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Center for the Study of Local Issues
Anne Arundel Community College

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Survey Finds Public Mixed on Taxes

According to a survey conducted October 20-23 by the Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) at Anne Arundel Community College, county residents have mixed feelings about current government deficits and the need for new taxes to fund services and programs.

The public was evenly divided on the question of whether “cutting programs” (34 percent) or “increasing taxes” (35 percent) should be emphasized to deal with the state deficit. There was a general reluctance to consider new taxes, preferring to rely mostly on “new sources of revenue such as slot machines.” While there was some sympathy for creating specific taxes if those were targeted to certain purposes such as supporting public safety, or increasing impact fees on new housing developments, broad-based tax increases were not favored.

While the survey focused on taxation and deficit issues, it also focused some attention on efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, the introduction of slot machines in Maryland, terrorism, economic conditions as well as several benchmark questions. These are outlined in detail below.

Most Important Problem – Taxes Rise as Concern

A year ago, the sniper shootings in Maryland and Virginia led to a notable increase in the percent of citizens saying that “terrorism” was the most important county problem (11 percent in October 2002, up from 1 percent in March 2002). In 2003, this issue has virtually disappeared, dropping to 2 percent in spring and sinking below 1 percent in fall. According to Dan Nataf, director, “despite the continuing ‘war on terrorism,’ residents appear to have refocused their energies on more traditional local concerns.”

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

Problem	Spring	Fall
Crime	4	5
Terrorism	2	0
Drugs	3	1
Growth/overpopulation- too much development	12	15
Traffic congestion/problems	9	11
Education, problems with schools	17	17
Taxes – too high	9	14
Inefficient government, wasteful spending	2	1
Corruption in government/politicians are bad	0	1
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	5	7
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	14	8
Other answer	8	11
Unsure/No Answer	13	9

Note: Values in this and all other tables are in percentages.

As shown on Table 1, the survey found a significant jump in the percentage of respondents pointing to taxes as a key issue, up from 9 percent to 14 percent, the highest level in recent years. Concern over the economy diminished somewhat (from 14 percent in spring to 8 percent in fall), but remained at historically high levels.

The other key issues either held steady or showed small changes. Growth and development was up slightly from 12 percent last spring to 15 percent this fall. Education was unchanged at 17 percent. Traffic congestion or issues related to transportation (up from 9 percent to 11 percent) along with crime (4 percent, 5 percent) and the environment (5 percent, 7 percent) were other items experiencing little change. Tables 1 and 2 as well as graph 1 show some of the trends. (Note that Table 3 combines “growth” and “transportation” into “Growth” as well as “crime” and “drugs” into “Crime” for reporting and comparison purposes).

¹ All values in tables are percentages unless otherwise noted. Tables may not equal 100 percent due to rounding. For details, see the attached questionnaire.

