



PENNSYLVANIA 18TH DISTRICT

**PASSENGER RAIL AND
TWO-PERSON CREW SURVEY
JANUARY, 2018**

Prepared by:

DFM Research

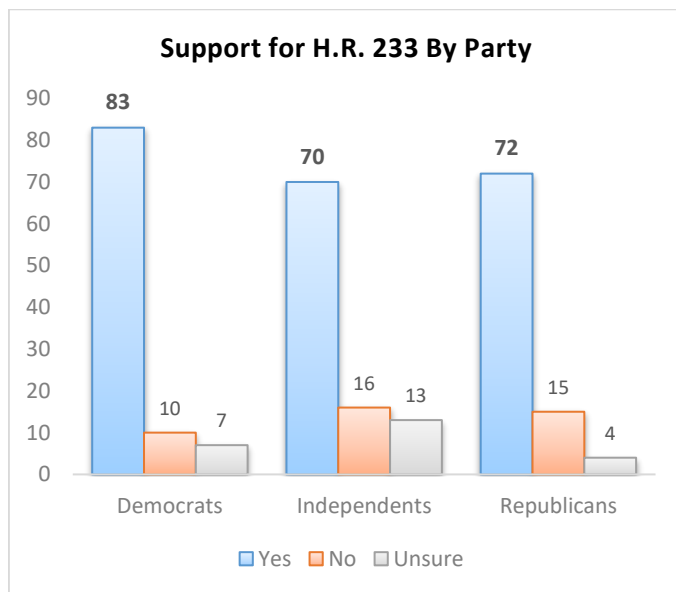
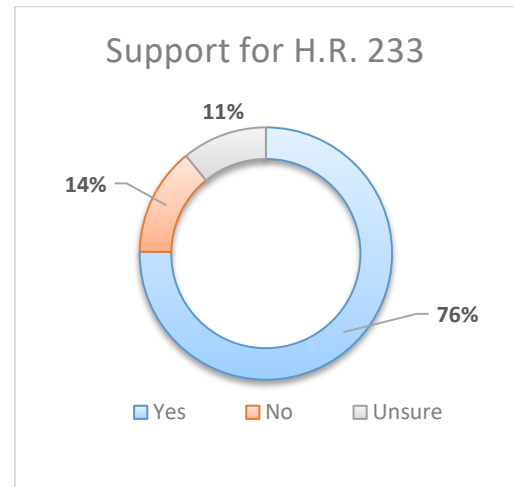
Saint Paul, Minnesota
651-387-5265

Executive Summary:

Voters in the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania strongly support legislation which would require a crew of two individuals to operate any freight train in the United States (introduced as H.R. 233 by Republican Congressman Don Young of Alaska). An over-whelming 76 percent of district residents support H.R. 233, to just 14 percent who reject the proposed legislation. The survey was conducted January 18-19, 2018 consisting of 384 random district voters using landline and cell phones. The margin of error is ± 5 percentage points.

Respondents were asked about passenger rail, rail funding, train derailment concerns, use of heavy/long truck on highways, as well as two-person crew legislation. Key survey findings include:

- By a 73-15 percent margin, voters in PA-18 support funding of Amtrak, even when told the federal government subsidizes passenger rail to the tune of \$1 billion per year.
- Only four percent of voters want to eliminate rail service between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia; 49 percent favor increasing train service from the current one train per day.
- Voter overwhelmingly oppose a law that would allow heavier and longer commercial trucks on highways; 75 percent oppose an increase, including 53 percent who indicate they strongly oppose. Just 16 percent support a law to increase commercial truck weights and/or lengths.



A key piece of federal legislation for SMART Transportation Division is H.R. 233, the Safe Freight Act, which would require a crew of two on all freight trains. Support in the 18th District (as all past surveys around the country have shown) is strongly in favor of the legislation, with 74 percent to pass legislation, to just 14 percent in opposition.

Rail safety is not a partisan issue; 72 percent of self-identified Republican, 70 percent of independents and 82 percent of Democrats support passage of H.R. 233. The only demographic group with support below 70 percent are voters under the age of 40 (68 percent in favor).

Bottom line, no matter the age, education level gender, partisan inclination or where one lives in the district, Pennsylvania 18th District voters support passage of federal legislation requiring a crew of two on all freight trains, funding for Amtrak to maintain or increase passenger rail service and strongly oppose heavier or longer commercial freight trucks on highways.

