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Center for the Study of Local Issues
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County Survey Finds Public Favors Limited Medical Marijuana Facilities Rather than Total Prohibition

A survey of 589 Anne Arundel County residents conducted Oct. 9-15 by students assisting the Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) at Anne Arundel Community College asked respondents about a variety of issues.

Several questions focused on issues relevant to Anne Arundel County public policies. Regarding medical marijuana, respondents were posed a question:

“County Executive Steve Schuh has proposed to prohibit the planting, processing and sale of medical marijuana in Anne Arundel County. Some members of the County Council have proposed allowing these activities, but with a set of restrictions that limit where these activities can occur. Which position do you favor – total prohibition, or allowing with restrictions?”

A clear majority (69 percent) favored the presence of marijuana related activities “with restrictions” – a position in keeping with the stance of some county council members but originally opposed by County Executive Steve Schuh. Among Republicans, only 40 percent favored a total prohibition; 14 percent of Democrats and 22 percent of unaffiliated voters shared that view. Conservatives were similarly divided with 44 percent favoring and 53 percent disfavoring the total prohibition; among moderates, 24 percent favored total prohibition, while only 7 percent of liberals sided with that stance.

Other than marijuana, the survey included questions about the preferred size of high schools, teacher salary increases, the placement of group homes and the merger of Annapolis and county services. In addition, several questions asked how well a list of challenges has been dealt with by the county.

The survey also asked a range of questions about the local economy and its impact upon residents. Presidential candidate preferences were asked as well.

A detailed review of these issues 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 Main Findings

Most important problem facing county residents: Crime (15 percent citing) was virtually tied with taxes (14 percent) as the most important problem, while 12 percent said the economy. (See p. 4.)

Right direction/wrong direction: The percentage of those saying that the **county** was moving in the right direction was 51 percent. Following a dramatic increase was seen in the percentage of those saying that the **state** was going in the right direction last spring – 47 percent and up 20 points from fall 2014 – a small further increase pushed the figure to 51 percent. The percentage applicable to the **country** was down 6 points to 21 percent. (See pp. 6-7.)

Perceptions of the economy: The survey found that 64 percent viewed the county's economy as excellent or good – up somewhat from last spring when it was 57 percent; 45 percent said the same for Maryland's economy (an increase of 4 points) and 21 percent favorably rated the national economy, down 6 points. (See pp. 7-11.)

Economic conditions experienced by individuals: Starting in March 2008 a variety of items were added to the semi-annual survey to evaluate respondents' economic experiences and perceptions. The fall 2015 survey found that most economic indicators improved since the March 2015 survey: a 4 percentage point decrease in concern about taxes; a 3 point decrease in the percentage saying that wages or salaries were not rising as fast as the cost of living; the percentage saying that they were "facing the possibility of unemployment" stayed the same (12 percent). There was a 5 point decrease in those saying that "Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate." The survey also asked those who said "applies" to the health insurance question about elements that were relevant: high premiums were cited by many (88 percent) along with high deductibles (65 percent), other out of pocket expenses (47 percent) and inadequate coverage (39 percent). (See pp. 12-15.)

Consumer confidence: There was some retreat in consumer confidence measures this fall, with lower percentages expressing optimism towards growth, unemployment, inflation and personal finances. (See pp. 15-16.)

Major public policy issues: A large majority (70 percent) agreed with efforts by Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to review ways to combine government services. Bare majorities (51 percent) favored awarding salary increases to teachers or agreed with a proposal to establish caps on carbon emissions, auctioning carbon permits and rebating the revenue to taxpayers. A plurality (45 percent) with placing some restrictions on the placement of group homes. A minority of respondents agreed that Annapolis was doing enough to deal with flooding (29 percent) or with the study commissioned by the Board of Education that recommended a higher student target for high schools than the figure advocated by County Executive Steve Schuh. (See pp. 17-18.)

How well has the county dealt with challenges: Asked to say whether the county has made certain challenges better, worse or left them about the same over the last year, the largest group tended to say "the same." Problems highlighted were planning growth and development, reducing the backlog in school maintenance and repair, keeping taxes low, controlling crime and reducing poverty and homelessness. More respondents said "better" than "worse" with regards to improving the local economy or improving the quality of life in the county. (See pp. 19-20.)

Officeholders' job approval: Job approval for Governor Larry Hogan rose from 56 percent approve to 71 percent. President Obama saw his job approval percentages move up a single point to 38 percent. County Executive Steve Schuh slipped a bit from 45 to 43 percent but this partly reflected a very large "no answer" percentage (35 percent). (See pp. 21-22.)

Which party do you trust? The percentage favoring Democrats rose slightly from 32 to 33 percent since last spring. The Republican percentage dropped from 36 to 33 percent, continuing a decline that began in fall 2014 when its percentage was 39 percent, with the percentage saying "neither" rising from 23 to 26 percent. (See pp. 24-25.)

Presidential Candidate Preferences: The survey asked respondents to indicate their choice for president. The four leaders were Hillary Clinton (18 percent of all respondents who were registered voters, 34 percent of all Democrats) Bernie Sanders (17 and 27 percent) on the Democratic side, and Ben Carson (18 and 32 percent of Republicans) and Donald Trump (15 and 21 percent) on the Republican side. (See p. 25-26.)

Methodology: The survey polled a random sample of 589 county residents who were at least 18 years old, primarily using a database of listed and unlisted landline numbers along with cell phone numbers. Telephone interviewing was conducted Oct.12-15 during evening hours. In addition, members of a CSLI Web panel were also asked to participate in an online version of the survey. There was about a 4 percent statistical margin of error for the combined sample; the error rate was higher for subgroups such as “Democrats” or “men.” The dataset was weighted by gender, political party and education 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 for information and press releases for this and previous surveys: www2.aacc.edu/csli.

Detailed Review of Survey Findings

The Most Important Problem Facing Residents – A Renewed Focus on Quality of Life?

Since spring 2008, CSLI surveys have tended to show 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 high concern peaked in fall 2011 (when 48 percent mentioned the economy). Since that time, a gradual diminution of concern has been observed. As shown in Table 1 and Graph 1, the fall 2015 survey signaled a plateauing of concern about the economy, as the percentage citing it remained unchanged from last spring: 12 percent. There was also a sharp drop in the percentage citing “taxes” as other factors gained greater attention.

Among the items showing the largest jump was “growth and development” that rose from a period in the low single digits to 10 percent this fall. This was accompanied by a steady number citing the “environment” and “transportation” – both last spring 8 percent, this fall 9 percent – indicating a possible rise in “quality of life” issues that had been previously overwhelmed by an economic “survival” focus. Such quality of life concerns were also evidenced in the recent rise of “crime and drugs” as an oft-cited item: previously in the mid-single digits, it rose to 13 percent last spring and 15 percent this fall. Unlike in previous surveys, the fall survey asked respondents separately about “crime” in general and “drugs”: each contributed about an equal amount (8 vs. 7 percent). (See the entire frequency distribution in Appendix A.) The only item that defied the “quality of life” resurgence was the relatively stable focus on education, which remained fixed at 9 percent.

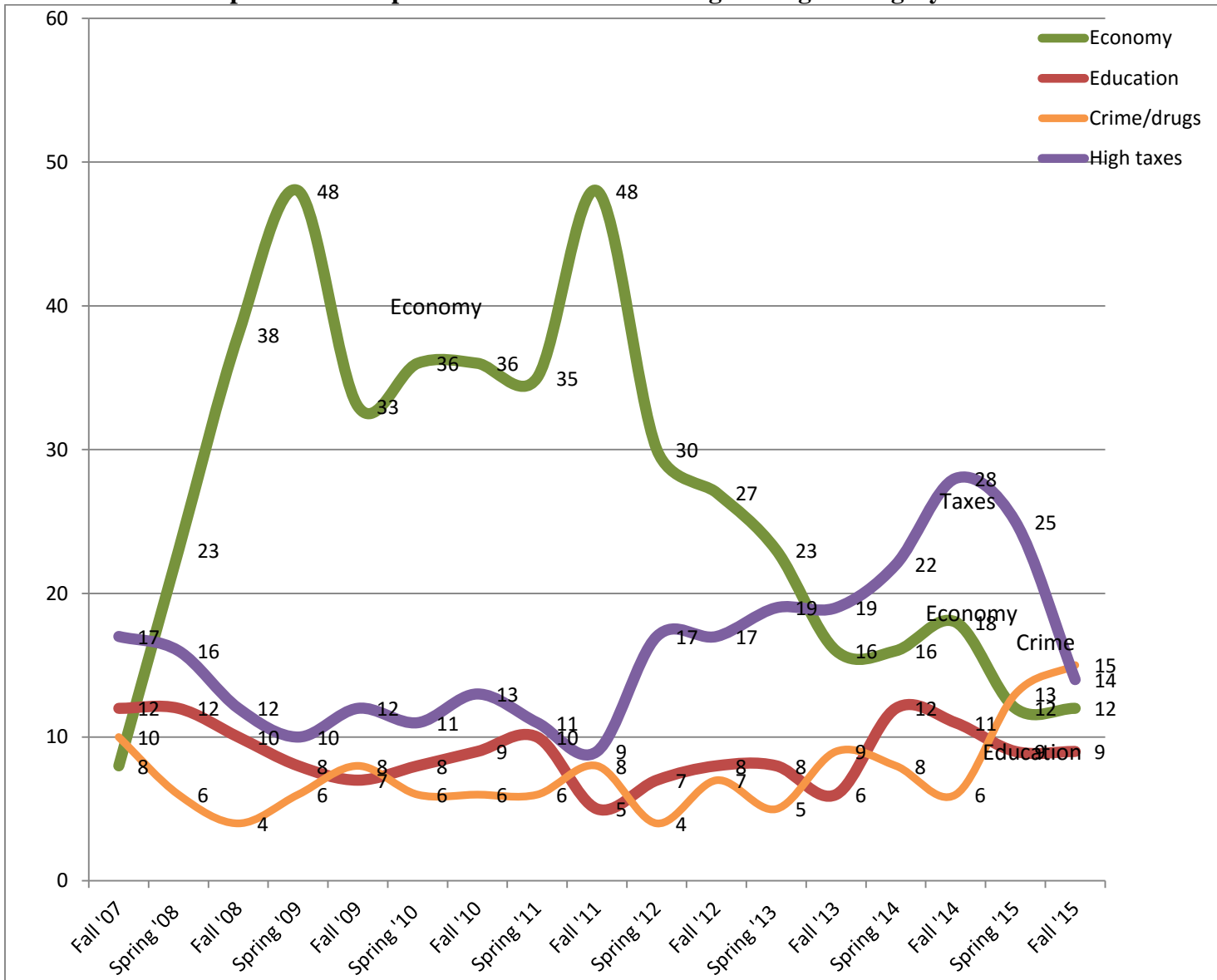
Table 1: “Most Important Problem Facing Residents” – Spring 2008 to Fall 2015¹

	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	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15
Taxes – too high	16	12	10	12	11	13	11	9	17	17	19	19	22	28	25	14
Crime / drugs	6	4	6	8	6	6	6	8	4	7	5	9	8	6	13	15
Economy	23	38	48	33	36	36	35	48	30	27	23	16	16	18	12	12
Education / school problems	12	10	8	7	8	9	10	5	7	8	8	6	12	11	9	9
Traffic congestion/ problems	7	6	4	5	6	6	3	5	5	6	5	4	4	5	8	9
Growth / development	12	9	5	5	5	2	4	4	4	3	2	4	4	2	2	10
Unsure/no answer	9	7	8	10	10	8	12	8	9	9	10	12	11	12	10	6
Other answer	15	14	11	21	17	21	19	13	24	23	29	30	23	19	21	25
Total	100	100	100	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100

Note: In this and other tables, totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding. Unless otherwise noted, all numeric values included in tables and graphs are percentages.

¹ 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” but as mentioned in the text, were separated this fall for the first time in the last few years.

