

Press Release: March 18, 2008
Center for the Study of Local Issues
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Local Survey Shows Rising Public Anxiety over the Economy and Taxes

A survey of 419 Anne Arundel County residents conducted March 10-13 by the students of the Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) at Anne Arundel Community College found a sharp rise in the public’s concern over the economy.

The survey started with an open-ended question asking “What is the most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time?” In the past, the top four issues have been growth/transportation, education, crime and taxes. As shown on Table 1, the percentage citing the economy nearly tripled from October 2007 to March 2008, rising from 8 to 23 percent.¹

The percentage saying “taxes” was sustained at a historically high 16 percent.

Table 1: “Most Important Problem” Fall 2003 to Spring 2008

Problem	Fall '03	Spring '04	Fall '04	Spring '05	Fall '05	Spring '06	Fall '06	Spring '07	Fall '07	Spring '08	Mean
Economy	8	12	8	7	7	15	7	12	8	23	11
Taxes – too high	14	13	10	13	10	10	9	15	17	16	13
Growth/development	15	8	14	18	22	16	21	16	16	12	16
Education	17	22	12	16	12	13	16	12	12	12	14
Traffic congestion/problems	11	10	17	9	14	9	12	11	12	7	11
Crime	5	4	6	5	6	11	11	9	10	6	7
Unsure/no answer	9	10	13	11	11	8	7	9	6	9	9
Other answer	21	21	20	21	18	18	17	16	19	15	19
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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

¹ Since spring 2007, surveys answer categories for “most important problem” have included “lack of affordable housing” for interviewers to check off. Previously, that answer to the open-ended question would have been categorized under “economy.” The running totals in Table 1 combine both answers into the single “economy” category.

Other Measures Reinforce Perception of Economic Anxiety

Since March 2002 the CSLI survey has asked a benchmark question about the economy: “Thinking about our county's economy, how would you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County today -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?”

Historically, the percentage saying a combined “excellent” or “good” has hovered around 70 percent. As shown on Table 2 and Graph 1, the percentage dropped to 55 percent in the spring semiannual survey for 2008. This equaled the lowest value previously obtained (March 2003) since this question became a regular part of the survey in 2002.

Dan Nataf, director of the Center for the Study of Local Issues, noted that there had been only a small sign of the impending drop in economic optimism last fall.

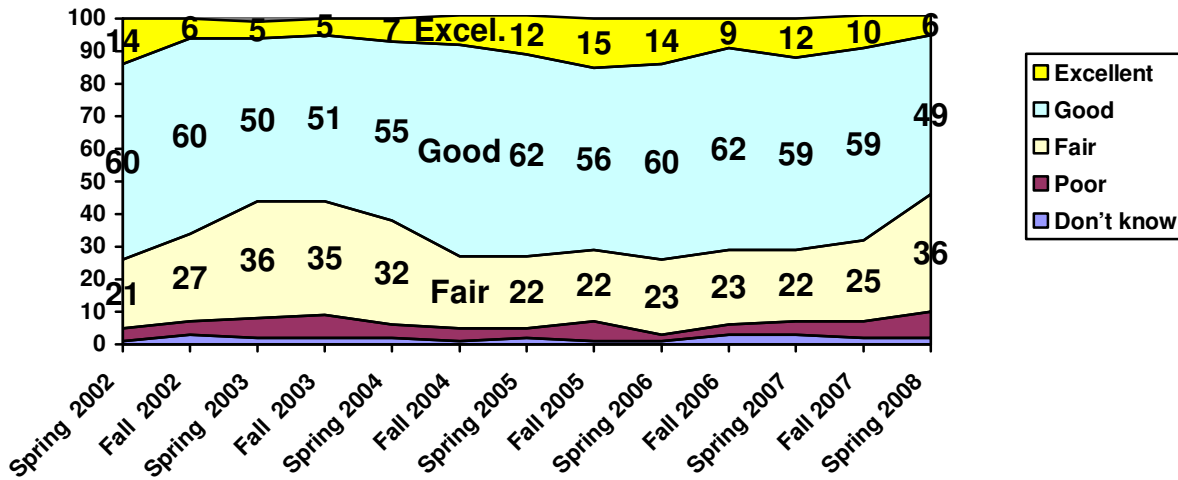
“While the positive totals on our benchmark question dropped a couple of percentage points from spring to fall 2007, the public at that time was clearly upbeat about the local economy. This spring a majority still expressed a positive view of the economy, but the combined total of positive scores dropped 14 points from last fall, the largest single decline seen in our polls,” he said.

Nataf continued by noting that “the decline in public confidence in the economy has paralleled national trends: in October 2007, 33 percent of those asked by the Gallup organization said that the national economy was excellent or good; that percentage has dropped to only 19 percent in current polling – also a 14 point drop.”