Methodology:

The results presented are based on a stratified random sample of 384 voters (screen of residents who self-indicated that they voted in all or most elections, all other categories survey was terminated) in the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. The sample was stratified by three geographic regions to ensure a representative sample; all calls were conducted by live callers using landline and cell phones. The geographic region distribution was:

Allegheny County	43 percent
Westmorland Counties	33 percent
Washington & Greene Counties	24 percent

After the numbers were stratified into the appropriate region, telephone numbers were selected at random using a skip pattern to guarantee interviews were distributed throughout the region. Each number in the stratified sample had the same non-zero chance of being selected for an interview.

Telephone interviews were conducted by trained staff of KGS Research of Las Vegas, Nevada, using a computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) system for landline phones. Cell phone interviews are dialed manually to comply with the 1991 Telemarketing Consumer Protection Act. To ensure everyone in the household would have an equal chance of being selected, callers would ask to interview the resident over the age of 18 who had the most recent birthday.

Final results are weighted based on gender, age, and education to conform to the approximate district voting population based on U.S. Census Bureau demographic data and past elections.

<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>		<u>Education</u>	
Male	47%	18-39	17%	High School/Less	21%
Female	53%	40-64	49%	Some College/AA	34%
		65+	34%	Bachelor/Graduate	45%

The final results are subject to sampling error, which is the difference between results obtained from the survey and those that would be obtained if every adult was interviewed in the district. The margin of error is ± 5.0 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence level; meaning that in 19 out of 20 times, the individual responses would be within the margin of error (confidence interval). For example, if a question produced a final result of 50 percent, the confidence interval would be between 45 to 55 percent. Where appropriate in the survey, question and answer choices are randomized to help reduce bias and due to rounding and results may not equal 100 percent.

Project management and final analysis of the data was completed by Dean Mitchell of DFM Research based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. In addition to his 27 years of political experience, Dean has completed course work in survey techniques and statistics as part of his Master in Public Policy (MPP) degree from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Topline

<u>Interviews:</u>	384 voters by live caller from Stone Research Services of Indianapolis, Indiana
<u>Margin of Error:</u>	± 5.0 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence
<u>Interview Dates:</u>	January 18-19, 2018
<u>Sample:</u>	Landline and cell phone sample. Random digit numbers (24,000 residential landlines and 8,000 mobile phones) provided by KGS Research. Phone numbers were stratified into three distinct PA-18 regions by county to ensure geographic balance. Data weighted by gender, age, education. Voter screen for respondents who indicated they voted in all or most elections.
<u>Survey Sponsor:</u>	SMART Transportation Division's Pennsylvania State Legislative Board

Q1: Generally speaking, do you think the country is moving in the right direction, or is the country off on the wrong track?

Right Direction	43%
Wrong Track	47
(VOL) Unsure	10

Q2: And generally speaking, do you think Southwest Pennsylvania is moving in the right direction, or is Southwest Pennsylvania off on the wrong track?

Right Direction	45%
Wrong Track	34
(VOL) Unsure	21

Q3: I'm now going to read you some names of public figures. For each one, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion, and if you never heard of them before, just let me know.

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Neutral (VOL)</u>	<u>Never Heard Of</u>
a: Donald Trump	48%	49	3	0
b: Bob Casey	51	32	13	4
c: Pat Toomey	37	46	12	5
d: Lou Barletta	6	5	9	80
e: Tom Wolf	45	44	6	5
f: Tim Murphy	32	41	16	11
g: Conor Lamb	19	10	16	55
h: Rick Saccone	28	17	20	35

Q4: Generally speaking, do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove the job Donald Trump is doing as President of the United States?

Strongly approve	28%	49 approve
Somewhat approve	21	
Somewhat disapprove	8	47 disapprove
Strongly disapprove	39	
(VOL) Unsure / Neutral	3	

Q5: As you may know, in your Congressional District there is a special election on March 13th to fill the vacant seat of former Rep. Tim Murphy. If the election was held today in Pennsylvania's 18th District, would you vote for Conor Lamb the Democrat or Rick Saccone the Republican?

Conor Lamb	38%
Rick Saccone	41
(VOL) Undecided	21

I now have a few questions on transportation issues here in Pennsylvania

Q6: I now want to ask a few questions about Amtrak. Currently Amtrak has one daily passenger train route running from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia. When it comes to passenger rail service here in Western Pennsylvania, which best fits your view?