Graph 1: Most Important Issue - Trends

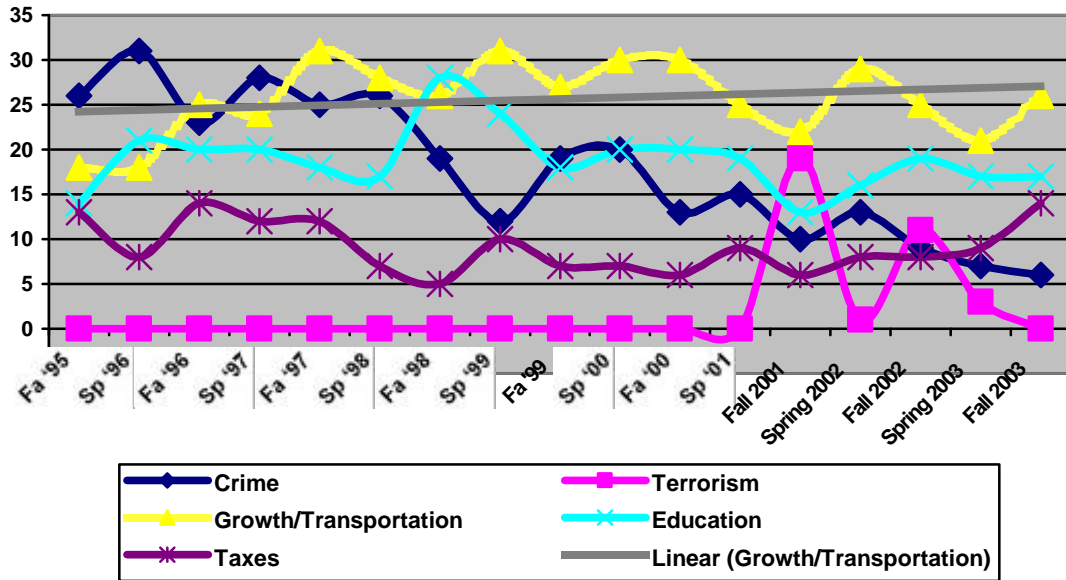


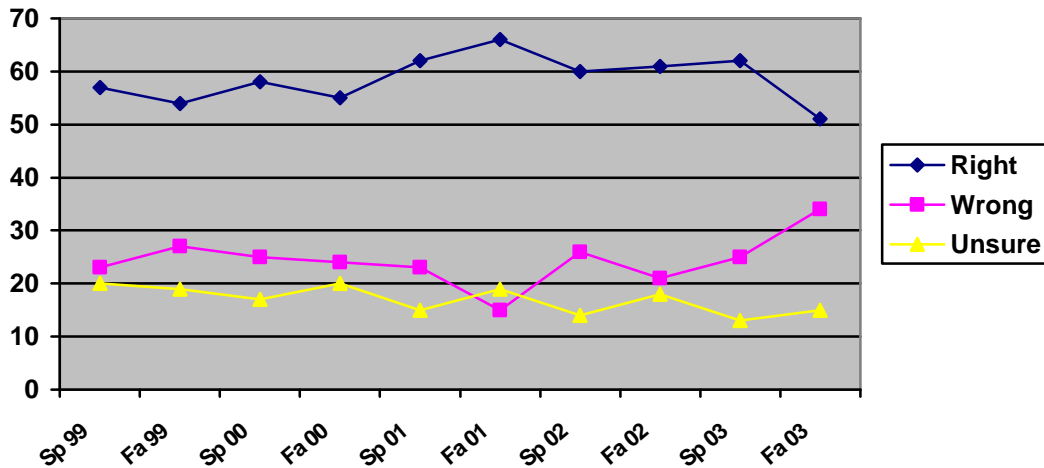
Table 2: “Most Important Problem facing Residents” Fall 1995 to Fall 2003

Problem	Fa '95	Sp '96	Fa '96	Sp '97	Fa '97	Sp '98	Fa '98	Sp '99	Fa '99	Sp '00	Fa '00	Sp '01	Fa '01	Sp '01	Fa '02	Sp '03	Fa '03
Crime	26	31	23	28	25	26	19	12	19	20	13	15	10	13	13	7	6
Terrorism	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	1	11	2	0
Growth/Transportation	18	18	25	24	31	28	26	31	27	30	30	25	22	28	25	21	26
Education	14	21	20	20	18	17	28	24	18	20	20	19	13	16	19	17	17
Taxes	13	8	14	12	12	7	5	10	7	7	6	9	6	8	8	9	14

County, State and Country – Right or Wrong Direction?

The survey included a CSLI benchmark question: “Overall, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?” Graph 2 shows that in the past, the results did not vary much, hovering around 60 percent. The fall survey marked the first notable change from that plateau, as the percentage saying ‘right direction’ dropped to only 51 percent (34 percent saying “wrong direction” and 15 percent being unsure). Nataf remarked, “Clearly, there has been an increase in concern about the county’s situation, as the gap between positive and negative assessment has dropped below 20 percent for the first time.”

Graph 2: County - Right or Wrong Direction



The survey also asked respondents to characterize both the state and the “country as a whole” in terms of right/wrong directions. The state did a bit better than the county in this regard, with 56 percent saying ‘right’ direction (31 percent wrong direction, 15 percent unsure). The country as a whole did most poorly, with only 49 percent saying ‘right’ direction and 43 percent saying ‘wrong’ (only 8 percent unsure).

Tax/Revenue Cap – Finally Perceived as Having an Impact?

