The 42nd

Pan Atlantic SMS Group

OMNIBUS POLL™

Fall 2009

Election 2009 Issue

"The Benchmark of Maine Public Opinion"

PREPARED BY

Pan Atlantic SMS Group

RESEARCH • STRATEGY • TRAINING

5 Milk Street, Portland, Maine 04101

Telephone: (207) 871-8622 • Fax: (207) 772-4842

www.panatlanticsmsgroup.com

Named Maine's Best Pollster 2008 by:

Down East

MAINE AT ITS BEST

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. FACTS ABOUT THE 42nd PAN ATLANTIC SMS GROUP OMNIBUS POLL™ -Fall 2009	
II. FINDINGS	
• **Economic Questions - Maine**	2
• **National Public Policy Questions**	11
• **Healthcare Reform Questions**	18
• **Maine Public Policy Questions / November Elections**	26

I. FACTS ABOUT THE 42ND PAN ATLANTIC SMS GROUP OMNIBUS POLL™ - FALL 2009

The most recent Pan Atlantic SMS Group Omnibus Poll™ was conducted between September 30th^{h} and October 7th, 2009. This independent survey data is being released to the Maine media in the public interest.

All interviews were completed at the Pan Atlantic SMS Group Interview Center by our in-house interview staff. This Omnibus survey is the 42nd in a series of Omnibus surveys conducted by Pan Atlantic SMS Group. **Because we have conducted this poll on a frequent basis over a long time period (since 1996), we are in a unique position to provide reliable benchmarking on a range of important issues.**

A randomly selected, stratified statewide sample of 401 Maine adults was interviewed. Since the poll contains question relating to referendum and bond issues which will be voted on in the November 2009 elections, the survey was administered only to people who are registered voters and who identified themselves as "likely" to vote in the November 2009 elections. All others were excluded from participation.

Although the survey instrument was administered only to registered voters who said that they are likely to vote in November, the results contained herein represent a snapshot of voters' opinions at a point in time. They do not purport to predict final poll results. As Election Day was approximately four weeks away at the time of the poll, changes in final voter behavior may well occur between then and election day. This could result from increased voter scrutiny of the issues, media coverage, editorials, advertising, etc.

The results of this off year election cycle will very likely be determined by the strength of the GOTV effort of both sides of key issues and in particular the gay marriage and Tabor referendum issues.

The sample was stratified based on U.S. Census of Population and Housing data. The sample size has statistical significance of ± 4.9 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. This means that if the survey were to be repeated, 95 times out of 100 the results would reflect the results of this survey within the ± 4.9 percent margin of error. The results are broken out by various demographic subsamples, including Congressional District, political party affiliation, age and gender. The margins of error for specific sub-samples are higher than the ± 4.9 percent margin of error for the entire sample.

It should be noted that figures may not always equal 100.0 percent due to the rounding of decimals.

Pan Atlantic SMS Group is Maine's largest independent marketing research and marketing consulting firm and **is currently in its 25th year of successful operation.**

Pan Atlantic SMS Group reserves all copyright and property rights associated with this polling report. Media use of the information contained in the Pan Atlantic SMS Group Omnibus Poll™ must identify the source of information. Reproduction, by any party other than the media, is subject to express approval by Pan Atlantic SMS Group. For further information, please contact Patrick Murphy, President of Pan Atlantic SMS Group, at (207) 871-8622 x109 or by e-mail at pmurphy@panatlanticsmsgroup.com.

Economic Questions - Maine

II. FINDINGS – ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Direction of the State of Maine

In general, do you think that the State of Maine is headed in the right direction or the wrong direction? [Options were rotated]

	Feb 2005 (N=400)	Aug 2005 (N=400)	Mar 2006 (N=401)	July 2006 (N=401)	May 2007 (N=400)	Sept 2007 (N=400)	Jun 2008 (N=400)	Apr 2009 (N=400)	Oct 2009 (N=401)
Right direction	35.0%	21.5%	41.1%	40.4%	31.0%	37.3%	23.0%	32.0%	34.2%
Wrong direction	48.0%	60.0%	41.6%	41.6%	51.0%	48.3%	59.8%	49.8%	51.1%
Don't know	17.0%	18.5%	17.2%	18.0%	18.0%	14.5%	17.3%	18.3%	14.7%

