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Top Line Survey Results
Pennsylvania Statewide Voter Attitude Survey
Conducted November 15-26, 2023.
Sample Size: 800 Likely General Election Voters

TOP LINE RESULTS AND QUESTIONNAIRE

THE ALLIANCE TO END HUNGER

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is (YOUR FIRST NAME). I am calling on behalf of Susquehanna Polling and Research, a public opinion research firm. May I speak to (name on list) or another registered voter in your household? (If name on list or another registered voter is not available, TERMINATE)

INTRODUCTION: We are conducting a survey of attitudes and opinions concerning some important issues facing Pennsylvania today. May we have just a few minutes of your time to complete a brief survey?

Great, thank you...

F1. First, are you registered to vote as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or with some other political party?

1. If Republican	352	44%	PROCEED TO Q1A, THEN SKIP TO Q2
2. If Democrat	368	46%	SKIP TO Q1B, THEN PROCEED TO Q2
3. If Independent/other	80	10%	SKIP TO Q2

4. If not a registered voter	--		THANK AND TERMINATE

(ASK Q1A ONLY TO REPUBLICANS FROM F1)

Q1A. As you may know, next April 23rd Republican voters will vote in the Republican presidential primary to nominate a Republican to run for President. Based on what you know today, how likely are you to vote in next year’s Republican Primary for choosing a nominee for President – very likely, somewhat likely or not at all likely?

[N=352]

1. Very likely	303	86%
2. Somewhat likely	30	09%
3. Not at all likely	17	05%
4. Not Sure	1	00%

(ASK Q1B ONLY TO DEMOCRATS FROM F1)

Q1B. As you may know, next April 23rd Democrat voters will vote in the Democrat presidential primary to nominate a Democrat to run for President. Based on what you know today, how likely are you to vote in next year's Democrat Primary for choosing a nominee for President – very likely, somewhat likely or not at all likely?

[N=368]

1. Very likely	300	81%
2. Somewhat likely	21	06%
3. Not at all likely	36	10%
4. Not Sure	12	03%

Q2. Thinking ahead to the general election for President in 2024, knowing what you know today how likely would you say you are to vote in the next general election for President – very likely, somewhat likely or not at all likely?

1. Very likely	760	95%
2. Somewhat likely	40	05%
3. Not at all likely	0	00%

Q3. If the 2024 general election for your local state lawmaker who represents you in Harrisburg were being held today, knowing what you know today would you vote for the Republican candidate, or the Democrat candidate?

1. Republican	350	44%
2. Democrat	307	38%
3. Other	41	05%
4. Not Sure	102	13%

Q4. Generally speaking, is Pennsylvania headed in the right direction, or has it gotten on the wrong track?

1. Right direction	292	36%
2. Wrong track	363	45%
3. Not Sure	145	18%

Q5. What is the single most important problem facing you and your household today? That is, the one that concerns you the most on a daily basis. (UNAIDED – DO NOT READ CHOICES – LIMIT TO ONE ANSWER ONLY)

(List is Alpha)

1. Crime/public safety/violence	215	27%
2. Discrimination	7	01%
3. Education/schools	67	08%
4. Election access and security	27	03%
5. Government	43	05%
6. Health care (cost, affordability, access)	50	06%
7. Inflation/cost of living/groceries/fuel prices	251	31%
8. Interest rates, too high	2	00%
9. Politicians/politics	46	06%
10. Road conditions/transportation	3	00%
11. Taxes	24	03%
12. Traffic congestion	3	00%
13. Tuition, cost of	0	00%
14. Utilities, cost of	2	00%
15. Other	6	01%
16. Not Sure	52	06%
17. Refuse	1	00%

Now, I'd like to ask you a few questions about public policy issues that could come up during the upcoming legislative session in Harrisburg...

(SPLIT SAMPLE Q6A AND Q6B)

Q6a. Every year state lawmakers and the governor make important decisions about which federal and state programs and/or services receive funding, and which do not. Sometimes increasing funding for one program or service could mean reductions in another. Currently, all Pennsylvania school children in grades K through 12 receive free breakfast through a federal and state program. With this in mind, do you support or oppose expanding this program to include free breakfast and lunch? (Test Intensity...)