Graph 1: Most Important Problem – Percentage Citing a Category

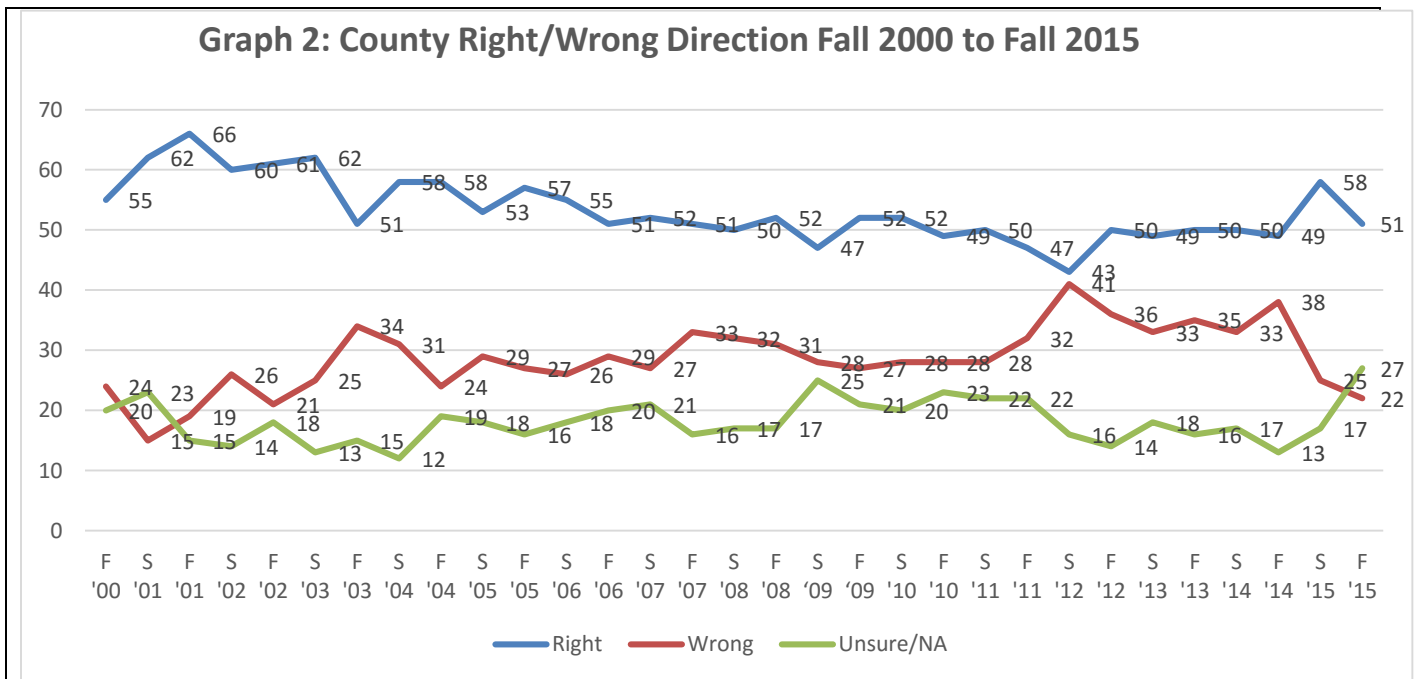


County – Right or Wrong Direction?

The survey included a CSLI benchmark question whose results are seen on Table 2 and Graph 2: “Overall, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?” After peaking at 58 percent “right direction” last spring, the percentage dropped somewhat to 51 percent, more in keeping with prior results and the average for the period. However, the difference between the percentage citing “right” and “wrong” remained high: 29 percent, just slightly down from 33 percent last spring and 10 points higher than the average for the period.

Table 2: Anne Arundel County - Right vs. Wrong Direction Fall 2009 to Fall 2015

Response	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Average
Right direction	52	52	49	50	47	43	50	49	50	50	49	58	51	50
Wrong direction	27	28	28	28	32	41	36	33	35	33	38	25	22	31
Unsure/NA	21	20	23	22	22	16	14	18	16	17	13	17	27	19
Right-wrong	25	24	21	22	15	2	14	16	15	17	11	33	29	19
Total	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100



The survey also asked individuals to indicate right/wrong views about the state and the nation. Table 3 shows those results along with those for the county.

Graph 3 shows the trend for the last six CSLI surveys at each level of government. The county percentage indicating “right direction” has historically remained around 50 percent, with the spring jump

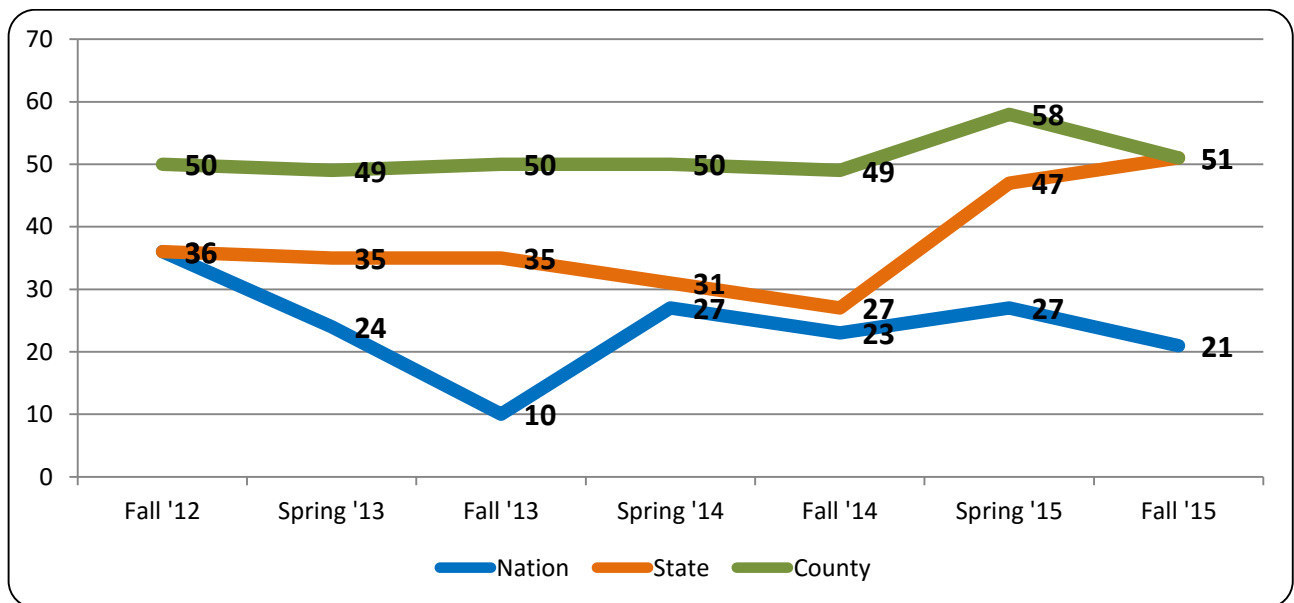
to 58 percent being the anomaly. By contrast, the “Hogan honeymoon” which began last spring continued to bloom, with favorable impressions of the state at a high point of 51 percent.

Those who approved of Governor Hogan’s performance in office were statistically significantly more likely ($p < .01$) to say that the state was moving in the right direction: 58 percent (for those who approve) vs. 35 percent for those who disapprove figures virtually unchanged from last spring.

Table 3: Right/Wrong Direction for County, State and Nation, Fall 2015

	Right	Wrong	Unsure/ Don't know	Total
County	51	22	27	100
State	51	30	20	101
Nation	21	63	16	100

Graph 3: Right Direction Percentage for County, State and Nation, Fall 2012-Fall 2015



Rating Economic Conditions – Anne Arundel County

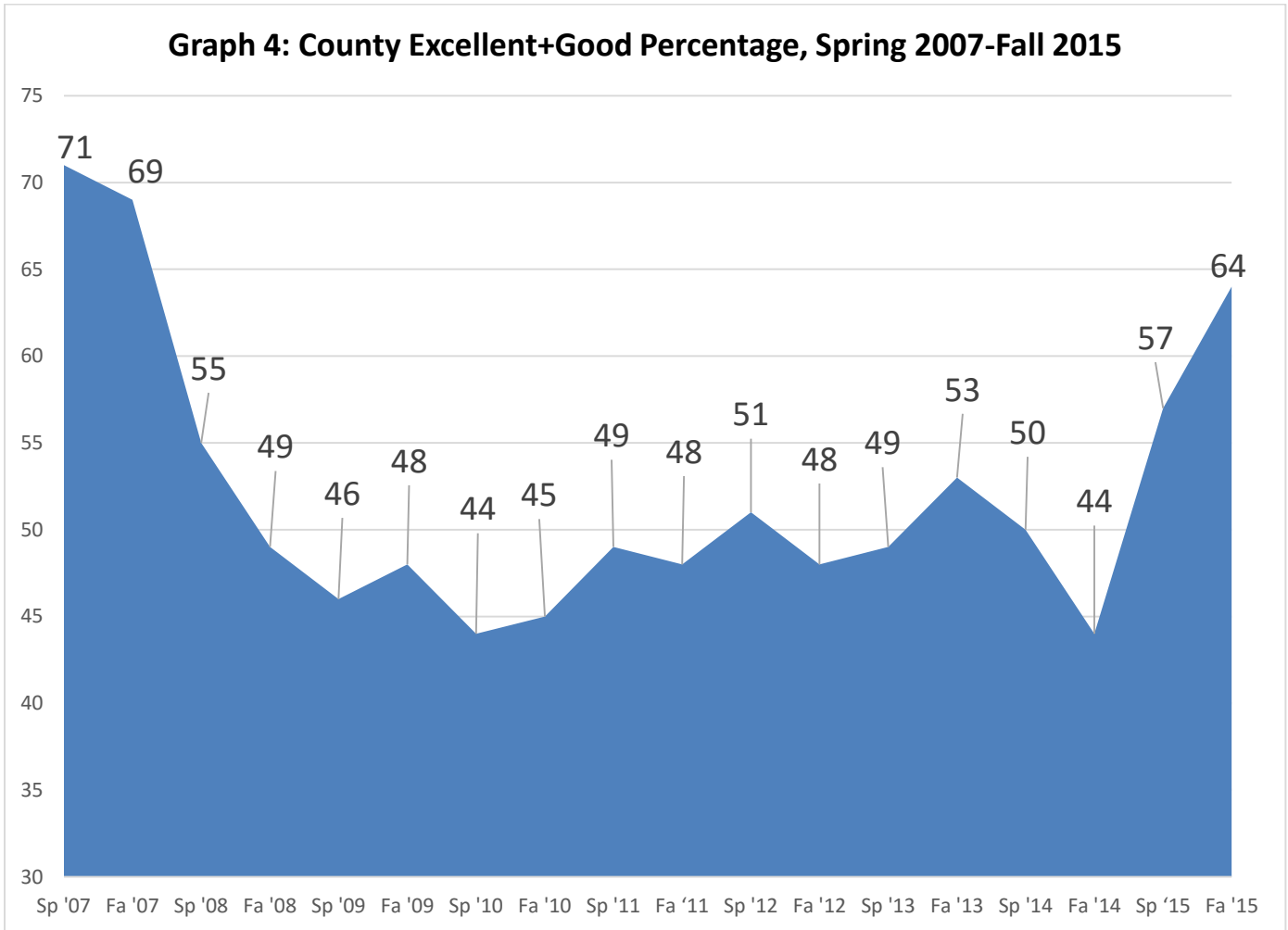
Since March 2002, the CSLI semi-annual survey has asked a benchmark question about the economy: “How would you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County – ‘excellent,’ ‘good,’ ‘only fair’ or ‘poor?’ ”

As shown on Table 4, since March 2007 the county’s historical average saying that the economy was a combined “excellent” or “good” was 52 percent. As shown on Graph 4, since falling from historic highs in 2007, from fall 2008 to fall 2014 the percentage oscillated up and down within a narrow band of 44 percent on the low side, to 53 percent on the high side. Starting last spring, the combined percentage rose to 57 percent; the upswing continued this fall as the percentage rose further to 64 percent. This trend would seem to confirm the findings mentioned earlier when discussing the “most important problem” suggesting that the perception of economic crisis has dissipated, favoring a return to a quality of life focus.

Table 4: Perceptions of County Economic Conditions – Spring 2007 to Fall 2015

	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	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Average
Excellent+Good	71	69	55	49	46	48	44	45	49	48	51	48	49	53	50	44	57	64	52
Excellent	12	10	6	6	2	4	3	3	3	4	2	5	3	6	8	4	5	7	5
Good	59	59	49	43	44	44	41	42	46	44	49	43	46	47	42	40	52	57	47
Fair	22	25	36	37	43	38	41	45	38	40	37	39	38	35	40	41	33	27	36
Poor	4	5	8	12	10	11	13	8	12	11	11	12	11	10	9	12	7	6	10
Don't know	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	4	3	2
Total	100	101	101	100	101	100	100	100	101	101	100	101	101	101	101	99	101	100	101

Graph 4: County Excellent+Good Percentage, Spring 2007-Fall 2015



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 economy, Table 5 shows that the average “excellent+good” percentage is 35 percent. The low (27 percent) over that period was in the depths of the Great Recession (spring 2009) while the high was obtained this fall (45 percent).

