

COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE SURVEY

Interview Schedule



January 6 - 9, 2025
Project #: 250009
N=800 Registered Voters
Credibility Interval: ± 3.95%

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1. Would you say that things in Pennsylvania are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

48% Right Direction
52% Wrong Track

2. Which ONE of the following issues are MOST important for the Governor and the State Legislature to address this legislative session?

3. And, which of the remaining issues would be SECOND most important for Governor and the State Legislature to address this legislative session?

<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Comb</u>	
39%	20%	58%	Rising prices and inflation
17%	21%	38%	The economy and jobs
13%	17%	29%	Taxes and spending
7%	13%	20%	Health care
6%	7%	13%	Public safety
6%	4%	10%	Abortion
4%	5%	9%	Education
3%	6%	9%	Climate change
2%	6%	8%	Energy affordability
3%	2%	4%	Election efficiency & integrity
*	*	*	Other

Changing topics and thinking about some issues here in Pennsylvania...

Please read some goals that people might have for Pennsylvania right now, and rate how important you personally consider each goal to be...

	Total Extr/Very Important	Total Smwt/Not Important	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important
4. Ensuring all K-12 students have access to an excellent education (A)	89%	11%	60%	30%	9%	1%
5. Reducing government spending and regulatory red tape (B)	78%	22%	44%	34%	19%	3%
6. Reforming welfare and protecting the dignity of work (A)	74%	26%	35%	39%	23%	3%
7. Improving election integrity and efficiency (B)	65%	35%	31%	33%	27%	8%
8. Increasing the number of Pennsylvanians in the workforce (A)	84%	16%	41%	44%	15%	1%
9. Reducing the tax burden on Pennsylvania families (B)	90%	10%	57%	33%	9%	1%
10. Restoring public sector workers' rights (A)	68%	32%	27%	41%	24%	8%
11. Making health care more accessible and affordable (B)	89%	11%	58%	31%	9%	2%
12. Making government more accountable and transparent (A)	92%	8%	54%	38%	8%	*
13. Reducing energy costs (B)	81%	19%	43%	38%	18%	1%
14. Increasing energy production (A)	71%	29%	34%	37%	23%	6%

(EACH ISSUE QUESTION SERIES WAS RANDOMIZED AS BLOCKS)

15. Now, thinking a little more about K-12 education in Pennsylvania... How would you grade Pennsylvania's K-12 school system? **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

5% A
33% B
44% C
12% D
7% F/FAIL

2.2 GPA

Thinking more about K-12 education in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal.

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
16. (EXPAND TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS) Expanding tax credit scholarships, which allow businesses to donate money to nonprofit organizations that provide scholarships to low-income and middle-income children in Pennsylvania to attend pre-kindergarten or K-12 private school.	88%	12%	43%	45%	9%	3%
17. (LIFELINE SCHOLARSHIPS) Creating education opportunity accounts, a government-funded account that parents can use for restricted educational expenses, including tuition, tutoring, and services for students with special needs.	83%	17%	36%	46%	13%	4%
18. (CHARTER SCHOOL INDEPENDENT AUTHORIZER) Establishing an independent authorizer for charter schools, such as a state board or universities, which would approve and renew charter schools; rather than the current system in which only school districts can approve charter schools.	79%	21%	32%	48%	18%	3%
19. (OPEN ENROLLMENT) Enacting open enrollment policies to allow Pennsylvania families to choose any public school that best fits their children's needs, regardless of home address.	75%	25%	39%	36%	18%	7%
20. (REFUNDABLE TAX CREDITS) Providing a refundable income tax credit that gives money to families to spend on the direct needs of their child, including private tuition, online education programs, tutoring, curriculum, and therapies. Low-income families would be eligible for up front relief.	81%	19%	36%	44%	14%	5%

21. Now, thinking a little more about Pennsylvania's economy... How would you rank Pennsylvania's economic competitiveness? **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

- 4% Among The Best States
- 23% Better Than Average

- 50% Average

- 18% Worse Than Average
- 5% Among The Worst States

- 27% TOTAL BETTER**
- 23% TOTAL WORSE**

Thinking more about economic competitiveness in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal.

