

**August
2020**

**Pennsylvania 1st District
Rail /Amtrak**



DFM RESEARCH

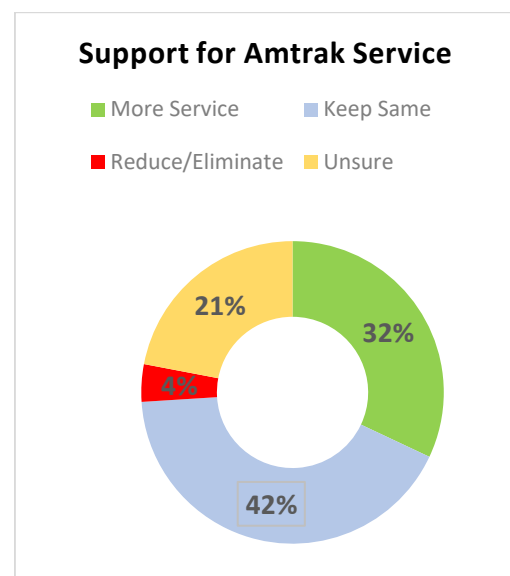
St. Paul, Minnesota
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Executive Summary:

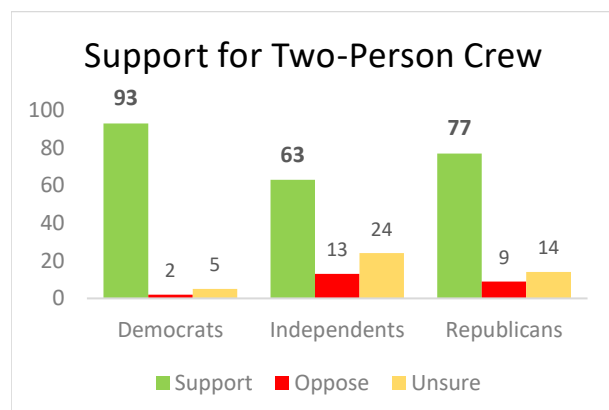
The primary focus of the Pennsylvania 1st District (PA-1) rail survey was to measure the public’s support for Amtrak’s passenger rail service in the Northeast Corridor and to Harrisburg and beyond. The data is clear, voters in the district are strong supporters of Amtrak -- just four percent favor reducing or eliminating passenger rail service, compared to 74 percent who want to keep or expand service in the Philadelphia region.

Amtrak’s support goes beyond the Northeast Corridor, the survey found 58 percent of PA-1 voters in support (to just 12 percent opposed) of expanding passenger rail service to Pittsburgh from the current one daily train. The survey was conducted August 16-18, 2020, consisting of 384 likely voters. The margin of error is plus/minus 5 percentage points, and is weighted by gender, age and education level. The demographic data shows wide support:

- Even voters who have not been ‘all aboard’ on Amtrak in the last two years, support maintaining (40%) or expanding service (30%). This compares to 82 percent (46% maintain and 36% expand) of Amtrak passengers.
- There is no variation on gender, while there is some variation based on education (college educated more favorable to Amtrak) and age (younger to expand, while older more in favor of maintaining). See full crosstabs at back of report.
- While Biden voters are more likely to favor expansion of Amtrak, the numbers are strong for Trump voters too. Only eight percent of Trump voters want to reduce or eliminate, compared to 64 percent who want to maintain or expand.



The survey also asked a series of questions dealing with the rail provision -- part of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act -- requiring a minimum crew of two on most freight trains that operate in the United States. By a thirteen-to-one margin (81-6%), PA-1 voters said they would vote ‘Yes’ to require a minimum crew of two if they could have voted on the rail provision. This large margin of support is consistent with polling around the nation the past six years.



Opposition to the rail provision is minimal. The largest group opposed are self-identified Independent voters, clocking a paltry 13 percent saying they would vote ‘no’ and reject the two person crew provision in H.R. 2. The Republican rejection rate is only nine percent.

Bottom line -- no matter the age, education level, gender or partisan inclination, voters in PA-1 strongly support a crew of two on freight trains and strongly support maintaining or expanding passenger rail service.

Methodology:

The results presented are based on a voter registration sample of 384 Pennsylvania 1st District likely voters -- survey was stratified by party registration to ensure a representative sample of the congressional district. Calls were conducted by live callers using landline and mobile phones, supplemented by text-to-web.

After the numbers were stratified, telephone/text numbers were selected at random using a skip pattern to guarantee interviews had the same non-zero chance of being selected for an interview.

Telephone interviews were conducted by trained staff of KGS Research, 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. Final results presented are weighted by gender, age and education to approximate the 2020 district voter profile. Data was not weighted by political party or party self-identification.