Table 2: Perceptions of Economic Conditions

	Spring 2002	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003	Spring 2004	Fall 2004	Spring 2005	Fall 2005	Spring 2006	Fall 2006	Spring 2007	Fall 2007	Spring 2008	Mean
Excellent	14	6	5	5	7	9	12	15	14	9	12	10	6	10
Good	60	60	50	51	55	65	62	56	60	62	59	59	49	58
Fair	21	27	36	35	32	22	22	22	23	23	22	25	36	27
Poor	4	4	6	7	4	4	3	6	2	3	4	5	8	5
Don't know	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	3	2	2	2
Total	100	100	99	100	100	101	101	100	100	100	100	101	101	100

Graph 1: Economic Conditions



A last battery of questions focused on specific aspects of economic distress and included inflation, unemployment, house foreclosure, the affordability of housing, the cost of transportation as well as utilities and taxes. In addition, the survey asked a question about availability, cost and adequacy of health insurance.

Respondents were asked: “Thinking about your personal circumstances, please tell me whether any of these economic conditions apply to you or your household.” Table 3 shows the results.

Table 3: Economic Conditions Applying to Personal Circumstances

Condition	Applies	Doesn't apply	Unsure, No answer	Total
Hard to afford cost of utilities such as electricity or gas	61	37	2	100
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	56	42	3	101
Hard to afford cost of taxes	47	49	4	100
Hard to afford cost of transportation	40	58	2	100
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	35	63	2	101
Unable to find affordable housing	21	78	2	101
Facing the possibility of unemployment	11	87	2	100
Facing the possibility of house foreclosure or loss	6	93	1	100

Increasing costs for utilities and inflation topped the field, with 61 and 56 percent saying these conditions applied to them. Not far behind were taxes (47 percent) and the cost of transportation (40 percent). Much less frequently cited were affordable housing (21 percent), unemployment (11 percent) and house foreclosure or loss (6 percent).

“Pocketbook issues seemed focused on insufficient growth in wages at a time of rising costs for gasoline, utilities and taxes,” Nataf remarked.

Over one-third (35 percent) of the sample agreed that “health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate.” Nataf said that “this shows that people’s concerns with health care

insurance is not limited to simply ‘being covered’ but rather extends to the cost and adequacy of the coverage.”

Summary of Other Findings

The CSLI survey evaluated a range of other issues including county issues dealing with stormwater management and the affordability of employee raises, state issues dealing with the slot machines referendum and cell phone use in vehicles, and national issues including illegal immigration, the war in Iraq and presidential voting preferences.

Right direction/wrong direction: There was little change in the percentage saying that the county was moving in the right direction – 50 percent – compared to 51 percent last October.

Stormwater management fee: A majority (54 percent) said that a “small stormwater management fee to help repair waterways and the Chesapeake Bay” should be applied to all property owners rather than just those wishing to opt into such a fee.

Paying for government employee raises: A plurality (47 percent) preferred to “try to pay the promised raises [for county government workers] by cutting other services or programs” rather than raising fees/taxes (23 percent) or postponing the raises (20 percent).

Slots referendum: Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) said they would be likely to vote for the slots referendum in November.

Cell Phones: A large majority (79 percent) favored prohibiting the use of cell phones in moving vehicles without a hands-free device.

Illegal immigration: A series of questions asked about illegal immigration. Large majorities favored prohibiting the granting of driver’s licenses to those who cannot prove they are legal residents (82 percent), favored making English the official language of Maryland (82 percent) and imposing severe fines on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants (80 percent). Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) favored allowing illegal immigrants to become legal residents under certain conditions while 49 percent favored forcibly deporting illegal immigrants and their families to their countries of origin. The survey also asked about general attitudes toward legal and illegal immigrants. About three-quarters (76 percent) of the sample said that the former “strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents,” a viewpoint held by only 22 percent toward illegal immigrants. Forty-two percent admitted to having been “personally benefited from the services of illegal immigrants.”

War in Iraq: A plurality (47 percent) favored the “approach of the Democratic presidential candidates who say that “the U.S. should get out of Iraq as soon as possible” while 39 percent favored keeping “as many troops in Iraq as necessary to ensure victory.”

President George W. Bush’s job approval: There was a drop in President Bush’s job approval, going from 35 percent last October to only 28 percent saying “approve” this March.

Presidential election preferences: The survey asked about these preferences in two ways. First, respondents were asked whether they would consider voting for each of the three active candidates. Republican John McCain topped the field, with 57 percent. Barack Obama was second (49 percent)

and Hillary Clinton third (36 percent). The sample was also asked to say whether there is “one candidate most likely to get your vote.” McCain was again favored by 46 percent compared to 32 percent for Obama and 19 percent for Clinton.

Methodology: The survey polled a random sample of 419 county residents who were at least 18 years old. It was conducted March 10-13 2008 during evening hours. Phone numbers were derived from a database of listed numbers as well as computer chosen, randomly assigned numbers. There was about a 5 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 to better represent the general population. College students were trained and used as telephone interviewers.

Main Findings

County – Right or Wrong Direction?

