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For Immediate Release

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**NEW STATEWIDE POLL SHOWS U.S. SEN. ARLEN SPECTER REELECT AT NEW LOW;
STILL LEADS GOP CANDIDATE PAT TOOMEY NARROWLY FOR 2010 GENERAL ELECTION**

(Harrisburg Pa., October 14) – Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc., a Harrisburg-based survey research and political polling firm, today released the results of an independent statewide poll testing voters' early attitudes and preferences towards the 2010 elections for both Governor and U.S. Senate, as well as key issues facing the state. The live poll, conducted from our Harrisburg telephone call center using our team of professionally-trained survey takers, was conducted October 7 – 12 with 700 registered voters. Calls were made from a statewide voter registration list exclusively with voters who have past vote history in one of the last four general elections or better from 2005 to 2008. The poll has a margin of error of +/-3.7%. Top line results are included with this release.

Following are the key findings of the survey:

- Only 31% of Pennsylvania voters believe U.S. Sen. Specter currently deserves to be reelected to another term, while 59% say it is time to give a new person a chance. Specter's 31% reelect marks an even further drop from his 38% reelect in our February poll, and means Specter has not only failed to repair his image with voters after his controversial switch to the Democratic Party, but seems to be losing further ground. Typically, incumbents with reelect scores of 40% or lower are generally thought to be vulnerable. President Obama could also be working as an anchor on Specter, since Obama's job approval has dropped to 50% in the state from a high of 61% in April. Among Republicans, 16% say Specter deserves reelection compared to 75% who want a new person. Among Democrats, 44% would reelect him compared to 45% who want a new person.
- In the 2010 Democratic Primary for U.S. Senate among the sub sample of 362 Democrats, Sen. Specter holds a 44/16 lead over Congressman Joe Sestak, with 22% undecided and an additional 18% saying they would vote for neither or someone else. The fact that Specter's ballot support equals his 44% "reelect" mentioned above with Democratic voters suggests he may have little room to grow since a plurality of Democratic voters (at 45%) now say it's time to give a new person a chance. This is good news for the Sestak campaign, and should be a wakeup call to Democratic Party officials because it suggests a sentiment for change exists among Democratic voters who may be ripe to vote for an anti-status quo candidate.

- In a hypothetical match-up for the 2010 general election for U.S. Senate, the candidates are virtually tied with 42% for Specter and 41% for Toomey; 12% are undecided and 4% would vote for neither or someone else. This shows the race is still up for grabs. However, given Specter's 31% "reelect" this could be bad news for him because long-term incumbents with near universal name ID can usually poll an average of 5-10 points above their "reelect" score on Election Day, so Specter may be close to being maxed out. Toomey has a slightly stronger base within his own party, since he leads 71/16 among Republicans compared to Specter's 64/17 margin among Democrats. Toomey also leads 43/36 with self-described "swing" voters, or those who say they usually split their tickets. Swing voters are an important constituency in a state like Pennsylvania known for its ticket-splitting. From a regional perspective, Toomey leads in the Northwest (46/28), the Southwest/Pittsburgh region (44/40), the "T"/Central (53/30), the South central/Harrisburg region (46/31) and the Northeast (44/41). Specter leads in the Southeast counties of Chester, Bucks, Delaware and Montgomery (50/35) and Philadelphia (73/18), which combined account for one-third of all voters in the state.
- President Barack Obama's job approval margin in the state is currently 50/37 approve to disapprove. This current score closely mirrors his nationwide average job approval of 53% (based on the realclearpolitics.com average), which further solidifies Pennsylvania's status as a bellwether for national trends.

Other notable findings in the poll include:

- By an overwhelming margin, 68% of voters now say things in Pennsylvania are headed "in the wrong direction" compared to only 22% who say the state is "on the right track". This marks a new low since 2003, and trumps a prior record of 59% who said the state was on the wrong track in September 2005 due to the legislative pay raise vote in July of that year.
- In an open-ended question without being prompted by a list, 28% of voters cited the "state budget crisis" in Harrisburg as the most important problem facing the state, even outranking the economy/jobs (at 25%) and taxes (11%). Prior to this survey and generally for the last two years, the economy has consistently ranked as the top priority among most Pennsylvanians (peaking at 47% in August 2008). It is also important to note that the state budget deal was signed into law during the time this survey was "in the field", with responses collected both before and after the budget was adopted Friday, October 9th.
- Governor Rendell's statewide job approval rating is currently 38%, while 53% disapprove of the job he is doing. This marks his lowest job approval since we began tracking his numbers in statewide polls since taking office in 2003 and the first time since September 2005 his job approval score is "inverted", where a higher percentage disapprove of his overall performance than approve (in 9/05, 43% approved while 55% disapproved).
- In the 2010 open seat race for governor among the sub sample of 294 GOP voters, Attorney General Tom Corbett holds a 36/13 lead over Cong. Jim Gerlach, with 50% still undecided.



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Final Top Line Survey Results
Susquehanna Polling and Research Fall 2009 Statewide Poll
Sample Size: 700 Registered Voters
Conducted: October 7-12, 2009

INTRODUCTION: We are conducting a brief survey of attitudes and opinions concerning some important issues facing Pennsylvania today. May we have a few minutes of your time to complete the survey?

Great, thank you...

Q1. Do you think things in Pennsylvania are going in the right direction, or do you think things have gotten on the wrong track?