[N=410]

1. Strongly Support	233	57%
2. Support	102	25%
Total Support:	334	82%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	4	01%
4. Strongly Oppose	43	10%
5. Oppose	29	07%
Total Oppose:	72	17%

Q6b. Every year state lawmakers and the governor make important decisions about which federal and state programs and/or services receive funding and which do not. Sometimes increasing funding for one program or service could mean reductions in another. Currently, all Pennsylvania school children in grades K through 12 receive a no-cost breakfast through a federal and state program. With this in mind, do you support or oppose expanding this program to include no-cost breakfast and lunch? (Test Intensity...)

[N=390]

1. Strongly Support	236	61%
2. Support	93	24%
Total Support:	329	84%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	18	05%
4. Strongly Oppose	24	06%
5. Oppose	18	05%
Total Oppose:	42	11%

Q6a-b. Every year state lawmakers and the governor make important decisions about which federal and state programs and/or services receive funding and which do not. Sometimes increasing funding for one program or service could mean reductions in another. Currently, all Pennsylvania school children in grades K through 12 receive a no-cost breakfast through a federal and state program. With this in mind, do you support or oppose expanding this program to include free, no-cost breakfast and lunch? (Test Intensity...)

(COMBINED SPLIT SAMPLE 6A/6B)

1. Strongly Support	468	59%
2. Support	195	24%
Total Support:	664	83%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	22	03%
4. Strongly Oppose	67	08%
5. Oppose	47	06%
Total Oppose:	114	14%

I'd like to share with you several hypothetical statements that potentially represent some pros and cons in the debate about why Pennsylvania should or should not expand the program to make all school meals free or no-cost for all public-school children. After each statement, please tell me if you would be more likely or less likely to support expanding this program to include free or no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children, if you learned this about it.

(ROTATE Q7-Q15 SERIES WITH Q16-Q18 SERIES AS BLOCKS OF STATEMENTS)

(Rotate Q7-Q15)

Here are several statements that represent some of the pros or positives of doing this...

Q7. With inflation driving up grocery prices, expanding free and no-cost school meals to include lunch for all students would save families hundreds of dollars per year in food costs for their kids.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	431	54%
2. Somewhat more likely	209	26%
Total More Likely:	639	80%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	63	08%
4. Much less likely	38	05%
5. Somewhat less likely	59	07%
Total Less Likely:	97	12%

Q8. One out of every eight kids go hungry in Pennsylvania. In our most rural communities, as many as one in five children experience hunger. Providing school lunch meals at free or no cost can often be the only reliable source of food and nutrition for children.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	537	67%
2. Somewhat more likely	165	21%
Total More Likely:	702	88%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	59	07%
4. Much less likely	20	02%
5. Somewhat less likely	19	02%
Total Less Likely:	39	05%

Q9. More than 60 percent of children in Pennsylvania are currently eligible for free or reduced-priced meals in a typical school year, yet many students don't use the program because they are ashamed to eat free or reduced-priced meals or afraid of being shamed by other kids. Expanding the program to include free or no-cost lunch for all children would remove the stigma and the children who need meals the most would be more likely to eat them without any shame associated with it.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	518	65%
2. Somewhat more likely	143	18%
Total More Likely:	661	83%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	47	06%
4. Much less likely	27	03%
5. Somewhat less likely	66	08%
Total Less Likely:	93	12%

Q10. If the state expands the school breakfast program to include free or no-cost lunch, local farmers could provide more food for both schools and children in their communities.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	466	58%
2. Somewhat more likely	205	26%
Total More Likely:	671	84%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	61	08%
4. Much less likely	17	02%
5. Somewhat less likely	51	06%
Total Less Likely:	68	08%

Q11. The federal and state governments already pay for and supply things like books, desks, teachers and playground equipment for public school children, but if the kids are hungry they can't learn.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	438	55%
2. Somewhat more likely	217	27%
Total More Likely:	655	82%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	88	11%
4. Much less likely	28	04%
5. Somewhat less likely	29	04%
Total Less Likely:	57	07%

