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Franklin & Marshall College Poll, PA 10th Congressional District: June 2024

Summary of Findings

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Introduction and Overview

Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District is a Republican-leaning congressional district located in south central Pennsylvania, represented by six-term Republican incumbent Scott Perry. Representative Perry won his first few reelection campaigns with relative ease, although his margins have become closer since 2018 when his district became more competitive due to redistricting. He won reelection in 2022 by a 54% to 46% margin over Democrat Shamaine Daniels. Representative Perry served as the leader of the House Freedom Caucus in a prior term and has received significant local media attention for his role in challenging the state's presidential election results in 2020. While Pennsylvania's 1st, 7th, and 8th Congressional Districts are expected to be closely contested races, some politicos believe the 10th will be more competitive than usual this year. The following summary highlights the findings of a survey of 397 registered voters who live in Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

The June 2024 Franklin & Marshall College Poll of registered voters in Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District finds that the opinions of voters in this district mirror those of state residents as a whole in their general pessimism, their concerns about the economy, their concerns about their personal finances, and their dissatisfaction with President Biden's job performance. In fact, voters in the 10th are more critical of President Biden than are the state's voters as a whole. There are more registered Republicans than Democrats living in PA-10, and the district tends to prefer Republican candidates. For instance, more residents believe the country is "better off" when Republicans control the U.S. House, although these voters also express dissatisfaction with the state of politics at this time.

Both Scott Perry and Donald Trump are leading their respective races in the district, but the announcement of the verdict in Donald Trump’s hush money case, which took place while the survey data was being collected, appears to have reduced each candidate’s support.

Detailed Findings

Direction of State and Personal Finances

Half (47%) of respondents say they are “worse off” than a year ago, which is similar to how registered voters in Pennsylvania responded during [our most recent poll](#) (45%). Most Republicans and conservatives say they are “worse off” than last year, but a quarter of Democrats (25%) and two in five Independents (42%) also said they were “worse off” financially (see Table A-1). One in four (25%) registered voters in the 10th Congressional District expects they will be “worse off” financially a year from now. As is true across the state, voters in PA-10 are more pessimistic than optimistic about conditions in the state with about half (49%) reporting the state is “off on the wrong track.” Still, two in five (42%) believe things in the state are “headed in the right direction.”

Concern about the economy (31%), including unemployment and higher gas and utility prices, are mentioned as the most important and often mentioned problem facing the state, according to registered voters in the 10th district. Concerns about government and politicians (16%), taxes (8%) and education (8%) are the next most often expressed problems.

PA-10 Electoral Context

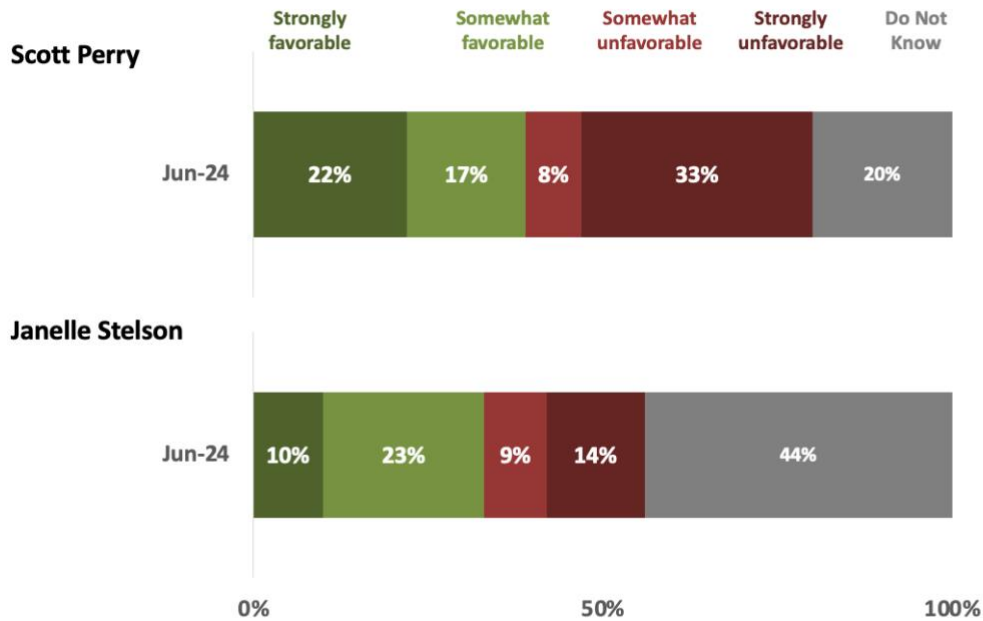
There are more registered Republicans (44%) than Democrats (38%) living in Pennsylvania’s 10th Congressional District, and as a whole the district tends to prefer Republican candidates. For instance, a plurality of residents (40%) believes the country is “better