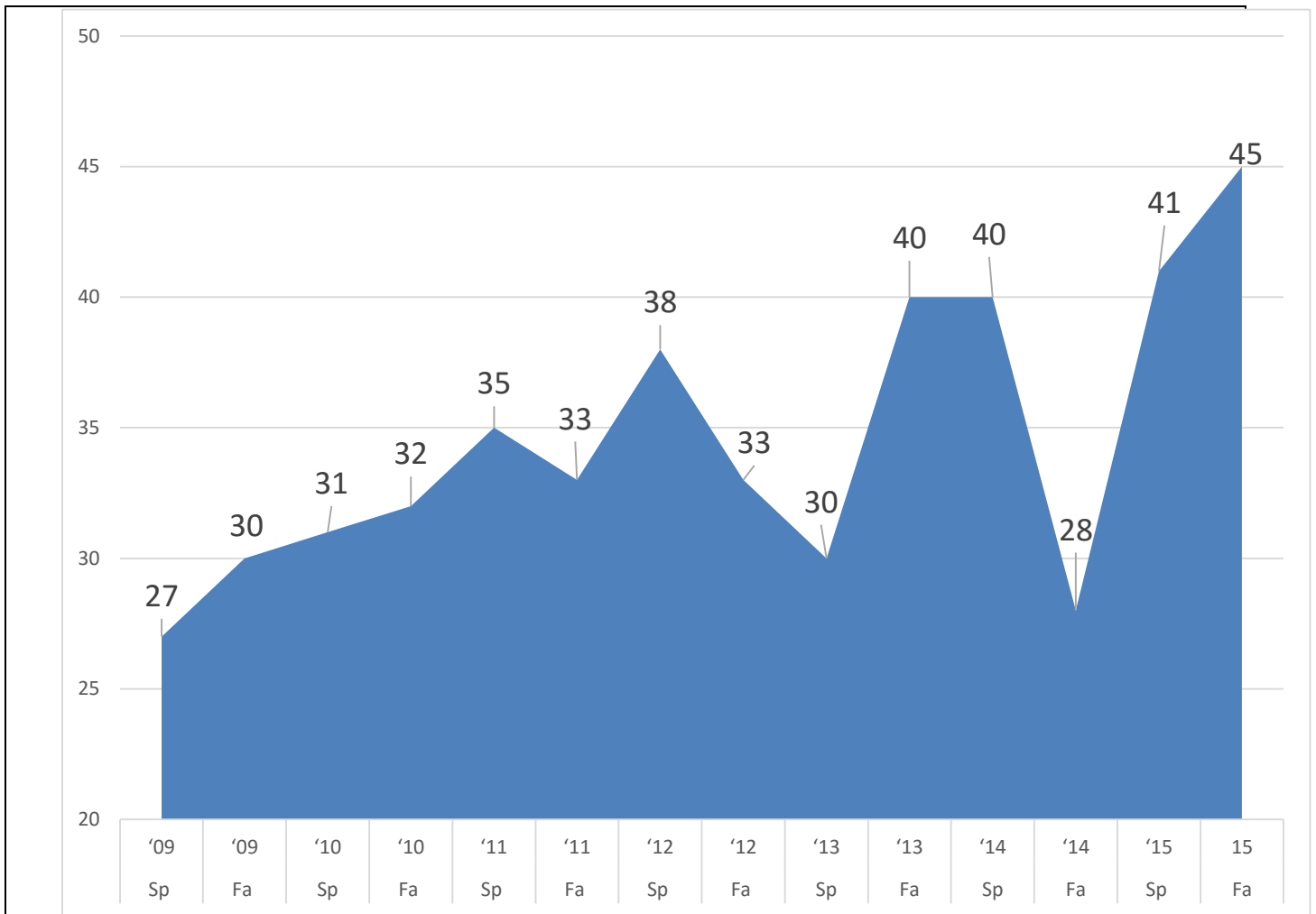
As illustrated in Graph 5, in fall 2014 the percentage (28 percent) nearly equaled the historic low – foreshadowing an electoral loss for the incumbent Democrats in the November 2014 race for governor. Last spring, the percentage essentially returned to a level found in spring 2014 – around 40 percent (41 percent), only a slight improvement of the score previously attained under the O’Malley/Brown administration. However, this fall, the upward trend continued, reaching 45 percent.

Surprisingly, among those approving of the job performed by Governor Larry Hogan, the excellent+good score was only 41, nearly identical to what it had been under O’Malley/Brown in spring 2014. By contrast, those who *disapproved* of Hogan’s job performance were more inclined to favorably rate the state’s economy: 53 percent gave an answer of good or excellent. Democrats were much more positive than Republicans (55 vs. 35 percent). Thus, the favorable appraisal of the state economy is not necessarily part of the “Hogan honeymoon.”

Table 5: Perceptions of State Economic Conditions – Spring 2009 to Fall 2015

	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Avg.
Excellent+good	27	30	31	32	35	33	38	33	30	40	40	28	41	45	35
Excellent	1	2	2	1	3	1	4	3	1	4	4	1	3	2	2
Good	26	28	29	31	32	32	34	30	29	36	36	27	38	43	32
Fair	49	45	46	47	43	41	40	42	41	36	40	40	39	41	42
Poor	22	21	21	19	21	24	21	23	24	21	18	30	16	11	21
Don't know	2	4	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	3	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	100	99	101	100	100	100	100	100

Graph 5: State Economy -Excellent+Good Percentage, Spring 2009-Fall 2015

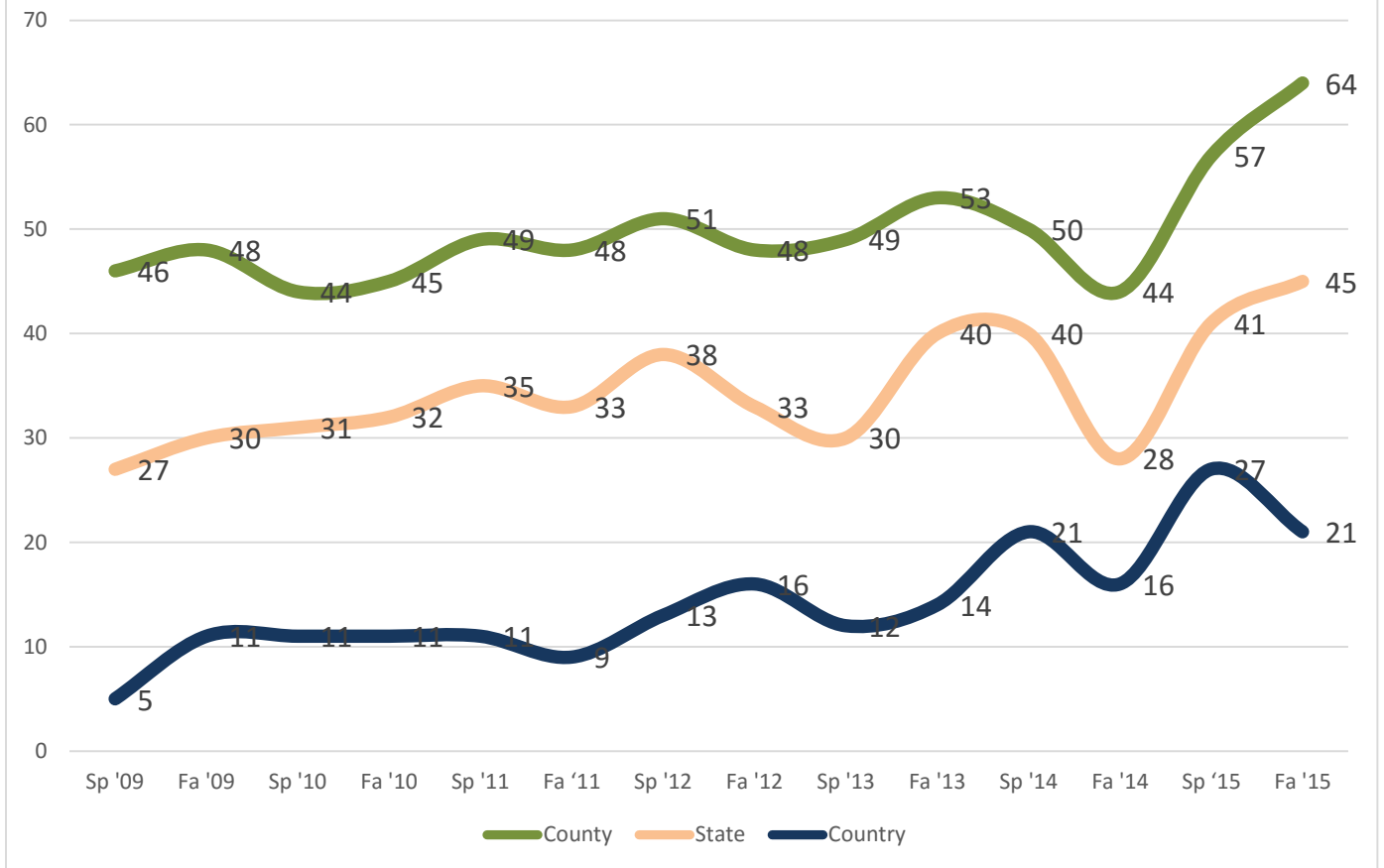


Rating Economic Conditions –The National Economy

As shown on Graph 6, economic appraisal of the national economy has always lagged significantly behind both the county and state. In fall 2015, the combined indicator moved in a positive direction for the county and state, but in a negative direction for the nation as a whole, dropping from 27 to 21 percent good or excellent.

The partisan dimension of national economic perceptions was very sharp: Among those approving of President Obama’s job, 39 percent felt that the economy was excellent or good; among those disapproving, the value was just 10 percent. Among those trusting Democrats to do a better job handling issues, positive scores were 41 percent, while those trusting Republicans as well as those saying “neither” were both 11 percent.

**Graph 6: County, State and Country - Economic Conditions
Excellent+Good Spring 2009-Fall 2015**



The national mood as measured by the Gallup polling organization was similar – 24 percent saying excellent or good.² The Gallup data show that the national trend has been stuck around this percentage for the last few months.

Table 6: Perceptions of National Economic Conditions– Spring 2009 to Fall 2015

	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Ave.
Excellent+Good	5	11	11	11	11	9	13	16	12	14	21	16	27	21	14
Excellent	0	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1
Good	5	10	10	9	9	7	12	14	10	13	20	15	24	20	13
Fair	30	39	42	41	43	28	47	37	38	31	41	42	32	40	38
Poor	63	48	46	47	45	62	39	46	47	55	37	40	37	36	46
Unsure/NA	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	4	3	2
Total	99	100	101	100	101	101	101	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100

² See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/151127/economic-conditions-weekly.aspx> for Gallup’s running totals for this question. This Gallup national percentage was for the period October 5-11, 2015.

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 7 shows the results for recent CSLI surveys. The fall 2014 survey significantly modified the list of items included – two new items were added (“Hard to afford the cost of education” and “Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries”), while several previous items were dropped. Other modifications have occurred over the years, such as the inclusion of questions asking about a “salary increase or other increase in income recently” and whether the respondent had “found a new or better job recently” – these items were introduced in fall 2011.

Table 7 is ordered by the highest percentage of respondents saying a condition applied in fall 2015. In keeping with the hypothesis that there is a movement away from economic concerns to those more in keeping with quality of life, the implication is that most of the negative indicators would go down in percentage cited, while the two positive indicators would go up.

Table 7: Economic Conditions Applying to Personal Circumstances – Fall 2008 to Fall 2015

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	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Ave.
Taxes are too high in relation to the govt. services provided	58	59	59	63	60	63	58	63	63	62	66	65	74	66	62	63
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	63	57	54	59
Hard to afford the cost of education	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	45	41	39	42
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	33	37	34	33
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	30	29	33	32	34	35	32	32	27	32	29	26	40	38	33	32
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	33	31	28	31
Facing the possibility of unemployment	15	24	24	19	21	20	21	17	14	19	17	16	17	12	12	18
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	12	11	13	13
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	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	45
Hard to afford cost of utilities such as electricity or gas	50	53	42	44	43	46	39	39	32	31	29	37	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	40
Significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts	71	75	70	56	60	52	60	44	38	32	32	26	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	51
Hard to afford cost of transportation	32	21	17	21	24	41	30	36	30	27	24	24	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	27
Unable to find affordable housing	11	12	13	15	10	14	11	15	9	12	14	10	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12
Facing the possibility of house foreclosure or loss	4	6	8	7	7	9	8	8	4	7	7	4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7

In fact, this expectation was only partly confirmed. There were decreases in the percentages saying that taxes were too high, wages had not kept up with inflation, it was hard to afford the cost of food/groceries/education, and that health insurance was unavailable, too expensive or inadequate. Only the negative indicator “facing the possibility of unemployment” was unchanged. While the negative indicators were mostly down, the positive indicators were mixed: there was a slight increase in the percentage saying that they had “found a new or better job recently” but the percentage saying that they had “received a salary increase or other increase in income” was down somewhat (3 percentage points).