Perhaps indicative of public concern about the condition of the county, the percentage of respondents agreeing that the tax/revenue cap has “hurt the ability of the county to provide services to its citizens” rose to its highest level ever: 45 percent. That was a 12 percent increase since the last survey in spring.² (See table 3). Nataf pointed out that “we have been seeing an increase in the percentage saying that the revenue cap had diminished the county’s ability to provide services since fall 2002, but the rise this time was unprecedented.”

Table 3: Percentage Agreeing that Revenue Cap has Hurt Ability of County to Provide Services: Spring 1996 to Fall 2003

Question/Survey	Sp '96	Fa '96	Sp '97	Fa '97	Sp '98	Fa '98	Sp '99	Fa '99	Sp '00	Fa '00	Sp '01	Fa '01	Sp '02	Fa '02	Sp '03	Fa '03
% Agreeing	43	38	29	37	28	27	27	30	24	25	29	25	21	32	32	45

Economic Conditions and Issues – No Additional Decline

The downturn in public perceptions of the state of the local economy found last spring was unchanged this fall (see Table 4). Last spring, the combined total saying either “excellent” or “good” had declined from 66 percent to 55 percent, with the largest growth among those saying “fair” (from 27 percent to 36 percent). The value this fall was 56 percent, with 35 percent saying “fair.”

² 43 percent said that the tax/revenue cap had *not* hurt the ability of the county to provide services, while another 12 percent had no opinion.

“The continuation of anxieties about the local economy may have contributed to the sentiment that the county was not headed in the right direction,” offered Nataf. Those who thought the county was going in the wrong direction were much more pessimistic about the local economy: Only 40 percent of them thought the local economy was “good” or “excellent,” compared to 69 percent who thought so among those saying that the county was going the right direction.

Table 4: Perceptions of Economic Conditions

	Spring 2002	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003
Excellent	14	6	5	5
Good	60	60	50	51
Fair	21	27	36	35
Poor	4	4	6	7
Don't know	1	3	2	2
Total	101	100	99	100

The survey also asked respondents to rate “economic prospects for Anne Arundel County for the next five years” but the results did not differ much from the sample’s view of the current situation, with only a slight increase in the percentage that were unsure (from 2 percent to 5 percent).

Taxes and Dealing with Government Deficits

The survey focused much of its attention on taxes and government deficits. The first question on this theme asked respondents to say whether “cutting programs” or “increasing taxes” was preferable as a method for dealing with the state deficit.

Table 5: Preferences for Cutting Programs or Increasing Taxes

Cutting programs	34
Increasing taxes	35
<i>Volunteered other suggestion</i>	18
Don't know	13

The sample was split on which of these alternatives was more desirable (see Table 5). Nearly one-fifth (18 percent) did not like having to make a choice between these two alternatives and instead volunteered a different response to the interviewers. Such responses generally favored “cutting waste” or introducing slot machines.

The next question started out by pointing to the fact that most state revenue was generated by two taxes, personal income tax and sales tax. Respondents were then offered a choice of means for dealing with likely deficits: raising these taxes, increasing other (unnamed) taxes, creating altogether new taxes, relying on new sources of revenue such as slots or reducing spending.

Table 6: Which is the Best Approach for Dealing with the State Budget Deficit

Increase these taxes (personal and/or sales)	13
Increase other taxes	7
Create other new taxes	4
Rely on new sources of revenue such as slot machines	44
Reduce spending	27
<i>Volunteered other suggestion (specify:</i>	3
Don't know	1

As shown in Table 6, most respondents were inclined to favor the option to rely on new tax revenues such as slot machines rather than increase taxes (44 percent). Over one-quarter (27 percent) favored reducing spending.

Another battery of questions sought to confirm feelings toward possible tax changes both at the state and local levels (see Table 7).

Sentiment appeared to be strongly against increasing either the state income or gasoline tax. Opinion was more divided on the sales tax, with 46 percent favoring an increase and 53 percent opposing. One question asked about “Gov. Ehrlich’s veto of a package closing corporate loopholes.” While 47 percent said they favored this action (compared to 32 percent against), some interviewers claimed that the respondents were focusing mostly on the idea of ‘closing corporate loopholes’ rather than the ‘veto’ action, resulting in an inflated ‘favor’ rating.