Passenger rail should increase to 2 or more daily trains	49%
Passenger rail should remain at 1 train	24
Passenger rail should be eliminated	4
(VOL) Unsure	23

Q7: Critics of Amtrak point out that the federal government spends over \$1 billion dollars per year to subsidize passenger rail service – about 25 percent of its total budget -- and that as a nation we can no longer afford Amtrak and its national rail network.

One amendment that has been proposed in Congress is to eliminate ALL Amtrak funding, which would likely mean no passenger rail service here in western Pennsylvania and most of America. Suppose you could vote on this bill, would you?

Support the amendment, eliminating ALL Amtrak funding	15%
Oppose the amendment, keeping Amtrak funded at current levels	73
(VOL) Unsure	13

Q8: Based on what you know, how many people do you think operate a freight train that travels through Pennsylvania?

One	4%
Two	18
Three	12
Four or more	34
Don't know	33

Q9: Now let's suppose freight trains in your area operated with only a crew of one, how worried would you be about a train derailling in your community?

Very worried	48%
Fairly worried	15
Just somewhat worried	15
Not that Worried	18
(VOL) Unsure	4

Q10: Some in Congress want to enact a federal law, known as H.R. 233, the Safe Freight Act, and if passed would require all freight trains in the United States to operate with a crew of two. Suppose you could vote on this law; would you vote YES to pass H.R. 233 or would you voted NO, and reject H.R. 233?

Yes, Pass	76%
No, Reject	14
(VOL) Unsure	11

Q11: While we are talking about laws, some in Congress want to increase the maximum allowable commercial truck weight and length on our nation's highways. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose increasing the maximum weight and length of commercial trucks?

Strongly support	7%	16 support
Somewhat support	9	
Somewhat oppose	22	75 oppose
Strongly oppose	53	
(VOL) Unsure	8	

Select Key Crosstabs:

Q6: I now want to ask a few questions about Amtrak. Currently Amtrak has one daily passenger train route running from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia. When it comes to passenger rail service here in Western Pennsylvania, which best fits your view?

Passenger rail should increase to 2 or more daily trains	49%
Passenger rail should remain at 1 train	24
Passenger rail should be eliminated	4
(VOL) Unsure	23

<u>Gender</u>	<u>2+ Trains</u>	<u>Remain @ 1</u>	<u>Eliminate</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	46%	26	6	22
Women	51	23	2	24
<u>Age</u>				
18-39	61	21	0	18
40-64	48	24	7	22
65 plus	44	27	2	27
<u>Education</u>				
High School	38	27	4	31
Some College	50	25	5	20
College Degree	52	22	3	22
<u>Region</u>				
Allegheny County	54	22	1	23
Westmoreland County	45	27	5	23
Washington/Greene Counties	42	26	8	24
<u>Party Identification</u>				
Democrat	59	18	3	20
Independent	46	31	7	15
Republican	39	25	2	34
<u>Donald Trump</u>				
Favorable View	41	24	7	28
Unfavorable View	57	24	2	17

Q7: Critics of Amtrak point out that the federal government spends over \$1 billion dollars per year to subsidize passenger rail service – about 25 percent of its total budget -- and that as a nation we can no longer afford Amtrak and its national rail network.

One amendment that has been proposed in Congress is to eliminate ALL Amtrak funding, which would likely mean no passenger rail service here in western Pennsylvania and most of America. Suppose you could vote on this bill, would you?

Support the amendment, eliminating ALL Amtrak funding **15%**
 Oppose the amendment, keeping Amtrak funded at current levels **73**
 (VOL) Unsure **13**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Eliminate Amtrak</u>	<u>Fund Amtrak</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	18%	70	11
Women	11	75	14
<u>Age</u>			
18-39	13	75	12
40-64	18	68	14
65 plus	10	78	12
<u>Education</u>			
High School	13	67	19
Some College	16	72	12
College Degree	14	75	11
<u>Region</u>			
Allegheny County	11	79	10
Westmoreland County	14	70	17
Washington/Greene Counties	23	65	12
<u>Party Identification</u>			
Democrat	8	84	8
Independent	15	73	11
Republican	21	58	20
<u>Donald Trump</u>			
Favorable View	22	59	19
Unfavorable View	7	85	7

Q8: Based on what you know, how many people do you think operate a freight train that travels through Pennsylvania?

