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Center for the Study of Local Issues
Anne Arundel Community College

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Survey Finds Public Eager to Spend, Reluctant to be Taxed

According to a survey conducted March 8-11 by the Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) at Anne Arundel Community College, county residents can envision many good causes to support through additional government spending, but are reluctant to tax themselves in order to provide the needed revenue.

When asked whether spending on services such as police, fire, schools and roads should be increased, decreased or remain the same, nearly four times as many said increase (41 percent) as decrease (11 percent) with an additional 46 percent saying spend the same. However, only 17 percent supported increasing the income tax rate.

The survey focused much attention on taxation and deficit issues, but also examined public reactions to the new voting machines as well as to the judges' race, the introduction of slot machines in Maryland, terrorism, economic conditions as well as several benchmark questions outlined below.

Most Important Problem – Education Rises as Concern

Each CSLI survey asks the public an open-ended question: “What 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, as was the case this time (see Table 1).

“Education, problems with schools” (22 percent) was the top item followed by “taxes, too high” (13 percent), the state of the economy (12 percent) and “traffic congestion/problems” (10 percent). Concern with growth (8 percent) dropped 7 percent since last fall. The drop in concern over growth was compensated by the rise in education, up 5 percent since last fall and also last spring.

Table 1: Percentage Citing Item as County’s “Most Important Problem” in 2003-04 ¹

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

Note: Table 2 and graph 1 combine “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

