

Pa. Survey Summary: Coronavirus & the Economy

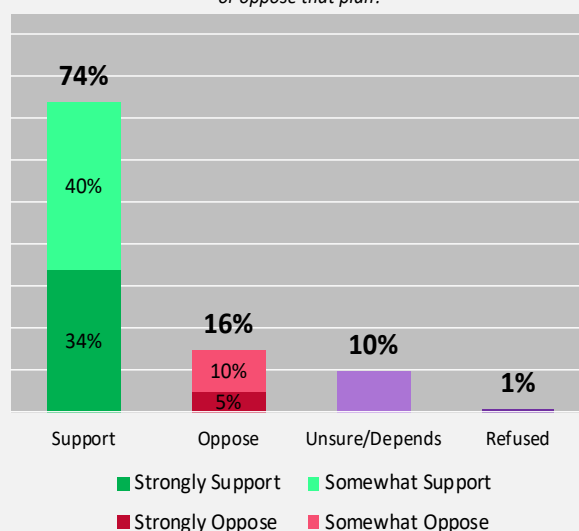
In May, the Commonwealth Foundation commissioned a statewide survey to gauge Pennsylvania voters' priorities during the coronavirus pandemic, their opinions on Gov. Tom Wolf's shutdown of non-essential businesses, and their support for economic reopening. The following is a summary of survey findings.

Governor Wolf's Response to Coronavirus

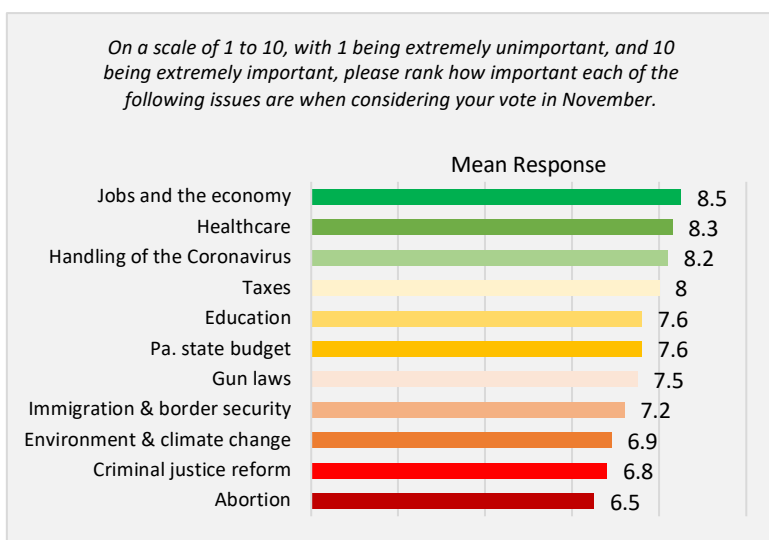
In the survey, registered voters were provided with statements about the actions taken by Governor Wolf and his administration in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. When respondents were asked whether businesses who agree to follow CDC guidelines should be allowed to reopen, nearly 3-in-4 (74%) registered voters support this plan.

When respondents were asked their opinions on Gov. Wolf's business waiver process and his refusal to process related public information requests, over half (60%) opposed Wolf's actions. More than half of respondents (57%) also opposed Wolf's decision to establish his own list of "life-sustaining" businesses, rather than relying on existing federal lists.

Some Pennsylvania lawmakers have legislation that would allow business that agree to follow CDC guidelines for social distancing to reopen and rehire workers. Would you support or oppose that plan?



Jobs and Economy



Jobs and the economy polls as the most important issue among registered voters in the state of Pennsylvania. Over 4-in-10 (42%) registered voters in the commonwealth report that this issue is "extremely important" to their vote in November. Over 1-in-4 (27%) registered voters indicate Pennsylvania's state budget as their top issue.

These registered voters were asked to rate the issues from 1, meaning "extremely unimportant" to 10, meaning "extremely

important.” With the state budget, taxes, Pennsylvania’s response to the Coronavirus, healthcare, and jobs and the economy ranking in the top six issues for voters, it is clear that Pennsylvanians are concerned with how public policy affects their health and pocketbooks.

Policies to Get Back on Track

When survey respondents were asked whether certain statements made them more or less likely to support reopening Pennsylvania, the responses overwhelmingly favored a speedy reopening.

- Over half (57%) of registered voters were more likely to support reopening promptly when told that 1.9 million Pennsylvanians had lost their jobs since the shutdown.
- Additionally, a majority (57%) of voters surveyed were more likely to support reopening due to big box stores being allowed to stay open while small retailers had to close.
- Nearly two-thirds (60%) of registered voters in Pennsylvania were more likely to support reopening when they learned that more than 60% of local small businesses were at risk of closure in the next 5 months.

Survey Methodology

The Commonwealth Foundation’s Spring 2020 Shutdown Survey was conducted statewide research by The Polling Company, Inc. between May 16 – 20, 2020, among 500 registered Pennsylvania voters. This survey has a margin of error statewide of $\pm 4.38\%$ at the 95% confidence interval. Political affiliation of these voters are 35% Democrat, 33% Republican, and 31% Independent.

For a topline report of this survey visit:

https://www.commonwealthfoundation.org/docLib/20200610_BudgetSurvey.pdf

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