

Press Release: March 14, 2014  
Center for the Study of Local Issues  
Anne Arundel Community College  
101 College Parkway, Arnold MD, 21012-1895  
Contact: Dan Nataf 410-777-2733

## County Survey finds Support for Increasing Minimum Wage and Estate Tax Exemption

Students assisting the Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) conducted a survey of 460 Anne Arundel County residents March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>. Students asked respondents about a variety of issues confronting the state and county.

At least 50 percent favored:

- Increasing the state’s minimum wage (60 percent said “support”);
- Changing gun control laws to make the purchase of shotguns as strictly regulated as the purchase of handguns (51 percent);
- Reducing the estate tax in Maryland so that it only applies to estates over \$5 million (69 percent);
- A later start time for high schools (55 percent);
- Increasing the availability of pre-kindergarten schooling for low income families (82 percent); and,
- The construction of a new high school in the Crofton area (64 percent).

Some issues received a plurality, but not a majority, in favor:

- “Leaving unchanged the county’s storm-water fee meant to help clean up the Bay” received a plurality in favor (44 percent vs. 41 percent opposed); and,
- A decrease in Maryland’s corporate income tax.

Only with regarding to the proposal, “Legalization of marijuana for recreational use, with a high tax and restrictions against the sale to minors” were at least 50 percent opposed (36 percent support; 50 percent oppose; 13 percent unsure). Demographic associations such as party and ideology are described later in the press release.

The survey also asked about perceptions of the local economy and its impact upon residents, Maryland’s health insurance exchange, likely votes for governor and county executive as well as job approval for governor, county executive, president and Congress. 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 Other Findings

**Most important problem facing county residents:** 16 percent cited the economy, 22 percent said taxes. Government as inefficient, corrupt or unethical was cited by 8 percent, down from 17 percent in October 2013.

**Perceptions of the economy:** Fifty percent viewed the county’s economy as excellent or good – down from last fall when it was 53 percent; 40 percent said the same for Maryland’s economy (unchanged) and 21 percent favorably rated the national economy, up 7 points.

**Right direction/wrong direction:** The percentage of those saying that the county was moving in the right direction was unchanged (50 percent). Smaller numbers felt that the state (31 percent – down four points)

or the country (27 percent – up 17 points from a low point last fall during the partial federal government shutdown) was heading in the right direction.

**Economic conditions experienced by individuals:** Various measures have been tracked since March 2008. The spring 2014 survey found only small changes: a 4 percentage point increase in concern about taxes and a 5 percentage point decrease in the number saying that they had received a salary or income increase lately. On a positive note, there was a 4 percentage point decrease in those saying that they were delaying a major purchase.

**Consumer confidence:** Reversing the downturn in perceptions from last fall, all indicators – employment, growth, inflation and personal financial situation showed improvements this spring.

**Maryland's Health Insurance Web site:** Twelve percent had attempted to access the site. Most (81 percent) had negative impressions. A plurality (49 percent) said that they generally support the effort to extend health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act (vs. 40 percent opposed and 10 percent undecided).

**Voter Preferences for Governor and County Executive:** Most voters claimed to be undecided about both these races. In the gubernatorial race, Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown was leading among likely voters expressing a preference among the three Democratic candidates. Larry Hogan was leading among Republican candidates. For county executive, incumbent Laura Newman seemed favored over opponent Delegate Steve Schuh. George Johnson is unopposed in the Democratic primary.

**Presidential job approval:** President Obama's job approval dropped one point from last fall to 39 percent.

**Congressional job approval:** Only 9 percent approved of the job being done by Congress (up three points from October 2013).

**Which party do you trust?** The percentage favoring Democrats dropped slightly from 34 to 32 percent since last fall. The percentage favoring Republicans rose 8 points from 23 to 31 percent. The percentage saying "neither" dropped 8 points to 29 percent.

**Methodology:** The survey polled a random sample of 460 county residents who were at least 18 years old. It was conducted March 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, during evening hours. Phone numbers were derived from a database of listed landline numbers, cell phone 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](mailto:ddnataf@aacc.edu). Check the CSLI website for results from this and previous surveys: [www2.aacc.edu/csli](http://www2.aacc.edu/csli).

## 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?”

The spring survey showed that the level of concern for the economy has reached a stable plateau – with an identical percentage (16 percent) pointing to the economy as the most important problem. Crime also continued at a relatively high level (8 percent, down one percentage point since fall 2013). Already a significant problem, the percentage citing “high taxes” rose to be the leading problem this spring (cited by a record 22 percent). In addition, education rose from 6 to 12 percent this spring, indicating some rising concern in that realm as well.

Last spring, the partial federal government shutdown had apparently led to increasing percentages citing government as unethical, corrupt or wasteful.<sup>1</sup> Graph 1 shows changes over time in this (and other) areas – but the significant finding is that in the absence of a government shutdown, attention to government as unethical or corrupt dropped significantly, from 17 to 8 percent.

**Table 1: “Most Important Problem Facing Residents” – Fall 2007 to Spring 2014<sup>2</sup>**

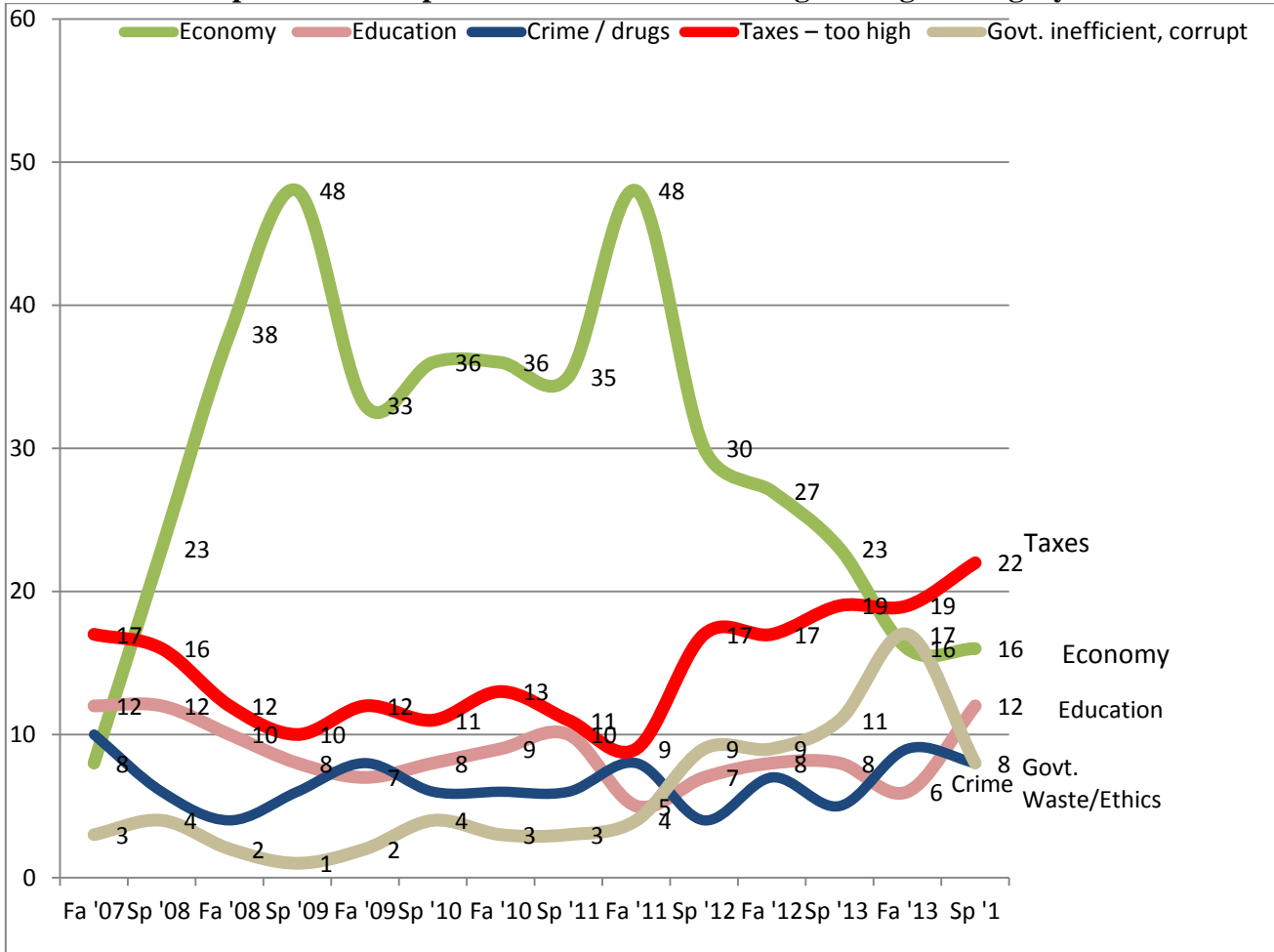
	Fa '07	Sp '08	Fa '08	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14
Economy	8	23	38	48	33	36	36	35	48	30	27	23	16	16
Taxes – too high	17	16	12	10	12	11	13	11	9	17	17	19	19	22
Growth / development	16	12	9	5	5	5	2	4	4	4	3	2	4	4
Education / school problems	12	12	10	8	7	8	9	10	5	7	8	8	6	12
Traffic congestion/problems	12	7	6	4	5	6	6	3	5	5	6	5	4	4
Crime / drugs	10	6	4	6	8	6	6	6	8	4	7	5	9	8
Unsure/no answer	6	9	7	8	10	10	8	12	8	9	9	10	12	11
Other answer	19	15	14	11	21	17	21	19	13	24	23	29	30	23
Total	100	100	100	100	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	101	100	100

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

<sup>1</sup> A variety of items are included in the “other answer” category including government corrupt/unethical, government wasteful or inefficient (8 percent cited), government lacks resources (4 percent), environment (5 percent), healthcare (2 percent) as well as other random answers.