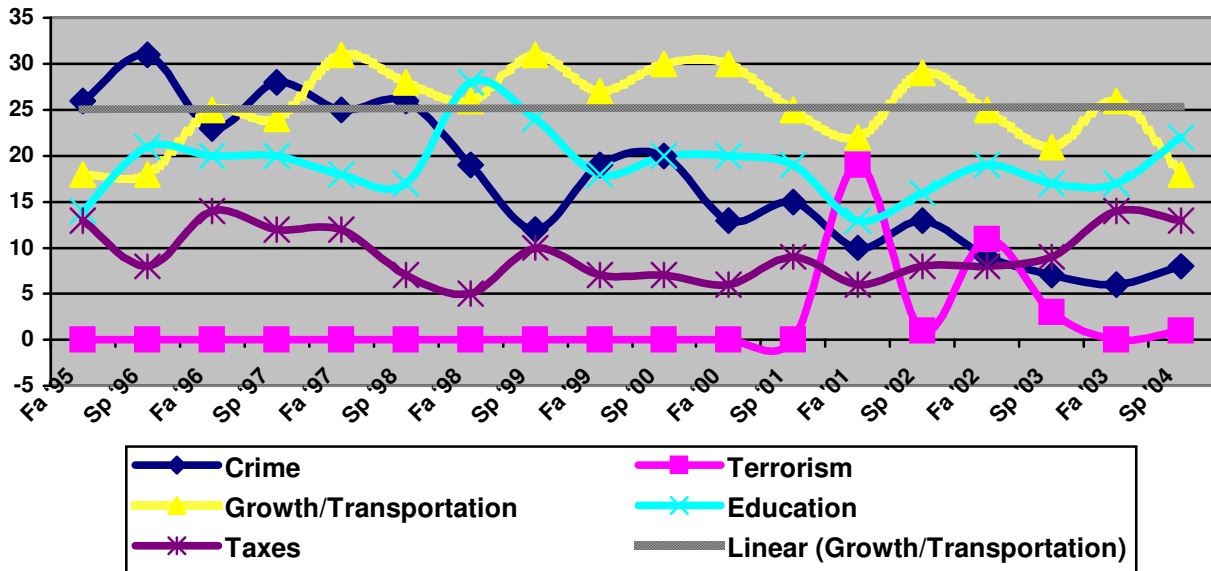


Table 2: “Most Important Problem Facing Residents” Fall 1995 to Spring 2004

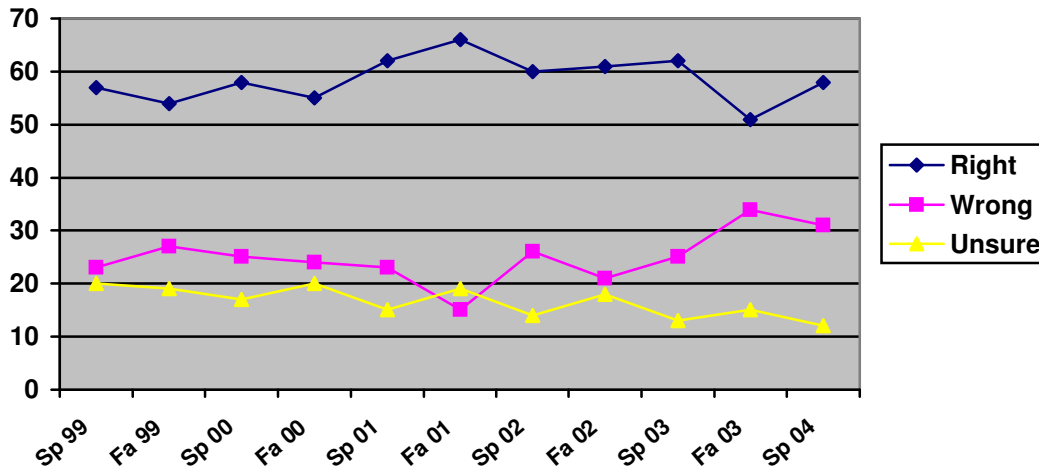
Problem	Fa '95	Sp '96	Fa '96	Sp '97	Fa '97	Sp '98	Fa '98	Sp '99	Fa '99	Sp '00	Fa '00	Sp '01	Fa '01	Sp '01	Fa '02	Sp '02	Fa '03	Sp '03	Fa '03	Sp '04
Crime	26	31	23	28	25	26	19	12	19	20	13	15	10	13	13	7	6	8		
Terrorism	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18	1	11	2	0	1		
Growth/Transportation	18	18	25	24	31	28	26	31	27	30	30	25	22	28	25	21	26	18		
Education	14	21	20	20	18	17	28	24	18	20	20	19	13	16	19	17	17	22		
Taxes	13	8	14	12	12	7	5	10	7	7	6	9	6	8	8	9	14	13		

County – 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). In spring 2004, there was a rebound back to 58 percent. Nataf remarked, “The drop last fall seems to have been a break in the pattern more than a permanent lowering of the baseline.”

Graph 2: County - Right or Wrong Direction



Tax/Revenue Cap – Still Perceived as Having an Impact

The percentage of respondents agreeing that the tax/revenue cap has “hurt the ability of the county to provide services to its citizens” remained at historically high levels, although it dropped 7 percent from its previous high of 45 percent last fall.² (See Table 3). Nataf pointed out that “although the percentage agreeing that services were hurt dropped, the percentage saying that services have *not* been affected only rose by 2 percent (from 43 to 45 percent). The difference was in the percentage of undecided respondents, which rose 5 percent. This shows that the public is still concerned about the county’s ability to meet its obligations.”

Table 3: Percentage Agreeing that Revenue Cap has Hurt Ability of County to Provide Services: Spring 1996 to Spring 2004

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	Sp '04
% Agreeing	43	38	29	37	28	27	27	30	24	25	29	25	21	32	32	45	38

The survey followed up this question with another asking whether respondents favored keeping or eliminating the revenue cap at this time. Only one third (32 percent) favored its elimination, while 48 percent supported keeping it. There were a large number of undecided respondents (20 percent), again pointing to uncertainty and concern about county finances.

² 45 percent said that the tax/revenue cap had *not* hurt the ability of the county to provide services, while another 17 percent had no opinion.

Economic Conditions – No Additional Decline

The downturn in public perceptions of the state of the local economy found last year did not continue this spring (see Table 4). Last fall, the combined total saying either “excellent” or “good” was only 56 percent, with 35 percent saying “fair.” The percentage this spring jumped to 62 percent saying “excellent/good,” with only 32 percent saying “fair.”

Table 4: Perceptions of Economic Conditions

	Spring 2002	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003	Spring 2004
Excellent	14	6	5	5	7
Good	60	60	50	51	55
Fair	21	27	36	35	32
Poor	4	4	6	7	4
Don't know	1	3	2	2	2
Total	101	100	99	100	100

Taxes and Dealing with Government Deficits

As was the case last fall, this survey focused much of its attention on taxes and government deficits. The first set of questions on this theme asked respondents to say whether they supported or opposed various ways of increasing state revenue or decreasing state expenditures in the face of continuing deficits.

