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Maryland Poll

Most Important Issue
President Obama Job Approval
Governor O’Malley Job Approval
Senator Cardin Job Approval
Same-Sex Marriage
Medical Marijuana
Dream Act

January 2012

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Methodology

Patrick E. Gonzales graduated from the University of Baltimore in 1981 with a degree in political science. He began his career as an analyst with *Mason-Dixon Opinion Research* and is the former president of *Mason-Dixon Campaign Polling*.

Mr. Gonzales has polled and analyzed hundreds of elections in Maryland since the mid 1980's. Additionally, he and his associates have conducted numerous market research projects and crafted message development programs for businesses and organizations throughout the state.

Laslo V. Boyd is a partner of *Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies*. Dr. Boyd received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and has over 30 years of experience in higher education, government, and public policy.

Hilary Duff Gonzales is Director of Sales and Marketing for *Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies*. Mrs. Gonzales has over 20 years experience promoting the state of Maryland, particularly in the tour and travel industry.

This survey was conducted by *Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies* from January 9th through January 15th, 2012. A total of 808 registered voters in Maryland who vote regularly were interviewed by telephone. A cross-section of interviews was conducted in each jurisdiction within the state to reflect general election voting patterns.

The margin of error (MOE), according to customary statistical standards, is no more than plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. There is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figures would fall within this range if the entire survey universe were sampled. The margin for error is higher for any demographic subgroup, such as gender or race.

Maryland Statewide Poll Sample Demographics

<u>PARTY AFFILIATION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Democrat	455	56.3 %
Republican	246	30.4 %
<u>Independent</u>	107	13.2 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>GENDER</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	389	48.1 %
<u>Female</u>	419	51.9 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>RACE</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	591	73.1 %
African-American	194	24.0 %
<u>Other/Refused</u>	23	2.8 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>REGION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Eastern Sh/So MD	112	13.9 %
Baltimore City	75	9.3 %
Baltimore Suburbs	286	35.4 %
Washington Suburbs	246	30.4 %
<u>Western MD</u>	89	11.0 %
Total	808	100.0 %

Regional Groupings are as follows:

Eastern Shore/ Southern Md	Baltimore City	Baltimore Suburbs	Washington Suburbs	Western Maryland
Calvert Co.	Baltimore City	Anne Arundel Co.	Montgomery Co.	Allegany Co.
Caroline Co.		Baltimore Co.	Prince George's Co.	Carroll Co.
Cecil Co.		Harford Co.		Frederick Co.
Charles Co.		Howard Co.		Garrett Co.
Dorchester Co.				Washington Co.
Kent Co.				
Queen Anne's Co.				
Somerset Co.				
St. Mary's Co.				
Talbot Co.				
Wicomico Co.				
Worcester Co.				