<sup>2</sup> 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.”

**Graph 1: Most Important Problem – Percentage Citing a Category**



**Rating Economic Conditions – Anne Arundel County**

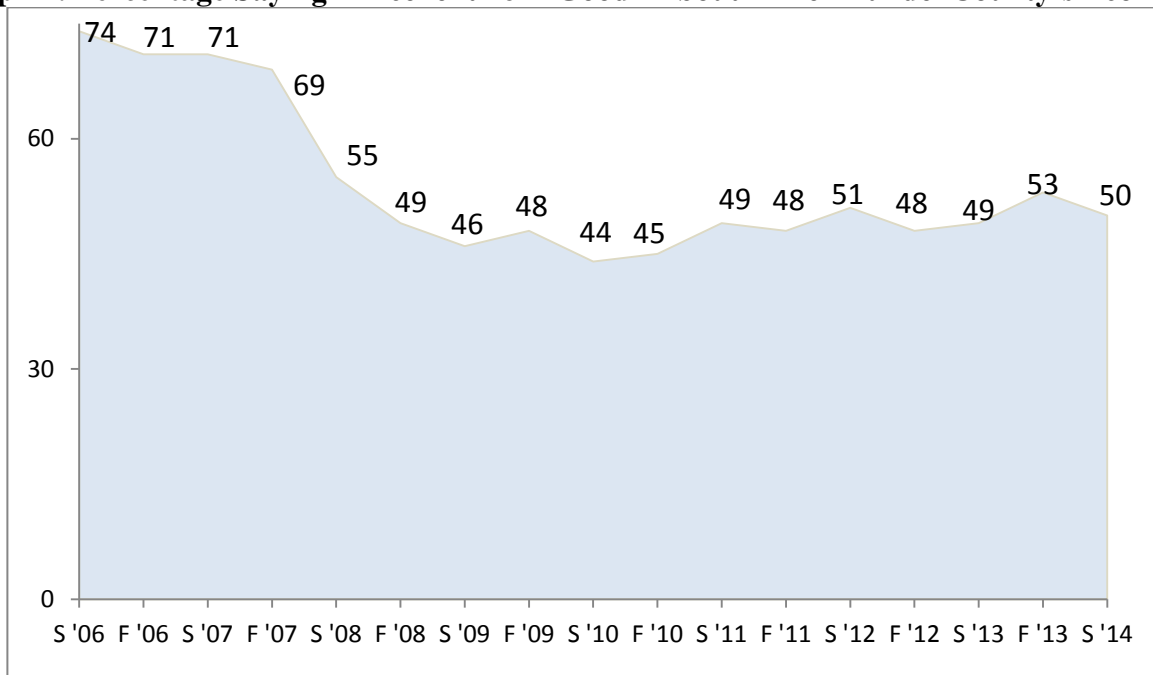
Since March 2002, the CSLI semi-annual survey has asked a benchmark question about the economy: “How would you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County – ‘excellent,’ ‘good,’ ‘only fair’ or ‘poor?’ ”

As shown on Table 2, since March 2007 the county’s historical average saying that the economy was a combined “excellent” or “good” was 52 percent. Last fall the percentage saying excellent or good exceeded the historical average by reaching 53 percent (also shown on Graph 2). However, rather than being indicative of an upward trend, the spring value dropped to 50 percent.

**Table 2: Perceptions of County Economic Conditions – Spring 2007 to Spring 2014**

Condition	Sp '07	Fa '07	Sp '08	Fa '08	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Mean
Excellent +good	71	69	55	49	46	48	44	45	49	48	51	48	49	53	50	52
Excellent	12	10	6	6	2	4	3	3	3	4	2	5	3	6	8	5
Good	59	59	49	43	44	44	41	42	46	44	49	43	46	47	42	47
Fair	22	25	36	37	43	38	41	45	38	40	37	39	38	35	40	37
Poor	4	5	8	12	10	11	13	8	12	11	11	12	11	10	9	10
Don't know	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	2
Total	100	101	101	100	101	100	100	100	101	101	100	101	101	101	99	101

**Graph 2: 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 has been extended to the state of Maryland and the country overall.

Regarding the state of Maryland, Table 3 shows that there was no change in perceptions from fall to spring: 40 percent claimed that economic conditions were excellent or good.

**Table 3: Perceptions of State Economic Conditions – Spring 2009 to Spring 2014**

Condition	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14
Excellent+good	27	30	31	32	35	33	38	33	30	40	40
Excellent	1	2	2	1	3	1	4	3	1	4	4
Good	26	28	29	31	32	32	34	30	29	36	36
Fair	49	45	46	47	43	41	40	42	41	36	40
Poor	22	21	21	19	21	24	21	23	24	21	18
Don't know	2	4	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	4	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	100	99	101	100

Regarding the national economy, while results have never rivaled the positive marks obtained by the county or the state, spring 2014 marked a high point since CSLI started tracking this indicator in spring 2009: 21 percent said that economic conditions were either excellent or good. Looking at the values in Table 4 for spring 2014, it is apparent that an 18 point drop in the percentage citing “poor” made it possible for other categories to grow. It also suggests that the relatively high “poor” values in fall 2013 might have been a product of the government shutdown rather than a growing pessimism about the fundamentals of the national economy.

The national mood as measured by the Gallup polling organization was similar – 19 percent saying excellent or good.<sup>3</sup> It might also be noted that the percentage saying “poor” descended from 55 to 35 percent, a 20 point drop compared to the 18 point drop registered in the spring CSLI survey.

**Table 4: Perceptions of National Economic Conditions– Spring 2009 to Spring 2014**

Condition	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14
Excellent+Good	5	11	11	11	11	9	13	16	12	14	21
Excellent	0	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1
Good	5	10	10	9	9	7	12	14	10	13	20
Fair	30	39	42	41	43	28	47	37	38	31	41
Poor	63	48	46	47	45	62	39	46	47	55	37
Don't know	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	1	1
Total	99	100	101	100	101	101	101	100	100	101	100

## Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents

Respondents were asked: “Thinking about your personal circumstances, please tell me whether any of these economic conditions apply to you or your household.” Table 5 shows the results for recent CSLI surveys. Since fall 2011, surveys have included two questions asking about a “salary increase or other increase in income recently” and whether the respondent had “found a new or better job recently”; this data was not available prior to fall 2011.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/110821/gallup-daily-us-economic-conditions.aspx> for Gallup’s running totals for this question.

