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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 16, 2012

ROMNEY CLOSING IN ON OBAMA IN PENNSYLVANIA, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; CASEY-SMITH SENATE RACE TOO CLOSE TO CALL

Gov. Mitt Romney has narrowed a 12-point gap with President Barack Obama and now trails the president 50 – 46 percent among Pennsylvania likely voters, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 54 – 42 percent Obama lead in a September 26 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

In today's survey, men back Romney 54 – 43 percent, compared to a 49 – 48 percent split September 26. Women back Obama 57 – 39 percent, little changed from last month. White voters back Romney 53 – 43 percent while black voters back Obama 97 – 1 percent. White Catholic voters go Republican 56 – 43 percent. Voters with college degrees back the president 54 – 43 percent while voters without degrees are divided with 49 percent for Obama and 47 percent for Romney.

Only 7 percent of Pennsylvania likely voters say they might change their mind in the next 21 days.

“Gov. Mitt Romney is coming on strong in the Keystone State, especially among white Catholics,” said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“Pennsylvania voters say Vice President Joseph Biden, a native son and a Catholic, won the debate and is more qualified than U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan to be president. But that doesn't seem to be lifting the top of the ticket.”

(For a downloadable video of Quinnipiac Polling Institute Assistant Director Tim Malloy discussing the survey, click on <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/institutes-centers/polling-institute/pennsylvania/release-detail?ReleaseID=1807>)

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Pennsylvania likely voters say 42 – 37 percent that Pennsylvania-born Vice President Joseph Biden beat U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan in last week’s debate. Independent voters say 41 – 35 percent that Biden won.

But more than 60 percent of voters say the debate does not affect their presidential vote. Biden is more qualified than Ryan to serve as president, voters say 50 – 42 percent. By a 52 – 45 percent margin, Pennsylvania voters have a favorable opinion of Obama. Romney gets a divided 46 – 44 percent favorability rating.

U.S. Senate Race

Democratic incumbent U.S. Sen. Robert Casey Jr. has 48 percent in his reelection bid to 45 percent for businessman Tom Smith, his Republican challenger.

In this Senate race, men go Republican 53 – 42 percent, while women back the Democrat 53 – 38 percent. Independent voters are divided 44 – 44 percent.

“Tom Smith’s relentless TV ad barrage has lifted him out of the coal mine to give Sen. Robert Casey a run for his money,” Malloy said. “Casey had a 55 – 37 percent lead in Quinnipiac University’s August 1 survey. Now this race is too close to call.”

Pennsylvania voters disapprove of the job Gov. Tom Corbett is doing by a narrow 42 – 38 percent, compared to a 47 – 36 percent disapproval September 26.

From October 12 – 14, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,519 Pennsylvania likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percent. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

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

For more data or RSS feed– <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).

1. If the election for President were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama the Democrat and Mitt Romney the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Obama or Romney? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Obama	50%	5%	89%	50%	43%	57%	43%	97%
Romney	46	93	9	43	54	39	53	1
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	3	2	-	1	-
DK/NA	3	1	2	3	2	4	2	3

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv	
	Yes	No					Yes	No
Obama	49%	41%	35%	43%	37%	50%	26%	44%
Romney	49	55	61	56	60	46	70	54
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	1	-	2	1	1	-
DK/NA	1	3	3	1	1	3	4	1

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME...				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<30K	30-50	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Obama	54%	49%	58%	49%	51%	49%	59%	50%	48%
Romney	43	47	37	46	48	48	36	47	48
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	2	-	2	3	1	-
DK/NA	1	3	4	4	1	1	1	2	3

TREND: If the election for President were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama the Democrat and Mitt Romney the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Obama or Romney? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 16 2012	Sep 26 2012	Aug 01 2012
Obama	50	54	53
Romney	46	42	42
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1
DK/NA	3	2	4

1a. (If candidate chosen q1) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1		
	Tot	Obama	Romney
Mind made up	92%	91%	93%
Might change	7	8	6
DK/NA	1	1	-

TREND: (If candidate chosen) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN.....		
	Oct 16 2012	Sep 26 2012	Aug 01 2012
Mind made up	92	92	87
Might change	7	7	12
DK/NA	1	1	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	46%	90%	10%	45%	53%	40%	53%	-
Unfavorable	44	6	78	45	39	50	39	86
Hvn't hrd enough	7	4	9	8	7	7	6	10
REFUSED	2	-	4	3	1	4	2	3

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG				BornAgnEv			
	Yes	No	Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Favorable	50%	54%	62%	55%	58%	47%	67%	55%
Unfavorable	44	36	28	38	34	44	22	38
Hvn't hrd enough	4	7	8	5	7	6	8	6
REFUSED	2	3	2	1	1	3	3	1