off” when Republicans control the House, although these voters are also somewhat dissatisfied with the state of politics at this time. One in four (26%) voters in this district do not believe it makes a difference which party controls the U.S. House and more disapprove (58%) than approve (36%) of the way Republicans are currently managing the House. Only two in five (37%) say they are “satisfied” with the way democracy is working in the United States today.

Representative Perry’s job approval ratings are relatively low: only one in three (36%) registered voters believes he is doing an “excellent” or “good” job as their representative. He is rated positively by most Republicans (68%), but his ratings among Democrats (9%) and Independents (17%) are low (Table A-2). Representative Perry’s personal favorability ratings are relatively even, with 39% holding a favorable opinion of him and 41% having an unfavorable opinion (see Figure 1). Democrat Janelle Stelson has a net favorability rating among voters in the 10th, with 33% viewing her favorably and 23% viewing her unfavorably, but nearly half (44%) say they don’t know enough about her to have an opinion.

Favorability Ratings for PA Congressional District 10 Candidates, June 2024

Is your opinion of each of the following people favorable, unfavorable, or haven't you heard enough about them to have an opinion?



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Figure 1. This figure shows the favorability ratings for Scott Perry and Janelle Stelson, June 2024.

The registered voters in this district are still learning about the candidates. More than a quarter did not know that Congressman Perry voted against certifying Pennsylvania's 2020 election results (26%) or that he helped create a plan that pressured Vice President Pence to throw out the electoral votes from states won by Joe Biden (29%). Half (50%) are unaware that Janelle Stelson lives outside of the district.

Representative Perry leads Janelle Stelson in a head-to-head matchup, 45% to 44%, with 11% undecided. However, responses to this question may have been affected by the verdict in President Trump's hush-money case, which was announced in the midst of gathering data for the

survey. Table 1 shows that voters' preferences changed after the verdict with fewer voters expressing support for Perry and more saying they were undecided.

Table 1. Candidate Preferences for U.S. Congress, PA-10 by Interviewing Period

Candidate	Pre-Verdict (n=228)	Post-Verdict (n=165)	Total (n=393)
Janelle Stelson (D)	42%	47%	44%
Scott Perry (R)	49%	39%	45%
Don't Know	9%	14%	11%

The reasons that voters prefer one candidate to the other are often defined by their feelings about the incumbent. The main category of response for those supporting Stelson is that they are voting against Perry (40%) and the main category of response for those supporting Perry is that they feel positively about him (27%) and that he aligns with their personal views (25%). Many voters who support Stelson see Perry as an extremist and someone who does not represent the values of Pennsylvania. Stelson's supporters frequently mentioned Perry's involvement in the January 6th insurrection and attempts to overturn the 2020 election. Stelson's supporters see her as more moderate, although concern about her lack of experience does appear. Perry's supporters point to his conservatism, his support for the military, his constituent service, his voting record, and his defense of the Constitution as reasons they support him. The intensity and frequency of comments related to democracy, women's rights, integrity, and representation suggest that these will be among the most important issues to voters in this district.

The Presidential Race

One in four (26%) voters in PA-10 believes President Biden is doing an "excellent" or "good" job as president, which is lower than his statewide approval rating in April (35%). Only

half (50%) of Democrats in the district rate the president’s performance positively, while fewer Republicans (3%) or Independents (33%) do so (see Table A-4). President Biden is viewed more unfavorably (62%) than favorably (36%) by the district’s voters, which is also lower than his statewide favorability rating.