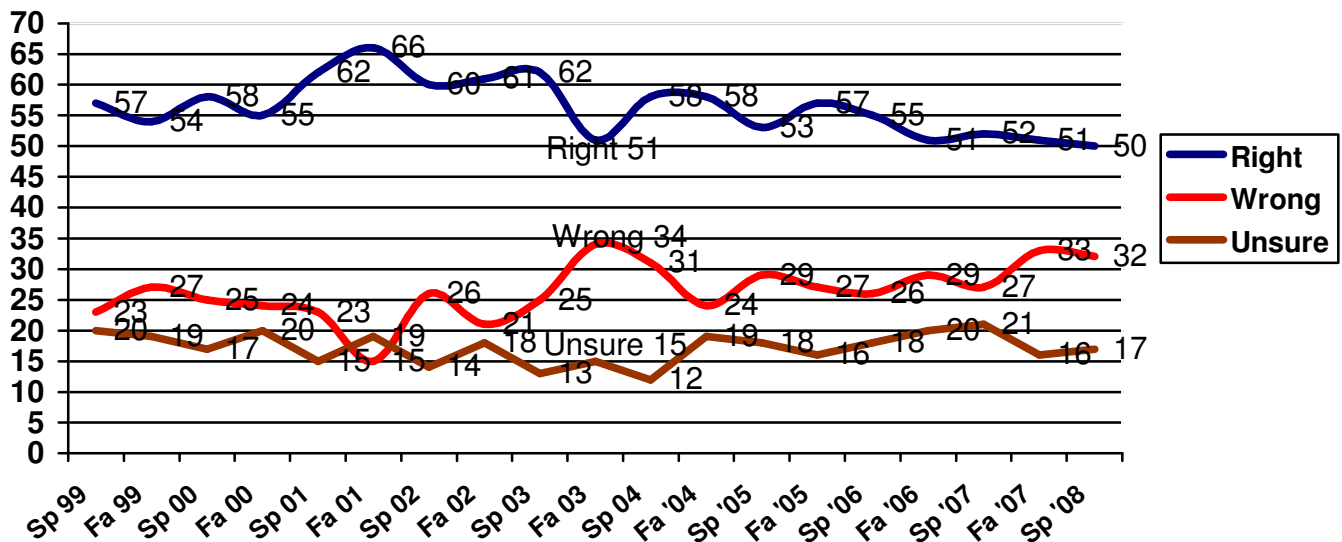
The survey included a CSLI benchmark question whose results are seen on Table 4: “Overall, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?”

Graph 2 shows there was little change from last year. In March 2007, the ‘right direction’ stood at 52 percent and dropped slightly to 51 percent last fall. It descended a bit more to 50 percent this spring.

Table 4: Anne Arundel County - Right vs. Wrong Direction

Response	Percent
Right direction	50
Wrong direction	32
Unsure	17
Total	99

Graph 2: County Trend - Right or Wrong Direction



County Stormwater Management Fee

A question on the spring survey asked respondents to indicate whether they supported a “small fee to help repair waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.” Respondents were told that the county council was pondering whether to make this fee mandatory for all property owners or optional. They were also given the option of saying that there should be no fee whatsoever.

Table 5: Stormwater Management Fee

The County Council has considered a small storm-water management fee to help repair waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. If passed, should the fee apply to all property owners, just those who want to pay, or none?	Percentage
Apply to all	54
Apply just to those who want to pay	23
Apply to none	18
Unsure	6
Total	101

A majority (54 percent) of respondents favored making the fee mandatory.

“Our surveys have consistently shown that most citizens are leery of most new taxes, but the thought of a specific fee for enhancing the environment appears to have considerable support,” Nataf offered.

County Problems Paying for Employees’ Raises

The survey included a question which said, “You may have read that the county may not have enough money to pay for raises that were promised in contract negotiations with teachers and other union employees.” Respondents were asked whether county government should raise the revenue to pay for the raises, cut other services or programs or postpone the raises.

Table 6: Pay for County Employees’ Raises?

Options	Percentage
Raise fees or taxes to pay for the promised raises	23
Try to pay the promised raises by cutting other services or programs	47
Postpone the promised raises	20
Don’t know, no answer	10
Total	100

None of the response choices obtained a majority. A plurality favored neither postponement nor new fees or taxes, advocating that county government pay for the raises by cutting other services or programs.

State Issues: Slots Referendum and Cell Phones

Given the identification of Laurel as a likely venue for hosting a slots facility, the survey posed the following question: “During the special session, the legislature agreed to put a referendum on the November ballot which would legalize slot machines at five locations, including one within Anne Arundel County in Laurel. At this time, would you be likely to vote in favor or against this referendum?” As seen on Table 7, a sizable majority was in favor of the referendum.

Table 7: Support for Slots Referendum

	Percentage
Favor	63
Disfavor	34
No answer	3
Total	100

A second question affecting the State of Maryland dealt with prohibiting the use of cell phones in moving vehicles unless using a hands-free arrangement. A large majority (79 percent) was in favor of banning such use of cell phones.