Health Insurance Anxiety

Based on a strong rise in the percentages of respondents saying that “Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate” from spring 2014 (26 percent) to 40 percent in fall 2014 and 38 percent in spring 2015 (see Graph 7), the fall 2015 survey included a set of follow-up questions to identify the key reasons for the negative appraisal of this factor. As it turned out, there was a rather sizable drop (5 points to 33 percent) among those citing this item from spring 2015 to fall 2015, so it is possible that the factors applicable previously have abated somewhat. In any case, Table 8 presents the answers provided by respondents who said “applies” to this economic condition.

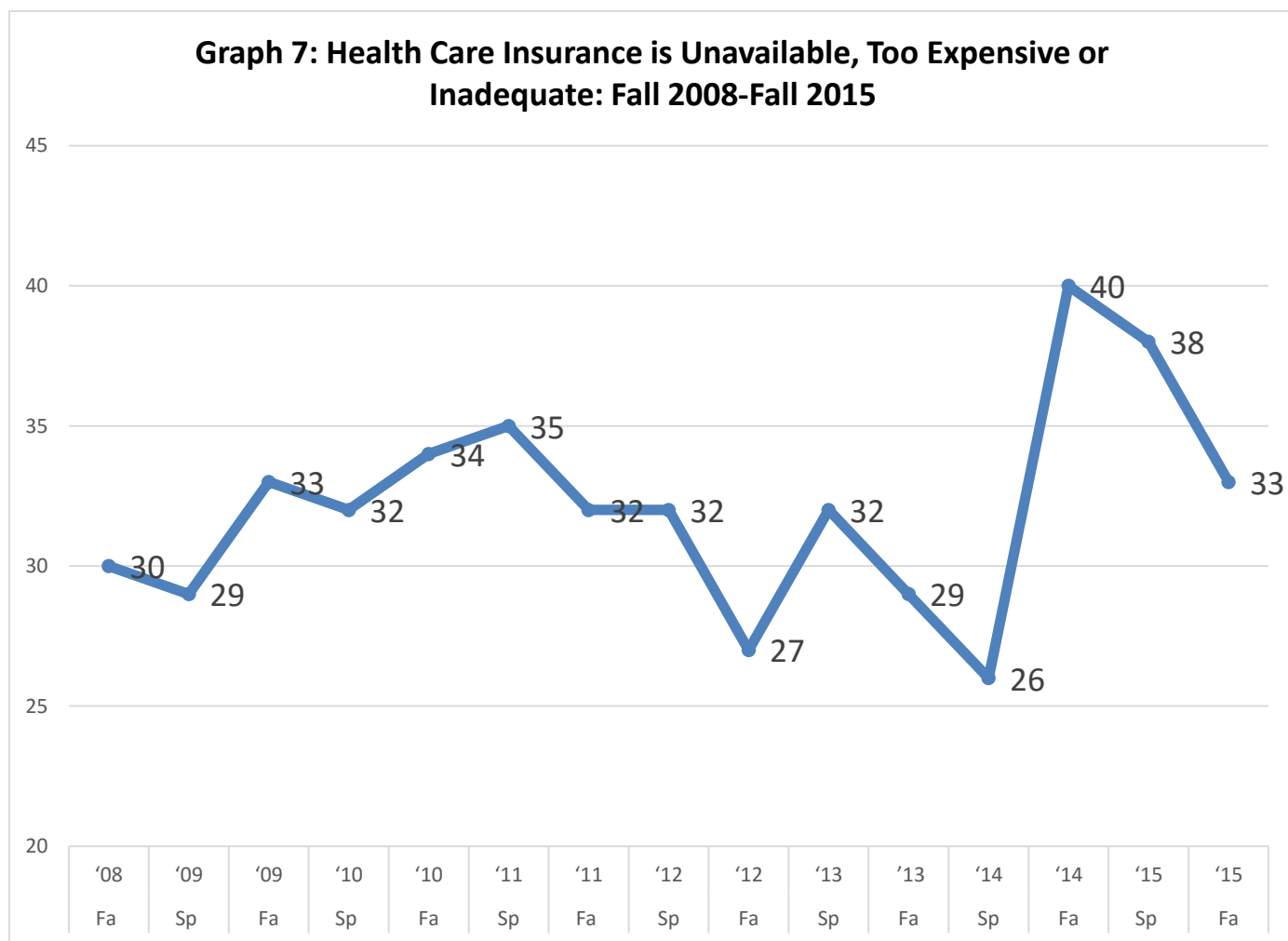


Table 8: Percentage of Those Saying “Applies” to Health Insurance Question Citing a Factor Explaining the “Applies” Answer

Factor	Overall	Employer	Indiv.	Medi- caid	Medi- care	Medi- care with sup.	VA/ Tricare	None
Premiums are too high	88	53	73	19	44	74	24	67
Deductibles are too high	65	36	31	19	22	39	24	67
Doesn't cover drugs or certain services (e.g., eye, dental)	39	17	26	19	21	41	0	0
Hard to find provider in my area (doctor, specialist, hospital)	11	4	4	19	7	0	0	0
Various “out of pocket expenses are too high”	47	24	26	19	27	6	24	33
Maryland Health care exchange is hard to use or doesn't offer good choices	18	8	26	0	5	13	24	0
I prefer to be uninsured or have less coverage	9	2	4	0	7	0	24	33

The main concerns for these respondents were all related to the cost of the coverage: premiums, deductibles, copays and other “out of pocket” expenses. It was less common for them to cite lack of coverage for certain services or difficulties finding a provider. Several open-ended answers mentioned “Obamacare” occasionally mentioning that the cost was too high, subsidies inadequate or the coverage too low.

Looking at these factors from the perspective of the source of the health insurance, by far the most common source was employer provided insurance (62 percent). Their concerns were all based on cost, and to a lesser extent coverage. Those in the individual market (9 percent) were much more likely to mention problems with the Maryland Health Care Exchange than the other groups. Those with Medicare were distinguished by whether they had supplemental coverage or not. Those without were generally less likely to complain about cost, except for “out of pocket” expenses than those with supplemental coverage. The percentages for Medicare, VA/Tricare and those without coverage are presented, but the number of cases was very small.

The group least likely to be insured were those making under \$30,000. Employer based insurance was most typical for those earning at least \$75,000.

Table 9 looks at all the economic conditions and divides the respondents into those making up to \$75,000 and those making more.

Table 9: Income Groups and Economic Indicators

Condition	Under \$75,000	\$75,000+	Under \$75k-Over 75K
Hard to afford cost of food and groceries*	49	18	29
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living*	60	52	8
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate*	42	28	14
Facing the possibility of unemployment*	16	11	5
Hard to afford the cost of education	40	41	-1
Found a new or better job recently	10	13	-3
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	61	58	3
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently*	24	43	-19

Note: Desirable outcomes are bolded. *=p<.01

Table 9 shows the impact of income on the indicators of economic conditions applying to personal circumstances. Dividing the sample of respondents into those earning \$75,000 or less into one group and those earning over \$75,000 into a second group, it is clear that almost all desirable outcomes favor the higher income group.

Over twice as many lower income respondents mentioned that it was hard to afford the cost of food and groceries. They were much more likely to point to wage stagnation, or challenges obtaining adequate health insurance. They were more likely to be “facing the possibility of unemployment, and around half as likely to have received an increase in income recently.

Consumer Confidence

A section of the survey asked respondents to think about the next 12 months and the county’s economy and say whether a given economic condition will be better, the same or worse.

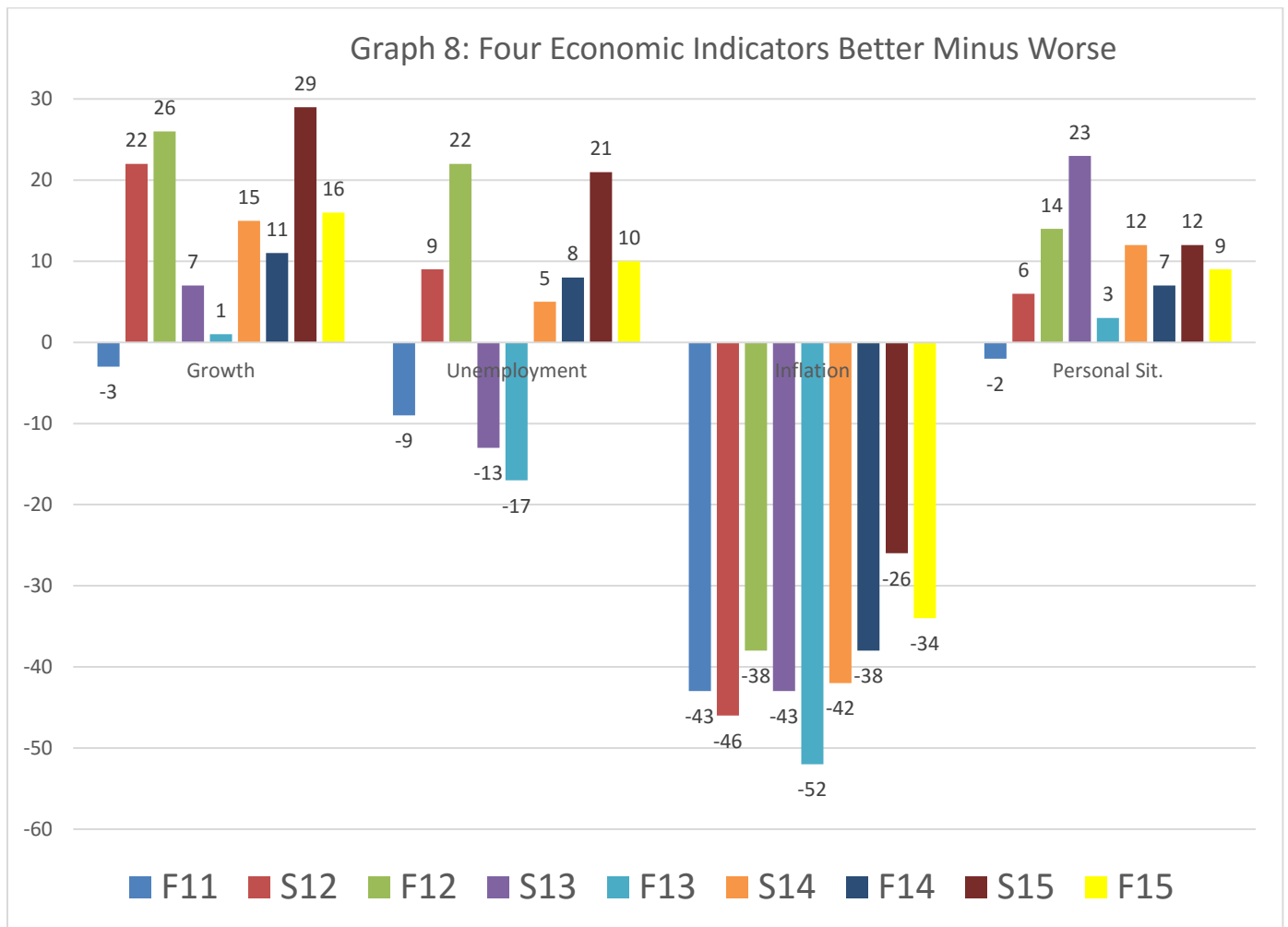
As previously mentioned, two measures of economic performance suggested rising public optimism about the economy: the continued decline in percentages citing the economy as the most important problem and the improved ratings of the state, county and national economies. The gradual improvement in perceptions of the economy should have also been reflected in 4 measures of consumer confidence as respondents were asked to ponder the county’s economy over the next 12 months and say whether growth, inflation, unemployment and their personal financial situation would be the same, better or worse.

Table 10 shows the results just for fall 2015; Graph 8 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 in all cases except for inflation, in which case a lower number indicates optimism).