**Table 5: Economic Conditions Applying to Personal Circumstances – Fall 2008 to Spring 2014**

Condition	Fa '08	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14
Taxes are too high in relation to the govt. services provided	58	59	59	63	60	63	58	63	63	62	66	65
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	59	55	55	56	56	63	59	66	59	59	60	57
Delay in making a major purchase such as a home or car	n.a.	51	46	47	44	47	51	45	38	42	38	43
Hard to afford cost of utilities such as electricity or gas	50	53	42	44	43	46	39	39	32	31	29	37
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	26	35	31	34	29	36
Significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts	71	75	70	56	60	52	60	44	38	32	32	26
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	30	29	33	32	34	35	32	32	27	32	29	26
Hard to afford cost of transportation	32	21	17	21	24	41	30	36	30	27	24	24
Facing the possibility of unemployment	15	24	24	19	21	20	21	17	14	19	17	16
Found a new or better job recently	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14	16	11	14	16	14
Unable to find affordable housing	11	12	13	15	10	14	11	15	9	12	14	10
Facing the possibility of house foreclosure or loss	4	6	8	7	7	9	8	8	4	7	7	4

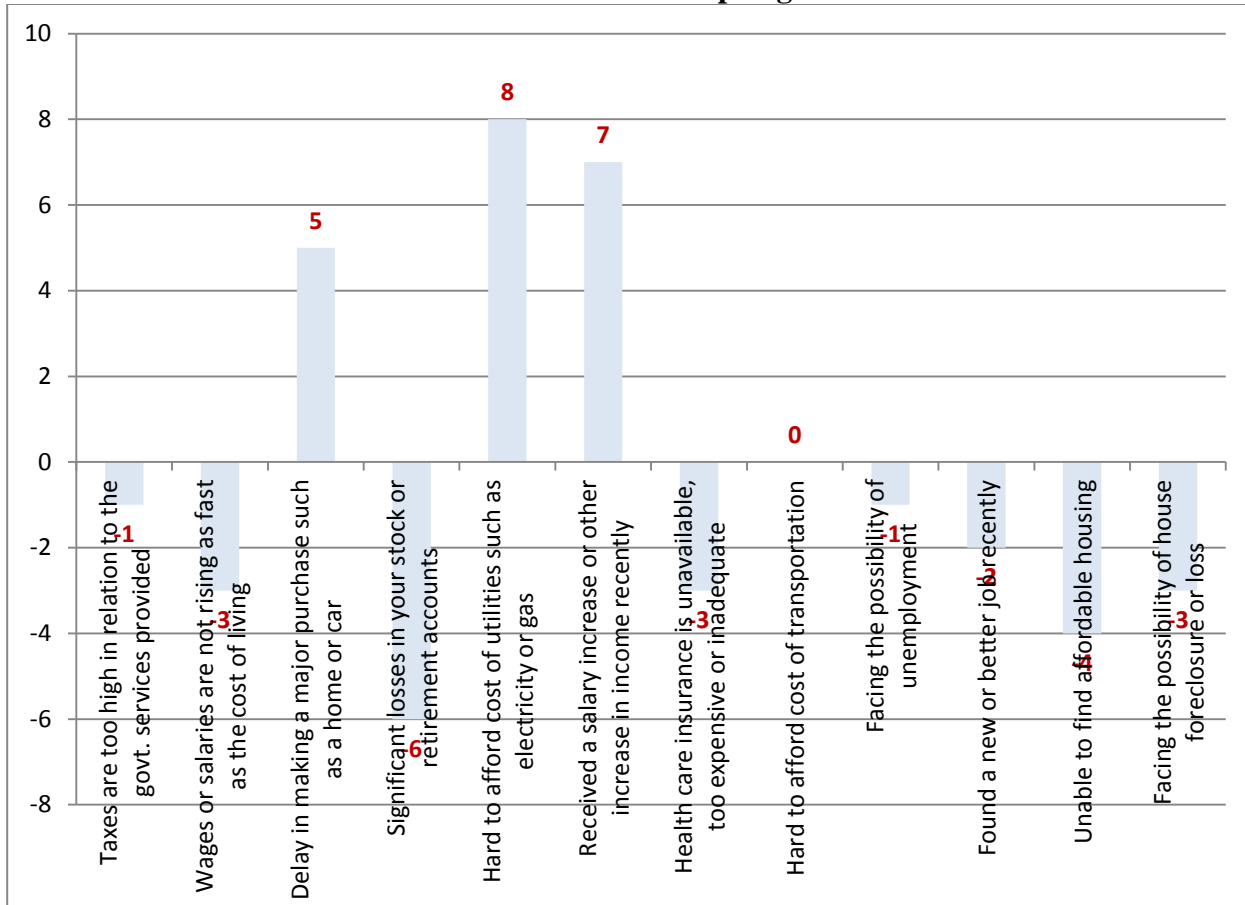
Table 5 is ordered by the highest percentage of respondents saying a condition applies in spring 2014. Continued anxiety about the loss of buying power was suggested by the high scores received by “taxes are too high” (65 percent) and “wages/salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living” (57 percent). These were both down very modestly in spring compared to fall 2013.

The other results were mixed. On the positive side, a record percentage said that they had “received a salary increase or other increase in income” (up 7 points to 36 percent). Fewer said that they were “unable to find affordable housing” (down 4 points to 10 percent). The percentage saying that they had experienced “significant losses in stock or retirement accounts” reached a record low – 26 percent. Another record low was observed regarding those saying that “health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate” (26 percent).

On the negative side, there was a 5 point increase in those delaying a major purchase (43 percent) and an 8 point increase in those claiming that it was “hard to afford the cost of utilities” (37 percent)

Graph 3 shows the changes this year from fall to spring. Seven of 10 “pessimistic” indicators had lower values in spring; one of the two “optimistic” indicators (increase in income, found new/better job) was higher in spring than fall. Generally, these results suggest a gradually improving economic situation overall.

**Graph 3: Changes in Percentages Saying that an Economic Condition Applies – Fall 2013 to Spring 2014**



## 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, asking the respondent to think about the next 12 months and say whether a particular condition will be better, the same or worse. Table 6 shows the results just for spring 2014; Graph 4 shows the results since fall 2011, calculated by subtracting the value of “worse” from the value of “better” (with a higher number indicating greater economic optimism).

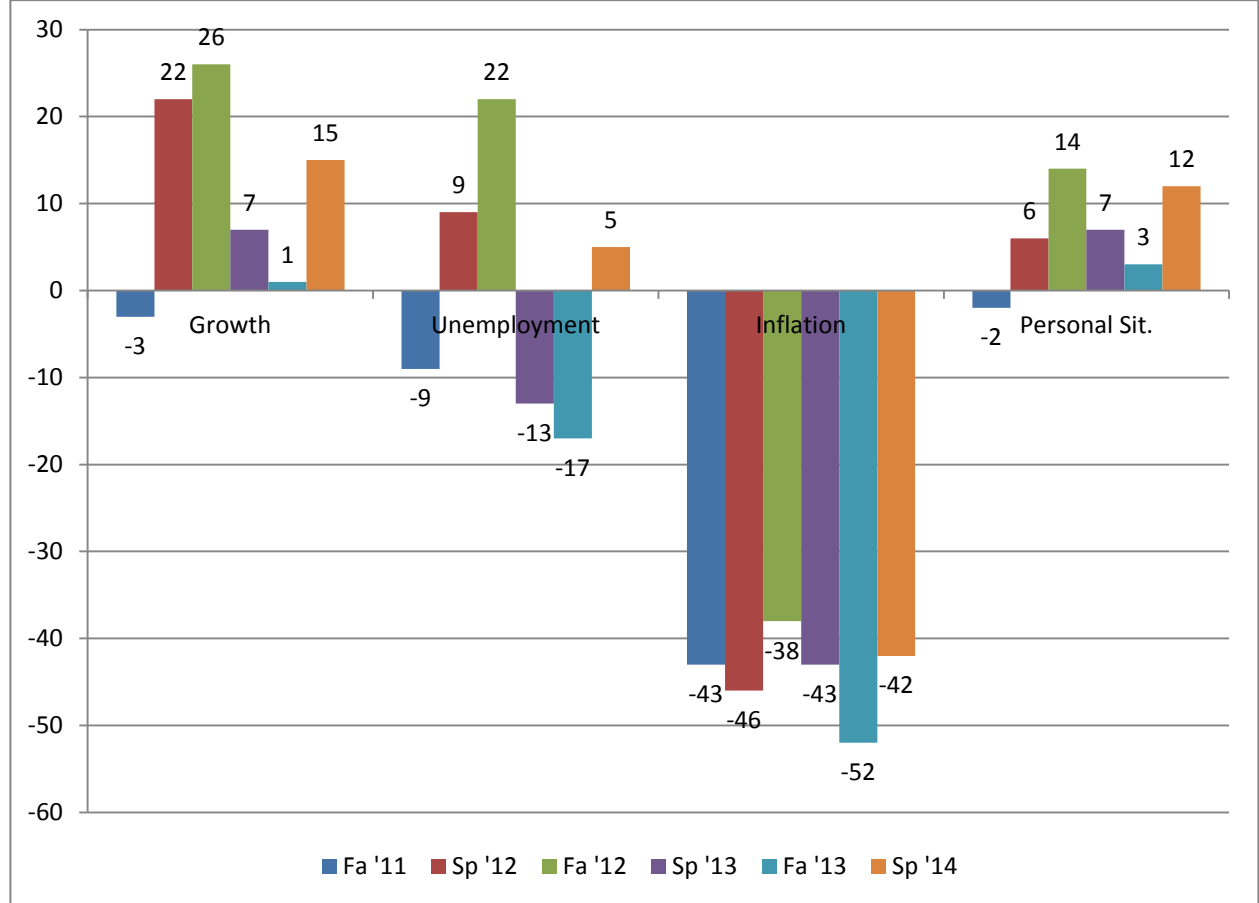
Graph 4 shows a reversal of that negative trend first witnessed in spring 2013; by spring 2014, all the indicators were moving in a positive direction, with more respondents saying that growth, employment and their personal financial situations would be better over the next twelve months; inflation dropped as well.

