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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

POLL

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SPECTER TOPS TOOMEY BY 9 PTS. IN PENNSYLVANIA SENATE RACE, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; NEW DEMOCRATIC SENATOR HAS BIG PRIMARY LEAD

Former U.S. Rep. Pat Toomey, the likely Republican challenger in the 2010 Pennsylvania Senate race, has gained some ground and now trails newly-converted Democratic Sen. Arlen Specter 46 – 37 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 53 – 33 percent Specter lead in a May 4 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll.

In this latest look at the Specter-Toomey matchup, Republicans back Toomey 73 – 16 percent. Specter leads 73 – 10 percent among Democrats and 43 – 33 percent among independent voters. The Democrat leads 47 – 39 percent among men and 45 – 35 percent among women.

In a Democratic primary, Specter tops U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak 50 – 21 percent.

Toomey tops U.S. Rep. Jim Gerlach 38 – 10 percent in a Republican primary, with 3 percent for anti-abortion activist Peg Luksik.

“Sen. Arlen Specter’s numbers have slipped since the controversy that followed his switch to the Democratic Party, but he’s still better off than he would have been if he stayed a Republican and faced a tough primary challenge from former Rep. Pat Toomey,” said Clay F. Richards, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“Running as a Democrat, the Senator leads Toomey by 9 points, down from 20 points right after his conversion. But now that he’s got President Barack Obama and Gov. Ed Rendell on his side, Specter should be able to hold the edge over the conservative Republican. At this point none of the other names mentioned as candidates in either party is well enough known to make a challenge.”

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Pennsylvania voters approve 51 – 39 percent, including 74 – 16 percent among Democrats, of the job Specter is doing. This compares to a 56 – 36 percent approval, including 81 – 10 percent among Democrats, May 4.

By a 46 – 39 percent margin, voters have a favorable opinion of Specter. Toomey gets a 27 – 11 percent favorability, but 61 percent don't know enough about him to form an opinion. Sestak, Gerlach and Luksik are little known to voters, as 76 percent or more say they don't know enough about any of them to form an opinion.

Voters split 42 – 43 percent on whether Specter deserves to be reelected, down from 49 – 41 percent May 4. Voters also say 52 – 43 percent that he is not too old to serve another six-year U.S. Senate term, down from 60 – 37 percent.

Specter is “too liberal,” 30 percent say, while 9 percent say he is “too conservative” and 45 percent say he is “about right.”

Toomey is “too conservative,” 15 percent say, while 4 percent say he is “too liberal” and 32 percent say he is “about right.”

Obama, Rendell, Casey Approval

Pennsylvania voters approve 62 – 31 percent of the job President Barack Obama is doing and approve 54 – 37 percent of the job Gov. Ed Rendell is doing.

Sen. Bob Casey gets a 56 – 21 percent approval, his highest score ever.

From May 20 – 26, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,191 Pennsylvania voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points. The survey includes 517 Republicans with a margin of error of +/- 4.3 percentage points and 561 Democrats with a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio and the nation as a public service and for research.

For more data or RSS feed -- <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml>, or call (203) 582-5201.

1. (If registered Democrat) If the 2010 Democratic primary for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Arlen Specter and Joe Sestak, for whom would you vote?

	REGISTERED DEMOCRATS		
	Tot	Men	Wom
Specter	50%	51%	48%
Sestak	21	20	21
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	3	1
DK/NA	27	26	28

2. (If registered Republican) If the 2010 Republican primary for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Pat Toomey, Jim Gerlach and Peg Luksik, for whom would you vote?