Table 10: Economic Conditions over the Next 12 Months, Fall 2015

	Better	Same	Worse	Unsure/NA	Total
Economic growth	28	52	12	7	100
Unemployment	28	48	18	7	100
Inflation	9	42	43	7	100
Your personal financial situation	22	60	13	5	100

Spring 2015 was a relative highpoint for many of the indicators: Growth, unemployment and inflation especially. By contrast, fall 2015 was not as positive, with positive net scores in each case being less than in spring. However, they were generally favorable, just not as favorable as last spring. These findings stand somewhat in contrast to the earlier findings about economic optimism.



Major Issues facing the State and County

The fall 2015 survey asked respondents whether they supported, opposed or were unsure about a variety of proposals that might be considered by a level of government. Table 11 shows the results ranked by the percentage saying “agree.”

Table 11: Public Policy Proposals – Support, Oppose, Unsure

	Agree	Disagree	Can't decide	No answer
Anne Arundel County and Annapolis are reviewing ways to combine government services. Do you agree or disagree with these efforts?	70	18	9	4
County teachers and the Board of Education are at impasse over contract talks. Teachers believe that they should be awarded salary increases even if it means cuts in other areas of school spending. Do you agree or disagree with the teachers?	51	33	13	2
Do you agree or disagree with the idea that the federal government establish a cap on carbon emissions, auction carbon permits to energy companies, and return all auction proceeds to citizens as a dividend?	51	30	14	5
Currently the County imposes no limits over the location of group homes for unrelated individuals with health concerns. Some have advocated restrictions on group homes' locations. Do you agree or disagree?	45	35	15	5
Do you agree or disagree that Annapolis is doing enough to deal with flooding due to storm surges and sea level rise?	29	33	27	12
County Executive Steve Schuh has favored high schools with 1200 students; the Board of Education commissioned a study which recommended 1600 as the target high school size. Do you agree or disagree with the Board's larger size?	25	59	12	4

The highest agreement score (70 percent) was regarding the notion of having Annapolis and Anne Arundel County review ways to combine services.

A couple of items obtained narrow majorities: agreeing with the idea that teachers should receive salary increases even if it means cuts in other areas of school spending (51 percent), and a proposal to establish a cap on carbon emissions, auctioning permits, and rebating the revenue to taxpayers (also 51 percent).

Two items were somewhat evenly divided: a plurality agreed that there should be more restrictions on the placement of group homes; a slight plurality said that Annapolis wasn't doing enough to deal with flooding due to storm surges and sea level rise. Several of the items had rather large “can't decide” or “no answer” values, indicating that the respondents felt uninformed or couldn't fully understand what the question was asking.

Table 12 ranks each of the items by the difference in agreement scores given by Democrats and Republicans. While Republicans agreed (54 percent) with the idea that medical marijuana could be planted, processed or sold within the county, Democrats were much more zealous in their agreement (84 percent). A majority of Democrats (64 percent) liked the idea of creating a carbon cap, auctioning

credits and then rebating the revenue generated back to taxpayers; Republicans were not as persuaded (43 percent agreed, 48 percent disagreed). Surprisingly, there were not many partisan differences regarding some items: teachers’ salaries (56 vs. 51 percent, Democrats/Republicans), combining services between Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (77 vs. 73 percent) and the ideal size of high schools (28 vs. 25 percent). Differences were notable regarding whether Annapolis was doing enough to deal with flooding (28 vs. 38 percent – many had no opinion) and whether the county should impose more restrictions on the placement of group homes, with Democrats much less enthusiastic about restrictions (38 percent favor) compared to Republicans (60 percent).

Table 12: Partisan Differences about Public Policy Proposals (% Agreeing)

	Democrat	Republican	Dem-Rep	Unaffiliated
Planting, processing and sale of medical marijuana: agree with restrictions (rather than total prohibition)	84	54	30	75
Do you agree or disagree with the idea that the federal government establish a cap on carbon emissions, auction carbon permits to energy companies, and return all auction proceeds to citizens as a dividend?	64	43	21	56
County teachers and the Board of Education are at impasse over contract talks. Teachers believe that they should be awarded salary increases even if it means cuts in other areas of school spending. Do you agree or disagree with the teachers?	56	51	5	52
Anne Arundel County and Annapolis are reviewing ways to combine government services. Do you agree or disagree with these efforts?	77	73	4	73
County Executive Steve Schuh has favored high schools with 1200 students; the Board of Education commissioned a study which recommended 1600 as the target high school size. Do you agree or disagree with the Board’s larger size?	28	25	3	25
Do you agree or disagree that Annapolis is doing enough to deal with flooding due to storm surges and sea level rise?	28	38	-10	31
Currently the County imposes no limits over the location of group homes for unrelated individuals with health concerns. Some have advocated restrictions on group homes’ locations. Do you agree or disagree?	38	60	-22	40

How well has the County Dealt with Challenges

Respondents were asked “how well you think the county has dealt with [various] challenges over the last year” and given the choices that things had “gotten better,” “remained about the same,” or “gotten worse.”

As shown on Table 13, in most cases, the largest percentage was found in the “about the same” category. Two items showed a favorable assessment: improving the local economy (10 percent net positive subtracting “gotten better” from “gotten worse”) and “improving the overall quality of life in our county (net positive 5 percent).

Several items had both a low “unsure/no answer” score as well as net negatives: planning growth and development (-17 percent), keeping taxes low (-18 percent), controlling crime (-27 percent) and reducing poverty and homelessness (-28 percent). The item “reducing the backlog in school maintenance and repair” also had a net negative score (-17 percent), but also a very high unsure/no answer score (32 percent).

Table 13: Major Challenges Facing the County: Better, Same or Worse

Problem	Better-Worse	Gotten better	About the same	Gotten worse	Unsure/No answer
Improving the local economy	10	20	63	10	7
Improving the overall quality of life in our County	5	20	57	15	7
Improving the water quality of the Bay	0	21	45	21	14
Planning growth and development	-17	18	36	35	12
Reducing the backlog in school maintenance and repair	-17	12	27	29	32
Keeping taxes low	-18	14	46	32	8
Controlling crime	-27	9	49	36	6
Reducing poverty and homelessness	-28	4	50	32	14

Table 14 compares the percentages saying either “better or “the same” by political party.

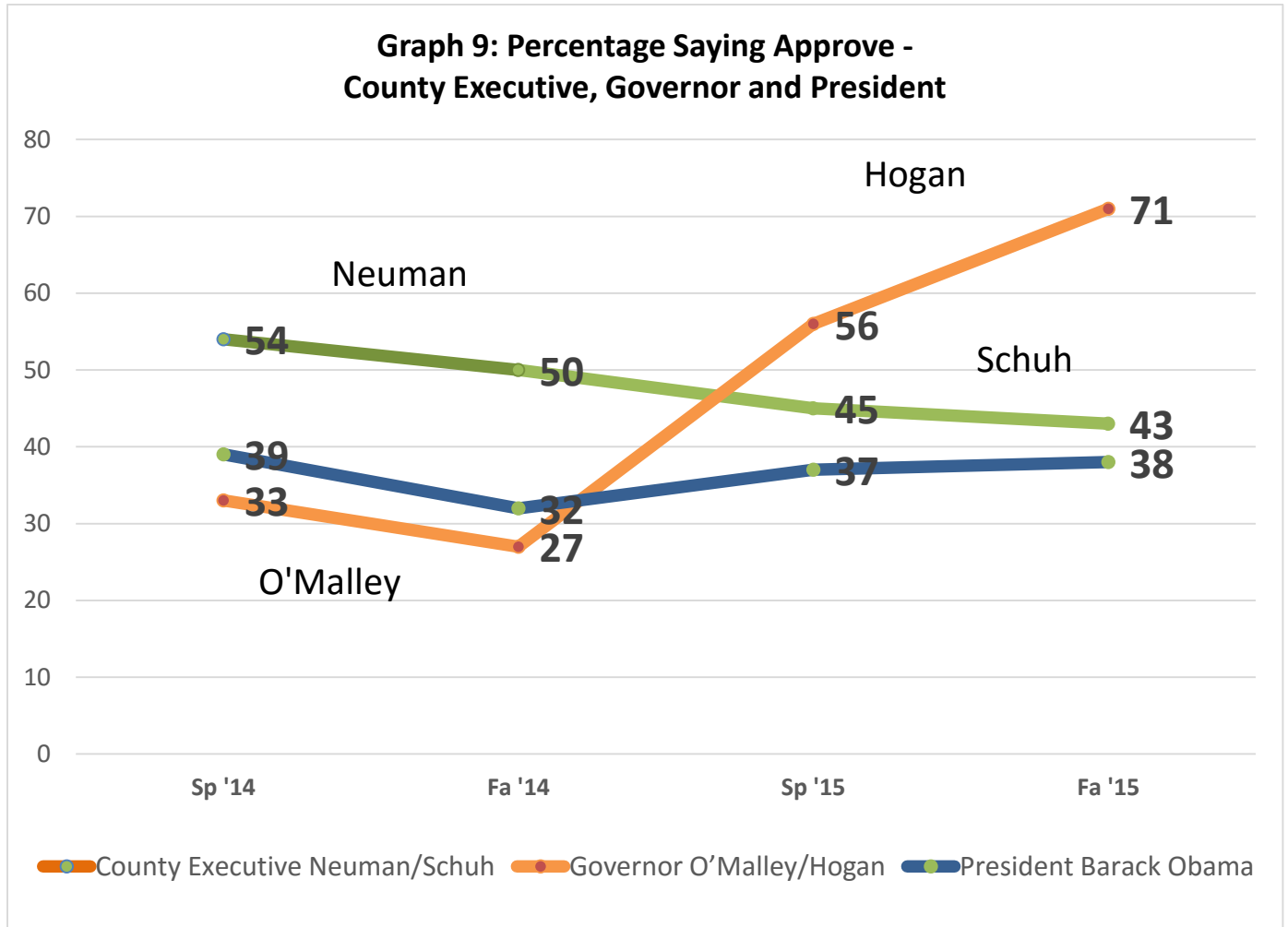
Table 14: Major Challenges and Partisan Differences

Problem	Democrat	Republican	Dem-Rep	Unaffiliated
Keeping taxes low	69	68	1	57
Controlling crime	64	63	1	56
Improving the local economy	90	90	0	88
Improving the overall quality of life in our County	83	85	-2	79
Improving the water quality of the Bay	74	82	-8	73
Planning growth and development	58	65	-8	51
Reducing the backlog in school maintenance and repair	48	65	-17	61
Reducing poverty and homelessness	53	75	-22	64

When comparing the answers for these challenges with party registration, several items have no marked differences: keeping taxes low, controlling crime, improving the local economy and improving the overall quality of life in the county. While the next item, “improving the water quality of the Bay,” showed a positive assessment for members of both parties, Democrats were less optimistic that either a “lack of worsening” (about the same) or an improvement had taken place than were Republicans. Seemingly also an environmental challenge, Democrats were less optimistic about the success of dealing with growth and development. The largest differences between the two parties were with regard to “reducing the backlog in school maintenance and repair” (a 17 point difference) and “reducing poverty and homelessness (a 22 point difference). As education, environmentalism and inequality tend to be associated with Democratic priorities, the greater pessimism that “enough was being done” on these challenges seems meaningful.

Job Approval: County Executive, Governor, President

The survey asked respondents to indicate approval or disapproval of the job performed by the incumbent in an office. Graph 9 shows the percentages saying “approve” for the county executive, the governor and the president. Table 15 shows a complete breakdown of all responses.



The change in leadership in the governor’s office created a meteoric jump in approval values: Governor Hogan is 44 points higher than was Governor O’Malley in fall 2014. Regarding the county executive’s office, there was a gradual diminution in approval values based on the transition from Laura Neuman to Steve Schuh. The latter has twice as much approval than disapproval, but remains unknown to a large number of respondents (no answer: 35 percent). Details are shown on Table 15.

Table 15: Job Approval for County Executive, Governor, President

Elected official	Approve				Disapprove				Unsure/No answer			
	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15
County Executive Neuman/Schuh	54	50	45	43	11	18	13	22	35	33	42	35
Governor O'Malley/Hogan	33	27	56	71	55	63	14	14	12	8	30	15
President Barack Obama	39	32	37	38	52	58	56	52	9	9	7	10

Regarding presidential job approval, President Obama experienced a mild improvement – from 32 percent approval in fall 2014 to 37 percent in spring 2015 – he was essentially unchanged in fall 2015 (38 percent – see Table 16).