**Table 6: Economic Conditions Over the Next 12 Months**

	Better	Same	Worse	Unsure/NA	Total
Economic growth	30	49	15	6	100
Unemployment	30	39	25	6	100
Inflation	10	34	52	5	101
Your personal financial situation	25	59	13	3	100



**Graph 4: Economic Conditions over the Next 12 Months – Better-Worse for Fall 2011 Through Spring 2014**



### Major Issues facing the State and County

The spring 2014 survey asked respondents whether they supported, opposed or were unsure about a variety of proposals that might be considered by the state or county. Table 7 shows the results ranked by the percentage saying “support.”

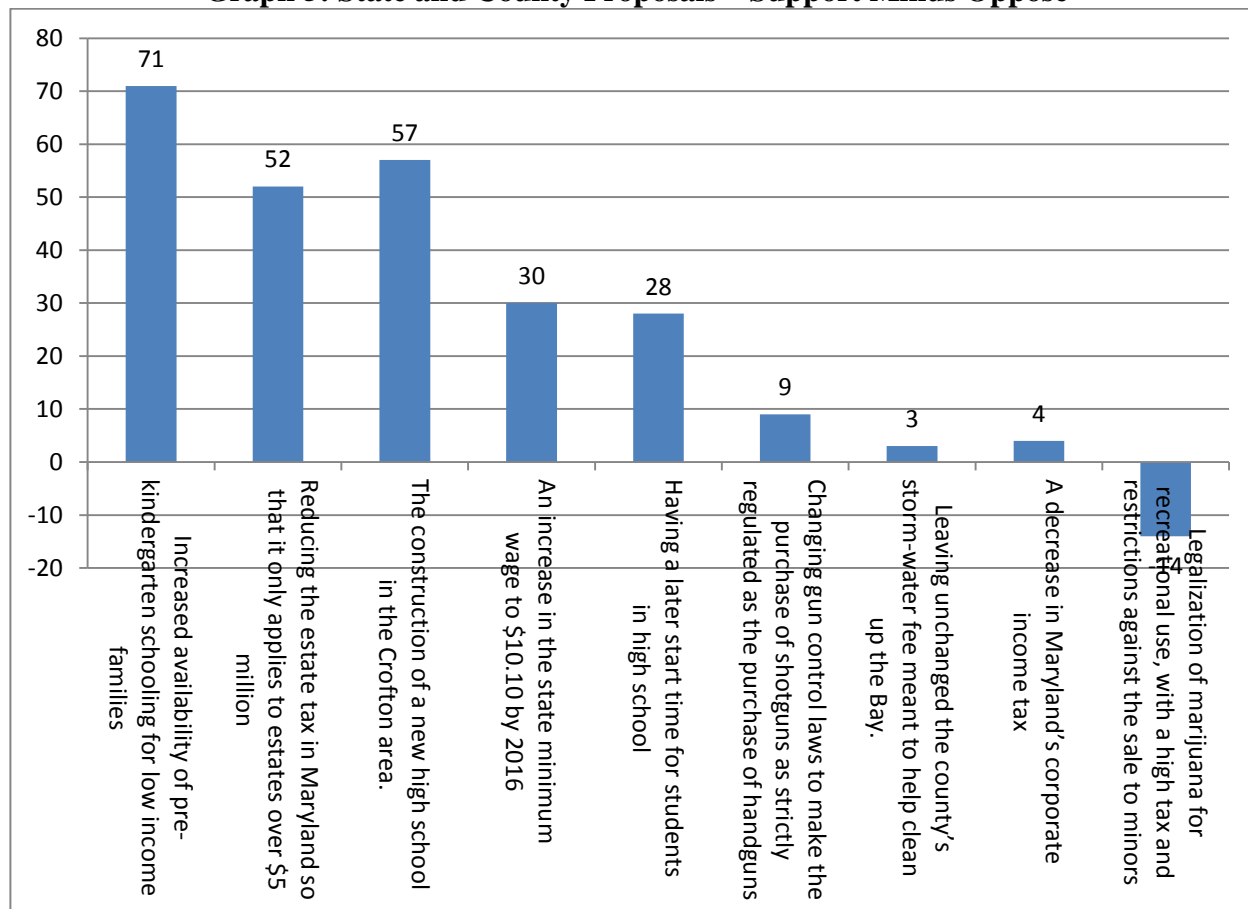
**Table 7: State and County Proposals – Support, Oppose, Unsure**

	Support	Oppose	Unsure	NA/Won't say
Increased availability of pre-kindergarten schooling for low income families	82	11	5	2
Reducing the estate tax in Maryland so that it only applies to estates over \$5 million	69	17	12	2
The construction of a new high school in the Crofton area.	64	7	25	4
An increase in the state minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2016	60	30	9	1
Having a later start time for students in high school	55	27	15	3
Changing gun control laws to make the purchase of shotguns as strictly regulated as the purchase of handguns	51	42	7	1
Leaving unchanged the county's storm-water fee meant to help clean up the Bay.	44	41	14	1
A decrease in Maryland's corporate income tax	43	39	16	2
Legalization of marijuana for recreational use, with a high tax and restrictions against the sale to minors	36	50	13	1

Note: Some items had large “Unsure/NA” values, indicating low levels of public information about these items.

Graph 5, shows the results of subtracting the “oppose” percentage from the “support” percentage. Three proposals obtained very high levels of support: increased availability of pre-kindergarten schooling for low income families, reducing the estate tax, and building a new high school in Crofton. Less enthusiastically embraced, but still with strong positive scores were increases in the state minimum wage and a later high school start time. Other proposals showed more tepid support.

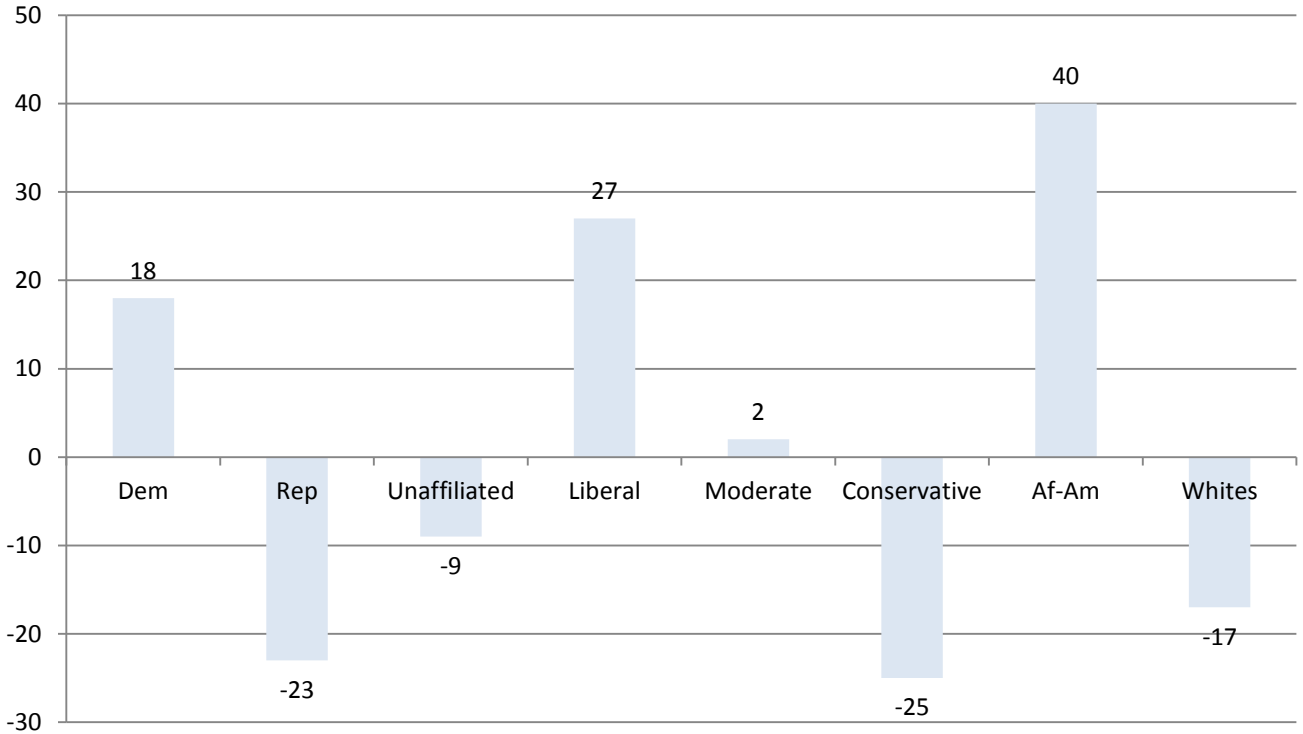
**Graph 5: State and County Proposals – Support Minus Oppose**



