

Press Release: October 24, 2006

## Center for the Study of Local Issues Anne Arundel Community College

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### **Survey Shows Voters Uncertain of County Executive Candidates' Position on Issues; AACC Rebroadcasting Candidate Forum**

A survey conducted Oct. 16-19, 2006 by the Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) at Anne Arundel Community College found that 60 percent of respondents claiming an intention to vote Nov. 7 report being "not very informed" about the Anne Arundel County executive candidates' stands on issues.

When asked about specific issues such as improving the public schools, reducing traffic congestion or managing growth, a majority in each case was undecided between Democrat George Johnson and Republican John Leopold.

A county executive candidate forum co-sponsored by and held at AACC on Oct. 19, the last evening of the survey, was taped. Rebroadcasts will air on AACC's Channel 95 on county cable TV carriers through Nov. 5 at noon and 10 p.m. on Saturdays, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays and 10 p.m. Wednesdays (10:30 p.m. Oct. 25).

"While the race for county executive is the local race likely to get the greatest amount of voter attention, a lot more outreach by the media and candidates' campaigns will be needed for voters to make an educated choice," said the center's director, Dan Nataf.

### **Summary of Other Findings**

The CSLI survey evaluated a range of other issues including race relations, the race for governor, housing affordability and President Bush's job performance. The survey included benchmark questions about the most important issue facing Anne Arundel County residents, the right/wrong direction of the county, the state of the local economy and questions about terrorism and preparedness of local authorities. These items are summarized below and explained in detail in the sections that follow:

- **Most important problem:** Growth and education were cited as the most important concerns.
- **Right direction/wrong direction:** There was a drop in the percentage saying that the county was moving in the right direction, moving from 55 percent in spring 2006 to 51 percent in fall 2006.
- **Economic conditions:** There was a small change in the percentage of the sample saying that the county's economic conditions were "excellent" or "good," dropping to 71 from 74 percent.
- **Race relations:** Most of the respondents thought that race relations in Anne Arundel County were either "good" (46 percent) or "fair" (44 percent). The sample was also asked about its level of satisfaction with programs and activities that promote multicultural understanding. Twenty per cent were "very satisfied" and 43 percent were "somewhat satisfied."
- **Going to vote on Nov. 7:** A majority (89 percent) of respondents said that they will vote on election day.

- **Interest in elections:** Over two-thirds (69%) said that they were “very interested” in the upcoming elections (at this point the results are weighted and include only those saying they will be voting).
- **Informed about the race for governor:** Only 10 percent of likely voters claimed to be “not very informed” about the race for governor.
- **Issues and favorability toward a candidate for governor:** Republican candidate Robert Ehrlich was favored on such issues as “keeping taxes as low as possible” and “allowing slot machines in Maryland,” while Democrat Martin O’Malley was favored on issues such as “helping to make health care more available to everyone” or “being sensitive to the needs of working families.”
- **Most important issue in governor’s race:** Education (cited by 22 percent), the economy (15 percent) and taxes (14 percent) were the most important issues mentioned by prospective voters.
- **Choice for governor:** Robert Ehrlich (47 percent) gained greater support than Martin O’Malley (38 percent) in the race for governor.
- **Informed about the race for county executive:** 12 percent reported being “very informed,” 26 percent “somewhat informed” and 60 percent “not very informed.”
- **Most important issue in county executive’s race:** Growth (22 percent), education (17 percent) and taxes (13 percent).
- **Choice for county executive:** The sample was split between Democrat George Johnson (37 percent) and Republican John Leopold (38 percent), although a large group (25 percent) was still undecided.
- **President George W. Bush’s job approval:** There was essentially no change in public perception of Bush’s performance as president as his job approval percentage increased to 39 percent saying “approve” compared to 37 percent last spring.
- **Bush administration’s strategy in Iraq:** The Bush administration’s strategy in Iraq did not garner much support, with only 31 percent agreeing that the administration “has a clear plan for handling the situation in Iraq.”
- **Bush administration and war on terrorism:** A slight majority (51 percent) approved the Bush administration’s handling of the war on terror.
- **Terrorism:** The largest majority since 9/11 (70 percent) did not think that a terrorist attack was likely in Anne Arundel County this year. There was a continued decline in the percentage thinking that local authorities were “not very prepared” to deal with such a crisis, dropping from 44 percent in fall 2005 to 33 percent in spring 2006 and to 32 percent in the October 2006 survey.
- **Housing:** Most thought that finding affordable housing was a “very serious” issue (60 percent). A plurality (40 percent) said that such housing would cost between \$100,001 and \$200,000. Most (77 percent) were aware of government programs for first-time home buyers, but only 20 percent had used them. A majority (62 percent) felt that government should be active in helping people purchase their first homes “even if it costs tax dollars.”
- **Methodology:** The survey polled a random sample of 382 county residents who were at least 18 years old and living in their primary residence. The margin of sampling error was approximately 5 percent. The dataset was weighted by demographic variables (party registration and gender) to better represent the general population.

## Most Important Problem – Growth and the Education

Each CSLI survey starts by asking the public an open-ended question: “What do you think is the most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time?” Typically, crime, education, growth, transportation and taxes are the top items cited. While in spring 2006 a sharp rise in the proportion of those citing the economy disturbed the typical pattern, this fall responses reverted to the more typical pattern (see Table 1 and Chart 1).

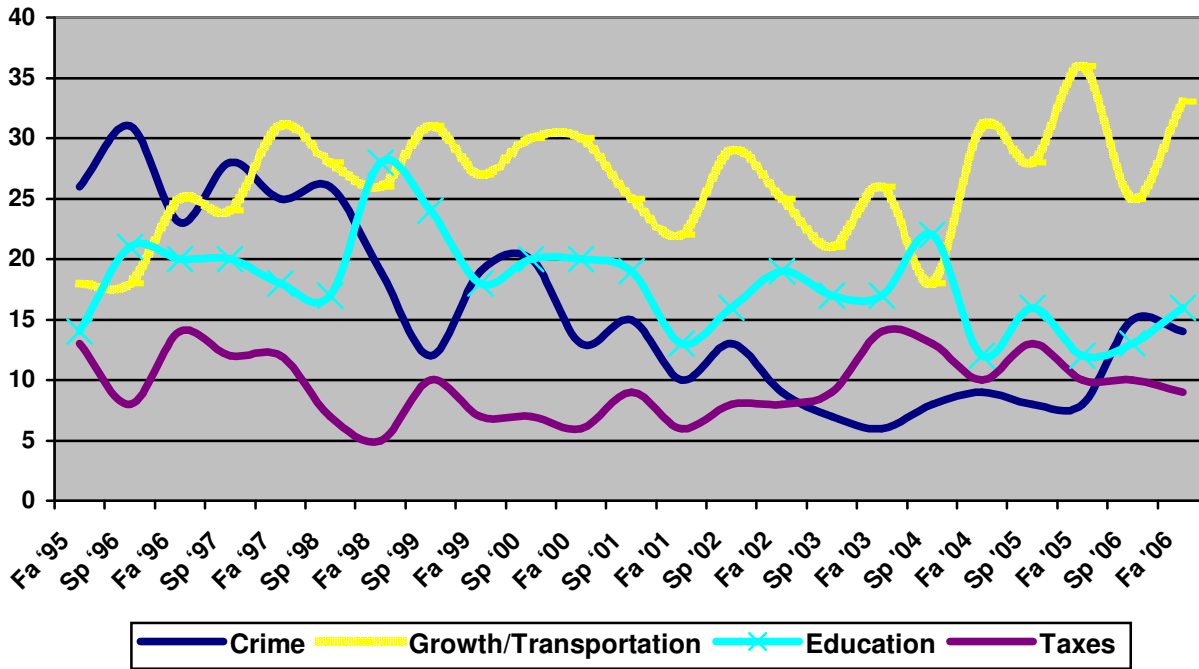
Compared with last spring, there was an increase in concern about growth (from 16 to 21 percent) and a smaller increase in transportation/traffic (from 9 to 12 percent). The drop in the percentage citing the economy (from 15 to 7 percent) was “probably due to the drop in gasoline prices. Utility bills have not risen to winter peaks yet as well,” Nataf said. There was a small increase in the percentage citing education (from 13 to 16 percent), while taxes, the environment and drugs experienced little change.

**Table 1: Percentage Citing Item as County’s “Most Important Problem” 2003-06**

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Fall '03</b>	<b>Spring '04</b>	<b>Fall '04</b>	<b>Spring '05</b>	<b>Fall '05</b>	<b>Spring '06</b>	<b>Fall '06</b>
<b>Growth/overpopulation - too much development</b>	15	8	14	18	22	16	21
<b>Education, problems with schools</b>	17	22	12	16	12	13	16
<b>Traffic congestion/problems</b>	11	10	17	9	14	9	12
<b>Crime</b>	5	4	6	5	6	11	11
<b>Other answer</b>	11	8	9	10	8	6	10
<b>Taxes – too high</b>	14	13	10	13	10	10	9
<b>Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)</b>	8	12	8	7	7	15	7
<b>Unsure/no answer</b>	9	10	13	11	11	8	7
<b>Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)</b>	7	4	5	5	6	6	4
<b>Drugs</b>	1	4	3	3	2	4	3
<b>Inefficient government, wasteful spending</b>	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
<b>Corruption in government/politicians are bad</b>	1	2	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Terrorism</b>	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	99	100	101	103

Note: Table 2 and Chart 1 below combine “growth” and “transportation” into “growth” as well as “crime” and “drugs” into “crime” for reporting and comparison purposes. All values in tables are in percentages unless otherwise indicated. In this and all other tables, totals do not equal 100 percent due to rounding. No weighting or selection of only voters has been included in the calculation of the values in Table 1.

**Chart 1: Most Important Issue - Trends**



**Table 2: “Most Important Problem Facing Residents” Spring 1997 to Fall 2006**

Problem	Sp '97	Fa '97	Sp '98	Fa '98	Sp '99	Fa '99	Sp '00	Fa '00	Sp '01	Fa '01	Sp '01	Fa '01	Sp '02	Fa '02	Sp '03	Fa '03	Sp '04	Fa '04	Sp '05	Fa '05	Sp '06	Fa '06
Crime	28	25	26	19	12	19	20	13	15	10	13	13	7	6	8	9	8	9	8	8	15	14
Growth/Transportation	24	31	28	26	31	27	30	30	25	22	28	25	21	26	18	31	28	36	25	33		
Education	20	18	17	28	24	18	20	20	19	13	16	19	17	17	22	12	16	12	13	16		
Taxes	12	12	7	5	10	7	7	6	9	6	8	8	9	14	13	10	13	10	10	10	9	

**County – Right or Wrong Direction?**

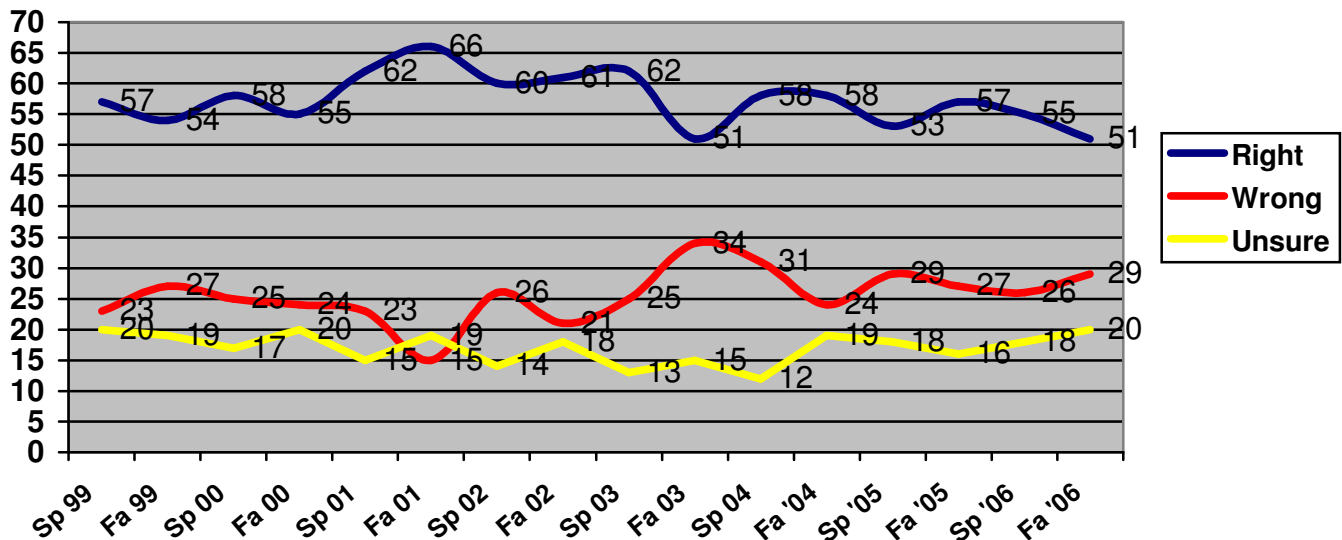
The survey included a CSLI benchmark question whose results are visible on Table 3: “Overall, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?”

