

## Winning Edge #53 – 9 Insights from Latest Pa. Poll

This is Trevor Bragdon with Commonwealth Partners' *The Winning Edge*: Tips to help conservatives persuade and win.



What are Pennsylvania voters thinking right now?

Three weeks ago, we went into the field with a statewide poll.

Here's what we found:

Pennsylvanians like Governor Shapiro personally, with a 58% favorable and 24% unfavorable rating.

But they don't like his budget.

Voters were clear about where they stand on spending, taxes, and reforms. Here are nine key insights from the polling:

1. *Voters Are Cautiously Optimistic about PA's Direction*

47% say the state is on the right track, while 39% say it's on the wrong one.

2. *Don't Touch the Rainy-Day Fund*

Two-thirds of voters say the Rainy-Day Fund should be saved for true emergencies. 66% call it fiscally irresponsible to drain the fund to balance the budget. Only 22% think raiding the fund is a good idea.

3. *Stop Spending More Than You Take In*

71% oppose approving a budget without a sustainable plan to pay for it. Just 18% support spending beyond our means.

4. *No Tax Hikes*

68% want legislators to hold the line on new spending and reject backdoor tax hikes like payroll taxes and energy fees.

5. *Transit Bailouts are a Bust*

Voters say a Philadelphia transit bailout is a bad idea. 58% oppose it, while only 33% support.

6. *Fix the Roads First*

69% want Harrisburg to focus on fixing roads and bridges before any tax increases or new spending to fund mass transit projects.

7. *Protect the Safety Net with Welfare Work Requirements*

We discussed the welfare reform insights in the [last Winning Edge](#), with 78% saying able-bodied adults must work, job-hunt, or train to keep welfare benefits. Only 17% disagree.

8. *Fund Schools Fairly and Give Parents a Choice*

63% say that if shrinking school districts get more taxpayer funding, parents in failing districts should also be able to use education dollars to choose a better school for their child.

9. *No to Corporate Subsidies, Yes to Tax Cuts*

62% of voters say it's time to eliminate corporate handouts and use that money for broad-based tax relief. Governor Shapiro's budget offers giveaways to selected corporations, but no new tax relief for small businesses or working families. Voters think that's backward.

**Bottom Line**

Voters are grounded in reality. They are cautiously hopeful about Pennsylvania's future, but they want Harrisburg to be responsible. That means spending restraint, reasonable work requirements for welfare, school choice, and fixing core priorities with the money we already have.