

Rare Pickup in House for Democrats

Just days before the Delaware election, Republican Glen Urquhart trails by 17 percentage points for the seat in the US House of Representatives being vacated by Republican Mike Castle. According to the most recent poll by [Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind](#), Democrat and former Lt. Gov. John Carney leads Urquhart 53%-36% among Delaware's likely voters.

Carney has a favorable rating of better than two-to-one (46%-21%) and is by far the better known of the two candidates. Urquhart is unknown by 20% of likely voters and another 23% are unsure or have a mixed opinion of him.

While Carney leads by 17 points, the poll also shows that Delaware's voters prefer a generic Democrat to a Republican by an 11-point margin (48%-37%), and by a similar margin they prefer the U.S. House of Representatives be controlled by Democrats (47%-37%). "Carney is outperforming the Democratic Party brand," said Peter Woolley, professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University and director of the poll. "Carney's lead in this race shows the strength his own name brand over the weakness this year of the Democratic Party brand."

Meanwhile, Urquhart, like his Republican counterpart running for U.S. Senate, does well among those who disapprove of the president (70%-19%), those who see the economy on the "wrong track" (61%-28%), pro-life voters (55%-34%) and those who like the Tea Party movement (76%-14%). "The risk of upsetting a primary race by running hard from the right, is that you hit a wall in the general election," said Woolley.

Further down the ballot, Beau Biden, unopposed by a Republican nominee, leads independent Doug Campbell 64%-26%, unchanged from earlier in the month.

Also, the race for state treasurer remains tight with 42% preferring Democrat Chip Flowers and 41% picking Republican Colin Bonini, while 17% are unsure. Early in the month, the two were neck and neck at 38% each, and 21% unsure.

And in the race for auditor of accounts, Republican incumbent Tom Wagner leads the Democrat, Richard Korn, by 46%-36%, a 10-point margin that has shrunk five points since early October when Wagner led Korn 46%-31%. Wagner leads downstate by 58%-27% but Korn runs ahead in New Castle County 43%-38%. "The down-ballot races will be affected first by voter turnout for the headliner race for Senate," said Woolley, "and second by the drop-off of voter interest and name recognition after people cast their vote for Senate."

Delaware's voters split on the question of whether the state is "moving in the right direction": 43% say it is, while 45% say it's "on the wrong track."

The [Fairleigh Dickinson University](#) poll of 797 randomly selected likely voters statewide in Delaware was conducted by telephone using both landlines and cell phones from Oct. 20 through Oct. 26 and has a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points.

Background Memo and Tables

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from October 20, 2010, through October 26, 2010, using a randomly selected sample of 797 likely voters statewide in Delaware. The sampling error for a population of 797 randomly selected respondents is +/- 3.5 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. At random, 3 of 4 respondents (594) were asked their preference among named candidates for the US House of Representatives and 1 of 4 respondents (202) were asked a generic party preference for the US House of Representatives yielding margins of error of +/- 4 and +/-7 percentage points respectively. Sample error for other subgroups varies with the size of the subgroup. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling error. This kind of error, which cannot be measured, arises from a number of factors including, but not limited to, non-response (eligible individuals refusing to be interviewed), question wording, the order in which questions are asked, and variations among interviewers. All PublicMind interviews are conducted by Opinion America, Inc. of Cedar Knolls, NJ. Professionally trained interviewers use a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection of land-line households is achieved through computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a land-line (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected. Landline households are supplemented with a separate, randomly selected sample of cell-phone-only-households, interviewed in the same time frame. The total sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age and gender.

