

Battleground State: Clinton Approaches Pennsylvania with Confidence While Trump is Ambitious

Presidential Candidate Strategy in Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania From Clinton's Perspective

- Clinton and Kaine spent the first days after the Democratic Convention on a bus tour through Pennsylvania and Ohio promoting Clinton's plans to add jobs and encourage domestic manufacturing. Clinton then returned to PA, stopping in Scranton and Philadelphia with Vice President Biden.
- Their aim in this bus tour was to take on Trump where he is the strongest: among blue collar white males.
- Holding the DNC in Philadelphia likely created momentum for the Clinton campaign in the state.
- On why Republicans will have a hard time picking up Pennsylvania, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said, "For every blue-collar Democrat we will lose in western Pennsylvania, we will pick up two or three moderate Republicans in the suburbs of Philadelphia."
- The state has not gone Republican since 1988.
- Pennsylvania was not among Clinton's initial ad buys, indicating a degree of confidence in carrying the state.



Pennsylvania From Trump's Perspective

- Pennsylvania has a large population of citizens with the Trump-voter profile: blue-collar white males.
- Despite the demographics, Pennsylvania is considered a reach for Trump right now because of his weakness in appealing to college-educated moderate Republicans
- Trump's campaign manager, Paul Manafort, maintains that Pennsylvania is "wide open" and notes if Trump can get those 20 electoral votes, there are many more ways of getting to 270.
- Trump trails Clinton by 10 points in the state and his unpopularity is contributing to the boost Democratic Senate challenger Katie McGinty has experienced in her own race. She leads by an average of 3 points.
- Pennsylvania's incumbent Sen. Pat Toomey (R) faces significant pressure from McGinty to disavow Trump.
- In an op-ed column published in May, Toomey wrote, "Trump was not my first, second or third choice. I object to much in his manner and his policies ... I find his campaign highly problematic."

Sources: Tom Fontaine, "In Tight Senate Race, Toomey Teetering in Support of Trump," *TribLive*, August 7, 2016; Dan Balz, Philip Rucker, "In Final 100 Days, Clinton and Trump to Chart Different Paths to White House," *Washington Post*, July 30, 2016; *POLITICO's Battleground States Polling Average*, August 9, 2016; Lisa Hagen, "Trump Effect Spills Into Pennsylvania Senate Race," *The Hill*, August 21, 2016.