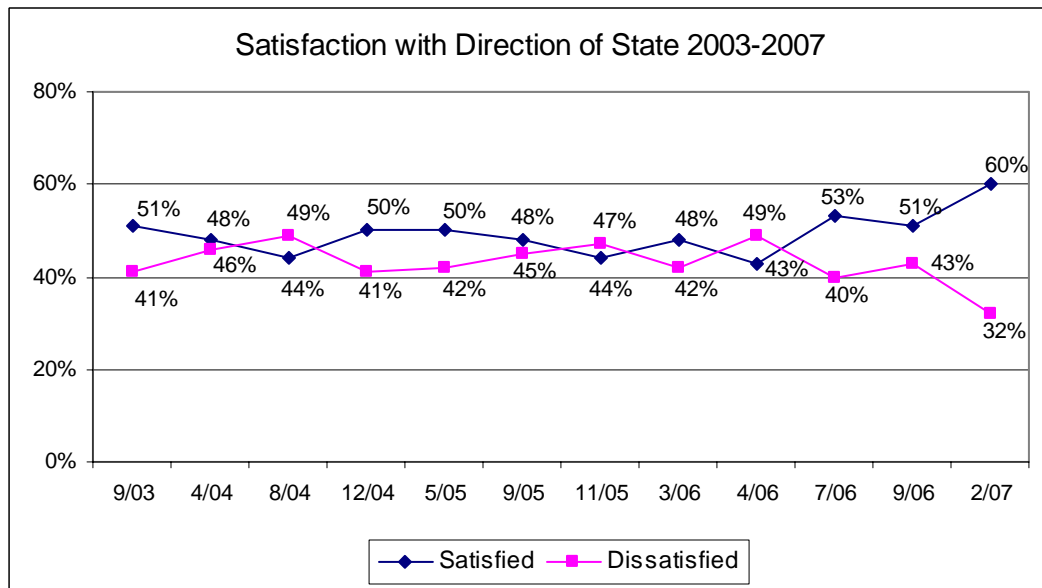


IssuesPA/Pew 2007 GP Survey Rating Questions: Major Findings

February 12, 2007

1. A clear majority of Pennsylvanians now say they are satisfied with the direction of their state.



After last fall's elections that resulted in re-election of a popular governor and change in party control of the state house, Keystone state residents feel as positive about where their state is headed as they have in a long time. Sixty percent statewide say they are satisfied with the way things are going in Pennsylvania while just 32 percent say they are dissatisfied. An IssuesPA/Pew poll taken last September showed a much closer division of 51% satisfied/43% dissatisfied.

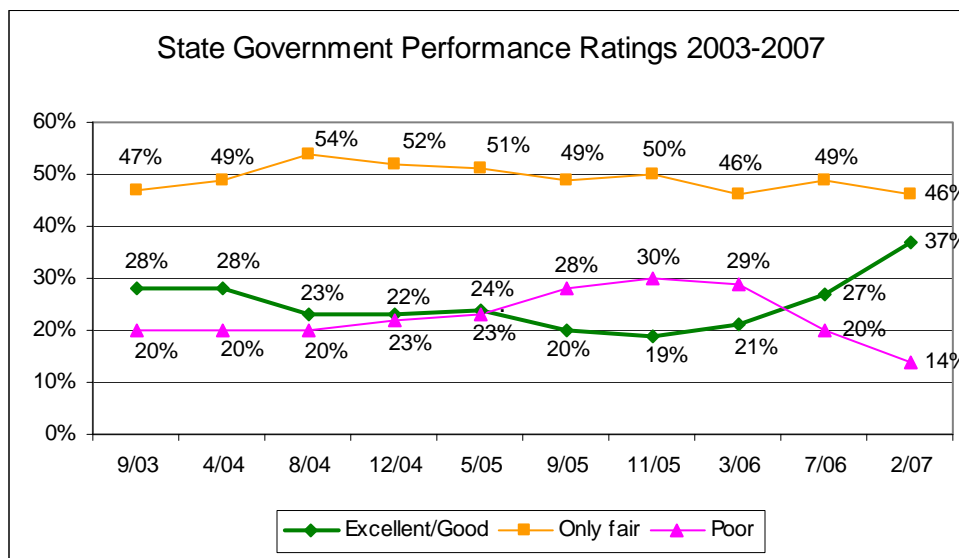
The current result is the highest satisfaction rating recorded since the IssuesPA/Pew poll's inception (September 2003). The previous high was 53% in July 2006.