Table 5: Support for Increasing Revenues

	Support	Oppose	Unsure/N.A.
Increasing the corporate income tax rate by 1 percent	63	35	2
Creating a \$2.50 surcharge on monthly sewage fees to help upgrade waste water treatment plants	65	31	4
Placing a 3 percent surcharge on the income tax of people who make \$500,000 or more annually	73	26	1
Legalizing slot machines in Maryland	62	33	6
Holding a referendum on whether to have slot machines	68	27	5
Increasing the state sales tax by 1 percent, from 5 to 6 percent	31	66	2
Would you be more or less inclined to support a one-cent increase in the sales tax if you knew that the additional revenue only went to support education	More 72	Less 23	(3) No change 4 (0) no answer 1

In keeping with previous findings, there was substantial public opposition to broad-based tax increases. The fall survey had found 46 percent supportive of increasing the state sales tax, but that figure dropped to only 31 percent this spring.³ However, there appeared to be much more support for a broad-based tax increase if additional revenue were designated to education, with 72 percent saying that they were more inclined to support the sales tax increase under such conditions.

Support for other revenue enhancements was much higher when the additional funds were likely to be drawn from segments of society with small representation in surveys: those with incomes over \$500,000 and businesses. A 3 percent surcharge on those earning at least \$500,000 a year was supported by nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of the sample. The proposal to increase the corporate income tax rate by one percent gained nearly two-thirds support (63 percent). Respondents seemed about equally likely (65 percent) to support the “flush tax,” a modest increment in monthly sewage fees dedicated to upgrading waste water treatment plants.

Support for slot machines in Maryland has consistently been strong among those answering CSLI surveys in the past. The percentage favoring the introduction of slots has hovered around two-thirds; this spring the exact percentage was 62 percent in support. A slightly larger percentage (68 percent) favored holding a referendum on the issue.

Nataf said, “The public seems happy to have additional revenues applied to state coffers as long as it is someone else’s money that is targeted. Alternatively, very modest increases in taxes designated for specific purposes such as aiding education or cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay may also have favorable majorities.”

Table 6 shows the results for a set of proposed methods for reducing expenditures. Three of the four proposals were rejected by vast majorities: reducing state employee salaries (81 percent opposed), cutting back on state services (77 percent opposed), and reducing financial support for higher education (78 percent opposed). The fourth proposal, whose intent may have been less clear to respondents, concerned full funding for the Thornton Plan to support public schools. A plurality (47 percent) opposed postponing such funding, despite the state budget deficit. A relatively high percent (20 percent) were unsure, indicating the complexity of the proposal itself.⁴

Table 6: Proposals for Reducing Government Spending

	Support	Oppose	Unsure/N.A.
Postponing fully funding the Thornton Plan for public education	32	47	20
Reducing salaries of state employees	14	81	5
Cutting back on state services	16	77	7
Reducing financial support for higher education	18	78	4

³ In spring 2003, a slight majority (51 percent) had favored a small increase in the state sales tax. Apparently there has been a drop in the percentage over the last year.

⁴ In spring 2003, nearly three-quarters (72 percent) favored increases in spending on public schools despite the state’s deficit while 77 percent opposed any reductions in spending on higher education.

Nataf suggested that “these results show that the public would like to continue at least the current levels of government spending and is not favorable to massive cutbacks in the scale and scope of government services.”

Slots and Taxes

One question focused on what combination of slots and taxes might be preferred in dealing with Maryland’s revenue shortfall. Respondents were presented with the choices identified in Table 7.

Table 7: Support for Various Slots/Tax Combinations

I favor increasing taxes, but not having slots in Maryland	15
I favor slots in Maryland, but not increasing taxes	55
I favor both slots in Maryland and increasing taxes	11
I oppose both slots in Maryland and increasing taxes	15
Don’t know/ No answer	5

Table 7 shows that only 26 percent were favorable to any combination that raises taxes. Seventy percent were opposed to taxes in any combination. About two-thirds were favorable to slots in any combination (66 percent). “Rightly or wrongly,” Nataf remarked, “slots appear like the more painless choice to the public, a more pleasant substitute to having to raise taxes or cut spending.”

Keeping the Transportation Trust Fund Solvent

A few questions focused more specifically on the transportation trust fund, which had been tapped last year to help balance the budget.