Q12. Of the food insecure children in Pennsylvania, nearly 1 in 4 or 23% do not currently qualify for free or reduced-priced meals. Therefore, more than 325,000 children would no longer go hungry if their families had access to school lunch meals either free or at no cost.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	528	66%
2. Somewhat more likely	124	15%
Total More Likely:	652	81%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	69	09%
4. Much less likely	28	04%
5. Somewhat less likely	51	06%
Total Less Likely:	80	10%

Q13. Expanding this program to include free or no-cost lunch meals to all of Pennsylvania's school children would cost less than one percent of the state budget.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	431	54%
2. Somewhat more likely	240	30%
Total More Likely:	671	84%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	47	06%
4. Much less likely	39	05%
5. Somewhat less likely	42	05%
Total Less Likely:	82	10%

Q14. Hypothetically speaking, Governor Josh Shapiro supports this plan to expand free or no-cost meals to include both breakfast and lunch for all Pennsylvania school children.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	292	37%
2. Somewhat more likely	283	35%
Total More Likely:	575	72%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	132	17%
4. Much less likely	55	07%
5. Somewhat less likely	38	05%
Total Less Likely:	93	12%

Q15. Hypothetically speaking, many Republican Members of the Pennsylvania legislature in Harrisburg support this plan to expand free or no-cost meals to include both breakfast and lunch for all Pennsylvania school children.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	375	47%
2. Somewhat more likely	172	21%
Total More Likely:	547	68%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	115	14%
4. Much less likely	45	06%
5. Somewhat less likely	93	12%
Total Less Likely:	138	17%

(Rotate Q16-Q18)

Here are some statements that represent the cons or negatives of doing this...

Q16. Expanding the free or no-cost breakfast program to include free or no-cost lunch to all students just costs too much money. According to some estimates, it will cost state taxpayers over \$300 million dollars every year.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	298	37%
2. Somewhat more likely	106	13%
Total More Likely:	404	50%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	167	21%
4. Much less likely	98	12%
5. Somewhat less likely	131	16%
Total Less Likely:	229	29%

Q17. It's the responsibility of the parents, not the government, to ensure their children have lunch meals at school. Besides, public assistance programs and food banks are already available for families in need.

[Does knowing this make you more likely, or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	273	34%
2. Somewhat more likely	171	21%
Total More Likely:	444	56%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	138	17%
4. Much less likely	71	09%
5. Somewhat less likely	147	18%
Total Less Likely:	218	27%

Q18. Current school nutrition programs already make sixty percent of Pennsylvania’s children eligible for free or reduced meals. Taxpayers shouldn’t be responsible for paying for lunch for students whose parents can afford to buy meals for their children.

[Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support expanding this program to include free and no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children?]

1. Much more likely	232	29%
2. Somewhat more likely	175	22%
Total More Likely:	407	51%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	158	20%
4. Much less likely	100	13%
5. Somewhat less likely	134	17%
Total Less Likely:	235	29%

Q19. Now that you know a little more about the pros and cons, do you support or oppose expanding this program to include both free or no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children in Pennsylvania? (Test Intensity...)

1. Strongly Support	486	61%
2. Support	177	22%
Total Support:	664	83%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	32	04%
4. Strongly Oppose	55	07%
5. Oppose	49	06%
Total Oppose:	105	13%

Q20. All children in Michigan, Massachusetts, and Minnesota are now eligible to receive free, no-cost meals in school regardless of their family’s income. Plus, other states that offer universal school meals include Vermont, Colorado, California, Maine and New Mexico. That’s 15 million kids in 8 states. Should Pennsylvania be added to the list of states that expands free, no-cost meals to include both breakfast and lunch to all public-school children?

1. Yes	648	81%
2. No	103	13%
3. Not Sure	49	06%

Q21. Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for your state lawmaker in Harrisburg if you learned they support expanding this program to include both free or no-cost breakfast and lunch for all public-school children in Pennsylvania? (Test Intensity...)

1. Much more likely	349	44%
2. Somewhat more likely	197	25%
Total More Likely:	546	68%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	191	24%
4. Much less likely	25	03%
5. Somewhat less likely	38	05%
Total Less Likely:	63	08%

Q22. As you may know, Pennsylvania's WIC program, or The Women, Infants and Children Program, is a federally funded program administered by the state that provides supplemental foods, nutrition education and referrals for health care services at no cost to low-income pregnant women, infants and children up to age five. Do you support or oppose expanding access to this program so thousands of additional Pennsylvania mothers and young children can afford healthy food? (Test Intensity...)

