Tim Malloy,
Polling Analyst
(203) 645-8043

Doug Schwartz,
Associate Vice President and Director
(203) 582-5294

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WOULD JOSH SHAPIRO MAKE A GOOD PRESIDENT? PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS ARE DIVIDED, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY PENNSYLVANIA POLL FINDS; VOTERS DO AGREE ON THIS: BAN CELLPHONES IN K–12 SCHOOLS

While Josh Shapiro faces re-election this year as Pennsylvania's governor, speculation continues to swirl about whether he might also run for president in 2028 and voters in Pennsylvania are weighing in.

Forty percent of voters in the Keystone State think he would make a good president, while 43 percent do not think he would make a good president, with 16 percent not offering an opinion, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University poll of registered voters in Pennsylvania released today.

Democrats (69 – 16 percent) think Shapiro would make a good president, while Republicans (74 – 14 percent) and independents (44 – 32 percent) do not think Shapiro would make a good president.

SHAPIRO JOB APPROVAL

As for how Shapiro is handling his job as governor, 56 percent of voters approve, while 29 percent disapprove, with 15 percent not offering an opinion.

This compares to Quinnipiac University's October 1, 2025 poll when 60 percent of voters approved, 28 percent disapproved, and 11 percent did not offer an opinion.

In today's poll, Democrats (90 – 3 percent) and independents (49 – 30 percent) approve of the way Shapiro is handling his job as governor, while Republicans (58 – 24 percent) disapprove.

"Shapiro maintains solid numbers as governor. Do Pennsylvanian voters think he's up to the job in the Oval Office? Not exactly a ringing endorsement," said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

2026 GOVERNOR'S RACE

In the race for governor, Shapiro leads Republican candidate Stacy Garrity 55 – 37 percent, little changed since Quinnipiac University's October poll.

In today's poll, Democrats (97 – 1 percent) and independents (51 – 34 percent) support Shapiro, while Republicans (82 – 12 percent) support Garrity.

FAVORABILITY RATINGS

Fifty-one percent of voters have a favorable opinion of Shapiro, while 30 percent have an unfavorable opinion of him, and 15 percent haven't heard enough about him.

Sixteen percent of voters have a favorable opinion of Garrity, while 17 percent have an unfavorable opinion of her, and 66 percent haven't heard enough about her.

U.S. SENATORS

Forty-six percent of voters approve of the way John Fetterman is handling his job as United States Senator, while 40 percent disapprove, with 14 percent not offering an opinion.

Republicans (73 – 18 percent) approve of the way Fetterman is handling his job, while Democrats (62 – 22 percent) disapprove. Forty-eight percent of independents approve of the way Fetterman is handling his job, while 37 percent disapprove.

"Senator Fetterman, bridging both parties on some issues, maintains the warm embrace of a healthy number of Republicans," added Malloy.

Thirty-seven percent of voters approve of the way Dave McCormick is handling his job as United States Senator, while 33 percent disapprove, with 30 percent not offering an opinion.

PRESIDENT TRUMP

Forty percent of voters approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president, while 55 percent disapprove.

In Quinnipiac University's October 1, 2025 poll, 43 percent approved and 54 percent disapproved.

When it comes to Trump's handling of the economy, 39 percent of voters approve, while 56 percent disapprove.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

If the election were held today, 49 percent of voters say they would want to see the Democratic Party win control of the United States House of Representatives, while 43 percent say they would want to see the Republican Party win control of the House.

Among independents, 41 percent say the Democratic Party, while 36 percent say the Republican Party, with 23 percent not offering an opinion.

U.S. ECONOMY

Roughly 3 in 10 voters (28 percent) think the nation's economy is getting better, 47 percent think it's getting worse, and 23 percent think it's staying about the same.

This compares to Quinnipiac University's January 10, 2024 poll, when 26 percent thought it was getting better, 44 percent thought it was getting worse, and 29 percent thought it was staying about the same.

IMMIGRATION

Fifty-six percent of voters think the Trump administration is being too harsh in its treatment of undocumented immigrants in the United States, 36 percent think the Trump administration is handling this about right, and 6 percent think the Trump administration is being too lenient in its treatment of undocumented immigrants in the United States.

Fifty-six percent of voters say they would prefer giving most undocumented immigrants in the United States a pathway to legal status, while 34 percent say they would prefer deporting most undocumented immigrants in the United States. Ten percent did not offer an opinion.

CELLPHONES IN SCHOOLS

Seventy-one percent of voters support banning cellphones in Pennsylvania's K–12 schools during the school day, while 20 percent oppose it.

Republicans (78 – 14 percent), independents (73 – 17 percent), and Democrats (64 – 27 percent) support banning cellphones in the state's K–12 schools during the school day.

Among parents with kids in K–12 schools, nearly two-thirds (65 percent) support banning cellphones during the school day, while 26 percent oppose it.

"Turn them off and stow them away, say a large majority of voters along with parents who want their kids' cell phones to go dark during school hours," added Malloy.

MINIMUM WAGE

Voters 66 – 29 percent support raising Pennsylvania's minimum wage from $7.25 an hour to $15 an hour.

Democrats (95 – 3 percent) and independents (67 – 31 percent) support raising the state's minimum wage to $15 an hour, while Republicans (58 – 32 percent) oppose it.

LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

A majority of voters (56 percent) support legalizing recreational marijuana use for adults in Pennsylvania, while 37 percent oppose it.

Democrats (72 – 23 percent) and independents (63 – 26 percent) support it, while Republicans (64 – 32 percent) oppose it.

