

STATE NAVIGATE POLL BRIEFING

PENNSYLVANIA

2026 GENERAL ELECTION - STATE SENATE DISTRICT 36

SD-36 James Andrew Malone (D) · Tom Jones (R)

GOVERNOR Josh Shapiro (D) · Stacy Garrity (R)

Likely-voter survey of the November 3, 2026 general election · Northern Lancaster County

AT A GLANCE



ELECTION DATE

November 3, 2026



FIELD DATES

Sep 11 - Sep 13, 2026



SAMPLE SIZE

n = 915 LV



MARGIN OF ERROR

±3.2%

Pennsylvania State Senate District 36 (Northern Lancaster Co.) - weighted to the likely-voter electorate

METHODOLOGY

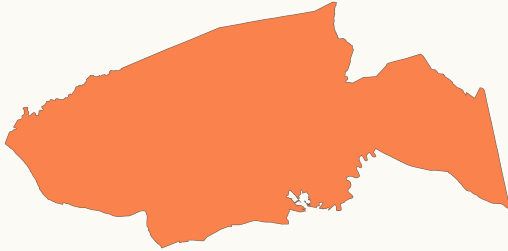
State Navigate surveyed 915 likely voters in Pennsylvania's 36th State Senate District from September 11-13, 2026, with an oversample of voters living in the 41st State House District. Text messages were sent to voters by AllianceForge, which directed them to an online survey hosted on the SurveyMonkey platform. The sample was drawn from a voter file provided by L2 and results were weighted by gender, race, age, education, party registration, and State House district to reflect the likely November 2026 general electorate. The margin of error is 3.2% at a 95% confidence level. This survey was designed and conducted by the State Navigate Polling Team, and was not sponsored by any candidate or candidate's committee.

DISTRICT DNA • SD-36 (LV)



STATE SENATE DISTRICT 36

A State Senate district in northern Lancaster County that flipped to the Democrats in a 2025 special election. Democratic incumbent James Andrew Malone is running for re-election against Republican Tom Jones.



OUR POLL SAYS...

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RECENT ELECTION RESULTS IN SD-36

