

ERA-AF

EQUAL RIGHTS ADVOCATES
ACTION FUND

EQUAL RIGHTS ADVOCATES ACTION FUND

ECONOMIC SECURITY POLL PENNSYLVANIA

Statewide poll shows issues once called ‘women’s issues’ are now Pennsylvania voters’ economic security policy agenda — and voters expect action in Harrisburg as well as Washington

RELEASED

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Polling by Lake Research Partners · 245 likely 2026 voters in Pennsylvania

OVERVIEW

What was once the “women’s policy agenda” is now Pennsylvania voters’ economic security policy agenda. For decades, fair wages, equal pay, paid leave, childcare and care for aging parents got filed by policymakers and pundits under “women’s issues” and pushed to the back burner. The critical problems policymakers failed to address have grown to affect every family, and Pennsylvania voters facing rising costs now recognize these long-overdue policies as the essential solutions we desperately need.

Equal Rights Advocates Action Fund’s (ERA-AF) statewide poll of 245 likely 2026 Pennsylvania voters documents the shift:

The economic pain is deep, and voters and their families are struggling: 66% of Pennsylvania voters say the economy is not working well for them and their family, and 79% have taken at least one action this year to cover a higher cost of living, such as cutting back on spending – including necessities – drawing down savings, or carrying a credit card balance.

Voters blame leaders in Congress and the White House, but Pennsylvania state officials don’t escape blame: 45% of Pennsylvania voters blame Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress for the rising cost of living, while 28% blame Democrats in Congress and 23% blame both parties equally. Closer to home, 13% blame their governor, 21% the state legislature, and 35% blame the two equally.

Voters overwhelmingly back common-sense solutions that tackle affordability: Policies once considered “women’s issues” – from ensuring women receive equal pay to paid leave and affordable care – are now mainstream economic demands. Every issue tested is called important by at least 71% of Pennsylvania voters, of both Congress and their own governor and state legislature.

Voters are ready to reward leaders who deliver: For every policy tested, more Pennsylvania voters say a state elected official who voted for it would earn their vote than say it would cost them their vote by extremely wide margins.

This poll shows an electorate that is tired of the status quo and expects timely, tangible action – in Washington and in Harrisburg alike.

KEY FINDINGS

1

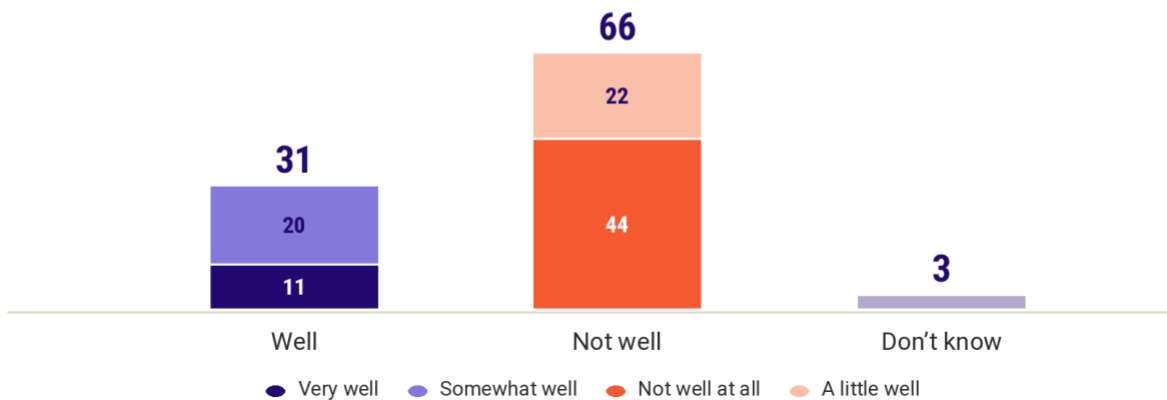
The economic pain is deep, and 79% of Pennsylvania voters have had to take action to cover a higher cost of living this year

66% of Pennsylvania voters say the economy is not working well for them and their family right now.*

PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS SAY THE ECONOMY IS NOT WORKING FOR THEM

"How well is the economy working for you and your family right now?"

