        |            |          |
|                       | 18-24                  | 11.7       | 4.1      |
|                       | 25-34                  | 15.4       | 11.4     |
|                       | 35-44                  | 19.4       | 18.0     |
|                       | 45-54                  | 20.5       | 19.5     |
|                       | 55-64                  | 13.7       | 17.2     |
|                       | 65+                    | 19.3       | 25.1     |
| <i>Education</i>      |                        |            |          |
|                       | Less than HS           |            |          |
|                       | Graduate               | 13.6       | 7.8      |
|                       | HS Graduate            | 46.2       | 42.8     |
|                       | Some College           | 16.0       | 20.5     |
|                       | College Graduate       | 24.2       | 26.1     |
| <i>Region</i>         |                        |            |          |
|                       | Southeast (w/o Phila.) | 18.7       | 16.6     |
|                       | Southwest              | 22.1       | 19.9     |
|                       | South Central          | 13.7       | 16.7     |
|                       | Northeast              | 8.1        | 16.6     |
|                       | Rest of state          | 25.4       | 16.8     |
|                       | Philadelphia           | 12.1       | 13.4     |
| <i>Race/Ethnicity</i> |                        |            |          |
|                       | White/not Hispanic     | 85.3       | 83.6     |
|                       | Black/not Hispanic     | 9.0        | 7.7      |
|                       | Hispanic               | 3.4        | 3.1      |
|                       | Other/not Hispanic     | 2.3        | 1.7      |

### Effects of Sample Design on Statistical Inference

Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. PSRAI calculates the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from systematic non-response. The total sample design effect for this survey is 1.44.

PSRAI calculates the composite design effect for a sample of size  $n$ , with each case having a weight,  $w_i$  as:

$$deff = \frac{n \sum_{i=1}^n w_i^2}{\left( \sum_{i=1}^n w_i \right)^2} \quad \text{formula 1}$$

In a wide range of situations, the adjusted *standard error* of a statistic should be calculated by multiplying the usual formula by the square root of the design effect ( $\sqrt{deff}$ ). Thus, the formula for computing the 95% confidence interval around a percentage is:

$$\hat{p} \pm \left( \sqrt{deff} \times 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}} \right) \quad \text{formula 2}$$

where  $\hat{p}$  is the sample estimate and  $n$  is the unweighted number of sample cases in the group being considered.

The survey's *margin of error* is the largest 95% confidence interval for any estimated proportion based on the total sample—the one around 50%. For example, the margin of error for the entire sample is  $\pm 3.0\%$ . This means that in 95 out every 100 samples drawn using the same methodology, estimated proportions based on the entire sample will be no more than three percentage points away from their true values in the population. The margin of error for estimates based on form 1 or form 2 respondents is  $\pm 4.4\%$ . It is important to remember that sampling fluctuations are only one possible source of error in a survey estimate. Other sources, such as respondent selection bias, questionnaire wording and reporting inaccuracy, may contribute additional error of greater or lesser magnitude.

## RESPONSE RATE

Table 2 reports the disposition of all sampled telephone numbers ever dialed from the original telephone number sample. The response rate estimates the fraction of all eligible respondents in the sample that were ultimately interviewed. At PSRAI it is calculated by taking the product of three component rates:<sup>12</sup>

- Contact rate – the proportion of working numbers where a request for interview was made – of 63 percent<sup>13</sup>
- Cooperation rate – the proportion of contacted numbers where a consent for interview was at least initially obtained, versus those refused – of 41 percent
- Completion rate – the proportion of initially cooperating and eligible interviews that were completed – of 99 percent

Thus the response rate for this survey was 25 percent.

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<sup>12</sup> PSRAI's disposition codes and reporting are consistent with the American Association for Public Opinion Research standards.

<sup>13</sup> PSRAI assumes that 75 percent of cases that result in a constant disposition of "No answer" or "Busy" are actually not working numbers.

**Table 2: Sample Disposition**

|                         | <u>Final</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Total Numbers dialed    | 10,444       |
| Business                | 476          |
| Computer/Fax            | 391          |
| Other Not-Working       | 1,747        |
| Additional projected NW | 1,137        |
| Working numbers         | 6,693        |
| <b>Working Rate</b>     | <b>64.1%</b> |
| No Answer               | 247          |
| Busy                    | 13           |
| Answering Machine       | 1,356        |
| Callbacks               | 777          |
| Other Non-Contacts      | 119          |
| Contacted numbers       | 4,181        |
| <b>Contact Rate</b>     | <b>62.5%</b> |
| Initial Refusals        | 1,935        |
| Second Refusals         | 548          |
| Cooperating numbers     | 1,698        |
| <b>Cooperation Rate</b> | <b>40.6%</b> |
| Language Barrier        | 173          |
| Eligible numbers        | 1,525        |
| <b>Eligibility Rate</b> | <b>89.8%</b> |
| Interrupted             | 21           |
| Completes               | 1,504        |
| <b>Completion Rate</b>  | <b>98.6%</b> |
| <b>Response Rate</b>    | <b>25.0%</b> |