	REGISTERED REPUBLICANS		
	Tot	Men	Wom
Toomey	38%	47%	30%
Gerlach	10	10	10
Luksik	3	4	2
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	3	1
DK/NA	47	36	56

3. If the 2010 election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Arlen Specter the Democrat and Pat Toomey the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union
							HsHolds
Specter	46%	16%	73%	43%	47%	45%	58%
Toomey	37	73	10	33	39	35	30
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	1	2	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	1	3	4	1	4	1
DK/NA	14	10	13	19	12	15	10

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntnl
Specter	41%	75%	45%	54%	46%	39%	31%
Toomey	43	11	40	33	38	41	46
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	3	-	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	8	3	2	1	2	3	2
DK/NA	8	11	13	12	12	17	18

TREND: If the 2010 election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Arlen Specter the Democrat and Pat Toomey the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	May 28	May 4
	2009	2009
Specter	46	53
Toomey	37	33
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	1
DK/NA	14	10

4. If the 2010 election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Arlen Specter the Democrat and Jim Gerlach the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Specter	45%	12%	75%	43%	46%	45%	58%
Gerlach	36	73	9	31	36	35	30
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	1	3	5	2	4	2
DK/NA	15	13	13	18	15	16	10

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Specter	43%	71%	48%	50%	48%	39%	31%
Gerlach	39	14	34	36	38	34	44
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	9	3	4	1	1	3	3
DK/NA	10	12	14	11	13	24	20

5. If the 2010 election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Joe Sestak the Democrat and Pat Toomey the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Sestak	37%	5%	68%	32%	37%	38%	46%
Toomey	35	72	8	34	40	32	25
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	2	3	4	2	3	3
DK/NA	23	20	20	28	20	26	25

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Sestak	32%	70%	32%	47%	36%	31%	22%
Toomey	40	12	38	31	37	34	47
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	3	1	-	3	-	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	8	-	1	1	3	4	3
DK/NA	20	16	29	20	22	31	26

6. If the 2010 election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Joe Sestak the Democrat and Jim Gerlach the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Sestak	36%	6%	65%	30%	36%	36%	41%
Gerlach	30	61	8	25	31	29	25
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	2	3	6	3	4	2
DK/NA	30	30	23	38	29	31	32

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Sestak	28%	66%	30%	46%	34%	31%	22%
Gerlach	30	10	30	35	31	25	36
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	1	-	3	1	0
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	8	4	4	1	1	4	3
DK/NA	33	19	34	18	30	38	38

7. Is your opinion of - Arlen Specter favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Favorable	46%	18%	70%	46%	47%	45%	53%
Unfavorable	39	69	14	42	40	37	32
Hvn't hrd enough	14	11	14	12	11	16	14
REFUSED	2	2	2	1	1	2	1

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Favorable	36%	70%	49%	54%	45%	38%	34%
Unfavorable	53	13	40	38	36	42	46
Hvn't hrd enough	9	17	11	7	18	18	17
REFUSED	2	-	1	1	1	2	3

TREND: Is your opinion of - Arlen Specter favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	May 28 2009	May 4 2009	Mar 25 2009	Nov 26 2008	Aug 5 2008
Favorable	46	52	45	56	55
Unfavorable	39	34	31	23	26
Hvn't hrd enough	14	12	21	19	16
REFUSED	2	2	3	3	3

8. Is your opinion of - Pat Toomey favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Favorable	27%	45%	14%	24%	32%	22%	21%
Unfavorable	11	3	17	12	14	8	14
Hvn't hrd enough	61	51	68	63	53	68	65
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	-	2	-

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Favorable	29%	17%	33%	24%	18%	26%	33%
Unfavorable	11	17	15	12	12	2	9
Hvn't hrd enough	60	66	50	64	69	70	57
REFUSED	-	-	1	1	1	2	2

TREND: Is your opinion of - Pat Toomey favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	May 28 2009	May 4 2009	Mar 25 2009
Favorable	27	20	14
Unfavorable	11	13	6
Hvn't hrd enough	61	67	78
REFUSED	1	1	2

9. Is your opinion of - Joe Sestak favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Favorable	18%	10%	27%	17%	20%	17%	22%
Unfavorable	5	7	3	5	7	3	3
Hvn't hrd enough	76	82	70	78	72	80	74
REFUSED	-	1	-	-	-	1	-

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Favorable	8%	36%	13%	38%	11%	5%	10%
Unfavorable	3	3	6	11	6	-	3
Hvn't hrd enough	89	61	81	50	83	95	87
REFUSED	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