NET -35

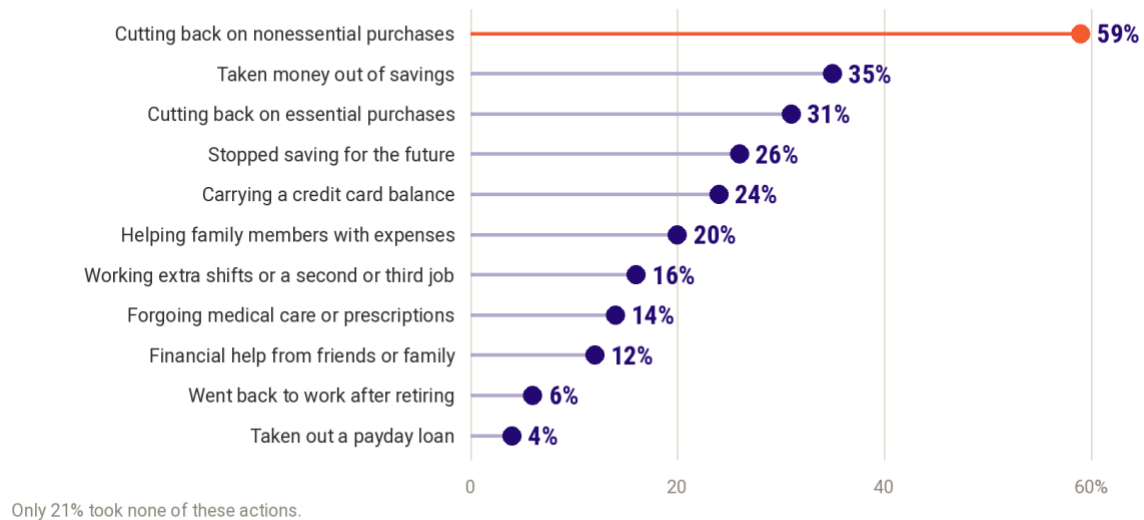


* Split sample question.

The vast majority of voters have taken actions this year because of the higher cost of living. Only 21% of Pennsylvania voters have not taken any of these actions.

79% OF PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS HAVE TAKEN ACTION TO COVER HIGHER COSTS

Actions taken this year because of the higher cost of living



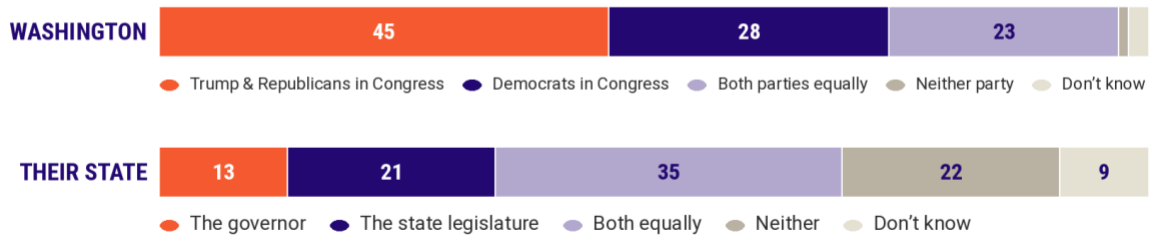
2

Leaders in Congress, the White House, and Harrisburg share the blame for rising costs

Voters do not treat the rising cost of living as a problem that belongs to Congress and the White House alone. Asked who is more to blame for the rising cost of living, 45% of Pennsylvania voters blame Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress while 28% blame Democrats and 23% blame both parties equally. But state officials also shoulder blame: when thinking about the rising cost of living in their state, 13% point blame to their governor, 21% to the state legislature, and 35% blame the two equally.

PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS DO NOT SPARE THEIR OWN STATE LEADERS

"Who do you think is more to blame for the rising cost of living?"



Split sample questions.

