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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

P O L L

FOR RELEASE: AUGUST 5, 2008

VOTERS DON'T THINK LAWMAKERS WILL STOP CORRUPTION, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY PENNSYLVANIA POLL FINDS; CHRIS MATTHEWS PLAYS HARDBALL WITH SPECTER

By a 53 – 11 percent margin, Pennsylvania voters say State House Majority Leader Bill DeWeese should step down because of his alleged involvement in “Bonusgate,” according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. Results are consistent among Democrats, Republicans and independent voters.

Only 24 percent of Pennsylvania voters say they are “very confident” or “somewhat confident” that the State Legislature will enact legislation to end corruption, while 74 percent are “not too confident” or “not confident at all,” the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN uh-pe-ack) University poll finds. Still, voters say 76 – 18 percent that Gov. Ed Rendell should call a special session of the Legislature this summer to work on legislative reform to combat corruption.

Apparently untouched by the controversy, Gov. Rendell gets a 54 – 37 percent approval rating,” little changed from his approval ratings over the last year, but down from his all-time high 61 – 30 percent score February 7, 2007.

Voters disapprove 51 – 32 percent of the job the State Legislature is doing, and 73 percent blame both Democrats and Republicans equally for corruption.

“Pennsylvania voters are clearly fed up with the legislature; say both parties are responsible for corruption, even though only Democrats were indicted in Bonusgate, and want House Majority Leader Bill DeWeese to step down for his role in the scandal,” said Clay F. Richards, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“They are looking to Gov. Ed Rendell to convene a special session to handle corruption, but have no faith that lawmakers can clean their own house.”

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Quinnipiac University Poll/August 5, 2008 – page 2

Pennsylvania voters disapprove 47 – 40 percent of the way Rendell is handling the state budget and disapprove 57 – 26 of the Legislature’s handling of the budget.

Voters oppose 60 – 29 percent a proposal to allow a Spanish company to pay \$13 billion to operate the Pennsylvania Turnpike, even with a cap on toll increases. Voters statewide also oppose 63 – 29 percent a proposal to put tolls on Interstate 80. Opposition to both measures crosses all political lines.

“Voters continue to give Gov. Rendell a positive approval rating even though they don’t like his handling of the budget and overwhelmingly reject his proposals, including billions for the Turnpike and tolls on Interstate 80 – the centerpieces of his program to raise revenue for the state’s transportation system,” Richards said.

U.S. Senate Race

Incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter leads TV news commentator Chris Matthews, a possible Democratic challenger, 41 – 36 percent. Democrats back Matthews 56 – 24 percent, as Republicans back Sen. Specter 63 – 16 percent and independent voters go with the Republican 44 – 27 percent.

Voters approve 59 – 29 percent of the job Specter is doing and give him a 55 – 26 percent favorability. Matthews gets a 28 – 15 percent favorability, as 55 percent of voters don’t know enough about him to form an opinion.

“Sen. Arlen Specter remains the most respected statewide public official in Pennsylvania, but his age and health problems could make him vulnerable to a challenge from Hardball’s Chris Matthews. Specter leads by only five points in a theoretical matchup, but there is a large undecided vote and many voters don’t know enough about Matthews to have an opinion,” Richards said.

From July 30 – August 3, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,580 Pennsylvania voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.5 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 -- <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml>, or call (203) 582-5201.

1. MSNBC's Hardball host Chris Matthews is considering running against Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter in 2010, according to news reports. If the 2010 election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Chris Matthews the Democrat and Arlen Specter the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Matthews	36%	16%	56%	27%	31%	41%	34%	62%
Specter	41	63	24	44	46	36	43	22
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	3	2	1	2	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	-
DK/NA	19	18	18	23	19	20	19	16

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Matthews	45%	45%	33%	33%	32%	36%	34%
Specter	38	32	38	47	44	38	44
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	1	1	1	3	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	-	6	1	2	2	1
DK/NA	14	22	22	18	21	21	20

2. Is your opinion of -- Chris Matthews favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	28%	22%	36%	23%	29%	28%	27%	40%
Unfavorable	15	24	7	16	19	11	16	-
Hvn't hrd enough	55	51	56	58	49	60	55	58
REFUSED	2	3	1	3	2	1	2	2

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Favorable	30%	34%	28%	34%	26%	22%	25%
Unfavorable	14	13	13	17	13	13	15
Hvn't hrd enough	56	54	56	48	58	63	57
REFUSED	1	-	3	1	3	2	3

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	55%	61%	50%	53%	58%	51%	57%	38%
Unfavorable	26	27	26	26	29	24	26	32
Hvn't hrd enough	16	10	20	17	10	21	15	26
REFUSED	3	2	4	4	3	4	3	4