Chart 2 shows that until fall 2003, the results did not vary much, hovering around 60 percent. However at that time, a sharp drop in those saying the “right” direction corresponded to the start of a lower overall range. There was a further decline this fall, dropping from 55 to only 51 percent saying the county was moving in the right direction.

**Table 3: Anne Arundel County - Right vs. Wrong Direction**

Response	Percent
Right direction	51
Wrong direction	29
Unsure	20
Total	100

**Chart 2: County Trend - Right or Wrong Direction**



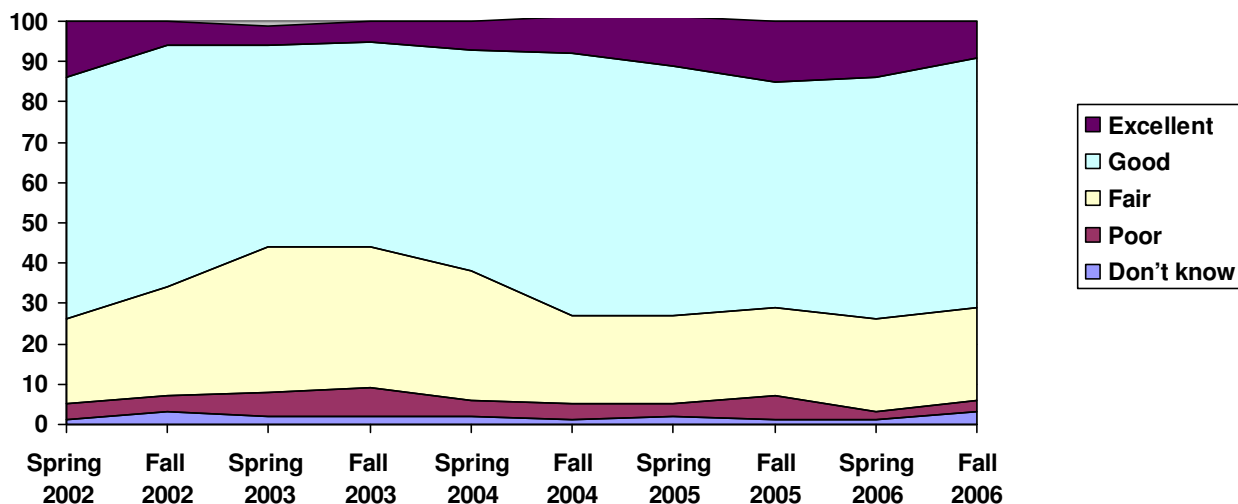
**Economic Conditions – No Major Changes**

There was little change in the public’s perception of general economic conditions in the county. The percentage saying “excellent” or “good” changed a bit, dropping to 71 percent. In spring 2004, the combined value was only 62 percent, showing that the upward trend first seen in fall 2004 has not been significantly altered over the last year and one half (see Table 4 and Chart 3). Nataf said that “while rising costs were noted as a cause for the rise in the percentage citing the economy as the most important problem, generalized optimism about the general state of the economy still prevails.”

**Table 4: Perceptions of Economic Conditions**

	Spring 2002	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003	Spring 2004	Fall 2004	Spring 2005	Fall 2005	Spring 2006	Fall 2006
<b>Excellent</b>	14	6	5	5	7	9	12	15	14	9
<b>Good</b>	60	60	50	51	55	65	62	56	60	62
<b>Fair</b>	21	27	36	35	32	22	22	22	23	23
<b>Poor</b>	4	4	6	7	4	4	3	6	2	3
<b>Don't know</b>	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	3
<b>Total</b>	101	100	99	100	100	101	101	100	100	100

**Chart 3: Economic Conditions**



### Race Relations, Multicultural Programs

The survey asked respondents to describe race relations in Anne Arundel County as good, fair or poor. The sample was roughly divided between those who said “good” (46 percent) and those saying “fair” (44 percent). Only 7 percent said “poor.” When the question was asked about “race relations in Maryland” in the spring 1996 survey, the percentages were 20 percent saying “good,” 51 percent saying “fair” and 23 saying “poor.” The remainder was undecided or gave no answer. African-Americans, singles, and those earning under \$50,000 were more likely to characterize race relations as poor.

The survey also asked the sample to indicate how satisfied it was with “existing programs and activities that promote multicultural understanding in my community.” A relatively small proportion (20 percent) was “very satisfied” while a plurality (43 percent) were “somewhat satisfied.” Another 17 percent were “not very satisfied.” Among African-Americans, 36 percent were not very satisfied compared to only 14 percent among Caucasians.

### Politics – Race for Governor

The survey concentrated on two races: governor and county executive. In all the calculations below, the sample was weighted by party and gender, and only included the 89 percent of the sample, which said that it would vote on November 7.

In the section about the race for governor, the first question posed to respondents was “how well informed do you think you are about the candidates’ stands on...” Only 10 percent said that they were “not very informed” (asked only among those saying that they would be voting on November 7). There were somewhat more Democrats with low information levels compared to Republicans, although Independents had the lowest levels of information (see Table 5).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The term “Independents” and “unaffiliated” are used interchangeably to refer to those who are registered as voters but did not choose to align themselves with a political party. For analytical purposes, only those claiming an intention to vote on November 7 are included.

**Table 5: Race for Governor – How Informed are you about Candidates’ Stands Overall and by Party**

<b>Informed?</b>	Dem	Rep	Indep	Overall
Very	41	50	31	47
Somewhat	41	44	39	43
Not very	18	6	31	10
Total	100	100	101	100

The survey also asked respondents how “interested you are in the November 7 elections?” Democrats displayed a greater interest in the elections than did Republicans. Independents were much less interested, as shown on Table 6.

**Table 6: Race for Governor – How Interested are you in the Elections by Party**

<b>Interested?</b>	Dem	Rep	Indep.	Overall
Very	76	69	43	69
Somewhat	17	27	45	25
Not very	7	4	12	6
Total	100	100	100	100

The survey then asked respondents to “tell me if you are more favorable to the stands of the Democrat Martin O’Malley or the Republican Robert Ehrlich about” issues mentioned in Table 7.

**Table 7: Race for Governor – Favorability to Candidates’ Issue Stands**

<b>Issue</b>	On this issue are you more favorable to O’Malley or Ehrlich?		
	O’Malley	Ehrlich	Undecided
Being sensitive to the needs of working families	43	34	22
Controlling the cost of higher education	41	35	24
Helping to make health care more available to everyone	40	28	33
Controlling the cost of electricity	38	31	31
Allowing slot machines in Maryland	31	48	21
Strengthening Maryland’s economy	30	50	20
Keeping taxes as low as possible	29	50	21
Cleaning up the Bay	27	36	37
Do you have a preference about either cand’s honesty or integrity?	21	33	47

As seen on Table 7, each candidate had some issues with greater favorability. For example, respondents favored Ehrlich over O'Malley on "strengthening Maryland's economy" by 20 points (50 to 30 percent). Conversely, O'Malley was favored by 12 points regarding "helping to make health care more available to everyone."

"Overall it seemed that the issues generally identified with the political parties worked in the predicted manner: the Republican candidate was expected to keep taxes low and take care of the business climate, while the Democratic candidate was expected to appeal more effectively to the interests of 'working families' on issues such as health care, higher education and electricity costs," Nataf said.

"Ehrlich's margin over O'Malley on 'cleaning up the Bay' and 'allowing slot machines in Maryland' showed that the Republican had some crossover appeal by having become identified with relatively clearly understood stands: flush taxes for the Bay and slots," he added.

Table 8 shows the differences among Democrats, Republicans and Independents on the issues. The table should be read as follows (using the first row as an example): 54 percent of Democrats favored O'Malley's stand on "keeping taxes as low as possible," but only 18 percent of Republicans and 22 percent of independents did so. Conversely, only 21 percent of Democrats favored Ehrlich's stand on taxes, compared to 77 percent of Republicans. One-quarter of Democrats were "undecided" about which candidate's stand they favored, compared to only 15 percent of Republicans. Independents were the largest undecided group, with nearly one-third of Independents (32 percent) undecided.

**Table 8: Race for Governor – Favorability to Candidates' Issue Stands by Party**

Issue	On this issue are you more favorable to O'Malley or Ehrlich?								
	O'Malley			Ehrlich			Undecided		
	D	R	I	D	R	I	D	R	I
Keeping taxes as low as possible	54	18	22	21	77	46	25	15	32
Allowing slot machines in Maryland	49	15	30	28	69	32	23	16	39
Controlling the cost of higher education	65	24	25	18	50	38	18	26	37
Being sensitive to the needs of working families	69	22	39	12	57	26	20	21	35
Controlling the cost of electricity	63	18	27	10	50	28	27	32	45
Cleaning up the Bay	43	12	29	20	52	26	36	35	45
Helping to make health care more available to everyone	64	21	27	10	41	37	26	38	36
Strengthening Maryland's economy	54	9	22	24	75	46	22	16	32
Do you have a preference about either candidate's honesty or integrity?	37	8	17	18	47	31	46	46	53

Chart 4 shows how registered Democrats aligned on these issues. The strongest support for O'Malley's stands applied to the cost of higher education, sensitivity to working families, the cost of electricity and the availability of health care (all over 60 percent saying "O'Malley" when offered the choice of the two candidates or "undecided"). His stands were also supported by a majority of Democrats on "keeping taxes low" and "strengthening Maryland's economy."

The weakest areas of O'Malley support were regarding slots, "cleaning up the Bay" (note the large percentage of those undecided) and especially "honesty" where undecided respondents were more numerous than O'Malley supporters among Democrats.



**Chart 4: Issue Stands - Support for O’Malley, Ehrlich and Undecided among Democrats**

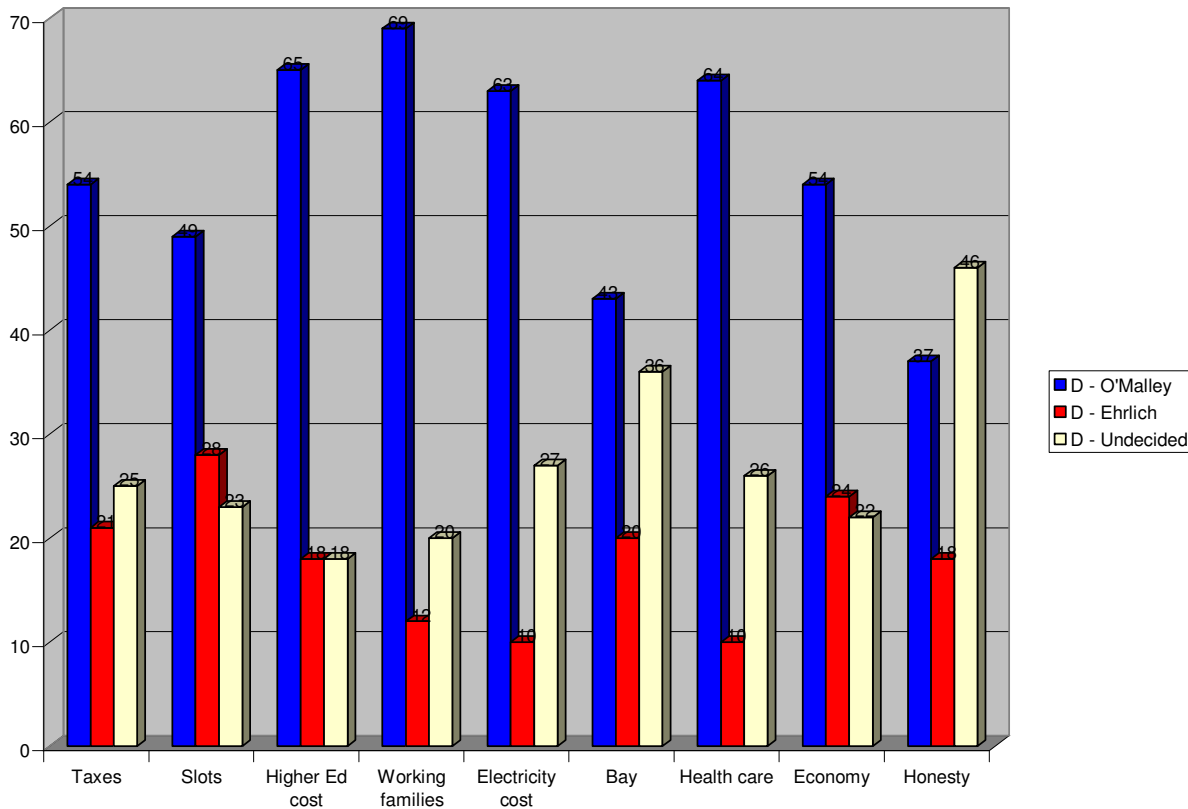
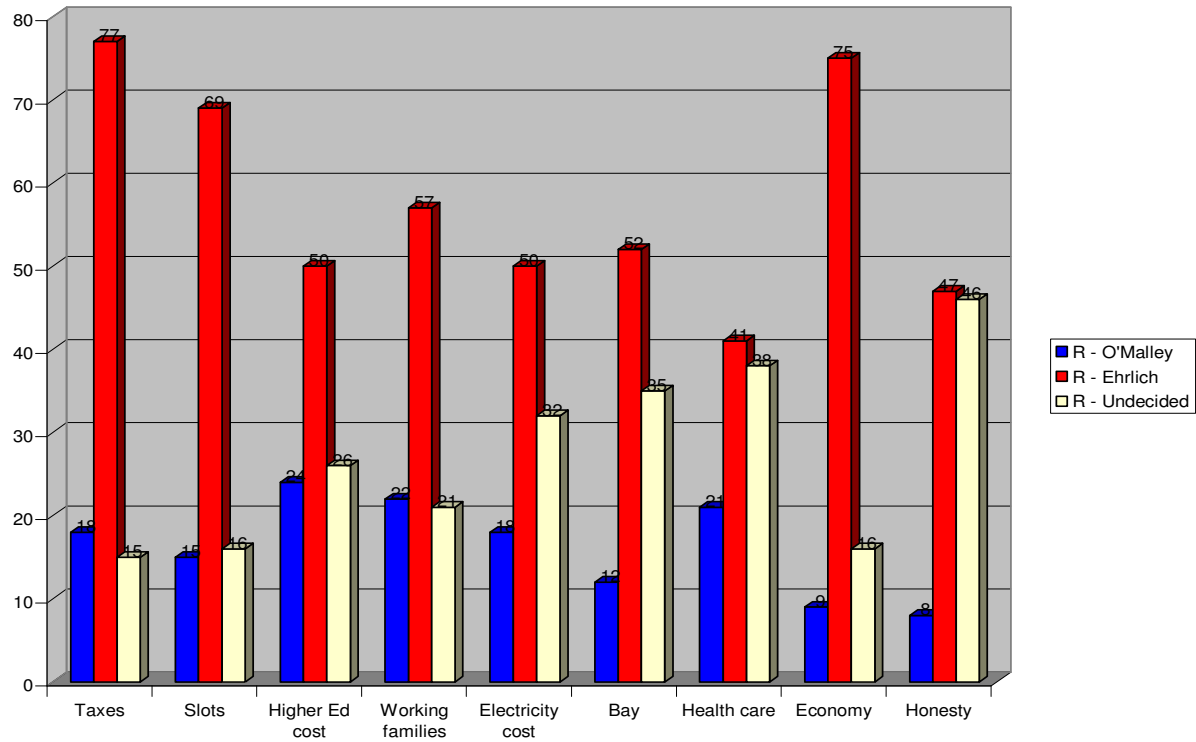