2024 President: Trump +15.4



2022 Governor: Shapiro +0.2



2022 U.S. Senate: Oz +13.3

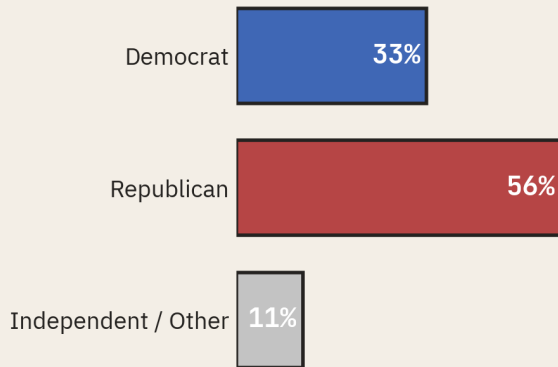


2025 SD-36 Special: Malone +0.9

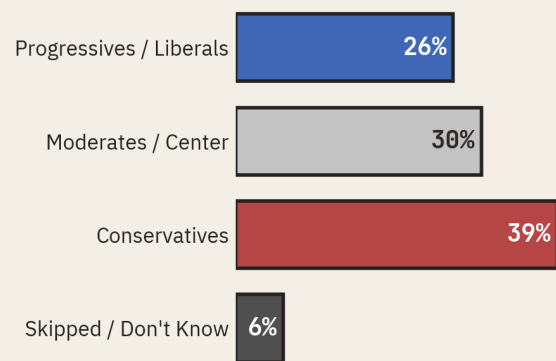


DISTRICT DNA - SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

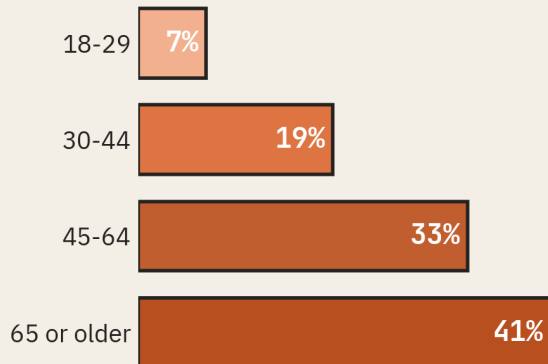
PARTY REGISTRATION



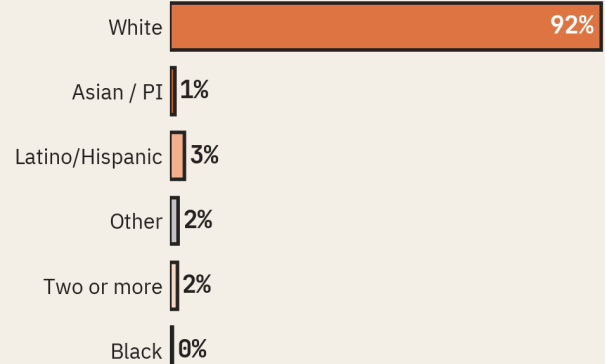
IDEOLOGICAL SELF-ID (0-10)



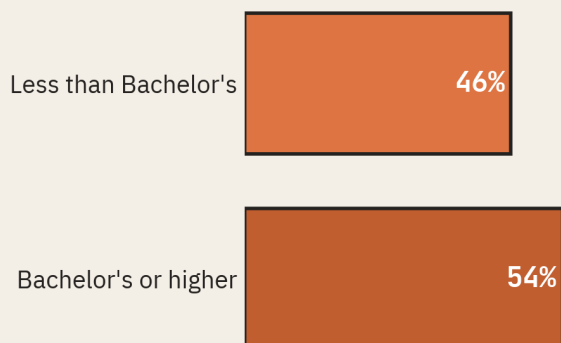
AGE



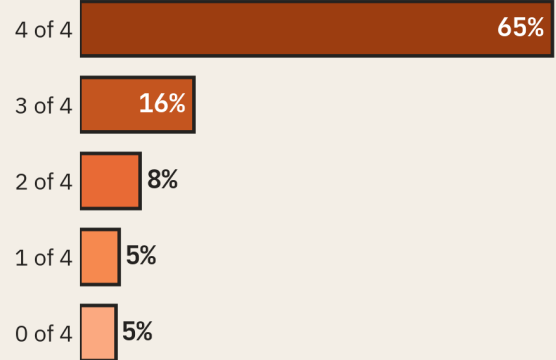
RACE / ETHNICITY



EDUCATION



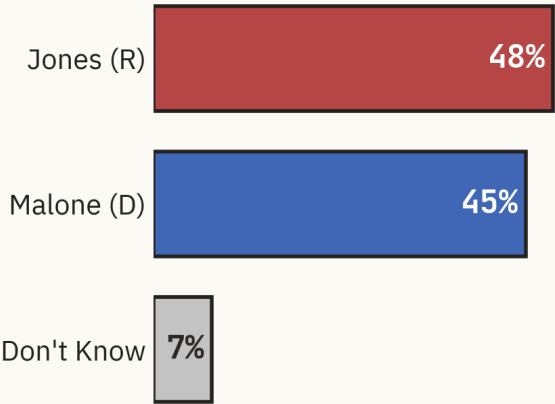
VOTE HISTORY (LAST 4 GENERALS)



THE SNAPSHOTS

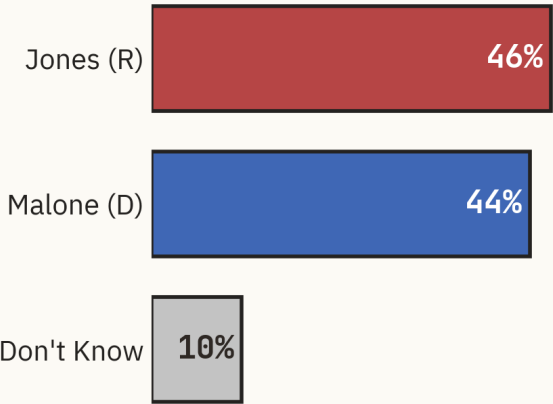
STATE SENATE (SD-36) WITH LEANERS

If the election for Pennsylvania State Senate District 36 were held today, which candidate would you vote for? (undecideds allocated via leaner follow-up)



