



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2021

Contact: Tracy F. King

tracy@collectivesuperpac.org

New General Election Poll in PA Senate Race Shows Fetterman in Trouble When Voters Learn About His Past

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The Collective Super PAC, the independent expenditure arm of The Collective, which consists of five distinct affiliated organizations dedicated to ensuring that Black people are elected to and fully represented in positions of power across our government, funded a new poll conducted by Garin Hart Yang Research Group. The poll finds Lt. Gov. John Fetterman is vulnerable with primary and general election voters, particularly in the Black community in Pennsylvania when his history of holding an innocent black jogger at gunpoint is shared with voters. This shocking episode will be highly publicized throughout next year's election cycle. The Collective Super PAC has already ran digital and radio ads about the incident.

Survey respondents were asked in an initial question - without any information - about who they would support in potential general election matchups between Fetterman and GOP candidates Jeff Bartos and Sean Parnell.

Then survey respondents were read two statements, one from the point of view of Fetterman's opponents which details the Jogger incident based on various news and police reports, and another statement from supporters of Fetterman, which mirrors what John Fetterman has said to defend himself.

- A. *According to news and police reports, while serving as the mayor of Braddock, John Fetterman claimed he heard gunshots and saw a Black man jogging past his home. So, Fetterman jumped into his pick-up truck and chased him down. The man was just an innocent, unarmed jogger, but Fetterman confronted him with a loaded shotgun, called the police on him, and held him at gunpoint. The police let the jogger go, and then gave Fetterman special treatment by allowing him to go, too. Fetterman says, while he may have broken the law, he has no regrets and believes he did the right thing.*
- B. *During this episode eight years ago, John Fetterman was outside with his young son when he thought he heard gunshots in an area with frequent gun violence. He then saw an individual wearing all black and a face mask running from the scene toward an elementary school. He made the quick decision to intervene until first responders could arrive. He always believed it was his duty to*

safeguard his community and that is the place that he was coming from on that day. Fetterman says he did nothing wrong and would do it again.

Respondents were then asked to share their level of concern with this information. The poll revealed this incident incited “major concerns” among nearly three in five voters, including 56 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of Black voters. Furthermore, after hearing this information, 35 percent of Black voters said they were less likely to vote in the general election if Fetterman were the Democratic nominee. Fetterman drops 19 points with Black voters against Bartos, and in no situation, even when they are read even more positive information about Fetterman and other candidates, does he receive over 50 percent support with Black voters overall — a nonstarter for a candidate trying to win as a Democrat in Pennsylvania.

“John Fetterman cannot be the Democratic nominee for Senate in Pennsylvania. If he is, this survey shows Democrats will have a brutal, uphill battle to garner the enthusiasm needed to win this all-important seat to keep their majority in the U.S. Senate,” **said Quentin James, President of The Collective Super PAC.** “When voters, especially Black voters, learn about Fetterman’s history, they say they will be significantly less likely to show up to the polls and vote at all if he’s on the ballot, which puts the whole Democratic ticket at risk. We need to be strong as a party and support a candidate without toxic baggage. Black voters stood up to Trump and helped deliver Pennsylvania for President Biden in 2020. Choosing a candidate who isn’t Fetterman isn’t just morally right, it’s necessary to keep our majority.”

The full polling memo is available below

###

ABOUT THE COLLECTIVE SUPER PAC

The Collective Super PAC, an independent expenditure organization affiliated with The Collective PAC, works to create an America where Black people are effectively represented at every level of government. The Collective Super PAC strategically invests in competitive elections where Black candidates are running for office, or where Black voters are essential to winning elections and advancing policies to progress the Black community forward.

GARIN HART YANG --- **RESEARCH GROUP**

TO: The Collective Super PAC

FROM: Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group

DATE: June 17, 2021

RE: Recent PA General Election Survey

From May 10 to 19, 2021, Garin-Hart-Yang conducted a telephone survey (landlines and cell phones) among 901 likely general election voters, including an oversample