Chart 5 presents the same relationships except this time for Republicans. The Republican candidate had some issues that were clearly favored by his party’s members: taxes, slots and the economy (all near or over 70 percent). O’Malley support only reached a high of 20 percent on three issues: the cost of higher education, sensitivity for working families, and health care. High levels of uncertainty were registered among Republicans for issues like the cost of electricity, the Bay, health care and honesty.

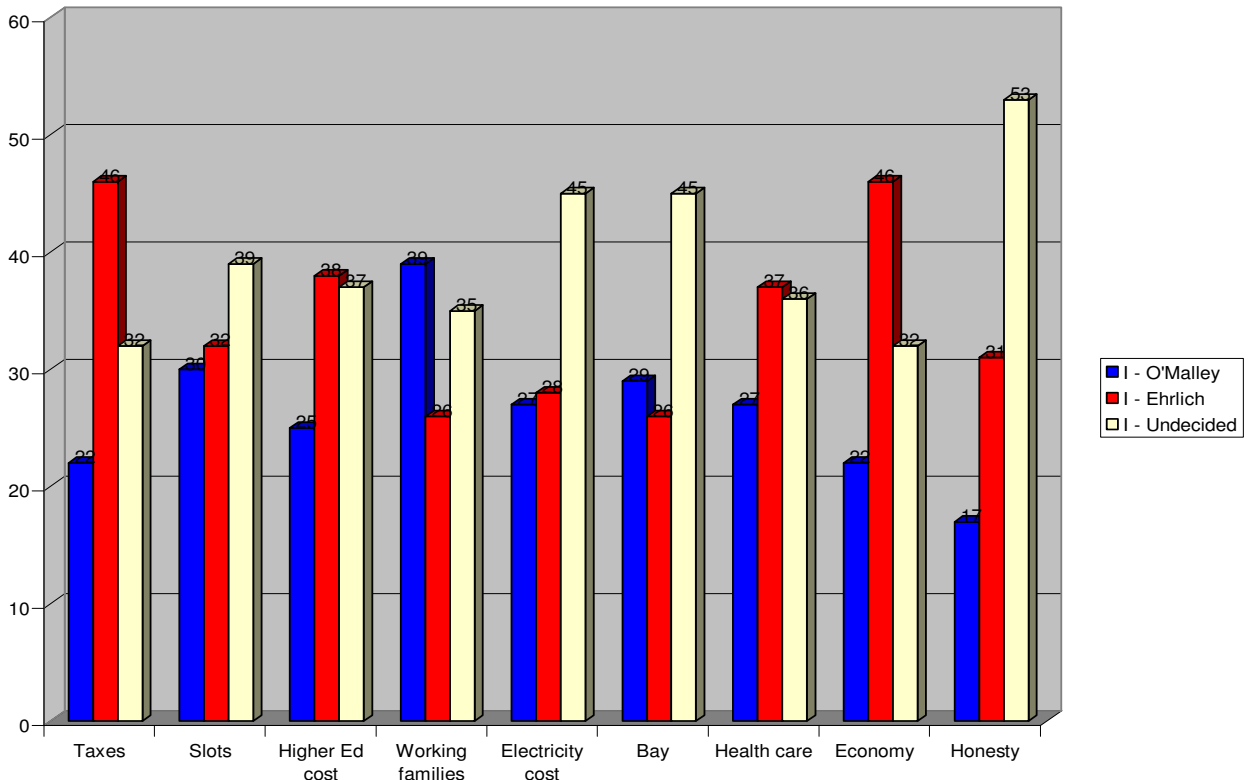
Chart 6 shows the choices among independent voters. Not surprisingly, the “undecided” category was most cited in numerous cases: cost of electricity, the Bay, slots and honesty. Ehrlich was favored on taxes, the cost of higher education, health care and the economy. O’Malley led only in a single category: sensitivity to working families.

“Ehrlich seems to have beat O’Malley on several issues among independent voters,” noted Nataf.

**Chart 5: Issue Stands - Support for O'Malley, Ehrlich and Undecided among Republicans**



**Chart 6: Issue Stands - Support for O'Malley, Ehrlich and Undecided among Independents**



The survey also asked the open-ended question “which issue has the greatest importance to you in decided for whom to vote?” Table 9 shows that only three issues were in the double digits: education (22 percent), the economy (15 percent) and taxes (14 percent). Honesty or character was mentioned by 8 percent, while crime and health care were cited by 6 and 5 percent, respectively.

**Table 9: Most Important Issues in Race for Governor – by Party and Vote for Candidate**

Issue	Overall	Party Registration			Vote		
		Dem	Rep	Indep	O'Malley	Ehrlich	Undecided
Education	22	25	20	14	28	16	29
Economy	15	14	14	29	14	16	10
Taxes	14	3	23	19	4	18	26
Honesty, character	8	5	11	0	3	12	3
Crime	6	6	5	5	5	4	10
Health care	5	10	0	5	8	3	3
Growth	3	4	3	0	5	2	0
Cost of higher education	3	4	3	0	3	4	3
Environment	3	4	1	14	3	2	3
Working people	3	4	4	0	6	2	0
Other	3	4	3	0	1	3	7
Electricity	2	3	2	0	4	1	0
Family values	2	0	3	0	0	3	0
Slots	2	5	0	0	2	2	7
Poverty	2	5	0	0	6	0	0
Whole record	2	0	2	14	0	4	0
Political party	2	2	2	0	2	2	0
Guns/gun control	1	1	2	0	1	2	0
Foreign policy, Iraq	1	1	2	0	1	2	0
Immigration	1	1	1	0	0	2	0
Transportation	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Total	100	102	101	100	97	100	101

Chart 7 shows some of the differences among respondents by political party. Taxes divided Republicans from Democrats dramatically: while only 3 percent of Democrats cited this, 23 percent of Republicans and 19 percent of Independents mentioned it. Conversely, Democrats were much more likely to cite health care (10 vs. 0 percent). Education was a common concern both for Democrats and Republicans (25 and 20 percent), but less for Independents (14 percent). By contrast, 14 percent of the latter cited the “whole record” rather than a single issue, compared to only 2 percent of Republicans and no Democrats. While the economy was a common concern, 29 percent of Independents cited it vs. 14 percent of Democrats and 14 percent of Republicans.

“The unaffiliated voters may find themselves drawn to Democrats on education, but appear to have more in common with Republicans given their concern with taxation,” Nataf said.

**Chart 7: Issues and Party Registration**

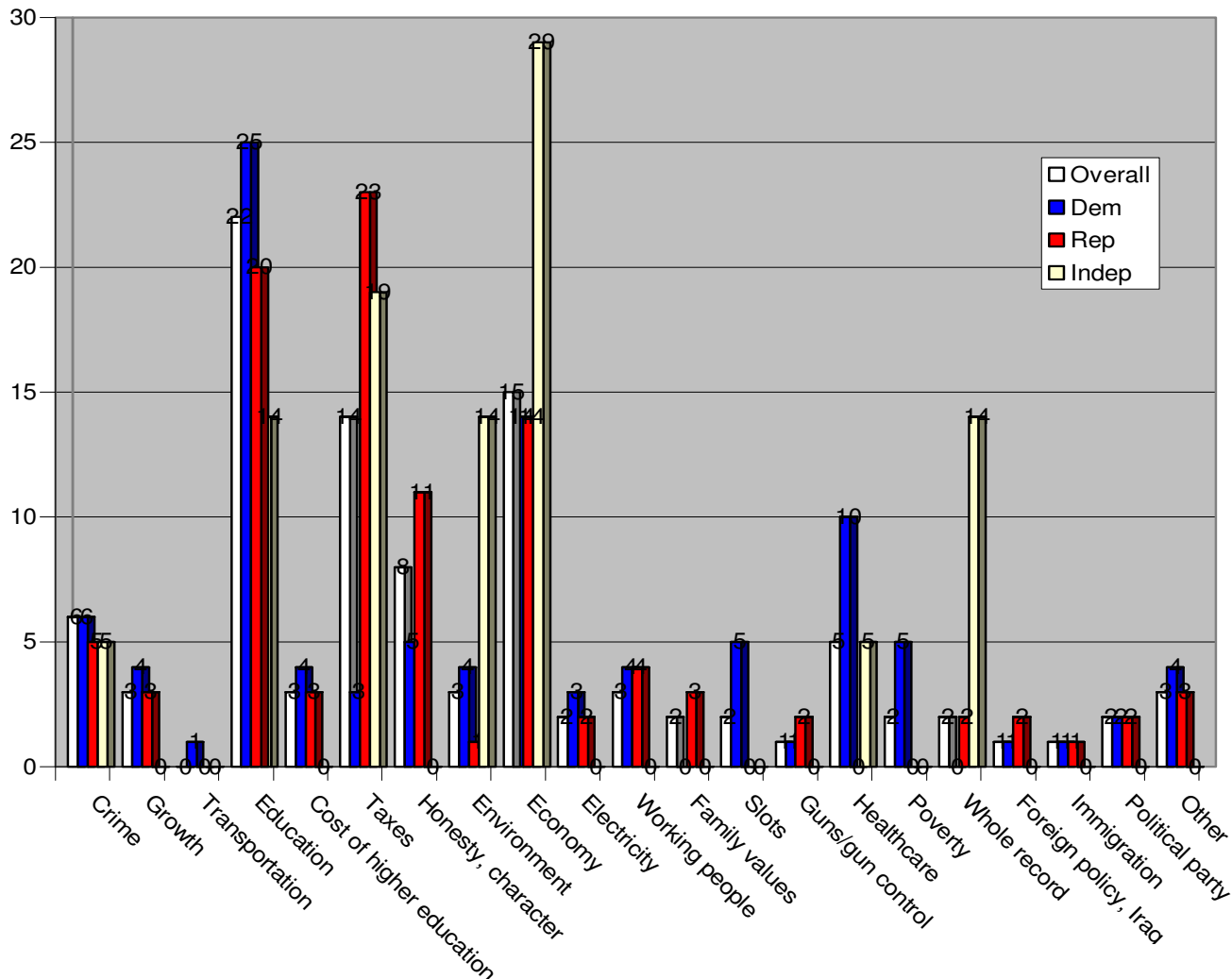
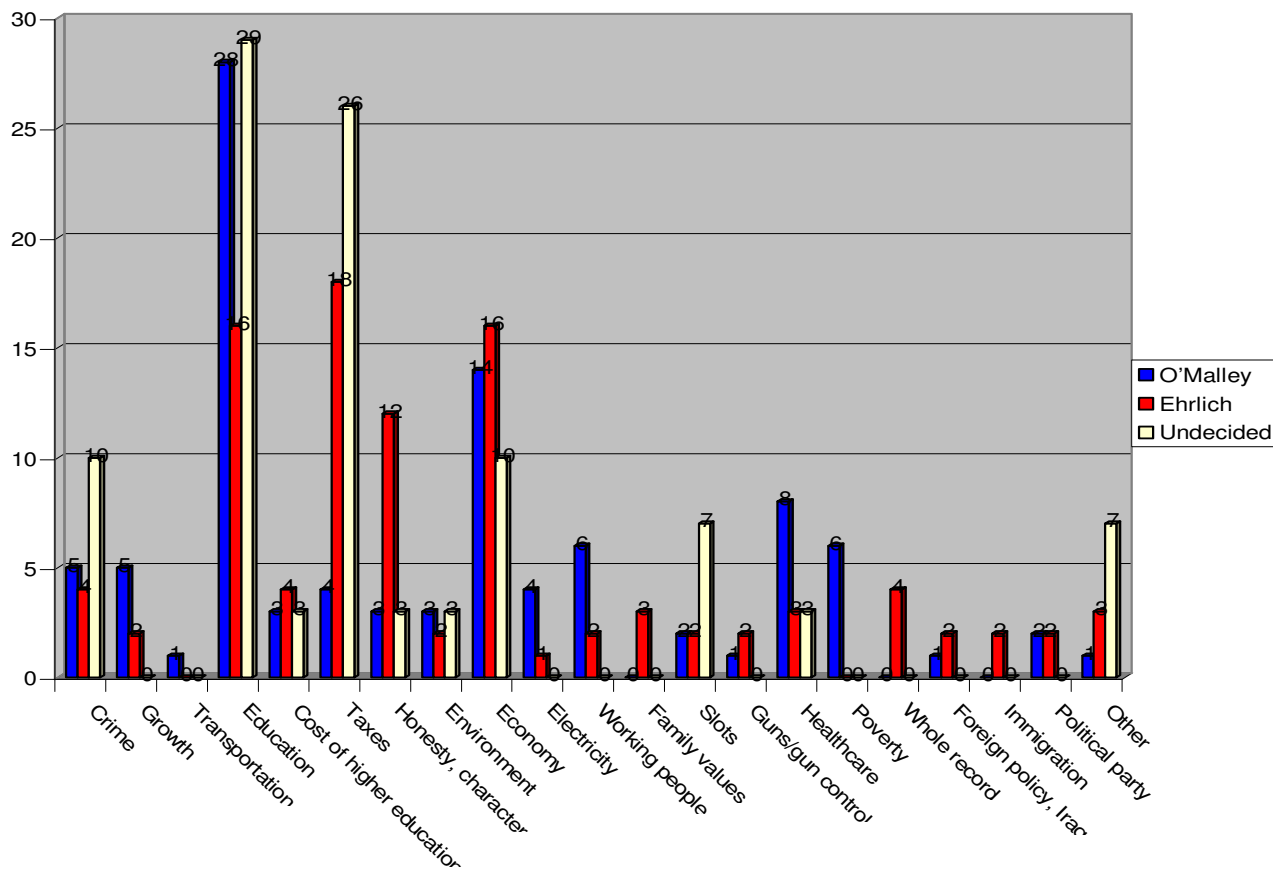