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Favorable	59%	50%	48%	65%	58%	44%	54%
Unfavorable	26	27	23	19	25	38	28
Hvn't hrd enough	13	19	23	13	11	17	15
REFUSED	2	4	6	2	6	2	3

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	54%	36%	66%	53%	54%	53%	53%	64%
Disapprove	37	55	26	35	39	36	38	28
DK/NA	9	9	8	12	7	11	9	9

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Approve	46%	78%	52%	68%	47%	40%	43%
Disapprove	42	19	34	24	43	54	47
DK/NA	13	3	14	8	10	6	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

	Aug 5 2008	Feb 28 2008	Nov 7 2007	Aug 22 2007	May 30 2007	Highest Approve Feb 7 2007	Lowest Approve Apr 5 2006*
Approve	54	52	53	53	55	61	46
Disapprove	37	34	36	37	36	30	37
DK/NA	9	13	11	10	9	9	17

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	32%	30%	37%	28%	33%	32%	31%	45%
Disapprove	51	50	48	58	55	47	52	46
DK/NA	17	20	15	14	12	22	17	9

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Approve	32%	37%	30%	45%	28%	24%	26%
Disapprove	55	49	54	36	51	61	55
DK/NA	13	14	16	18	21	15	19

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

	Aug 5 2008	Feb 28 2008	Nov 7 2007	Aug 22 2007	May 30 2007	Highest Approve Apr 10 2003	Lowest Approve Oct 5 2005
Approve	32	37	35	30	34	49	26
Disapprove	51	42	48	55	47	24	60
DK/NA	17	21	17	15	18	27	14

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	59%	64%	56%	57%	62%	56%	60%	50%
Disapprove	29	28	32	26	30	29	28	40
DK/NA	12	8	12	17	8	15	11	10

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Approve	61%	56%	49%	69%	61%	52%	58%
Disapprove	27	35	30	22	28	42	28
DK/NA	11	9	21	8	11	6	14

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Arlen Specter is handling his job as United States Senator? * Also 60% on 5/22/2003 & 2/21/2003

	Aug 5 2008	Feb 28 2008	Nov 8 2007	Aug 22 2007	May 30 2007	Highest Approve Jul 13 2005*	Lowest Approve Apr 22 2004
Approve	59	54	54	58	56	60	47
Disapprove	29	31	31	32	34	30	36
DK/NA	12	14	14	10	11	10	17

7. 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	Wht	Blk
Approve	47%	39%	55%	44%	48%	46%	46%	54%
Disapprove	25	32	19	26	28	22	25	22
DK/NA	28	29	27	29	24	32	29	23

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Approve	55%	43%	47%	43%	48%	49%	47%
Disapprove	27	22	25	26	17	37	22
DK/NA	18	34	28	31	35	14	31

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

	Aug 5 2008	Feb 28 2008	Nov 8 2007	Aug 22 2007	May 30 2007	Highest Approve Feb 28 2008	Lowest Approve Mar 28 2007
Approve	47	50	49	49	47	50	46
Disapprove	25	20	21	23	21	20	18
DK/NA	28	30	30	28	32	30	35

8. 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	Wht	Blk
Very satisfied	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%	-
Smwht satisfied	44	40	45	44	44	43	44	45
Smwht dissatisfied	32	35	33	30	32	33	32	32
Very dissatisfied	19	20	17	20	18	20	19	20
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	3

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Very satisfied	2%	4%	5%	8%	2%	2%	3%
Smwht satisfied	32	46	39	61	45	32	41
Smwht dissatisfied	44	31	30	22	36	28	36
Very dissatisfied	22	15	26	8	16	37	19
DK/NA	1	3	1	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?

	Aug 5 2008	Aug 22 2007	May 12 2006	Apr 5 2006	Feb 13 2006	Dec 8 2005	Oct 5 2005
Very satisfied	4	4	5	4	4	4	4
Smwht satisfied	44	51	46	50	49	50	42
Smwht dissatisfied	32	31	28	29	30	33	33
Very dissatisfied	19	13	19	14	15	13	20
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	1	1	1

9. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ed Rendell is handling the state budget?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	40%	27%	49%	40%	42%	39%	40%	45%
Disapprove	47	59	39	47	47	47	47	46
DK/NA	13	14	12	13	11	14	13	9

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Approve	34%	54%	40%	58%	38%	23%	30%
Disapprove	54	36	47	27	48	64	57
DK/NA	12	11	12	14	14	13	13

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ed Rendell is handling the state budget?

