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Maryland Poll

**President Obama Job Approval
Governor O’Malley Job Approval
Death Penalty
Gun Control
Transportation**

January 2013

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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 15th through January 20th, 2013. A total of 801 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

GENDER	Number	Percent
Male	384	47.9 %
Female	417	52.1 %
Total	801	100.0 %

PARTY AFFILIATION	Number	Percent
Democrat	448	55.9 %
Republican	239	29.8 %
Independent	114	14.2 %
Total	801	100.0 %

RACE	Number	Percent
White	580	72.4 %
African-American	193	24.1 %
Other/Refused	28	3.5 %
Total	801	100.0 %

REGION	Number	Percent
Eastern Sh/So MD	109	13.6 %
Baltimore City	74	9.2 %
Baltimore Suburbs	282	35.2 %
Washington Suburbs	248	31.0 %
Western MD	88	11.0 %
Total	801	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.				

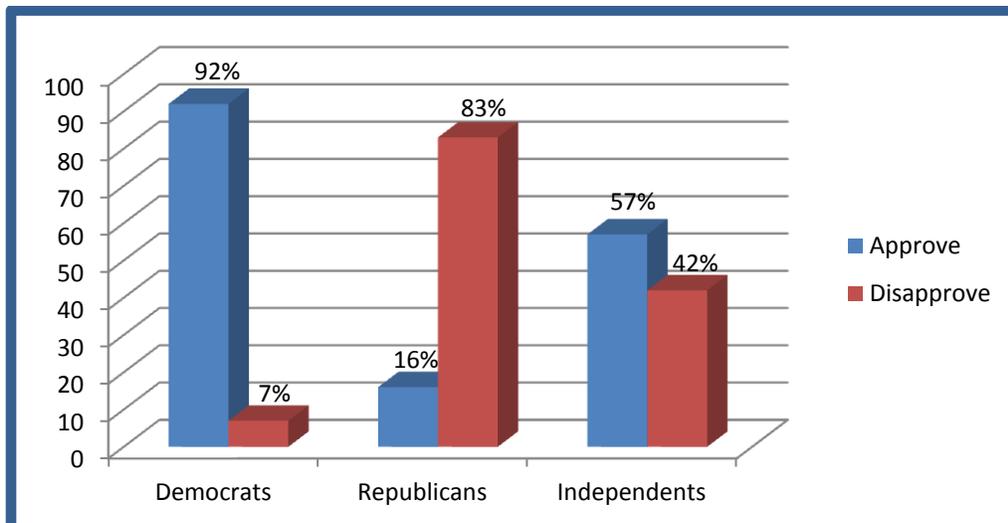
Summary

President Barack Obama Job Approval

Statewide, 64% of Maryland voters approve of the job Barack Obama is doing as president (45% “strongly” approve and 19% “somewhat” approve), while 35% disapprove (26% “strongly” disapprove and 9% “somewhat” disapprove).

Obama Job Approval	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
January 2013	64%	35%	1%
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%

Figure 2 Obama Job Approval by Party



Governor Martin O'Malley Job Approval

Among Maryland voters, 54% approve of the job Martin O'Malley is doing as governor (25% "strongly" approve and 29% "somewhat" approve), while 41% disapprove (24% "strongly" disapprove and 17% "somewhat" disapprove), with 5% having no opinion.

O'Malley Job Approval	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
January 2013	54%	41%	5%
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%

By party, 73% of Democrats approve of the job O'Malley is doing and 20% disapprove; 52% of unaffiliated voters approve and 46% disapprove. Among Republicans, 17% approve and 80% disapprove.

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Men	46%	51%
Women	61%	33%
White	46%	50%
African-American	76%	18%

Twenty-five percent of Marylanders think O'Malley should run for president in 2016, 58% say he should not, and 17% aren't sure.

Death Penalty

Opposition to the death penalty in Maryland has increased over the past two years.

Statewide, 49% of voters favor the death penalty (29% “strongly” favor and 21% “somewhat” favor), while 44% oppose the death penalty (31% “strongly” oppose and 13% “somewhat” oppose), with 7% offering no response.

Death Penalty	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
January 2013	49%	44%	7%
January 2011	56%	36%	8%

Opposition to the death penalty has increased 8 points in the past two years

The death penalty by party and race:

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Democrats	33%	60%
Republicans	77%	17%
Independents	51%	38%
White	53%	40%
African American	34%	59%

Among black voters 44% “strongly” oppose and 15% “somewhat” oppose the death penalty

The key finding in this examination of the death penalty, however, is that when we asked Marylanders if they believe that the sentence of life without the possibility of parole is, or is not, an acceptable substitute for the death penalty, we discovered a near 2-to-1 result:

- 61% say that life in prison without the possibility of parole **is** an acceptable alternative to the death penalty
- 33% say that life without parole **is not** an acceptable alternative to the death penalty

Gun Control

Statewide, 58% of Maryland voters would favor a law banning the sale of assault weapons in the state (46% “strongly” favor and 12% “somewhat” favor), while 40% oppose a ban (28% “strongly” oppose and 12% “somewhat” oppose).

