

PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE SURVEY

Interview Schedule



PUBLIC OPINION
STRATEGIES

turning questions into answers

August 22-28, 2025

Project #: 250203

N=800 Registered Voters

Credibility Interval: +3.95%

-
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?

38% Right Direction

40% Wrong Track

21% Not Sure

Changing topics...

2. Have you or someone you know thought about leaving Pennsylvania for a different state due to Pennsylvania's policies? *(Please Select All That Apply)*

23% Yes, I Have Thought about Leaving

16% Yes, Someone I Know Has Thought about Leaving

11% Yes, Someone I Know Has Left

62% No

38% TOTAL YES

(ASKED IF THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING / KNOW SOMEONE WHO THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING / KNOW SOMEONE THAT LEFT IN Q2 ONLY)

3. What was the primary reasons for thinking about moving from Pennsylvania to another state? Please select up to three responses.

55% Lower cost of living

39% Lower taxes

37% Better jobs and opportunities

29% Less crime and safer communities

22% Elected leaders who are more aligned with my personal values

20% Less intrusive government / More personal freedom

15% Better health care

12% Better public schools

10% Greater educational choices

7% More secure election process

9% Some Other Reason

1% Not Sure

(ASKED IF THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING / KNOW SOMEONE WHO THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING / KNOW SOMEONE THAT LEFT IN Q2 ONLY)

4. If you could relocate, what other state(s) would you consider moving to? Please select up to three states.

24%	FLORIDA
13%	NORTH CAROLINA
12%	TEXAS
9%	SOUTH CAROLINA
9%	DELAWARE
8%	CALIFORNIA
8%	GEORGIA
8%	MARYLAND
8%	PENNSYLVANIA
7%	VIRGINIA
7%	NEW JERSEY
7%	NEW YORK
7%	TENNESSEE
6%	COLORADO
6%	MAINE
5%	ARIZONA
5%	OHIO
4%	MASSACHUSETTS
4%	MONTANA
3%	CONNECTICUT
3%	HAWAII
3%	WASHINGTON
3%	WEST VIRGINIA
2%	ALABAMA
2%	ALASKA
2%	ARKANSAS
2%	ILLINOIS
2%	MICHIGAN
2%	NEVADA
2%	OREGON
2%	WYOMING
1%	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1%	IDAHO
1%	IOWA
1%	KENTUCKY
1%	MINNESOTA
1%	MISSISSIPPI

Continued...

1%	NEBRASKA
1%	NEW HAMPSHIRE
1%	NEW MEXICO
1%	NORTH DAKOTA
1%	OKLAHOMA
1%	SOUTH DAKOTA
1%	VERMONT
1%	WISCONSIN
*	INDIANA
*	KANSAS
*	LOUISIANA
*	MISSOURI
*	RHODE ISLAND
*	UTAH
5%	ANOTHER COUNTRY
6%	NOT SURE

5A. Which of the following would you say is the most important problem facing the COUNTRY today, that is, the issue that you're most concerned about?

(ASKED IF FIRST CHOICE IN Q5A ONLY)

5B. And, which of the remaining would you say is the SECOND most important problem facing the COUNTRY today?

(ASKED IF SECOND CHOICE IN Q5B ONLY)

5C. And, which of the remaining would you say is the THIRD most important problem facing the COUNTRY today?

