

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**Obama, Casey and Corbett doing okay.  
Santorum, natural gas companies and state liquor stores not so good.**

**Langhorne, PA** -- According to a new survey, if Pennsylvania voters had their way Governor Tom Corbett would raise taxes on natural gas companies and sell-off state liquor stores to balance the budget. While that would mean breaking Corbett's campaign pledge not to raise taxes, voters are apparently expecting the Governor to break that promise.

Voters 57 to 28 percent support increasing taxes on energy companies who extract natural gas from Pennsylvania to help reduce the state's substantial budget deficit. Even Republican voters support this tax increase 46 to 36 percent.

"Pennsylvania voters wouldn't mind a tax increase, as long as it's on energy companies," said Ed Haggerty, President of Municipoll.

Voters support selling off state liquor stores, 57 to 30 percent, to balance the budget. This measure is more popular among Republicans than it is among Democrats or Independents.

How voters will respond to Corbett raising taxes is an open question but they are apparently expecting, 50 to 31 percent, the Governor to break his promise to not raise taxes. Republicans, 47 to 32 percent, have more faith in the Governor to keep his promise than do Democrats, 66 to 18 percent.

US Senator Bob Casey seems reasonably secure, beating all challengers by comfortable margins. Former US Senator Rick Santorum presents the stiffest challenge but Casey bests him 50 to 38 percent. Casey also beats Congressman Charlie Dent, 51 to 32 percent and Congressman Jim Gerlach, 48 to 34 percent.

Santorum's favorability rating present a problem for any future candidacy in Pennsylvania with 39 percent of voters having a favorable impression and 44 percent having an unfavorable impression. Bob Casey has a 46 to 30 percent favorability rating.

"Maybe Bob Casey isn't unbeatable but he's looking pretty darn good for a Democrat in a swing state that Senate Republicans are supposedly talking about targeting next year," said Haggerty.

President Barack Obama leads the pack in Pennsylvania with a 51 to 44 percent favorability rating. Tom Corbett has 46 to 30 percent favorability rating and Pat Toomey has a 42 to 35 percent favorability rating.

### Methodology

Municipipoll.com surveyed 670 likely voters February 21 to 23 for PoliticsPA using IVR technology. Telephone numbers for the sample were generated by a file of registered voters in Pennsylvania. Respondents were compared to the voter file and all interviews that were incompatible with the voters listed for that household, according to their age and gender were eliminated from the sample. The data were weighted slightly by party, gender and age. The margin of error for this survey is + or - 3.79 in 95 out of 100 cases. PoliticsPA did not influence in any way the content, weighting, or any other aspect of this survey.

**Q1.** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Barack Obama?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Favorable	339	51%	257	75%	57	21%	25	46%
Unfavorable	297	44%	68	20%	204	74%	25	46%
Not sure	35	5%	17	5%	13	5%	5	9%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q2.** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Bob Casey?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Favorable	305	46%	201	59%	87	32%	17	31%
Unfavorable	204	30%	69	20%	117	42%	18	34%
Not sure	161	24%	71	21%	71	26%	19	35%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q4.** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Tom Corbett?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Favorable	319	48%	103	30%	194	71%	22	40%
Unfavorable	209	31%	156	46%	37	13%	16	30%
Not sure	142	21%	83	24%	44	16%	16	30%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q5.** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Pat Toomey?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Favorable	280	42%	78	23%	178	65%	23	43%
Unfavorable	238	35%	179	52%	41	15%	18	33%
Not sure	153	23%	85	25%	55	20%	13	24%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q6.** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Rick Santorum?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Favorable	263	39%	71	21%	169	62%	23	43%
Unfavorable	294	44%	207	61%	65	24%	22	40%
Not sure	112	17%	63	18%	40	15%	9	17%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q7.** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Jim Gerlach?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Favorable	84	13%	31	9%	46	17%	7	13%
Unfavorable	91	14%	57	17%	27	10%	7	13%
Not sure	496	74%	254	74%	202	73%	40	74%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q8.** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Charlie Dent?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Favorable	83	12%	35	10%	43	16%	5	10%
Unfavorable	108	16%	61	18%	40	15%	6	12%
Not sure	480	72%	246	72%	192	70%	42	79%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q9.** During the campaign for Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Corbett promised not to raise taxes. Now that he is Governor, do you think Corbett will be able to keep his promise?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Yes	211	31%	60	18%	128	47%	23	43%
No	337	50%	227	66%	87	32%	23	43%
Not sure	122	18%	55	16%	59	22%	8	15%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q10.** Do you support the sale of Pennsylvania's state liquor stores to help close the budget deficit?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Yes	379	57%	173	51%	175	64%	30	56%
No	202	30%	121	35%	65	24%	16	30%
Not sure	90	13%	47	14%	35	13%	7	14%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q11.** Do you support increasing taxes on energy companies who extract natural gas from Pennsylvania to help close the budget deficit?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Yes	381	57%	226	66%	126	46%	29	54%
No	187	28%	73	21%	98	36%	17	31%
Not sure	102	15%	42	12%	52	19%	8	15%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q12.** If the candidates for US Senate in the 2012 General Election are Republican Rick Santorum and Democrat Bob Casey who would you vote for?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Rick Santorum	253	38%	42	12%	189	69%	22	40%
Bob Casey	334	50%	258	76%	57	21%	19	35%
Undecided	82	12%	41	12%	28	10%	13	24%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q13.** If the candidates for US Senate in the 2012 General Election are Republican Charlie Dent and Democrat Bob Casey who would you vote for?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Charlie Dent	215	32%	41	12%	157	57%	17	32%
Bob Casey	342	51%	262	77%	58	21%	21	39%
Undecided	113	17%	38	11%	59	22%	15	29%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

**Q14.** If the candidates for US Senate in the 2012 General Election are Republican Jim Gerlach and Democrat Bob Casey who would you vote for?

	Total		Democrat		Republican		Other	
Jim Gerlach	230	34%	45	13%	166	60%	18	34%
Bob Casey	324	48%	252	74%	53	19%	19	36%
Undecided	116	17%	44	13%	56	20%	16	30%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%	342	100%	275	100%	54	100%

#### **GENDER**

Women	364	54%
Men	306	46%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%

**PARTY**

Democrat	342	51%
Republican	275	41%
Other	54	8%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%

**RACE**

African American	64	9%
White	568	85%
Hispanic	11	2%
Other	28	4%
<i>Total</i>	670	100%

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