Summary

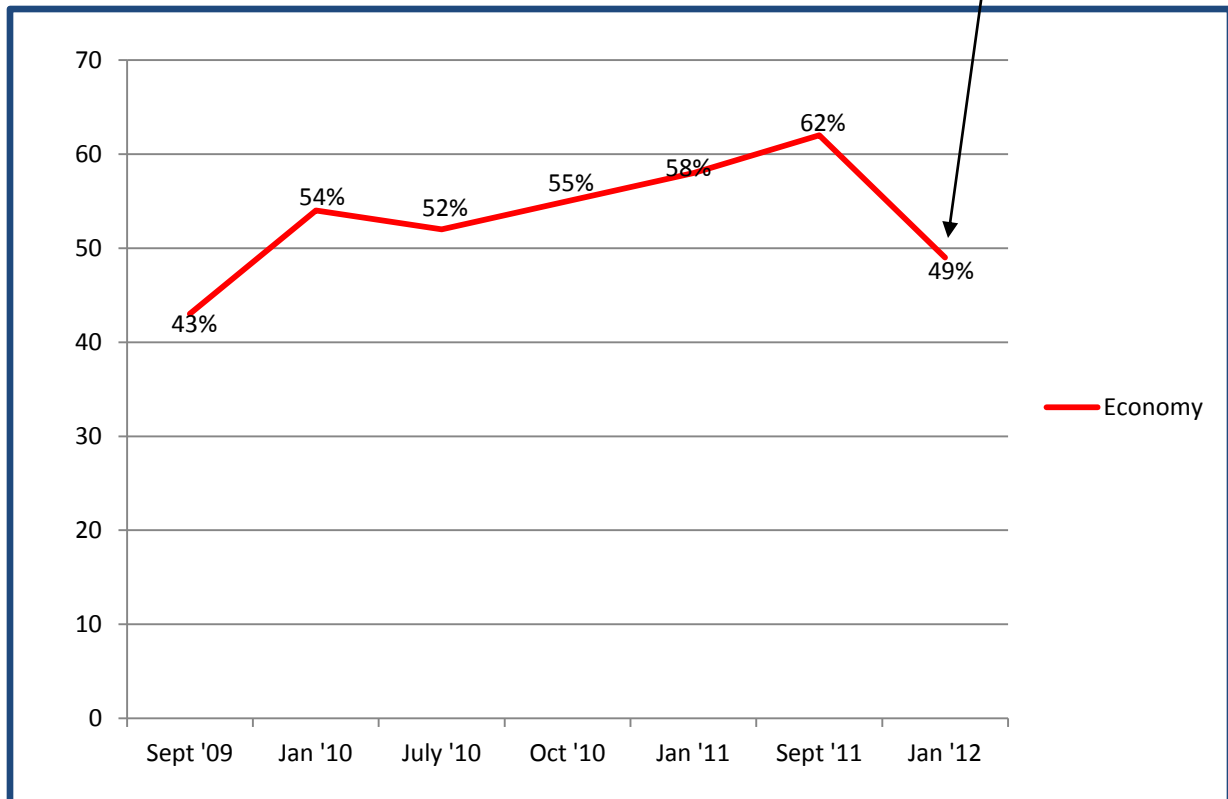
Most Important Issue facing State

The economy remains the top issue facing Free State voters, and concern about it continues at a very high level, but it has dropped to its lowest point in 2 years in Maryland.

Statewide, 49% of voters today say that the economy is the most important issue facing the state, while 13% say education is the most important issue confronting the state and 11% list taxes as their top concern.

1st time the economy has been under fifty percent in over 2 years

Figure 1 Economy/jobs Most Important Issue over the past 2 plus years



President Barack Obama Job Approval

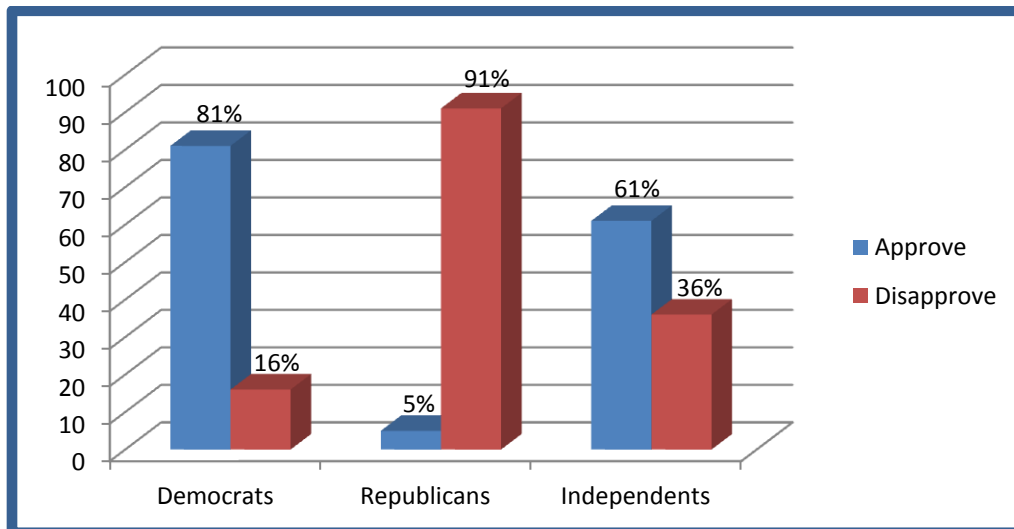
President Barack Obama’s job approval rating among Maryland voters has bounced back since the fall. Statewide, 55% approve of the job he is doing, while 41% disapprove.

Obama Job Approval	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
January 2012	55%	41%	4%
September 2011	49%	47%	4%
January 2011	54%	40%	6%
October 2010	52%	43%	5%
July 2010	51%	38%	11%
January 2010	56%	30%	14%
September 2009	58%	31%	11%
January 2009	80%	11%	9%

Obama’s approval in Maryland today is back closer to where it was his first year in office

A look by party:

Figure 2 Obama Job Approval



Obama’s rebound is attributable to an eight point jump among Democrats since September (from 73% up to 81%) and an 18 point leap among independents...9-out-f-10 Republicans, however, disapprove of the job he is doing.

Governor Martin O'Malley Job Approval

Governor Martin O'Malley's job approval rating remains steady with Maryland voters. Statewide, 53% approve of the job O'Malley is doing as governor, while 40% disapprove, with 7% having no opinion.