Question: Now, thinking about Delaware... In your opinion, do you think things in Delaware are moving in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	All	Men	Women	Dem	Ind	Rep.	Oct. 5
Right direction	43%	45	40	63	29	18	42%
Wrong track	45%	45	45	26	52	71	44%
Unsure/Refused	12%	10	15	11	19	11	14%

Right /Wrong Direction trend

	Oct 08	Oct 07	Feb 07*	Oct 06	Sept 06*
<i>Right direction</i>	42%	47%	54%	56%	51%
<i>Wrong track</i>	49%	39%	30%	28%	31%
<i>Unsure/mixed</i>	9%	14%	16%	16%	19%

* registered voters

Question: Now I'm going ask about some people. If you haven't heard of one of them, just say so. Have you heard of ... [ROTATE LIST]? Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ... [MATCH ROTATION]? Would that be very or somewhat?

<i>Ask any three</i>	Haven't heard of	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Unsure/Mixed	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very unfavorable	N=
John Carney	7%	21%	25%	26%	12%	9%	797
Oct. 5	14	18	22	26	11	9	346
Glen Urquhart	20%	14%	17%	23%	13%	13%	797
Oct. 5	27	13	14	30	7	9	332

Question: There will also be an election for the U.S. House of Representatives. In that race, do you plan to vote for... or...? [If "unsure" ask: "which way do you lean?"]							
<i>[rotate names]</i>			Party ID			Region	Oct. 5
N=594	MoE = +/-4	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex
John Carney , the Democrat	50						
+lean Carney	3						
Total	53%	86	32	11	61	43	51%
Glen Urquhart , the Republican	33						
+ lean Urquhart	3						
Total	36%	6	43	81	28	48	36%
Unsure	9%	8	20	7	10	8	10%
Earl Lofland/independent (VOL)	0%	--	--	--	--	--	0%
Brent Wangan/Libertarian (VOL)	0%	--	--	--	--	--	0%
Jeffrey Brown (VOL)	0%	--	--	--	--	--	0%
Other	1%	--	1	1	1	--	1%
Refused	1%	--	2	--	1	--	2%

On the issues...										
<i>[rotate names]</i>			Obama approval		Direction of Economy		Abortion		View of Tea Party	
N=202	MoE = +/- 7	All	App	Dis	Right	Wrong	Pro-life	Pro-choice	favorable	unfavorable
John Carney	53%	86	19	88	28	34	69	14	81	
Glen Urquhart	36%	5	70	6	61	55	21	76	10	
don't know (VOL)	9%	8	10	6	9	9	9	8	8	
All other (VOL)	1%	1	1	--	1	--	1	2	1	
Ref.	1%	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	

Question: There will also be an election for the US House of Representatives. In that race, do you plan to vote for the... or the...? [If "unsure" ask: "which way do you lean?"]						
<i>[rotate choice]</i>			Party ID			Region
N=202	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex
...the Democrat	47					
+ lean Democrat	1					
Total	48%	88	25	6	53	41
... the Republican	37					
+ lean Republican	--					
Total	37%	4	5	84	34	41
Neither	7%	2	29	9	7	8
Other (VOL)	1%	1	9	--	2	--
Unsure	6%	5	31	2	4	11
Ref.	--					

Question: And in the race for Attorney General of Delaware... If the election were held today, would you vote for ... or ...? [If "unsure" ask: "which way do you lean?"]							
[rotate names]	All	Party ID			Region		Oct. 5
		Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex	
Beau Biden , the Democrat	63						64
+ lean Biden	1						1
Total	64%	88	49	34	69	57	65%
Doug Campbell , the independent	24						24
+ lean Campbell	2						1
Total	26%	7	29	53	23	29	25%
Unsure	10%	6	22	12	8	13	8%
Other/Ref.	--						2%

Question: And in the race for State Treasurer... If the election were held today, would you vote for ... or ...? [If "unsure" ask: "which way do you lean?"]							
[rotate name]	All	Party ID			Region		Oct. 5
		Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex	
Chip Flowers , the Democrat	38						34
+ lean Flowers	4						4
Total	42%	71	20	5	48	33	38%
Colin Bonini , the Republican	37						36
+ lean Bonini	4						2
Total	41%	13	43	81	34	51	38%
Unsure	17%	15	36	13	17	16	21%
Other/ref.	1%	1	1	--	1	1	3%