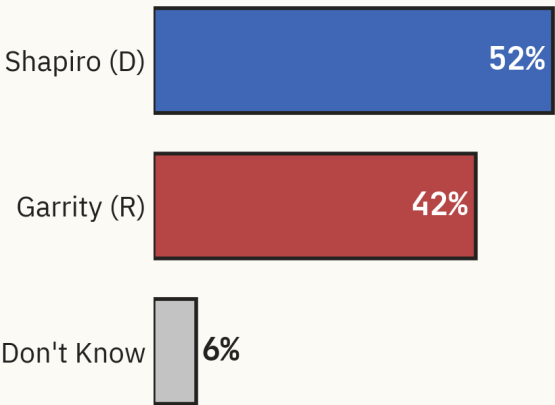
STATE SENATE (SD-36) BEFORE UNDECIDED PUSH

If the election for Pennsylvania State Senate District 36 were held today, which candidate would you vote for? (initial ballot, before leaner follow-up)



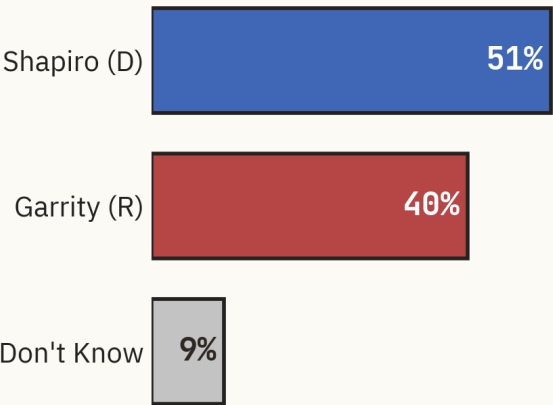
GOVERNOR WITH LEANERS

If the election for Governor were held today, which candidate would you vote for? (undecideds allocated via leaner follow-up)



GOVERNOR BEFORE UNDECIDED PUSH

If the election for Governor were held today, which candidate would you vote for? (initial ballot, before leaner follow-up)

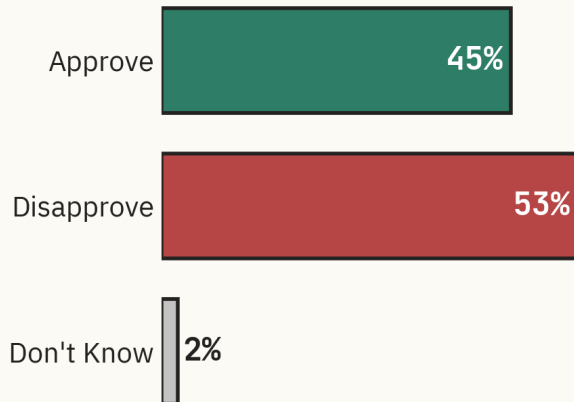


Tom Jones (R) leads 48-45 with leaners in SD-36 (a 3-point margin), with 7% undecided. Governor Shapiro leads the top of the ticket 52-42.

EXECUTIVE APPROVALS

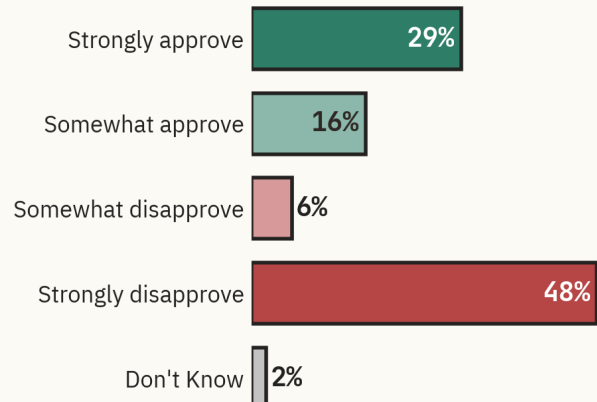
PRESIDENT TRUMP JOB APPROVAL

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?