Table 8: Prohibit Cell Phones in Moving Vehicle without Hands-free Device

	Percentage
Agree	79
Disagree	19
No answer	2
Total	100

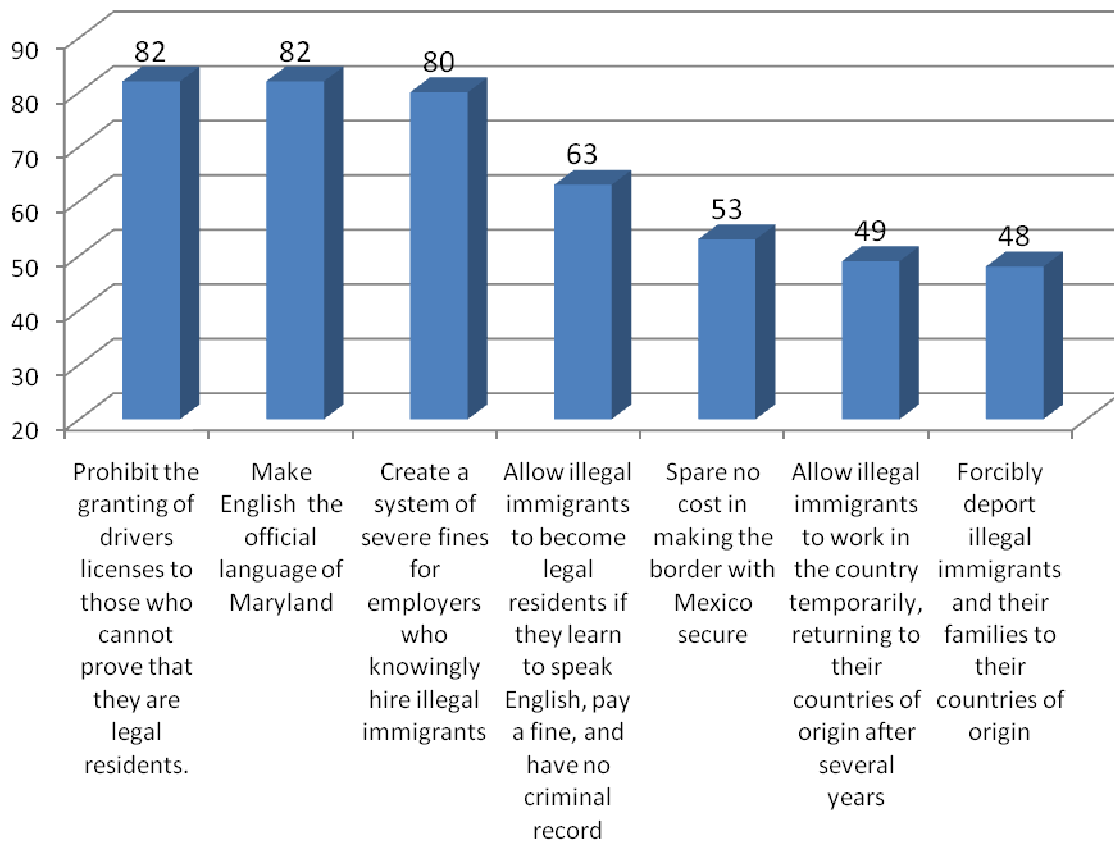
State and National Issues: Immigration

To assess local public opinion concerning illegal immigration, the survey asked a series of questions on this topic. The first group was based on the notion that “there are a variety of proposals meant to deal with the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States.” Several proposals were presented to respondents (see Table 9 and Graph 3).

Table 9: Immigration Policy Proposals (in percent)

Proposal	Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure	Total
Allow illegal immigrants to work in the country temporarily, returning to their countries of origin after several years	49	48	4	101
Allow illegal immigrants to become legal residents if they learn to speak English, pay a fine, and have no criminal record	63	33	5	101
Forcibly deport illegal immigrants and their families to their countries of origin	48	45	7	100
Create a system of severe fines for employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants	80	15	5	100
Prohibit the granting of driver’s licenses to those who cannot prove that they are legal residents	82	15	3	100
Spare no cost in making the border with Mexico secure	53	39	8	100
Make English the official language of Maryland	82	14	4	100

Graph 3: Immigration Issues – Percent saying Favorable



As illustrated on Graph 3, three items were overwhelmingly supported: obliging individuals to prove their legal residency prior to obtaining a driver’s license; making English the official language of Maryland; and, imposing severe fines on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants. Nataf suggested that “these are measures which either seem appropriate ways to reduce incentives for illegal immigrants to come to the state, or reinforce a view of cultural aspects of citizenship.”

On the question of whether those in the United States illegally should be deported, offered a path to legalization or to temporary employment, the sample was decidedly mixed. Legalization (63 percent) was more favored than deportation (48 percent) or temporary employment (49 percent). However, 52 percent of those agreeing with deportation were also in favor of allowing illegal immigrants to become legal residents. Conversely, 40 percent of those favoring a path to legalization were also in favor of deportation.

“Clearly this is an issue which finds the public confused and uncertain with regards to the best practical and ethical course to take,” said Nataf.

When asked a general attitudinal question about both legal and illegal immigrants, the public was somewhat more decisive. The question asked: “Which of the following best reflects your view about legal/illegal immigrants to the United States.” Respondents were offered two choices: “They strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents,” or “They are a burden on our country because they take our jobs, housing and health care.”

Table 10 shows that there was a much more sympathetic attitude toward legal immigrants, with 76 percent affirming that legal immigrants “strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents” compared to only 22 percent for illegal immigrants.