The upbeat public mood in Pennsylvania contrasts with the somber national mood. A late January NEWSWEEK poll conducted by Princeton Survey Research found only 30 percent of adults nationally saying they were satisfied with the direction of the country. Much of that negative view is likely the result of unhappiness with the Iraq war and leadership provided by the Bush administration.

In Pennsylvania, satisfaction with the direction of the state has increased significantly since last September among both Democrats (65% now vs. 55% then, +10) and Independents (57% now vs. 48% then, +9), while Republicans' rating is up only marginally (57% now vs. 53% then, +4).

Regional Highlights: Satisfaction with the direction of the state has increased most among those who live in Southwestern PA. In this region, where anti-government, anti-politician sentiment has run higher, satisfaction ratings are now clearly positive (56% satisfied/39% dissatisfied). In September 2006, response to this question tilted toward the negative (44% satisfied/50% dissatisfied).

2. The public gives state government its best grades in years for dealing with important issues.



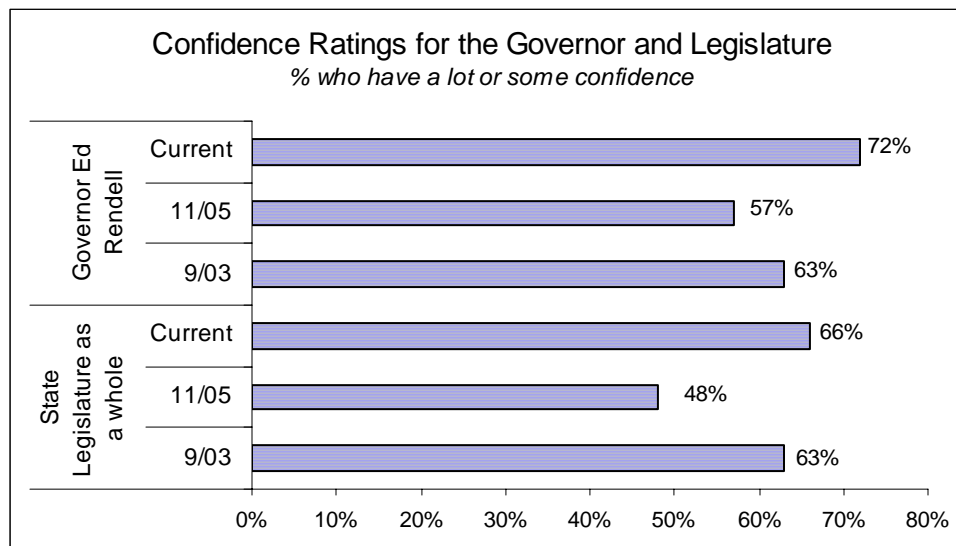
The public as a whole seems ready to wipe the slate clean and give their elected officials a fresh start in 2007. In the new IssuesPA/Pew poll, 37 percent of Keystone state residents rate the performance of their state government as excellent or good. That is a 10-point improvement since last July, when 27 percent of Pennsylvanians responded similarly. In fact, since the IssuesPA poll began in September 2003, the highest excellent/good rating for state government's performance on record was 28%.