The results by party and gender:

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Democrats	70%	28%
Republicans	38%	61%
Independents	54%	45%
Male	51%	48%
Female	65%	34%

An overwhelming 88% of Maryland voters would favor a law requiring background checks on people buying guns at gun shows (73% “strongly” favor and 15% “somewhat” favor), while only 11% would oppose a law requiring background checks (7% “strongly” oppose and 4% “somewhat” oppose).

We asked Maryland voters what they thought would do more to reduce violence in schools: have stricter gun control laws or have armed guards in schools.

- 44% say stricter gun control laws would do more to reduce violence in schools
- 36% say having armed guards would do more to reduce violence in schools

The results by party and gender:

	<u>Stricter Laws</u>	<u>Armed Guards</u>
Democrats	52%	27%
Republicans	29%	52%
Independents	47%	40%
Male	38%	43%
Female	51%	30%

Transportation

Marylanders are strongly united in their belief in the Free State’s transportation infrastructure needs.

Statewide, 94% think it is important to maintain and improve and maintain Maryland’s transportation system, such as roads, bridges and public transportation (56% “very” important and 38% “somewhat” important), while only 6% it is not important to maintain and improve and maintain Maryland’s transportation system.

The rub appears, however, with at least one funding mechanism to meet these needs.

Statewide, only 26% would favor a ten cents per gallon increase in Maryland’s gas tax rate (8% “strongly” favor and 18% “somewhat” favor), while 73% oppose a ten cents per gallon increase in Maryland’s gas tax rate to be used for transportation projects (59% “strongly” oppose and 14% “somewhat” oppose).

The gas tax by party and gender:

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Democrats	36%	64%
Republicans	11%	89%
Independents	25%	75%
Male	24%	75%
Female	29%	71%

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

JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA		Number	Percent
Approve		514	64.2 %
Disapprove		279	34.8 %
No answer		8	1.0 %
Total		801	100.0 %

JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA		Number	Percent
Strongly approve		360	44.9 %
Somewhat approve		154	19.2 %
Somewhat disapprove		75	9.4 %
Strongly disapprove		204	25.5 %
No answer		8	1.0 %
Total		801	100.0 %

JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA				
Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer

GENDER

Male	126 32.8%	73 19.0%	44 11.5%	136 35.4%	5 1.3%
Female	234 56.1%	81 19.4%	31 7.4%	68 16.3%	3 0.7%

56% of females
"strongly" approve of
the job Barack Obama
is doing as president

JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA				
Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer

PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	319 71.2%	91 20.3%	11 2.5%	22 4.9%	5 1.1%
Republican	8 3.3%	31 13.0%	46 19.2%	152 63.6%	2 0.8%
Independent	33 28.9%	32 28.1%	18 15.8%	30 26.3%	1 0.9%

JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA				
Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer

RACE

White	188 32.4%	122 21.0%	70 12.1%	193 33.3%	7 1.2%
African-American	158 81.9%	29 15.0%	3 1.6%	2 1.0%	1 0.5%

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

JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY		
	Number	Percent
Approve	429	53.6 %
Disapprove	334	41.7 %
No answer	38	4.7 %
Total	801	100.0 %

JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY		
	Number	Percent
Strongly approve	198	24.7 %
Somewhat approve	231	28.8 %
Somewhat disapprove	138	17.2 %
Strongly disapprove	196	24.5 %
No answer	38	4.7 %
Total	801	100.0 %

JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY					
	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer

GENDER

Male	74 19.3%	102 26.6%	71 18.5%	126 32.8%	11 2.9%
Female	124 29.7%	129 30.9%	67 16.1%	70 16.8%	27 6.5%

JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY					
	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer

PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	157 35.0%	172 38.4%	59 13.2%	31 6.9%	29 6.5%
Republican	13 5.4%	28 11.7%	53 22.2%	138 57.7%	7 2.9%
Independent	28 24.6%	31 27.2%	26 22.8%	27 23.7%	2 1.8%

JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY					
	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer

RACE

White	99 17.1%	167 28.8%	105 18.1%	183 31.6%	26 4.5%
African-American	90 46.6%	57 29.5%	28 14.5%	7 3.6%	11 5.7%

QUESTION: *Do you think Governor Martin O'Malley should run for president in 2016, or not?*

<u>SHOULD MARTIN O'MALLEY RUN FOR PRESIDENT</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	200	25.0 %
No	464	57.9 %
Not sure	137	17.1 %
Total	801	100.0 %

