

# AMERICAN VIEWPOINT®

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To: Americans for Responsible Solutions PAC  
From: Linda DiVall and David Kanevsky  
Re: Key Findings from Pennsylvania CD-8 Survey  
Date: September 2, 2014

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*The following outlines the key findings from a survey commissioned by Americans for Responsible Solutions PAC in Pennsylvania's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Interviews were conducted August 24-26, 2014. The margin of error for the entire sample (n=400 likely voters) is +/- 4.9% at the 95% confidence level, with the margin of error greater among subgroups. Approximately 30% of interviews were conducted with cell phone sample of voters who cannot be reached on a landline.*

1. **This is a traditional swing district, but Mike Fitzpatrick's brand as an independent, bi-partisan member of Congress who reflects his district's values has helped him lock this district down.**

Not only is this a district that was almost evenly divided in its vote for President in 2012, but it remains a swing district as on the generic ballot, voters prefer a Republican over a Democrat by just 3% (43% GOP – 40% Dem). In the race for Governor, the Corbett/Cawley ticket just narrowly trails the Wolf/Stack ticket 43%-46%.

But Mike Fitzpatrick has established an independent brand with these swing voters. Fitzpatrick sports a 63:21 favorable:unfavorable image and voters approve of the job he is doing in Congress by a 64%-25% margin. That's why Fitzpatrick leads Democrat Kevin Strouse on the ballot 60%-30%.

Expect the race to tighten as Strouse becomes better known. Fitzpatrick leads 52%-37% among the 40% who are aware of both candidates, a metric that typically favors lesser known candidates like Strouse. But the fact that Fitzpatrick retains a double digit lead and is over 50% on this metric shows that Fitzpatrick is on solid footing for winning re-election.

**2. Part of the reason why Fitzpatrick is in such good shape is because his moderate voting record reflects the values of his district, particularly on the issues of gun safety.**

When asked about laws covering the sale of guns, a strong majority (57%) of PA CD-8 voters say they should be made stronger, 5% say they should be made less strong and 34% say they should be kept as they are now.

Voters in PA-8 back common sense efforts to address gun violence such as requiring background checks for all gun sales and prevent the sale of guns to domestic abusers. Even majorities of gun owners thought these efforts were excellent or good ideas.

	Excellent Idea	Good Idea	Total Excellent/ Good Idea	Total Okay Idea	Total Not So Good/ Poor Idea
Require background checks for all gun sales	60%	30%	90%	5%	4%
Prevent the sale of guns to domestic abusers	54%	34%	88%	5%	3%

**Conclusions**

Mike Fitzpatrick is in solid shape to win re-election because his values and voting record are in step with his district, particularly on the issues of gun safety. While the race may tighten as Strouse gets better known, Fitzpatrick has demonstrated how his independent voting record has helped turn what is normally a competitive district into a solid district for him.