1st	2nd	3rd	Comb	
22%	15%	11%	48%	Inflation / Cost of Living
11%	9%	8%	27%	The U.S. Economy (General)
6%	8%	7%	20%	Divided Country / Lack of Tolerance
9%	4%	5%	19%	Government / Lack of Leadership
6%	5%	6%	18%	Immigration / Border Security
4%	7%	5%	16%	Health Care
5%	6%	4%	15%	Crime / Rising Violence
5%	5%	4%	13%	Retirement Security / Social Security / Medicare
3%	5%	6%	13%	Moral Decline / U.S. Unrest
2%	4%	5%	11%	Wages / Salary / Pay Inequality
2%	4%	4%	10%	Poverty / Homelessness
2%	3%	4%	9%	Taxes
2%	4%	4%	9%	Jobs / Unemployment
2%	2%	4%	9%	Excessive Federal Spending / Debt
3%	2%	2%	7%	Lack of Money
2%	2%	3%	7%	Foreign Affairs / International Issues / Wars
1%	2%	3%	6%	Courts & Judicial Systems
1%	2%	3%	5%	Gun Rights / Gun Control
1%	2%	2%	5%	Environment
2%	1%	1%	4%	National Security
1%	2%	2%	4%	Abortion
1%	1%	2%	4%	Education
1%	1%	2%	4%	Racial Issues
1%	1%	2%	4%	Election Reforms / Integrity
*	*	*	1%	Police Reform
—	1%	*	1%	Banking Crisis
—	*	*	*	COVID-19 / Pandemics
2%	1%	1%	2%	Some Other Reason (Please Specify:_____)
1%	1%	*	3%	Not Sure

6A. Which of the following would you say is the most important problem facing PENNSYLVANIA today, that is, the issue that you're most concerned about?

(ASKED IF FIRST CHOICE IN Q6A ONLY)

6B. And, which of the remaining would you say is the SECOND most important problem facing PENNSYLVANIA today?

(ASKED IF SECOND CHOICE IN Q6B ONLY)

6C. And, which of the remaining would you say is the THIRD most important problem facing PENNSYLVANIA today?

1st	2nd	3rd	Comb	
25%	13%	10%	48%	Inflation / Cost of Living
9%	9%	9%	28%	Pennsylvania Economy (General)
8%	7%	6%	21%	Crime / Rising Violence
8%	7%	6%	21%	Taxes
6%	7%	5%	19%	Wages / Salary / Pay Inequality
5%	7%	7%	18%	Health Care
3%	6%	6%	16%	Poverty / Homelessness
4%	6%	5%	15%	Jobs / Unemployment
3%	4%	4%	11%	Lack of Money
3%	4%	4%	10%	Government / Lack of Leadership
3%	3%	3%	9%	Excessive State Spending / Debt
3%	3%	3%	8%	Education
2%	3%	4%	8%	Failing Schools
2%	3%	4%	8%	Moral Decline
3%	2%	2%	7%	Immigration
1%	2%	3%	6%	Courts and Judicial Systems
2%	2%	2%	5%	Welfare
1%	2%	3%	5%	Racial Issues
1%	2%	2%	5%	Election Reforms / Integrity
1%	2%	2%	5%	Energy
1%	1%	1%	3%	Abortion
*	*	1%	2%	Police Reform
*	*	*	1%	Free Speech
*	*	*	1%	COVID-19 / Pandemics
1%	1%	1%	2%	Some Other Reason (Please Specify:_____)
3%	2%	2%	7%	Not Sure

Changing topics...

7. Do you feel Governor Shapiro has delivered major accomplishments during his term in office?

20% Yes, definitely

30% Yes, somewhat

25% No, not really

16% No, definitely not

10% Not sure

50% TOTAL YES

40% TOTAL NO

(ASKED IF YES, DELIVERED MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN Q7 ONLY)

8. So far in Governor Shapiro's term, what do you regard as his greatest accomplishment?

17% General Favorable Sentiment (Non-Specific)

11% His approach on the Economy / Economic growth

11% He is for the people / He is for Pennsylvania

8% Infrastructure / Repairing bridge / Repairing I-95

5% Budget / Funding

5% His stance on Education / Funding for schools

5% His stance on Abortion / He is for women's rights

4% He doesn't support Trump

4% His approach to fighting crime / Drugs / Improving public safety

4% His Approach to Bipartisanship

4% His approach to creating jobs / Lowering unemployment

3% His stance on maintaining freedom from federal government

3% Bringing in new businesses

5% Other

4% None//nothing

11% Don't know

* Refused

Changing topics, and thinking about policy reform...

Below is a series of different proposals that were recently enacted. 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	Undecided/ Not Sure
Ranked by % Total Support							
9. (WELFARE 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.	73%	22%	43%	30%	11%	11%	5%
11. (EDUCATION CHOICE FOR CHILDREN ACT) Establishment of a federal tax credit scholarship program to help low- and middle-income families access quality non-public schools, regardless of where they live.	72%	19%	34%	37%	11%	8%	9%
10. (TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT RENEWAL) 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.	63%	24%	32%	31%	13%	11%	13%

Now, thinking about the Pennsylvania state budget...