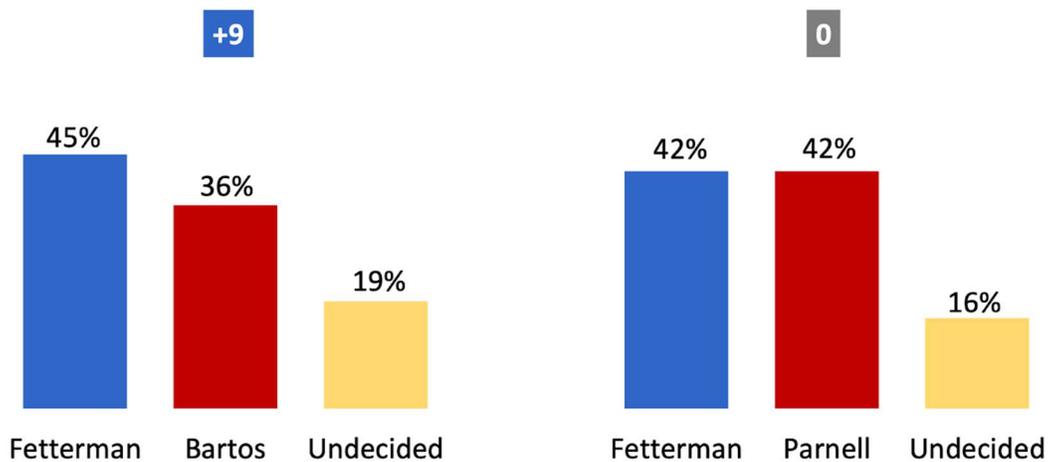
of 100 Black voters (for a total sample of 170 Black voters). The margin of error for the overall sample is $\pm 3.3\%$ and for the Black voter sample is $\pm 7.7\%$.

The following are the key findings.

Lt. Governor John Fetterman starts in a competitive position in split-sampled initial trial heats (450 sample, margin of error $\pm 4.7\%$) against Republicans Jeff Bartos and Sean Parnell.

Preferences in General Election Trial Heats

GARIN HART YANG
RESEARCH GROUP



However, a simulation of the potential back-and-forth of the 2013 incident involving then-Braddock Mayor Fetterman and an unarmed jogger shows the potential to impact his support AND Democratic turnout.

After the initial Fetterman-Bartos and Fetterman-Parnell trial heats, survey respondents were read the following criticism about Fetterman:

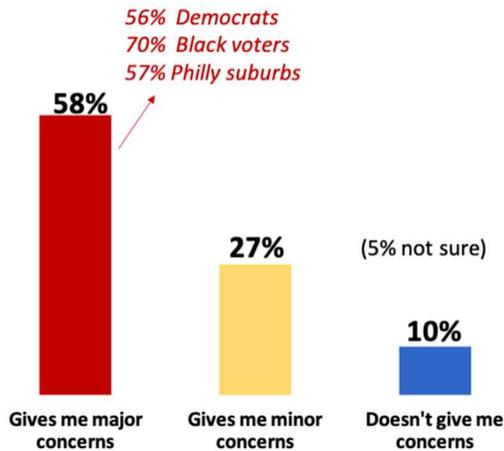
According to news and police reports, while serving as the mayor of Braddock, John Fetterman claimed he heard gunshots and saw a Black man jogging past his home. So, Fetterman jumped into his pickup truck and chased him down. The man was just an innocent, unarmed jogger, but Fetterman confronted him with a loaded shotgun, called the police on him, and held him at gun point. The police let the jogger go, and then gave Fetterman special treatment by allowing him to go, too. Fetterman says, while he may have broken the law, he has no regrets and believes he did the right thing.

Then two follow-up questions were asked. First, the respondent's level of concern, if any, toward the preceding statement raised about John Fetterman (asked among ALL voters). And then a second question, asked only among registered Democrats and

Black voters, about their likelihood of voting in November 2022 if Fetterman were the Democratic nominee.

GARIN HART YANG
RESEARCH GROUP

Reactions to Fetterman Jogger Narrative



If John Fetterman is the Democratic Senate candidate, would that affect your likelihood of voting in Nov 2022?
(asked of registered Democrats and Black voters)

	More likely to vote	Less likely to vote	Makes no difference
All reg. Democrats	22%	24%	48%
Male Democrats	25%	18%	50%
Female Democrats	19%	28%	47%
All Black voters	19%	35%	37%
Black men	25%	40%	28%
Black women	16%	32%	42%

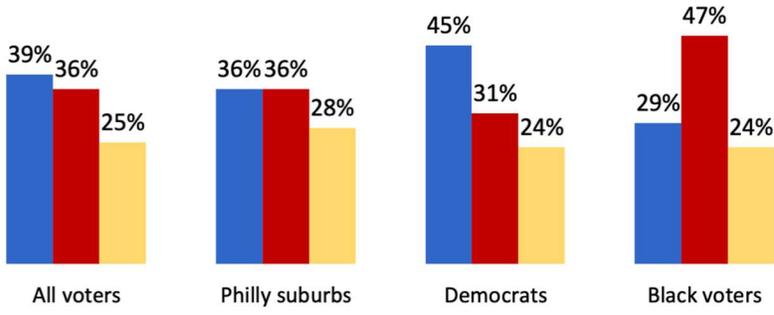
The criticism garners "major concerns" among nearly three in five voters, including a 56% majority of Democrats and 70% "major concerns" among Black voters. Moreover, while November 2022 turnout and enthusiasm is hard to gauge in Spring 2021, it is potentially worrisome that Democrats are less likely to vote by a slight 2% margin, while fully 35% of Black voters are less likely to vote if Fetterman were the nominee.