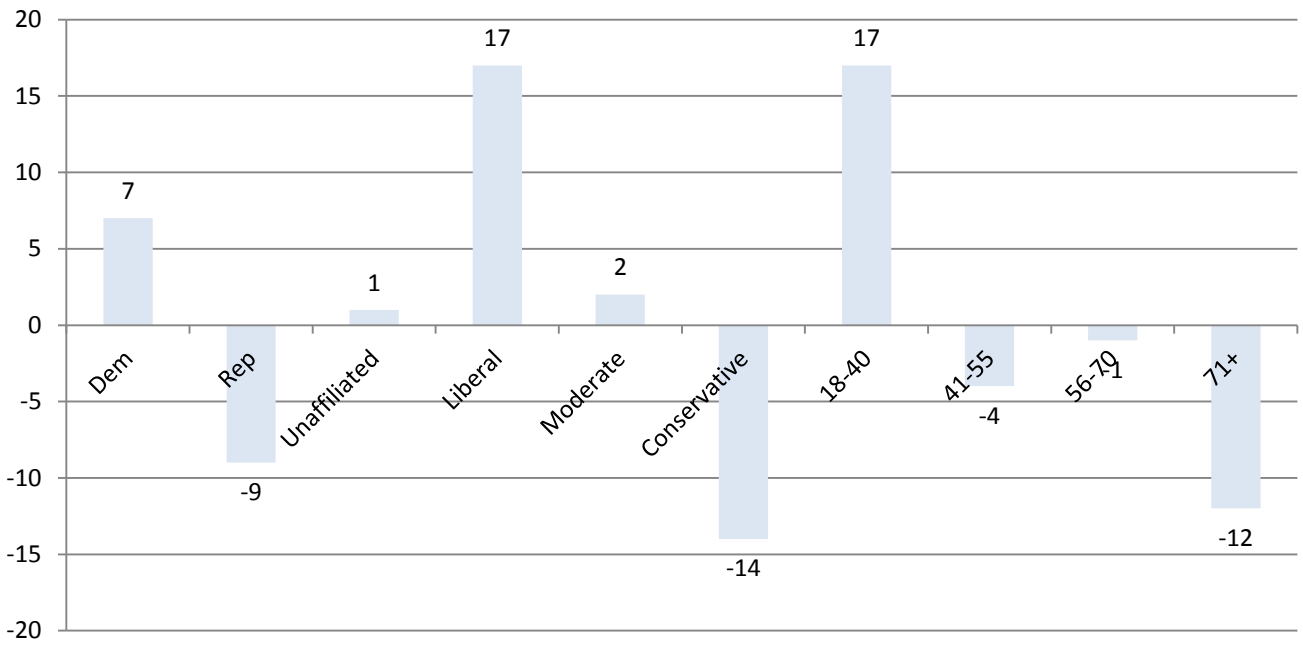
Looking at two issues – raising the minimum wage and legalizing marijuana, both party and ideology shaped perceptions in statistically significant ways ( $p < .05$ ). Graph 5a shows the percentage above or below the average level of support for minimum wage (60 percent) for party and ideological groups. Clearly liberals and to a lesser extent Democrats were exceptional supporters of this measure. In addition, race was an especially strong variable as African-Americans were very strong backers of an increase while whites were not.

Graph 5b shows the impact of party and ideology on marijuana legalization– Democrats and liberals were much more likely than Republicans and conservatives to support the legalization of marijuana. Those between 18 and 40 were also more likely to support legalization than older age groups.

**Graph 5a: Minimum Wage - Percentage Above or Below the Average (60% support)**



**Graph 5b: Legalize Marijuana Percentage Above or Below Average (36%)**



## Maryland’s Health Insurance Exchange Web Site and Support for the Affordable Care Act

The spring 2014 survey asked respondents to indicate whether they had tried to log on to the Maryland health insurance exchange Web site: 12 percent had. These respondents were then asked to “describe their experiences.” The vast majority (81 percent) had a negative comment such as: complicated, not user friendly, frustrating, difficult, hard to navigate, hard to understand. A smaller group (19 percent) had more positive comments such as “easy to use” or “informative.”

The survey then asked respondents, “Do you generally support or oppose the effort to extend health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act. A plurality (49 percent) supported (40 percent opposed, 10 percent were undecided). While there were no statistically significant relationships between party or ideology and a respondent’s propensity to log on to the system or have a positive experience, party and ideology were highly related to the propensity to support the Affordable Care Act. Table 8 shows the differences among partisans.

**Table 8: Support for the Affordable Care Act**

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
Overall	49	40	10
Democrats	73	17	8
Republicans	19	70	10
Unaffiliated	55	34	9
Liberals	80	10	10
Moderates	54	32	13
Conservatives	18	76	5

## Gubernatorial and County Executive Races

The spring survey anticipated primary elections in June and asked respondents to indicate any electoral preferences in the race for governor or county executive.

In both races, the percentage of undecided voters overwhelmed the percentages able to offer a concrete choice among candidates.

Table 9 shows the situation as it pertains to the race for governor. The first column shows the percentage of likely voters who could name their preference candidate (the list of candidates was *not* read to them). A total of 22 percent could offer a choice. The second column removes the undecided voters from the calculation of support; the third column shows the percentage of likely voters within each respective party indicating support for a given candidate.

On the Democratic side, the CSLI poll confirmed what other statewide polls have shown: Lt. Governor Anthony Brown has a sizable lead over his two opponents. On the Republican side, Larry Hogan seems to have captured the bulk of GOP support.

**Table 9: Gubernatorial Race 2014**

CANDIDATE	With Undecided/NA Overall – Likely Voters	Without Undecided/NA Overall-LV	Party Specific Vote – LV*
<b>Democrats</b>			
Brown, Anthony (D)	7	33	56
Gansler, Doug (D)	3	14	19
Mizeur, Heather (D)	2	9	16
Total	12	56	91
<b>Republicans</b>			
Craig, David (R)	2	8	9
George, Ron (R)	2	10	22
Lollar, Charles (R)	1	3	9
Hogan, Larry (R)	5	23	57
Total within party	10	44	97
UNDECIDED, other	78		
Total overall	100		

Table 10 shows the same columns for the county executive race in Anne Arundel County. Incumbent Laura Neuman appears to hold a lead both within her primary race (over competitor Delegate Steve Schuh) and generally among the respondents – who were read the names and party affiliations of the candidates. Naturally, the large undecided vote makes these early results suggestive but not necessarily predictive.

**Table 10: Support for County Executive Candidates**

CANDIDATE	With Undecided/NA Overall – Likely Voters	Without Undecided/NA Overall-LV	Party Specific Vote -LV*
Laura Neuman (R)	18	45	54
Steve Schuh (R)	9	23	40
George Johnson (D)	13	32	59
Undecided (add 3% missing to total 100%)	57	0	
Total	100	100	

\*This question did not require voters to only express a preference for candidates within their own party. Thus, while Johnson has no opponents in the Democratic primary, several Democrats planned to “vote” for Republican candidates and vice versa. Among Democrats, 41 percent expressed a voting preference for a Republican candidate (35 percent for Neuman; 6 percent for Schuh). Six percent of Republicans expressed a preference for Johnson.

## Job Approval: Governor, County Executive, President, Congress

The survey asked respondents to indicate approval or disapproval of the job performed by the incumbent in an office.

**Table 11: Job Approval for Governor, County Executive, President and Congress**

Individual/Office	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
Governor Martin O’Malley	33	55	12
County Executive Laura Neuman	54	11	35
President Barack Obama	39	52	9
“Congress”	9	86	5

As shown on Table 11, neither of the two Democratic incumbents, Governor O’Malley and President Obama, seemed to fare very well. The former had a very low approval rating: the *Washington Post* found that he had 55 percent job approval in a statewide poll compared to only 33 percent in the CSLI survey.<sup>4</sup>

County executive was apparently more popular as she garnered 54 percent approval from the overall sample; 60 percent from likely voters. While her disapproval scores were low (10/12 percent), a sizable group did not venture an opinion – 35 percent of the overall sample and 28 percent of likely voters.