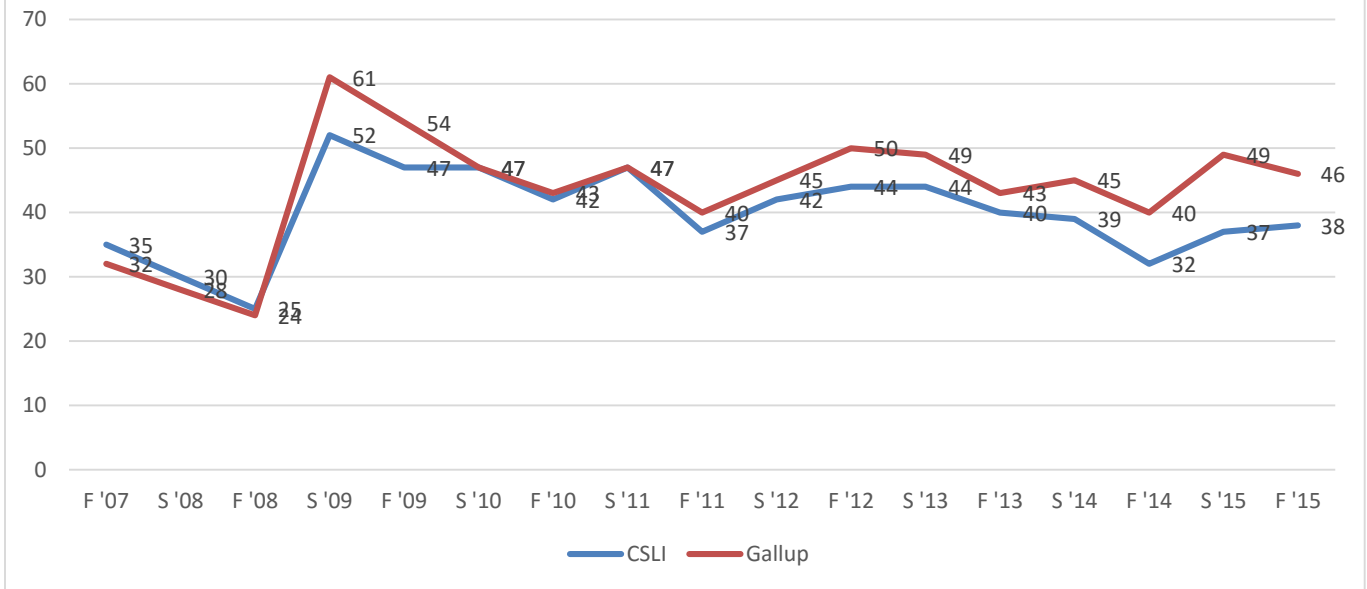
Since fall 2007 CSLI polls of county residents have generally tracked national presidential job approval trends as indicated by Gallup surveys.³ For the period closest to that during which CSLI was calling residents, Gallup’s presidential job approval surveys conducted October 14-16 indicated that 46 percent approved of the president’s performance, considerably above CSLI’s own polling figure of 38 percent. However, 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; indeed the gap narrowed somewhat since spring 2015 (see Graph 10 for a comparison of Gallup and CSLI findings).

Table 16: Presidential Job Approval

Issue	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	Fa '14	Sp '15	FA '15
Approve	28	24	53	47	47	42	47	37	42	44	44	40	39	32	37	38
Disapprove	62	69	31	42	45	49	44	56	49	50	51	53	52	58	56	52
No answer	10	8	16	11	8	10	9	7	8	6	4	7	9	9	7	10
Total	100	101	100	100	100	101	100	100	99	100	99	100	100	99	100	100

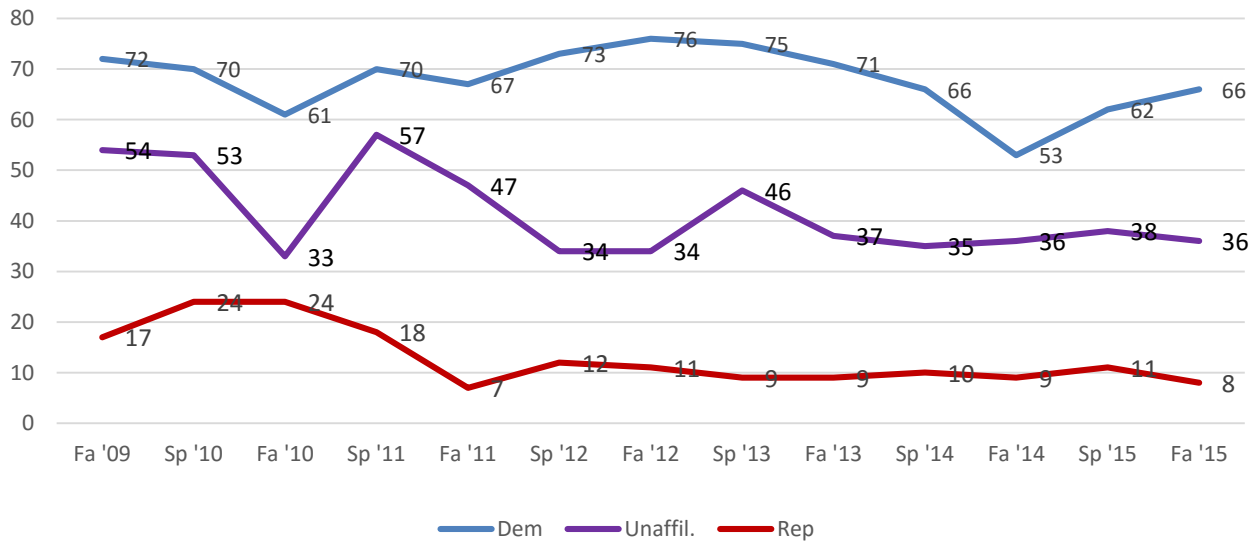
³ See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/113980/gallup-daily-obama-job-approval.aspx> for Obama job approval findings cited here.

Graph 10: Presidential Job Approval - CSLI and Gallup

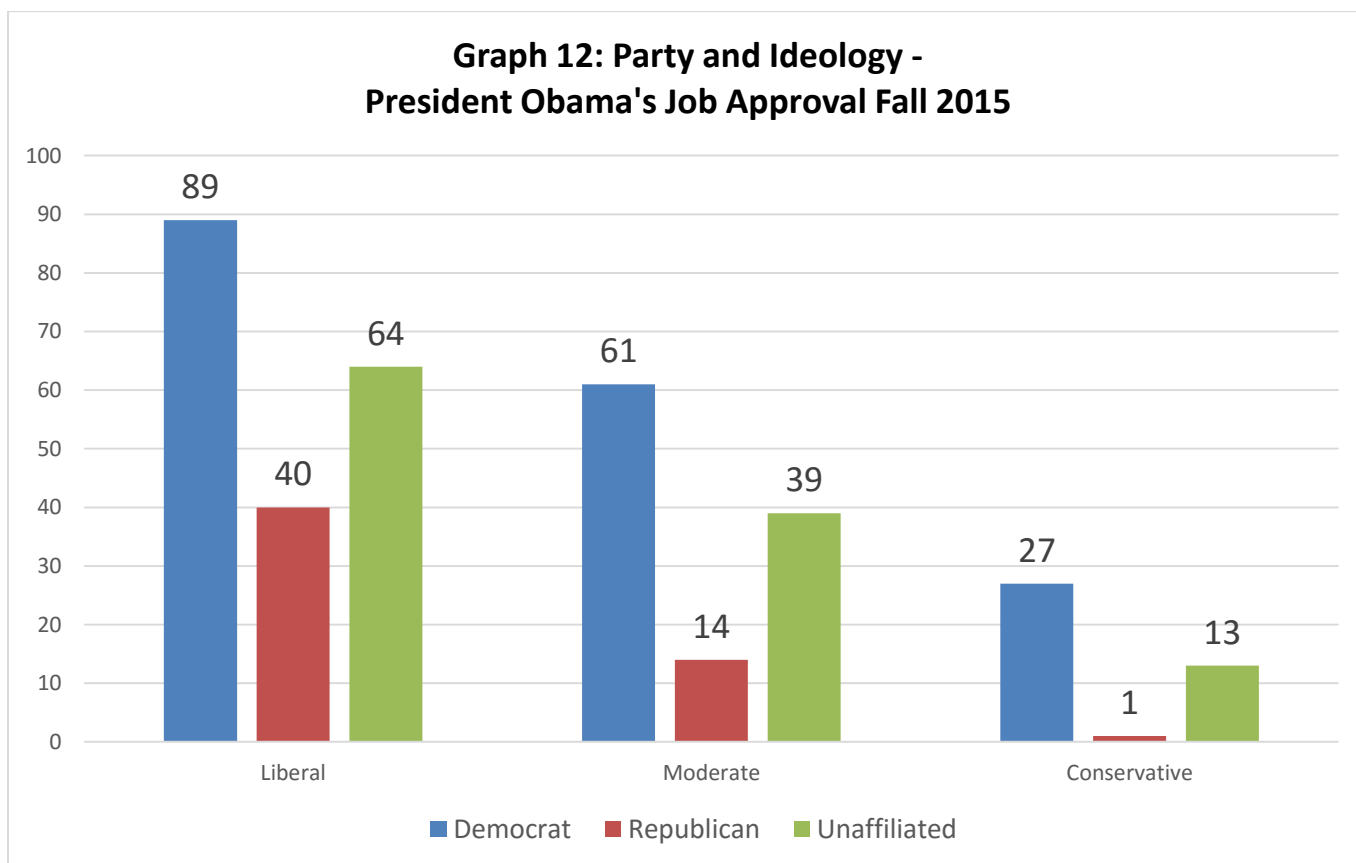


As seen on Graph 11, Obama’s popularity among Democrats rose somewhat – increasing from last spring’s 62 percent to 66 percent. There was little change in support among Republicans (down 3 points to 8 percent) or unaffiliated voters (moving from 38 to 36 percent).

Graph 11: Presidential Job Approval by Party Registration – Fall '09 to Fall '15



Ideological factors played an especially important part in determining President Obama’s level of job approval. Graph 12 shows differences among Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters by ideological self-identification: liberal, moderate conservative.

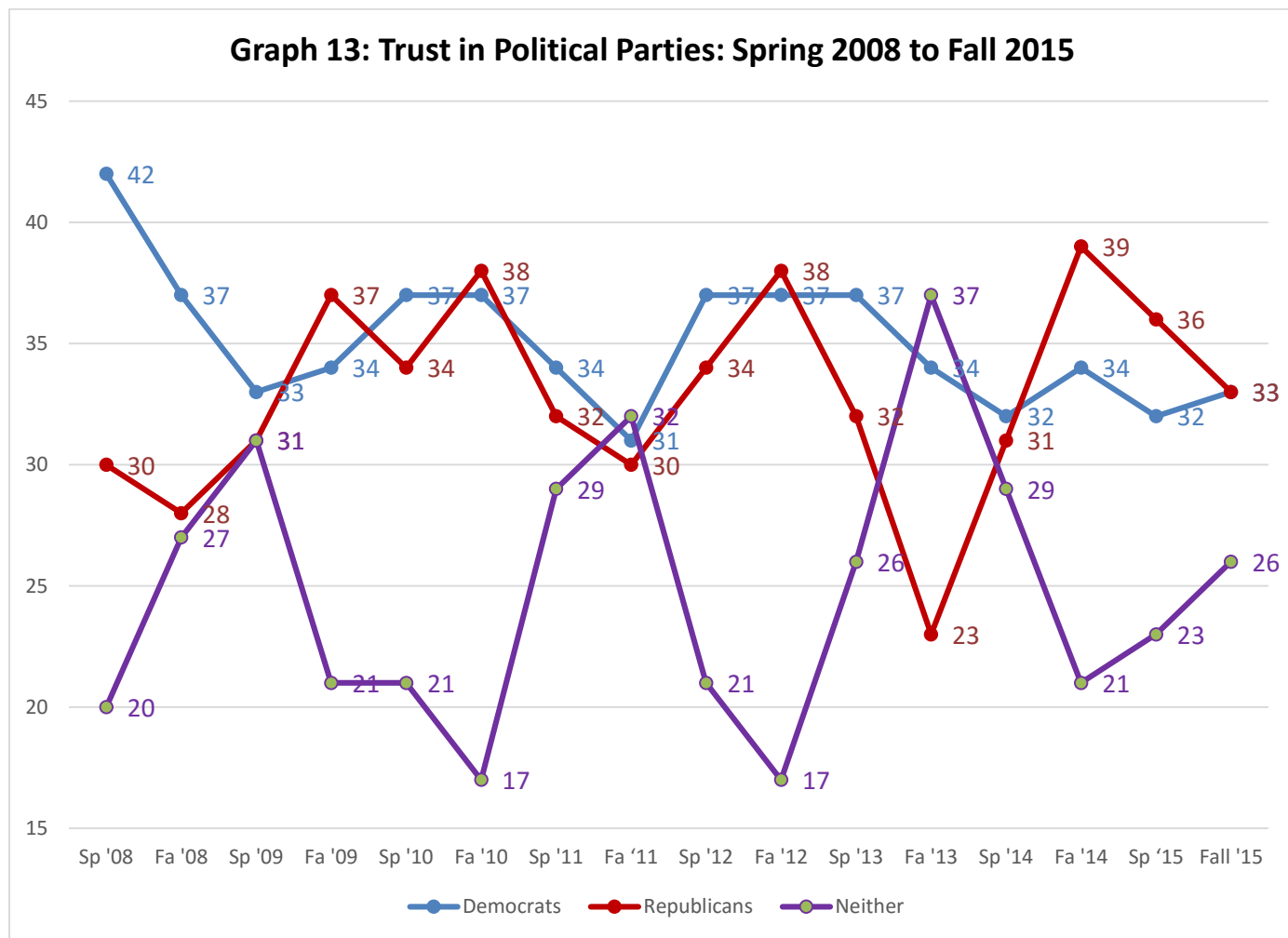


As Graph 12 makes apparent, ideological self-identification is a very strong predictor of President Obama’s job approval. Almost all liberal Democrats approved of his job performance; more (of the few) liberal Republicans approved than did conservative Democrats. Liberal unaffiliated voters are more likely to approve than moderate Democrats. It is the proportion of all these combinations of party and ideology that produced the overall approval rate of 38 percent.

