

Press Release: March 14, 2012
Center for the Study of Local Issues
Anne Arundel Community College
101 College Parkway, Arnold MD 21012-1895
Contact: Dan Nataf 410-777-2733

Improving Local Economy, Gambling, County Agencies Focus of Anne Arundel County Survey

A survey of 440 Anne Arundel County residents conducted March 5-8 by students assisting the Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) at Anne Arundel Community College focused primarily on perceptions of the local economy and its impact on residents, plans to expand gambling and satisfaction with some county agencies, as well as a range of other state and local issues. A detailed review of these main themes as well as other results follows the summary of findings. The actual questionnaire and percentages can be found in Appendix A at the end of the press release.

Summary of Findings

A summary of issues covered by the CSLI survey is presented below.

Most important problem facing county residents: 30 percent cited the economy, an 18-point drop since October 2011.

Perceptions of the economy: 51 percent viewed the county's economy as excellent or good – a 3 percentage point rise from October; 38 percent said the same for Maryland's economy (up 5 points) and 13 percent favorably rated the national economy, up 4 points.

Right direction/wrong direction: There was a drop since the October 2011 survey in the percentage of those saying that the county was moving in the right direction (from 47 to 43 percent) along with a marked increase in those saying "wrong" direction (from 32 to 41 percent).

Economic conditions experienced by individuals: Various measures have been tracked since March 2008 – the major changes for spring 2012 were a decrease among those saying that they had "significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts" (-16 percentage points) and an increase in the percentage saying that they had received an increase in income recently, rising 9 points from 26 to 35 percent. Fewer were delaying major purchases or facing the possibility of unemployment. Indicators tracking inflation were either flat or showed some rise.

Consumer confidence: Three of the four indicators showed improvement, with larger percentages than last fall saying that economic growth, unemployment and personal financial situation would improve over the next 12 months. Only inflationary expectations worsened slightly.

Expansion of gambling through the addition of another site and table games: The public was closely divided about whether adding a new site has more costs than benefits – 42 percent agreed, 43 percent disagreed – but found fewer costs regarding the addition of table games: – 34 percent agreed that there were more costs than benefits while 48 percent disagreed.

County agencies and units level of satisfaction: The percentage saying "very satisfied" with the unit was as follows: Fire Department, 87 percent; Police Department, 67 percent; public libraries, 68 percent; public schools, 41 percent; permit application center 18/32 percent (with/without missing answers); Department of Aging, 30/59 percent; Health Department, 36/59 percent.¹

¹ There were a high number of respondents providing no answers about the permit application center as well as the health and aging departments. The percentages were calculated and presented both ways, to make them more comparable to the values received by the other units that were more familiar to the public.

Various state and local issues: The percentage supporting various policies were as follows: same-sex marriage, 46 percent; “flush tax” doubling, 32 percent; increasing state funding for affordable rental housing, 37 percent; shifting pension fund contributions for teachers from the state to the counties, 22 percent; strictly enforcing the requirement that local schools be funded at no less than last year’s levels, 65 percent.

Possible problems affecting quality of life in Anne Arundel County: Respondents gave these “very serious” scores: Pollution of the Chesapeake Bay (66 percent); budget constraints on local government (43 percent); over-dependency on government employment (43 percent); air pollution (39 percent); changes in the quality of county schools (39 percent); sea-level rise (31 percent).

Obama’s job approval: President Obama’s job approval went up 5 points to 42 percent. In a matchup with a hypothetical “Republican candidate” he was down by 3 points (38 to 41 percent).

Which party do you trust to do a better job? The percentage favoring Democrats was up 6 points from last spring (from 31 to 37 percent). The Republicans also went up from 30 to 34 percent. The percentage saying “neither” decreased to 21 percent from 32 percent last October.

Methodology: The survey polled a random sample of 440 county residents who were at least 18 years old. It was conducted March 5-8, 2012 during evening hours. Phone numbers were derived from a database of listed landline numbers as well as computer chosen, randomly assigned numbers. There was about a 4.6 percent statistical margin of error for the overall sample; the error rate was higher for subgroups such as “Democrats.” The dataset was weighted by gender and political party to better represent the general population. College students were trained and used as telephone interviewers.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., center director, for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 and ddnataf@aacc.edu. Check the CSLI website for results from this and previous surveys: www2.aacc.edu/csl.

The Economy

The Most Important Problem Facing Residents

Recent CSLI surveys have consistently shown high levels of concern about the state of the economy in answer to the question, “What is the most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time?” In this as with some other questions, an improving economic climate was signaled by the dramatic decline in the percentage mentioning the economy (30 percent), down from 48 percent six months ago.

This spring’s survey saw a doubling in the percentage citing high taxes (up from 9 to 17 percent). There was also a notable rise in the percentage mentioning government as corrupt or unethical, from 2 to 6 percent.

Table 1: “Most Important Problem Facing Residents” – Spring 2007 to Spring 2012²

	Spring '07	Fall '07	Spring '08	Fall '08	Spring '09	Fall '09	Spring '10	Fall '10	Spring '11	Fall '11	Spring '12
Economy	12	8	23	38	48	33	36	36	35	48	30
Taxes – too high	15	17	16	12	10	12	11	13	11	9	17
Growth / development	16	16	12	9	5	5	5	2	4	4	4
Education / school problems	12	12	12	10	8	7	8	9	10	5	7
Traffic congestion/problems	11	12	7	6	4	5	6	6	3	5	5
Crime / drugs	9	10	6	4	6	8	6	6	6	8	4
Unsure / no answer	9	6	9	7	8	10	10	8	12	8	9
Other answer	16	19	15	14	11	21	17	21	19	13	24 ³
Total	100	100	100	100	100	101	99	101	100	100	100

Note: In this and other tables, totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

Rating Economic Conditions – Anne Arundel County

Since March 2002, the CSLI semi-annual survey has asked a benchmark question about the economy: “How would you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County – “excellent,” “good,” “only fair” or “poor?” ”

As shown on Table 2, since March 2006 the county’s historical average saying that the economy was a combined “excellent” or “good” was 55 percent. In keeping with several other indicators of an improving economic climate, the combined excellent/good score reached 51 percent, the highest score for this question since March 2008, and up 3 percentage points since fall 2011. Graph 1 also displays the overall trend from spring 2006 to the latest survey in spring 2012.