Table 8 shows that the public was not favorable to increasing revenue into the transportation trust fund by upping the state gasoline tax or adding to the annual cost of vehicle registration (opposed by 82 percent and 59 percent respectively). About two-thirds of the respondents (64 percent) were favorable to adding \$50 to the cost of moving violations. A slightly larger majority (65 percent) were inclined to simply ban taking money out of the trust fund unless used only for transportation purposes.

Table 8: Support for Various Transportation Trust Fund Proposals

Approach	Support	Oppose	Unsure/NA
A five cent increase in the state gasoline tax	17	82	2
A \$25 increase in annual vehicle registration fees	38	59	4
An additional \$50 added to speeding or other moving violation fines	64	33	3
A ban on taking money out of the trust fund unless used for transportation only.	65	24	11

County Revenue Enhancement: Raise Local Income Tax Rate

In light of the county executive’s idea about raising local income taxes to deal with county budget shortfalls, respondents were offered the proposals in Table 9 as a way to assess the general mood about any tax increase proposals.

Table 9: Raising Local Income Taxes

Proposal	Agree
I support the tax increase because important services could diminish in quality	17
While important services might diminish in quality, I can’t afford or don’t want to pay more taxes.	17
I oppose the tax increase because I’m not sure the county will use the money to the best advantage of Anne Arundel County and me.	63
Don’t know/ No answer	3

The sample was not inclined to support a tax increase, mostly due to uncertainty about how the additional funds might be used. “This again points out that the public appears calmer about tax proposals when they are specifically designated for high priority spending areas. Without such designation, support for revenue enhancement is quite modest,” Nataf commented.

County Spending: High Priority Areas

In an effort to further identify high priority spending areas, the survey asked respondents whether the same, more or less should be spent on a variety of government services. Table 10 shows the results. The top four areas designated for additional spending were public schools, police, fire and the community college. Only planning and zoning received a larger percentage saying “spend less” than “spend more.” Respondents seemed content with the current level of spending in several areas such as health, libraries, and parks and recreation.

Table 10: Local Spending in Various Service Areas

Service	More	Same	Less	Don’t know
Public schools	71	23	5	1
Police	60	35	4	1
Fire	53	43	2	2
Community college	46	44	7	3
Seniors’ services	44	45	7	4
Roads	43	49	6	3
Environmental programs	39	44	15	2
Social services	34	43	17	5
Health department	32	54	9	5
Libraries	26	67	6	1
Parks and recreation	26	57	16	2
Planning and zoning	13	42	39	7
Average percentage	41	46	11	3

Primary Election Results

The survey asked respondents to say whether they had voted in the March 2 primaries: 60 percent affirmed their participation. Those who had participated were then asked about their impressions of the new voting machines as well as their information levels when voting for judges.

Table 11: Use of New Voting Machines

	Yes	No	Unsure/N.A.
Did you have any trouble understanding how to use the voting machine?	3	97	0
Are you confident that the machine accurately recorded your vote?	86	9	4

Voters seemed quite satisfied with the operation of the new electronic voting machines, with few expressing any troubles in operation or in the belief that their votes were accurately recorded.

As shown in Table 12, relatively few felt any need to add a paper trail as an additional caution against equipment failure or election fraud.

Table 12: Do you think that a paper receipt indicating your voting choices should be provided, or is the system acceptable just as it is?

Provide paper receipt	35
Acceptable as is	63
Other answer	1
No answer	1

Regarding the judges' race, voters were asked whether they chose "up to three judges for the Circuit Court." Most (84 percent) of those voting in the primaries also participated in the choice of judges. However, a majority (56 percent) felt that they "would have liked more information" while only 43 percent said that they had enough information to make an informed choice. "These findings indicate that at least some voters may not have been clear about the qualifications and beliefs of the candidates for judge," Nataf said.

Ban on Smoking in Restaurants and Bars

Three questions on the survey asked about proposed bans on smoking in restaurants and bars in Anne Arundel County. Most (60 percent) supported such bans. A majority (53 percent) said they were more likely to patronize such smoke-free establishments, while only 15 percent said they were less likely. Under a fifth (18 percent) of the sample currently smoked; of the 82 percent saying that they did not currently smoke, 47 percent had previously smoked but no longer did so.