10. Is your opinion of - Jim Gerlach favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Favorable	15%	22%	11%	15%	19%	11%	15%
Unfavorable	5	2	8	7	8	4	4
Hvn't hrd enough	79	76	81	78	73	84	81
REFUSED	1	-	1	-	-	1	-

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Favorable	6%	10%	11%	28%	11%	5%	19%
Unfavorable	6	9	6	9	2	3	2
Hvn't hrd enough	88	80	83	62	87	92	79
REFUSED	-	-	-	1	1	1	1

11. Is your opinion of - Peg Luksik favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Favorable	6%	7%	5%	8%	6%	6%	4%
Unfavorable	4	4	4	3	6	2	6
Hvn't hrd enough	89	89	89	89	87	91	89
REFUSED	1	-	1	1	-	1	1

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Favorable	10%	1%	1%	6%	1%	11%	9%
Unfavorable	5	3	2	6	6	3	2
Hvn't hrd enough	85	96	96	87	92	84	88
REFUSED	-	-	1	2	1	2	-

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ed Rendell is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Approve	54%	35%	73%	52%	54%	55%	61%
Disapprove	37	57	19	39	40	34	33
DK/NA	9	8	8	9	6	11	6

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Approve	49%	77%	55%	69%	56%	35%	41%
Disapprove	43	11	38	24	40	57	47
DK/NA	7	12	7	8	4	8	11

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ed Rendell is handling his job as Governor? (*Also 46% on 10/5/2005, 4/22/2004, 3/18/2004 and 12/16/2003)

	May 28 2009	May 4 2009	Mar 25 2009	Feb 11 2009	Nov 26 2008	APPROVE..... High Feb 7 2007	Low Apr 5 2006*
Approve	54	53	50	47	55	61	46
Disapprove	37	38	38	38	34	30	37
DK/NA	9	9	12	15	12	9	17

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Approve	42%	35%	47%	44%	38%	45%	43%
Disapprove	40	47	34	42	46	35	40
DK/NA	18	18	19	14	16	20	17

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Approve	38%	43%	46%	46%	46%	34%	39%
Disapprove	50	35	38	29	37	48	46
DK/NA	13	22	16	25	17	18	15

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	May 28 2009	May 4 2009	Mar 25 2009	Feb 11 2009	Nov 26 2008	APPROVE..... High Apr 10 2003	Low Oct 5 2005
Approve	42	42	37	39	39	49	26
Disapprove	40	40	43	42	42	24	60
DK/NA	18	17	20	20	20	27	14

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Arlen Specter is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Approve	51%	23%	74%	49%	49%	53%	61%
Disapprove	39	70	16	41	43	37	33
DK/NA	9	7	11	10	8	10	6

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Approve	39%	77%	54%	53%	54%	44%	43%
Disapprove	53	12	41	39	40	42	46
DK/NA	7	11	4	8	5	13	12

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Arlen Specter is handling his job as United States Senator?

	May 28 2009	May 4 2009	Mar 25 2009	Feb 11 2009	Nov 26 2008	APPROVE..... High Nov 26 2008	Low Apr 22 2004
Approve	51	56	52	56	62	62	47
Disapprove	39	36	33	30	25	25	36
DK/NA	9	8	15	14	13	13	17

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob Casey Jr. is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Approve	56%	41%	68%	59%	56%	57%	66%
Disapprove	21	34	12	20	23	19	17
DK/NA	23	25	20	20	22	24	17

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Approve	58%	55%	56%	58%	57%	53%	55%
Disapprove	25	15	29	18	18	24	20
DK/NA	17	30	15	23	25	23	24

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bob Casey Jr. is handling his job as United States Senator?