Chart 8 illustrates some of the differences among those saying that they would vote for O'Malley, Ehrlich as well as those still undecided.

O'Malley supporters (like Democrats as a whole) were not very interested in taxes (4 percent), while Ehrlich (18 percent) and especially undecided voters (26 percent) placed a high priority on them. Education was the most important issue by far for O'Malley supporters (28 percent), but remained important for Ehrlich (16 percent) and especially undecided (29 percent) voters. The economy was most important to Ehrlich supporters (16 percent), but not unimportant to O'Malley (14 percent) and undecided (10 percent) voters. O'Malley supporters seemed more concerned about health care and poverty, while Ehrlich voters were more concerned with immigration, family values and examining the 'whole record.'

**Chart 8: Issues and Vote for Governor**



“Undecided voters appeared pulled in different directions: on the one hand, they placed a high importance on taxes, thus pulling them to the Republican side; on the other hand, they are pulled to the Democratic side by education and a lower proclivity to be concerned about the economy,” Nataf said. “They still seem up for grabs.”

Table 10 shows the vote by party. Ehrlich had a 9 point lead over O’Malley. “Ehrlich’s lead is probably somewhat larger,” Nataf explained, “because in previous polls I’ve noticed an under-representation of actual Republican tendencies in the electorate.”

**Table 10: Vote for Governor – Overall and by Party**

Candidate	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaffiliated
O’Malley	38	71	11	28
Ehrlich	47	17	74	44
Someone else	2	2	2	5
Undecided	14	11	13	23
Total	101	101	100	100

Table 10 points to the tendency for Democratic registrants to defect to the Republican side (17 percent would vote for Ehrlich) more frequently than Republicans defected to the Democratic side (11 percent would vote for O’Malley).

“Defections among Democrats have a long history of making it possible for Republican candidates to win big in countywide elections,” Nataf observed. Unaffiliated voters seem to back Ehrlich (44 percent) over O’Malley (28 percent).

## Partisanship among Voters

Table 11 shows the strength of partisanship among registered voters. Democrats favored the “strong” category a bit more than Republicans (47 vs. 39 percent). Among unaffiliated voters (see Table 12), those leaning to the Democratic side (36 percent) were slightly more numerous than those leaning to Republican (33 percent) candidates.

“The large number of those registered with a party but claiming to be independent makes elections hard to predict – campaigns and candidates clearly matter in this climate,” Nataf said. While the unaffiliated are not flocking to the Democratic candidates, the small tendency to do so might be suggestive of a national Democratic tide, with the benefit of the doubt going to Democratic candidates as an expression of generalized anxiety about the direction of national politics.”

**Table 11: Strength of Partisanship among Voters**

<b>Partisanship</b>	Democrats	Republicans	Overall
Strong	49	39	42
Weak	9	9	10
Independent	43	52	48
Total	101	100	100

**Table 12: Inclination to Support Democratic or Republican Candidates among Unaffiliated Voters**

<b>Leans...</b>	Percent
Democratic	36
Republican	33
Neither	20
Other answer	5
No answer	6
Total	100

The impact of national politics among the unaffiliated was suggested by the relationship between the direction of support (Democrat or Republican) and President Bush’s job approval. As seen on Table 13, those favoring “Democratic candidates” gave very little support to President Bush (14 percent) compared to those favoring “Republican candidates” (61 percent).

**Table 13: Candidate Preference among Unaffiliated Registered Voters and Bush Job Approval**

<b>Bush’s job approval</b>	Democrat leaner	Republican leaner	Neither	Overall for all unaffiliated
Approve	14	61	13	28
Disapprove	86	39	80	69
No answer	0	0	7	4
Independent	100	100	100	101

## Demographics and the Vote for Governor

Table 14 highlights some of the demographic tendencies underlying the vote. The “gender gap” worked in O’Malley’s favor, lowering the gap between his and Ehrlich’s vote to only 2 percent among

women. O’Malley also received a disproportionate share of the vote of African-Americans, non-practicing/secular individuals and those working for government. Ehrlich obtained a boost from Evangelicals and Protestants, Caucasians and those working in the private sector.

**Table 14: Vote For Governor – Demographic Characteristics**

Candidate	Gender		Race		Religion				Employment		
	Men	Women	Afr-Am	Cauc	Non-practicing	Evangelicals	Prot	Cath	Works Private Sector	Works Govt	Retired
O’Malley	36	40	45	38	47	16	28	41	38	45	38
Ehrlich	51	42	29	50	43	66	53	49	53	37	43
Undecided	12	15	24	10	9	16	19	9	8	16	18
Total	99	97	98	98	99	98	100	99	99	98	99

Note: Totals sum to less than 100 percent due to omission of “someone else” category as well as rounding. It is also important to remember that the margin of error for these subgroups is significantly larger than that for the overall sample.

### Politics – The Race for County Executive

The race for county executive offers a dramatic contrast to the race for governor, particularly with regard to the electorate’s information level. While only 10 percent of the electorate said that it was “not very informed” about the race for governor, well over half (60 percent) of the sample admitted to being not very informed about the issue stands of county executive candidates (see Table 15).

**Table 15: Race for County Executive – Level of Information about Candidates’ Issue Stands**

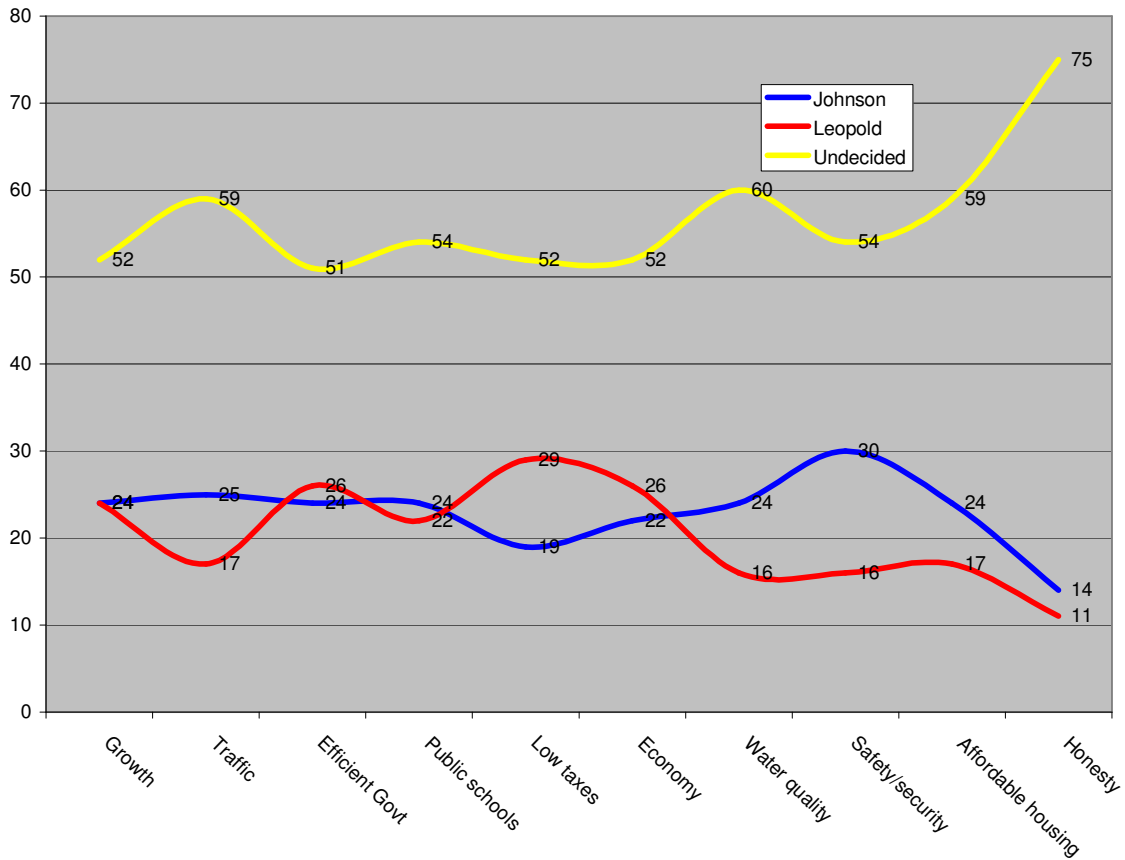
Level of information about issue stands	Percent
Very informed	12
Somewhat informed	26
Not very informed	60
No answer	2
Total	100

The lack of information was also reflected in the large percentages of those saying “undecided” when asked about which candidate’s stands was preferred. Table 16 lists the issues and the percentages indicating an answer.

**Table 16: Race for County Executive – Favorability to Candidates’ Issue Stands**

Issue	On this issue are you more favorable to Johnson or Leopold?			
	Johnson	Leopold	Undecided	Total
Better managing growth in the county	24	24	52	100
Reducing traffic congestion	25	17	59	100
Making county government more efficient	24	26	51	101
Improving the county’s public schools	24	22	54	100
Keep taxes low	19	29	52	100
Encouraging economic development	22	26	52	100
Helping to preserve local streams and improve water quality	24	16	60	100
Providing safety and security in our neighborhoods	30	16	54	100
Helping to provide more affordable housing in our county	24	17	59	100
Do you have a preference about either candidate’s honesty or integrity?	14	11	75	100

**Chart 9: Race for County Executive – Support for Each Candidate’s Issue Stands**



As depicted on Chart 9, there were not many peaks and troughs in the levels of candidate support by issues. Johnson edged Leopold on water quality, safety, traffic and affordable housing, while Leopold appeared most associated with lower taxes.