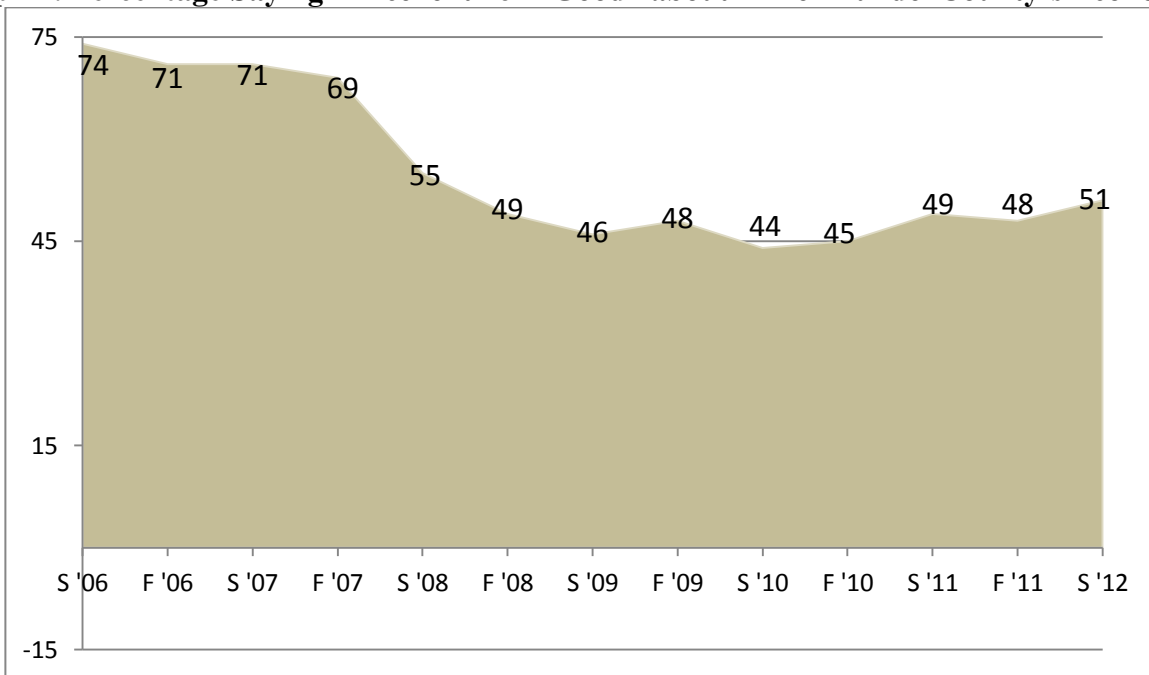
² From spring 2007 to spring 2010, surveys’ answer categories for “most important problem” included “lack of affordable housing” for interviewers to check off. Previously, that answer to the open-ended question would have been categorized under “economy,” a practice which was resumed in fall 2010. The running totals in Table 1 combine both answers into the single “economy” category. Similarly, crime includes those saying “crime” and “illegal drugs.”

³ There was a dispersion of answers in this survey so that some categories not included in the table received a relatively large number of citations. For example, 5 percent cited the environment, 6 percent cited government corruption.

Table 2: Perceptions of County Economic Conditions

Condition	Spring '06	Fall '06	Spring '07	Fall '07	Spring '08	Fall '08	Spring '09	Fall '09	Spring '10	Fall '10	Spring '11	Fall '11	Spring '12	Mean
Excellent +good	74	71	71	69	55	49	46	48	44	45	49	48	51	55
Excellent	14	9	12	10	6	6	2	4	3	3	3	4	2	6
Good	60	62	59	59	49	43	44	44	41	42	46	44	49	49
Fair	23	23	22	25	36	37	43	38	41	45	38	40	37	34
Poor	2	3	4	5	8	12	10	11	13	8	12	11	11	8
Don't know	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2
Total	100	100	100	101	101	100	101	100	100	100	101	101	100	99

Graph 1: Percentage Saying “Excellent” or “Good” about Anne Arundel County’s Economy



Rating Economic Conditions – Maryland and the National Economy

Since spring 2009, the question about rating economic conditions was extended to asking about the state of Maryland and the country overall.

Regarding the state of Maryland, Table 2.1 shows a distinct upward movement towards higher “excellent/good” scores, increasing 5 points since last fall to 38 percent, the highest score since the start of the series.

Table 2.1: Perceptions of State Economy

Condition	State Spring '09	State Fall '09	State Spring '10	State Fall '10	State Spring '11	State Fall '11	State Spring '12
Excellent+good	27	30	31	32	35	33	38
Excellent	1	2	2	1	3	1	3
Good	26	28	29	31	32	32	35
Only Fair	49	45	46	47	43	41	40
Poor	22	21	21	19	21	24	21
Unsure, no answer	2	4	2	2	1	2	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	101

Local residents have tracked national polling results with regards to the national economy. Last fall the excellent/good score was 9 percent; this spring the value increased to 13 percent. A national Gallup tracking poll culminating March 5 also produced a value of 13 percent, again pointing to the symmetry between national and local polling.⁴ The CSLI survey also showed that the rise in positive evaluations was coupled with a 23 point drop in the percentage saying “poor” and a 19 point increase in the percentage saying “fair.”

Table 2.2: Perceptions of National Economy

Condition	Spring '09	Fall '09	Spring '10	Fall '10	Spring '11	Fall '11	Spring '12
Excellent+Good	5	11	11	11	11	9	13
Excellent	0	1	1	2	2	2	1
Good	5	10	10	9	9	7	12
Only Fair	30	39	42	41	43	28	47
Poor	63	48	46	47	45	62	39
Unsure, no answer	1	2	2	1	2	2	2
Total	99	100	101	100	101	101	101

According to CSLI director Dan Nataf, “Several findings contribute to the conclusion that the public is growing somewhat more optimistic about the recovery of the economy. Whether this growth in optimism will be sustained or is just temporary is harder to know.”

Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents

Respondents were asked: “Thinking now about your personal circumstances, please tell me whether any of these economic conditions apply to you or your household.” Table 3 shows the results for the last nine CSLI surveys. The fall 2011 survey added two new questions asking about a “salary increase or other increase in income recently” and whether the respondent had “found a new or better job recently;” both questions were continued in spring 2012.

⁴ See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/110821/gallup-daily-us-economic-conditions.aspx>

Table 3: Economic Conditions Applying to Personal Circumstances

Condition	Fall '08	Spring '09	Fall '09	Spring '10	Fall '10	Spring '11	Fall '11	Spring '12	Spring '12-Fall '11
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	26	35	+9
Found a new or better job recently	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14	16	+2
Significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts	71	75	70	56	60	52	60	44	-16
Delay in making a major purchase such as a home or car	n.a.	51	46	47	44	47	51	45	-6
Facing the possibility of unemployment	15	24	24	19	21	20	21	17	-4
Hard to afford cost of utilities such as electricity or gas	50	53	42	44	43	46	39	39	0
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	30	29	33	32	34	35	32	32	0
Facing the possibility of house foreclosure or loss	4	6	8	7	7	9	8	8	0
Unable to find affordable housing	11	12	13	15	10	14	11	15	+4
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	58	59	59	63	60	63	58	63	+5
Hard to afford the cost of transportation	32	21	17	21	24	41	30	36	+6
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	59	55	55	56	56	63	59	66	+7

Table 3 is organized to place positive findings near the top and negative findings near the bottom. On the positive side, there was a distinct increase in the percentage saying that they had received an increase in income recently, rising 9 points from 26 to 35 percent. There was also a small 2 percentage point rise in the number saying that they had found a new or better job recently. Accompanying the recovery of the stock market, the percentage of those citing “significant losses” in stock or retirement accounts dropped 16 points, from 60 to 44 percent – the lowest figure since this set of questions was first asked in October 2008. Rounding out the summary of positive results was a decline in the percentage saying that they had delayed “making a major purchase” (from 51 to 45 percent), and the percentage saying that they were “facing the possibility of unemployment” descended to the lowest level since October 2008 – 17 percent.