Table 10: Attitudes toward Legal and Illegal Immigrants

	Legal	Illegal
They strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents	76	22
They are a burden on our country because they take our jobs, housing and health care.	16	68
No answer	8	9
Total	100	99

Of those saying that illegal immigrants are a burden, 62 percent favored deportation compared to only 9 percent of those claiming that illegal immigrants strengthen the country. Three quarters (76 percent) of the latter favored a path to legalization as did a majority (56 percent) of those saying ‘burden.’ “This again reveals the lack of consensus about how to best handle the issue of illegal immigration,” Nataf commented.

The final question about immigration asked, “Do you think that you personally have benefited from the services of illegal immigrants for example in landscaping, construction, restaurants or janitorial services?” As shown on Table 11, a sizable minority (42 percent) claimed that they had benefited from the services of illegal immigrants.

Table 11: Percentage saying they Benefited from Illegal Immigrants' Services

Benefited?	Percent
Yes	42
No	53
No answer	6
Total	101

This experience was strongly associated with other views of the immigration issue. Thus, those benefiting from services were more likely to favor legalization (72 percent vs. 55 percent), were much less favorable to deportation (25 percent vs. 69 percent) and were four times more likely to think that illegal immigrants 'strengthen the country' (45 percent to 10 percent).

"Clearly, attitudes toward illegal immigrants are strongly shaped by the degree to which respondents benefited from services, apparently heightening the sense that illegal immigrants form a key element in the economy," said Nataf.

President Bush – Job Approval

The survey asked about President Bush's job approval. Since fall 2006, CSLI polls have closely tracked national trends as indicated by the Gallup Poll. The fall 2006 Gallup "approve" value was 37 percent; CSLI's poll had the President's job approval at 39 percent. At the time of the spring 2007 poll, Gallup put President Bush's job approval at 33 percent; CSLI's survey had him at 34 percent. Last fall, the CSLI survey found that 35 percent of the public approved of President Bush's performance while a USA Today/Gallup poll gave a value of 32 percent.

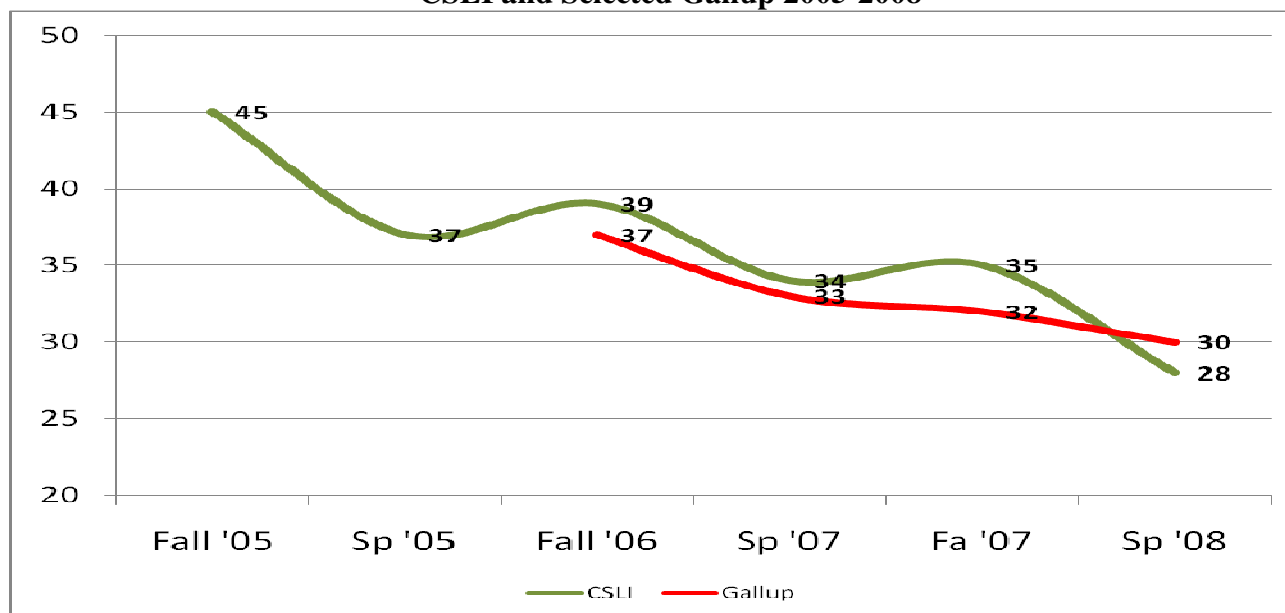
This spring, the CSLI survey showed that only 28 percent had a favorable view of President Bush's performance; USA Today/Gallup said 30 percent on Feb. 21-24. (See Table 12 and Graph 4).

"The president's job approval values continue to be nationalized rather than regional. As demonstrated again this spring, there is little consistent difference between percentages approving of his performance among those asked in Anne Arundel County and the Gallup poll results for the country as a whole," Nataf said.

Table 12: President Bush's Job Approval

Issue	Fall 2005	Spring 2006	Fall 2006	Spring 2007	Fall 2007	Spring 2008
Approve	45	37	39	34	35	28
Disapprove	48	54	55	58	57	62
No answer	7	8	7	7	9	10
Total	100	99	101	99	101	100

**Graph 4: President George W. Bush's Job Approval –
CSLI and Selected Gallup 2005-2008**



As seen on Table 13, the polarization among partisans found in fall 2007 changed somewhat this spring as Republicans were slightly *less* likely to disapprove of Bush's performance. By contrast, Democrats were *more* likely to disapprove (rising from 79 to 89 percent saying "disapprove") as were unaffiliated/independent respondents (rising from 62 to 74 percent).