The plurality (46%) of Pennsylvanians give state government's performance a mediocre rating of "only fair." What is different now, compared to the period after the unpopular legislative pay raise, is the extent to which excellent/good ratings outnumber poor ratings (37% vs. 14%, +23). In November 2005, when the political fallout from the pay raise peaked, the balance of public opinion toward state government's performance tilted negative (19% excellent/good vs. 30% poor, -11).

Liberal Democrats are most pleased with the way state government has performed (52% excellent/good). Across the rest of the political spectrum, opinion does not vary significantly – moderate/conservative Democrats (38% excellent/good), Independents (31%), moderate/liberal Republicans (38%), and conservative Republicans (34%).

Regional Highlights: Previous polling had shown Southwestern PA to be the region most critical of state government. The new poll, however, finds that SW PA is not significantly different from other regions. Last July, fewer SW PA residents gave state government an excellent/good rating than gave it a poor rating (21% vs. 28% -7). Today the SW PA residents are much more positive in their ratings (32% excellent/good vs. 16% poor, +16).

3. Confidence ratings for state government officials have improved across the board, and Governor Rendell is held in highest esteem.



When asked how much confidence they have in various statewide officials to deal with key issues, Pennsylvanians express the most confidence in Governor Ed Rendell, who won a second term last November in a landslide. Seventy-two percent of state residents now say they have a lot or some confidence in Rendell, his highest rating so far.

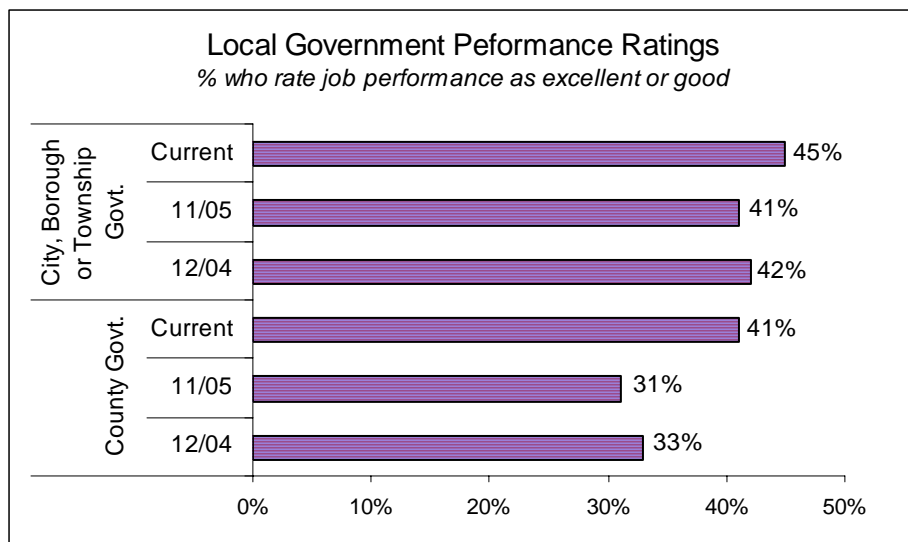
More than eight in 10 liberal Democrats (85%) and moderate/conservative Democrats (83%) express confidence in Rendell. Rendell's appeal is not limited to his own party, however. Close to seven in 10 Independents (68%) and moderate/liberal Republicans (68%) have confidence in Rendell, as do over half (56%) of conservative Republicans.

The legislature as well has improved its standing with the public. Sixty-six percent of Pennsylvanians now say they have a lot or some confidence in the legislature as a whole. This is a big improvement over the low point of 48 percent confident in November 2005, after dissatisfaction with the pay raise sent their ratings tumbling.

With the Democrats now in control of the lower chamber, confidence ratings for the legislature are highest among moderate/conservative Democrats (75%) and liberal Democrats (73%). But ratings are also relatively high across the rest of the political spectrum – Independents (60%), moderate/liberal Republicans (67%), and conservative Republicans (62%).

