

Delaware Republicans Losing House Seat

Likely voters in Delaware split 45%-40% on whether they prefer to have the U.S. Congress controlled by the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, suggesting that the First State's open congressional seat might be hotly contested. But according to the most recent poll by [Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind](#), Democrat and former Lt. Gov. John Carney is leading Republican Glen Urquhart by 51%-36% for the House seat soon to be vacated by Republican Mike Castle.

"Reputation and name brand matter," said Peter Woolley, professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University and director of the poll, "and it matters a little more in Delaware than in most states," he said. While Carney predictably leads comfortably in New Castle County (56-32), he runs even with Urquhart (43-43) in the more Republican counties of Kent and Sussex.

"The idea of wanting a change in party control in Washington doesn't line up neatly with preferences in each congressional district," said Woolley. "Candidates matter, not just parties."

But it is Beau Biden who wins the popularity contest in the state promoted as the Small Wonder, with 61% of likely voters offering a favorable opinion of him against 23% with an unfavorable opinion. Biden's only opponent for attorney general, independent Doug Campbell, is unknown by 81% of voters and another 12% have no opinion of him. Biden leads Campbell 65%-25%.

In the race for state treasurer, Democrat Chip Flowers and Republican Colin Bonini are neck and neck at 38%-38%, with 21% unsure. Flowers leads in New Castle by 41%-34%, while Bonini leads downstate by 44-33. "Don't look for many of the undecided to break," said Woolley. "Lots of these unsure voters will resolve their dilemma by not casting a vote in this particular race."

Likewise, one of five voters (20%) is undecided in the race for auditor of accounts where Republican incumbent Tom Wagner leads the Democrat Richard Korn by 46%-31%. Wagner leads downstate by a 2-to-1 margin, 55-24 and in New Castle County by 42-35.

Voters split on the question of how things are going in Delaware: 42% say the state is "moving in the right direction," while 44% say it's "on the wrong track." Nonetheless, Gov. Jack Markell comes out ahead with 57% approving of the job he is doing and 22% disapproving, better than a 2-to-1 ratio. Democrats approve of Markell by a margin better than 4-to-1 (68-15) and he also runs well ahead with independents (46-25) and Republicans (47-30). "Delaware's Democratic governor does better among Republicans in Delaware than many other governors do among all voters," observed Woolley.

The [Fairleigh Dickinson University](#) poll of 801 randomly selected likely voters statewide in Delaware was conducted by telephone from Sept. 27 through Oct. 3 and has a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points.

Methodology, questions, and tables on the web at: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>
Radio actualities at 201.692.2846 For more information, please call 973.443.8661

Background Memo and Tables

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from September 27, 2010, through October 3, 2010, using a randomly selected sample of 801 likely voters statewide in Delaware. The sampling error for a population of 801 randomly selected respondents is +/- 3.5 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. Sample error for 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.
Right direction	42%	40	44	58	28	27
Wrong track	44%	46	41	31	51	57
Unsure/Refused	14%	14	14	10	21	16

Right /Wrong Direction trend

	Oct 08	Oct 07	Feb 07*	Oct 06	Sept 06*
Right direction	42%	47%	54%	56%	51%
Wrong track	49%	39%	30%	28%	31%
Unsure/mixed	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/no opinion	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very unfavorable	N=
Beau Biden	5%	37%	24%	11%	11%	12%	347
Doug Campbell	81	1	3	12	2	1	347
Jack Markell	10	24	30	16	11	9	332
Matt Denn	47	7	15	25	3	3	340
Tom Carper	12	25	28	19	10	7	359
John Carney	14	18	22	26	11	9	346
Glen Urquhart	27	13	14	30	7	9	332

Question: There will also be an election for the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington. For Congress, do you plan to vote for... or...?

[rotate names]	All	Party ID			Region	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex
John Carney , the Democrat +lean Carney	49 2					
Total	51%	85	40	12	56	43
Glen Urquhart , the Republican Lean Urquhart	34 2					
Total	36%	5	37	76	32	43
Unsure	10%	9	20	10	10	11
Earl Lofland/independent (VOL)	0%	--	--	--	--	--
Brent Wangen/Libertarian (VOL)	0%	--	--	--	--	--
Jeffrey Brown (VOL)	0%	--	--	--	--	--
Other	1%	--	--	2	--	1
Refused	2%	1	3	1	1	2

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	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex
Beau Biden , the Democrat + lean Biden	64 1					
Total	65%	91	51	38	70	57
Doug Campbell , the independent + lean Campbell	24 1					
Total	25%	6	33	47	21	32
Unsure	8%	3	13	13	7	9
Ref.	2%	1	3	2	2	3

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

[rotate name]	All	Party ID			Region	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex
Chip Flowers , the Democrat + lean Flowers	34 4					
Total	38%	67	19	8	41	33
Colin Bonini , the Republican + lean Bonini	36 2					
Total	38%	11	28	74	34	44
Unsure	21%	20	48	16	23	19
Other	3%	2	5	2	2	3

Question: And in the race for Auditor of Accounts... If the election were held today, would you vote for ... or ...?

[rotate name]	All	Party ID			Region	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex
Richard Korn , the Democrat + lean Korn	29 2					
Total	31%	57	15	4	35	24
Thomas Wagner , the Republican + lean Wagner	45 1					
Total	46%	21	38	79	42	55
Unsure	20%	19	42	15	20	19
Other	3%	2	4	2	3	3

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jack Markell is doing as governor of Delaware?

	All	men	wom	Party			Region	
				Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex
Approve	57%	58	57	68	46	47	62	49
Disapprove	22%	26	18	15	25	30	17	30
Mixed/unsure	20%	16	24	17	28	23	21	22

Question: Would you prefer that the Democrats or Republicans control the US Congress after these elections?

	All	men	wom	Party			Region	
				Dem	Ind	Rep	New Castle	Kent & Sussex
Democrats	45%	44	45	84	28	2	50	36
Republicans	40%	43	37	5	29	85	36	47
Neither/other (vol)	7%	6	8	6	21	5	7	7
Don't Know (vol)	8%	6	10	4	22	8	8	10

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Question Wording and Order

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?

[ASK Coons AND O'Donnell AND ANY THREE; ROTATE NAMES]

Chris Coons

Christine O'Donnell

Beau Biden

Doug Campbell

Jack Markell

Matt Denn

Tom Carper

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 held for release on Oct. 6, 2010....]

DE4. There will also be an election for the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington. For Congress, 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?]

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. Held for release on Oct. 6, 2010]

DE9. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jack Markell is doing as governor of Delaware?

Approve

Disapprove

Neither [vol] or Neutral [vol]

DK [vol] or both [vol]