

To: Interested Parties

From: GBA Strategies

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McGinty Leads in Race for PA Senate; Philly Burbs are a Battleground

A recent survey of likely voters in Pennsylvania¹ shows Democrats with a slight advantage in the Presidential and Senate races. In the Senate contest, Democrat Katie McGinty holds a 5-point, 47 – 42 percent advantage over Republican incumbent Pat Toomey. A third party candidate wins 8 percent.

This research included a significant oversample of voters in Philadelphia's four-county suburban region (Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties). A closer look at this region shows a real opportunity for Democrats. Voters in the Philly suburbs show a proclivity to split their tickets, producing a wide advantage for Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump in the Presidential race, but a much more narrow contest in the Senate race.

The following are key findings from the survey:

- **Democrats have slim advantage in PA.** Democrats hold a 7-point registration advantage in Pennsylvania, as well as a 8-point self-identification advantage. This leads to a slim 49 – 45 percent advantage for a Democrat in a generic Congressional vote. Independent voters here are less favorable towards Democrats, giving a 9-point lead to a generic Republican.

In the Philly suburbs, Democrats only have a 2-point registration edge, but they have a 6-point, 50 – 44 percent, lead in the generic contest. As a contrast to the Independent voters in the rest of the state, suburban Independent voters lean Democratic here in the generic vote (46 – 40 percent).

- **Clinton winning the state.** In the Presidential race, Hillary Clinton leads Donald Trump 46 – 40 percent, with Gary Johnson taking another 10 percent. Clinton leads Trump by more than 20 points in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh markets, offsetting struggles elsewhere. In a two-way race without Johnson, Clinton's lead is 48 – 43 percent.

¹ Survey conducted July August 21-28, 2016 on behalf of End Citizens United. Survey was of 1200 likely voters, including 881 interviews in Bucks, Chester, Montgomery and Delaware Counties. Statewide survey results were then weighted to bring these counties in line with where they are projected to be as a percentage of the state's overall vote. Weighted results carry a margin of error of +/- 4.4 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. Respondents were reached on land lines and cell phones.

Clinton’s personal standing is not excellent here—41 percent view her favorably and 53 percent view her unfavorably. Still, her standing is significantly better than Donald Trump’s. Trump has a 33 – 61 percent fav/unfav standing. Both candidates have similarly low standing with Independent voters, but Clinton is much more popular within her Democratic base than Trump is with his Republican one.

- **McGinty leads Toomey in Senate contest.** Katie McGinty leads Pat Toomey 47 – 42 percent. Libertarian Edward Clifford wins 8 percent. Toomey actually leads among Independent voters by 5 points. In a two-way contest, McGinty’s lead narrows to just 48 – 45 percent.
- **Philadelphia’s suburbs are a swing area; Trump struggling, Toomey close.** On its face, Philadelphia’s suburbs share the same Democratic advantage as the rest of the state. However, below the surface, there are some significant differences, especially between the two major contests on the ballot.

Hillary Clinton is running away with the race in the 4-county region, leading Trump 49 – 35 – 13 percent. In a two-way race, that lead expands to 54 – 37 percent. This is a much larger advantage than the 6-point edge a generic Democrat enjoys. In echoes of other findings from around the country, Trump is particularly unpopular in the comparatively well-educated suburbs.

It’s a totally different story in the Senate Race. McGinty leads Toomey, but only by a very slim 47 – 45 percent margin (Clifford wins 6 percent). That expands to 48 – 45 percent in a two-way, still significantly different from Clinton’s 18-point lead.

Net Difference Democrat vs. Republican		
	Statewide	Philly Burbs
Party ID	+8	+4
Generic Congressional	+4	+6
Presidential race (2-way)	+5	+18
Senate race (2-way)	+3	+3