1. Strongly Support	455	57%
2. Support	239	30%
Total Support:	693	87%
3. Neutral/No Opinion	52	06%
4. Strongly Oppose	12	01%
5. Oppose	40	05%
Total Oppose:	52	06%
6. Refuse	3	00%

Now we have just a few questions for demographic purposes...

Q23. What was your age on your last birthday? (UNAIDED - Use brackets below)

1. 18-29	78	10%
2. 30-44	179	22%
3. 45-54	117	15%
4. 55-64	158	20%
5. 65-74	141	18%
6. 75+	129	16%

Q24. Regardless of how you are registered to vote, do you tend to think of yourself more as a Republican, a Democrat or as an Independent or unaffiliated voter when you think about politics and voting in elections?

1. More as a Republican	322	40%
2. More as a Democrat	284	35%
3. More as an Independent/unaffiliated voter	191	24%
4. Other	2	00%
5. Not Sure	2	00%

Q25. When it comes to your ideology or philosophy on political issues, do you consider yourself to be conservative, moderate, liberal, progressive, libertarian or something else?

1. Conservative	242	30%
2. Moderate	241	30%
3. Liberal	128	16%
4. Progressive	82	10%
5. Libertarian	20	02%
6. Other	45	06%
7. None	41	05%

Q26. What is your highest level of education? (UNAIDED)

1. High school diploma or less	62	08%
2. Some college, but no college degree	120	15%
3. 2-year college degree/Technical or trade degree	236	29%
4. 4-year college degree	283	35%
5. Post-graduate degree/Masters/Doctorate studies	98	12%
6. Refuse	1	00%

Q27. What is your main religious affiliation? (UNAIDED)

1. Atheist	15	02%
2. Baptist	21	03%
3. Catholic	207	26%
4. Evangelical Christian	2	00%
5. Humanist	0	00%
6. Jewish	39	05%
7. Lutheran	67	08%
8. Methodist	34	04%
9. Muslim	1	00%
10. Protestant	179	22%
11. Hindu	11	01%
12. Sikh	0	00%
13. Unitarian Universalist	0	00%
14. Other/no religion	148	18%
15. Refuse	77	10%

Q28. Do you currently, or did you in the past have any children in the household who attend or attended public schools in Pennsylvania? (check all that apply)

1. Yes, currently	129	16%
2. Yes, in the past	337	42%
Yes, Total:	443	55%
3. No	357	45%

Q29. Do you recall who you voted for in the last election for President in 2020? (UNAIDED)

1. Biden/Democrat	393	49%
2. Trump/Republican	352	44%
3. Someone else	22	03%
4. Can't remember	6	01%
5. Refuse	28	03%

(ASK Q30 ONLY TO REPUBLICANS FROM Q1)

Q30. Thinking about the Republican Party and how you align with it, do you consider yourself more of a supporter of Donald Trump, or more of a supporter of the traditional Republican Party?

[N=352]

1. More of a supporter of Donald Trump	211	60%
2. More of a supporter of the traditional Republican Party	118	33%
3. Neither	6	02%
4. Both	18	05%
5. Not Sure	0	00%

Q31. Which of the following best describes the way you voted in the last general election you voted in – straight Republican, mostly republican, a few more Republicans than Democrats, about equal, a few more Democrats than Republicans, most Democrat or straight Democrat?

1. Straight republican	134	17%
2. Mostly republican	107	13%
Total Straight/Mostly Republican:	241	30%
3. Few more Republicans than Democrats	102	13%
4. About equal	89	11%
5. Few more Democrats than Republicans	24	03%
Total Swing:	215	27%
6. Mostly Democrat	176	22%
7. Straight Democrat	141	18%
Total Straight/Mostly Democrat:	317	40%
8. Not Sure	27	03%
9. Haven't voted before	0	00%

Q32. Can your primary residence be described as a metropolitan area or big city, a medium or small size city, a township or borough, a suburban area or a rural area? (Check all that apply)