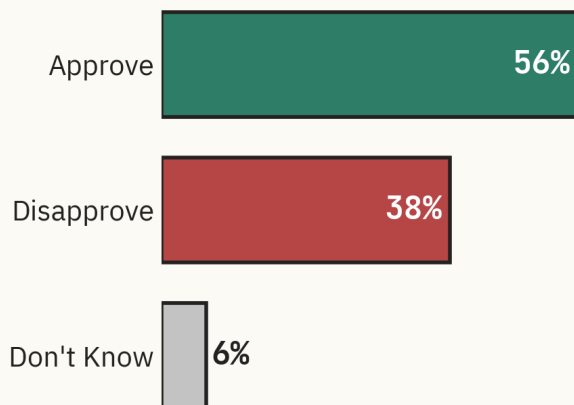
PRESIDENT TRUMP JOB APPROVAL (DETAILED)

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?



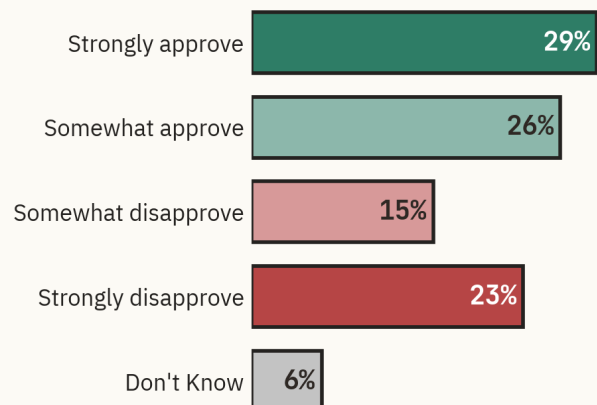
GOV. SHAPIRO JOB APPROVAL

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Josh Shapiro is doing as Governor?



GOV. SHAPIRO JOB APPROVAL (DETAILED)

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Josh Shapiro is doing as Governor?



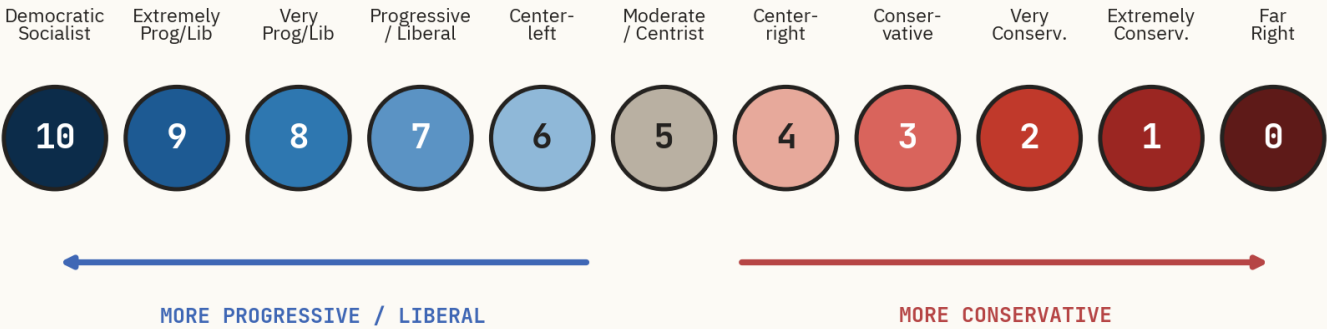
President Trump is underwater in SD-36 (45% approve / 53% disapprove), while Gov. Shapiro sits at 56% approve / 38% disapprove. The detailed breakdowns show how much of each number is strongly held versus soft.