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME...				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<30K	30-50	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Favorable	47%	46%	36%	44%	47%	51%	40%	45%	48%
Unfavorable	47	43	51	46	46	42	52	45	42
Hvn't hrd enough	5	8	9	7	5	5	7	8	7
REFUSED	2	3	4	3	1	1	-	3	3

TREND: Is your opinion of Mitt Romney favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 16 2012	Sep 26 2012	Aug 01 2012
Favorable	46	41	39
Unfavorable	44	50	47
Hvn't hrd enough	7	8	11
REFUSED	2	2	3

3. Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	52%	8%	88%	54%	45%	59%	46%	98%
Unfavorable	45	89	9	44	54	37	52	-
Hvn't hrd enough	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	-
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG				BornAgnEv			
	Yes	No	Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Favorable	50%	44%	37%	45%	40%	52%	28%	47%
Unfavorable	47	54	60	52	59	44	70	51
Hvn't hrd enough	1	1	1	1	-	2	-	1
REFUSED	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME...				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<30K	30-50	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Favorable	56%	51%	58%	52%	53%	51%	64%	51%	49%
Unfavorable	42	46	39	46	44	48	34	46	48
Hvn't hrd enough	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1
REFUSED	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	1	2

TREND: Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 16 2012	Sep 26 2012	Aug 01 2012
Favorable	52	54	53
Unfavorable	45	43	42
Hvn't hrd enough	1	2	2
REFUSED	1	2	3

4. If the election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Bob Casey Jr. the Democrat and Tom Smith the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Casey Jr. or Smith? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Casey Jr.	48%	10%	83%	44%	42%	53%	43%	86%
Smith	45	88	12	44	53	38	51	5
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	7	2	5	11	5	9	6	9

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG						BornAgnEv	
	Yes	No	Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Casey Jr.	49%	40%	35%	45%	37%	49%	25%	47%
Smith	46	53	60	49	58	43	70	48
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	6	7	6	6	4	9	5	5

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME...				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<30K	30-50	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Casey Jr.	52%	46%	56%	50%	46%	47%	50%	49%	47%
Smith	41	47	37	43	49	47	37	44	48
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	7	7	7	7	5	6	12	6	5

TREND: If the election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Bob Casey Jr. the Democrat and Tom Smith the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Casey Jr. or Smith? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 16 2012	Sep 26 2012	Aug 01 2012
Casey Jr.	48	49	55
Smith	45	43	37
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-
DK/NA	7	8	8

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Tom Corbett is handling his job as Governor?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	38%	66%	17%	35%	48%	29%	42%	12%
Disapprove	42	21	57	47	40	44	41	50
DK/NA	20	13	26	18	12	27	16	39

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv	
	Yes	No					Yes	No
Approve	39%	44%	46%	47%	52%	33%	49%	44%
Disapprove	46	39	37	39	38	45	32	42
DK/NA	15	17	17	14	11	22	18	14

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME...				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<30K	30-50	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	36%	39%	33%	35%	43%	40%	30%	41%	39%
Disapprove	48	40	43	42	42	47	38	41	44
DK/NA	16	21	24	23	15	13	31	18	17

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Tom Corbett is handling his job as Governor?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 16	Sep 26	Aug 01
	2012	2012	2012
Approve	38	36	38
Disapprove	42	47	45
DK/NA	20	17	17

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	50%	7%	87%	50%	44%	56%	43%	97%
Disapprove	48	91	10	48	55	41	55	2
DK/NA	2	2	3	2	1	3	2	1

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv	
	Yes	No					Yes	No
Approve	47%	40%	34%	43%	38%	48%	27%	43%
Disapprove	51	57	63	55	61	49	71	54
DK/NA	2	2	2	3	1	3	2	3

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME...				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<30K	30-50	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Approve	53%	48%	56%	52%	48%	47%	61%	47%	48%
Disapprove	46	49	40	47	48	53	37	49	50
DK/NA	2	3	3	1	4	1	1	3	2

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....
 Oct 16 Sep 26 Aug 01
 2012 2012 2012

Approve	50	51	49
Disapprove	48	45	46
DK/NA	2	3	4

7. Which candidate do you think did the best job, or won, Thursday night's vice presidential debate Paul Ryan or Joe Biden?