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.” Graph 13 shows that despite some oscillations, Republicans and Democrats are fairly close most of the time in the percentage choosing over the other. Some factors have clearly shaped the more sharply varying fortunes of Republicans: in 2013, the fall survey was taken during the shutdown of the federal government, for which Republicans were blamed. In fall 2015, there has been much media attention to the inability of Republicans to choose a candidate for speaker of the House of Representatives – portraying considerable internal dissension. This might account for the steady drop from relative heights in fall 2014 – a 6 point drop.

The “neither” option (which is volunteered by the respondent without prompting by the interviewer) has shown the greatest amount of change. These changes are clearly related to the presence of an election, during which time voters polarize along their partisan inclinations. Thus, the average “neither” score for election periods (fall 2008, fall 2010, fall 2012, fall 2014) is only 19; outside of election periods it is 27.



Presidential Candidate Preferences for the 2016 Election

The survey included a section asking respondents to indicate their candidate preference for the 2016 presidential election. Table 17 shows the percentages expressing a preference for each of the major candidates. Candidates with less than one percent are not shown. No likely voter screen was applied. Those who were not registered to vote were excluded.

Table 17: Percentages Leaning in Favor of a Presidential Candidate

	Overall	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Democrats				
Hillary Clinton	18	34	1	15
Martin O'Malley	2	3	0	3
Bernie Sanders	17	27	3	21
Republicans				
Jeb Bush	1	0	2	0
Ben Carson	18	8	32	13
Ted Cruz	1	0	3	2
Carly Fiorina	4	3	5	8
John Kasich	4	4	4	5
Marco Rubio	6	1	13	5
Donald Trump	15	7	21	17

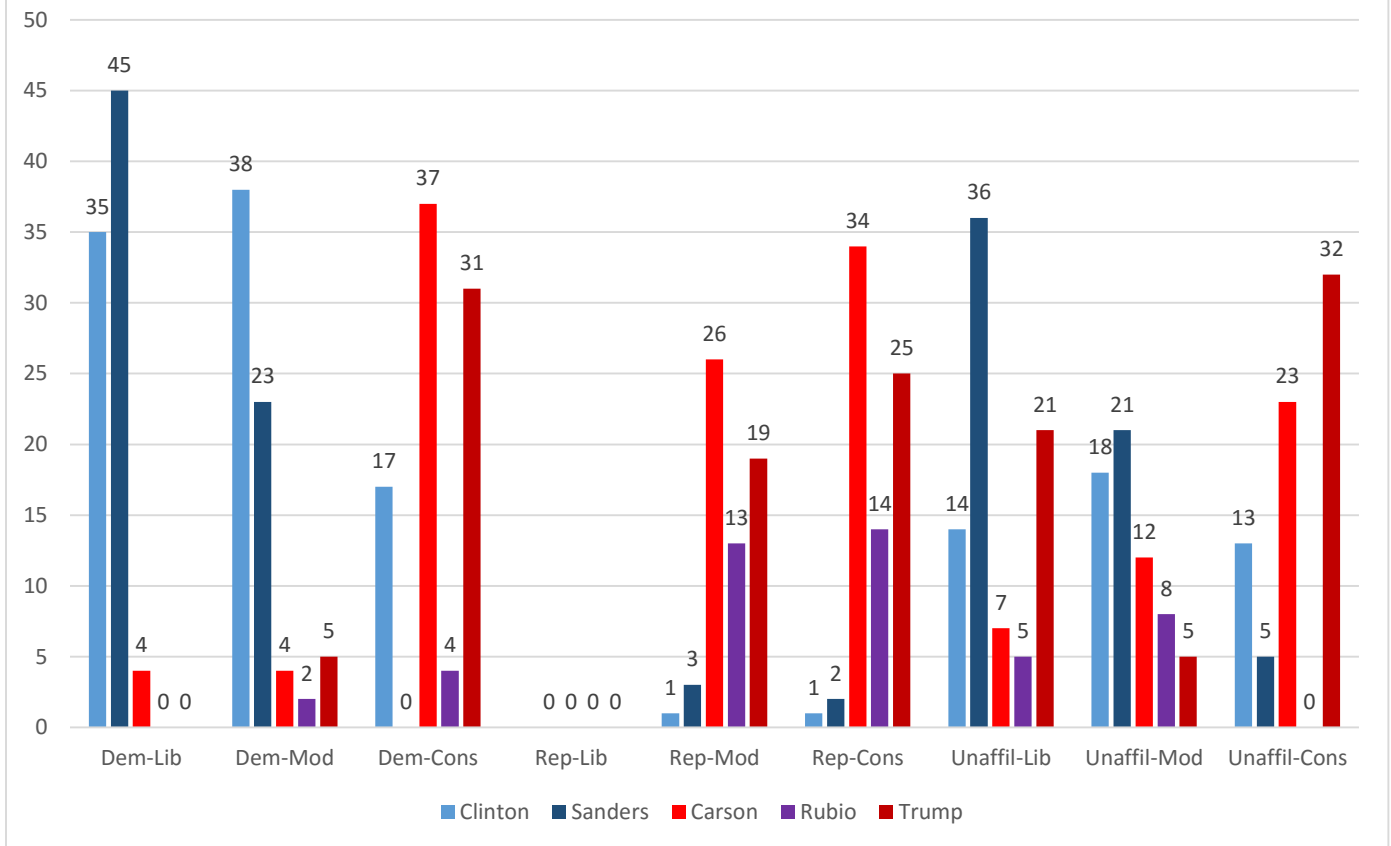
Table 17 reveals tight races for both parties. Among Democrats, Clinton was slightly ahead of Sanders, whose overall vote count is benefited by a larger percentage among unaffiliated voters than is the case for Clinton. Since only Democrats can vote in Maryland's closed primaries, the overall Sanders' percentage probably overstates the tightness of the actual outcome in a true primary setting. Maryland's former governor Martin O'Malley registers a percentage similar to his national totals: around 2 percent.

On the Republican side, Ben Carson is in a tight race with Donald Trump. The latter's appeal is somewhat like Sanders: he draws on unaffiliated voters to a greater degree than Carson, thus overstating the closeness of the race in a primary setting.⁴ Of the more conventional Republican candidates, only Marco Rubio reaches the double digits among Republicans (although not overall). His relative popularity among Republicans may result in a consolidation of support around him as other "establishment" candidates such as Bush or Kasich drop out.

As was the case with presidential approval, it is possible to combine ideology and party registration to better understand the nature of various candidates' support. Graph 14 shows that Bernie Sanders depends greatly on liberal voters: he beats Clinton among liberal Democrats as well as among liberal unaffiliated respondents. Among moderate Democrats, Clinton has a 13 point lead. Sanders gets no "votes" whatsoever from conservative Democrats while Clinton gets some – although less than do Carson or Trump. Carson beats Trump among both moderate and conservative Republicans, with a 6 and 9 point lead respectively. Again, Trump does well among unaffiliated votes, beating Clinton among unaffiliated liberals and beating Carson among unaffiliated conservatives.

⁴ Trump also has an "overall" score that is bloated by strong support by the few respondents who claim to favor an "other" party. Parenthetically, those who say that they are not registered to vote at all also prefer Trump to any other candidate – while this did not affect his overall score as reported, it reinforces the image of Trump supporters as anti-establishment individuals possibly disinclined to vote during elections.

Graph 14: Party and Ideology by Presidential Candidate Preference



Presidential Choice – Most Important Factor Shaping Decision

As a follow-up to the question about the choice of presidential candidate, respondents were asked about the “most important factor shaping your choice for president at this time.”

Answers were offered in an open-ended format, so it was necessary to code all the responses – up to two responses were coded per respondent. Table 18 divides the responses into those that were mostly about the individual – character – and those mostly about issues. Issues were a bit more frequently cited than character traits: 54 vs. 46 percent.

Among issues, the economy and foreign policy dominated the list. Conservative issues included less spending/debt, adherence to the Constitution, lower taxes, pro-businesses, and smaller government. Liberal issues included less inequality, liberal vision, women’s issues, and the environment.

Among character traits, leadership/competence, honesty, consensus building, and a fresh face/change were at the top of the list.

Table 18: Issues and Character as Factors Orienting Presidential Candidate Choices

Issues	%	Character	%
Economy	12.7%	Leadership, competence	9.2%
Foreign policy	10.8%	Honest, trustworthy, independent	9.0%
Inequality	3.8%	Consensus builder	7.1%
Immigration	3.2%	Fresh face, change	6.0%
Spending, debt	3.0%	Experience	4.4%
Constitution	2.5%	America first	3.1%
Liberal	2.1%	Hard truths, frank	2.2%
Taxes, lower	2.1%	Working people, cares	1.6%
Business pro	1.9%	Middle class	1.4%
Women's issues	1.8%	Ethical	0.8%
Party	1.7%	Character	0.5%
Education	1.5%	Electable	0.4%
Environment	1.3%	Total	45.7%
Smaller govt., less regulation.	1.1%		
Guns	1.0%		
Anti-corporate	0.9%		
Abortion - anti	0.9%		
Conservative	0.7%		
Military	0.7%		
Religion - pro	0.6%		
Total	54.3%		

Looking next at the relationship between these issues/character traits and the candidates, Table 19 takes Clinton, Sanders, Carson, Trump and Rubio and provides the percentage of those expressing the choice of the candidate who also mention a particular issue; Table 20 does the same for traits.

Focusing first on issues, it is clear that looking at the total on the last row which sums the percentage of issue mentions out of the total of all mentions (i.e., issues plus traits), that three of the candidates are evenly divided between issues and traits: Clinton, Carson and Trump. By contrast, Sanders and Rubio are primarily associated with certain issues.

Clinton is primarily associated with the economy and foreign policy as well as women's issues. Sanders is also associated with the economy, but to a much greater extent than Clinton, also with inequality. Education and an anti-corporate stances also are more pronounced for Sanders.

Carson has no strong association with any single issue: he is a *mélange* of the economy, foreign policy, immigration, spending/debt, the Constitution, health care, and a smattering of other issues. Trump is strongly associated with the economy and a pro-business stance/background and to a lesser extent with immigration and spending/debt. Rubio is all about foreign policy and to a lesser extent the economy or Constitution.

