

**Gonzales RM&S
Research & Communications, Inc.**

**Maryland Poll
Part 2**

State and National Issues

September 2002

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Methodology

Patrick E. Gonzales and Carol A. Arscott formed Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies, Inc. at the beginning of 1999.

Gonzales is a 1981 graduate of the University of Baltimore with deep roots in Anne Arundel County politics. Arscott is a 1977 graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and a former chairman of the Howard County Republican Party.

This survey was conducted by Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies, Inc. from September 12th through September 15th, 2002. A total of 823 registered voters in Maryland who indicated they were likely to vote in this year's general election were interviewed by telephone. A cross-section of calls was made into each jurisdiction within the state to reflect general election voting patterns.

The margin for error, according to customary statistical standards, is no more than plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figures would fall within this range if the entire survey universe were sampled. The margin for error is higher for any demographic subgroup, such as gender and race.

Maryland Statewide Poll Sample Demographics

Gender		Race		Region	
Male	409 (50%)	White	617 (75%)	Eastern Shore	85 (10%)
Female	414 (50%)	Black	197 (24%)	Baltimore City	84 (10%)
		Other/Ref	9	Baltimore Suburbs	269 (33%)
Party Registration				Washington Suburbs	293 (36%)
Democrat	469 (57%)			Western Maryland	92 (11%)
Republican	263 (32%)				
Independent	91 (11%)				

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Regional Groupings

Eastern Shore - includes voters in these counties: Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester.

Baltimore City - includes voters in the City of Baltimore.

Baltimore Suburbs - includes voters in these counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, and Howard.

Washington Suburbs - includes voters in these counties: Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's.

Western Maryland - includes voters in these counties: Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington.

Analysis

Most Important National Issue

Foreign policy and security concerns are foremost in the minds of Maryland voters asked to name the most important issue facing the President and Congress. The threat of – and the war on – terrorism is the overriding concern of 36% of those surveyed, with the impending invasion of Iraq placing second at 21%. The economy and jobs place third, named by 15% of voters, followed by health care and prescription drugs at 8%, education at 5%, the budget deficit at 3%, crime and drugs at 2%, taxes at 1%, and the environment at 1%. The remaining 8% gave no answer.

George W. Bush

The top two issues named by voters in our survey relate to national security, and they combine to total 57%. This certainly contributes to President George W. Bush's enduring popularity in this most Democratic of states. Fifty-four percent of Maryland voters have a favorable impression of Bush, while 29% have an unfavorable view, and 17% are neutral. This is down from the dizzying heights of 66% favorable in January, but still pretty good for Maryland.

Sixty-three percent of Maryland voters surveyed said they approve of the job Bush is doing as President, while 28% disapprove. The remaining 9% gave no answer. An unprecedented 97% of Republicans approve of Bush's performance in office, along with 71% of men, 61% of independents, and 55% of women. Even a plurality of Democrats (45% to 43%) approve of Bush's performance on the job. These numbers are down slightly from July, when 69% said they approved of Bush, 19% disapproved, and 12% were undecided.

Invading Iraq

Assuming that the United Nations acts to enforce its 16 previous resolutions on Iraq, Bush would have wide support among Maryland voters to use military force to remove Saddam Hussein from power. Sixty-five percent said that the United States would be justified in using force if the U.N. acts and Hussein fails to respond, while 25% said that military action would not be justified. The remaining 10% gave no answer. Men (76%), women (54%), Republicans (94%), and independents (64%) all give majority support for military action with international backing. Democrats (49%) give a plurality.

Should the United Nations fail to enforce its own resolutions, just 45% endorse the idea of the United States acting alone, with 47% indicating that the country should not proceed unilaterally. The remaining 8% gave no answer. Only Republicans (76%) and men (54%) give majority support for military action without international backing.

Most Important Maryland Issue

The looming budget deficit (23%) and education (21%) are the two top issues facing our next Governor, according to poll respondents. Taxes and traffic/transportation (10%) were tied for third place. Health care and prescription drugs were next, named by 9% of respondents. Crime and illegal drugs followed with 8%, then the economy with 6%, growth and development at 5%, and the environment at 1%. The remaining 7% gave no answer.

Name Recognition

I am going to read you the names of several individuals. After I mention each name, I would like you to tell me if you recognize that person. If you do, I would then like you to tell me whether you have a favorable, unfavorable, or neutral opinion of that individual.

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Neutral	Don't Recognize
George W. Bush	54%	29%	17%	-

QUESTION: What is the most important issue facing the President and Congress?

Threat of/war on terrorism	36%
Invading Iraq	21%
Economy/jobs	15%
Health care/prescription drugs	8%
Education	5%
Budget deficit	3%
Crime/drugs	2%
Taxes	1%
Environment	1%
No answer	8%

QUESTION: Do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as president?

	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
Statewide	63%	28%	9%
Men	71%	24%	5%
Women	55%	32%	13%
Democrat	45%	43%	12%
Republican	97%	1%	2%
Independent	61%	28%	11%

QUESTION: As you may know, President Bush addressed the United Nations on Thursday, and called on the UN to enforce the 16 resolutions it has passed on the subject of Iraq over the last ten years. If the UN acts, and Iraq fails to respond, is the United States justified in using military force to remove Saddam Hussein from power, or not?

	Yes, Justified	No, not Justified	No answer
Statewide	65%	25%	10%
Men	76%	15%	9%
Women	54%	35%	11%
Democrat	49%	39%	12%
Republican	94%	3%	3%
Independent	64%	18%	18%

QUESTION: If the United Nations itself fails to act to enforce its own resolutions, should the United States act alone in Iraq, or not?

	Yes, Act alone	No, don't Act alone	No answer
Statewide	45%	47%	8%
Men	54%	40%	6%
Women	36%	54%	10%
Democrat	29%	64%	7%
Republican	76%	15%	9%
Independent	37%	55%	8%

QUESTION: Thinking specifically about the State of Maryland, what is the most important issue facing our next Governor?

Budget deficit	23%
Education	21%
Taxes	10%
Traffic/transportation	10%
Health care/prescription drugs	9%
Crime/illegal drugs	8%
Economy	6%
Growth/development	5%
Environment	1%
No answer	7%