SURVEY IDEOLOGY

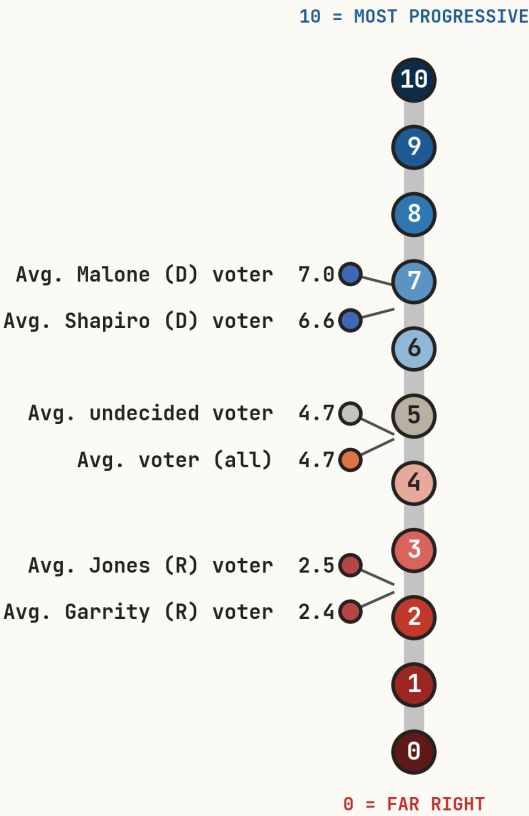
THE SELF-PLACEMENT SCALE

IDEOLOGICAL SELF-PLACEMENT SCALE

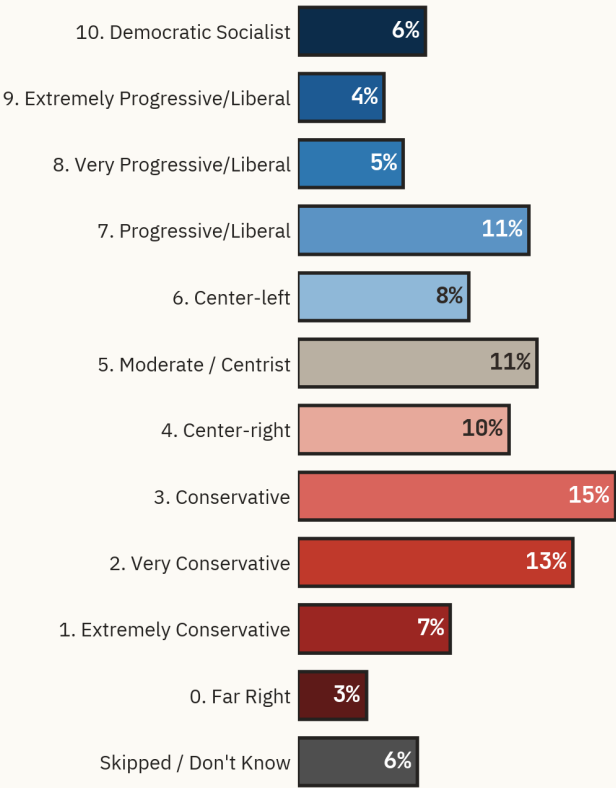
Place yourself — and each candidate — somewhere on the 0–10 scale.



AVERAGE BY VOTER GROUP



DETAILED SELF-PLACEMENT (ALL RESPONDENTS)

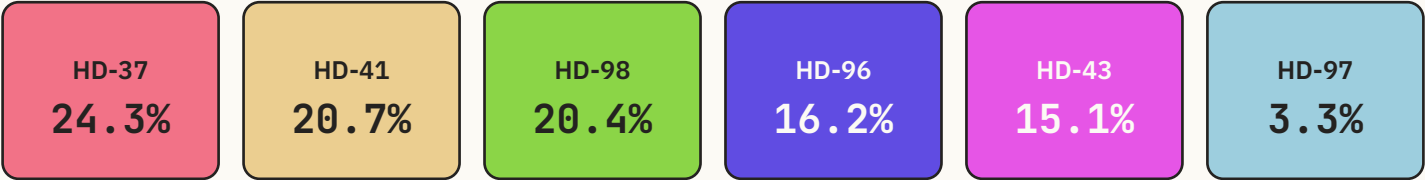


Ideology is respondents' self-placement on a 0-10 scale (10 = most progressive, 0 = far right). Detailed shares are of all respondents; 5.7% skipped the question. Group averages are computed among those who did place themselves (overall mean 4.7).