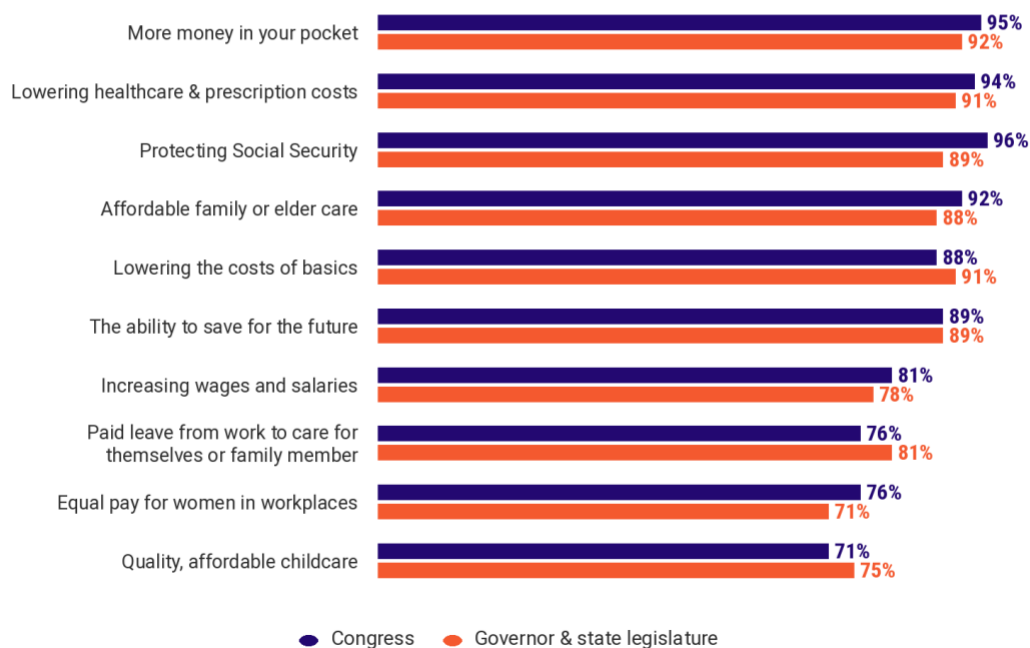
3

Pennsylvania voters overwhelmingly want these issues addressed – from Harrisburg as much as from Congress

Voters believe it is important for Congress to address the following issues and make progress on them in the next two years, and they say the same of their governor and state legislature. Every item polled on reaches at least 71% in Pennsylvania at both levels of government. The importance of making progress on these issues is so high that these operate more like core values than policy preferences.

PENNSYLVANIA WANTS ACTION FROM HARRISBURG AS MUCH AS FROM CONGRESS

% calling each issue important to address in the next two years



Split sample questions.

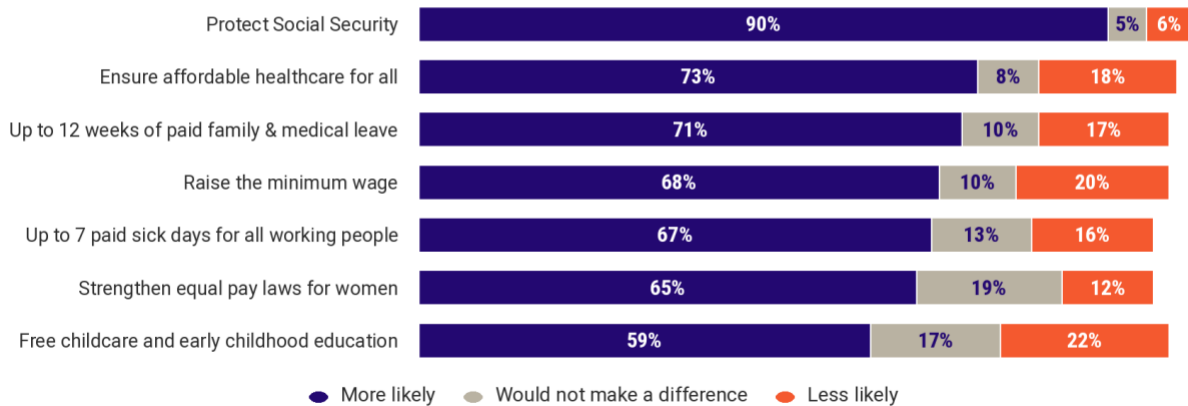
4

Pennsylvania voters will reward officials who deliver on these issues

Pennsylvania voters said they were significantly more likely to vote for an elected official in their state who voted for each of the following policies. Not one policy tested drew even close to more opposition than support. Voters are more likely to vote for a candidate who voted for these issues by at least 2-to-1.

PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS WILL REWARD OFFICIALS WHO DELIVER

"Would you be more or less likely to vote for an elected official in your state who voted for..."



Remainder is "don't know."

Split sample question.

ABOUT EQUAL RIGHTS ADVOCATES ACTION FUND

Equal Rights Advocates Action Fund (ERA-AF) is the 501(c)(4) arm of Equal Rights Advocates, which has fought for gender justice across America for more than 50 years. ERA-AF polls voters, shapes public debate, and recruits gender equity champions in statehouses and Congress.

www.ERA-AF.org

METHODOLOGY

Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey of 245 likely 2026 voters in Pennsylvania on behalf of the Equal Rights Advocates Action Fund. Interviews were conducted July 30 – August 5, 2026 by phone (landlines and cell phones) using professional telephone interviewers, and by text-to-online invitation. Respondents were drawn from TargetSmart and screened to be likely 2026 voters. The data are weighted by region, age, race, race by gender, party registration, party identification, and education to reflect likely 2026 voters in Pennsylvania. The margin of error is $\pm 6.3\%$; for questions asked of half the sample it is $\pm 8.9\%$.

FULL TOPLINES

ERA-AF Survey · July/August 2026 · N = 245 likely 2026 voters in Pennsylvania · Lake Research Partners. Splits: A/B, C/D.

All figures are percentages for Pennsylvania only. Questions marked * are split sample questions, asked of roughly half the sample (about 100 interviews), so their margin of error is larger. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding or multiple responses.

Q1. How likely are you to vote in the General Election for Congress and other state offices in November of 2026? Are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50, are you probably not going to vote, or are you definitely not going to vote?

Select one

PENNSYLVANIA

Almost certain	85
Probably	15
50 - 50	0
Probably not	0
Definitely not	0
(Don't know)	0

Q2. How likely are you to vote in Democratic primaries for President, Congress, and other state offices? Are you almost certain to vote in Democratic primaries, do you probably vote, are the chances about 50- 50, do you probably not vote, or do you definitely not vote in Democratic primaries?

Select one

PENNSYLVANIA

Dem primary voter	31
Dem /Not likely Dem primary voter	20
Non-Dem /Not likely Dem primary voter	49

Q3. How well would you say the economy is working for you and your family right now - very well, somewhat well, a little well, or not well at all? *

Split sample question

PENNSYLVANIA

Very well	11
Somewhat well	20
A little well	22
Not well at all	44
(Don't know)	3
Well	31
Not well	66

Q4. How well would you say the economy is working for families like yours right now - very well, somewhat well, a little well, or not well at all? *

Split sample question

PENNSYLVANIA

Very well	8
Somewhat well	30

A little well	23
Not well at all.....	35
(Don't know)	3
Well.....	39
Not well	58

Q5. When you think about the economy, which of the following is most important to you personally?

Select one

PENNSYLVANIA

Cost of basics like food, gas, and utilities	77
Cost of health care.....	43
Cost of housing	27
The taxes you pay.....	30
Having enough savings for retirement	22
Increasing people's wages and income	23
Job protected and paid time to provide care for family or yourself	8
Cost of child care or elder and family care.....	9
Equal pay for women and men	6
Unemployment.....	4
(Don't know)	1

Q6. Which of the following actions have you taken this year due to higher costs of living?