Not all the news was positive however. There were no changes in the percentages saying that the cost of utilities was “hard to afford,” or who were dissatisfied with health care insurance or faced the possibility of foreclosure. There were increases in the percentages saying that it was hard to find affordable housing, or that taxes were too high, salaries were not rising with inflation, or that the cost of transportation was hard to afford.

“Inflation or the erosion of buying power seems to be the major persistent complaint of most respondents at this point,” Nataf said.

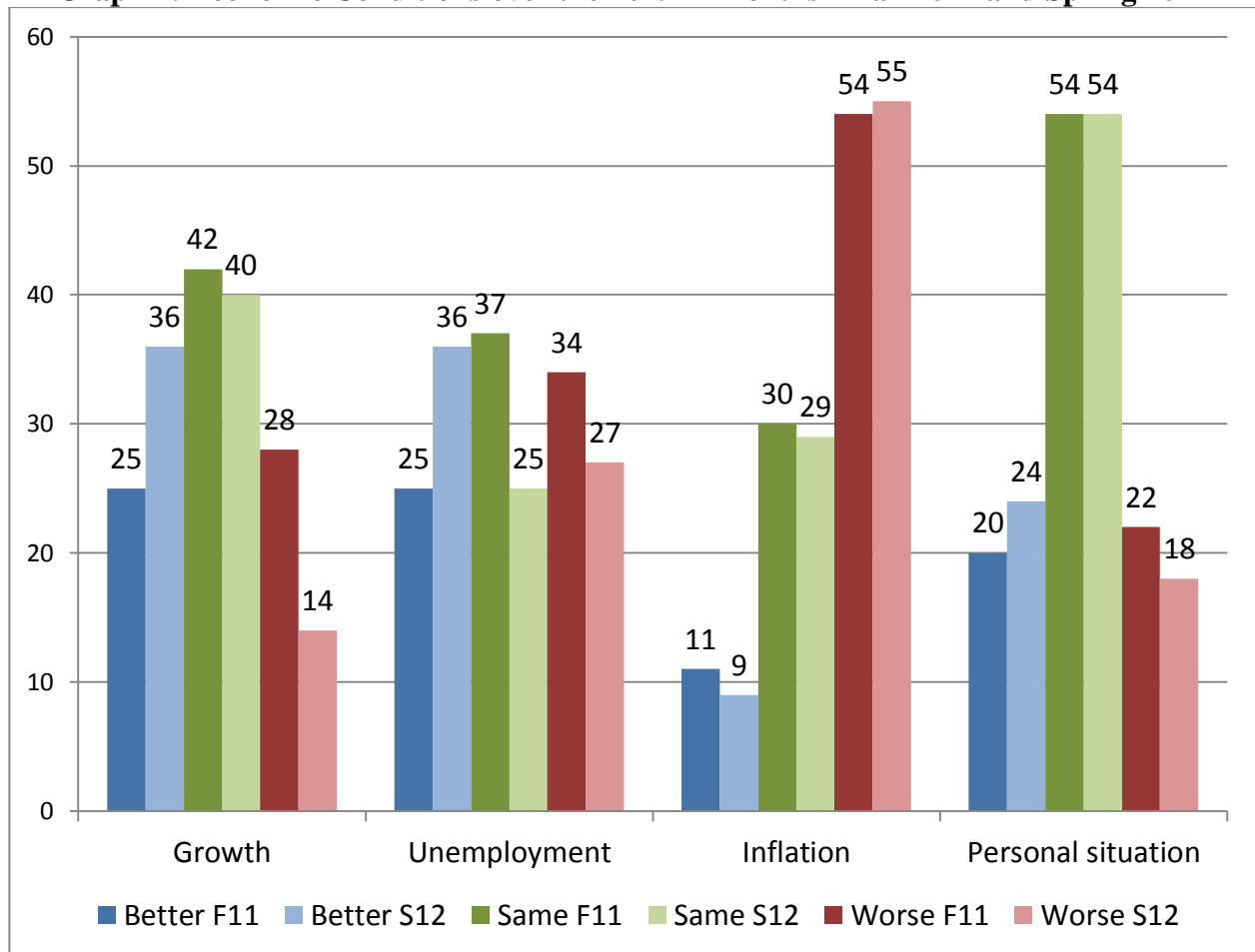
Consumer Confidence

Since fall 2011, four questions have been used to measure the public’s confidence in the future of the economy. These questions reference economic growth, unemployment, inflation and the respondent’s personal financial situation and ask the respondent to think about the next 12 months and say whether a particular condition will be better, the same or worse. Table 4 shows the results just for spring 2012; Graph 2 shows the results for both fall 2011 and spring 2012.

Table 4: Economic Conditions over the next 12 Months

	Better	Same	Worse	Unsure/NA	Total
Economic growth	36	40	19	5	100
Unemployment	36	35	27	2	100
Inflation	9	29	55	7	100
Your personal financial situation	24	54	18	4	100

Graph 2: Economic Conditions over the next 12 Months – Fall 2011 and Spring 2012



As shown on Graph 2, there were noteworthy changes in positive economic forecasts, especially for growth and unemployment – in both cases the percentage saying “better” rose by 11 points.

Using a measure which takes the “better” score and subtracts the “worse” score shows that while last October the score for economic growth was a negative 3 percent, this March the score was a positive 22 percent. The corresponding values for unemployment were negative 9 to positive 9. There was only a small improvement in the score for personal financial situation (-2 to +6). The score for inflation was the only one to signal increased pessimism, going from negative 43 to negative 46. Totaling the scores for each survey shows a cumulative change from negative 57 to negative 9 – a 48-point “improvement” in consumer confidence.

Gambling – Adding a New Site, Expanding the Scope of Gambling to Table Games

The spring survey asked about two aspects of the proposed expansion of gambling in Maryland: the addition of a new site in Prince George’s County, and the addition of table games as permissible activities at all Maryland locations. As seen on Table 5, respondents generally agreed that adding a new location or table games would increase state revenue significantly. They did not agree that adding a site outside of Anne Arundel County would reduce the county’s revenue. A plurality agreed that additional venues or games would lead to significantly more gambling addiction. Overall, while respondents remained unconvinced that adding another location had more benefits than costs, they tended to be more favorable to the addition of table games.