Respondents seemed eager to eliminate vacant state and county jobs (67 percent favoring). They were much more reluctant to have current employees terminated (26 percent favoring). “The public seems more inclined to support the more apparently ‘painless’ solutions to government shortfalls, such as the elimination of vacant jobs, rather than making hard decisions to terminate programs or employees,” said Nataf. (See Table 8 for the results of a similar battery of questions from spring 2003).

Table 7: Proposals for Reducing County and State Shortfalls

Approach	Favor	Oppose	Unsure/ NA
An increase in state income taxes	26	72	3
An increase in the state gasoline tax	29	69	2
An increase in the general sales tax	46	53	2
Gov. Ehrlich’s veto of a package closing corporate loopholes	47	32	20
Increasing the county’s local income tax rate	24	72	5
Creating specific taxes to fund county public safety such as fire & police	53	43	5
Re-examining the property tax revenue cap formula in AA County	54	38	8
Increasing impact fees on new housing development in AA County	65	30	5
Paying a toll to use less crowded freeway lanes	47	50	4
The elimination of many vacant state and county jobs	67	27	6
Layoffs of state and county employees	26	69	6

Table 8: Support for Various State Tax Approaches from Spring 2003

Do you agree or disagree...	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Reductions in spending on higher education	21	77	2
Reductions in spending on road assistance to local government	30	62	8
Reductions in spending on programs to preserve open space	36	59	6
Increases in spending on public schools despite the state's deficit	72	25	3
Increasing the gas tax by one or two cents.	49	48	2
Increasing the sales tax by one cent.	51	48	1
Increasing income taxes just enough to cover the deficit without cutting programs	37	60	3
Introducing slot machines at racetracks in Maryland	67	29	4

A few questions focused more specifically on the county. Respondents were very unlikely to support an increase in personal income taxes, as only 24 percent favored such a move. They were much more likely to favor dedicated taxes “to fund county public safety such as fire and police” (53 percent favoring) or “increasing impact fees on new housing development” (65 percent).

Interestingly, the survey also found support for “re-examining the property tax revenue cap formula” which was supported by 54 percent. “The public seems reluctant to jump into higher taxes, but seems to sense that the county needs to do something to maintain services and programs,” Nataf said.

There was a strong relationship between perceiving a deteriorating ability for the county to provide services and the need to “re-examine the property tax revenue formula”: 74 percent of those saying that the cap had hurt the ability for the county to provide services thought that the formula should be re-examined, while only 32 percent of those who did *not* perceive that the cap had a negative impact favored such a re-examination.

Respondents were moderately positive about how the county has been handling its recent budget problems, with 56 percent saying “very well” or “somewhat well” although 37 percent said “not very well.” (An additional 8 percent had no opinion). “Those who gave the county the highest scores were least likely to have perceived any impact on services due to the revenue cap,” Nataf noted.

The survey sought to assess whether the public had directly sensed any decreases in services due to government belt-tightening. Over one-quarter (27 percent) claimed to have observed such decreases, while 71 percent did not. Those who did perceive a decrease in services were much more likely to have also perceived a negative impact on services due to the revenue cap: 43 percent vs. 14 percent.

As shown in Table 9, when asked to specify which program or services had been affected, respondents mentioned schools, police and fire department or EMT services, disproportionately.

Table 9: Programs or Services Affected by Government Belt-Tightening

Program or service mentioned	Percent
Schools, teachers' salaries, school-based programs	24
Police	18
Fire department, EMT	15
Roads, mass transit	9
Child services (daycare subsidies, juvenile justice)	7
Staffing problems within government	7
Seniors services	5
Mental health services	3
College tuition	2
MVA	2
Other	3

Note: There was a total of 95 responses.

Slot Machines as a New Revenue Source

Many respondents favored the use of slot machines as a new source of revenue to help fill the state's coffers. As seen in table 10, the idea of using gambling as a means for financing government expenditures varies in the amount of support received based upon the scale and scope of the endeavor. While 69 percent favored slot machines at racetracks or resorts, only 40 percent supported the open-ended idea of placing slot machines "at any sites likely to produce the most revenue for the state." Similarly, only 41 percent were will to have casino-style gambling introduced "at sites likely to produce the most revenue for the state." A sizable majority (58 percent) warmed to the idea of having slot machines in western Maryland or the Eastern shore. However, the sample was split regarding the virtue of having "the state, rather than private enterprise, own the gambling facilities (48 percent favored, 46 percent opposed, 6 percent were undecided).