Select one

PENNSYLVANIA

Cutting back on nonessential purchases	59
Taken money out of savings	35
Cutting back on essential purchases	31
Carrying a credit card balance to cover rising costs	24
Helping other family members with their expenses	20
Stopped saving for the future.....	26
Bringing in more income by working extra shifts or taking on a second or third job	16
Forgoing or delaying medical care or prescription drugs	14
Receiving financial help from friends or family.....	12
Having to go back to work after retiring or "unretire"	6
Taken out a payday loan.....	4
Something else	2
(None of these)	21
(Don't know)	1

Q7. Who do you think is more to blame for the rising cost of living? *

Split sample question

PENNSYLVANIA

Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress	45
Democrats in Congress	28
Both parties equally	23
Neither party	1
(Don't know)	2

Q8. Who do you think is more to blame for the rising cost of living? *

Split sample question

PENNSYLVANIA

Republicans in Congress	40
-------------------------------	----

Democrats in Congress	26
Both parties equally	30
Neither party	2
(Don't know)	1

Q9. In your state, who do you think is more to blame for the rising cost of living? *

Split sample question

PENNSYLVANIA

Your governor	13
The state legislature	21
Both equally	35
Neither	22
(Don't know)	9

Q10. In your state, who do you think is more to blame for the rising cost of living? *

Split sample question

PENNSYLVANIA

Elected Democrats in your state	29
Elected Republicans in your state	36
Both parties equally	27
Neither	3
(Don't know)	4

Q11. Now I will read some issues. How important is it for Congress to address each issue and make progress on it in the next 2 years? Is it very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all? *

Split sample question

PENNSYLVANIA

Increasing wages and salaries

Very important	59
Somewhat important	21
A little important	9
Not important at all	8
(Don't know)	3
Important	81
Not important	16

Having more money in your pocket to afford the rising cost of living

Very important	74
Somewhat important	21
A little important	3
Not important at all	3
(Don't know)	0
Important	95
Not important	5

Lowering the costs of basics, like food, housing, and utilities

Very important	72
Somewhat important	17
A little important	6
Not important at all	5
(Don't know)	1
Important	88
Not important	11

Lowering the cost of health care and prescription drugs

Very important.....	72
Somewhat important.....	22
A little important.....	2
Not important at all.....	1
(Don't know).....	3
Important	94
Not important	3

Having paid leave from work to care for yourself or a family member who is seriously ill, or

Very important.....	55
Somewhat important.....	21
A little important.....	12
Not important at all.....	10
(Don't know).....	2
Important	76
Not important	22

Protecting Social Security

Very important.....	84
Somewhat important.....	11
A little important.....	1
Not important at all.....	2
(Don't know).....	1
Important	96
Not important	4

Access to quality, affordable child care

Very important.....	46
Somewhat important.....	25
A little important.....	9
Not important at all.....	18
(Don't know).....	2
Important	71
Not important	27

Access to quality, affordable family or elder care

Very important.....	67
Somewhat important.....	25
A little important.....	5
Not important at all.....	1
(Don't know).....	2
Important	92
Not important	6

The ability to save for the future

Very important.....	68
Somewhat important.....	22
A little important.....	4
Not important at all.....	6
(Don't know).....	1
Important	89
Not important	10

Requiring equal pay for women in workplaces

Very important.....	58
Somewhat important.....	17
A little important.....	9
Not important at all.....	15
(Don't know).....	0
Important	76
Not important	24

Q12. Now I will read the same issues again. How important is it for your governor and your state legislature to address each issue and make progress on it in the next 2 years? Is it very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all? *

Split sample question

PENNSYLVANIA

Increasing wages and salaries

Very important.....	57
Somewhat important.....	20
A little important.....	17
Not important at all.....	5
(Don't know).....	1
Important	78
Not important	22

Having more money in your pocket to afford the rising cost of living

Very important.....	72
Somewhat important.....	20
A little important.....	2
Not important at all.....	3
(Don't know).....	2
Important	92
Not important	6

Lowering the costs of basics, like food, housing, and utilities

Very important.....	71
Somewhat important.....	20
A little important.....	4
Not important at all.....	4
(Don't know).....	2
Important	91
Not important	8

Lowering the cost of health care and prescription drugs

Very important.....	72
Somewhat important.....	19
A little important.....	2
Not important at all.....	7
(Don't know).....	0
Important	91
Not important	9