Table 5: Gambling – Addition of a New Site or Table Games

	Agree	Disagree	Unsure	No answer
Adding a location in Prince George’s County would increase state revenue significantly	47	44	7	1
Adding table games would increase state revenue significantly	51	38	9	2
Adding a site in Prince George’s County would reduce revenue at the Arundel Mills site and therefore reduce Anne Arundel County’s revenue	33	48	15	3
Adding more sites or table games would lead to significantly more gambling addiction	49	43	7	2
Expanding gambling by adding another site has more costs than benefits	42	43	11	4
Expanding gambling by adding table games has more costs than benefits	34	48	13	5

County Agencies – Satisfaction and Contact

The spring survey asked about residents’ level of satisfaction with some county agencies and followed up that question with one that asked whether respondents had any contact with the agency within the last two years.

Table 6: County Agencies – Level of Satisfaction and Direct Contact

	Level of satisfaction (very satisfied, somewhat satisfied...)				Have you had any direct contact within two years	
	Very	Somewhat	Not very	NA	Yes	No
Fire Department	87	8	1	3	42	58
Police Department	67	21	8	4	45	55
Public libraries	68	16	6	10	67	33
Public schools	41	27	16	15	51	49
Permit application center	18	19	20	44	29	71
Department of Aging and Disabilities	30	12	9	49	25	75
Department of Health	36	16	9	40	32	68
	“No answers” removed below					
Permit application center	32	33	35	--		
Department of Aging and Disabilities	59	23	17	--		
Department of Health	59	26	14	--		

Table 6 shows that four entities – Police Department, Fire Department, public schools and libraries – had been the most frequently contacted (42-67 percent). The permit application center, Department of Aging and Disabilities and Department of Health were least likely to be contacted (25-32 percent).

Three organizations – police, fire and libraries – had high satisfaction scores (67-87 percent saying “very satisfied.”) The other four had lower satisfaction scores, and in the case of the permit application center, Department of Aging and Disabilities and Department of Health, high percentages offered no answer about satisfaction. By eliminating respondents with no opinions, scores more comparable to those obtained by other agencies were included in the bottom three rows of Table 6.

The least preferred among the agencies was the permit application center which only obtained a 32 percent “very satisfied” score after the elimination of those with no opinion. As seen on Table 6.1, the percentage expressing dissatisfaction with this agency increased among those having direct contact – nearly half (47 percent) were “not very satisfied.” The survey also asked respondents to indicate reasons why they weren’t “very satisfied.” With regards to the permit application center, respondents offered statements like “process took too long,” “too bureaucratic,” “too much work,” or “inefficient.”

Table 6.1: Satisfaction with Permit Application Center and Direct Contact

	Direct contact – Yes	Direct contact - No
Very satisfied	28	36
Somewhat satisfied	25	37
Not very satisfied	47	28
Total	100	101

Other Findings

County – Right or Wrong Direction?

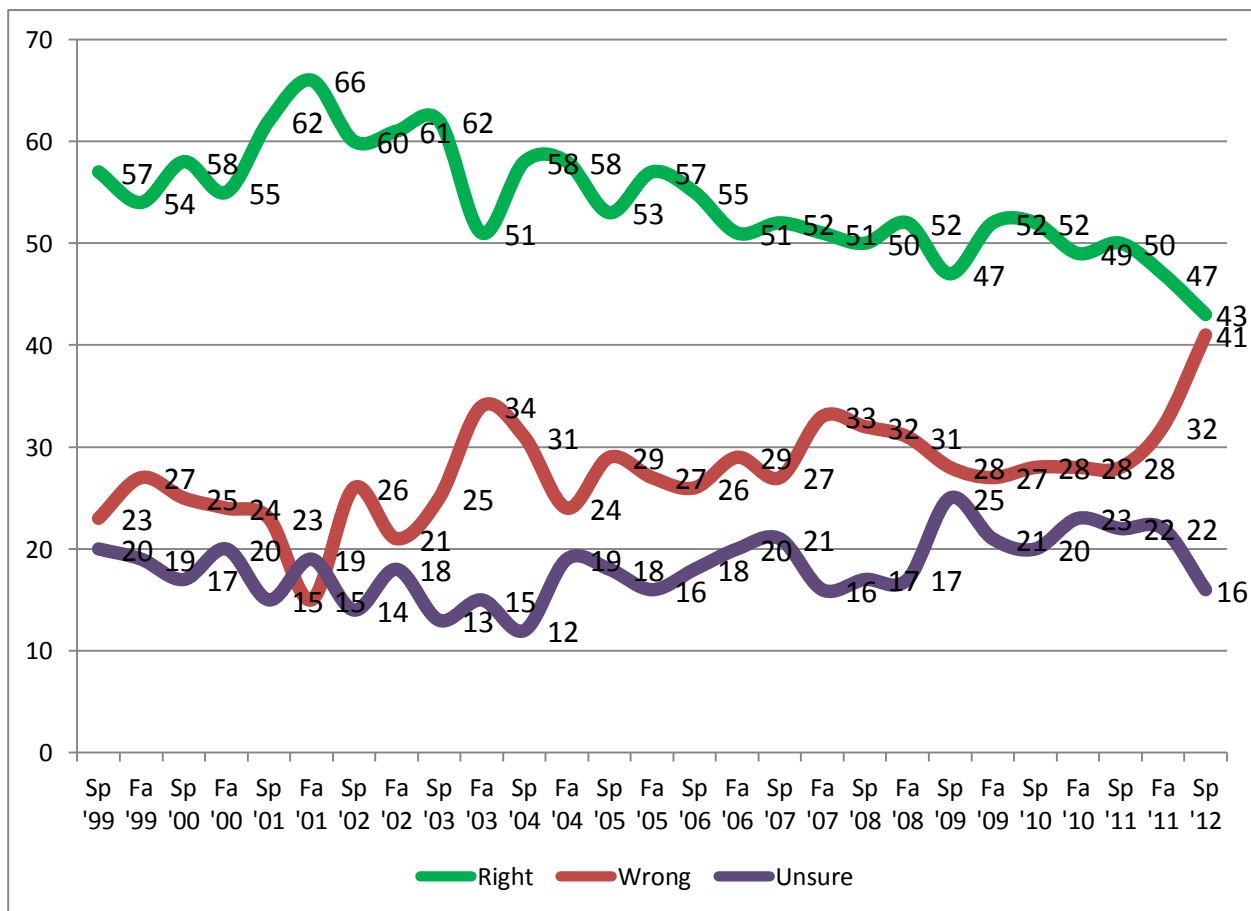
The survey included a CSLI benchmark question whose results are seen on Table 7: “Overall, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?”

Table 7 and Graph 3 show that there continued to be some downward movement in this indicator, which declined to a record low value of 43 percent saying “right” direction. Moreover, the “wrong” direction score rose sharply to 41 percent, also a record.