Table 10: Support for Gambling

	Favor	Oppose	No answer	Total
Introduce slot machines only at racetracks or resorts	69	28	3	100
Introduce slot machines at resorts in western Maryland or the Eastern shore	58	39	3	100
Introduce slot machines at any sites likely to produce the most revenue for the state	40	58	2	100
Introduce casino-style gambling at sites likely to produce the most revenue for the state	41	57	2	100
Have the state, rather than private enterprise, own the gambling facilities	48	46	6	100

Chesapeake Bay, Pollution

The survey asked respondents to name “any government program to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.” Only 34 percent could name any program. Table 11 shows that the “Save the Bay” program and the “Chesapeake Bay Foundation” were the two most well known programs.

Table 11: Programs to Clean up the Bay Mentioned by Respondents

Program	Percent	Cases
Save the Bay	35	46
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	33	43
License plate program	8	11
DNR	5	6
Clean Water Act	2	3
Clean Water Action	2	2
Chesapeake wildlife	2	2
Oyster restoration	2	2
EPA	2	2
Items mentioned only once	11	15
Total	102	132

Respondents were then asked to identify “the most important source of pollution of the Bay.” Some sources of pollution could be named by 79 percent of the sample. As shown in Table 12, run-off was identified as the key culprit. Including all forms of run-off (unspecified, agricultural, industrial, chemical, road and residential), this was cited by 64 percent.

Table 12: Sources of Pollution Mentioned by Respondents

Pollution Source	Percent	Cases
Run-off (unspecified)	26	81
Factories, industrial pollution	17	53
Agricultural run-off, chicken manure, fertilizer	15	48
Overpopulation, people	6	20
Dumping	5	16
Boats and ships	5	16
Trash, waste	4	14
Business/corporations	4	13
Chemical run-off	3	11
Construction, building, clearing of land	3	8
Sewage, septic tanks	3	8
Baltimore City	2	6
Cars	2	6
Residential run-off	2	6
Inadequate sewage treatment plans	1	4
Drainage	1	4
Road run-off	1	2
Total	99	315

Finally, respondents were asked to identify “one thing that would most improve the Bay’s water quality:” 55 percent contributed at least one response.

Table 13 shows that four elements were most likely to be mentioned as methods for cleaning up the Bay: controlling run-off; stricter enforcement of laws (or creating new laws, or increasing fines); additional monitoring and control over dumping; and, more controls on development (including increasing green spaces or limiting access/use of land).

Table 13: Sources of Pollution Mentioned by Respondents

Pollution Solution	Percent	Cases
Controlling run-off (unspecified source)	16	36
Controlling factory run-off	3	6
Controlling agricultural run-off	4	10
Preventing dumping (higher fines, monitoring, otherwise controlling)	12	27
Enforcement of laws, creating new laws, more inspections, increasing fines	12	27
Controlling development, more green space, more restrictions on waterfront development, reduced access to sensitive areas	10	23
Controls over sewage, enforcement or improvement of sewage treatment plants	6	14
Oyster restoration, bay grass restoration	6	13
Limits on boating/shipping	5	12
Controlling erosion, improving farming techniques, organic farming	5	12
Trash reduction or clean up	4	9
Better controls over waste from businesses	3	6
Better education	3	6
Better controls over chemical usage	2	4
Miscellaneous suggestions	9	20
Total	100	225

The survey showed the public to be cautious about the effectiveness of government efforts to improve the Bay’s water quality, with few saying that government had managed such efforts “very well” (9 percent) while a majority said “somewhat well” (55 percent) or “not very well” (29 percent).

Terrorism/Emergency Preparedness

The fall 2003 survey included several questions about terrorism and emergency preparedness.

The first question on terrorism dealt with the public’s perception of the likelihood of a “terrorist attack on a location within Anne Arundel County over the next year.” As shown on Table 14, the percentage of respondents thinking that a terrorist attack in the county was “very

likely” declined from last spring when it was 15 percent to only 9 percent in fall. The percentage saying “not very likely” rose substantially from 41 percent last spring to 57 percent this fall. “These results confirm that terrorism has diminished as a pressing concern for the public,” said Nataf.