Regarding presidential job approval, since fall 2007 CSLI polls of county residents have generally tracked national presidential job approval trends as indicated by Gallup surveys.<sup>5</sup> For the period closest to that during which CSLI was calling residents, Gallup’s presidential job approval surveys conducted March 8-10 indicated that 45 percent approved of the president’s performance. CSLI’s own polling revealed a percentage that was somewhat lower: 40 percent (see Table 12 and Graph 6). 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.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 12: Presidential Job Approval**

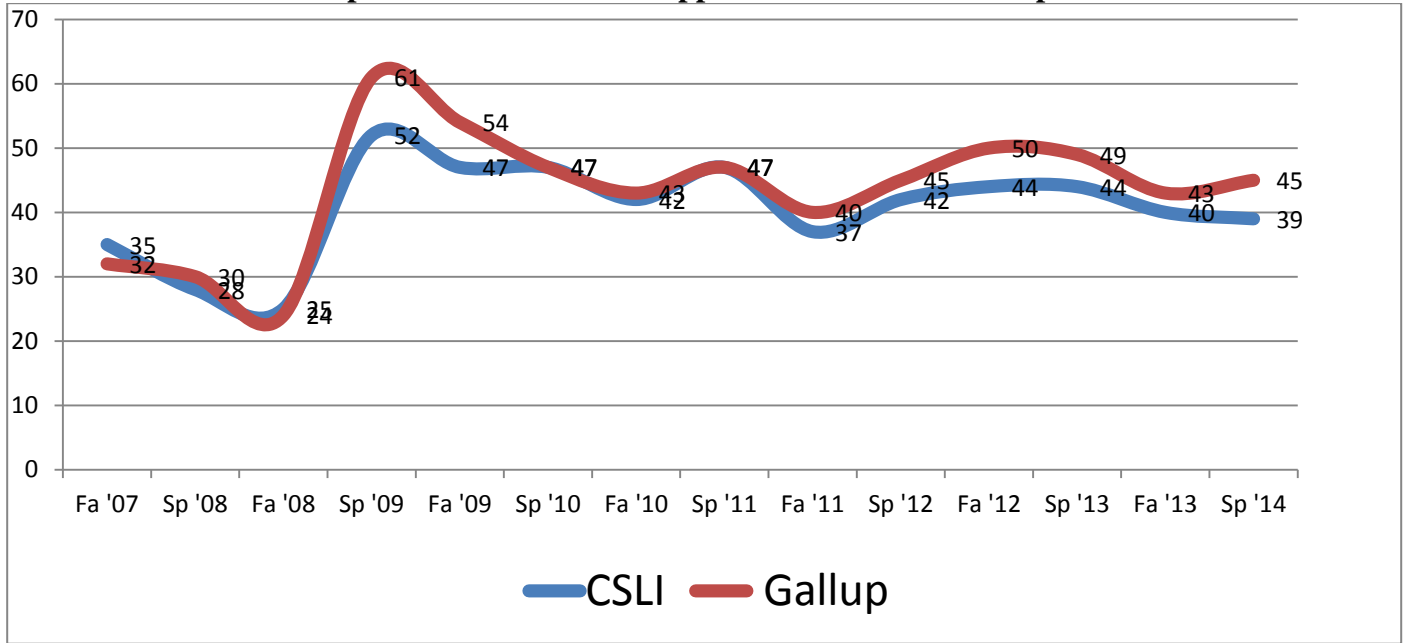
Issue	Fa '07	Sp '08	Fa '08	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14
Approve	35	28	24	53	47	47	42	47	37	42	44	44	40	<b>39</b>
Disapprove	57	62	69	31	42	45	49	44	56	49	50	51	53	<b>52</b>
No answer	9	10	8	16	11	8	10	9	7	8	6	4	7	<b>9</b>
Total	101	100	101	100	100	100	101	100	100	99	100	99	100	<b>100</b>

<sup>4</sup> See [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/martin-omalley-job-approval-numbers-break-along-party-lines-in-washington-post-poll/2014/02/22/37617902-9b02-11e3-975d-107dfef7b668\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/martin-omalley-job-approval-numbers-break-along-party-lines-in-washington-post-poll/2014/02/22/37617902-9b02-11e3-975d-107dfef7b668_story.html) and <http://apps.washingtonpost.com/g/page/local/washington-post-maryland-poll-2014-governors-race/817/> for details of the race for governor.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/113980/gallup-daily-obama-job-approval.aspx> for Obama job approval findings cited here. Congressional approval was derived from a YouGov poll conducted Oct. 12-14, 2013 (see [http://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus\\_uploads/document/pls7kr8de/trackingreport.pdf](http://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus_uploads/document/pls7kr8de/trackingreport.pdf)).

<sup>6</sup> See <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304250204579433533118580224?mg=reno64-wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702304250204579433533118580224.html> for a WSJ/NBC poll during the same period of time indicating that Obama’s job approval is lower than that indicated by Gallup: 41 percent, and thus tracking more closely to CSLI’s recent findings.

**Graph 6: Presidential Job Approval – CSLI and Gallup 2007-2014**



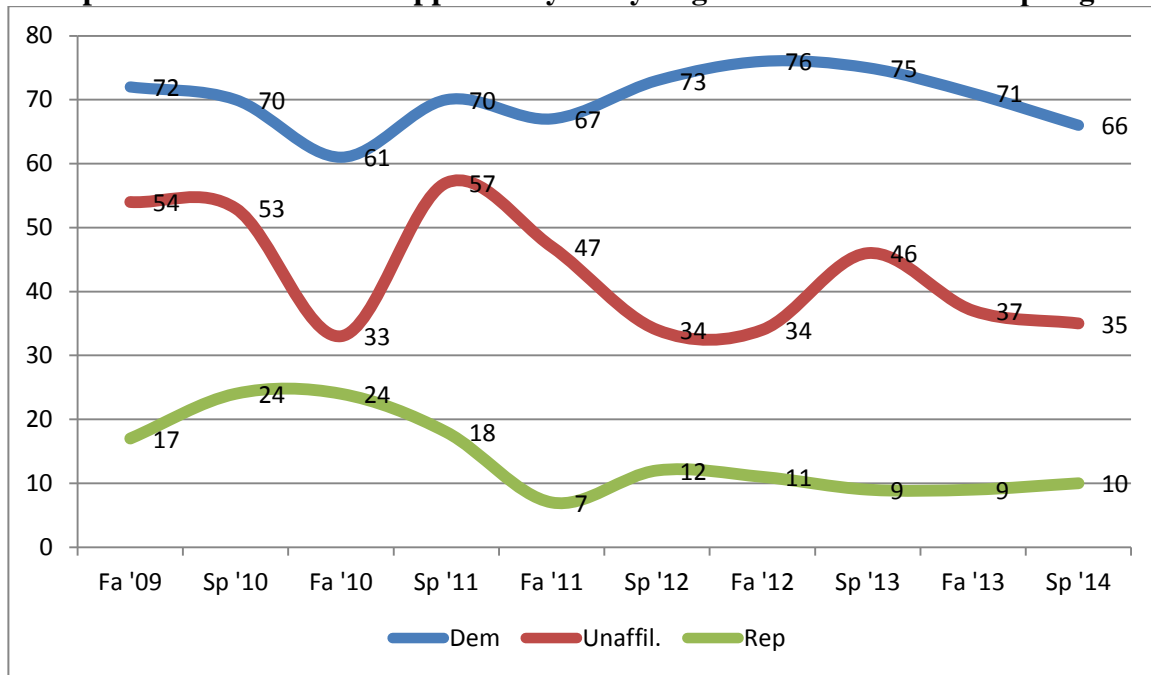
Congressional job approval was much lower than President Obama’s as only 9 percent approved. A Gallup poll taken around the same time placed the national Congressional job approval at 15 percent.<sup>7</sup>

As seen on Graph 7, Obama’s popularity among Democrats diminished a bit since fall – down 5 points. There was little change in support among Republicans (up to 10 from 9 percent). Unaffiliated voters showed greater disapproval moving from 37 percent in fall to only 35 percent this spring.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/167816/congress-low-job-approval-persists.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> The number of unaffiliated voters is quite small; any estimates for this group are subject to much larger margins of error.

**Graph 7: Presidential Job Approval by Party Registration – Fall '09 to Spring '14**



**Trust in Political Parties**

Since 2008, 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 13 shows that Democrats experienced a small drop in trust (from 34 to 32 percent), while the Republican score jumped back to about where it had been prior to the government shutdown – 31 percent. The “neither” option (which is volunteered by the respondent without prompting by the interviewer) dropped from 37 percent in fall to 29 percent in spring.