“Most striking was the consistently high percentage of those saying “undecided” on each issue – never going below 50 percent,” Nataf said.

Chart 10 shows the support for the candidates’ issue stands by party registration starting with Democrats. There were few highs and lows, with the lowest pro-Johnson score being 23 (honesty) but most ranging between 32 (keeping taxes low) and 46 percent (safety/security). Leopold’s issue stands followed an even narrower band among registered Democrats, between 5 (water quality and honesty) and 16 percent (government efficiency and low taxes). Indecision among Democrats ranged between 48 and 55 percent, except for honesty (72 percent). “While there was a clear partisan swing favorable to Johnson among Democratic voters, there was a striking level of uncertainty about the issues,” Nataf commented.

**Chart 10: Democratic Support for Candidates’ Issue Stands**

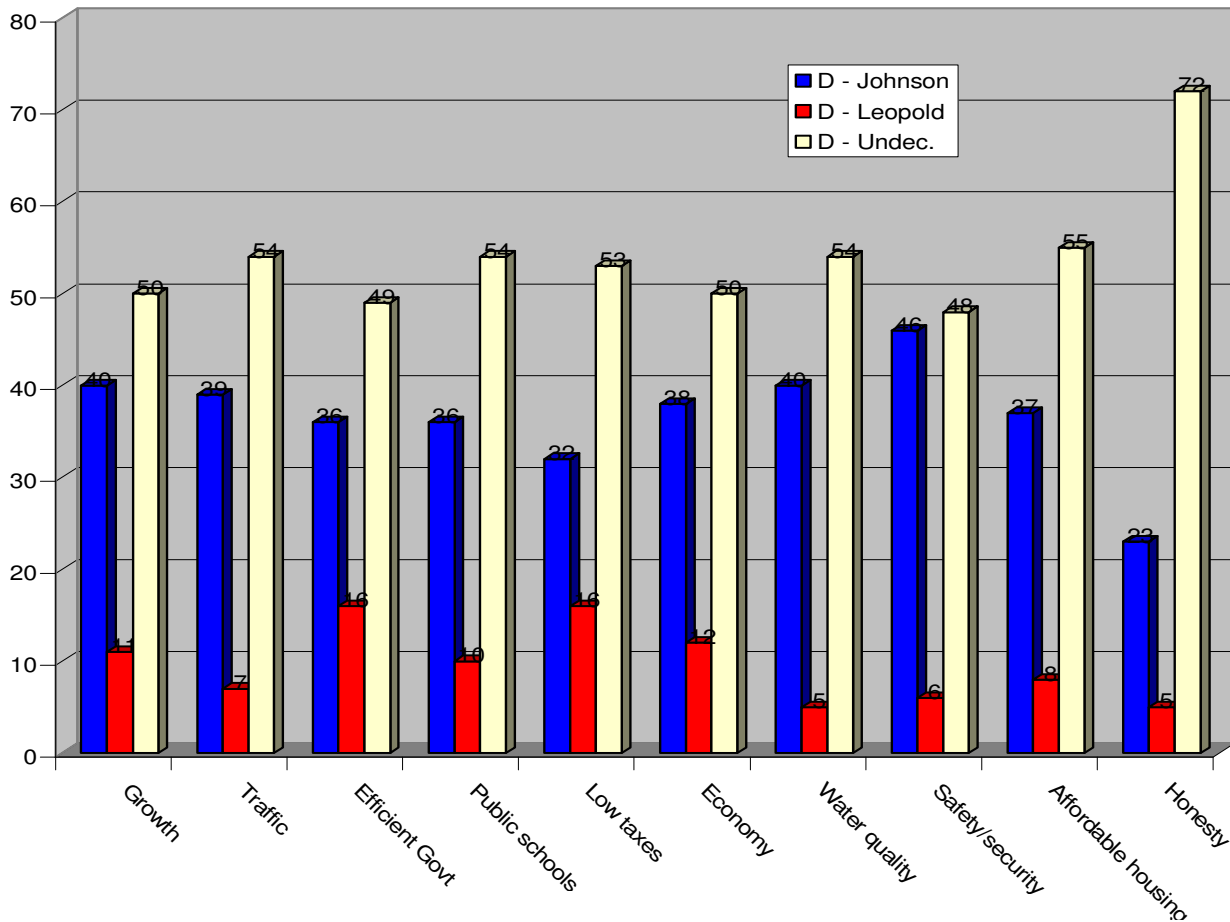


Chart 11 shows that this uncertainty was not restricted to Democrats. The range of variation in Republican support for Johnson’s issue stands paralleled that among Democrats in their views of Leopold: from 6 (low taxes, honesty) to 15 percent (safety/security). Republicans showed a similar range of favorability for their candidate: from 19 (honesty) to 46 percent (low taxes). The range for the undecided Republicans was again similar: 49 (low taxes) to 75 percent (honesty).

“Clearly, even those voters committed to a party did not have much confidence in their understanding of the candidates’ issue stands,” Nataf said.

**Chart 11: Republican Support for Candidates' Issue Stands**

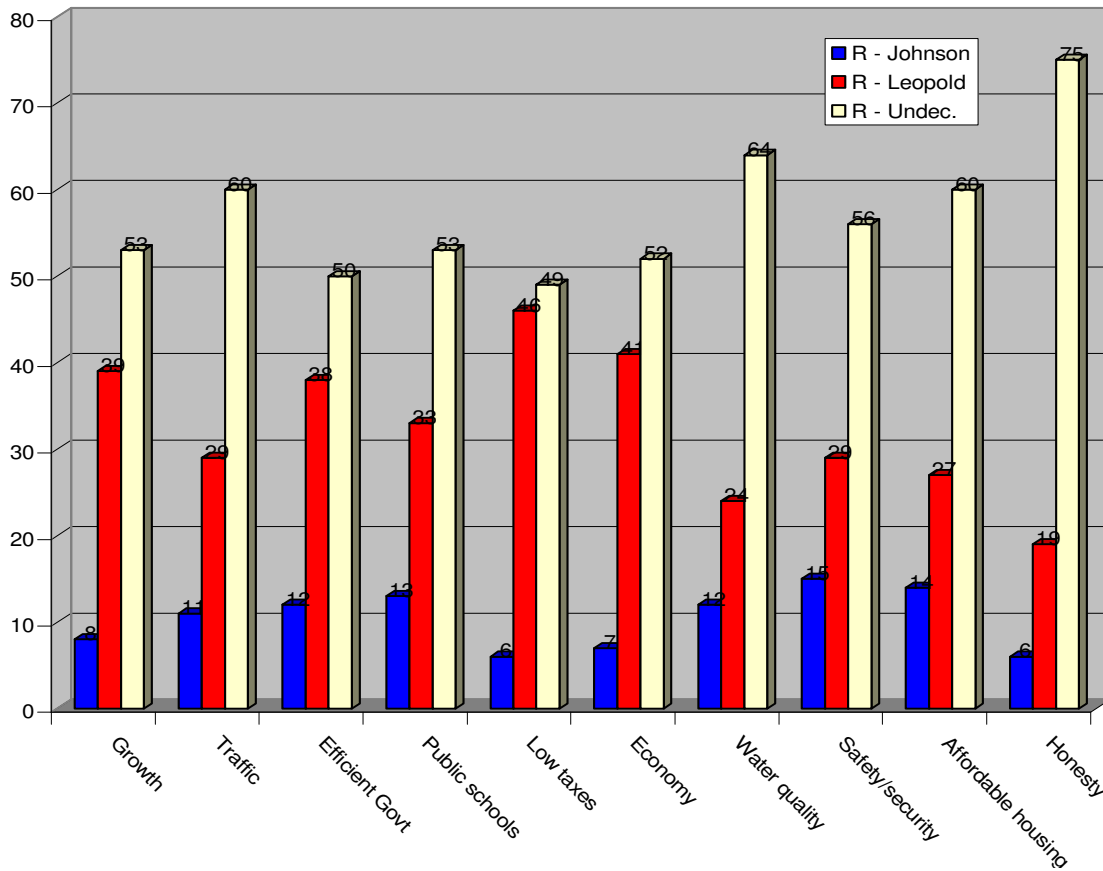
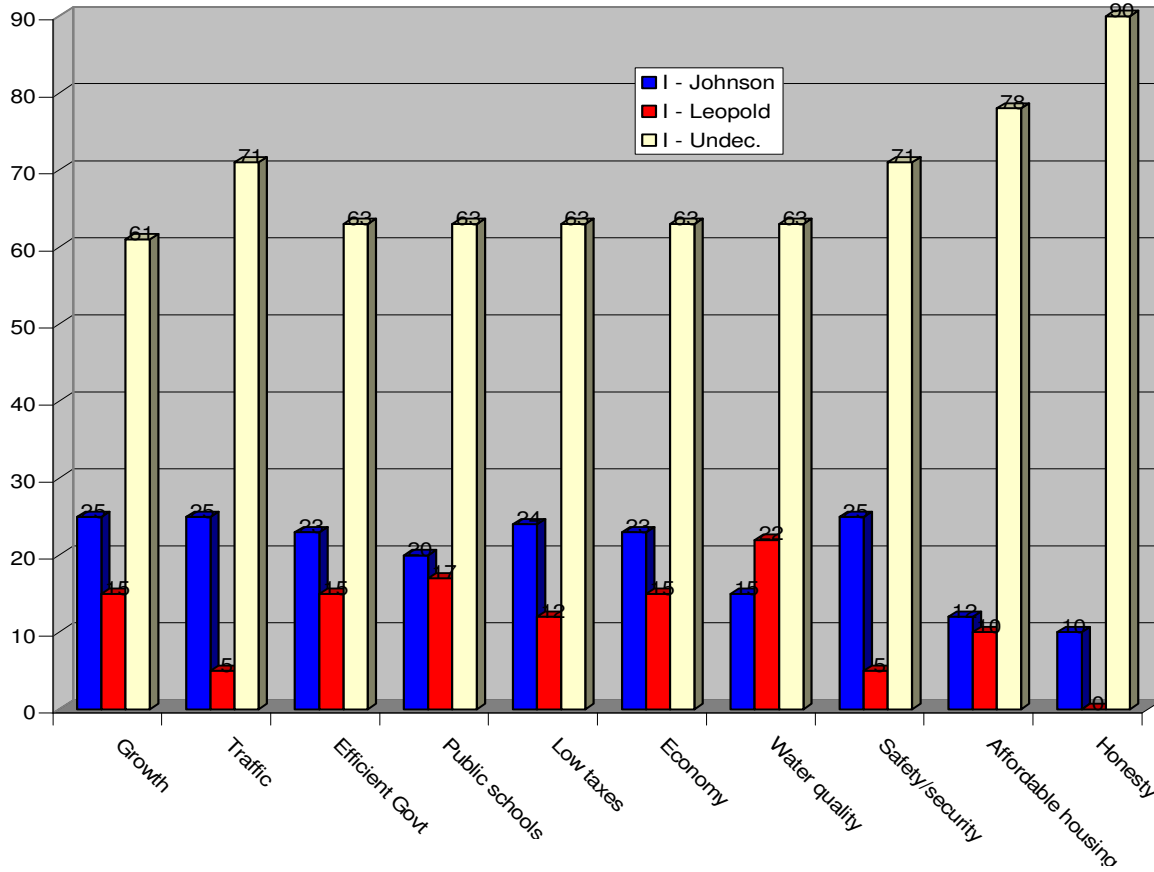


Chart 12 presents similar information regarding independent voters. Very high levels of indecision afflicted these voters as the range of “undecided” responses started at 61 percent (growth) and reached 90 percent (honesty). On all issue stands except “water quality,” Johnson maintained a small advantage over Leopold.

**Chart 12: Independent Support for Candidates' Issue Stands**



**The Race for County Executive – The “Most Important Issue”**

In the context of the county executive’s race, respondents were asked the open-ended question, “Which issue has the greatest importance to you in deciding for whom to vote?”