More voters have an unfavorable (55%) than favorable (42%) opinion of Mr. Trump. Altogether, one in five (18%) voters has an “unfavorable” opinion of both presidential candidates. Slightly more voters in this district believe that Mr. Trump’s efforts to stay in power after the 2020 election were “serious crimes” (50%) than believe they were not (44%).

Donald Trump leads President Biden in PA-10, 44% to 38%, but these results also showed differences by the date of interviewing (see Table 2). Support for Robert Kennedy increased after the verdict while Trump’s support declined.

Table 2. Candidate Preferences for President, PA-10 by Interviewing Period

Candidate	Pre-Verdict (n=225)	Post-Verdict (n=167)	Total (n=392)
Donald Trump	47%	40%	44%
Joe Biden	36%	40%	38%
Robert Kennedy	8%	13%	10%
Other	5%	4%	5%
Don’t Know	4%	4%	4%

Methodology

The survey findings presented in this release are based on the results of interviews conducted May 28 – June 2, 2024. The interviews were conducted at the Center for Opinion Research at Franklin & Marshall College. The data included in this release represent the responses of 397 registered Pennsylvania voters who live in the 10th Congressional District, including 151 Democrats, 175 Republicans, and 71 Independents.¹ The sample of voters was obtained from Aristotle. All sampled respondents were notified by mail about the survey. Interviews were completed over the phone and online depending on each respondent's preference. Survey results were weighted (age, gender, education, geography, vote history, and party registration) using an iterative weighting algorithm to reflect the known distribution of those characteristics. Estimates for age, geography, and party registration are based on active voters within the Pennsylvania Department of State's voter registration data. Gender and education are estimated using data from the November 2022 CPS Voter Registration Supplement.

The sample error for this survey is +/- 6.1 percentage points when the design effects from weighting are considered. The sample error for questions based on subgroups is larger. An alternative means of calculating the variation in a sample is to take a series of bootstrap samples from the original sample and to use those bootstrapped samples to produce an estimate of sampling error. The procedure involves resampling a data set, calculating a statistic for each

¹ The data reported here is voter REGISTRATION and is consistent with past reporting practices. The survey also asked about self-reported voter IDENTIFICATION, which shows a similar partisan split: 46% identify as Republican (n=180), 12% as Independent (n=45), and 39% as Democrat (n=153), with the balance not offering a response. Partisan comparisons in this summary show self-reported registration.

bootstrapped sample, accumulating the results of these samples, and calculating a sample distribution. The standard deviation of the mean of 10,000 bootstrapped samples for the estimated positive job approval for President Biden was 2.2% and 95% of the samples fell within a range of 22% and 30%.

In addition to sampling error, this poll is also subject to other sources of non-sampling error. Generally speaking, two sources of error concern researchers most. Non-response bias is created when selected participants either choose not to participate in the survey or are unavailable for interviewing. Response errors are the product of the question and answer process. Surveys that rely on self-reported behaviors and attitudes are susceptible to biases related to the way respondents process and respond to survey questions.

Table A-1: Financial Status

Pennsylvania registered voters, Congressional District 10, June 2024

We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you and your family are better off, worse off, or about the same financially as you were a year ago?

	Better off	Worse off	About the same	Do not know
Party*				
Republican	3%	68%	29%	0%
Democrat	27%	25%	48%	0%
Independent or something else	15%	42%	43%	0%
Ideology*				
Liberal	25%	19%	57%	0%
Moderate	14%	42%	44%	0%
Conservative	7%	68%	25%	0%
Gender				
Female	16%	46%	38%	0%
Male	12%	48%	40%	0%
Age				
Under 35	24%	41%	35%	0%
35-54	13%	47%	40%	0%
Over 55	11%	48%	41%	0%
Education*				
HS or less	11%	47%	43%	0%
Some college	10%	57%	33%	0%
College degree	21%	36%	43%	0%
Race				
White	13%	48%	38%	0%
Nonwhite	17%	42%	41%	1%
Race & Education, White Voters*				
White, No College Degree	8%	58%	34%	0%
White, College Degree	23%	33%	45%	0%
Employment				
Fulltime	16%	47%	37%	0%
Other	10%	48%	42%	0%
Retired	13%	46%	41%	0%
Income				
Under \$35,000	7%	62%	31%	0%
\$35,000-\$75,000	11%	46%	42%	0%
Over \$75,000	18%	43%	39%	0%
"Born-again" or evangelical Christian*				
Yes	6%	61%	33%	0%
No	18%	39%	43%	0%
County				
Cumberland	12%	46%	42%	0%
Dauphin	17%	41%	42%	0%
York	13%	56%	32%	0%
* p<0.01 ** p<0.05				