Then, after the Fetterman criticism on the 2013 incident, we read to survey respondents a public response by Fetterman spokespeople:

GARIN HART YANG
RESEARCH GROUP

Reactions to Fetterman Jogger Narrative* (continued)

■ Agree with Fetterman supporters ■ Agree with Fetterman opponents

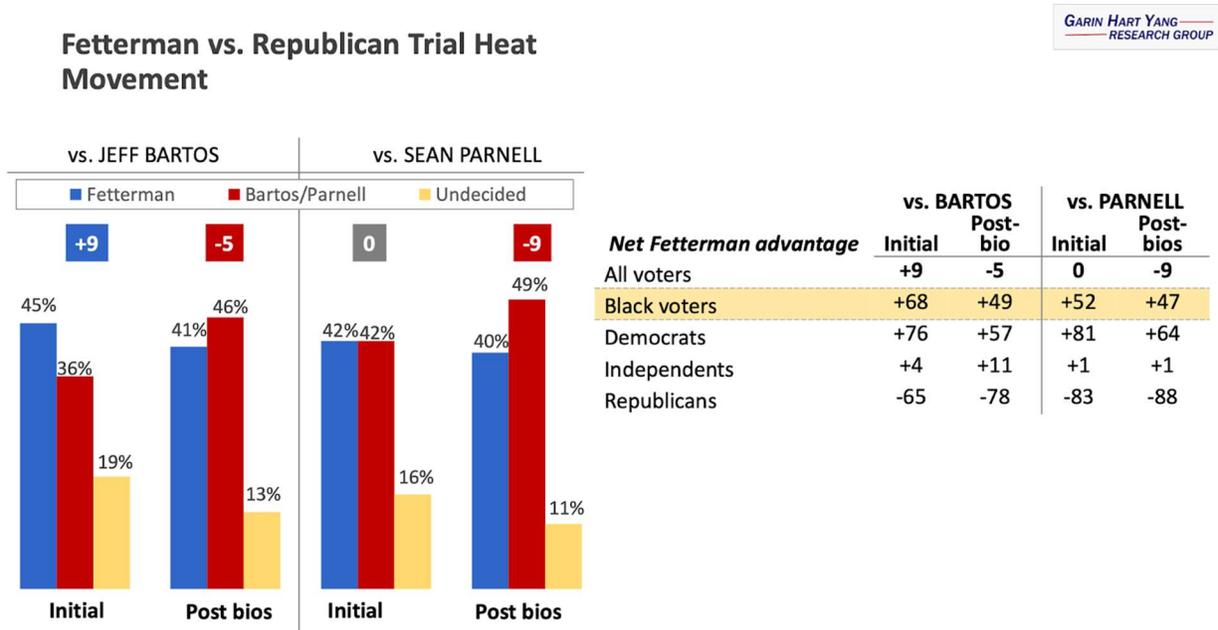


***Fetterman supporters say:**
During this episode eight years ago, John Fetterman was outside with his young son when he thought he heard gunshots in an area with frequent gun violence. He then saw an individual wearing all black and a face mask running from the scene toward an elementary school. He made the quick decision to intervene until first responders could arrive. He always believed it was his duty to safeguard his community and that is the place that he was coming from on that day. Fetterman says he did nothing wrong and would do it again.

After the back-and-forth on the jogger incident, we provided to survey respondents a positive description of John Fetterman and then (split-sampled to match the respective trial heats) positive descriptions of Bartos and Parnell.

JOHN FETTERMAN has served as lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania under Governor Tom Wolf since 2018. He previously served as the mayor of Braddock in western Pennsylvania, where he worked to revitalize the city and reduced crime. He is focused on representing the forgotten people in our state who help make America the industrial powerhouse it is today.

The potential impact of the jogger incident is affirmed in the ensuing “informed” trial heats (again, the survey question order was (1) Fetterman criticism, (2) Fetterman response, (3) Fetterman positive bio, (4) Bartos/Parnell positive bio, and (5) informed trial heat):



Fetterman loses ground against both Republicans between the initial and informed trial heats; importantly, Fetterman loses support among Democrats and Black voters more than he does among non-Democrats.

###