**Table 13: Which Party do you Trust?**

	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Sp	Fa	Sp	Fa	Sp	Fa	Sp	Fa	Sp	Fa	Sp	Fa	Sp	Fa
<b>Democrats</b>	42	37	33	34	37	37	34	31	37	37	37	34	32	
<b>Republicans</b>	30	28	31	37	34	38	32	30	34	38	32	23	31	
<b>Neither</b>	20	27	31	21	21	17	29	32	21	17	26	37	29	
<b>No opinion /other</b>	8	7	6	8	7	9	4	7	7	9	4	6	8	
<b>Total</b>	100	99	101	100	99	101	99	100	99	101	99	100	100	



## County – Right or Wrong Direction?

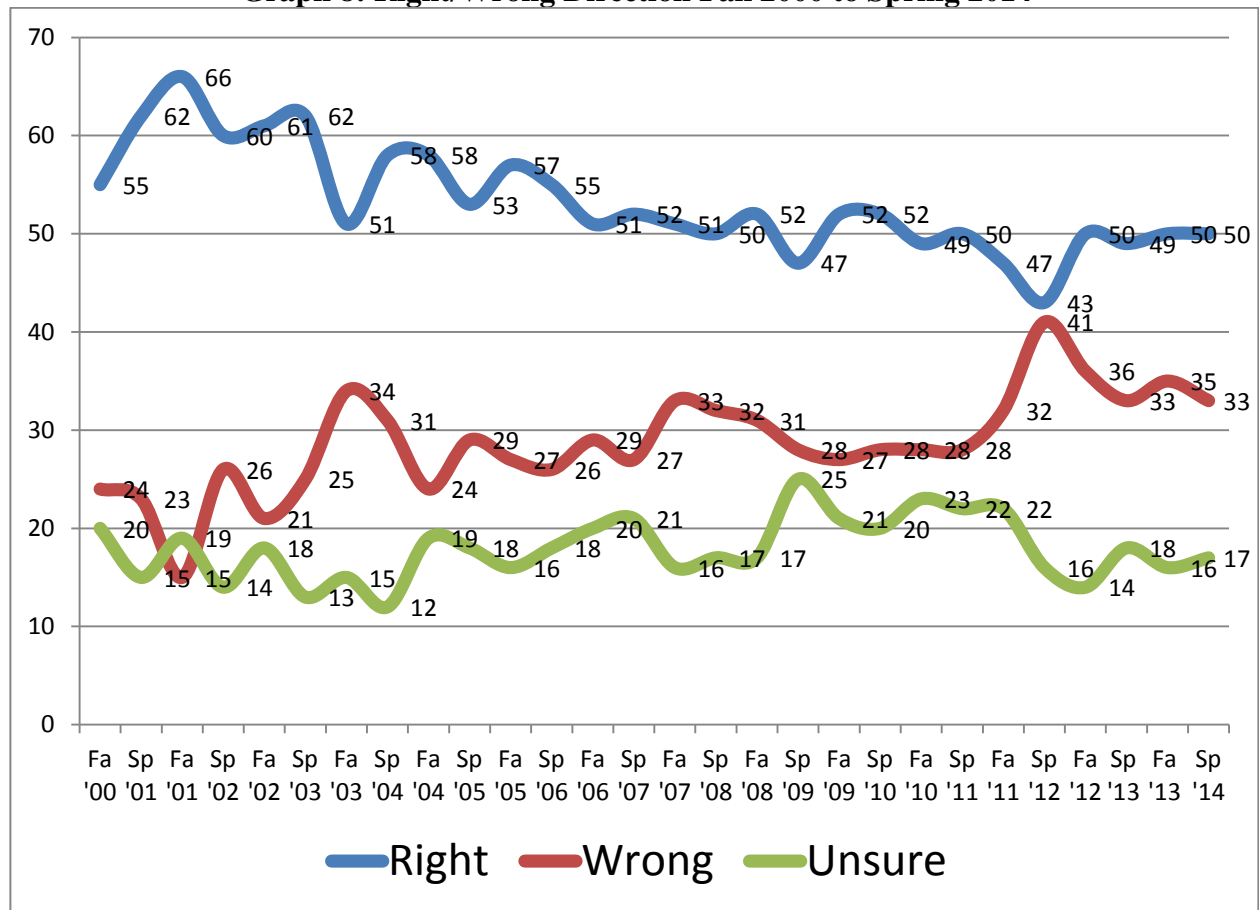
The survey included a CSLI benchmark question whose results are seen on Table 14 and Graph 8: “Overall, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?”

Table 14 and Graph 8 show little change since fall 2012. There was a small uptick in the right-wrong score for spring 2014.

**Table 14: Anne Arundel County - Right vs. Wrong Direction Fall 2009 to Spring 2014**

Response	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Average
Right direction	52	52	49	50	47	43	50	49	50	50	49
Wrong direction	27	28	28	28	32	41	36	33	35	33	33
Unsure	21	20	23	22	22	16	14	18	16	17	19
<b>Right-wrong</b>	25	24	21	22	15	2	14	16	15	17	16
Total	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	101	100	100

**Graph 8: Right/Wrong Direction Fall 2000 to Spring 2014**



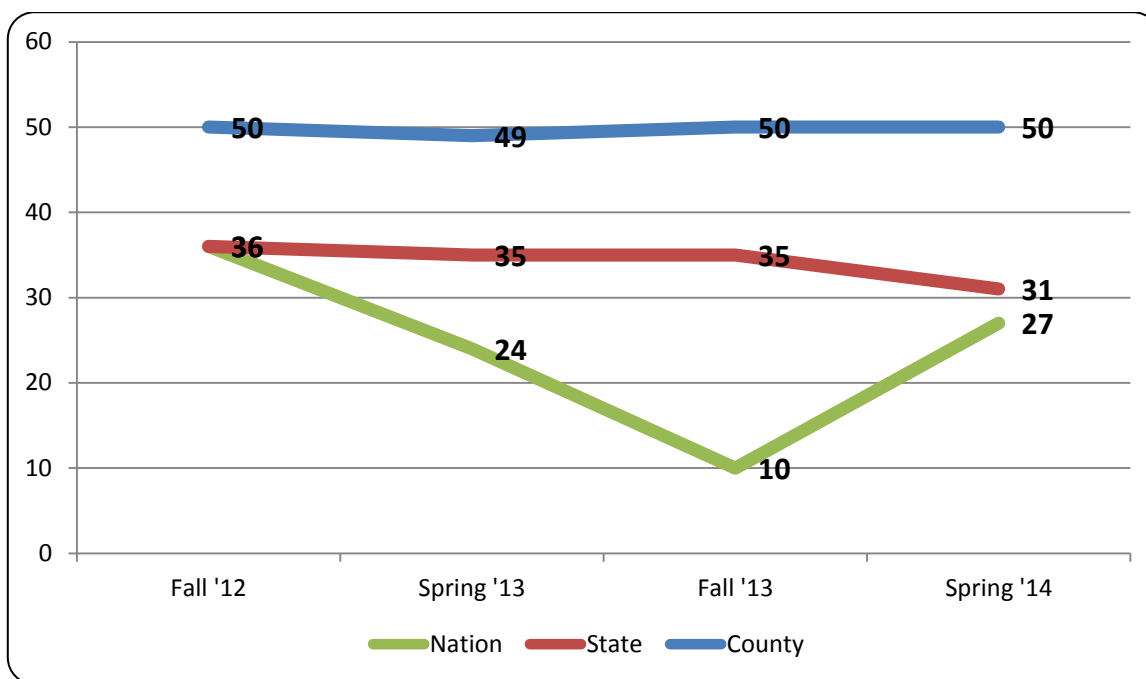
The survey also asked individuals to indicate right/wrong views about the state and the nation. Table 15 shows the results along with those for the county.

Graph 9 shows the trend for the last three CSLI surveys at each level of government, highlighting the relative stability of findings at the county and state levels, but the sharp variability of support at the national level.

**Table 15: Right/Wrong Direction for County, State and Nation, Spring 2014**

	Right	Wrong	Unsure/ Don't know
<b>County</b>	50	33	17
<b>State</b>	31	57	12
<b>Nation</b>	27	63	11

**Graph 9: Right Direction Percentage for County, State and Nation, Spring 2012-Spring 2014**



## **Methodology**

The survey polled a random sample of 460 county residents who were at least 18 years old. It was conducted March 5, 6, 10, 11, 2014 during evening hours. Phone numbers were derived from a database of listed landline numbers, cell phone 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](mailto:ddnataf@aacc.edu). Check the CSLI website for results from this and previous surveys: [www2.aacc.edu/csl](http://www2.aacc.edu/csl).

## Appendix A: CSLI Semi-Annual Survey – Spring, 2014 Frequency Distributions (N=460)

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	Circle ONE
Crime/Drugs	8
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	16
Education, problems with schools	12
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	5
Government – corrupt, unethical	4
Government – inefficient, wasteful, spends too much	4
Government – lacks resources for roads, schools, services	4
Growth/overpopulation- too much development	4
Healthcare (cost, access)	2
Taxes – too high	22
Transportation problems/traffic congestion	4
Other answer - write in:	6
Unsure/No Answer	11

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

2.0 The next questions ask you to say whether things are going in the right or wrong direction. First, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction? How about the state of Maryland? How about the nation as a whole?