SHOULD MARTIN O'MALLEY RUN FOR PRESIDENT

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not sure</u>
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GENDER

Male	81 21.1%	241 62.8%	62 16.1%
Female	119 28.5%	223 53.5%	75 18.0%

SHOULD MARTIN O'MALLEY RUN FOR PRESIDENT

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not sure</u>
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PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	144 32.1%	197 44.0%	107 23.9%
Republican	25 10.5%	200 83.7%	14 5.9%
Independent	31 27.2%	67 58.8%	16 14.0%

SHOULD MARTIN O'MALLEY RUN FOR PRESIDENT

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not sure</u>
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RACE

White	123 21.2%	377 65.0%	80 13.8%
African-American	73 37.8%	71 36.8%	49 25.4%

QUESTION: *Do you favor or oppose the death penalty in Maryland?*

<u>DEATH PENALTY</u>	Number	Percent
Favor	391	48.8 %
Oppose	351	43.8 %
No answer	59	7.4 %
Total	801	100.0 %

<u>DEATH PENALTY</u>	Number	Percent
Strongly favor	225	28.1 %
Somewhat favor	166	20.7 %
Somewhat oppose	100	12.5 %
Strongly oppose	251	31.3 %
No answer	59	7.4 %
Total	801	100.0 %

	<u>DEATH PENALTY</u>				
	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	No answer
<u>GENDER</u>					
Male	148 38.5%	74 19.3%	44 11.5%	90 23.4%	28 7.3%
Female	77 18.5%	92 22.1%	56 13.4%	161 38.6%	31 7.4%

	<u>DEATH PENALTY</u>				
	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	No answer
<u>PARTY AFFILIATION</u>					
Democrat	62 13.8%	86 19.2%	61 13.6%	206 46.0%	33 7.4%
Republican	136 56.9%	49 20.5%	21 8.8%	20 8.4%	13 5.4%
Independent	27 23.7%	31 27.2%	18 15.8%	25 21.9%	13 11.4%

	<u>DEATH PENALTY</u>				
	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	No answer
<u>RACE</u>					
White	194 33.4%	115 19.8%	71 12.2%	159 27.4%	41 7.1%
African-American	20 10.4%	45 23.3%	29 15.0%	84 43.5%	15 7.8%

QUESTION: *As a penalty for murder, do you believe that the sentence of life in prison without any possibility of parole is, or is not, an acceptable substitute for the death penalty?*

IS LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR DEATH PENALTY		
	Number	Percent
Yes	486	60.7 %
No	264	33.0 %
No answer	51	6.4 %
Total	801	100.0 %

IS LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE		
Yes	No	No answer

GENDER

Male	199 51.8%	160 41.7%	25 6.5%
Female	287 68.8%	104 24.9%	26 6.2%

69% of women in Maryland believe that the sentence of life in prison without any possibility of parole is an acceptable substitute for the death penalty

IS LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE		
Yes	No	No answer

PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	305 68.1%	113 25.2%	30 6.7%
Republican	108 45.2%	115 48.1%	16 6.7%
Independent	73 64.0%	36 31.6%	5 4.4%

IS LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE		
Yes	No	No answer

RACE

White	341 58.8%	206 35.5%	33 5.7%
African-American	133 68.9%	45 23.3%	15 7.8%

QUESTION: *Do you favor or oppose a law banning the sale of assault weapons in Maryland?*

<u>BANNING THE SALE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	465	58.1 %
Oppose	326	40.7 %
No answer	10	1.2 %
Total	801	100.0 %

<u>BANNING THE SALE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly favor	367	45.8 %
Somewhat favor	98	12.2 %
Somewhat oppose	99	12.4 %
Strongly oppose	227	28.3 %
No answer	10	1.2 %
Total	801	100.0 %

BANNING THE SALE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS

<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Somewhat favor</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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GENDER

Male	142 37.0%	52 13.5%	47 12.2%	139 36.2%	4 1.0%
Female	225 54.0%	46 11.0%	52 12.5%	88 21.1%	6 1.4%

BANNING THE SALE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS

<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Somewhat favor</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	279 62.3%	34 7.6%	49 10.9%	79 17.6%	7 1.6%
Republican	40 16.7%	51 21.3%	32 13.4%	114 47.7%	2 0.8%
Independent	48 42.1%	13 11.4%	18 15.8%	34 29.8%	1 0.9%

BANNING THE SALE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS

<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Somewhat favor</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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61% of black voters
"strongly" favor a ban
on assault weapons

RACE

White	237 40.9%	78 13.4%	74 12.8%	184 31.7%	7 1.2%
African-American	117 60.6%	18 9.3%	20 10.4%	35 18.1%	3 1.6%

QUESTION: *Do you favor or oppose a law requiring background checks on people buying guns at gun shows?*