Six issues were the most frequently mentioned by respondents: growth (23 percent), education (17 percent), taxes (13 percent), the economy (12 percent), safety/security (9 percent) and transportation (7 percent). (See table 16a)

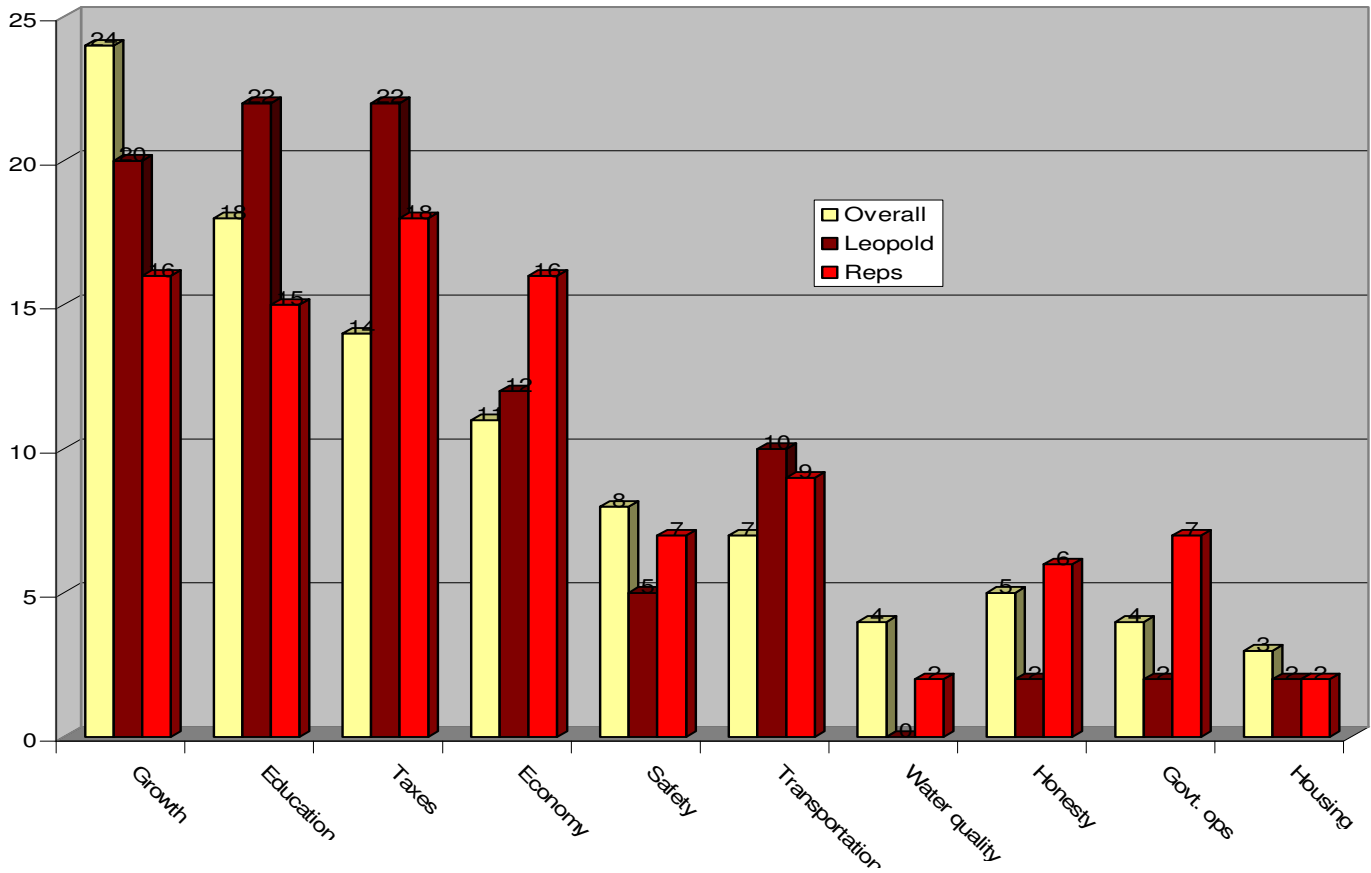
**Table 16a: Issues Mentioned as Most Important in County Executive Race**

Issue	Percent
Growth	23
Education	17
Taxes	13
Economy	12
Safety	9
Transportation	7
Honesty	5
Water quality	4
Govt. ops	4
Housing	3
Other	3
Total	100

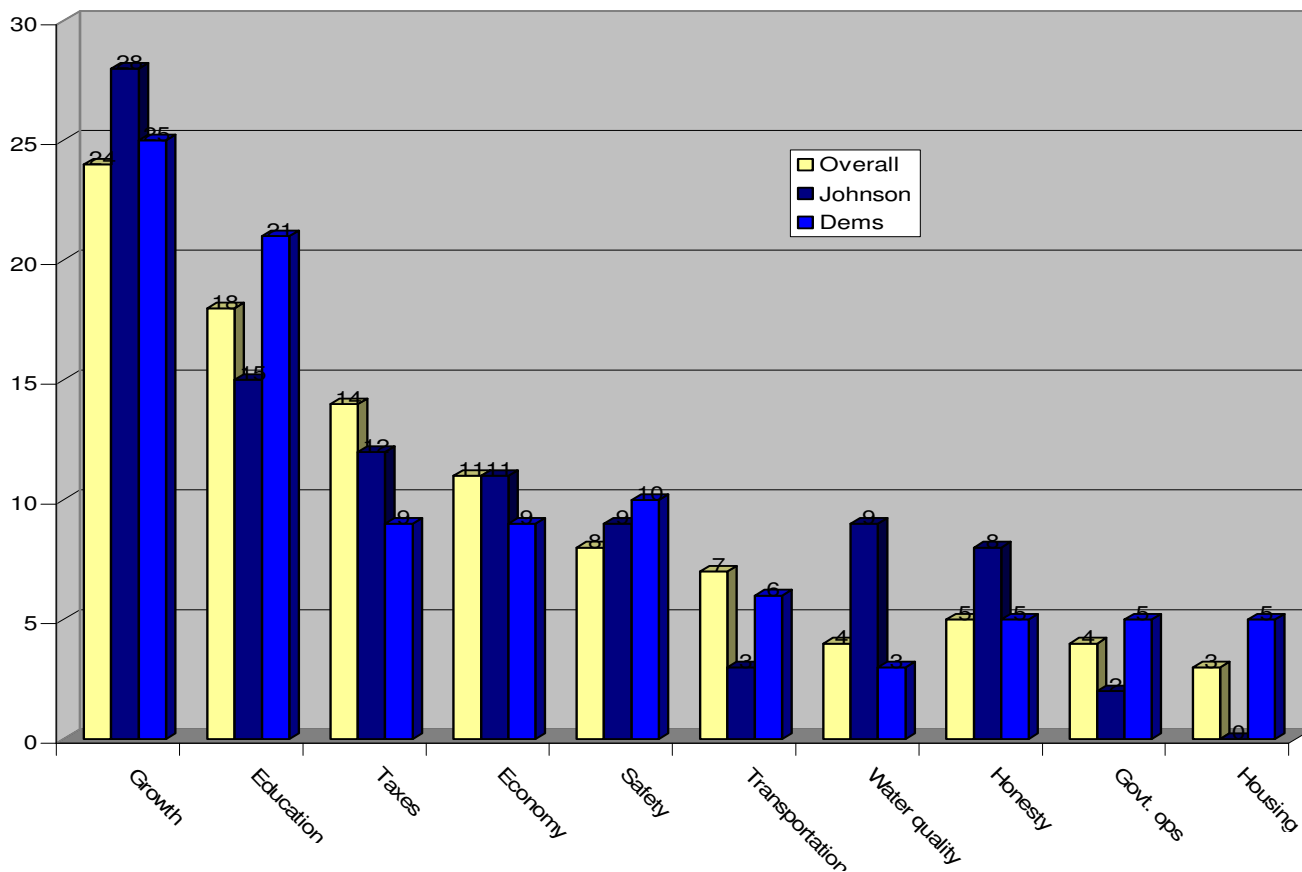
Chart 13 shows that Leopold supporters were more likely to value growth, education and taxes as issues than Republicans as a whole. Republicans, by contrast, were more likely to point to the economy, honesty and government operations. Leopold’s supporters came closest to the overall sample on the issue of the economy.

Chart 14 shows Johnson supporters as being more inclined to value the issues of growth, the economy, water quality, and honesty than Democrats as a whole. Democrats emphasized education and transportation more than Johnson supporters. Johnson’s supporters came closest to the overall sample on the issues of the economy and safety.

**Chart 13: Most Important Issue – Leopold Supporters, Registered Republicans and Overall**



**Chart 14: Most Important Issue - Johnson Supporters, Registered Democrats and Overall**



**Vote for County Executive**

Table 17 shows the sample’s voting preferences by political party and overall. Leopold was slightly more favored than Johnson, 38 to 37 percent. A substantial percentage (25 percent) was undecided. “Unless one candidate breaks loose, the election seems like it will go down to the wire,” Nataf said.

Looking at the vote from the perspective of those registered as party members or unaffiliated, the similarity in the percentages of each party’s voters that had made a decision (64 percent of Democrats, 61 percent of Republicans), defected to the other party’s candidate (14 percent of Democrats defecting to Leopold and 15 percent of Republicans defecting to Johnson) or remained undecided (22 percent of Democrats, 24 percent of Republicans) was impressive. “Unlike the situation with the governor’s race where Democrats were more likely to defect to Ehrlich, Johnson seems to have reduced the tendency for more Democrats to defect than Republicans,” Nataf said. “Even unaffiliated voters were evenly split!”

**Table 17: Vote for County Executive - Overall and by Party**

Candidate	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaffiliated
Johnson	37	64	15	28
Leopold	38	14	61	28
Undecided	25	22	24	44
Total	100	100	100	100

Table 18 displays the relationship between the percentage of some demographic categories and the vote for county executive. Compared to the race for governor, the relationships were less predictable. For example, the gender gap was very small. Nonpracticing “seculars” were more likely to vote for the Republican Leopold than the Democrat Johnson; evangelicals were less concentrated on the Republican side. There was, however, a 24 point gap among government workers, favorable (as might be expected) to the Democrat Johnson.

**Table 18: Vote for County Executive – Demographic Characteristics**

Candidate	Gender		Race		Religion				Employment		
	Men	Women	Afr-Am	Cauc	Nonpracticing	Evangelicals	Prot	Cath	Works Private Sector	Works Govt	Retired
Johnson	37	36	47	37	33	27	34	37	36	47	32
Leopold	42	34	31	40	39	42	51	36	44	23	44
Undecided	21	30	22	24	28	31	14	27	20	32	25
Total	100	100	100	101	100	100	99	100	100	102	101

### President Bush – Job Approval, Iraq Strategy, War on Terror

The survey asked about President Bush’s job approval. Following national trends as indicated by the Gallup Poll (Oct 9-12) placing the President’s job approval at 37 percent, the corresponding figure in the CSLI poll was 39 percent (see Table 19 for time series).

**Table 19: President Bush’s Job Approval**

Issue	Fall 2005	Spring 2006	Fall 2006
Approve	45	37	39
Disapprove	48	54	55
No answer	7	8	7
Total	100	99	101

As seen on Table 20, the predictable polarization among partisans was evident. The survey showed that there were more Republicans “defecting” to the “disapprove” category (29 percent) than Democrats defecting to the approved category (14 percent).

“Unaffiliated voters were closer to the Democrats in the percentage disapproving of Bush’s job performance, reinforcing the sense that the approval of the president’s job performance is narrowly concentrated within his partisan base,” Nataf said.

**Table 20: President Bush’s Job Approval by Party Registration**

Issue	Overall	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Approve	39	14	63	28
Disapprove	55	80	29	69
No opinion	7	6	8	4
Total	101	100	100	101

Two policy questions were also asked:

- “Do you think the Bush administration does – or does not – have a clear plan for handling the situation in Iraq?”
- “Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Bush administration is handling the war on terror?”

Only about one-third (31 percent) felt that the Bush administration had a clear plan for Iraq (65 percent it did not, 4 percent no opinion/answer). A slight majority (51 percent) approved of the Bush administration’s handling of the war on terror (43 percent disapproved, 6 percent no answer).

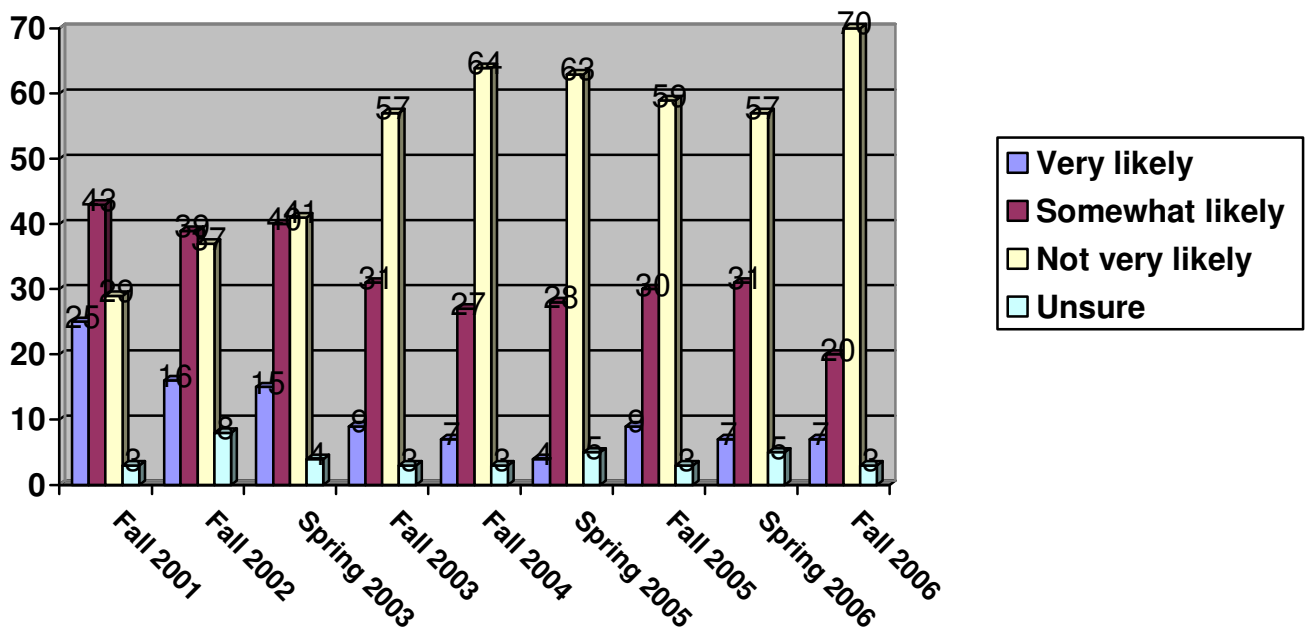
### Terrorism: Likelihood of Attack, Government Preparedness

For the last few years, CSLI polls have periodically asked about the likelihood of a terrorist attack on a location within Anne Arundel County. As shown on Table 21 and Chart 15, there was an increase from 57 to 70 percent saying that a terrorist attack is “not very likely.”