AI DATA CENTERS

Voters 68 – 20 percent would oppose building an AI data center in their community, with 12 percent not offering an opinion.

Democrats (81 – 12 percent), independents (67 – 22 percent), and Republicans (53 – 28 percent) would oppose building an AI data center in their community.

"The magic of AI may be the future, but when it comes to building the physical infrastructure, Pennsylvanian voters say: 'Not in my backyard,'" added Malloy.

836 self-identified registered voters in Pennsylvania were surveyed from February 19th – 23rd with a margin of error of +/- 4.7 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are based on probability-based samples using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.

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1. If the election for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Josh Shapiro the Democrat and Stacy Garrity the Republican, for whom would you vote? (INCLUDES LEANERS)

	REGISTERED VOTERS....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Shapiro	55%	12%	97%	51%	48%	63%
Garrity	37	82	1	34	42	33
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	-	-	1	-	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE(VOL)	-	-	-	1	1	-
UNDECIDED(VOL)	6	4	1	13	8	3
REFUSED	1	2	-	2	1	2

2. Is your opinion of Josh Shapiro favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	REGISTERED VOTERS....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	51%	18%	85%	42%	42%	59%
Unfavorable	30	56	5	35	36	25
Hvn't hrd enough	15	19	9	17	18	12
REFUSED	5	7	2	6	5	5

3. Is your opinion of Stacy Garrity favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	REGISTERED VOTERS....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	16%	36%	3%	11%	18%	13%
Unfavorable	17	1	34	12	16	17
Hvn't hrd enough	66	62	61	76	63	69
REFUSED	2	1	1	1	2	1

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Josh Shapiro is handling his job as governor?

	REGISTERED VOTERS....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	56%	24%	90%	49%	50%	63%
Disapprove	29	58	3	30	34	24
DK/NA	15	17	7	21	16	14

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Dave McCormick is handling his job as United States Senator?

	REGISTERED VOTERS....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	37%	64%	19%	33%	42%	32%
Disapprove	33	11	54	32	32	33
DK/NA	30	25	27	35	26	34

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Fetterman is handling his job as United States Senator?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	46%	73%	22%	48%	50%	43%
Disapprove	40	18	62	37	39	41
DK/NA	14	9	15	15	11	16

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	40%	90%	3%	32%	43%	36%
Disapprove	55	9	96	55	52	59
DK/NA	5	2	1	13	5	4

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - the economy?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	39%	85%	4%	33%	45%	33%
Disapprove	56	9	95	59	51	61
DK/NA	4	6	1	8	4	5

9. Do you think Josh Shapiro would make a good president, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Would	40%	14%	69%	32%	34%	47%
No	43	74	16	44	50	37
DK/NA	16	12	15	24	16	17

10. If the election were today, would you want to see the Republican Party or the Democratic Party win control of the United States House of Representatives?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Republican Party	43%	96%	4%	36%	48%	38%
Democratic Party	49	4	95	41	42	56
DK/NA	8	1	2	23	10	7

11. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Excellent	6%	14%	1%	2%	7%	4%
Good	34	64	6	38	42	26
Not so good	28	14	32	38	26	31
Poor	31	7	60	21	25	37
DK/NA	1	2	1	-	1	2

12. Do you think the nation's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Better	28%	65%	2%	22%	33%	24%
Worse	47	8	80	49	41	53
The same	23	26	16	26	24	22
DK/NA	2	1	2	4	3	1

13. Would you say that you are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Better off	40%	69%	18%	37%	46%	34%
Worse off	36	9	61	34	30	42
SAME(VOL)	22	19	19	27	22	22
DK/NA	2	3	1	1	2	2

14. If you had to choose, which would you prefer: giving most undocumented immigrants in the United States a pathway to legal status or deporting most undocumented immigrants in the United States?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Giving pathway	56%	15%	93%	53%	54%	58%
Deporting	34	72	4	31	39	30
DK/NA	10	13	3	16	8	12

15. In its treatment of undocumented immigrants in the United States, do you think the Trump administration is being: too harsh, too lenient, or handling this about right?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Too harsh	56%	13%	93%	54%	50%	62%
Too lenient	6	11	1	5	9	3
About right	36	73	5	36	40	32
DK/NA	2	3	-	5	2	3

16. Do you support or oppose banning cellphones in Pennsylvania's K-12 schools during the school day?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....................					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	71%	78%	64%	73%	74%	69%
Oppose	20	14	27	17	17	23
DK/NA	9	8	9	10	10	8

	HAVE ELEMENTARY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL KIDS	
	Yes	No
Support	65%	74%
Oppose	26	18
DK/NA	9	8

17. Do you support or oppose raising Pennsylvania's minimum wage from $7.25 an hour to $15 an hour?

| | REGISTERED VOTERS..................... | | | | |
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	66%	32%	95%	67%	61%	72%
Oppose	29	58	3	31	34	24
DK/NA	5	10	2	2	5	4

18. Do you support or oppose legalizing recreational marijuana use for adults in Pennsylvania?

| | REGISTERED VOTERS..................... | | | | |
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	56%	32%	72%	63%	60%	52%
Oppose	37	64	23	26	35	39
DK/NA	7	4	5	11	4	9

19. Would you support or oppose building an AI data center in your community?

| | REGISTERED VOTERS..................... | | | | |
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	20%	28%	12%	22%	29%	11%
Oppose	68	53	81	67	61	75
DK/NA	12	19	7	11	10	15