	Aug 5 2008	Aug 22 2007	Apr 5 2006	Jul 13 2004	Apr 22 2004	Oct 16 2003	Aug 6 2003
Approve	40	43	35	45	31	39	42
Disapprove	47	44	45	38	43	41	40
DK/NA	13	12	19	17	26	20	18

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the State Legislature's handling of the state budget?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	26%	27%	28%	19%	28%	23%	25%	25%
Disapprove	57	54	56	63	58	55	57	61
DK/NA	18	19	16	18	14	21	18	13

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Approve	15%	32%	27%	32%	31%	23%	20%
Disapprove	73	53	58	47	47	65	58
DK/NA	12	15	15	20	22	12	22

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the State Legislature's handling of the state budget?

	Aug 5 2008	Aug 22 2007	Oct 16 2003	Aug 6 2003
Approve	26	27	29	27
Disapprove	57	57	47	50
DK/NA	18	16	24	23

11. A Spanish toll roads company has offered nearly 13 billion dollars to operate the Pennsylvania turnpike for 75 years. The proposal includes a cap on toll increases and protects the turnpike's union workers at least until their contract ends in 2011. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Support	29%	25%	33%	27%	29%	30%	28%	45%
Oppose	60	65	55	62	65	55	62	42
DK/NA	11	10	12	11	7	15	11	13

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Support	30%	40%	32%	26%	28%	27%	26%
Oppose	62	44	63	60	62	65	62
DK/NA	8	15	5	14	10	8	12

12. Do you support or oppose putting tolls on Interstate 80 across Pennsylvania?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Support	29%	24%	33%	27%	28%	29%	29%	34%
Oppose	63	68	59	64	66	60	63	58
DK/NA	8	7	8	9	6	11	8	8

	Alghny	Philly	NthEst	SthEst	NthWst	SthWst	Cntrl
Support	34%	36%	21%	33%	17%	32%	25%
Oppose	56	51	73	58	77	64	66
DK/NA	10	13	5	8	6	4	9

TREND: Do you support or oppose putting tolls on Interstate 80 across Pennsylvania?

	Aug 5 2008	Nov 7 2007
Support	29	28
Oppose	63	62
DK/NA	8	10

13. How much have you heard or read about Bonusgate, the legislative payroll bonus scandal - a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
A lot	20%	23%	18%	23%	25%	17%	21%	15%
Some	32	33	32	29	32	32	33	25
Not Much	21	21	20	23	20	22	22	17
Nothing at all	26	23	30	24	23	29	23	43
DK/NA	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

A lot	29%	12%	14%	13%	18%	30%	27%
Some	44	22	30	29	36	34	33
Not Much	15	16	24	27	23	18	22
Nothing at all	12	50	32	30	23	19	18
DK/NA	-	-	-	1	-	-	0

14. Which political party do you blame for political corruption in the state legislature the Democrats or the Republicans or both parties equally?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Democrats	9%	20%	3%	6%	10%	8%	10%	2%
Republicans	15	2	27	8	12	18	12	40
Both equally	73	74	66	85	76	70	75	53
DK/NA	3	3	3	1	2	4	3	5

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Democrats	10%	4%	8%	7%	9%	14%	12%
Republicans	17	25	13	14	14	13	11
Both equally	72	66	74	75	77	69	73
DK/NA	1	5	4	3	1	4	4

15. Do you think House Majority leader Bill DeWeese should step down because of Bonus Gate?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	53%	54%	53%	53%	56%	50%	53%	58%
No	11	11	9	14	13	11	12	9
DK/NA	35	35	38	33	31	39	35	33

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Yes	64%	51%	51%	45%	48%	61%	55%
No	10	10	10	14	8	15	12
DK/NA	27	39	39	41	44	24	33

16. There are now anti-corruption proposals in the state legislature including such things as banning bonuses for staff, prohibiting gifts, limiting perks, restraining lobbyist influence, and campaign finance reform. How confident are you that the state legislature will pass new laws needed to end corruption? Very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not confident at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Very confident	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%	2%	3%	10%
Somewhat confident	21	19	25	15	20	22	19	36
Not too confident	46	49	47	42	43	48	47	38
Not confident at all	28	28	23	38	31	26	29	16
DK/NA	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	-

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Very confident	4%	3%	4%	3%	6%	2%	3%
Somewhat confident	23	23	20	24	22	8	21
Not too confident	48	41	44	48	46	48	45
Not confident at all	23	32	28	23	24	41	30
DK/NA	2	-	3	2	1	1	2

17. Do you think Governor Rendell should call a special session of the legislature this summer on legislative reform to combat corruption?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	76%	73%	82%	71%	74%	78%	76%	80%
No	18	21	13	22	21	15	18	14
DK/NA	6	5	5	7	5	7	6	5

Alghny Philly NthEst SthEst NthWst SthWst Cntrl

Yes	80%	78%	78%	73%	69%	79%	77%
No	18	17	15	22	21	15	16
DK/NA	2	6	6	5	10	6	7