**Table 21: How likely is Terrorist Attack within the County during the Next Year?**

	Fall 2001	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Spring 2005	Fall 2005	Spring 2006	Fall 2006
Very likely	25	16	15	9	7	4	9	7	7
Somewhat likely	43	39	40	31	27	28	30	31	20
Not very likely	29	37	41	57	64	63	59	57	70
Unsure/no answer	3	8	4	3	3	5	2	5	3

**Chart 15: Likelihood of Terrorist Attack in County**



The next terrorism question asked: “How prepared do you believe local authorities to be in the event of a terrorist attack in Anne Arundel County?”

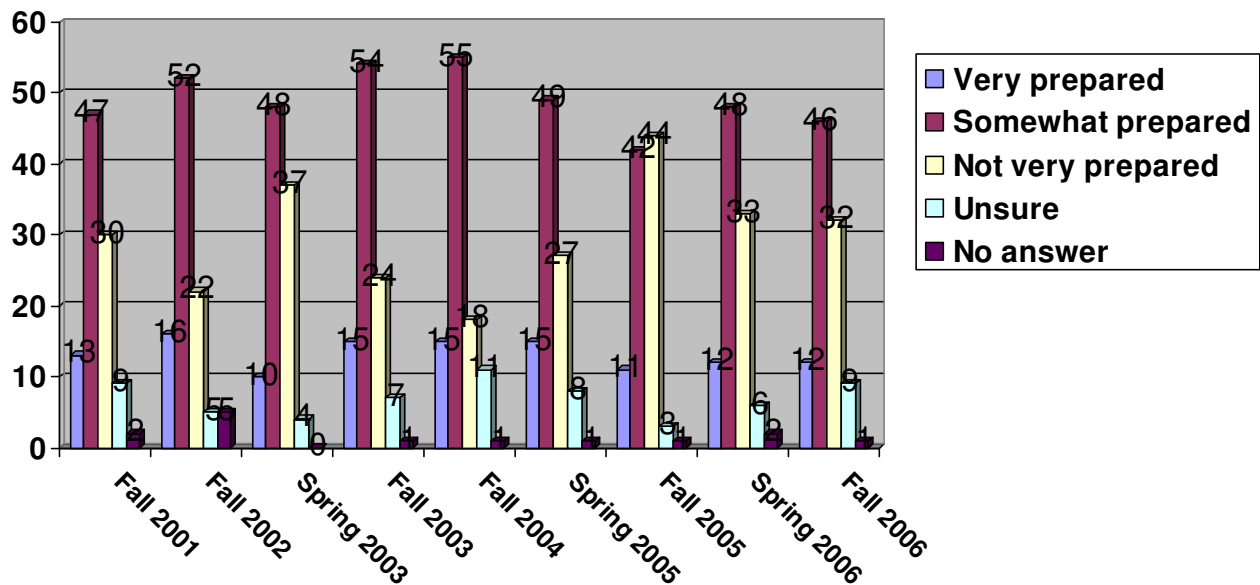
As seen on Table 22 and Chart 16, the answer choice “not very prepared” received its highest level ever recorded in a CSLI survey (44 percent) in fall 2005; by spring 2006, there was an apparent return to levels more typical of the “pre-Katrina” pattern (33 percent saying “not very prepared”). There was little change this fall (32 percent).

“Public opinion has mostly reverted to its pre-Katrina levels, although there is still much concern about government’s ability to respond to a terrorist event,” Nataf said.

**Table 22: Perceived Preparedness of Local Govt. in Event of Terrorism**

	Fall 2001	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003	Spring 2004	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Spring 2006	Fall 2006
<b>Very prepared</b>	13	16	10	15	15	15	11	12	12
<b>Somewhat prepared</b>	47	52	48	54	55	49	42	48	46
<b>Not very prepared</b>	30	22	37	24	18	27	44	33	32
<b>Unsure</b>	9	5	4	7	11	8	3	6	9
<b>No answer</b>	2	5	0	1	1	1	1	2	1
<b>Total</b>	101	100	99	101	100	100	101	101	100

**Chart 16: Government Preparedness**





## Housing

The fall 2006 survey concluded with a set of questions about affordable housing. Respondents were first asked, “How serious is the issue of finding affordable housing in our county?” Most respondents thought it was a “very serious” issue (60 percent) as shown on Table 23.

**Table 23: Seriousness of Finding Affordable Housing**

How serious?	Percent
Very serious	60
Somewhat serious	27
Not very serious	11
Unsure	3
Total	101

When asked to choose a purchase price range for affordable housing, most chose the range between \$100,000 and 200,000, considerably below the median selling price of housing in the county (around \$350,000). Another third of the sample identified the \$200,000 to \$300,000 price range as appropriate (see table 24).

**Table 24: Price Range for Affordable Housing**

Price Range	Percent
0-\$100,000	9
\$100-200,000	40
\$200-300,000	33
\$300,001+	13
Unsure	5
Total	100

About three-quarters of those polled (77 percent) were aware of government programs “to make it easier for individuals to purchase [a first home] with a smaller down payment or lower interest rate.” Only one-fifth had ever used such programs to actually purchase real estate.

Nearly two-thirds (62 percent) thought that government “should be active in finding ways to enable people to purchase their first homes even if it costs tax dollars (Table 25).

**Table 25: Should Government Help 1<sup>st</sup> Time Buyers?**

Should govt. help?	Percent
Yes	62
No	30
Other answer	3
Unsure	5
Total	100

As shown on Table 21, the great majority of those contacted owned their current homes (86 percent) which typically was a “detached single family home” (77 percent). Most had lived in their homes for a median of 9 years.

**Table 21: Home Ownership, Type of Home**

<b>Price Range</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Own	86
Rent	9
Live with roommates or relatives	5
<b>Total</b>	100
<b>Type of Home</b>	
Detached single family	77
Townhouse	13
Condo	4
Apartment/Other	6
No answer	1
<b>Total</b>	101

## **Methodology**

The survey polled a random sample of 382 county residents who were at least 18 years old. Phone numbers were derived from a database of listed numbers as well as computer chosen, randomly assigned numbers. There is about a 5 percent statistical margin of error for the overall sample; the error rate is higher for subgroups such as “men” or “Independents.” The dataset was weighted by demographic variables such as party registration and gender to better represent the general population. 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](http://www2.aacc.edu/csli), where this press release is posted under “Recent Surveys.”

# CSLI Semi-Annual Survey – Fall, 2006

(Note: all values are percentages, weighted by party and gender, unless noted)

**1. What do you think is the most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time? (Note: questions 1 through 4 not weighted and includes all cases)**

Problem	Circle one
Crime	11
Terrorism	0
Drugs (illegal drugs, use or sale)	3
Growth/overpopulation- too much development	21
Traffic congestion/transportation problems	12
Education, problems with schools	16
Taxes – too high	9
Inefficient government, wasteful spending	1
Corruption in government/politicians are bad	0
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	4
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	7
Other answer (write in:	10
Unsure/No Answer	7

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

- (1) **Right** direction            51%
- (2) **Wrong** direction        29%
- (0) **Unsure** or don't know   20%

**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 9% (2) Good 62% (3) Only Fair 23% (4) Poor 3% (0) Don't Know/No Answer 3%

**3.1 How would you describe race relations in Anne Arundel County? Would you say they were generally good, fair or poor?**

- (1) Good 46% (2) Fair 44% (3) Poor 7% (0) No answer 2%

**3.2 How satisfied are you with existing programs and activities that promote multicultural understanding in my community – very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or not very satisfied?**

(1) Very satisfied 20%      (2) Somewhat satisfied 43%      (3) Not very satisfied 17%  
 (0) No answer 20%

*The next few questions deal with the upcoming elections for state and local offices on November 7th.*

**4. Do you think you will be able to get to the polls that day or vote by absentee ballot?**

(1) Yes 89%    (2) No 6%    (3) Not sure 2%    (0) No answer 2%

*(Note: Subsequent question values are based on only those saying they are voting, weighted by party and gender)*

**4.1 How interested are you in these upcoming elections – very, somewhat or not very interested?**

(1) Very 69%    (2) Somewhat 25%    (3) Not very interested 6%    (0) No Answer 0%

**4.2 Thinking first about the governor’s race between Democrat Martin O’Malley and Republican Robert Ehrlich, how well informed do you think you are about the candidates’ stands on such issues as education, health care, or utility costs – very informed, somewhat or not very informed?**

(1) Very 47%    (2) Somewhat 43%    (3) Not very informed 10%    (0) No Answer 0%

**4.3 When I mention an issue, tell me if you are more favorable to the stands of the Democrat Martin O’Malley, or the Republican Robert Ehrlich about...**

	On this issue are you more favorable to O’Malley or Ehrlich?		
	O’Malley	Ehrlich	Undecided
4.3a Keeping taxes as low as possible	29	50	21
4.3b Allowing slot machines in Maryland	31	48	21
4.3c Controlling the cost of higher education	41	35	24
4.3d Being sensitive to the needs of working families	43	34	22
4.3e Controlling the cost of electricity	38	31	31
4.3f Cleaning up the Bay	27	36	37
4.3g Helping to make health care more available to everyone	40	28	33
4.3h Strengthening Maryland’s economy	30	50	20
4.3i Do you have a preference about either candidate’s honesty and integrity? (circle the number of the candidate preferred)	21	33	47
4.3j Do your political party leanings make you inclined to vote for one candidate over the other?	28	28	43

**4.4 Which issue has the greatest importance to you in deciding for whom to vote?**

(Enter the number of the issue or a few words) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Education	22
Economy	15
Taxes	14
Honesty, character	8
Crime	6
Health care	5
Growth	3
Cost of higher education	3
Environment	3
Working people	3
Other	3
Electricity	2
Family values	2
Slots	2
Poverty	2
Whole record	2
Political party	2
Guns/gun control	1
Foreign policy, Iraq	1
Immigration	1
Transportation	0
Total	100

**5. At this time, would you say you are more likely to vote for Mr. O’Malley, Mr. Ehrlich, someone else, or would you be likely not to vote at all for the governor’s race?**

<b>Choices</b>	<b>Circle one</b>
Vote for O’Malley	38
Vote for Ehrlich	47
Someone else	2
Undecided (volunteered)	14
Total	101

**6.0 Turning now to the race for County Executive between Democrat George Johnson and Republican John Leopold, how well informed do you think you are about the candidates’ stands on such issues as managing growth, affordable housing or taxes – very informed, somewhat or not very informed?**

(1) Very 12% (2) Somewhat 26% (3) Not very informed 60% (0) No Answer 2%

**When I mention an issue, tell me if you are more favorable to the stands of the Democrat George Johnson or the Republican John Leopold about**

Issue	On this issue are you more favorable to Johnson or Leopold?			
	Johnson	Leopold	Undecided	Total
6.1 Better managing growth in the County	24	24	52	100
6.2 Reducing traffic congestion	25	17	59	100
6.3 Making County government more efficient	24	26	51	101
6.4 Improving the County's public schools	24	22	54	100
6.5 Keep taxes low	19	29	52	100
6.6 Encouraging economic development	22	26	52	100
6.7 Helping to preserve local streams and improve water quality	24	16	60	100
6.8 Providing safety and security in our neighborhoods	30	16	54	100
6.9 Helping to provide more affordable housing in our County	24	17	59	100
6.10 Do you have a preference about either candidate's honesty or integrity?	14	11	75	100

**6.11 Which issue has the greatest importance to you in deciding for whom to vote?**

(Enter the number of the issue or a few words) \_\_\_\_\_

Issue	Percent
Growth	23
Education	17
Taxes	13
Economy	12
Safety	9
Transportation	7
Honesty	5
Water quality	4
Govt. ops	4
Housing	3
Other	3
Total	100

**7. At this time, would you say you are more likely to vote for Democrat George Johnson, Republican John Leopold, or would you be likely not to vote at all for the county executive's race?**

Choices	Circle one
Vote for George Johnson	37
Vote for John Leopold	38
Undecided	25
Total	100