Table 14: Likelihood of Terrorist Attack in Anne Arundel County

	Fall 2001	Spring 2002	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003
Very likely	25	10	16	15	9
Somewhat likely	43	36	39	40	31
Not very likely	29	52	37	41	57
Don't know	3	2	8	4	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Residents were a bit more optimistic that local government could effectively respond in the event of a terrorist attack than was the case last fall, with the percentage saying that local authorities were “very prepared” rising from 10 percent to 15 percent. The percentage saying “not very prepared” fell to 24 percent from 37 percent. (See Table 15).

Table 15: How Prepared are Local Authorities in Event of a Terrorist Attack

	Fall 2001	Spring 2002	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003
Very prepared	13	8	16	10	15
Somewhat prepared	47	49	52	48	54
Not very prepared	30	35	22	37	24
Don't know, no answer	11	8	10	4	7
Total	101	100	100	100	100

The fall survey asked some of the same questions about residents’ preparations for “an emergency event such as a terrorist attack or a natural emergency such as a hurricane” as last spring. There was a noteworthy increase in the percentage saying that they had developed a family plan of action (see Table 16), and a similar rise in the percentage having reviewed a county brochure on emergency preparedness, with far fewer “don’t know” answers (see Table 17).

Table 16: Developed a Family Plan of Action which All Family Members Understand

	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003
Yes	38	43	58
No	55	51	41
Don't know	7	6	1
Total	100	100	100

Nataf speculated, “The arrival of tropical storm Isabel probably spurred a lot more attention by the public to issues related to emergency preparedness. While the prospect of a terrorist attack may seem slim to the public, everyone knew that Isabel was coming and had the time to prepare for it.”

Table 17: Obtained and reviewed the brochure from the county called the “Guide to Emergency Preparedness”

	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003
Yes	21	20	34
No	69	68	65
Don’t know	10	12	1
Total	100	100	100

The sense that the public took emergency preparedness more serious was also conveyed when respondents were asked whether they had “put together an emergency preparedness kit” as a clear majority (58 percent) affirmed having done so (vs. 41 percent that had not done so).

One quarter of those participating in the survey also confirmed watching a presentation by the Anne Arundel County Fire Department about emergency preparedness on local access cable channels. Over one-half (53 percent) of those watching found the information in the presentation to be “very helpful.”

Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 384 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. The statistical margin of error for the overall sample was about five percent. The values presented in this press release were derived from computations based on a dataset weighted to conform to known demographic characteristics.

For information about this survey or CSLI, call Dan Nataf at 410-777-2733, or visit the CSLI web site at www.aacc.edu/csli where this press release is posted under “Recent Surveys.”

CSLI Semi-Annual Survey – Fall, 2003

1.0 What do you think is the most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time?

Problem	Circle one
Crime	5%
Terrorism (possible attacks, fear of...)	0%
Drugs (use or sale of illegal drugs)	1%
Growth/overpopulation- too much development	15%
Traffic congestion/problems	8%
Public transportation (lack of, poor quality, problems with)	3%
Education , problems with schools	17%
Taxes – too high	14%
Inefficient government , wasteful spending	1%
Corruption in government/politicians are bad	1%
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	7%
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	8%
Other answer	11%
Unsure/No Answer	9%

2.0 Overall, would you say that Anne Arundel County is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

(1) **Right direction 51%** (2) **Wrong direction 34%** (0) **Unsure or don't know 15%**

2.1 How about the state, is it headed in the right or wrong direction?

(1) **Right direction 55%** (2) **Wrong direction 31%** (0) **Unsure or don't know 15%**

2.3 What would you say about the country as a whole, is it headed in the right or wrong direction?

(1) **Right direction 49%** (2) **Wrong direction 43%** (0) **Unsure or don't know 8%**

3.0 Some people believe that the county's ability to provide certain services has declined due to the county's cap on revenue from property taxes. Others think it hasn't affected services.

Do you think the revenue cap has hurt the ability of the county to provide services to its citizens?