Terrorism/Emergency Preparedness

The spring 2004 survey included two questions about terrorism and emergency preparedness.

The first asked residents whether they believed that local government could effectively respond in the event of a terrorist attack. There was virtually no change from the results last fall other than a slight rise in the percentage saying that they were unsure. (See Table 13).

Table 13: How Prepared are Local Authorities in Event of a Terrorist Attack

	Fall 2001	Spring 2002	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003	Spring 2004
Very prepared	13	8	16	10	15	15
Somewhat prepared	47	49	52	48	54	55
Not very prepared	30	35	22	37	24	18
Don't know, no answer	11	8	10	4	7	12
Total	101	100	100	100	100	100

The second question asked residents whether they had developed a family plan of action in the event of an emergency such as a terrorist attack or a hurricane. After a possibly Isabel-induced spike last fall, the spring survey revealed an even number saying yes and no. (see Table 14).

Table 14: Developed a Family Plan of Action

	Fall 2002	Spring 2003	Fall 2003	Spring 2004
Yes	38	43	58	49
No	55	51	42	49
Don't know	7	6	1	2
Total	100	100	100	100

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 5 percent. 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 – Spring, 2004

1.0 What do you think is the most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time? (N=384)

Problem	Percentage
Crime	4
Terrorism	1
Drugs	4
Growth/overpopulation- too much development	8
Traffic congestion/problems	10
Education, problems with schools	22
Taxes – too high	13
Inefficient government, wasteful spending	2
Corruption in government/politicians are bad	2
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	4
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	12
Other answer	8
Unsure/No Answer	10

2.0 Overall, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction? N=382

- (1) **Right** direction 58 percent
- (2) **Wrong** direction 31 percent
- (0) **Unsure** or don't know 12 percent

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? N=382

- (1) **Yes** 38 percent (2) **No** 45 percent (0) **Don't Know, No answer** 17 percent

3.1 Do you favor keeping or ending the revenue cap at this time? N=38

- (1) **Keeping** 48 percent (2) **Ending** 32 percent (0) **Don't Know, No answer** 20 percent

4.0 Thinking about our county's economy, how would you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County today -- excellent, good, fair, or poor? N=382

- (1) **Excellent** 7 percent (2) **Good** 55 percent (3) **Fair** 32 percent (4) **Poor** 4 percent
- (0) **Don't Know, No answer** 2 percent

5.0 The state of Maryland is facing a serious budget deficit. Tell me whether you support or oppose the following proposals meant to deal with the deficit:

Approach	Support	Oppose	Unsure/ NA	Cases
5.1 Increasing the corporate income tax rate by 1 percent	63	35	2	379
5.2 Postponing fully funding the Thornton Plan for public education	32	47	20	376
5.3 Creating a \$2.50 surcharge on monthly sewage fees to help upgrade waste water treatment plants	65	31	4	377
5.4 Placing a 3 percent surcharge on the income tax of people who make \$500,000 or more annually	73	26	1	375
5.5 Reducing salaries of state employees	14	81	5	375
5.6 Cutting back on state services	16	77	7	372
5.7 Reducing financial support for higher education	18	78	4	373
5.8 Legalizing slot machines in Maryland	62	33	6	375
5.9 Holding a referendum on whether to have slot machines	68	27	5	369
5.10 Increasing the state sales tax by 1 percent, from 5 to 6 percent	31	66	2	376
5.11 Would you be more or less inclined to support a one cent increase in the sales tax if you knew that the additional revenue only went to support education	More 72	Less 23	(3) No change 4 (0) no answer 1	371

6.0 The governor and General Assembly have been unable to agree on whether to use slots revenue, taxes or some combination to solve Maryland’s revenue gap. Which of the following best captures your thoughts about this? N=372

- (1) I favor increasing taxes, but not having slots in Maryland 15 percent
- (2) I favor slots in Maryland, but not increasing taxes 55 percent
- (3) I favor both slots in Maryland and increasing taxes 11 percent
- (4) I oppose both slots in Maryland and increasing taxes 15 percent
- (0) Don’t know/ No answer 5 percent

7.0 During the last budget cycle, Maryland’s transportation trust fund which finances roads and public transportation was severely depleted. Tell me if you would favor any of the following methods to restore the fund:

Approach	Support	Oppose	Unsure/ NA	Cases
7.1 A five-cent increase in the state gasoline tax	17	82	2	372
7.2 A \$25 increase in annual vehicle registration fees	38	59	4	371
7.3 An additional \$50 added to speeding or other moving violation fines	64	33	3	372
7.4 A ban on taking money out of the trust fund unless used for transportation only.	65	24	11	373

8.0 The county executive has proposed increasing the income tax rate, which has not been raised since 1968, saying that more revenue is needed to maintain essential services like schools and police. Which of the following best captures your thoughts about this? N=370

- (1) I support the tax increase because important services could diminish in quality. 17 percent
- (2) While important services might diminish in quality, I can't afford or don't want to pay more taxes. 17 percent
- (3) I oppose the tax increase because I'm not sure the county will use the money to the best advantage of Anne Arundel County and me. 63 percent
- (0) Don't know/ No answer. 3 percent

9.0 Some people believe that the county should try to find ways to cut back in some areas in order to provide more services elsewhere. I am going to read a list of government services. Please tell me whether county government should spend about the same amount, more, or less than it currently does on that area.

Service	Same	More	Less	Don't know	Cases
9.1 Libraries	67	26	6	1	369
9.2 Fire	43	53	2	2	370
9.3 Police	35	60	4	1	370
9.4 Community college	44	46	7	3	369
9.5 Roads	49	43	6	3	369
9.6 Planning and zoning	42	13	39	7	369
9.7 Social services	43	34	17	5	368
9.8 Health department	54	32	9	5	368
9.9 Public schools	23	71	5	1	368
9.10 Parks and recreation	57	26	16	2	368
9.11 Seniors' services	45	44	7	4	369
9.12 Environmental programs	44	39	15	2	369
Average percentage	46	41	11	3	369

10.0 Knowing that about 60 percent of the community college budget is based on state and county contributions and the rest in tuition, do you think *taxes should be increased, tuition should be increased again, or programs cut* to best deal with budget cuts? (Multiple answers permitted, percentage of total sample favoring each option listed individually)

- (1) increase taxes 33 percent (2) tuition increased again 25 percent (3) cut programs 23 percent

10.1 From what you know about the community college, would you rate it as being excellent, good, fair or poor? N=363

- (1) Excellent 49 percent (2) Good 42 percent (3) Fair 3 percent (4) Poor 0 percent
(0) Other answer/DK 6 percent

11.0 On another subject, Did you vote in the March 2 primary elections? N=361

- (2) No 40 percent (1) Yes ▼60 percent
(0) No answer 0 percent
If yes: ▼

(11.1) Did you have any trouble understanding how to use the voting machine? N=245

- (1) Yes 3 percent (2) No 97 percent (0) No answer 0 percent

(11.2) Are you confident that the machine accurately recorded your vote? N=138

- (1) Yes 86 percent (2) No 9 percent (0) No answer 4 percent

(11.3) Do you think that a paper receipt indicating your voting choices should be provided, or is the system acceptable just as it is? N=139

- (1) Provide paper receipt 35 percent (2) Acceptable as is 63 percent
(3) Other answer 1 percent (0) No answer 1 percent

11.4 Did you vote for up to three judges for the Circuit Court? N=139

- (2) No 14 percent (1) Yes ▼84 percent (0) No answer 2 percent

IF Yes: ▼

11.5 Did you feel confident that you had enough information to make an informed choice for judge or would you have liked more information? N=116

- (1) Had enough 43 percent (2) Would have liked more information 56 percent (0) No answer 1 percent

11.6 As you did not vote for the judges, why did you skip that selection?

_____needed more info_____

12.0 A proposal has been introduced to ban smoking in restaurants and bars in Anne Arundel County. Do you support or oppose this proposal? N=360

- (1) Support 60 percent (2) Oppose 37 percent (0) Don't know/No answer 3 percent

12.1 If restaurants and bars in the county were entirely smoke-free would you be more or less likely to patronize them? N=360

- (1) More likely 53 percent (2) Less likely 15 percent (3) No change 31 percent
(0) Don't know/No answer 1 percent

12.2 Do you currently smoke? (1) Yes 18 percent (2) No 82 percent ▼ (0) No answer 0 percent ▼

N=359

13.2 Have you previously smoked, but don't now? N=251

- ▼ (1) Yes previously smoked 47 percent
▼ (2) No never smoked 53 percent
▼ (0) No answer 0 percent