1. Major metro/big city	128	16%
2. Medium size city	26	03%
3. Small size city	146	18%
4. Township/borough	329	41%
5. Suburban area	94	12%
6. Rural area	77	10%
7. Something else	0	00%
8. Not Sure	0	00%

Q33. What is your main racial or ethnic background? (Check All That Apply)

(In Alpha Order)

1. African American/African/Black	104	13%
2. Asian American/Asian	35	04%
3. Hispanic/Latino	48	06%
4. Multiracial/Multiethnic	11	01%
5. Native American/Alaska Native	0	00%
6. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	00%
7. White (Not Latino/Hispanic)	568	71%
8. Race/ethnicity not represented by above categories	3	00%
9. Refuse (Do Not Read)	37	05%

Q34. Would you be willing to share your household's total annual income for the last tax year for all wage earners? You can simply give me a range of income if that helps. (DO NOT READ CATEGORIES – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

1. Less than \$20,000 annually	34	04%
2. Between \$20,000 and \$40,000 annually	73	09%
3. Between \$41,000 and \$60,000 annually	100	13%
4. Between \$61,000 and \$75,000 annually	67	08%
5. Between \$76,000 and \$100,000 annually	115	14%
6. Between \$101,000 and \$125,000 annually	60	07%
7. Between \$126,000 and \$150,000 annually	72	09%
8. Over \$150,000 annually	119	15%
9. Not Sure	15	02%
10. Refuse	144	18%

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY. HAVE A GOOD DAY.

Q36. Gender (by observation):

1. Male	384	48%
2. Female	416	52%

Regional Groupings (coded from list):

- 32 (04%) 1. **Northwest** [Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Venango, Warren, Forest]
- 97 (12%) 2. **Southwest** [Lawrence, Beaver, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland, Indiana, Armstrong, Butler]
- 92 (12%) 3. **The "T"/Central** [Jefferson, Elk, McKean, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Centre, Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Huntingdon, Blair, Potter, Tioga, Bradford, Susquehanna, Wyoming, Sullivan, Lycoming, Clinton, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Mifflin]
- 106 (13%) 4. **Northeast/Lehigh Valley** [Luzerne, Carbon, Monroe, Schuylkill, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne]
- 132 (17%) 5. **South Central** [Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Berks, Juniata]
- 172 (21%) 6. **Southeast** [Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks]
- 80 (10%) 7. **Allegheny County**
- 88 (11%) 8. **Philadelphia**
-

Times Voted Last Four General Elections (G22, G21, G20 and/or G19, plus new registrants):

0X	9	01%
1X	164	21%
2X	221	28%
3X	176	22%
4X	230	29%

METHODOLOGY, SAMPLE FRAME CONSTRUCTION AND DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

This poll was conducted by Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc¹, with questions sponsored by the Alliance to End Hunger. Interviews were conducted November 15-26, 2023, with 800 registered/likely voters in Pennsylvania. Survey respondents are randomly contacted using random selection procedures, and all telephone interviews are conducted using live telephone agents. The sample frame was compiled using random telephone sequence methods, and includes both landline and cellular households, purchased from a certified list vendor; all households are pre-screened to eliminate household telephone numbers on the federal Do Not Call registry in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws. Only known registered voters were contacted, compiled from a list of households with prior vote history in 1 of 4 or better general elections using G22, G21, G20 and/or G19 as the base universe. Voters who registered to vote after the 2022 general election are also included and eligible to participate.

Interviews are closely monitored to ensure a representative sample of the Pennsylvania electorate is achieved based on party registration, geography, gender, age cohort and other demographics; results are sometimes statistically weighted to adjust for coverage bias or non-response error.

The margin of error for a sample size of 800 interviews is +/-3.4% at the 95% confidence level.

¹Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc. is a nationally recognized polling and focus group company and conducts polling for political, media and corporate clients in numerous states. SP&R's polling has been featured on many national platforms, including the Rush Limbaugh Radio Show, FOX News Channel, The O'Reilly Factor, the Bill Maher Show and MSNBC. The website realclearpolitics.com rated SP&R the #1 most accurate pollster in the USA for its battleground polling in the "multi state" category in the lead up to the 2020 POTUS national elections.