Table A-2: U.S. Representative Job Performance

Pennsylvania registered voters, Congressional District 10, June 2024

How would you rate the way that Scott Perry is handling his job as a member of Congress? Would you say he is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as a member of Congress?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Do not know
Party*					
Republican	32%	36%	15%	10%	8%
Democrat	3%	6%	18%	59%	14%
Independent or something else	5%	12%	14%	47%	22%
Ideology*					
Liberal	0%	0%	18%	67%	15%
Moderate	9%	17%	16%	44%	14%
Conservative	33%	40%	15%	6%	5%
Gender					
Female	17%	18%	15%	36%	15%
Male	15%	23%	18%	34%	10%
Age*					
Under 35	9%	10%	18%	37%	27%
35-54	7%	14%	20%	39%	19%
Over 55	22%	29%	15%	31%	3%
Education*					
HS or less	18%	27%	19%	27%	9%
Some college	20%	23%	19%	25%	13%
College degree	10%	13%	10%	51%	15%
Race					
White	16%	21%	15%	36%	11%
Nonwhite	15%	19%	19%	29%	18%
Race & Education, White Voters*					
White, No College Degree	20%	26%	18%	26%	10%
White, College Degree	10%	13%	11%	53%	14%
Employment*					
Fulltime	10%	19%	14%	37%	18%
Other	15%	15%	29%	33%	9%
Retired	26%	27%	12%	31%	4%
Income*					
Under \$35,000	13%	20%	30%	29%	9%
\$35,000-\$75,000	14%	22%	16%	26%	23%
Over \$75,000	15%	18%	16%	45%	6%
"Born-again" or evangelical Christian*					
Yes	22%	36%	8%	20%	15%
No	11%	14%	20%	44%	12%
County**					
Cumberland	20%	26%	9%	36%	9%
Dauphin	13%	20%	16%	39%	12%
York	15%	16%	23%	29%	17%
* p<0.01 ** p<0.05					

Table A-3: PA Congressional District 10 U.S. Representative Vote Choice

Pennsylvania registered voters, Congressional District 10, June 2024

If the 2024 election for U.S. Congress were being held today and the candidates were Janelle Stelson, the Democrat, and Scott Perry, the Republican, would you vote for Janelle Stelson OR Scott Perry?

	Janelle Stelson	Scott Perry	Do not know
Party*			
Republican	12%	79%	9%
Democrat	79%	10%	11%
Independent or something else	50%	31%	19%
Ideology*			
Liberal	89%	2%	9%
Moderate	55%	34%	11%
Conservative	10%	83%	8%
Gender			
Female	47%	42%	11%
Male	41%	47%	12%
Age*			
Under 35	55%	26%	19%
35-54	48%	38%	14%
Over 55	39%	54%	8%
Education*			
HS or less	43%	46%	11%
Some college	37%	54%	9%
College degree	53%	32%	15%
Race*			
White	46%	45%	8%
Nonwhite	37%	41%	22%
Race & Education, White Voters*			
White, No College Degree	39%	54%	7%
White, College Degree	59%	31%	10%
Employment			
Fulltime	45%	41%	14%
Other	52%	40%	8%
Retired	38%	54%	8%
Income			
Under \$35,000	47%	48%	5%
\$35,000-\$75,000	44%	41%	15%
Over \$75,000	48%	42%	10%
"Born-again" or evangelical Christian			
Yes	23%	62%	15%
No	56%	35%	9%
County			
Cumberland	39%	48%	13%
Dauphin	48%	40%	12%
York	44%	47%	9%