12. As you may know, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro has proposed a \$51.5 Billion General Fund budget for 2025-2026, which is an 8.1 percent spending increase compared to last year's ongoing general fund spending. The resulting \$6 billion deficit would necessitate a tax hike of nearly \$2,000 per family of four.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose Gov. Shapiro's budget proposal?

7% Strongly Support
17% Somewhat Support
24% Somewhat Oppose
39% Strongly Oppose

13% Undecided/Not Sure

23% TOTAL SUPPORT
64% TOTAL OPPOSE

13. Pennsylvania law requires the Rainy Day Fund to be used only for emergencies or unexpected revenue shortfalls. Governor Shapiro has proposed illegally using \$1.6 billion from this fund to cover his proposed spending increases. This would still not be adequate to cover Shapiro's proposed deficit spending necessitating tax increases.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose Gov. Shapiro spending plan?

6%	Strongly Support
17%	Somewhat Support
23%	Somewhat Oppose
41%	Strongly Oppose
12%	Undecided/Not Sure
24%	TOTAL SUPPORT
65%	TOTAL OPPOSE

14. During his first year in office, Governor Shapiro and the state legislature did not agree on a budget in time to meet Pennsylvania's legal deadline of June 30, leading to a 5-month long impasse. Since then, Governor Shapiro has said it is up to the State House and Senate to find common ground.

With Pennsylvania experiencing another budget impasse this year, who do you think is ultimately responsible for making sure the state budget gets finalized on time?

36%	Governor Josh Shapiro
22%	Republicans in the state legislature
16%	Democrats in the state legislature
5%	Other
20%	Not Sure

Now, thinking a moment about the educational systems in Pennsylvania...

15. How would you grade the quality of Pennsylvania's K-12 school system?

7%	A
32%	B
41%	C
12%	D
8%	F/FAIL

(ASKED IF GRADED C, D, OR F IN Q15 ONLY)

16. What, if any, would you say are reasons you are dissatisfied with the quality of education that students in Pennsylvania receive? *(Please Select All That Apply)*

- 47% Not Learning Life Skills
 - 41% Lack of Teaching Basics / Reading / Writing / Arithmetic
 - 35% Lack of Resources, or Resources Not Being Effectively Administered
 - 35% Quality of Education Is Poor / Outranked by Other States
 - 32% Political Agendas Being Taught
 - 31% Poor Administration
 - 28% Too Much Emphasis on Standardized Testing / Grades
 - 25% Too Much Government Interference
 - 25% Not up to Competitive Standards
 - 23% Student Safety Concerns
 - 23% Poor / Outdated Curriculum
 - 22% More Involvement or Input Needed from Parents
 - 22% Unequal Access / Opportunities for Low-income Students
 - 19% Outdated Approach / Lack of Innovation
 - 18% Learning Loss from Covid Shutdowns
 - 18% Parents Lack Educational Options for Children

 - 1% Some Other Reason

 - 2% I Am Not Dissatisfied with the Quality of Education Students in Pennsylvania Receive

 - 4% Not Sure
-

17. Imagine you were choosing a school for a child. If financial costs were not a concern, what type of school would you select to provide the best education?

- 30% Private school (non-religious)
 - 21% District school
 - 19% Private school (religious)
 - 9% Charter school
 - 8% Home school
 - 5% Cyber school or remote learning

 - * Other Type of School
 - 6% Not Sure
-

18. As you may know, children throughout the country are assigned a public school based on their home address, and most are not allowed to choose a different school.

Thinking about this... Would you support or oppose giving every child in Pennsylvania the ability to attend the public school that best meets their needs?

44% Strongly Support
33% Somewhat Support
11% Somewhat Oppose
5% Strongly Oppose

8% Undecided/Not Sure

77% TOTAL SUPPORT
16% TOTAL OPPOSE

19. How much money do you believe Pennsylvania spends annually per student in public schools? Please estimate to the nearest thousand dollars.