Table 19: Candidate Choice and Issues

Issue/Candidate	Clinton	Sanders	Carson	Trump	Rubio
Economy	13.0%	14.9%	4.6%	12.5%	8.8%
Foreign policy	14.4%	2.6%	6.0%	4.0%	37.4%
Inequality	3.2%	12.6%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Immigration	3.9%	0.0%	3.9%	7.0%	0.0%
Spending, debt	0.0%	3.0%	3.9%	5.5%	2.2%
Constitution	0.0%	1.1%	6.7%	0.0%	4.4%
Liberal	4.6%	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Taxes, lower	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Health Care	0.0%	0.0%	4.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Business pro	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.5%	0.0%
Women's issues	6.0%	3.3%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Party	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	2.0%	0.0%
Crime/safety	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Education	0.0%	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Environment	1.1%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Smaller govt., less regulation	0.0%	1.9%	0.7%	0.0%	2.2%
Guns	1.1%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Anti-corporate	0.0%	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Abortion - anti	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.5%	0.0%
Conservative	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Military	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	1.0%	0.0%
Religion - pro	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	2.8%	9.3%	4.2%	4.0%	3.3%
Total	49.8%	72.5%	47.4%	49.0%	58.2%

Regarding character traits, Clinton is primarily cited for her leadership/competence, her experience and intelligence. Sanders doesn't have any traits that stand out, although honesty, independence, caring about working people and leadership are mentioned.

Carson has numerous traits mentioned: leadership/competence, honesty, independence, consensus builder, and a fresh face. Trump is highlighted for leadership/competence, a fresh face and being willing to state "hard truths." Rubio's main traits were leadership/competence and honesty/independence.

Table 20: Character Traits and Candidate Choice

	Clinton	Sanders	Carson	Trump	Rubio
Leadership, competence	11.6%	4.8%	7.4%	13.5%	9.9%
Honest, trustworthy, independent	5.3%	5.6%	9.5%	3.5%	8.8%
Consensus builder	4.2%	1.9%	9.1%	5.5%	3.3%
Fresh face, change	0.7%	1.9%	11.9%	10.5%	3.3%
Experience	17.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
America first	0.0%	3.7%	3.9%	4.0%	4.4%
Hard truths, frank	0.0%	1.1%	3.5%	9.5%	0.0%
Working people, cares	4.6%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Middle class	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Ethical	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%	4.4%
Character	0.0%	1.1%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Electable	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Intelligence	6.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.5%	7.7%
Total	50.2%	27.5%	52.6%	51.0%	41.8%

Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 589 county residents who were at least 18 years old, primarily using a database of listed and unlisted landline numbers along with cell phone numbers. Telephone interviewing was conducted Oct.12-15 during evening hours. In addition, members of a CSLI Web panel were also asked to participate in an online version of the survey. There was about a 4 percent statistical margin of error for the combined sample; the error rate was higher for subgroups such as "Democrats" or "men." The dataset was weighted by gender, political party and education 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 for information and press releases for this and previous surveys: www2.aacc.edu/csli.

Appendix A:

CSLI Semi-Annual Survey – Fall 2015 with Frequencies (percentages instead of coded values)

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	Choose ONE
Crime (other than drug related – e.g., robbery, burglary, assault)	8
Drugs (use or sale of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or use of prescription pain killers for non-medical purposes.)	7
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	12
Education , problems with schools	9
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	9
Government ethics – corrupt, immoral	2
Government waste – inefficient, spends too much	4
Government lack resources –for roads, schools, services	4
Growth/overpopulation - too much development	10
Healthcare (cost, access)	2
Taxes – too high	14
Transportation problems/traffic congestion	9
Unsure/No Answer	6
Other answer - write in:	5

2. 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	51	22	23	4
2.2 State	51	30	18	2
2.3 Nation	21	63	15	1

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? How about the state? How about the nation?

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	Unsure/Don't know
3.1 County	7	57	27	6	3
3.2 State	2	43	41	11	3
3.3 Nation	1	20	40	36	3

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	Don't know
4.1 Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	54	43	3
4.2 Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	34	65	1
4.3 Facing the possibility of unemployment	12	83	4
4.4 Found a new or better job recently	13	86	1
4.5 Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	28	71	1
4.6 Hard to afford the cost of education	39	57	4
4.7 Taxes are too high in relation to government services provided	62	32	6

5.1 Health insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate

1. Applies 33% 2. Doesn't apply 64% 0. Don't know 3%



6. IF RESPONDENT SAID “APPLIES” to question 5.1 about health insurance, ask (otherwise skip to question 7):

“Could you briefly explain why you said “applies” to the last question about health insurance?”

(DON'T READ THE LIST – WAIT AND LISTEN FOR ANSWER-THEN CIRCLE ALL ANSWERS MENTIONED AND WRITE IN OTHER ANSWERS)

- 6.1 Premiums are too high 88%
- 6.2 Deductibles are too high 65%
- 6.3 Doesn't cover drugs or certain services (e.g., eye, dental) 39%
- 6.4 Hard to find provider in my area (doctor, specialist, hospital) 11%
- 6.5 Various “out of pocket expenses” are too high 47%
- 6.6 Maryland Health care exchange is hard to use or doesn't offer good choices 18%
- 6.7 I prefer to be uninsured or have less coverage 9%

6. Other – write in other answer:

ASK ALL RESPONDENTS:



7. If you have health insurance, is it obtained through your employer, as an individual or small group, or through government such as Medicaid or Medicare?

- (1) Employer 62% (2) Individual 9% (3) Small group 1% (4) Medicaid 2% (5) Medicare 11%
- (6) Medicare with supplement 7% (7) Veterans Administration/Tricare 5%
- (8) DON'T HAVE INSURANCE 1% (0) No answer, don't know 3%

8. 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	Don’t Know
8.1 Economic growth	28	52	12	7
8.2 Unemployment	28	48	18	7
8.3 Inflation	9	42	43	7
8.4 Your personal financial situation	22	60	13	5

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Agree	Disagree	Can’t decide	No answer
9.1 County Executive Steve Schuh has favored high schools with 1200 students; the Board of Education commissioned a study which recommended 1600 as the target high school size. Do you agree or disagree with the Board’s larger size?	25	59	12	4
9.2 County teachers and the Board of Education are at impasse over contract talks. Teachers believe that they should be awarded salary increases even if it means cuts in other areas of school spending. Do you agree or disagree with the teachers?	51	33	13	2
9.3 Currently the County imposes no limits over the location of group homes for unrelated individuals with health concerns. Some have advocated restrictions on group homes’ locations. Do you agree or disagree?	45	35	15	5
9.4 Anne Arundel County and Annapolis are reviewing ways to combine government services. Do you agree or disagree with these efforts?	70	18	9	4
9.5 Do you agree or disagree that Annapolis is doing enough to deal with flooding due to storm surges and sea level rise?	29	33	27	12
9.6 Do you agree or disagree with the idea that the federal government establish a cap on carbon emissions, auction carbon permits to energy companies, and return all auction proceeds to citizens as a dividend?	51	30	14	5

10. County Executive Steve Schuh has proposed to prohibit the planting, processing and sale of medical marijuana in Anne Arundel County. Some members of the County Council have proposed allowing these activities, but with a set of restrictions that limit where these activities can occur. Which position do you favor – total prohibition, or allowing with restrictions?

- (1) Total prohibition 27%
- (2) Allow with restrictions 69%
- (3) Can’t decide 4%
- (0) No answer 1%

11. I am going to read you a list of challenges facing the County. Please tell me how well you think the County has dealt with these challenges over the last year. Have things gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?

Problem	Gotten better	About the same	Gotten worse	Unsure/No answer
11.1 Improving the local economy	20	63	10	7
11.2 Improving the water quality of the Bay	21	45	21	14
11.3 Controlling crime	9	49	36	6
11.4 Reducing poverty and homelessness	4	50	32	14
11.5 Keeping taxes low	14	46	32	8
11.6 Planning growth and development	18	36	35	12
11.7 Reducing the backlog in school maintenance and repair	12	27	29	32
11.8 Improving the overall quality of life in our County	20	57	15	7

12.0 Do you approve or disapprove of the way the following elected officials are handling their jobs:

Elected official	Approve	Disapprove	No answer/DK
12.1 County Executive Steve Schuh	43	22	35
12.2 Governor Larry Hogan	71	14	15
12.3 President Barack Obama	38	52	10

13. 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 33%
- (2) Republicans 33%
- (3) Neither (volunteered) 26%
- (4) Other (volunteered) 1%
- (5) Unsure, no answer 7%

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

- (1) Democratic 39%
- (2) Republican 34%
- (3) Unaffiliated (or “independent”) 19%
- (4) Other 1%
- (5) None (not registered to vote) 6%
- (0) No Answer 2%

15. Which presidential candidate, if any, are you currently leaning in favor of at this time?

(DON'T read the list: IF a name is mentioned, circle the choice below otherwise check here 0



Democrats:

- (1) Hillary Clinton 18%
- (2) Martin O'Malley 2%
- (3) Bernie Sanders 17%
- (4) Other Democrat 5%

Republicans:

- (5) Jeb Bush 1%
- (6) Ben Carson 18%
- (7) Ted Cruz 1%
- (8) Carly Fiorina 4%
- (9) Mike Huckabee 0%
- (10) John Kasich 4%
- (11) Marco Rubio 6%
- (12) Donald Trump 15%
- (13) Other Republican 3%
- (0) None 6%

15.Other Name of " Other" Democrat or Republican candidate _____

16. What is the most important factor shaping your choice for president at this time?

We are almost done. The last few questions will help us to better understand your responses.

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

- (1) Conservative 27%
- (2) Moderate 48%
- (3) Liberal 18%
- (4) Unsure, No Answer 7%

18. What is your age? _____

19. 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 26%
(2) a high school diploma 9%	(6) post graduate work 28%
(3) some college 21%	(7) Something else? 4%

(4) Completed a 2 year associate college degree	11%	(8) No Answer	0%
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20. 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 4%
- (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000 8%
- (3) \$50,001 to \$75,000 14%
- (4) \$75,001-\$100,000 15%
- (5) \$100,001-\$150,000 23%
- (6) \$150,001-\$250,000 17%
- (7) Over \$250,000 7%
- (0) No Answer 14%

21. Stop me when I reach the employment category that best describes your situation. If you have retired and re-entered the workforce then indicate retired and as well as your current employment category.

Category	Percentage
Retired	26
Self employed	11
Employed full time for a company in the private sector	20
Employed full time for government in a non-defense related activity such as education, public works or public safety	14
Employed full time in a defense related activity	7
Employed in a private non-profit organization	4
Employed part time	10
Student	3
Unemployed and seeking a job	1
Unemployed and not seeking a job	3
No answer	1

22. Regarding race, how would you describe yourself?

- (1) White 85%
- (2) Black or African American 5%
- (3) Hispanic or Latino 1%
- (4) Asian 1%
- (0) Other 5%
- (9) No answer 2%

23. What is your religion, if any? (check off category that best describes the answer - **DON'T** Read)

- (1) None (*e.g. atheist, agnostic*) 13%
- (2) Non-practicing (*e.g. doesn't go to religious places or celebrate religious holidays*) 5%
- (3) Evangelical or born again Christian (*e.g. possibly Baptist, Pentecostal*) 9%
- (4) Catholic 25%
- (5) Protestant (*e.g. possibly Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopalian*) 26%
- (6) Some other Christian (*e.g. possibly Mormon*) 4%
- (7) Jewish 4%
- (8) A 'spiritual person' not associated with an organized religion 6%
- (0) Something else (*e.g. Hindu, Moslem*) 4%
- (9) No Answer 4%

24. What is your current marital status?

- (1) Single 13%
- (2) Married 72%
- (3) Separated/divorced 7%
- (4) Widowed 5%
- (5) Living Together 2%
- (6) Other 0%
- (0) No answer 2%

24.1 I have one last request: In an attempt to provide students with more opportunities to survey the public, the Center is asking whether we can contact you occasionally by email to participate in future surveys. Can we count on your help?

- (1) Yes 45%
- (2) No 55% (Go to "That concludes our survey...")

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

(CLEAR SPELLING/HANDWRITING PLEASE!)

"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 49% (2) Female 51%

ZIPCODE		
		Percent
Valid	20670	.2
	20704	.2
	20711	.4
	20715	.1
	20724	.7
	20733	.4
	20751	.4
	20754	.3
	20755	.3
	20764	.1
	20765	.2
	20776	1.0
	20778	.5
	20779	.2
	20788	.3
	20794	.2
	21012	6.3
	21032	3.3
	21035	3.0
	21037	2.6
	21043	.4
	21054	3.0
	21060	4.1
	21061	5.9
	21076	2.3
	21090	2.2
	21108	2.8
	21113	4.7

21114	5.9
21122	12.0
21126	.2
21140	1.0
21144	6.0
21146	10.2
21221	.1
21225	.7
21226	.3
21401	6.7
21403	5.6
21409	4.4
21658	.2
22501	.2
25411	.2
29776	.1
Total	100.0