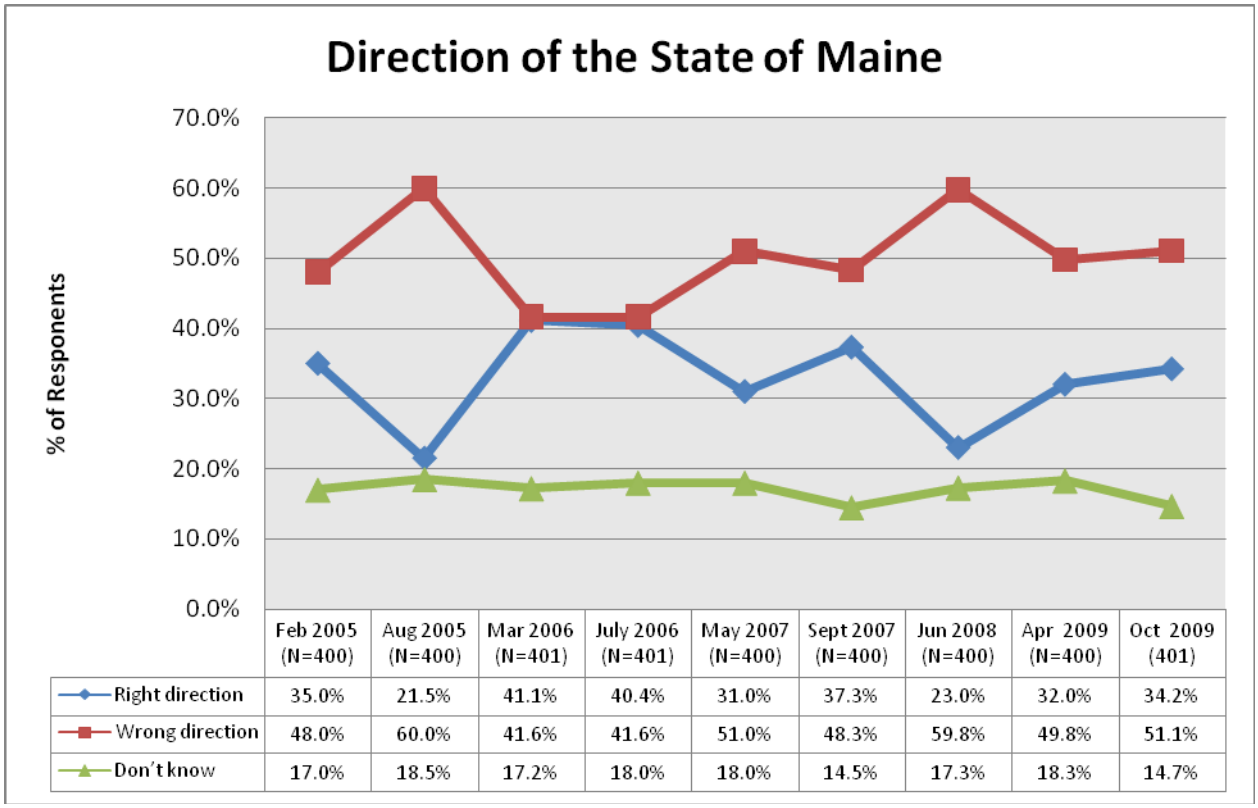
Fifty-one percent (51.1%) of Maine citizens polled think that the State of Maine is headed in the wrong direction, while 34.2% indicated that the State is headed in the right direction. Fifteen percent (14.7%) of respondents are undecided.

There has been an 11 percentage point increase in those who think that Maine is heading in the right direction, since June 2008.

Residents of Congressional District 1 (42.1%) are much more likely to feel that Maine is heading in the right direction than those in Congressional District Two (26.1%).

II. FINDINGS – ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Direction of the State of Maine (cont.)



	Feb 2005 (N=400)	Aug 2005 (N=400)	Mar 2006 (N=401)	July 2006 (N=401)	May 2007 (N=400)	Sept 2007 (N=400)	Jun 2008 (N=400)	Apr 2009 (N=400)	Oct 2009 (401)
Right direction	35.0%	21.5%	41.1%	40.4%	31.0%	37.3%	23.0%	32.0%	34.2%
Wrong direction	48.0%	60.0%	41.6%	41.6%	51.0%	48.3%	59.8%	49.8%	51.1%
Don't know	17.0%	18.5%	17.2%	18.0%	18.0%	14.5%	17.3%	18.3%	14.7%

II. FINDINGS – ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Most Important Issue Facing the State of Maine Today

What do you think is the most important issue facing the State of Maine today? [Unaided]

Top Answers	Feb 2005 (N=400)	August 2005 (N=400)	March 2006 (N=401)	July 2006 (N=401)	May 2007 (N=400)	Sept. 2007 (N=400)	June 2008 (N=400)	April 2009 (N=400)	October 2009 (N=401)
Jobs / Employment	32.0%	35.3%	26.2%	19.2%	17.5%	23.3%	22.3%	42.3%	35.4%
Healthcare	10.5%	8.8%	15.2%	15.7%	11.3%	15.3%	8.0%	8.8%	15.2%
Tax Reform or Relief	14.3%	14.3%	13.4%	15.2%	21.5%	17.3%	13.3%	13.1%	12.4%
Balancing the State budget	3.0%	3.0%	3.2%	4.0%	7.8%	1.8%	3.3%	4.8%	9.0%
Gay marriage	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.7%
Business climate / development	0.5%	2.5%	2.0%	5.5%	0.0%	2.4%	2.6%	2.0%	4.2%
The economy (unspecified)	0.5%	0.0%	2.0%	3.2%	1.0%	0.5%	2.8%	3.0%	3.2%
Education and Schools	8.5%	3.8%	7.2%	8.5%	10.3%	13.3%	4.8%	7.5%	2.7%
Cost of living	1.3%	4.0%	3.2%	1.2%	1.0%	3.5%	9.3%	2.5%	2.2%
Government spending	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
Energy / Environment	1.0%	1.8%	1.7%	4.9%	3.0%	0.0%	3.5%	2.0%	1.5%
Don't know	7.5%	3.0%	6.7%	6.5%	5.0%	4.0%	2.8%	2.0%	1.5%
High level of property taxes	15.0%	6.8%	6.2%	5.0%	9.8%	8.0%	2.0%	2.0%	0.5%