27% BELOW \$3,800
16% \$3,800 - \$7,599
15% \$7,600 - \$11,399
42% ABOVE \$11,400

\$10,000 MEDIAN

20. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania spends \$23,000 annually per student on education. Do you believe that amount is...

37% Too high
22% Too low
...or...
41% About right?

Thinking still 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	Undecided/ Not Sure
<i>Ranked by % Total Support</i>							
21. 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.	79%	11%	36%	43%	7%	5%	10%
22. Creating education opportunity accounts, a government-funded account that parents can use for restricted educational expenses, including tuition, tutoring, online education programs, and therapies for students with special needs.	72%	17%	30%	42%	11%	6%	11%
24. Providing a refundable 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.	71%	19%	31%	40%	12%	7%	10%
23. Establishing scholarships for low-income students in Pennsylvania's worst performing (bottom 15%) schools that would help pay for tuition to another k-12 school.	67%	21%	30%	37%	14%	7%	12%
25. Cutting state funding for cyber charter schools by 50% per student.	38%	46%	12%	26%	23%	23%	16%
<hr/>							
26. According to data from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, public school districts in Pennsylvania have more than \$7.4 Billion in reserve funds.							
Should school districts be required to use excess reserves before raising taxes to increase spending?							
51% Strongly Yes							
30% Not-So-Strongly Yes							
7% Not-So-Strongly No							
2% Strongly No							
9% Not Sure							
81% TOTAL YES							
10% TOTAL NO							

Changing topics...

27. Would you say that you and your family are financially...

17%	Better off
51%	About the same
	...or...
32%	Worse off
	...than you were two years ago?

28. How would you rate the economic conditions in Pennsylvania today?

2%	Excellent
28%	Good
52%	Only Fair
	...or...
18%	Poor
30%	TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD
70%	TOTAL FAIR/POOR

29. Currently, do you think economic conditions in Pennsylvania are getting...

36%	Better
	...or...
64%	Worse
	...for you personally?

30. Would you say that compared to other states, Pennsylvania taxes are...

49%	Too high
49%	About average
	...or...
2%	Too low

(ASKED IF TAXES TOO HIGH OR ABOUT AVERAGE IN Q30 ONLY)

31. Has Pennsylvania's high tax burden led you to consider moving to another state?

Among Those Asked	Among Total Sample	
29%	28%	Yes
71%	70%	No

32. Thinking about the job situation in Pennsylvania today, would you say that it is now...

- 46% A good time
 - ...or...
 - 54% A bad time
 - ...to find a quality job?
-

33. Do you think the state of Pennsylvania is...

- 37% Worse for businesses than it was 10 years ago
 - 46% About the same for businesses than it was 10 years ago
 - ...or...
 - 17% Better for businesses than it was 10 years ago
-

Changing topics...

34. Over the past year, would you say that your household electric bill has...

- 78% Gone up
 - 5% Gone down
 - ...or...
 - 17% Stayed the same
-

35. Elected officials in Harrisburg are considering proposals to combat climate change - known as PACER and PRESS - that will increase consumers' monthly electricity bill. It is estimated that these programs would cost average households an additional \$1,754 per year.

Do you support or oppose these proposals?

- 5% Strongly Support
 - 13% Somewhat Support
 - 19% Somewhat Oppose
 - 55% Strongly Oppose

 - 9% Undecided/Not Sure

 - 17% TOTAL SUPPORT**
 - 74% TOTAL OPPOSE**
-

36. Do you support or oppose Pennsylvania's participation in an initiative - known as RGGI - aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, that would impose an estimated 30% increase in your electricity rates and could lead to Pennsylvania losing as many as 22,000 jobs?

4% Strongly Support
14% Somewhat Support
18% Somewhat Oppose
54% Strongly Oppose

10% Undecided/Not Sure

17% TOTAL SUPPORT

72% TOTAL OPPOSE

Changing topics, and thinking again about Governor Shapiro...

37. As a candidate, Governor Shapiro pledged to work across the aisle with legislators and enact bipartisan policies. During his first two-and-a-half years in office, Shapiro's record of legislative accomplishment has proven to be the least productive of any Pennsylvania gubernatorial term in at least 50 years.