Table 13: President Bush's Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 Job Approval by Party Registration

Issue	Overall		Democrats		Republicans		Unaffiliated	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Approve	35	28	18	9	56	57	26	19
Disapprove	57	62	79	87	35	31	62	74
No opinion	9	10	4	5	9	11	12	7
Total	101	100	101	101	100	99	100	100

"While President Bush has acquired a relatively stable spot in job approval ratings among Republicans, non-Republicans increasingly appear to be concentrated around the "disapprove" position. This is despite any improvements in the situation in Iraq," Nataf said. "The erosion of the economy is probably to blame."

Table 14 shows the relationship between Bush's job approval and perceptions of economic conditions in the county. There was a strong relationship – those perceiving the economy to be in less than an "excellent" condition were much more likely to disapprove of Bush's job performance.

Table 14: President Bush's Job Approval and Perceptions of Economic Conditions

Issue	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Approve	46	31	22	20
Disapprove	46	62	67	67
No answer	8	8	10	13
Total	100	101	99	100

Iraq Policy Preferences

Last fall, respondents were asked a question about the war in Iraq and given three choices – a rapid exit, keep “as many troop in Iraq as necessary to ensure victory,” and a middle position involving a gradual decrease in the number of troops. At that time, the “gradual exit” position was favored by 57 percent of the respondents, with each of the other two positions gaining about one-fifth of the remaining support. Strong partisan and ideological determinants were at play in shaping perceptions of each option with liberals and many Democrats favoring a quick exit, while conservatives and most Republicans favoring a longer commitment.

This spring, only two choices were presented to respondents. They were asked whether they favored the approach of most Republican presidential candidates who say that the U.S. should keep as many troops in Iraq as necessary to ensure victory or the approach of the Democratic presidential candidates who say that the U.S. should get out of Iraq as soon as possible. Table 15 shows the results overall as well as among registered Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated citizens.

The sample was somewhat evenly divided, with a plurality (46 percent) favoring the Democratic approach over the Republican one (39 percent). The “middle position” was in this case only noted if volunteered by the respondent, which 10 percent offered.

Among partisans, Democrats were a bit more firmly wedded to the Democratic approach (71 percent) than Republicans to the Republican approach (66 percent). Unaffiliated respondents leaned more strongly toward the Republican approach (51 percent). This was similar to the percentages of those approving President Bush’s job performance who favored the Republican approach (76 percent) while those disapproving favored the Democratic approach (65 percent).

“The war in Iraq continues to be a polarizing issue with strong partisan overtones and which deeply affects individuals’ perception of the president’s job performance,” Nataf said.

Table 15: Iraq War Options and Party Registration

Issue	Overall	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Favor the approach of most Republican presidential candidates who say that the U.S. should keep as many troops in Iraq as necessary to ensure victory	39	16	66	51
Favor the approach of the Democratic presidential candidates who say that the U.S. should get out of Iraq as soon as possible	46	71	21	37
Some other volunteered position – often a more gradual decrease in U.S. involvement in Iraq	10	10	9	9
No answer	5	3	4	2
Total	100	100	100	101

Voters’ Presidential Preferences for 2008

The final aspect of the spring survey concerned presidential voting preferences. This was asked in two different ways. In the first case, respondents were read the names of the two Democratic candidates –Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama – as well as that of the Republican candidate

John McCain. In each instance, respondents were asked whether they would consider voting for the candidate.

Table 16: Percent saying that they “Would Consider” a Presidential Candidate

Candidate	Would consider	Would NOT consider	No answer	Total
Hillary Clinton	36	58	5	99
Barack Obama	49	42	9	101
John McCain	57	35	9	101

As seen on Table 16, only Republican John McCain obtained a majority (57 percent). Democrat Barack Obama nearly obtained a majority (49 percent); Hillary Clinton was a somewhat distant third (36 percent) and was the only candidate with a majority who would not consider supporting her candidacy. This is a sharp reversal from the results of fall 2007 when 28 percent favored Clinton and only 12 percent favored Obama. McCain fell behind Rudy Giuliani (20 percent) and Fred Thompson (14 percent), garnering only 6 percent at that time.

When asked if there was “one candidate that stands out as the one most likely to get your vote,” McCain again led the pack with 46 percent while Obama obtained 32 percent and Clinton 19 percent.

According to Nataf, “A half year has truly shaken up both the Democratic and Republican races, with former frontrunners now either out of the race (Giuliani) or in second place (Clinton). Senator Clinton’s chances for success would appear to be strongly limited by the large number of people who have already decided not to support her. By contrast, only slightly over one-third has decided not to support Senator McCain, clearly positioning him as the one to beat in November.”

Table 17: Party Registration and Presidential Candidate Preference (in percent)

Candidate	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Hillary Clinton	30	7	12
Barack Obama	48	9	36
John McCain	20	80	49
Total	98	96	97

Note: Totals do not equal 100 percent due to rounding and support for some other candidates.