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Right direction | 151 | 22% |
| 2. Wrong track | 478 | 68% |
| 3. Undecided | 70 | 10% |

Q2. What is the single most important problem facing Pennsylvania today? That is, the one you would like to see resolved by your state elected officials. **(DO NOT READ CHOICES - ONE ANSWER ONLY)**

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Taxes | 78 | 11% |
| 2. Drugs/crime/violence | 9 | 01% |
| 3. Economy/jobs/unemployment | 174 | 25% |
| 4. Growth/development/traffic | 5 | 01% |
| 5. Streets/roads/transportation | 10 | 01% |
| 6. State budget crisis | 199 | 28% |
| 7. Politicians/government | 58 | 08% |
| 8. Environment/Pollution | 2 | 00% |
| 9. Healthcare/prescription drugs | 56 | 08% |
| 10. Medicare/social security | 6 | 01% |
| 11. Education/schools | 34 | 05% |
| 12. Morality/family values | 10 | 01% |
| 13. Immigration/illegal aliens | 0 | 00% |
| 14. Quality of life issues | 1 | 00% |
| 15. Gas/energy prices | 2 | 00% |
| 16. Undecided/none | 38 | 05% |
| 17. Other | 21 | 03% |

Q3. Do you approve or disapprove of the job President Barack Obama is doing?

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Approve | 353 | 50% |
| 2. Disapprove | 256 | 37% |
| 3. Undecided | 88 | 13% |

Q4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Governor Ed Rendell is doing?

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Approve | 267 | 38% |
| 2. Disapprove | 371 | 53% |
| 3. Undecided | 61 | 09% |

Q5. Do you think Arlen Specter has done his job as United States Senator well enough to deserve reelection, or do you think it's time to give a new person a chance?

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Reelect | 217 | 31% |
| 2. New person | 411 | 59% |
| 3. Undecided | 71 | 10% |

Q6. Are you registered to vote as a Republican, Democrat, Independent or something else?

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Republican | 294 | 42% |
| 2. Democrat | 362 | 52% |
| 3. Independent/other | 38 | 05% |
| 4. Refuse | 6 | 01% |

Turning briefly to the next election for governor and United States Senator in 2010...

[ASK Q7A TO REPUBLICANS; AS Q7B TO DEMOCRATS]

Q7a. If the Republican primary election for governor were being held today and the candidates were Tom Corbett and Jim Gerlach (Ger-lack), for whom would you vote? (ROTATE NAMES)

[N=294]

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Corbett | 106 | 36% |
| 2. Gerlach | 38 | 13% |
| 3. None/other | 4 | 01% |
| 4. Undecided | 146 | 50% |

Q7b. If the Democratic primary election for United States Senate were being held today, would you vote for Arlen Specter, Joe Sestack (Cess-tack), or someone else? (ROTATE NAMES)

[N=362]

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Specter | 160 | 44% |
| 2. Sestack | 58 | 16% |
| 3. None/other | 64 | 18% |
| 4. Undecided | 81 | 22% |

Q8. If the general election for United States Senate were being held today, would you vote for Pat Toomey, the Republican, or Arlen Specter, the Democrat? (ROTATE NAMES)

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Toomey | 288 | 41% |
| 2. Specter | 297 | 42% |
| 3. None/other | 31 | 04% |
| 4. Undecided | 81 | 12% |

Now, I have a few more questions for demographic purposes and then we'll be through...

Q9. What is your approximate age according to the following brackets: 18-29, 30-44, 45-59 or 60 and over?

| | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|
| 1. 18-29 | 36 | 05% |
| 2. 30-44 | 130 | 19% |
| 3. 45-59 | 294 | 42% |
| 4. 60+ | 232 | 33% |
| 5. Refuse | 8 | 01% |

Q10. Which of the following best describes the way in which you voted in the last general election - straight Republican, mostly Republican, a few more Republicans than Democrats, about equal, a few more Democrats than Republicans, mostly Democrat or straight Democrat? (ONE ANSWER ONLY)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Straight Republican | 87 | 12% |
| 2. Mostly Republican | 134 | 19% |
| 3. More Republicans than Democrats | 59 | 08% |
| 4. About equal | 93 | 13% |
| 5. More Democrats than Republicans | 45 | 06% |
| 6. Mostly Democrat | 143 | 20% |
| 7. Straight Democrat | 122 | 17% |
| 8. Undecided | 4 | 01% |
| 9. Refuse | 12 | 02% |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE SURVEY. HAVE A GOOD DAY.

Gender:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|
| 1. Male | 336 | 48% |
| 2. Female | 364 | 52% |
-

Area:

- | | | |
|-----|-------|---|
| 33 | (05%) | 1. Northwest [Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Venango, Warren, Forest] |
| 75 | (11%) | 2. Southwest [Lawrence, Beaver, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland, Indiana, Armstrong, Butler] |
| 86 | (12%) | 3. The "T"/Central [Jefferson, Elk, McKean, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Centre, Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Huntingdon, Blair, Potter, Tioga, Bradford, Susquehanna, Wyoming, Sullivan, Lycoming, Clinton, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Mifflin, Juniata] |
| 88 | (13%) | 4. Northeast/Lehigh Valley [Luzerne, Carbon, Monroe, Schuylkill, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne] |
| 114 | (16%) | 5. South Central [Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Berks] |
| 158 | (23%) | 6. Southeast [Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks] |
| 79 | (11%) | 7. Allegheny County |
| 67 | (10%) | 8. Philadelphia |
-

The margin of error for a sample size of 700 is +/-3.70%

The margin of error for a sample size of 294 is +/-5.71%

The margin of error for a sample size of 362 is +/-5.15%