Table 7: Anne Arundel County - Right vs. Wrong Direction

Response	Fall 2009	Spring 2010	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Fall 2011	Spring 2012
Right direction	52	52	49	50	47	43
Wrong direction	27	28	28	28	32	41
Unsure	21	20	23	22	22	16
Total	100	100	100	100	101	100

Graph 3: Right/Wrong Direction Spring 1999 to Spring 2012



Policy Proposals – Maryland or Anne Arundel County Government

The survey asked about some policy proposals being considered by state and local government (Table 8.)

Table 8: Support for State and Local Policy Proposals

	Support	Oppose	Unsure	No answer
Legalizing same-sex marriage	46	47	5	2
Doubling the so-called ‘flush tax’ from \$30 to \$60 to help improve wastewater treatment	32	56	10	3
Increasing state funding by \$15 million for building affordable rental housing in Maryland	37	51	10	2
The next two proposals would require the county to take funds from other agencies or raise taxes to cover the costs.				
Shifting pension fund contributions for teachers from the state to the counties	22	63	12	3
Strictly enforcing the requirement that local schools be funded at no less than last year’s levels	65	28	6	1

In keeping with results found in previous CSLI surveys, the legalization of same-sex marriage splits the population roughly in half. Those with no religion or not practicing a religion (“seculars,”) higher income, postgraduate education, or who were under 65, moderate or liberal ideologically and registered as a Democrat were most supportive; Evangelicals, those who had lower incomes and less education, were over 65, ideologically conservative and/or registered as a Republican were least supportive.

Three proposals were not well supported: increasing the tax directed at improving wastewater treatment systems, increasing state funding for affordable rental housing, and shifting pension fund contributions for teachers from the state to the counties.

The only proposal receiving a clear majority in favor was strict enforcement of the “maintenance of effort” requirement that local schools be funded at no less than last year’s levels.

The survey also broached the topic of Gov. Martin O’Malley’s proposed addition of a 6 percent sales tax to the price of gasoline. About one-fifth (21 percent) supported this idea. Those expressing the most support were those with higher levels of education and income, males, seculars, liberals and Democrats.

Problems Affecting the Quality of Life in Anne Arundel County

This section of the survey asked about six possible problems which might confront the county and asked respondents to characterize the problems as “very serious,” “somewhat serious” or “not very serious.”

Table 9: Seriousness of Possible Problems Affecting the Quality of Life in Anne Arundel County

	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not very serious	Unsure/NA	Total
Pollution of the Bay hurting the maritime industry and water-oriented tourism	66	21	11	2	100
Budget constraints limiting the ability of county government to provide services	43	28	19	10	100
An over-dependency on government employment	43	27	22	9	101
Air pollution causing illnesses	39	26	32	3	100
Changes in the quality of county schools	39	26	19	16	100
Rising sea levels threatening low lying areas with flooding	31	33	27	9	100

As seen on Table 9, pollution of the Chesapeake Bay was clearly the problem that attracted the greatest consensus among respondents. None of the other problems were deemed to be “very serious” by a majority of the sample. Table 10 shows how ideology and party registration affected perceptions of these possible problems. Relationships between these variables were statistically significant in all cases except with regard to changes in the quality of county schools.

Table 10: Seriousness of Possible Problems by Ideology and Party – Percent Saying “Very Serious”

	Ideology			Party Registration		
	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated
Pollution of the Bay hurting the maritime industry and water-oriented tourism	56	72	74	74	56	74
Budget constraints limiting the ability of county government to provide services	43	42	50	51	36	40
An over-dependency on government employment	57	34	35	33	53	43
Air pollution causing illnesses	37	42	40	44	35	40
Changes in the quality of county schools	44	36	36	37	40	38
Rising sea levels threatening low lying areas with flooding	23	33	45	37	21	38

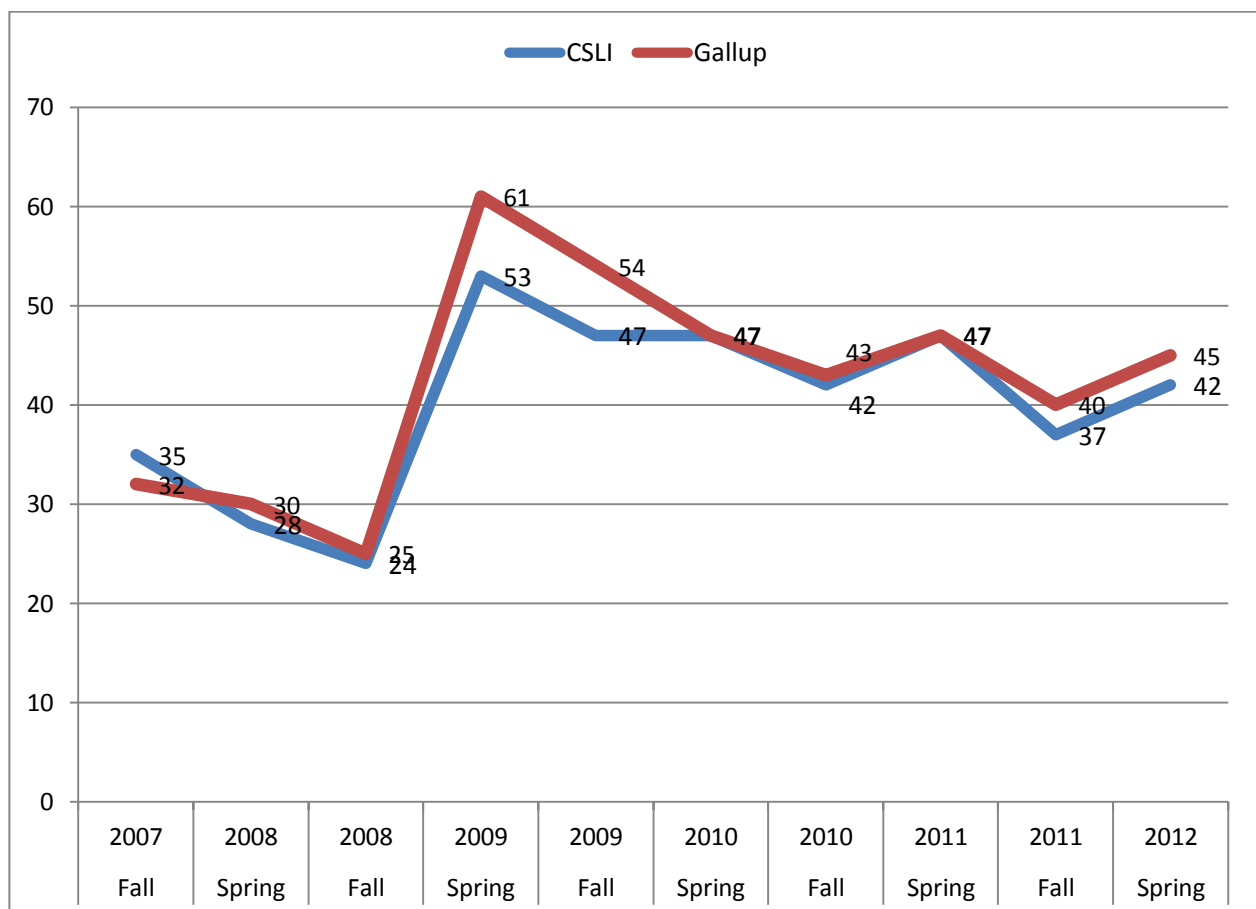
President Obama – Job Approval and Vote if Election Were Today

Since fall 2006, CSLI polls of county residents have closely tracked national presidential job approval trends as indicated by Gallup surveys.⁵ For the period closest to that during which CSLI was calling residents, Gallup’s presidential job approval surveys conducted Feb. 27-March 4 indicated that 45 percent approved of the president’s performance. CSLI’s own polling revealed a percentage that was slightly lower: 42 percent (Table 11 and Graph 4). That finding is consistent with a tendency for President Obama’s job approval in Anne Arundel County to run a few points lower than in the country as a whole.