	May 28 2009	May 4 2009	Mar 25 2009	Feb 11 2009	Nov 26 2008	APPROVE..... High May 28 2009	Low Mar 28 2007
Approve	56	55	52	54	55	56	46
Disapprove	21	21	23	23	20	21	18
DK/NA	23	24	25	23	26	23	35

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Approve	62%	27%	91%	63%	60%	64%	66%
Disapprove	31	62	6	29	33	29	30
DK/NA	7	11	3	8	7	6	4

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Approve	53%	94%	55%	67%	67%	51%	54%
Disapprove	38	4	35	25	29	45	38
DK/NA	9	2	10	7	3	5	8

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	May 28 2009	May 4 2009	Mar 25 2009	Feb 12 2009
Approve	62	66	61	63
Disapprove	31	29	30	22
DK/NA	7	5	9	15

17. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Very satisfied	6%	3%	9%	5%	7%	5%	8%
Smwht satisfied	50	36	61	50	46	53	50
Smwht dissatisfied	29	42	20	28	31	28	21
Very dissatisfied	13	18	8	16	15	12	19
DK/NA	2	1	2	1	1	2	2

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Very satisfied	8%	10%	5%	7%	8%	5%	2%
Smwht satisfied	45	56	44	61	44	37	50
Smwht dissatisfied	31	20	26	27	31	40	33
Very dissatisfied	16	10	24	4	16	17	14
DK/NA	-	4	2	2	1	1	1

TREND: In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Pennsylvania today? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied? (*also combined low=46% 10/05/2005)

	May 28 2009	May 4 2009	Mar 25 2009	Feb 11 2009	Nov 26 2008	VERY+SMWHT.... High Jun 5 2002	Low Nov 26 2008*
Very satisfied	6	6	4	3	3	8	3
Smwht satisfied	50	53	47	46	43	60	43
Smwht dissatisfied	29	27	31	33	34	22	34
Very dissatisfied	13	13	18	17	18	8	18
DK/NA	2	2	2	1	2	3	2

18. Looking ahead to the 2010 election for United States Senator, do you feel that Arlen Specter deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Yes/Deserves	42%	18%	64%	38%	42%	42%	54%
No/Does not	43	73	18	46	45	41	36
DK/NA	15	10	18	16	12	18	10

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Yes/Deserves	38%	70%	41%	43%	40%	33%	33%
No/Does not	51	14	45	42	43	45	52
DK/NA	11	16	14	15	16	22	14

TREND: Looking ahead to the 2010 election for United States Senator, do you feel that Arlen Specter deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	May 28 2009	May 4 2009	Mar 25 2009	Feb 11 2009
Yes/Deserves	42	49	38	40
No/Does not	43	41	41	43
DK/NA	15	10	20	17

19. At age 79, do you think Arlen Specter is too old to effectively serve another 6-year term as United States Senator, or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Yes	43%	51%	36%	46%	43%	43%	46%
No	52	45	59	48	53	50	49
DK/NA	5	4	5	6	4	7	4

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Yes	41%	32%	42%	42%	46%	43%	49%
No	57	60	52	53	49	47	47
DK/NA	2	8	7	5	6	10	3

TREND: At age 79, do you think Arlen Specter is too old to effectively serve another 6-year term as United States Senator, or not?

	May 28 2009	May 4 2009	Mar 25 2009
Yes	43	37	41
No	52	60	54
DK/NA	5	4	5

20. Do you think Arlen Specter is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Too liberal	30%	59%	8%	25%	33%	27%	24%
Too conservative	9	5	12	9	6	11	10
About right	45	19	66	45	46	44	53
DK/NA	17	16	14	20	15	19	14

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Too liberal	34%	6%	32%	28%	29%	38%	36%
Too conservative	9	12	8	10	7	5	8
About right	42	66	45	49	40	34	37
DK/NA	15	16	14	13	24	23	18

TREND: Do you think Arlen Specter is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

	May 28 2009	Jun 24 2004
Too liberal	30	22
Too conservative	9	17
About right	45	45
DK/NA	17	16

21. Do you think Pat Toomey is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Union HsHolds
Too liberal	4%	4%	5%	3%	5%	3%	5%
Too conservative	15	5	22	16	20	10	18
About right	32	53	19	27	35	30	24
DK/NA	49	38	54	54	40	57	52

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Too liberal	3%	7%	5%	4%	4%	2%	3%
Too conservative	15	18	14	21	19	6	11
About right	32	21	37	31	27	31	40
DK/NA	51	54	45	44	50	62	47