13.0 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? N=359

- (1) Very prepared 15 percent
(2) Somewhat prepared 55 percent
(3) Not very prepared 18 percent
(4) Unsure 11 percent
(0) No answer 1 percent

13.1 Have you developed a family plan of action to deal with an emergency such as a terrorist attack or a hurricane? N=361

- (1) yes 49 percent (2) no 49 percent (0) Don't know/No answer 2 percent

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

14.0 With which political party, if any, are you registered? N=360

- (1) Democratic 39 percent (4) None 13 percent
(2) Republican 36 percent (5) Other 1 percent
(3) Independent 9 percent (0) No answer 3 percent

15.0 Which of the following best describes your political beliefs: Liberal, Moderate or Conservative? N=359

- (1) Liberal 17 percent (2) Moderate 47 percent (3) Conservative 27 percent
(0) Other, No answer 8 percent

16.0 I am going to read some categories of age classifications. Please stop me when I reach the category in which your age falls. N=360

- (1) 18 to 29 14 percent (2) 30 to 44 31 percent (3) 45 to 59 33 percent
 (4) 60 or more 21 percent (0) No answer 1 percent

17.0 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. N=358

(1) Less than a high school degree	2 percent	(5) Post-graduate work	19 percent
(2) High school degree	18 percent	(0) No answer	1 percent
(3) Some college or a two-year degree	40 percent		
(4) Completed college with a bachelor's degree	21 percent		

18.0 I am going to read some categories relating to income. Please stop me when I reach the category in which your household income falls. N=360

- (1) Less than \$30,000 8 percent
 (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000 18 percent
 (3) \$50,000 to \$75,000 19 percent
 (4) \$75,000-\$100,000 21 percent
 (5) \$100,000-\$150,000 15 percent
 (6) Over \$150,000 9 percent
 (0) No answer 10 percent

19.0 Which of the following employment categories best describes your situation: N=356

Employed full time for a company in the private sector or self-employed	45
Employed full time for government (IF YES ask: State, County, City or Federal (circle one). State: 10 percent County: 34 percent Federal: 56 percent	21
Employed part-time	10
Retired	16
Unemployed and seeking a job	2
Unemployed and not seeking a job	5
No answer	1

20.0 Regarding race, how would you describe yourself? N=359

- (1) Black 8 percent
- (2) White 83 percent
- (3) Hispanic 2 percent
- (4) Asian 1 percent
- (5) Other or mixed racial background 4 percent
- (0) No answer 3 percent

21.0 Regarding religion, how would you describe yourself? N=359

- (1) Non-practicing, Agnostic or Atheist 11 percent
- (2) Protestant 31 percent
- (3) Catholic 32 percent
- (4) Jewish 2 percent
- (5) Other 18 percent
- (0) No answer 5 percent

22.0 What is your current marital status? N=360

(1) Single 19 percent	(2) Married 66 percent	(5) Separated or Divorced 8 percent	(4) Widowed 5 percent	(5) Other 1 percent	(0) Won't say 2 percent
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23.0 How long have you lived in Anne Arundel County: 20 years (median) N=355

24.0 Do you have any children living at home who currently attend public or private schools? N=357

- (1) No 63 percent
- (2) Yes, public school only 27 percent
- (3) Yes, private school only 8 percent
- (4) Yes, both public and private school 2 percent
- (0) No answer 1 percent

25.0 Gender of respondent to whom you were speaking: N=379

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

26.0 Zip Code N=379

Zipcode	Percent
20711.00	1.6
20724.00	.3
20733.00	.8
20751.00	.8
20755.00	1.1
20758.00	.5
20764.00	1.3
20776.00	1.1
20778.00	.3
20779.00	.5
21012.00	4.2
21032.00	1.3
21035.00	1.3
21036.00	.3
21037.00	4.7
21054.00	2.1
21056.00	.3
21060.00	4.0
21061.00	11.3
21076.00	.5
21090.00	1.8
21108.00	3.4
21113.00	5.0
21114.00	4.0
21122.00	13.0
21140.00	1.6
21144.00	5.8
21146.00	6.9
21226.00	1.3
21401.00	13.5
21403.00	5.5