Table 11: Job Approval for Presidents Bush and Obama

Issue	Fall 2007	Spring 2008	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Fall 2009	Spring 2010	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Fall 2011	Spring 2012
Approve	35	28	24	53	47	47	42	47	37	42
Disapprove	57	62	69	31	42	45	49	44	56	49
No answer	9	10	8	16	11	8	10	9	7	8
Total	101	100	101	100	100	100	101	100	100	99

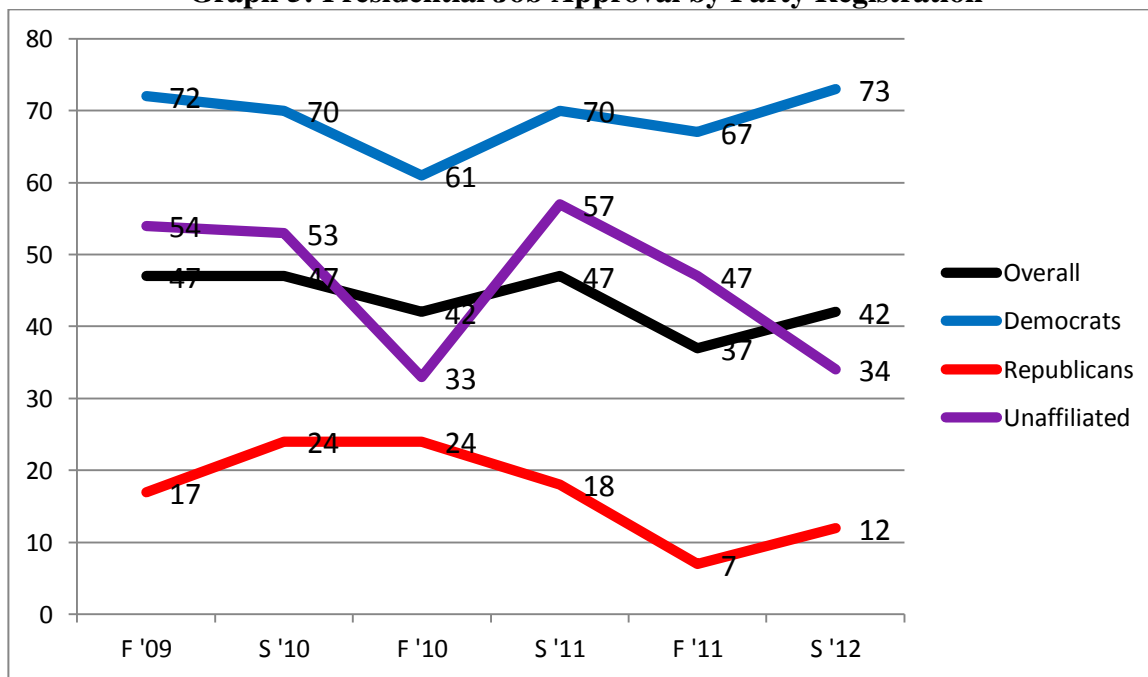
Graph 4: Presidential Job Approval – CSLI and Gallup 2007-2012



⁵ See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/123922/presidential-approval-center.aspx>

As seen on Graph 5, Obama’s popularity among Democrats increased from last fall, moving up to 73 percent from 67 percent. There was a small increase among Republicans (from 7 to 12 percent), but a drop among unaffiliated voters (47 to 34 percent).⁶

Graph 5: Presidential Job Approval by Party Registration



When President Obama was matched with an unspecified “Republican candidate” the latter was slightly ahead – 41 to 38 percent, with 11 percent undecided (others said “someone else” or “wouldn’t vote.”) Slightly fewer Democrats seemed able to commit themselves to voting for Obama (68 percent) than Republicans voting for their unknown candidate (74 percent). Unaffiliated voters were nearly split evenly (31 vs. 33 percent for Obama/Republican candidate) with a large undecided block.

Trust in Political Parties

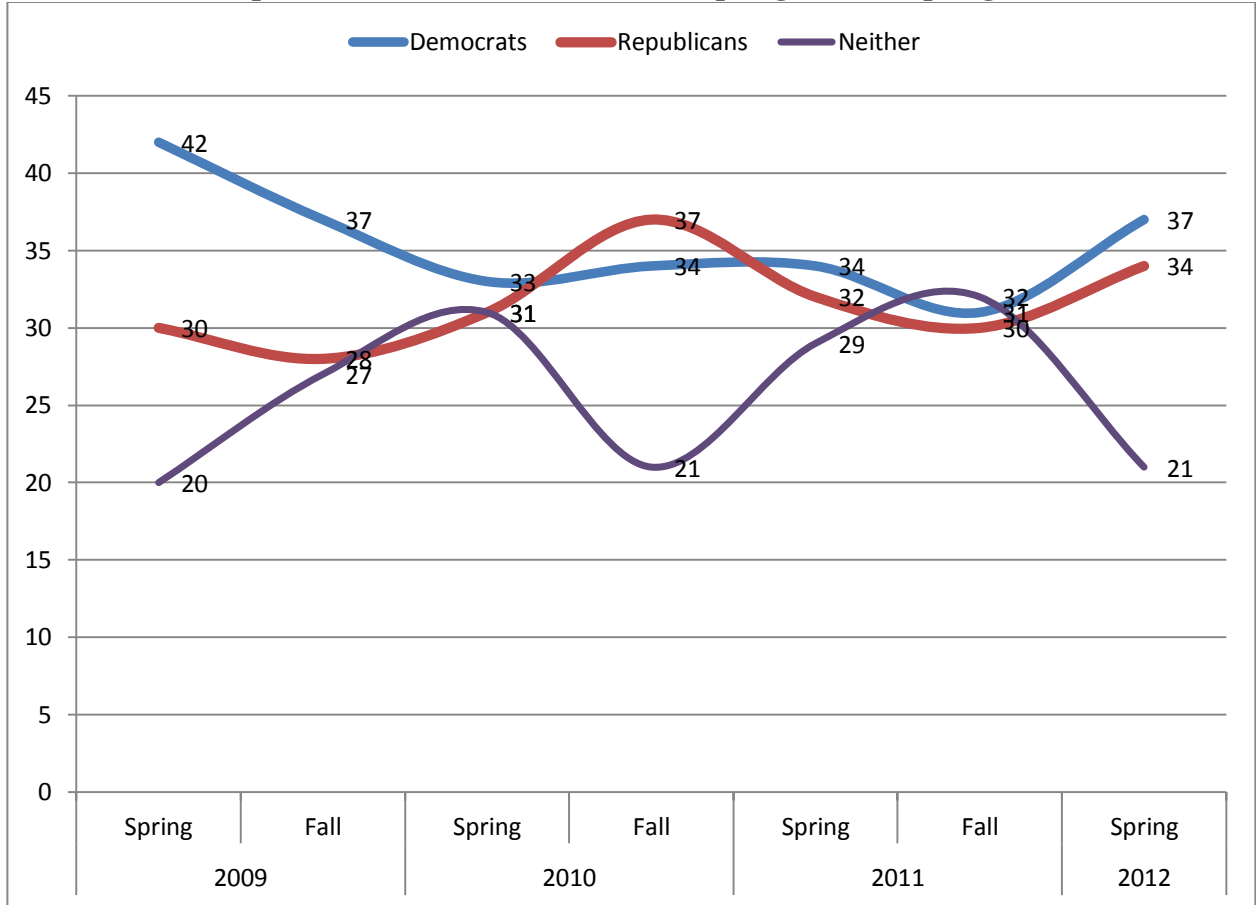
Since 2009, the CSLI survey has asked which party “do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years.” Table 12 and Graph 6 show that the parties were able to regain some confidence this spring. While in fall 2011, the “neither” option obtained a plurality of support, in spring Democrats were back to the level of confidence last obtained in fall 2009. Republicans also saw a 4 point jump from fall to spring.