O'Malley Job Approval	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
January 2012	53%	40%	7%
September 2011	52%	40%	8%
January 2011	58%	30%	13%
October 2010	48%	44%	8%
July 2010	48%	39%	13%
January 2010	46%	36%	18%
September 2009	48%	37%	15%
January 2009	49%	37%	14%
September 2008	45%	35%	20%
March 2008	37%	48%	15%
January 2008	39%	49%	12%
October 2007	46%	31%	23%
March 2007	52%	21%	27%

Governor O'Malley's job rating by party, gender and race:

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Democrats	75%	17%
Republicans	11%	85%
Independents	55%	35%
Men	47%	48%
Women	59%	33%
White	47%	47%
African-American	74%	18%

O'Malley's standing in the state is based on his strong showing with women and African-American voters

Senator Ben Cardin Job Approval

Fifty-one percent of voters approve of the job Senator Ben Cardin is doing, while 32% disapprove, with 16% offering no opinion.

Cardin's job approval by party:

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Democrats	68%	18%
Republicans	18%	62%
Independents	58%	23%

A solid 68% of Democrats approve of the job Cardin is doing, suggesting he would be difficult to defeat in a primary

Same-Sex Marriage

Maryland voters remain divided on the issue of same-sex marriage. Statewide, 49% favor a law allowing same-sex couples to marry (34% "strongly" favor and 15% "somewhat" favor), while 47% oppose same-sex marriage (38% "strongly" oppose and 9% "somewhat" oppose).

Sixty-two percent of Democrats support same-sex marriage, as do 56% of independents. Among Republicans, 76% are opposed to same-sex marriage.

The results by race:

	<u>FAVOR</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>
White	55%	43%
African-American	33%	60%

Opposition to same-sex marriage among African-American voters is what keeps the issue close in the state. If black support was equivalent to that of Democrats, as it is on many issues, same-sex marriage would be in a solid majority in Maryland.

Medical Marijuana

Among Maryland voters, 63% favor legalizing marijuana for medical purposes (38% “strongly” favor and 25% “somewhat” favor), while 33% oppose legalizing marijuana (27% “strongly” oppose and 6% “somewhat” oppose).

The results by party affiliation:

	<u>FAVOR</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u>
Democrats	70%	29%
Republicans	50%	46%
Independents	72%	24%

Opposition is highest with Maryland Republicans, but even among this group, 50% favor legalizing marijuana for medical purposes.

Dream Act

Maryland voters also remain divided on the issue of in-state tuition for children of immigrants who are not in the state legally.

Statewide, 48% agree (21% “strongly” agree and 27% “somewhat” agree) that “children of immigrants who are not in the state legally should be given the opportunity to receive Maryland in-state college tuition rates if they have graduated from a Maryland high school and their parents can prove they have filed Maryland state tax returns for the past 3 years,” while 49% disagree (37% “strongly” disagree and 12% “somewhat” disagree).

The intensity is much greater among voters who oppose in-state tuition

The results by party and race:

	<u>AGREE</u>	<u>DISAGREE</u>
Democrats	61%	37%
Republicans	26%	71%
Independents	46%	52%
White	46%	53%
African-American	56%	41%

QUESTION: *What do you consider the most important issue facing Maryland today?*

<u>MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Economy/jobs	394	48.8 %
Education	102	12.6 %
Taxes	91	11.3 %
Budget deficit	41	5.1 %
Transportation/roads	37	4.6 %
Environment	34	4.2 %
Health care	31	3.8 %
Need new elected leaders	17	2.1 %
Crime/drugs	15	1.9 %
Foreclosures	11	1.4 %
Gay marriage	6	0.7 %
Abortion	5	0.6 %
Illegal immigration	2	0.5 %
<u>No answer</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>2.5 %</u>
Total	808	100.0 %

The economy as the number one issue in Maryland remains high, but has dropped under fifty percent for the first time in more than 2 years, when it polled at 43% in September of 2009

QUESTION: *Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?*

<u>JOB APPROVAL: BARACK OBAMA</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Approve	444	55.0 %
Disapprove	333	41.2 %
No answer	31	3.8 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>JOB APPROVAL: BARACK OBAMA</u>		
<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No answer</u>

PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	367 80.7%	71 15.6%	17 3.7%
Republican	12 4.9%	224 91.1%	10 4.1%
Independent	65 60.7%	38 35.5%	4 3.7%

<u>JOB APPROVAL: BARACK OBAMA</u>		
<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No answer</u>

GENDER

Male	174 44.7%	202 51.9%	13 3.3%
Female	270 64.4%	131 31.3%	18 4.3%

<u>JOB APPROVAL: BARACK OBAMA</u>		
<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No answer</u>

RACE

White	264 44.7%	304 51.4%	23 3.9%
African-American	171 88.1%	16 8.2%	7 3.6%

QUESTION: *Do you approve or disapprove of the job Martin O'Malley is doing as governor?*