Table 17 shows that respondents were nearly equal in supporting their party’s candidates. The defection rate of Democrats to McCain was 20 percent; the defection rate of Republicans to either Obama or Clinton totaled 16 percent. Unaffiliated respondents were evenly split between Republican and Democratic sides, although they favored Obama (36 percent) much more strongly than Clinton (12 percent).

Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 419 county residents who were at least 18 years old. It was conducted March 10-13 2008 during evening hours. Phone numbers were derived from a database of listed numbers as well as computer chosen, randomly assigned numbers. There was about a 5 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 to better represent the general population. College students were trained and used as telephone interviewers.

For information about this survey or CSLI, call Dan Nataf at 410-777-2733 or visit the CSLI Web site at www2.aacc.edu/csli, where this press release is posted under “Recent Surveys.” The CSLI is part of the Sarbanes Center for Public and Community Service at Anne Arundel Community College.

CSLI Semiannual Survey – Spring 2008

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

Problem	Percentage
Crime	6
Terrorism	1
Drugs (illegal drugs, use or sale)	1
Growth/overpopulation- too much development	12
Traffic congestion/transportation problems	7
Education, problems with schools	12
Taxes – too high	16
Inefficient government, wasteful spending	2
Corruption in government/politicians are bad	2
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	6
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	20
Lack of affordable housing	4
Other answer (write in:	6
Unsure/No Answer	9

Note: Economy and “lack of affordable housing” were combined as reported on Table 1. As the actual percentages were 19.7 and 3.6 percent, this was rounded to 23 percent on that table.

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

- (1) **Right** direction 50%
- (2) **Wrong** direction 32%
- (0) **Unsure** or don't know 17%

3. Thinking about our County's economy, how would you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County today -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

- (1) Excellent 6%
- (2) Good 49%
- (3) Only Fair 36%
- (4) Poor 8%
- (0) Don't Know, No Answer 2%

4. Thinking 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	56	42	3
4.2 Facing the possibility of unemployment	11	87	2
4.3 Facing the possibility of house foreclosure or loss	6	93	1
4.4 Unable to find affordable housing	21	78	2
4.5 Hard to afford cost of transportation	40	58	2
4.6 Hard to afford cost of utilities such as electricity or gas	61	37	2
4.7 Hard to afford cost of taxes	47	49	4
4.8 Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	35	63	2

5.0 The following few questions are about Anne Arundel County...

	Apply to all %	Apply just to some %	Apply to none %	Unsure %
5.1 The County Council has considered a small storm-water management fee to help repair waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. If passed, should the fee apply to all property owners, just those who want to pay, or none?	54	23	18	6

6.1 You may have read that the county may not have enough money to pay for raises that were promised in contract negotiations with teachers and other union employees. Which of the following should the County do?

Options	Choose one only
Raise fees or taxes to pay for the promised raises	23
Try to pay the promised raises by cutting other services or programs	47
Postpone the promised raises	20
Don't know, no answer	10

7.0 The following questions deal with issues facing the state of Maryland

Proposal	Favor %	Against %	No answer %
7.1 During the special session, the legislature agreed to put a referendum on the November ballot which would legalize slot machines at five locations, including one within Anne Arundel County in Laurel. At this time, would you be likely to vote in favor or against this referendum?	63	34	3
7.2 The legislature is considering a bill that would make it illegal to use cell phones in moving vehicles other than with a hands-free arrangement. Are you in favor or against this proposal?	79	19	2

The next few questions deal with immigration.

8.0 There are a variety of proposals meant to deal with the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States. Tell me whether you are favorable or unfavorable to each of these proposals:

Proposal	Favorable %	Unfavorable %	Unsure %
8.1 Allow illegal immigrants to work in the country temporarily returning to their countries of origin after several years	49	48	4
8.2 Allow illegal immigrants to become legal residents if they learn to speak English, pay a fine, and have no criminal record	63	33	5
8.3 Forcibly deport illegal immigrants and their families to their countries of origin	48	45	7
8.4 Create a system of severe fines for employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants	80	15	5
8.5 Prohibit the granting of driver's licenses to those who cannot prove that they are legal residents.\	82	15	3
8.6 Spare no cost in making the border with Mexico secure	53	39	8
8.7 Make English the official language of Maryland	82	14	4

8.8 Which of the following best reflects your view about LEGAL immigrants to the United States:

1. They strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents 76%
2. They are a burden on our country because they take our jobs, housing and health care 16%
0. Don't know, unsure 8%

8.9 Thinking now just about ILLEGAL immigrants, which of those same two choices best reflects your view?

1. They strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents 22%
2. They are a burden on our country because they take our jobs, housing and health care 68%
0. Don't know, unsure 9%

9.0 Do you think that you personally have benefited from the services of illegal immigrants for example in landscaping, construction, restaurants or janitorial services?