Table 12: Which Party do you Trust?

	2009		2010		2011		2012
	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Democrats	42	37	33	34	34	31	37
Republicans	30	28	31	37	32	30	34
Neither	20	27	31	21	29	32	21
No opinion	8	8	6	8	4	7	7
Total	100	100	101	100	99	100	99

⁶ The number of unaffiliated voters is quite small; any estimates for this group are subject to much larger margins of error.

Graph 6: Trust in Political Parties – Spring 2009 to Spring 2012



Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 440 county residents who were at least 18 years old. It was conducted March 5-8, 2012 during evening hours. Phone numbers were derived from a database of listed landline numbers as well as computer chosen, randomly assigned numbers. There was about a 4.6 percent statistical margin of error for the overall sample; the error rate was higher for subgroups such as “Democrats.” The dataset was weighted by gender and political party to better represent the general population. College students were trained and used as telephone interviewers.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., center director, for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 and ddnataf@aacc.edu. Check the CSLI website for results from this and previous surveys: www2.aacc.edu/csl.

Appendix A: Questionnaire

CSLI Semi-Annual Survey – Spring, 2012

(All numeric values in answer categories are percentages unless otherwise indicated)

1. What do you think is the most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time? (DON'T READ THE LIST! Have them *volunteer* an answer)

Problem	Percentage
Crime/Drugs	4
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	30
Education, problems with schools	7
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	5
Government – corrupt, unethical	6
Government – inefficient, wasteful, spends too much	3
Government – lacks resources for roads, schools, services	2
Growth/overpopulation- too much development	4
Healthcare (cost, access)	2
Taxes – too high	17
Transportation problems/traffic congestion	5
Other answer (write in:	7
Unsure/No Answer	9

2. Overall, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

- (1) **Right** direction **43%**
- (2) **Wrong** direction **41%**
- (0) **Unsure** or don't know **16%**

3. Next I would like to know how you would rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County, in Maryland and in the United States generally. First how would you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County -- excellent, good, only fair or poor?

- (1) Excellent **2%** (2) Good **49%** (3) Only Fair **37%** (4) Poor **11%** (0) Unsure, no answer **1%**

3.1 How about economic conditions in Maryland?

- (1) Excellent **3%** (2) Good **35%** (3) Only Fair **40%** (4) Poor **21%** (0) Unsure, no answer **2%**

3.2 How about economic conditions in the United States?

- (1) Excellent **1%** (2) Good **12%** (3) Only Fair **47%** (4) Poor **39%** (0) Unsure, no answer **2%**

4. Thinking now about your personal circumstances, please tell me whether any of these economic conditions apply to you or your household.

	Applies	Doesn't apply	Unsure, no answer
4.1 Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	66	32	3
4.1a Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	35	62	3
4.2 Facing the possibility of unemployment	17	82	1
4.2a Found a new or better job recently	16	83	2
4.3 Significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts	44	54	2
4.4 Facing the possibility of house foreclosure or loss	8	91	2
4.5 Unable to find affordable housing	15	84	1
4.6 Hard to afford the cost of transportation	36	63	1
4.7 Hard to afford the cost of utilities such as electricity or gas	39	60	1
4.8 Delay in making a major purchase such as a home or car	45	54	0
4.9 Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	32	66	2
4.10 Taxes are too high in relation to government services provided	63	32	5

5. Thinking about the next 12 months and the county's economy, please answer the following questions by saying whether a particular condition will be better, the same or worse:

	Better	Same	Worse	Unsure/NA
5.1 Economic growth	36	40	19	5
5.2 Unemployment	36	35	27	2
5.3 Inflation	9	29	55	7
5.4 Your personal financial situation	24	54	18	4

6. State and county government will be considering some bills and budget items during the upcoming months.. When I read a proposal to you, indicate whether you support or oppose it.

	Support	Oppose	Unsure	No answer
6.1 Legalizing same-sex marriage	46	47	5	2
6.2 Doubling the so-called "flush tax" from \$30 to \$60 to help improve wastewater treatment	32	56	10	3
6.3 Increasing state funding by \$15 million for building affordable rental housing in Maryland	37	51	10	2
The next two proposals would require the county to take funds from other agencies or raise taxes to cover the costs.				
6.4 Shifting pension fund contributions for teachers from the state to the counties	22	63	12	3
6.5 Strictly enforcing the requirement that local schools be funded at no less than last year's levels	65	28	6	1

7. Gov. O’Malley has proposed adding a 6 percent sales tax to the price of gasoline, phased in over three years. The governor says that the new revenue would provide an \$85 million increase in aid to counties while providing over \$500 million for state transportation needs. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

(1) Support **21%** (2) Oppose **74%** (0) Unsure, no answer **5%**

8. Two ideas about the expansion of gambling in Maryland have been presented – one about adding another location, another about expanding the scope of gambling to include table games. As I read an idea, tell me whether you agree or disagree with it.

