



Cultural and Political Disputes in a Public University

Role of OGCR

- The Office of Government and Community Relations is Penn State's advocate to local, state, and federal governments. OGCR is advancing the institution's interests by serving as the primary liaison between University stakeholders and government policymakers and community organizations. The office builds and maintains relationships with key external stakeholders on behalf of all 24 campuses and Penn State Health.
- Critical to work with ALL external stakeholders.
- Non-partisan appearance.



University Policies

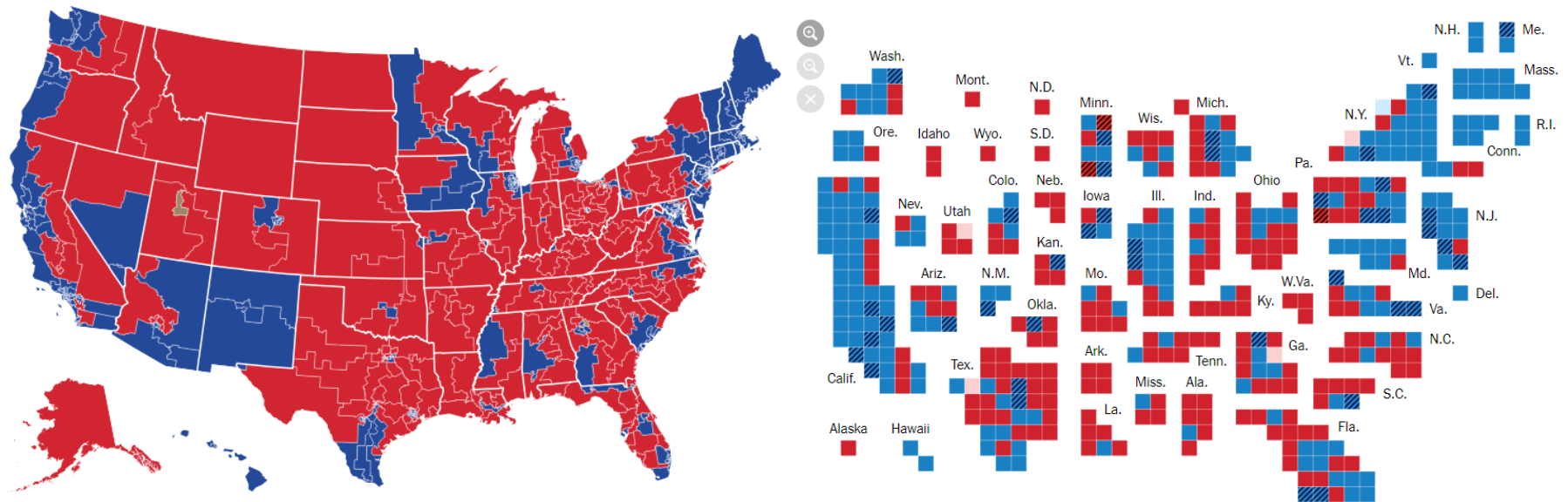
- AD50 - Contact with State and Federal Officials and Official Requests from Government Officials
- AD92 - Political Campaign Activities
- AD02 - Non-University Groups Using University Facilities
- AD02A - Supplemental Policy for Speeches, Rallies, and Demonstrations