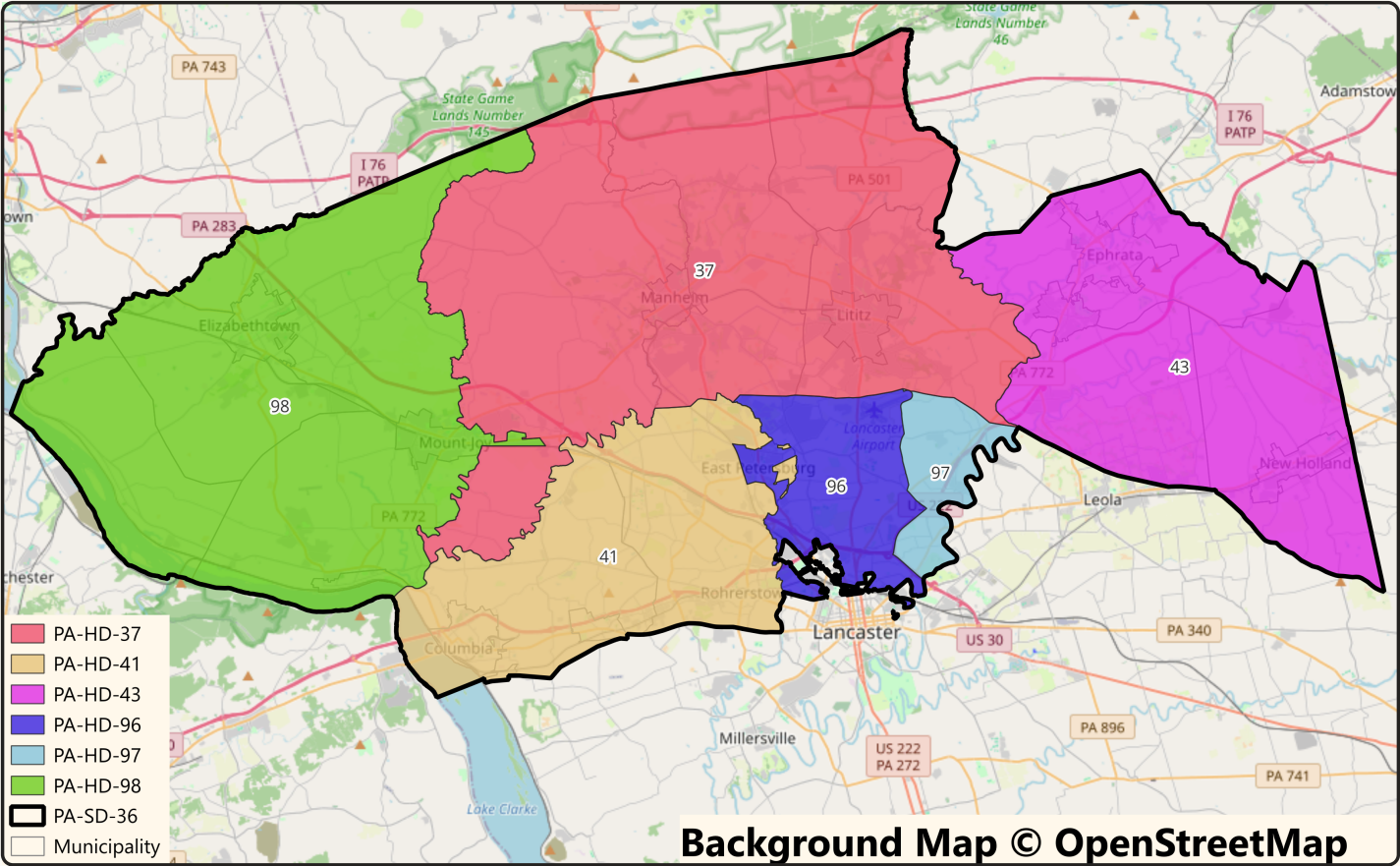
APPENDIX · REGIONS & WEIGHTS

State Senate District 36 was weighted by region. Cards show each region's share of the weighted likely-voter sample. The map shows the regions that make up the district.

