

# The Temple Poll

## Corbett Has Advantage In PA Attorney General Race, But Outcome Will Hang On Coattails

With a week to go until Election Day, Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett is substantially better known and more positively evaluated among likely voters than his Democratic opponent, John Morganelli. Forty-seven percent of likely voters say they know too little about Morganelli to offer an opinion about him, compared to 27 percent who say the same about Corbett. Those willing to express an opinion about at least one candidate prefer Corbett by almost two to one. Likely voters hold a higher opinion of Corbett than of Morganelli by 35 percent to 19 percent.

“Mr. Corbett has made a bigger and better impression on the electorate to this point,” said Michael Hagen, associate professor of political science and director of the Temple Poll. “But the outcome will turn on the last-minute decisions of voters who don’t yet prefer one candidate to the other.”

Likely voters with no preference in the attorney general race lean heavily to Democratic candidates in other races and in general. Fifty-six percent identify with the Democratic Party, just 35 percent with the Republican Party. In the presidential race, 58 percent support Senator Obama and 35 percent support Senator McCain. And when asked which party’s candidate they will support in their U.S. House race, 51 percent say the Democrat and 30 percent say the Republican.

“Partisanship and the coattails of the presidential candidates and others on the ballot will be crucial in the attorney general race, and those factors are likely to benefit Mr. Morganelli,” said Hagen.

<b>Candidate evaluations</b> <i>(percent of likely voters)</i>	Corbett	Morganelli
Favorable	35	16
Neutral	22	22
Unfavorable	14	13
Don't know	27	47
Prefer Corbett	35	
No preference	46	
Prefer Morganelli	19	

<i>Likely voters with no preference between Corbett and Morganelli</i>	Percent
<u>Party identification</u>	
Democrats, strong	29
Democrats, not strong	14
Democrats, leaning	13
Independents	8
Republicans, leaning	6
Republicans, not strong	13
Republicans, strong	16
<u>Presidential vote intention</u>	
Obama	58
McCain	35
Undecided	6
<u>Congressional vote intention</u>	
Democratic candidate	51
Republican candidate	30
Undecided	17

No Democrat has been elected attorney general in Pennsylvania since the office became an elected position in 1980.

The Temple Poll is sponsored by Temple University's Institute for Public Affairs. For this Poll, a randomly selected sample of 1,001 Pennsylvanians registered to vote were interviewed by telephone between October 20 and 26, 2008. Once the interviewing was complete, the data were weighted to correct for unequal probabilities of selection and response, and to ensure that the demographic characteristics of the sample match the population of registered voters in Pennsylvania. The sample included 761 likely voters, identified on the basis of their voting history and engagement with the campaign. With samples of these sizes, the overall margin of error attributable to sampling is 3.1 percentage points for the sample of registered voters, 3.6 percentage points for the sample of likely voters. The sampling error for subgroups is larger.

For more information about the Poll, contact Dr. Michael G. Hagen, associate professor of political science and director of the Temple Poll ([michael.hagen@temple.edu](mailto:michael.hagen@temple.edu), 215 204 7798, or 610 662 7910) or Dr. Joseph P. McLaughlin, director of the Institute for Public Affairs and assistant dean for external affairs for the College of Liberal Arts ([jmclau@temple.edu](mailto:jmclau@temple.edu), 215 204 5059, or 215 510 3289).

Additional results from the Poll will be released over the next several days.