Question: And in the race for Auditor of Accounts... If the election were held today, would you vote for ... or ...? [If "unsure" ask: "which way do you lean?"]							
[rotate name]	All	Party ID			Region		Oct. 5
		Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex	
Richard Korn , the Democrat	34						29
+ lean Korn	2						2
Total	36%	62	14	5	43	27	31%
Thomas Wagner , the Republican	44						45
+ lean Wagner	2						1
Total	46%	21	44	83	38	58	46%
Unsure	17%	16	40	11	18	15	20%
Other/ref.	1%	1	2	1	1	--	3%

Question: Would you prefer that the Democrats or Republicans control the US Congress after these elections? [If "unsure" ask: "which way do you lean?"]									
	All			Party			Region		Oct 5
		men	wom	Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex	
Democrats	47%	46	48	82	18	6	54	38	45%
Republicans	37%	39	35	6	33	84	31	45	40%
Neither/other (vol)	11%	10	11	7	35	9	9	13	7%
Don't Know (vol)	4%	4	5	5	14	1	6	3	8%

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Question Wording and Order

US1-2 [Released Oct. 28, 2010]

DE1. Now, thinking about Delaware... In your opinion, do you think things in Delaware are moving in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction

Wrong track

DK/Unsure [DON'T READ]

DE2. Now I'm going ask about some people. If you haven't heard of one of them, just say so. Have you heard of ... [ROTATE LIST]? Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of ... [MATCH ROTATION]? Would that be very or somewhat? [ROTATE NAMES]

Chris Coons

Christine O'Donnell

John Carney

Glen Urquhart

Haven't heard of ... [SKIP TO NEXT NAME]

Very Favorable

Somewhat favorable (and favorable DK)

DK/Unsure [VOL]

Somewhat unfavorable (and unfavorable DK)

Very unfavorable

[DE3 released Oct. 28, 2010....]

[INSTRUCTION: ASK 3 of 4 at random DE4A and 1 of 4 at random DE4B]

DE4A. There will also be an election for the U.S. House of Representatives. In that race, do you plan to vote for... or...? [ROTATE NAMES]

Glen Urquhart, the Republican

John Carney, the Democrat

Earl Lofland/independent (VOL)

Brent Wangen/Libertarian (VOL)

Jeffrey Brown (VOL)

Other (VOL)

Don't know [ASK: which way do you lean?]

DE4B. There will also be an election for the US House of Representatives. In that race, do you plan to vote for the... or the...?

ROTATE

Democrat
Republican
Neither/other (VOL)
Don't know [ASK: which way do you lean?]

DE5. And in the race for Attorney General of Delaware... If the election were held today, would you vote for ... or ...?

[ROTATE NAMES]
Beau Biden, the Democrat
Doug Campbell, the independent
Don't know [ASK:which way do you lean?]

DE6. And in the race for State Treasurer... If the election were held today, would you vote for ... or ...?

[ROTATE NAMES]
Chip Flowers, the Democrat
Colin Bonini, the Republican
Don't know [ASK:which way do you lean?]

DE7. And in the race for Auditor of Accounts... If the election were held today, would you vote for ... or ...? [ROTATE NAMES]

Richard Korn, the Democrat
Thomas Wagner, the Republican
Don't know [ASK:which way do you lean?]

DE8. [released Oct. 28, 2010]

DE9. Would you prefer that the Democrats or Republicans control the US Congress after these elections?

Democrats
Republicans
Neither/other (vol)
Don't Know (vol)

Sample Characteristics

weighted %	
49	male
51	female
6	cell only
78	White
14	AA
2	Hisp
1	Asian
5	Other/ref.
9	18-29
20	30-39
33	40-59
36	60+
25	65+
40+13	Dem+ lean D
24+12	Rep + lean R
37-13-	Ind/Other-
12=12	leaners
16	KENT
25	Sussex
59	New Castle