Regional Highlights: Confidence ratings for Rendell and the legislature are up across all regions of state. The most noteworthy improvements by region are in the higher confidence ratings given to the legislature observed by Southwestern PA residents (65% vs. 53% in July 2006) and those who live in “rest of state” (70% vs. 57%).

4. Better feelings toward government extend to the local level, with municipal and county government receiving their best ratings from Pennsylvanians to date.

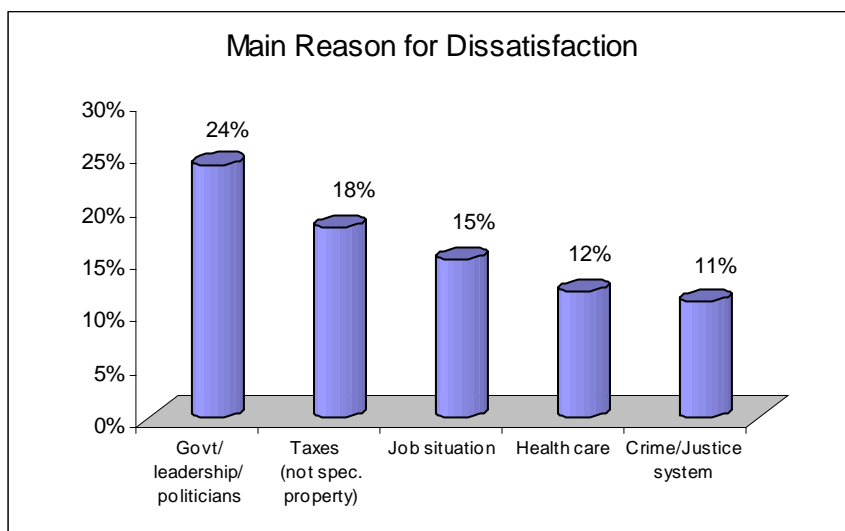


Ratings of local government in past IssuesPA/Pew benchmark polls showed little variation over time. In 2007, however, the brighter public mood appears to be lifting local government's ratings. Forty-five percent of Pennsylvanians give their municipal government an excellent or good rating for performance dealing with key issues, up marginally from 41 percent in 2005. County government's performance rating is up significantly over this same period (41% excellent/good vs. 31% in 2005).

Confidence ratings have also improved for elected municipal county government officials (69% a lot/some confidence vs. 61% in 2005) and county government officials (68% vs. 60%). Local school board's confidence ratings are the one exception – the current rating is almost the same as the previous one (53% vs. 51% in 2005).

Regional Highlights: Dissatisfaction with local government continues to be widespread in the city of Philadelphia. Only 19 percent of Philadelphians feel that their local city government is doing an excellent or good job. This compares with 53% of suburban Southeastern PA residents saying the same about their municipal government. Local school boards get lower confidence ratings in Philadelphia city (46% a lot/some confidence) and suburban Southeastern PA (46%) than in the other regions of the state – Southwestern PA (56%), South Central PA (60%), and "rest of state" (55%).

5. Anti-government, anti-politician sentiment has decreased among Pennsylvanians overall, but those who continue to be dissatisfied are still inclined to point the finger in this direction.



Among Pennsylvanians who are dissatisfied with the direction of the state, negative feelings toward government and politicians, and the related issue of taxes, are named most often as the cause of their discontent. Twenty-four percent of those dissatisfied cite unhappiness with government, politics, or leadership as the main reason. Unemployment or the job situation complaints are second, at 18 percent. Next on their list of reasons are the job situation (15%), health care inadequacies (12%) and crime-related concerns (11%).