- (1) Yes 42% (2) No 53% (0) Don't know, unsure 6%

10. Thinking about the situation in Iraq, which of the following best describes your feelings? Do you...

- 39% (1) Favor the approach of most Republican presidential candidates who say that the US should keep as many troops in Iraq as necessary to ensure victory (or)
 47% (2) Favor the approach of the Democratic presidential candidates who say that the US should get out of Iraq as soon as possible
 10 % (3) Some other answer (**volunteered by the respondent, don't ask**)
 5% (0) Don't know, unsure

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

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

(1) Democratic 40%	4) None (NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE) 7%
(2) Republican 36%	(5) Other (e.g., Green Party) 2%
(3) Independent or undeclared 11%	(0) No Answer 5%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

(1) Approve 28% (2) Disapprove 62% (0) Don't know, unsure 100%

12.1 I would like to read you the names of several presidential candidates. In each case, when I read the name, tell me whether you would consider voting for that candidate.

Candidate	<u>Would consider</u> voting	<u>Would NOT consider</u> voting	Don't know, unsure
Hillary Clinton	36%	58%	5%
Barack Obama	49%	42%	9%
John McCain	57%	35%	9%

12.2 Thinking back to this list, is there one candidate that stands out as the one most likely to get your vote?

1 Hillary Clinton 19%	2 Barak Obama 32%	3 John McCain 46%
4 Some other candidate (write in) 3%		

12.3 What is the reason you tend to support this candidate? (open-ended)

Trait	Percentage
Agree with views	19
Anti some person or entity	7
Change, fresh face, ideas	10
Domestic policy	5
Experience	15
Foreign policy	4
Leadership, most qualified	10
Military	5
Other	5
Party	8
Race	2
Smart, knowledgeable	6
Unite country	2
Woman	2
Total	100

13.0 Thinking about your political beliefs, would you say that on matters dealing with cultural issues like abortion or gay marriage, are you conservative, moderate or liberal?

(1) Conservative 32% (2) Moderate 31% (3) Liberal 30% (0) Other, No Answer 7%

13.1 How about on economic issues like taxes and government spending? Are you conservative, moderate or liberal?

(1) Conservative 45% (2) Moderate 38% (3) Liberal 12% (0) Other, No Answer 5%

13.2 How about on foreign policy? Do you favor an approach that emphasizes the use of America’s military strength or more diplomatic approaches?

- (1) Favors military strength 11%
- (2) Favors diplomatic approach 68%
- (3) Both equally (volunteered only) 16%
- (0) Unsure, no answer 5%

13.3 Overall, which of the following best describes your political beliefs: liberal, moderate or conservative?

(1) Liberal 17% (2) Moderate 49% (3) Conservative 28% (0) Other, No Answer 3%

14. What is your age at this time?

Age Range	Percentage
18-29	10
30-39	11
40-49	22
50-59	20
60-64	11
65+	21
No answer	5
Total	100

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

(1) less than a high school diploma 2%	(5) Completed college with a bachelor’s degree 25%
(2) a high school diploma 12%	(6) post graduate work 24%
(3) some college but less than a 2 year degree 21%	(7) Other vocational or technical training 2%
(4) Completed at least a 2 year associate college degree but without a bachelor’s degree 10%	(0) No Answer 4%

16. 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 11%
- (3) \$50,001 to \$75,000 16%
- (4) \$75,001-\$100,000 17%
- (5) \$100,001-\$150,000 18%
- (6) Over \$150,000 12%
- (0) No Answer 20%

17. Which of the following employment categories best describes your situation?

	Percentage
Employed full time for a company in the private sector or self employed	39
Employed full or part time in a private non-profit organization	3
Employed full time for government in a non-defense related activity such as education, public works or public safety	11
Employed full time for government in a defense related activity	4
Employed part time	4
Student	3
Retired	25
Unemployed and seeking a job	2
Unemployed and not seeking a job	4
No answer	5

18. Regarding race, how would you describe yourself?

- (1) African American 8%
- (2) Asian 1%
- (3) Caucasian 79%
- (4) Latino 1%
- (5) Other or mixed racial background 4%
- (0) No Answer 7%

19. Regarding Religion, how would you describe yourself?

- (1) None 6%
- (2) Non-practicing 9%
- (3) Evangelical or born again Christian (possibly Baptist, Pentecostal) 11%
- (4) Catholic 23%
- (5) Jewish 2%
- (6) Protestant (possibly Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopalian) 29%
- (7) Some other Christian 7%
- (8) A 'spiritual person' not associated with an organized religion 3%
- (9) Other 4%
- 0) No Answer 7%

20. What is your current marital status?

Single 15%
Married 64%
Separated/divorced 9%
Widowed 7%
Other 1%
No answer 4%

SAY: That concludes our survey, thanks for participating.

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

21. Gender of respondent to whom you were speaking:

(1) Male 49% (2) Female 51% (weighted) 40%/60% unweighted

22. Zip code

	Valid Percent
20711	.7
20724	.2
20733	.4
20751	.6
20755	.5
20758	.3
20764	.5
20776	.4
20778	.9
21012	5.0
21032	1.6
21035	.9
21037	4.1
21040	.2
21046	.2
21054	1.6
21060	1.8
21061	11.5

21076	.9
21090	.3
21108	4.7
21112	.3
21113	6.0
21114	4.8
21122	11.8
21140	.2
21144	8.6
21146	7.8
21226	.7
21401	9.5
21402	.3
21403	7.2
21405	.6
21409	4.7
Total	100.0