(1) **Yes 45%** (2) **No 43%** (0) **Don't Know, No Answer 12%**

4.0 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 **5%** (2) Good **51%** (3) Only Fair **34%** (4) Poor **9%** (0) Don't Know, No Answer **1%**

4.1 How would you rate the economic prospects for Anne Arundel County for the next five years -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

(1) Excellent **7%** (2) Good **49%** (3) Only Fair **34%** (4) Poor **6%** (0) Don't Know, No Answer **5%**

5.0 The state is facing likely budget deficits in the years to come. Generally speaking do you think that greater emphasis should be placed on cutting programs or raising taxes to try to deal with the state deficit?

Cutting programs	34%
Increasing taxes	34%
<i>Volunteered other suggestion</i>	18%
Don't know	14%

6.0 The state derives most of its general revenues from two taxes: personal income taxes and sales taxes. Which of the following possible actions by state government would you support the most to deal with likely deficits?

Increase these taxes (personal and/or sales)	13%
Increase other taxes	8%
Create other new taxes	4%
Rely on new sources of revenue such as slot machines	44%
Reduce spending	27%
<i>Volunteered other suggestion (specify:</i>	3%
Don't know	0%

7.0 Tell me whether you would tend to favor or oppose each of the following suggestions regarding the expansion of gambling as a partial solution to Maryland's deficits

	Favor	Oppose	No answer
7.1 Introduce slot machines only at racetracks or resorts	69%	28%	3%
7.2 Introduce slot machines at resorts in western Maryland or the Eastern shore	58%	39%	3%
7.3 Introduce slot machines at any sites likely to produce the most revenue for the state	40%	58%	2%
7.4 Introduce casino-style gambling at sites likely to produce the most revenue for the state	41%	57%	2%
7.5 Have the state, rather than private enterprise, own the gambling facilities	48%	46%	6%

7.6 The state and county governments have had to tighten their belts to balance their budgets lately. Have you observed any decreases in services as a result of this belt-tightening?

(1) No **71%** (2) Yes **27%** (0) Don't know/ no answer **2%**

7.61 IF YES: Do you know of any specific county or state services or programs that have been affected? If so, which?

See Table 9 in Text

8.0 Five spending categories currently account for most of state government spending, This means that these categories would probably need to be reduced to bring the budget into balance. After I have read you these categories, tell me which would be your highest priority for reduced spending: (Circle one)

Public school spending	15%
Public health spending	14%
Higher education	35%
Medicaid (which pays for health care for the poor)	15%
Public safety	21%

9.0 Please tell me whether you tend to favor or oppose the following:

Approach	Favor	Oppose	Unsure/ NA
9.1 An increase in state income taxes	26%	72%	2%
9.2 An increase in the state gasoline tax	29%	69%	2%
9.3 An increase in the general sales tax	45%	53%	2%
9.4 Governor Ehrlich's veto of a package closing corporate loopholes	47%	32%	20%
9.5 Increasing the County's local income tax rate	24%	72%	4%
9.6 Creating specific taxes to fund County public safety such as fire & police	53%	42%	5%
9.7 Re-examining the property tax revenue cap formula in AA County	54%	38%	8%
9.8 Increasing impact fees on new housing development in AA County	65%	30%	5%
9.9 Paying a toll to use less crowded freeway lanes	47%	50%	4%
9.10 The elimination of many vacant state and County jobs	67%	27%	6%
9.11 Layoffs of state and County employees	26%	69%	5%

10.0 How well do you think County government has handled its recent budget problems – very well, somewhat well, or not very well?

(1) Very well **7%** (2) Somewhat well **49%** (3) Not very well **36%** (0) No opinion **8%**

11.0 On a different subject, can you name any government program to clean up the Chesapeake Bay?

- (1) Yes (write in name): **See Table 11 in text**
- (2) No
- (0) Don't know/ no answer

11.1 What do you think is the most important source of pollution of the Bay?

See Table 12 in text

11.2 What one thing would most improve Bay's water quality?

See Table 13 in text

11.3 How well do you think government agencies have managed efforts to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay – very well, somewhat well, not very well?