	Agree	Disagree	Unsure	No answer
8.1 Adding a location in Prince George’s County would increase state revenue significantly	47	44	7	1
8.2 Adding table games would increase state revenue significantly	51	38	9	2
8.3 Adding a site in Prince George’s County would reduce revenue at the Arundel Mills site and therefore reduce Anne Arundel County’s revenue	33	48	15	3
8.4 Adding more sites or table games would lead to significantly more gambling addiction	49	43	7	2
8.5 Expanding gambling by adding another site has more costs than benefits	42	43	11	4
8.6 Expanding gambling by adding table games has more costs than benefits	34	48	13	5

9. How satisfied are you with the performance of the following local government entities: very, somewhat or not very satisfied.

	Level of satisfaction (very satisfied, somewhat satisfied...)				Have you had any direct contact within two years		Is there a reason why you are not “very satisfied” with this unit?
	Very	Somewhat	Not very	NA	Yes	No	Contact CSLI for details
9.1 Fire Dept.	87	8	1	3	42	58	
9.2 Police Dept.	67	21	8	4	45	55	
9.3 Public libraries	68	16	6	10	67	33	
9.4 Public schools	41	27	16	15	51	49	
9.5 Permit application center - where building permits are obtained	18	19	20	44	29	71	
9.6 Dept. of Aging and Disabilities	30	12	9	49	25	75	
9.7 Department of Health	36	16	9	40	32	68	

10. Below are a series of possible threats to the quality of life in Anne Arundel County. Classify each threat as very serious, somewhat serious or not very serious.

	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not very serious	Unsure/NA
10.1 Air pollution causing illnesses	39	26	32	3
10.2 Pollution of the Bay hurting the maritime industry and water-oriented tourism	66	21	11	2
10.3 Rising sea levels threatening low-lying areas with flooding	31	33	27	9
10.4 An over-dependency on government employment	43	27	22	9
10.5 Changes in the quality of county schools	39	26	19	16
10.6 Budget constraints limiting the ability of county government to provide services	43	28	19	10

11. Thinking about the Tea Party movement and the Occupy Wall Street movement, are you favorable or unfavorable to these. First, the Tea Party Movement... (next “How about Occupy Wall Street?”)

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Undecided	N. A.
11.1 Tea Party movement	35	45	11	9
11.2 Occupy Wall Street movement	29	53	11	8

12. For whom would you vote if presidential elections were today and the candidates were Democrat Barack Obama and a Republican candidate?

- (1) Barack Obama **38%**
- (2) Republican candidate **41%**
- (3) Someone else (volunteered) **5%**
- (4) Wouldn't vote (volunteered) **2%**
- (5) Undecided **11%**
- (0) No answer **3%**

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

- (1) Approve **42%** (2) Disapprove **49%** (0) No answer **8%**

14. Overall, which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years?

- (1) Democrats **37%** (2) Republicans **34%**
- (3) Neither (volunteered) **21%** (4) Other (volunteered) **2%** (0) No answer **5%**

15. With which political party, if any, are you registered?

- (1) Democratic **44%** (4) None (NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE) **4%**
 (2) Republican **39%** (5) Other (e.g., Green Party) **0%**
 (3) Unaffiliated (or “independent”) **10%** (0) No Answer **2%**

16. Which of the following best describes your political beliefs: Conservative, Moderate or Liberal?

- (1) Conservative **36%** (2) Moderate **40%** (3) Liberal **17%** (0) Other, No Answer **7%**

17. What is your age?

18-30	8
31-40	12
41-50	22
51-60	21
61-64	9
65 or more	29

18. I am going to read some categories relating to education. Please stop me when I reach the category in which the highest level of your formal education falls.

(1) less than a high school diploma 2%	(5) Completed a 4 year bachelor’s degree 30%
(2) a high school diploma 13%	(6) post graduate work 22%
(3) some college 18%	(7) Something else? 3%
(4) Completed a two-year associate college degree 12%	(0) No Answer 0%

19. I am going to read some categories relating to income. Please stop me when I reach the category in which your household income falls.

- (1) Less than \$30,000 **8%**
 (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000 **10%**
 (3) \$50,001 to \$75,000 **12%**
 (4) \$75,001-\$100,000 **18%**
 (5) \$100,001-\$150,000 **19%**
 (6) Over \$150,000 **13%**
 (0) No Answer **19%**

20. Stop me when I reach the employment category that best describes your situation

Answer choice	Choose one
Retired and not employed	25
Retired and working part-time	9
Self-employed	12
Employed full time for a company in the private sector	22
Employed full time for government in a non-defense related activity such as education, public works or public safety	12
Employed full time in a defense related activity	5
Employed in a private nonprofit organization	3
Employed part time	4
Student	1
Unemployed and seeking a job	2
Unemployed and not seeking a job	4
No answer	2

21. Regarding race, how would you describe yourself?

- (1) White **83%**
- (2) Black or African American **8%**
- (3) Hispanic or Latino **3%**
- (4) Asian **1%**
- (5) Other **3%**
- (0) No answer **2%**

22. Regarding religion, how would you describe yourself?

- (1) None **7%**
- (2) Non-practicing **7%**
- (3) Evangelical or born again Christian (possibly Baptist, Pentecostal) **16%**
- (4) Catholic **26%**
- (5) Jewish **2%**
- (6) Protestant (possibly Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopalian) **21%**
- (7) Some other Christian **8%**
- (8) A 'spiritual person' not associated with an organized religion **4%**
- (9) Other (e.g., Hindu, Muslim) **3%**
- (0) No Answer **7%**

23. What is your current marital status?

- (1) Single **12%** (2) Married **66%** (3) Separated/divorced **10%** (4) Widowed **10%** (5) Other **1%**
- (0) No answer **1%**

24. I have one last request: In an attempt to provide students with more opportunities to survey the public, the Center is asking respondents if they would like to be contacted no more than once or twice a semester by email to participate in short surveys. Can we count on your help?

(1) Yes **39%** (2) No **61%**

24.1 IF YES: What email address shall we use to contact you?

(CLEAR SPELLING/HANDWRITING PLEASE!)

SAY: That concludes our survey, thanks for participating.

Once the respondent hangs up, make sure to enter GENDER and ZIP CODE

25. Gender of respondent to whom you were speaking: (1) Male **50%** (2) Female **50%** (0) Unknown

26. Zip code (from calling sheet) _____ see next page _____

Zip	Percent
20711	1.1
20724	1.6
20733	.6
20734	.2
20751	.3
20755	.5
20764	.3
20776	1.0
20778	.7
20779	.4
21012	5.6
21032	2.8
21035	1.6
21037	5.5
21054	1.6
21060	5.5
21061	9.2
21076	2.0
21090	1.2
21108	3.1
21113	5.6
21114	4.6
21122	11.6
21140	.5
21144	5.4
21146	7.2
21160	.2
21226	.8
21401	7.6
21402	.4
21403	5.5
21405	.5
21409	5.0
Total	100.0