One	4%
Two	18
Three	12
Four or more	34
Don't know	33

<u>Gender</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Three</u>	<u>Four +</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Men	5%	20	13	36	26
Women	4	15	11	31	39
<u>Age</u>					
18-39	5	15	19	36	26
40-64	2	20	10	35	33
65 plus	8	15	11	31	35
<u>Education</u>					
High School	3	14	16	30	36
Some College	7	20	10	32	31
College Degree	3	17	12	36	32
<u>Region</u>					
Allegheny County	4	18	11	38	29
Westmoreland County	2	17	12	32	37
Washington/Greene Counties	9	17	14	28	32
<u>Party Identification</u>					
Democrat	6	20	14	31	30
Independent	4	15	8	36	36
Republican	3	17	13	35	32
<u>Donald Trump</u>					
Favorable View	3	14	12	36	35
Unfavorable View	6	21	13	31	28

Q9: Now let's suppose freight trains in your area operated with only a crew of one, how worried would you be about a train derailling in your community?

Very worried **48%**
 Fairly worried **15**
 Just somewhat worried **15**
 Not that worried **18**
 (VOL) Unsure **4**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Very Worried</u>	<u>Fairly Worried</u>	<u>Somewhat Worried</u>	<u>Not That Worried</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	39%	15	17	24	5
Women	56	16	13	12	2
<u>Age</u>					
18-39	32	24	25	20	0
40-64	50	15	13	19	4
65 plus	55	12	12	16	5
<u>Education</u>					
High School	57	13	11	13	6
Some College	46	17	15	19	2
College Degree	46	15	16	20	3
<u>Region</u>					
Allegheny County	45	18	16	18	3
Westmoreland County	49	13	14	21	4
Washington/Greene Counties	53	14	14	15	4
<u>Party Identification</u>					
Democrat	59	16	11	9	5
Independent	41	12	15	29	2
Republican	43	17	18	19	3
<u>Donald Trump</u>					
Favorable View	44	13	14	25	4
Unfavorable View	54	19	13	12	2

Q10: Some in Congress want to enact a federal law, known as H.R. 233, the Safe Freight Act, and if passed would require all freight trains in the United States to operate with a crew of two. Suppose you could vote on this law; would you vote YES to pass H.R. 233 or would you voted NO, and reject H.R. 233?

Yes, Pass **76%**
 No, Reject **14**
 (VOL) Unsure **11**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Yes, Pass</u>	<u>No, Reject</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	73%	15	11
Women	78	12	10
<u>Age</u>			
18-39	68	22	10
40-64	76	13	12
65 plus	79	11	10
<u>Education</u>			
High School	79	10	11
Some College	79	14	7
College Degree	72	15	14
<u>Region</u>			
Allegheny County	76	14	11
Westmoreland County	74	14	12
Washington/Greene Counties	77	13	10
<u>Party Identification</u>			
Democrat	83	10	7
Independent	70	16	13
Republican	72	15	13
<u>Donald Trump</u>			
Favorable View	71	17	12
Unfavorable View	81	10	9

Q11: While we are talking about laws, some in Congress want to increase the maximum allowable commercial truck weight and length on our nation’s highways. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose increasing the maximum weight and length of commercial trucks?

Strongly support	7%	16 support
Somewhat support	9	
Somewhat oppose	22	75 oppose
Strongly oppose	53	
(VOL) Unsure	8	

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Strongly Support</u>	<u>Somewhat Support</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	9%	10	23	51	8
Women	6	9	22	56	9
<u>Age</u>					
18-39	10	14	29	38	9
40-64	8	9	23	54	6
65 plus	5	7	17	60	12
<u>Education</u>					
High School	12	9	19	48	12
Some College	5	10	22	56	7
College Degree	7	9	23	54	7
<u>Region</u>					
Allegheny County	5	8	25	55	8
Westmoreland County	8	10	22	50	10
Washington/Greene Counties	10	12	16	55	7
<u>Party Identification</u>					
Democrat	7	5	20	59	9
Independent	4	13	24	48	10
Republican	10	11	23	51	5
<u>Donald Trump</u>					
Favorable View	8	13	23	49	7
Unfavorable View	7	7	21	56	9