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 likely voter 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. For example, if a question produced a final result of 50 percent, the likely range would be between 45.0 to 55.0 percent had the entire likely voter population been surveyed. Where appropriate in the survey, question and answer choices are randomized to help reduce bias. Due to rounding, topline and crosstab 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 29 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 certain and very likely voters in the 1 st Congressional District of Pennsylvania.
<u>Margin of Error:</u>	+/-5.0 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence.
<u>Interview Dates:</u>	August 16-18, 2020
<u>Sample:</u>	Sample was stratified by party registration. Final data weighted by gender, age, and education level to conform with expected 2020 General Election demographics. Respondents were contacted by either text or cell and landline phones using live callers.
<u>Survey Sponsor:</u>	SMART Transportation Division's Pennsylvania State Legislative Board

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

Right Direction	41%
Wrong Track	41
(VOL) Unsure	19

Q2: 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	43%	55	2	0
b: Bob Casey	40	31	22	7
c: Pat Toomey	34	43	20	4
d: Brian Fitzpatrick	47	40	11	2
e: Tom Wolf	49	44	6	1
f: Christina Finello	21	15	24	40
g: Joe Biden	51	46	3	0

Q3: Now let's take a look at a few upcoming elections. If the election was held today for President of the United States, would you vote for Joe Biden the Democrat or Donald Trump the Republican?

Joe Biden	52%
Donald Trump	43
(VOL) Other candidate	2
(VOL) Undecided	3

Q4: And in the race for U.S. Congress, if the election was held today, for whom would you vote: Christina Finello the Democrat or Brian Fitzpatrick the Republican?

Christina Finello	35%
Brian Fitzpatrick	47
(VOL) Other candidate	4
(VOL) Undecided	14

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

Q5: Thinking back the past two years or so, how often have you been an Amtrak passenger?

Never.....	57%
One to Two Times	26
Three to Five Times	9
More than Five Times	7

Q6: Amtrak has over 40 daily trains running from Philadelphia to places like New York City, Washington D.C., Harrisburg, and points all across the country. When it comes to passenger rail service here in Pennsylvania, which best fits your view?

More passenger rail service should available	32%
Keep passenger rail service at same level	42
Reduce passenger rail service	3
Eliminate passenger rail service	1
(VOL) Unsure	21

Q7: Currently Amtrak runs one daily train between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose an expansion of service to Pittsburgh?

Strongly support	25%
Somewhat support	33
Somewhat oppose	8
Strongly oppose	4
(VOL) Neutral / Unsure	31

Q8: Now thinking about freight trains, how many people do you think operate a freight train that travels through Pennsylvania?

One	1%
Two	11
Three	8
Four	10
Five or more	27
Don't know	43

Q9: Currently freight trains operate with a crew of two, but some railroads want to go to a crew of one. 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	41%
Fairly worried	18
Just somewhat worried	16
Not that worried	17
(VOL) Unsure	8

Q10: Last month, the U.S. House of Representative passed H.R. 2, which included a railroad provision requiring a minimum crew of two to operate freight trains in the United States. Suppose you had a vote on this rail provision; would you vote YES to require a minimum crew of two on freight trains or would you vote NO, and reject requiring a minimum crew of two on freight trains?

Yes, Pass	81%
No, Reject	6
(VOL) Unsure	12

Selected Crosstabs:

Q5: Thinking back the past two years or so, how often have you been an Amtrak passenger?

Never.....	57%
One to Two Times	26
Three to Five Times	9
More than Five Times	7

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>1 to 2</u>	<u>3 to 5</u>	<u>5 +</u>
Men	59	26	7	8
Women	56	26	11	7
<u>Age</u>				
18-34	43	34	11	12
35-49	52	27	11	10
50-64	60	26	9	5
65 plus	68	21	6	5
<u>Education</u>				
No College Degree	63	26	5	6
College Degree	53	26	12	9
<u>Amtrak Ridership</u>				
Yes	0	62	21	17
No	100	0	0	0
<u>Party Identification</u>				
Democrat	53	28	9	10
Independent	48	37	7	8
Republican	66	20	10	5
<u>2020 Voter</u>				
Biden Voters	53	29	10	8
Trump Voters	65	21	8	6

Q6: Amtrak has over 40 daily trains running from Philadelphia to places like New York City, Washington D.C., Harrisburg, and points all across the country. When it comes to passenger rail service here in Pennsylvania, which best fits your view?