National Overview: US House

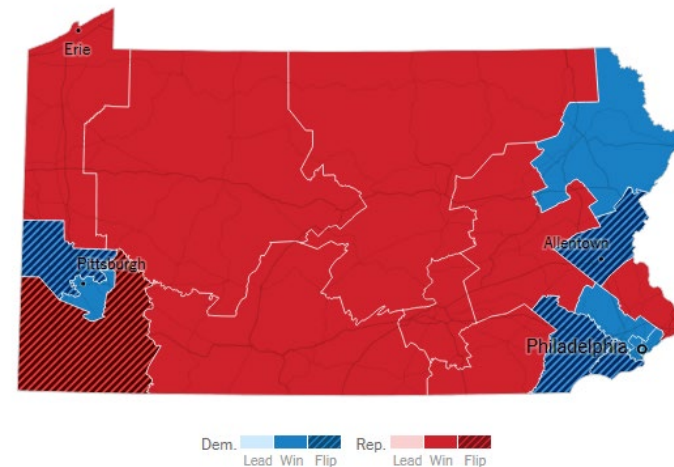
Democrats 233

200 Republicans



Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation

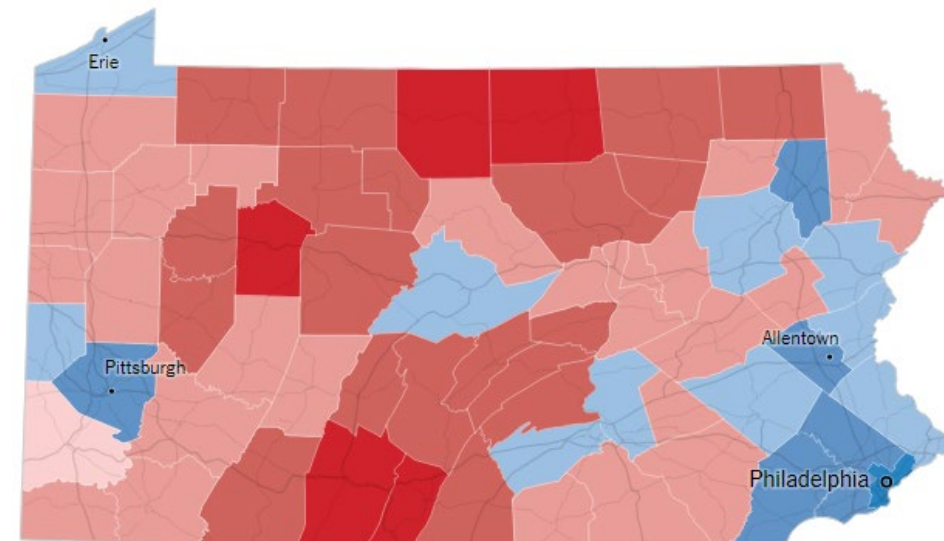
- Republicans dominate the rural parts of the state.
- Democrats traditionally dominate urban areas; now increasingly dominating suburbs.
- Currently evenly split
 - 8Rs & 8Ds in House
 - 1D & 1R in Senate





State Politics: Governor's Election

Candidate	Party	Votes	Pct.
✓ Tom Wolf*	Democrat	2,850,210	57.7%
Scott Wagner	Republican	2,015,266	40.8
Kenneth Krawchuk	Libertarian	48,615	1.0
Paul Glover	Green	27,301	0.6





State Politics: General Assembly

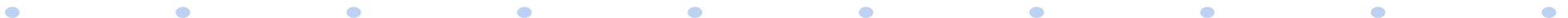
- State Senate
 - 29 Republicans / 21 Democrats
 - From 34R / 16D (veto-proof majority)
- State House
 - 110 Republicans / 92 Democrats
 - From 121R / 81D



	2019-2020 Appropriation	2020-2021 Requested Appropriation	Governor's Proposed Budget
Direct State Appropriations			
General Support	\$242,096,000	\$256,622,000	\$242,096,000
Penn. College of Technology	\$ 26,736,000	\$ 28,340,000	\$ 26,736,000
Total Direct Appropriation	\$268,832,000	\$284,962,000	\$268,832,000
Ag. College Land Scrip Funds	\$ 54,960,000	\$ 58,258,000	\$ 54,960,000
Economic Development	-----	\$002,350,000	\$002,350,000
Subtotal	\$323,792,000	\$345,570,000	\$326,142,000
Department of Human Services			
M.S. Hershey Medical Center Medical Assistance Funding	\$013,400,000	\$014,204,000	\$013,400,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$337,192,000	\$359,774,000	\$339,542,000

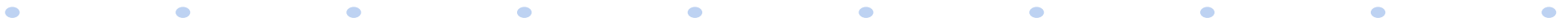
PA Higher Education Funding History

- Non-Preferred and the Constitution
 - Article III, Section 30
 - No appropriation shall be made to any charitable or educational institution not under the absolute control of the Commonwealth, other than normal schools established by law for the professional training of teachers for the public schools of the State, except by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each House
- Two-thirds of the PA Senate = 34 votes
- Two-thirds of the PA House = 136 votes
- Governor's signature



Practical Impact

- Should we censor our speech?
- Should we alter research findings?
- Should we avoid difficult topics?
- Should we stop advocating, voting, and participating in the political process?
- The answer to each of these questions is a resounding NO.



Practical Impact

- Should the University Board and Administration be aware of and sensitive to these political realities?
- Can official University communications strive for a non-partisan tone?
- Can we work with ALL external political stakeholders to achieve our goals?
- Can we stay above the fray and out of the mud and still be true to our mission?



Questions?

CONTACT

Zack Moore

Vice President of Government and Community
Relations

zmoore@psu.edu