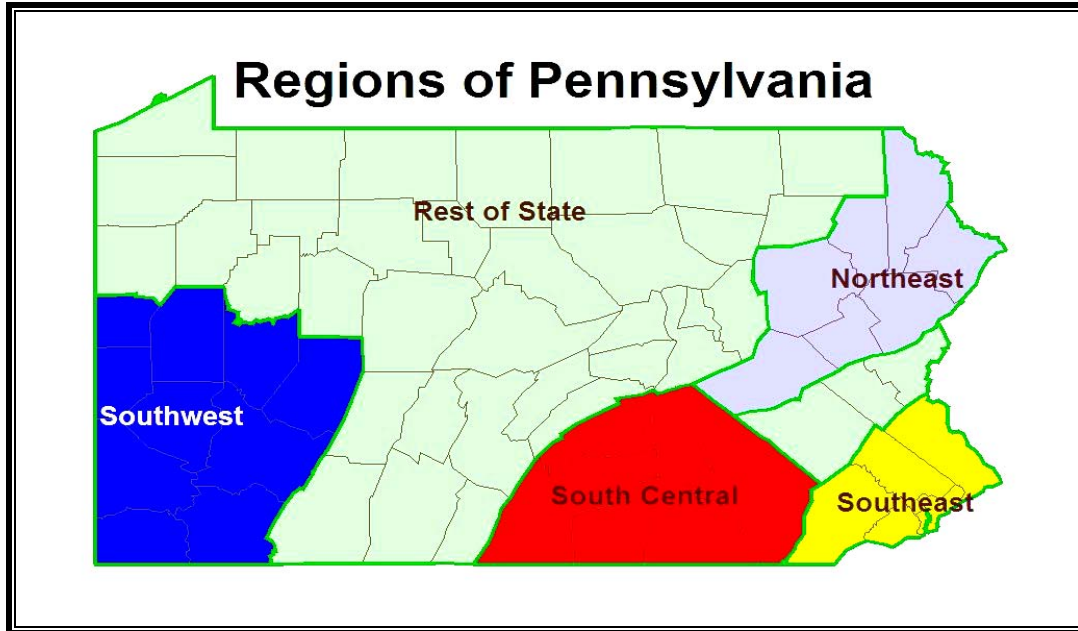
Dissatisfied Republicans are more likely than dissatisfied Democrats to attribute their negative mood to unhappiness with government or politicians (36% vs. 14%).

Demographic Highlights: Complaints about government and politicians are the main reason for dissatisfaction among those with household incomes of \$30,000 or higher. Below the \$30,000 income level, those dissatisfied with the direction of the state are as likely to express concerns about the job situation and crime as they are to criticize government or politicians.

Regional Highlights: Crime is the overriding issue among Philadelphia city residents who express dissatisfaction with the direction of their state. Four in 10 (40%) dissatisfied Philadelphians mention something about crime, law enforcement or the justice system when asked why they feel the way they do.

Survey Methodology

The IssuesPA Benchmark 2007 Survey, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Economy League, obtained telephone interviews with a representative sample of 1,096 adults living in Pennsylvania telephone households. The survey was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Interviews were done in English by Princeton Data Source, LLC from January 17 to January 30, 2007. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is $\pm 3.3\%$.



PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

SOUTHEAST REGION

Bucks
Chester
Delaware
Montgomery
Philadelphia

SOUTHWEST REGION

Allegheny
Armstrong
Beaver
Butler
Fayette
Greene
Indiana
Lawrence
Washington
Westmoreland

SOUTH CENTRAL

Adams
Cumberland
Dauphin
Franklin
Lancaster
Lebanon
Perry
York

REST OF STATE - NORTHEAST

Carbon
Lackawanna
Luzerne
Monroe
Pike
Schuylkill
Wayne

OTHER REST OF STATE

Bedford	Lycoming
Berks	McKean
Blair	Mercer
Bradford	Mifflin
Cambria	Northampton
Cameron	Northumberland
Centre	Potter
Clarion	Snyder
Clearfield	Somerset
Clinton	Susquehanna
Columbia	Tioga
Crawford	Union
Elk	Venango
Erie	Warren
Fulton	Wyoming
Huntingdon	
Jefferson	
Lehigh	

For GP survey analysis, the Northeast region was combined with Rest of State to form one large region.