	Right	Wrong	Unsure/Don't know
2.1 County	50	33	17
2.2 State	31	57	12
2.3 Nation	27	63	11

3.0 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? How about the state? How about the nation?

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	Unsure/Don't know
3.1 County	8	42	40	9	3
3.2 State	4	36	40	18	2
3.3 Nation	1	20	41	37	1

**4.0 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	57	42	2
4.1a Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	36	63	1
4.2 Facing the possibility of unemployment	16	82	2
4.2a Found a new or better job recently	14	85	2
4.3 Significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts	26	71	3
4.4 Facing the possibility of house foreclosure or loss	4	96	0
4.5 Unable to find affordable housing	10	88	2
4.6 Hard to afford the cost of transportation	24	75	1
4.7 Hard to afford the cost of utilities such as electricity or gas	37	62	1
4.8 Delay in making a major purchase such as a home or car	43	56	1
4.9 Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	26	71	4
4.10 Taxes are too high in relation to government services provided	65	32	3

**5.0 Thinking about the next twelve 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	30	49	15	6
5.2 Unemployment	30	39	25	6
5.3 Inflation	10	34	52	5
5.4 Your personal financial situation	25	59	13	3

**6.0 The following items are proposals that the state and county are considering or may consider in the future. When I read a proposal to you, indicate whether you support, oppose or are unsure about it.**

	Support	Oppose	Unsure	NA/Won't say
6.1 Legalization of marijuana for recreational use, with a high tax and restrictions against the sale to minors	36	50	13	1
6.2 Leaving unchanged the county's storm-water fee meant to help clean up the Bay.	44	41	14	1
6.3 An increase in the state minimum wage to \$10.10 by 2016	60	30	9	1
6.4 A decrease in Maryland's <u>corporate</u> income tax	43	39	16	2
6.5 Reducing the estate tax in Maryland so that it only applies to estates over \$5 million	69	17	12	2
6.6 Having a later start time for students in high school	55	27	15	3
6.7 Increased availability of pre-kindergarten schooling for low income families	82	11	5	2
6.8 Changing gun control laws to make the purchase of shotguns as strictly regulated as the purchase of handguns	51	42	7	1
6.9 The construction of a new high school in the Crofton area.	64	7	25	4

**7. Have you tried to log on to Maryland’s health insurance exchange Web site to look at health insurance options?**

- (1) Yes (GO TO 8) 12%
- (2) No (GO TO #9) 88%
- (0) No answer (GO TO #9) 1%

**8. IF YES: How would you describe your experience?**

---

**9. Do you generally support or oppose the effort to extend health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act?**

- (1) Support 49%
- (2) Oppose 40%
- (3) Undecided 10%
- (0) No answer 1%

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

- (1) Democratic (go to #11) 41%
- (2) Republican (go to #11) 35%
- (3) Unaffiliated (or “independent”) (go to #13) 16%
- (4) Other (e.g., Green, Libertarian parties) (go to #13) 1%
- (5) None (NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE) (go to #13) 5%
- (0) No Answer (go to #13) 3%

**11. The primary elections for state and local offices will take place in June. Are you very, somewhat or not very likely to vote at that time?**

- (1) Very likely 71% (This was the group used as “likely voters” in the next two questions.)
- (2) Somewhat likely 17%
- (3) Not very likely 11%
- (0) Unsure/No answer 1%

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS EITHER 1, 2 ASK: (Otherwise go to question 13 ) ➡



12. Thinking about the race for governor, which candidate, if any, are you currently favoring or are you mostly undecided? (let respondent volunteer a choice, **don't read list** – circle number of candidate)

CANDIDATE	With Undecided/NA Overall – Likely Voters	Without Undecided/NA Overall-LV	Party Specific Vote –LV*
<b>Democrats</b>			
Brown, Anthony (D)	7	33	56
Gansler, Doug (D)	3	14	19
Mizeur, Heather (D)	2	9	16
Total	12	56	91
<b>Republicans</b>			
Craig, David (R)	2	8	9
George, Ron (R)	2	10	22
Lollar, Charles (R)	1	3	9
Hogan, Larry (R)	5	23	57
Total within party	10	44	97
UNDECIDED, other	78		
Total overall	100		

\*This represents the percentage of the vote obtained by a candidate by likely voters registered within his/her party only. Also see the note for the next question.

12.1 Thinking now about the race for county executive, there are three candidates running: Republicans Laura Neuman and Steve Schuh, and Democrat George Johnson. Which candidate are you currently favoring or are you undecided at this time?

CANDIDATE	With Undecided/NA Overall – Likely Voters	Without Undecided/NA Overall-LV	Party Specific Vote -LV*
Laura Neuman (R)	18	45	54
Steve Schuh (R)	9	23	40
George Johnson (D)	13	32	59
Undecided	57 (+3% missing)		
Total	100	100	

\*This question did not require voters to only express a preference for candidates within their own party. Thus, while Johnson has no opponents in the Democratic primary, several Democrats planned to “vote” for Republican candidates and vice versa. Among Democrats, 41 percent expressed a voting preference for a Republican candidate (35 percent for Neuman; 6 percent for Schuh). Six percent of Republicans expressed a preference for Johnson.

**13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Martin O'Malley is handling his job as governor?**

(1) Approve 33% (2) Disapprove 55% (0) No answer 12%

**13.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Laura Neuman is handling her job as county executive?**

(1) Approve 54% (2) Disapprove 11% (0) No answer 35%

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

(1) Approve 39% (2) Disapprove 52% (0) No answer 9%

**13.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?**

(1) Approve 9% (2) Disapprove 86% (0) No answer 5%

**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 32%  
 (2) Republicans 31%  
 (3) Neither (volunteered) 29%  
 (4) Other (volunteered) 2%  
 (0) No answer 5%

*The last set of questions asks about some of your views and background characteristics that help us better understand our respondents.*

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

(1) Conservative 27% (2) Moderate 49% (3) Liberal 19% (0) Other, No Answer 5%

**16. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_(Write in)**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
18-30	7
31-40	16
41-50	20
51-60	24
61-65	10
66+	24
Total	101

**17. 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 1%	(5) Completed a 4 year bachelor's degree 22%
(2) a high school diploma 10%	(6) post graduate work 30%
(3) some college 21%	(7) Something else? 1%
(4) Completed a 2 year associate college degree 14%	(0) No Answer 0%



**18. 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            6%
- (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000        9%
- (3) \$50,001 to \$75,000        14%
- (4) \$75,001 to \$100,000       18%
- (5) \$100,001 to \$150,000     23%
- (6) \$150,001 to \$250,000    11%
- (7) Over \$250,000            4%
- (0) No Answer                  14%

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

<b>Answer choice</b>	<b>Choose one</b>
Retired and not working	25
Retired and working	8
Self-employed and/or business owner	8
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	17
Employed full time in a defense related activity	6
Employed in a private non-profit organization	2
Employed part time	4
Student (and possibly working part-time)	3
Unemployed and seeking a job	2
Unemployed and not seeking a job	2
No answer	2

**20. Regarding race or ethnicity, how would you describe yourself?**

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

**21. Regarding religion, how would you describe yourself?**

Category	Percentage
(1) None (e.g., <i>atheist, agnostic</i> )	11
(2) Non-practicing	6
(3) Evangelical or born again Christian ( <i>possibly Baptist, Pentecostal</i> )	14
(4) Catholic	30
(5) Jewish	2
(6) Protestant ( <i>possibly Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopalian</i> )	21
(7) Some other Christian ( <i>possibly Mormon</i> )	5
(8) A 'spiritual person' not associated with an organized religion	3
(9) Other (e.g., <i>Hindu, Muslim</i> )	3
(0) No Answer	4

**22. What is your current marital status?**

Category	Percentage
(1) Single	11
(2) Married	75
(3) Separated/divorced	7
(4) Widowed	7
(5) Other	2
(0) No answer	1

**23. I have one request: 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 42% (2) No 58%**

**26.1 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*

**24. Gender of respondent to whom you were speaking: (1) Male 49% (2) Female 51%**

25. Zipcode (from calling sheet) \_\_\_\_\_

	Valid Percent
20711	2.6
20724	2.4
20733	.4
20751	1.0
20755	.2
20758	.2
20764	1.2
20776	.4
20778	.7
21012	5.7
21031	.2
21032	1.8
21035	1.6
21037	3.4
21054	2.5
21060	5.2
21061	5.8
21076	2.8
21090	1.2
21091	.2
21108	4.5
21113	3.8
21114	5.2
21122	8.3
21127	.2
21140	.7
21144	5.9
21146	8.1
21225	1.3
21226	.4
21401	10.6
21403	6.7
21405	.6
21409	4.4
Total	100.0
Missing System	
Total	