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

(1) Approve 39% (2) Disapprove 55% (0) No answer 7%

**7.2 Do you think the Bush administration does – or does not – have a clear plan for handling the situation in Iraq?**

(1) Yes it does 31% (2) No it doesn't 65% (3) No opinion 3% (0) No answer 1%

**7.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Bush administration is handling the war on terror?**

(1) Approve 51% (2) Disapprove 43% (0) No answer 6%

**7.4 In your opinion, how likely is a terrorist attack on a location within Anne Arundel County over the next year: very likely, somewhat likely or not very likely?**

(1) Very likely	7%
(2) Somewhat likely	20%
(3) Not very likely	70%
(0) Unsure, no answer	3%

**7.5 How prepared do you believe local authorities to be in the event of a terrorist attack in Anne Arundel County: very prepared, somewhat prepared, not very prepared?**

(1) Very prepared	12%
(2) Somewhat prepared	46%
(3) Not very prepared	32%
(4) Unsure	9%
(0) No answer	1%

*Turning now to some questions about housing...*

**8. How serious is the issue of finding affordable housing in our County - very, somewhat, or not very serious?**

(1) Very serious	60%
(2) somewhat serious	27%
(3) not very serious	11%
(0) no answer	3%

**9. When you think about affordable housing, what purchase price range comes to mind?**

(1) 0-100,000	9%
(2) 100,001-200,000	40%
(3) 200,001-300,000	33%
(4) 300,001 or more	13%
(0) Don't know, No answer	5%

**When buying a first home, various government programs are available to make it easier for individuals to purchase with a smaller down payment, or lower interest rate?**

**10.1 Are you aware that such programs exist?**

- (1) Yes 77%
- (2) No 20%
- (0) No answer 3%

**10.2 Have you attempted to purchase a home using such government programs?**

- (1) Yes 20%
- (2) No 79
- (0) No answer 1%

**10.3 Do you think that government should be active in finding ways to enable people to purchase their first homes even if it costs tax dollars?**

- (1) Yes government should be active 62%
- (2) No that would cost tax dollars 30%
- (3) Other answer 3%
- (0) No answer 5%

**10.4 Do you own or rent you current home or do you live with roommates or relatives?**

- (1) Own 86%
- (2) Rent 9%
- (3) Roommate 1%
- (4) Relatives 4%
- (5) Other 0%
- (0) No answer 0%

**10.5. Which of the following best describes your current home:**

- (1) A detached single family home 77%
- (2) a townhouse 13%
- (3) a condo 4%
- (4) an apartment 6%
- (5) No answer 1%



**10.6 How many years have you lived in your current home? \_\_\_\_\_ years**

Lived in house - years

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.00	7	2.0	2.0	2.0
	1.00	9	2.5	2.5	4.4
	2.00	23	6.0	6.0	10.4
	2.50	2	.5	.5	10.9
	3.00	41	10.8	10.8	21.7
	4.00	23	6.1	6.1	27.9
	5.00	33	8.7	8.7	36.5
	6.00	17	4.6	4.6	41.1
	7.00	19	5.0	5.1	46.2
	8.00	4	1.0	1.0	47.2
	9.00	13	3.4	3.4	50.6
	10.00	25	6.5	6.6	57.2
	11.00	8	2.0	2.0	59.3
	12.00	7	1.8	1.8	61.0
	13.00	7	1.8	1.8	62.8
	14.00	4	1.2	1.2	64.0
	15.00	16	4.3	4.3	68.3
	16.00	11	2.8	2.8	71.1
	17.00	1	.3	.3	71.4
	18.00	13	3.4	3.4	74.8
	19.00	3	.8	.8	75.6
	20.00	7	2.0	2.0	77.6
	21.00	4	1.1	1.1	78.6
	22.00	3	.7	.7	79.4
	23.00	7	1.8	1.8	81.2
	24.00	5	1.4	1.5	82.6
	25.00	6	1.6	1.6	84.2
	26.00	2	.5	.5	84.7
	27.00	3	.7	.7	85.4
	27.50	1	.3	.3	85.7
	28.00	3	.7	.7	86.4
	29.00	3	.7	.7	87.2
	30.00	15	3.9	3.9	91.0
	31.00	1	.3	.3	91.4
	33.00	1	.2	.2	91.6
	34.00	2	.5	.5	92.1
	35.00	3	.9	.9	93.0
	36.00	5	1.3	1.3	94.3
	37.00	2	.4	.4	94.8
	40.00	8	2.0	2.1	96.8
	41.00	3	.9	.9	97.7
	42.00	2	.4	.4	98.1
	46.00	1	.3	.3	98.4
	47.00	2	.5	.5	98.9
	48.00	1	.3	.3	99.2
	50.00	1	.3	.3	99.5
	51.00	1	.3	.3	99.8
	65.00	1	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	378	99.7	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.3		
Total		379	100.0		

**11. We are getting near the end, but first I would like to ask you a couple of questions about planning for the future. Which of these ideas best describes how you think about the future?**

- (1) I usually take each day as it comes. 22%
- (2) I usually react to the future as it unfolds. 8%
- (3) I try to keep up with trends and base my actions on what I believe to be coming. 21%
- (4) I try to keep up with trends and develop new ideas to guide my future actions. 34%
- (5) Don't know 7%
- (0) No answer 6%

**11.1 Which of these do you believe would be the best way for people to act? (Repeat answers if necessary)**

- (1) I usually take each day as it comes. 15%
- (2) I usually react to the future as it unfolds. 7%
- (3) I try to keep up with trends and base my actions on what I believe to be coming. 21%
- (4) I try to keep up with trends and develop new ideas to guide my future actions. 34%
- (5) Don't know 12%
- (0) No answer 11%

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

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

	Unweighted	Weighted
(1) Democratic	42	41
(2) Republican	38	47
(3) Independent	11	12
(4) None (NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE)	3	0
(5) Other (e.g., Green Party)	1	1
(0) No Answer	5	0

**12.1 If respondents say Democrat or Republican, ask:**

**Do you consider yourself to be a strong, weak or independent (name of party – Democrat/Republican)?**

- (1) Strong      (2) Weak      (3) Independent

Partisanship	Democrats	Republicans	Overall
Strong	49	39	42
Weak	9	9	10
Independent	43	52	48
Total	101	100	100

**12.2 If respondents say “independent” ask: At this time do you find yourself leaning more towards the Democratic or Republican candidates?**

(1) Democratic (2) Republican (3) Neither (4) Other answer (0) No answer

<b>Leans...</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Democratic	36
Republican	33
Neither	20
Other answer	5
No answer	6
Total	100

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

- (1) Conservative 33%
- (2) Moderate 47%
- (3) Liberal 20%
- (0) Other, No Answer 0%

14. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

(0) No Answer

age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid				
6.00	1	.3	.3	.3
18.00	4	.9	1.0	1.2
19.00	2	.6	.6	1.8
20.00	2	.5	.5	2.4
21.00	2	.5	.5	2.9
22.00	1	.3	.3	3.2
24.00	1	.3	.3	3.5
25.00	3	.9	.9	4.3
26.00	5	1.4	1.5	5.8
27.00	4	1.1	1.1	7.0
28.00	5	1.3	1.3	8.3
29.00	5	1.3	1.3	9.6
30.00	3	.7	.7	10.3
31.00	2	.6	.6	10.9
32.00	3	.8	.8	11.7
33.00	5	1.2	1.3	12.9
34.00	7	2.0	2.0	14.9
35.00	14	3.6	3.7	18.7
36.00	11	2.9	2.9	21.6
37.00	1	.3	.3	22.0
38.00	2	.6	.6	22.6
39.00	4	1.0	1.1	23.6
40.00	11	2.9	3.0	26.6
41.00	9	2.4	2.5	29.1
42.00	8	2.1	2.2	31.3
43.00	8	2.0	2.1	33.3
44.00	6	1.6	1.6	35.0
45.00	17	4.6	4.7	39.7
46.00	6	1.7	1.7	41.4
47.00	8	2.2	2.2	43.6
48.00	12	3.1	3.2	46.8
49.00	4	1.1	1.1	47.9
50.00	13	3.3	3.4	51.3
51.00	4	1.0	1.1	52.3
52.00	6	1.6	1.6	54.0
53.00	11	3.0	3.1	57.0
54.00	4	1.0	1.0	58.0
55.00	5	1.3	1.3	59.3
56.00	6	1.6	1.6	61.0
57.00	5	1.4	1.4	62.3
58.00	6	1.5	1.5	63.8
59.00	13	3.4	3.5	67.3
60.00	16	4.1	4.2	71.5
61.00	8	2.0	2.1	73.6
62.00	7	2.0	2.0	75.7
63.00	12	3.2	3.2	78.9
64.00	5	1.3	1.3	80.2
65.00	9	2.3	2.4	82.6
66.00	13	3.3	3.4	86.0
67.00	6	1.6	1.7	87.7
68.00	4	1.1	1.1	88.8
69.00	2	.6	.6	89.4
70.00	3	.9	.9	90.4
71.00	1	.3	.3	90.7
72.00	5	1.3	1.3	92.0
74.00	4	1.0	1.0	93.0
75.00	4	1.1	1.1	94.1
76.00	2	.5	.5	94.6
77.00	2	.5	.5	95.1
78.00	8	2.2	2.2	97.4
79.00	2	.5	.5	97.9
80.00	6	1.5	1.6	99.5
81.00	2	.5	.5	100.0
Total	370	97.6	100.0	
Missing				
.00	2	.6		
System	7	1.8		
Total	9	2.4		
Total	379	100.0		

**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 a 4 year bachelor's degree 27%
(2) a high school diploma 11%	(5) post graduate work 29%
(3) some college 22%	(0) No Answer 0%
(4) Completed a 2 year associate college degree 10%	

**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 5%
- (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000 13%
- (3) \$50,001 to \$75,000 14%
- (4) \$75,001-\$100,000 16%
- (5) \$100,001-\$150,000 25%
- (6) Over \$150,000 12%
- (0) No Answer 16%

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

Employed full time for a company in the private sector or self employed	44%
Employed full time for government	18%
Employed part-time	7%
Retired	22%
Unemployed and seeking a job	3%
Unemployed and not seeking a job	5%
No answer	2%

**18. Regarding race, how would you describe yourself?**

- (1) African American 10%
- (2) White/Caucasian 86%
- (3) Latino 0%
- (4) Asian 1%
- (5) Other or mixed racial background 2%
- (0) No Answer 5%

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

- (1) Non-practicing, Agnostic or Atheist 20%
- (2) Evangelical or born again Christian 16%
- (3) Protestant 22%
- (4) Catholic 23%
- (5) Jewish 1%
- (6) Other 12%
- (0) No Answer 7%

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

(1) Single 15%	(2) Married 66%	(3) Separated or Divorced 12%	(4) Widowed 4%	(5) Other 1%	(0) Won't say 2%
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**21. Do you have any children in Anne Arundel public or private schools?**

- (1) Yes 31%
- (2) No 65%
- (0) No answer 4%

**22. If YES ASK: Would they be in public schools, private schools or both?**

- (1) public 21%
- (2) private 6%
- (3) both 4%
- (0) no answer or no children 69%

**23. Gender of respondent to whom you were speaking:**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Unweighted</b>	<b>Weighted</b>
<b>Males</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

## 24. Zipcode

zip

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20711.00	3	.9	.9	.9
	20724.00	6	1.5	1.5	2.4
	20733.00	2	.5	.5	2.9
	20751.00	6	1.6	1.6	4.5
	20755.00	1	.3	.3	4.7
	20758.00	1	.3	.3	5.0
	20764.00	3	.9	.9	5.8
	20778.00	2	.5	.5	6.4
	20779.00	1	.2	.2	6.6
	21012.00	22	5.7	5.7	12.4
	21032.00	5	1.3	1.3	13.7
	21035.00	8	2.2	2.2	15.9
	21037.00	9	2.4	2.4	18.3
	21043.00	3	.8	.8	19.1
	21054.00	3	.9	.9	20.0
	21060.00	8	2.2	2.2	22.2
	21061.00	34	9.0	9.0	31.2
	21076.00	5	1.3	1.3	32.5
	21090.00	3	.9	.9	33.4
	21108.00	16	4.2	4.2	37.6
	21112.00	1	.3	.3	37.9
	21113.00	25	6.7	6.7	44.6
	21114.00	21	5.6	5.7	50.3
	21121.00	1	.3	.3	50.6
	21122.00	63	16.5	16.6	67.2
	21140.00	4	1.2	1.2	68.4
	21144.00	16	4.1	4.2	72.6
	21146.00	37	9.8	9.8	82.4
	21401.00	44	11.5	11.6	93.9
	21403.00	17	4.5	4.5	98.5
	21404.00	2	.4	.4	98.9
	21405.00	1	.2	.2	99.2
	21409.00	2	.6	.6	99.8
	21410.00	1	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	377	99.5	100.0	
Missing	System	2	.5		
Total		379	100.0		