<u>JOB APPROVAL: MARTIN O'MALLEY</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Approve	428	53.0 %
Disapprove	324	40.1 %
No answer	56	6.9 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>JOB APPROVAL: MARTIN O'MALLEY</u>		
<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No answer</u>

PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	341 74.9%	79 17.4%	35 7.7%
Republican	28 11.4%	208 84.6%	10 4.1%
Independent	59 55.1%	37 34.6%	11 10.3%

<u>JOB APPROVAL: MARTIN O'MALLEY</u>		
<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No answer</u>

GENDER

Male	181 46.5%	186 47.8%	22 5.7%
Female	247 58.9%	138 32.9%	34 8.1%

<u>JOB APPROVAL: MARTIN O'MALLEY</u>		
<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No answer</u>

RACE

White	278 47.0%	277 46.9%	36 6.1%
African-American	143 73.7%	34 17.5%	17 8.8%

QUESTION: *Do you approve or disapprove of the job Ben Cardin is doing as a United States Senator?*

<u>JOB APPROVAL: BEN CARDIN</u>		Number	Percent
Approve		415	51.4 %
Disapprove		261	32.3 %
No answer		132	16.3 %
Total		808	100.0 %

<u>JOB APPROVAL: BEN CARDIN</u>		
Approve	Disapprove	No answer

PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	309 67.9%	83 18.2%	63 13.8%
Republican	44 17.9%	153 62.2%	49 19.9%
Independent	62 57.9%	25 23.4%	20 18.7%

<u>JOB APPROVAL: BEN CARDIN</u>		
Approve	Disapprove	No answer

GENDER

Male	182 46.8%	143 36.8%	64 16.5%
Female	233 55.6%	118 28.2%	68 16.2%

<u>JOB APPROVAL: BEN CARDIN</u>		
Approve	Disapprove	No answer

RACE

White	273 46.2%	221 37.4%	97 16.4%
African-American	134 69.1%	31 16.0%	29 14.9%

QUESTION: *Would you favor or oppose a law in Maryland allowing same-sex couples to marry, giving them the same legal rights as heterosexual married couples in areas such as tax exemptions, inheritance and pension coverage?*

<u>MARRIAGE FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	394	48.8 %
Oppose	380	47.0 %
No answer	34	4.2 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>MARRIAGE FOR SAME SEX COUPLES</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly favor	275	34.0 %
Somewhat favor	119	14.7 %
Somewhat oppose	75	9.3 %
Strongly oppose	305	37.7 %
No answer	34	4.2 %
Total	808	100.0 %

MARRIAGE FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	281 61.8%	148 32.5%	26 5.7%
Republican	53 21.5%	188 76.4%	5 2.0%
Independent	60 56.1%	44 41.1%	3 2.8%

MARRIAGE FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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RACE

White	322 54.5%	251 42.5%	18 3.0%
African-American	63 32.5%	117 60.0%	14 7.2%

QUESTION: *Would you favor or oppose a law in Maryland legalizing marijuana for medical purposes?*

LEGALIZING MARIJUANA IN MARYLAND FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES		
	Number	Percent
Favor	515	63.7 %
Oppose	271	33.5 %
No answer	22	2.7 %
Total	808	100.0 %

LEGALIZING MARIJUANA IN MARYLAND FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES		
	Number	Percent
Strongly favor	310	38.4 %
Somewhat favor	205	25.4 %
Somewhat oppose	52	6.4 %
Strongly oppose	219	27.1 %
No answer	22	2.7 %
Total	808	100.0 %

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

	Favor	Oppose	No answer
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PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	316 69.5%	131 28.8%	8 1.8%
Republican	122 49.6%	114 46.3%	10 4.1%
Independent	77 72.0%	26 24.3%	4 3.7%

QUESTION: *Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Children of immigrants who are not in the state legally should be given the opportunity to receive Maryland in-state college tuition rates if they have graduated from a Maryland high school and their parents can prove they have filed Maryland state tax returns for the past 3 years?*

<u>IN-STATE TUITION RATES</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Agree	390	48.3 %
Disagree	401	49.6 %
No answer	17	2.1 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>IN-STATE TUITION RATES</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly agree	173	21.4 %
Somewhat agree	217	26.9 %
Somewhat disagree	100	12.4 %
Strongly disagree	301	37.3 %
No answer	17	2.1 %
Total	808	100.0 %

IN-STATE TUITION RATES

<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	276 60.7%	170 37.4%	9 2.0%
Republican	65 26.4%	175 71.1%	6 2.4%
Independent	49 45.8%	56 52.3%	2 1.9%

IN-STATE TUITION RATES

<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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RACE

White	270 45.7%	311 52.6%	10 1.7%
African-American	108 55.7%	80 41.2%	6 3.1%