REGION WEIGHTS · SHARE OF WEIGHTED SAMPLE



SD-36 BY REGION



Regions that make up State Senate District 36.

TEAM NOTES & ANALYSIS

The following analysis from the State Navigate polling team examines the forces shaping this race.

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE ON EXECUTIVE APPROVALS

A Tale of Two Approvals

SD-36 voters split on Trump (45% approve / 53% disapprove) and back Josh Shapiro (56% / 38%). The 46% who disapprove of Trump and approve of Shapiro are overwhelmingly Malone's, breaking 90-5, while the 9% who approve of both are Jones's at 80-8. Unlike some districts, the double-haters here, the 5% who disapprove of both Trump and Shapiro, actually lean Republican, favoring Jones 60-18 and Garrity 55-23. Malone can't count on the disaffected middle to bail him out; he has to win back Shapiro voters who are crossing over.

MARY RADCLIFFE ON VOTE METHOD

The Blue Mirage is alive and well in Lancaster County

While there's been some evidence that vote method is becoming less politically polarized nationally, that doesn't appear to be the case in SD-36. Respondents that plan to vote by mail, about a fifth of the sample, break more than 2-to-1 in favor of Malone, while the three quarters of respondents that plan to vote on election day favor Jones by 13 percentage points. This will matter on Election Day, as early returns typically comprise more mail ballots, so the results should shift over the course of the evening.

MICHAEL FOLEY ON AREA CODES

We called phones from different area codes: it matters much in SD-36

We know the area codes of the phones we dialed. Unlike in Northeast Pennsylvania's SD-40, SD-36 likely voters with local Lancaster-area 717 and 223 area codes were much more likely to vote for Republican candidate Tom Jones (51%) than transplants who kept their old other area codes (39%).

State Navigate is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to becoming a compass for state legislatures everywhere. Our bipartisan polling team consists of alumni of FiveThirtyEight, political scientists, and polling experts. Last year, State Navigate was the most accurate pollster in the country for the 2025 election cycle. To learn more about our poll sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#)! Public polling on state governance, especially state legislatures, is rare, so we try to make our polling as affordable as possible for sponsors to help fill this gap.

OUR POLLING TEAM

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chaz was the Director of CAnalysis.com, the only website dedicated to state legislative election forecasting. He has successfully forecasted thousands of state legislative elections since 2017 during his senior year in high school. Chaz leads the polling team and works with them on survey design, field work, weighting, and written analysis.

MICHAEL FOLEY

ELECTIONS COORDINATOR

Michael is an expert in GIS technology and has experience in coding and scraping technology. He is a graduate of Fordham University and the University of Chicago Law School. In our polling, Michael conducts fieldwork, setting up surveys and texts, and exports/designs crosstabs.

MARY RADCLIFFE

DATA MANAGER

Mary Radcliffe is a mathematician and data analyst from Pittsburgh. She earned a PhD in Mathematics from the University of California, San Diego in 2012. Mary has previously worked as a Teaching Professor at Carnegie Mellon University and Researcher at FiveThirtyEight. In our polling, Mary helps with survey design, keeps our polling operations ethical, creates topline, and writes analyses of results.

G. ELLIOTT MORRIS

POLLING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Elliott Morris is a data-driven journalist and author living in Washington, DC. He's the author of STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: How Polls Work and Why We Need Them. Elliott was most recently the Editorial Director of Data Analytics at ABC News, where he developed polling aggregation and election-forecasting models and managed the research and data visualization teams for ABC's data-journalism website FiveThirtyEight/538. In our polling, Elliott helps with survey design and writing weighting scripts.

NICHOLAS GOEDERT

POLLING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Nicholas / "Nick" is an assistant professor of Political Science at Virginia Tech with expertise focused on legislative elections and American politics. He is the author of GROUND WAR: Courts, Commissions, and the Fight over Partisan Gerrymanders (Oxford, 2022). He served as an expert witness in the Wisconsin redistricting case Whitford v. Gill. He holds a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton and a J.D. from Georgetown Law. In our polling, Nick helps with survey design and gives academic feedback.