Shapiro has said he remains focused on his job as governor, while others have questioned the extent of his out-of-state travel for political events and national media appearances.

Generally speaking, do you believe Governor Shapiro should focus more on working with the legislature to deliver bipartisan policy reforms?

39% Yes, definitely
33% Yes, somewhat
11% No, not really
3% No, definitely not

13% Not sure

72% TOTAL YES

15% TOTAL NO

38. Governor Josh Shapiro has nearly doubled the size of the governor's communications staff compared to previous administrations, while making frequent national media appearances. His office now employs 21 full-time staffers dedicated to publicity, social media, and influencer outreach. Their combined salaries cost taxpayers nearly \$3 million annually, including 12 state employees making six-figure salaries, with some as high as \$190,000 per year.

Do you believe this is an appropriate use of taxpayer money?

7%	Strongly Yes
13%	Not-So-Strongly Yes
24%	Not-So-Strongly No
46%	Strongly No
10%	Not Sure
20%	TOTAL YES
70%	TOTAL NO

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

D1. In what year were you born?

4%	18 - 24
20%	25 - 34
16%	35 - 44
15%	45 - 54
18%	55 - 64
27%	65 AND ABOVE
—	REFUSED

D2B. Please record your gender.

48%	Male
52%	Female
—	Identify some other way

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

*	Some Grade School (Grades 1-8)
1%	Some High School (Grades 9-11)
29%	Graduated High School (Grade 12)
6%	Technical/Vocational School
22%	Some College
30%	Graduated College (e.g. Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science)
12%	Graduate/Professional School (e.g. PhD, MD, JD)
30%	TOTAL HS OR LESS
28%	TOTAL SOME 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
4%	Asian or Pacific Islander
–	Native American or American Indian
–	Other/Mix

D5A. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be...

14%	Very Conservative
22%	Somewhat Conservative
35%	Moderate
18%	Somewhat Liberal
11%	Very Liberal
36%	TOTAL CONSERVATIVE
29%	TOTAL LIBERAL

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

25%	Strong Republican
18%	Not-so-strong Republican
2%	Lean towards the Republicans
9%	Something else/Independent
1%	Lean towards the Democrats
17%	Not-so-strong Democrat
28%	Strong Democrat
43%	TOTAL REPUBLICAN
45%	TOTAL DEMOCRAT
12%	TOTAL LEAN/INDEPENDENT

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
		...or...
1%	1%	Someone Else?
5%	—	Did Not Vote
*	—	Don't Know/Don't Recall

GEO1. Geography from Zip Code.

24%	URBAN
62%	SUBURBAN
14%	RURAL

GEO4. How would you describe the area in which you live?

18%	Big city
12%	Medium or small city
39%	Suburban Area
14%	Small town
17%	Rural area
*	Not Sure

D9F. Are you currently...

43%	Employed full-time
12%	Employed part-time
2%	Student
5%	Stay at home parent
29%	Retired
10%	Unemployed and looking for work
54%	TOTAL EMPLOYED
46%	TOTAL NOT EMPLOYED

D10A. Are you, or is anyone in your household, a member of a labor union or a teachers' union, employed by the city, county, state, or federal government, including as a fire fighter or law enforcement officer?

7%	Yes, Labor Union
3%	Yes, Teachers' Union
2%	Yes, Government Employee (City, County, State, Federal)
1%	Yes, Firefighter or Law Enforcement Officer
87%	No
2%	Not Sure
11%	TOTAL YES

D17. Do you own your own home, rent a house or apartment, live with parents or relatives, live in a home or apartment at which someone else pays the rent, or something else?

62%	Own
29%	Rent
7%	Live with Parents or Relatives
1%	Someone Else Pays
1%	Something Else
—	Not Sure
38%	TOTAL NOT OWN

D9B. And for statistical purposes only, what is your total annual household income?

29%	Less than \$40,000
28%	\$40,000 - \$74,999
17%	\$75,000 - \$99,999
15%	\$100,000 - \$149,000
9%	\$150,000 or more

2%	Prefer not to say
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57%	TOTAL <\$75+
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41%	TOTAL \$75K+
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