- (1) Very well **9%** (2) Somewhat well **55%** (3) Not very well **29%** (0) No opinion **7%**

12.0 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 **9%** (2) Somewhat likely **31%** (3) Not very likely **57%** (4) Unsure **3%**
- (0) No answer **0%**

12.1 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 **14%**
- (2) Somewhat prepared **54%**
- (3) Not very prepared **24%**
- (4) Unsure **7%**
- (0) No answer **1%**

13.0 Have you done any of the following to prepare for an emergency such as a terrorist attack or a natural emergency such as a hurricane?

	Yes	No	Unsure/No Answer
13.1 Developed a family plan of action which all family members understand	57%	42%	1%
13.2 Obtained and reviewed the brochure from the County called "Guide to Emergency Preparedness?"	34%	65%	1%
13.3 Put together an emergency preparedness kit?	58%	41%	1%

13.4 In the days prior to hurricane Isabel, local access channels on cable television carried a presentation by the County Fire Department on things that were needed to prepare for emergencies. Do you remember watching this program?

- (1) No **74%** (2) Yes **26%**
(0) Don't know **1%**

13.5 IF YES: Did you find the information provided to be very helpful, somewhat helpful or not very helpful?

- (1) Very helpful **53%** (2) Somewhat helpful **41%** (3) Not very helpful **6%** (0) No answer **0%**

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

14.0 If you currently have an Internet account that you use from your home, what type of connection do you have?

- (1) Don't have an Internet connection at home **21%**
(2) Regular dial-up **32%**
(3) DSL **10%**
(4) Cable modem **32%**
(5) Satellite **0%**
(6) Other **1%**
(0) Don't know **3%**

15.0 With which political party, if any, are you registered?

- (1) Democratic **41%** (4) None **11%**
(2) Republican **36%** (5) Other **1%**
(3) Independent **12%** (0) No Answer **0%**

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

- (1) Liberal **12%**
(2) Moderate **50%**
(3) Conservative **32%**
(0) Other, No Answer **6%**

17.0 I am going to read some categories of age classifications. Please stop me when I reach the category in which your age falls.

- (1) 18 to 29 **11%**
- (2) 30 to 44 **30%**
- (3) 45 to 59 **36%**
- (4) 60 or more **23%**
- (0) No Answer **0%**

18.0 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 degree	2%	(5) post graduate work	27%
(2) a high school degree	17%	(0) No Answer	1%
(3) some college or a two-year degree	35%		
(4) completed college with a bachelor's degree	19%		

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

- (1) Less than \$30,000 **8%**
- (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000 **20%**
- (3) \$50,000 to \$75,000 **22%**
- (4) \$75,000-\$100,000 **15%**
- (5) \$100,000-\$150,000 **20%**
- (6) Over \$150,000 **6%**
- (0) No Answer **9%**

20.0 Which of the following employment categories best describes your situation:

Employed full time for a company in the private sector	43%
Employed full time for government (IF YES ask: State, County, City or Federal (circle one)).	23%
Employed part-time	10%
Unemployed and seeking a job	2%
Unemployed and not seeking a job	19%
No answer	3%

21.0 Regarding race, how would you describe yourself?

- (1) Black **6%**
- (2) White **89%**
- (3) Hispanic **0%**
- (4) Asian **0%**
- (5) Other or mixed racial background **3%**
- (0) No Answer **2%**

22.0 Regarding Religion, how would you describe yourself?

- (1) Non-practicing, Agnostic or Atheist **16%**
- (2) Protestant **32%**
- (3) Catholic **28%**
- (4) Jewish **1%**
- (7) Other **21%**
- 0) No Answer **2%**

23.0 What is your current marital status?

(1) Single 17%	(2) Married 65%	(3) Separated or Divorced 10%	(5) Widowed 7%	(6) Other 0%	(0) Won't say 0%
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24.0 How long have you lived in Anne Arundel County: 20 years, median

25.0 Do you own your home or is it rented? (1) Owned 85% (2) Rented 13%

(0) No answer **2%**

26.0 Do you have any children living at home who currently attend public or private schools?

- (1) No **71%**
- (2) Yes, public school only **22%**
- (3) Yes, private school only **5%**
- (4) Yes, both public and private school **2%**
- (0) No answer **0%**

27.0 Gender of respondent to whom you were speaking:

- (1) Male **42%**
- (2) Female **58%**
- (0) No answer **0%**

28.0 Zipcode _____