More passenger rail service should available	32%
Keep passenger rail service at same level	42
Reduce passenger rail service	3
Eliminate passenger rail service	1
(VOL) Unsure	21

<u>Gender</u>	<u>More</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Reduce</u>	<u>Eliminate</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	36	38	2	2	22
Women	29	46	3	0	21
<u>Age</u>					
18-34	43	34	1	1	20
35-49	30	35	4	4	27
50-64	26	46	3	1	23
65 plus	34	51	2	0	14
<u>Education</u>					
No College Degree	29	39	2	1	30
College Degree	35	46	4	2	14
<u>Amtrak Ridership</u>					
Yes	36	46	4	1	15
No	30	40	2	2	26
<u>Party Identification</u>					
Democrat	40	44	0	1	16
Independent	34	31	4	4	27
Republican	24	45	5	1	25
<u>2020 Voter</u>					
Biden Voters	38	46	1	0	16
Trump Voters	23	41	6	2	27

Q7: Currently Amtrak runs one daily train between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose an expansion of service to Pittsburgh?

Strongly support **25%**
 Somewhat support **33**
 Somewhat oppose **8**
 Strongly oppose **4**
 (VOL) Neutral / Unsure **31**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Strongly Support</u>	<u>Somewhat Support</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Neutral Unsure</u>
Men	22	33	7	6	32
Women	27	33	8	2	30
<u>Age</u>					
18-34	29	31	8	4	28
35-49	25	27	12	4	33
50-64	27	34	7	5	28
65 plus	19	38	6	2	35
<u>Education</u>					
No College Degree	24	30	6	2	37
College Degree	25	35	9	5	26
<u>Amtrak Ridership</u>					
Yes	25	33	10	3	29
No	25	33	6	4	32
<u>Party Identification</u>					
Democrat	27	38	7	2	27
Independent	20	32	7	6	35
Republican	25	27	10	5	34
<u>2020 Voter</u>					
Biden Voters	27	38	7	1	27
Trump Voters	20	27	10	6	36

Q8: Now thinking about freight trains, how many people do you think operate a freight train that travels through Pennsylvania?

One	1%
Two	11
Three	8
Four	10
Five or more	27
Don't know	43

<u>Gender</u>	<u>One</u>	<u>Two</u>	<u>Three</u>	<u>Four</u>	<u>Five +</u>	<u>DK</u>
Men	1	9	6	9	29	46
Women	2	12	10	10	26	40
<u>Age</u>						
18-34	0	8	4	12	27	49
35-49	1	7	8	10	31	43
50-64	2	15	10	9	29	36
65 plus	1	11	9	9	23	48
<u>Education</u>						
No College Degree	1	10	11	9	26	43
College Degree	2	12	6	10	28	42
<u>Amtrak Ridership</u>						
Yes	1	13	9	13	25	39
No	1	9	8	7	29	45
<u>Party Identification</u>						
Democrat	1	10	8	11	28	41
Independent	0	7	11	11	25	45
Republican	2	13	8	7	27	43
<u>2020 Voter</u>						
Biden Voters	1	12	8	10	27	42
Trump Voters	2	10	7	10	30	41

Q9: Currently freight trains operate with a crew of two, but some railroads want to go to a crew of one. 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 **41%**
 Fairly worried **18**
 Just somewhat worried **16**
 Not that worried **17**
 (VOL) Unsure **8**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Fairly</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not That</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	34	19	16	22	8
Women	47	17	16	12	7
<u>Age</u>					
18-34	31	20	16	22	11
35-49	40	22	9	18	11
50-64	44	15	23	13	6
65 plus	46	17	14	17	6
<u>Education</u>					
No College Degree	48	12	15	13	11
College Degree	35	23	17	20	5
<u>Amtrak Ridership</u>					
Yes	39	19	19	16	7
No	43	17	14	18	8
<u>Party Identification</u>					
Democrat	50	18	16	11	5
Independent	32	18	15	23	11
Republican	36	18	16	21	10
<u>2020 Voter</u>					
Biden Voters	47	21	16	11	5
Trump Voters	36	15	16	24	10

Q10: Last month, the U.S. House of Representative passed H.R. 2, which included a railroad provision requiring a minimum crew of two to operate freight trains in the United States. Suppose you had a vote on this rail provision; would you vote YES to require a minimum crew of two on freight trains or would you vote NO, and reject requiring a minimum crew of two on freight trains?

Yes, Pass **81%**
 No, Reject **6**
 (VOL) Unsure **12**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	80	7	14
Women	83	6	11
<u>Age</u>			
18-34	73	8	19
35-49	74	6	19
50-64	86	6	7
65 plus	87	6	7
<u>Education</u>			
No College Degree	81	5	14
College Degree	81	8	11
<u>Amtrak Ridership</u>			
Yes	84	7	10
No	80	6	14
<u>Party Identification</u>			
Democrat	93	2	5
Independent	63	13	24
Republican	77	9	14
<u>2020 Voter</u>			
Biden Voters	94	1	4
Trump Voters	68	12	20