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
22. (REDUCE REGULATORY RED TAPE) Requiring a vote by the state legislature to approve any new state regulation that would cost more than \$1 million.	83%	17%	41%	42%	14%	3%
23. (TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT) Adopting a Taxpayer Protection Act to ensure Pennsylvania's state spending is responsibly managed in line with the rate of inflation and population growth.	93%	7%	50%	43%	6%	1%
24. (PRIORITIZE TAX RELIEF) Reducing Pennsylvania's Corporate Net Income Tax (CNIT), a tax on business profits, from one of the nation's highest rates at 7.99%, while lowering the Personal Income Tax to 2.8%. This would be paired with zero-based budgeting, to ensure every dollar of state government spending is supported.	85%	15%	38%	47%	12%	3%

Changing topics and thinking about energy and electricity here in Pennsylvania...

25. How concerned are you about the reliability of electricity in Pennsylvania and the possibility of blackouts?

17% Very concerned

39% Somewhat concerned

35% Not too concerned

8% Not at all concerned

56% TOTAL CONCERNED

44% TOTAL NOT CONCERNED

26. How affordable do you believe energy is in Pennsylvania?

5% Very affordable

49% Somewhat affordable

34% Somewhat unaffordable

12% Very unaffordable

54% TOTAL AFFORDABLE

46% TOTAL UNAFFORDABLE

Thinking more about energy issues in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal.

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
27. (AVOID CARBON TAXES) Opposing new taxes on energy that could increase electric utility rates by as much as 30%, including those imposed by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the proposed Pennsylvania Climate Emissions Reduction Act (PACER).	71%	29%	42%	28%	18%	12%
28. (CREATE GRID RELIABILITY STANDARDS) Advocating for legislation in the Pennsylvania General Assembly to create an electricity reliability standard that doesn't favor any specific energy source and focuses on the most affordable ways to generate power.	88%	12%	43%	44%	11%	2%
29. (RESTORE THE GRID) We should reject government programs and taxpayer funded subsidies for politically favored energy industries that drive up costs and make electricity distribution more unreliable. Doing so will address rising energy prices and growing blackout risks in Pennsylvania, ensuring affordable and reliable power for residents.	80%	20%	44%	37%	14%	5%

30. Now, thinking a little more about the role of state government programs... Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

The state government should promote policies that encourage Pennsylvanians to become less dependent on the government.

37% Strongly Agree
 47% Somewhat Agree
 12% Somewhat Disagree
 3% Strongly Disagree

85% TOTAL AGREE
15% TOTAL DISAGREE

Thinking more about worker welfare in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal.

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
31. (IMPLEMENT WORK REQUIREMENTS) Requiring healthy adults (excluding seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those with young children) who receive welfare benefits to work, seek work or job training, or volunteer in their communities to continue receiving benefits.	84%	16%	49%	35%	10%	5%
32. (REGULAR WELFARE ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION) Ensuring that individuals are eligible for welfare by verifying income, residency and household composition twice a year.	86%	14%	48%	38%	11%	3%
33. (EXPAND SCOPE OF PRACTICE) Allowing certified nurse practitioners in Pennsylvania to work without the supervision of a doctor to increase access to health care.	68%	32%	22%	46%	24%	8%
34. (REMOVE BUREAUCRATIC BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT) Reducing outdated Pennsylvania licensing restrictions that prevent Pennsylvanian's from getting a job.	82%	18%	40%	42%	15%	3%
35. (AVOID NEW MEDICAID EXPANSIONS) We should reject proposals to expand Medicaid to pay for non-healthcare expenses such as housing and food services at the cost of more than \$1 billion annually.	63%	37%	30%	34%	24%	13%

36. Now, thinking a little more about Pennsylvania's state government... How well does Pennsylvania's state government function compared to other states? **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

5% Among The Best States

24% Better Than Average

52% Average

14% Worse Than Average

5% Among The Worst States

29% TOTAL BETTER

19% TOTAL WORSE

37. And, thinking a little more about the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania... Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

In addition to public safety, Pennsylvania's juvenile criminal justice system should focus on rehabilitating minors to become productive members of society.