Having paid leave from work to care for yourself or a family member who is seriously ill, or

Very important.....	58
Somewhat important.....	23
A little important.....	8
Not important at all.....	10
(Don't know).....	1
Important	81
Not important	18

Protecting Social Security

Very important.....	75
Somewhat important.....	14
A little important.....	3
Not important at all.....	7
(Don't know).....	1
Important	89
Not important	10

Access to quality, affordable child care

Very important.....	45
---------------------	----

Somewhat important	30
A little important	9
Not important at all	15
(Don't know)	1
Important	75
Not important	24
Access to quality, affordable family or elder care	
Very important	64
Somewhat important	24
A little important	10
Not important at all	1
(Don't know)	1
Important	88
Not important	11
The ability to save for the future	
Very important	68
Somewhat important	21
A little important	7
Not important at all	4
(Don't know)	1
Important	89
Not important	10
Requiring equal pay for women in workplaces	
Very important	56
Somewhat important	15
A little important	12
Not important at all	15
(Don't know)	2
Important	71
Not important	26

Q13. Now I will read some issues. If an elected official in your state voted for this issue, would that make you more or less likely to vote for them or would it not make a difference? Is that much more/less likely or somewhat more/less likely to vote for them? *

Split sample question

PENNSYLVANIA

Strengthen equal pay laws for women

Much more likely	44
Somewhat more likely	21
Somewhat less likely	3
Much less likely	9
Would not make a difference	19
(Don't know)	4
More likely	65
Less likely	12

Offer free child care and early childhood education for families who want it

Much more likely	40
Somewhat more likely	19
Somewhat less likely	11
Much less likely	12
Would not make a difference	17
(Don't know)	1
More likely	59
Less likely	22

Offer up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for all working people so they can afford to

Much more likely	48
Somewhat more likely	23
Somewhat less likely	4
Much less likely	13
Would not make a difference	10
(Don't know)	2
More likely	71
Less likely	17

Offer up to 7 paid sick days for all working people

Much more likely	51
Somewhat more likely	16
Somewhat less likely	6
Much less likely	10
Would not make a difference	13
(Don't know)	4
More likely	67
Less likely	16

Raise the minimum wage

Much more likely	48
Somewhat more likely	20
Somewhat less likely	4
Much less likely	17
Would not make a difference	10
(Don't know)	2
More likely	68
Less likely	20

Ensure affordable health care for all

Much more likely	61
Somewhat more likely	12
Somewhat less likely	10
Much less likely	8
Would not make a difference	8
(Don't know)	1
More likely	73
Less likely	18

Protect Social Security

Much more likely	73
Somewhat more likely	17
Somewhat less likely	5
Much less likely	1
Would not make a difference	5
(Don't know)	0
More likely	90
Less likely	6

SAMPLE PROFILE**PENNSYLVANIA****Region**

Pittsburgh	21
Johnstown / Altoona	7
Northwest	5
Central	16
Northeast	10
Lehigh Valley	10
Philadelphia	9

Philly Suburban.....	22
Gender	
Man.....	46
Woman.....	53
Nonbinary.....	1
Age	
Under 30.....	14
30-39.....	16
40-49.....	14
50-64.....	24
65 & over.....	32
Race or ethnicity	
White or Caucasian.....	75
Black or African American.....	8
Latino/Latina or Hispanic.....	6
Asian American or Pacific Islander.....	3
Native or Indigenous American.....	1
Middle Eastern or North African.....	2
(Other).....	2
Education	
Non-college.....	54
College.....	45
Party identification	
Democrat.....	43
Independent.....	11
Republican.....	37
Area lived in	
Urban.....	29
Suburban.....	35
Rural.....	36
Parent of a child under 18	
Yes.....	25
No.....	72
Providing care	
Providing care for someone.....	36
Not a caregiver.....	61
Employment status	
Employed full time.....	54
Employed part time.....	8
Unemployed.....	3
Homemaker or stay at home parent.....	1
Student.....	2
Retired.....	29