LIKELY VOTERS.....
 Tot Rep Dem Ind Men Wom Wht Blk

Ryan	37%	74%	7%	35%	42%	34%	43%	2%
Biden	42	7	73	41	40	45	37	79
TIE (VOL)	5	5	4	6	6	4	5	2
DIDN'T WATCH(VOL)	11	8	13	13	7	14	10	15
DK/NA	4	5	3	5	5	4	5	3

WHITE.....

COLLEGE DEG BornAgnEv
 Yes No Prot Cath Men Wom Yes No

Ryan	38%	45%	50%	46%	46%	40%	58%	43%
Biden	40	35	29	37	35	39	23	38
TIE (VOL)	7	5	4	6	6	5	4	6
DIDN'T WATCH(VOL)	11	10	10	8	8	13	9	9
DK/NA	3	5	6	3	5	4	6	3

COLLEGE DEG ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME... AGE IN YRS.....
 Yes No <30K 30-50 50-100 >100K 18-34 35-54 55+

Ryan	35%	39%	34%	37%	39%	37%	28%	37%	41%
Biden	45	41	49	44	39	42	50	41	42
TIE (VOL)	6	4	4	3	7	7	2	6	5
DIDN'T WATCH(VOL)	11	11	9	11	12	8	13	13	8
DK/NA	3	5	4	5	3	5	6	3	5

8. Did you watch or listen to the vice presidential debate between Paul Ryan and Joe Biden, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	81%	85%	77%	81%	84%	77%	82%	69%
No	18	15	21	18	15	21	17	27
DK/NA	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	4

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG						BornAgnEv	
	Yes	No	Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes	85%	81%	82%	86%	85%	80%	82%	84%
No	15	18	18	14	15	19	17	15
DK/NA	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME...				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<30K	30-50	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	86%	78%	80%	77%	82%	88%	74%	80%	83%
No	14	20	20	21	17	12	24	18	16
DK/NA	-	1	-	2	1	1	1	2	1

9. Did the vice presidential debate make you more likely to vote for - Barack Obama, less likely, or did it have no effect on your vote choice?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
More likely	17%	2%	35%	12%	15%	20%	14%	39%
Less likely	18	36	3	18	19	17	20	-
Had no effect	62	59	59	69	65	60	63	57
DK/NA	3	3	3	1	2	3	3	4

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG						BornAgnEv	
	Yes	No	Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	Yes	No
More likely	12%	15%	11%	14%	12%	16%	9%	13%
Less likely	18	22	24	22	21	20	31	20
Had no effect	70	59	62	63	66	60	55	65
DK/NA	-	4	3	1	2	4	5	1

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME...				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<30K	30-50	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
More likely	14%	19%	22%	17%	16%	13%	15%	16%	20%
Less likely	16	18	13	21	17	16	11	16	21
Had no effect	69	59	62	59	66	70	73	65	56
DK/NA	-	4	3	3	1	-	1	3	3

10. Did the vice presidential debate make you more likely to vote for Mitt Romney, less likely, or did it have no effect on your vote choice?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
More likely	19%	40%	4%	17%	20%	19%	22%	3%
Less likely	15	2	29	13	14	17	13	29
Had no effect	63	56	64	68	64	61	62	64
DK/NA	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	4

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv	
Yes	No	Yes					No	
More likely	20%	23%	25%	25%	22%	22%	30%	22%
Less likely	11	14	11	12	12	14	9	12
Had no effect	68	59	61	63	64	60	57	65
DK/NA	-	4	3	1	2	4	3	1

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME...				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<30K	30-50	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
More likely	18%	20%	16%	20%	21%	16%	13%	18%	21%
Less likely	13	17	22	13	14	14	16	15	16
Had no effect	69	60	57	64	65	70	69	64	60
DK/NA	-	4	5	3	1	-	3	3	3

11. Who do you think is best qualified to serve as president if it becomes necessary Paul Ryan or Joe Biden?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....							
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Ryan	42%	86%	9%	38%	49%	36%	48%	-
Biden	50	8	84	53	44	55	44	90
DK/NA	8	5	7	10	6	9	8	9

	WHITE.....							
	COLLEGE DEG		Prot	Cath	Men	Wom	BornAgnEv	
Yes	No	Yes					No	
Ryan	45%	50%	57%	50%	55%	41%	65%	48%
Biden	49	41	34	45	39	49	28	45
DK/NA	5	9	9	5	6	9	8	7

	COLLEGE DEG		ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME...				AGE IN YRS.....		
	Yes	No	<30K	30-50	50-100	>100K	18-34	35-54	55+
Ryan	41%	43%	37%	39%	45%	43%	34%	43%	45%
Biden	55	47	56	49	50	51	56	49	48
DK/NA	5	9	7	12	5	6	10	8	7