53% Strongly Agree

42% Somewhat Agree

4% Somewhat Disagree

1% Strongly Disagree

94% TOTAL AGREE

6% TOTAL DISAGREE

Thinking more about state government in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal.

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
38. (DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION PLANS) Enrolling all newly hired government employees into a 401(k) style retirement plan, similar to what most employees in the private sector receive, instead of a guaranteed pension for life, to create predictable and affordable retirement benefits. (A)	86%	14%	48%	38%	12%	2%
39. (PRIVATIZE LIQUOR AND WINE SALES) Removing government control of the sale and distribution of wine and liquor by selling all state-run liquor stores, and allowing private retail stores and wholesalers to sell alcohol. (B)	76%	24%	38%	38%	16%	7%
40. (MODERNIZE ELECTION LAW) Modernizing Pennsylvania election laws to include voter identification; clear voting deadlines; and consistent rules for mail in ballots. (A)	91%	9%	56%	36%	7%	1%
41. (JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES) Reforming Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system to encourage alternatives to institutionalization, such as community-based rehabilitation programs for first-time and low-risk offenders. (B)	93%	7%	43%	50%	6%	2%

42. Now, thinking a little more about public sector unions in Pennsylvania... Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Government unions have too much influence over Pennsylvania politicians.

26% Strongly Agree
 45% Somewhat Agree
 24% Somewhat Disagree
 5% Strongly Disagree

71% TOTAL AGREE
29% TOTAL DISAGREE

Thinking about public sector unions in Pennsylvania... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about in Pennsylvania. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal.

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
43. (PAYCHECK PROTECTION) Stopping the use of taxpayer-funded public payroll systems to collect campaign contributions and other funds that government union leaders use for political purposes.	88%	12%	58%	30%	10%	2%
44. (WORKERS' CHOICE) Requiring regular elections for government employees to vote on their union representation, something that has not happened for more than 30 years.	91%	9%	47%	44%	7%	2%
45. (NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEE RIGHTS) Requiring state and local governments notify all employees of their legal rights to join or not join a union.	94%	6%	55%	39%	5%	1%
46. (FREEDOM TO RESIGN) Allowing government union members the right to end their union membership at any time.	85%	15%	46%	40%	11%	3%
47. (PROTECT PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' PERSONAL INFORMATION) Keep public employees' personal information (such as home address, cell phone, and social security numbers) private and secure, and oppose union executives' proposed legislation requiring employers to provide unions with contact details that would expose union members to unwanted solicitations and cyber threats.	91%	9%	58%	33%	7%	2%
48. (WORKERS' BILL OF RIGHTS) Support the Public Employees' Bill of Rights, modeled after the federal "Union Member's Bill of Rights," to ensure greater transparency and accountability in public sector unions by giving employees the right to demand more insight into union operations and decision-making processes.	92%	8%	47%	46%	6%	1%

Changing topics and thinking about some federal policy proposals... Below is a series of different ideas and proposals people are talking about nationally. After you read each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that proposal.

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
49. (EDUCATION CHOICE FOR CHILDREN ACT) Support the Education Choice for Children Act to provide more education options for families. With Pennsylvania's tax credit scholarship program facing a waiting list, a federal scholarship program would help low- and middle-income families access quality non-public schools, regardless of where they live. (A)	83%	17%	43%	40%	12%	6%
50. (TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT RENEWAL) Support the renewal of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to prevent tax increases in 2026, including higher income tax rates, a lower child tax credit, and the loss of full expensing for capital investments. (B)	80%	20%	40%	40%	13%	7%
51. (LNG PAUSE AND THE EPA POWER RULE) Support energy affordability and security by ending policies that are crippling energy production, including the pause on exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and EPA regulations on power plants. (A)	84%	16%	43%	41%	12%	3%
52. (PERMITTING REFORM AND THE REINS ACT) Support regulatory relief by requiring a vote by the U.S. Congress for any new federal administrative regulation with an annual economic impact of \$100 million or more, and reforming federal permitting policies to improve efficiency. (B)	88%	12%	35%	53%	10%	2%

These policies are part of a plan called the Better Pennsylvania 2025. The Better Pennsylvania 2025 plan is designed to unleash Pennsylvania's potential to lead the nation and usher in a new era of prosperity for future generations.