<u>REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	705	88.0 %
Oppose	87	10.9 %
No answer	9	1.1 %
Total	801	100.0 %

<u>REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly favor	586	73.2 %
Somewhat favor	119	14.9 %
Somewhat oppose	29	3.6 %
Strongly oppose	58	7.2 %
No answer	9	1.1 %
Total	801	100.0 %

	<u>REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS</u>				
	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Somewhat favor</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
<u>PARTY AFFILIATION</u>					
Democrat	350 78.1%	53 11.8%	12 2.7%	26 5.8%	7 1.6%
Republican	149 62.3%	50 20.9%	11 4.6%	27 11.3%	2 0.8%
Independent	87 76.3%	16 14.0%	6 5.3%	5 4.4%	0 0.0%

QUESTION: Which of these do you think would do more to reduce violence in schools: have stricter gun control laws or having armed guards in schools?(ORDER ROTATED)

MORE LIKELY TO REDUCE VIOLENCE		Number	Percent
Stricter gun laws		355	44.3 %
Armed guards		289	36.1 %
Both (VOL)		26	3.2 %
Neither (VOL)		59	7.4 %
No answer		72	9.0 %
Total		801	100.0 %

	MORE LIKELY TO REDUCE VIOLENCE				
	Stricter gun laws	Armed guards	Both (VOL)	Neither (VOL)	No answer
GENDER					
Male	144 37.5%	166 43.2%	12 3.1%	31 8.1%	31 8.1%
Female	211 50.6%	123 29.5%	14 3.4%	28 6.7%	41 9.8%

	MORE LIKELY TO REDUCE VIOLENCE				
	Stricter gun laws	Armed guards	Both (VOL)	Neither (VOL)	No answer
PARTY AFFILIATION					
Democrat	233 52.0%	119 26.6%	22 4.9%	32 7.1%	42 9.4%
Republican	69 28.9%	124 51.9%	3 1.3%	19 7.9%	24 10.0%
Independent	53 46.5%	46 40.4%	1 0.9%	8 7.0%	6 5.3%

	MORE LIKELY TO REDUCE VIOLENCE				
	Stricter gun laws	Armed guards	Both (VOL)	Neither (VOL)	No answer
RACE					
White	247 42.6%	228 39.3%	14 2.4%	44 7.6%	47 8.1%
African-American	99 51.3%	50 25.9%	12 6.2%	11 5.7%	21 10.9%

QUESTION: *How important is it to maintain and improve and maintain Maryland's transportation system, such as roads, bridges and public transportation?*

MARYLAND'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM	Number	Percent
Very important	449	56.1 %
Somewhat important	307	38.3 %
Not too important	41	5.1 %
Not at all important	3	0.4 %
No answer	1	0.1 %
Total	801	100.0 %

MARYLAND'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM				
Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	No answer

GENDER

Male	200 52.1%	165 43.0%	16 4.2%	2 0.5%	1 0.3%
Female	249 59.7%	142 34.1%	25 6.0%	1 0.2%	0 0.0%

MARYLAND'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM				
Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	No answer

PARTY AFFILIATION

Democrat	292 65.2%	133 29.7%	23 5.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
Republican	97 40.6%	125 52.3%	14 5.9%	3 1.3%	0 0.0%
Independent	60 52.6%	49 43.0%	4 3.5%	0 0.0%	1 0.9%

MARYLAND'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM				
Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	No answer

RACE

White	294 50.7%	254 43.8%	28 4.8%	3 0.5%	1 0.2%
African-American	139 72.0%	42 21.8%	12 6.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%

QUESTION: *Would you favor or oppose a 10 cents per gallon increase in Maryland's gas tax rate to be used for transportation projects?(ROTATED WITH PREVIOUS QUESTION)*

GAS TAX INCREASE	Number	Percent
Favor	214	26.7 %
Oppose	582	72.7 %
No answer	5	0.6 %
Total	801	100.0 %

GAS TAX INCREASE	Number	Percent
Strongly favor	67	8.4 %
Somewhat favor	147	18.4 %
Somewhat oppose	108	13.5 %
Strongly oppose	474	59.2 %
No answer	5	0.6 %
Total	801	100.0 %

	GAS TAX INCREASE				
	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	No answer
<u>GENDER</u>					
Male	32 8.3%	61 15.9%	45 11.7%	243 63.3%	3 0.8%
Female	35 8.4%	86 20.6%	63 15.1%	231 55.4%	2 0.5%

	GAS TAX INCREASE				
	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	No answer
<u>PARTY AFFILIATION</u>					
Democrat	43 9.6%	117 26.1%	69 15.4%	216 48.2%	3 0.7%
Republican	9 3.8%	17 7.1%	26 10.9%	186 77.8%	1 0.4%
Independent	15 13.2%	13 11.4%	13 11.4%	72 63.2%	1 0.9%