* p<0.01 ** p<0.05

Table A-4: Presidential Job Performance Rating

Pennsylvania registered voters, Congressional District 10, June 2024

How would you rate the way that Joe Biden is handling his job as president? Would you say he is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job as president?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Do not know
Party*					
Republican	0%	3%	11%	86%	0%
Democrat	15%	35%	24%	26%	0%
Independent or something else	9%	24%	18%	49%	0%
Ideology*					
Liberal	14%	45%	24%	16%	0%
Moderate	9%	20%	22%	48%	0%
Conservative	1%	2%	10%	86%	0%
Gender**					
Female	11%	18%	18%	53%	0%
Male	3%	20%	17%	60%	0%
Age*					
Under 35	0%	25%	24%	50%	0%
35-54	5%	16%	22%	57%	0%
Over 55	13%	17%	12%	58%	0%
Education*					
HS or less	11%	19%	15%	55%	0%
Some college	7%	11%	15%	66%	0%
College degree	5%	28%	22%	45%	0%
Race					
White	6%	19%	17%	58%	0%
Nonwhite	12%	18%	19%	52%	0%
Race & Education, White Voters*					
White, No College Degree	7%	12%	15%	66%	0%
White, College Degree	5%	30%	22%	43%	0%
Employment					
Fulltime	5%	17%	21%	57%	0%
Other	7%	27%	12%	54%	0%
Retired	12%	17%	13%	57%	0%
Income					
Under \$35,000	6%	22%	17%	55%	0%
\$35,000-\$75,000	6%	16%	23%	55%	0%
Over \$75,000	8%	21%	18%	54%	0%
"Born-again" or evangelical Christian*					
Yes	1%	12%	14%	73%	0%
No	11%	24%	18%	47%	0%
County					
Cumberland	6%	21%	19%	54%	0%
Dauphin	9%	22%	17%	51%	0%
York	7%	12%	16%	66%	0%
* p<0.01 ** p<0.05					

Table A-5: Presidential Vote Choice (all candidates)

Pennsylvania registered voters, Congressional District 10, June 2024

If the 2024 election for President were being held today and the candidates were (rotate: Joe Biden, the Democrat, Donald Trump, the Republican, Jill Stein, the Green, Robert Kennedy, Jr, the Independent) would you vote for....?

	Joe Biden, the Democrat	Donald Trump, the Republican	Jill Stein, the Green	Robert Kennedy Jr, the Independent	Someone else	Do not know
Party*						
Republican	6%	78%	0%	10%	2%	4%
Democrat	70%	11%	5%	8%	2%	3%
Independent or something else	45%	26%	2%	17%	5%	5%
Ideology*						
Liberal	82%	3%	9%	5%	1%	0%
Moderate	45%	36%	1%	13%	2%	2%
Conservative	5%	80%	0%	9%	1%	5%
Gender						
Female	42%	39%	3%	9%	2%	6%
Male	33%	48%	2%	12%	3%	2%
Age*						
Under 35	52%	26%	6%	8%	3%	6%
35-54	37%	41%	2%	16%	2%	2%
Over 55	33%	51%	1%	8%	2%	5%
Education*						
HS or less	35%	51%	0%	6%	2%	6%
Some college	27%	49%	3%	16%	3%	2%
College degree	51%	32%	4%	6%	3%	5%
Race						
White	38%	46%	2%	10%	2%	3%
Nonwhite	37%	35%	5%	12%	3%	8%
Race & Education, White Voters*						
White, No College Degree	27%	54%	2%	11%	3%	2%
White, College Degree	55%	32%	1%	7%	1%	3%
Employment*						
Fulltime	39%	41%	2%	13%	1%	4%
Other	43%	43%	6%	2%	6%	0%
Retired	31%	49%	0%	10%	2%	7%
Income**						
Under \$35,000	39%	35%	6%	5%	5%	10%
\$35,000-\$75,000	35%	46%	4%	9%	1%	5%
Over \$75,000	44%	38%	1%	13%	2%	2%
"Born-again" or evangelical Christian*						
Yes	20%	59%	0%	12%	3%	6%
No	48%	35%	4%	9%	1%	3%
County						
Cumberland	39%	45%	2%	8%	2%	5%
Dauphin	38%	39%	4%	14%	3%	2%
York	36%	47%	1%	8%	3%	4%

* p<0.01 ** p<0.05