53. From what you have learned, would you say you support or oppose the Better Pennsylvania 2025 plan? **(A)**

23%	Strongly Support
65%	Somewhat Support
9%	Somewhat Oppose
2%	Strongly Oppose

88% **TOTAL SUPPORT**

12% **TOTAL OPPOSE**

54. Would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate running for political office in Pennsylvania who supports the Better Pennsylvania 2025 Plan, or would it make no difference to your vote? **(B)**

21%	Much More Likely to Support
64%	Somewhat More Likely to Support
11%	Somewhat Less Likely to Support
3%	Much Less Likely to Support

– Makes No Difference

86% **TOTAL MORE LIKELY**

14% **TOTAL LESS LIKELY**

Now just a few more questions for statistical purposes only...

D1. In what year were you born?

6%	18 - 24
18%	25 - 34
16%	35 - 44
15%	45 - 54
18%	55 - 64
27%	65 AND ABOVE

D2B. Please record your gender.

48%	Male
52%	Female

* Non-binary or identify in some other way

D3A. And, what is the last grade you completed in school?

*	Some grade school (Grades 1-8)
2%	Some high school (Grades 9-11)
24%	Graduated high school (Grade 12)
8%	Technical/vocational school
24%	Some college
31%	Graduated college (e.g. Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science)
11%	Graduate/professional school (e.g. PhD, MD, JD, MA)
58%	TOTAL <COLLEGE
42%	TOTAL COLLEGE+

D6A. What is your main racial or ethnic heritage?

80%	Caucasian or White
11%	African American or Black
5%	Hispanic, Latino or some other Spanish speaking background
3%	Asian or Pacific Islander
*	American Indian or Alaskan Native
1%	Other/Mixed Race

D4B. Are you registered to vote as... a Republican, a Democrat, or something else?

24%	Strong Republican
20%	Not-so-strong Republican
2%	Lean towards the Republicans
9%	Something else/Independent
3%	Lean towards the Democrats
19%	Not-so-strong Democrat
23%	Strong Democrat
44%	TOTAL REPUBLICAN
42%	TOTAL DEMOCRAT
14%	TOTAL LEAN/INDEPENDENT

D5A. In politics today, do you consider yourself to be...

12%	Very Conservative
23%	Somewhat Conservative
40%	Moderate
17%	Somewhat Liberal
8%	Very Liberal
35%	TOTAL CONSERVATIVE
25%	TOTAL LIBERAL

D9A. And for statistical purposes only, what is your total annual household income?

12% Under \$20,000
21% Between \$20,000 - \$40,000
16% Between \$40,000 - \$60,000

13% Between \$60,000 - \$80,000
13% Between \$80,000 - \$100,000
16% Between \$100,000 and \$150,000
6% Between \$150,000 and \$200,000
1% Between \$200,000 and \$250,000
2% Over \$250,000

50% TOTAL <\$60K

50% TOTAL \$60K+

D8A. Regardless of how you feel now, for whom did you vote in the 2024 Presidential election...

Total	Voted	
47%	50%	Donald Trump
46%	49%	Kamala Harris
1%	1%	Someone else
5%	–	Did not vote
2%	–	Don't know/don't recall

D9F. Are you currently...

45% Employed full-time
10% Employed part-time

3% Student
4% Stay at home parent
25% Retired
6% Unemployed and looking for work
8% Disabled or unable to work

55% TOTAL EMPLOYED

45% TOTAL NOT EMPLOYED

D9G. Which of the following do you consider the job you have or most recently had:

- 44% White Collar, Like At A Desk In An Office
- 28% Blue Collar, Like Physical Labor Or Working In A Factory
- 27% Service Industry, Like Working In A Retail Store Or Hospital

- 2% Have Never Worked

98% TOTAL HAVE EVER WORKED

GEO1. Geography from zip code.

- 21% URBAN
 - 61% SUBURBAN
 - 18% RURAL
-