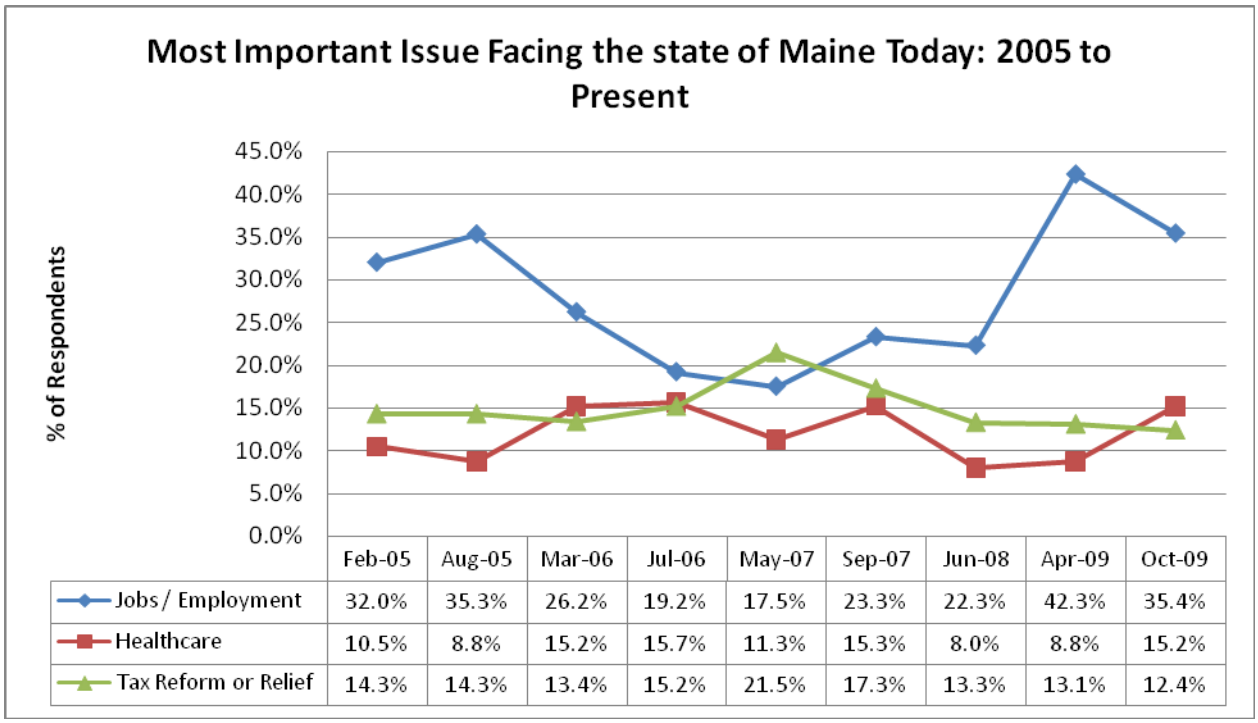
** Note: Respondents were asked to be more specific with their answer if they said "Economy" or "Taxes".*

Thirty-five percent (35.4%) of Mainers polled indicated, unaided, that "Jobs / Employment" is the most important issue facing the state of Maine today. While 15.2% of those polled cited "healthcare" as the most important issue facing the State of Maine today, 12.4% cited "tax reform or relief."

II. FINDINGS – ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Most Important Issue Facing the State of Maine Today (cont.)

Other top answers cited are: "balancing the State budget" (9.0%), "gay marriage" (5.7%), "business climate / development" (4.2%), and "the economy" (3.2%). **While there has been some decline (6.9%) since our April 2009 poll concern regarding "Jobs / Employment", mention of this issue has increased by 13 percentage points between June 2008 and October 2009 (from 22.3% to 35.4%).**



	Feb-05	Aug-05	Mar-06	Jul-06	May-07	Sep-07	Jun-08	Apr-09	Oct-09
Jobs / Employment	32.0%	35.3%	26.2%	19.2%	17.5%	23.3%	22.3%	42.3%	35.4%
Healthcare	10.5%	8.8%	15.2%	15.7%	11.3%	15.3%	8.0%	8.8%	15.2%
Tax Reform or Relief	14.3%	14.3%	13.4%	15.2%	21.5%	17.3%	13.3%	13.1%	12.4%

II. FINDINGS – ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Timing of Economic Resurgence in Maine

When do you think that the Maine economy will come out of the current economic recession? [Unaided]

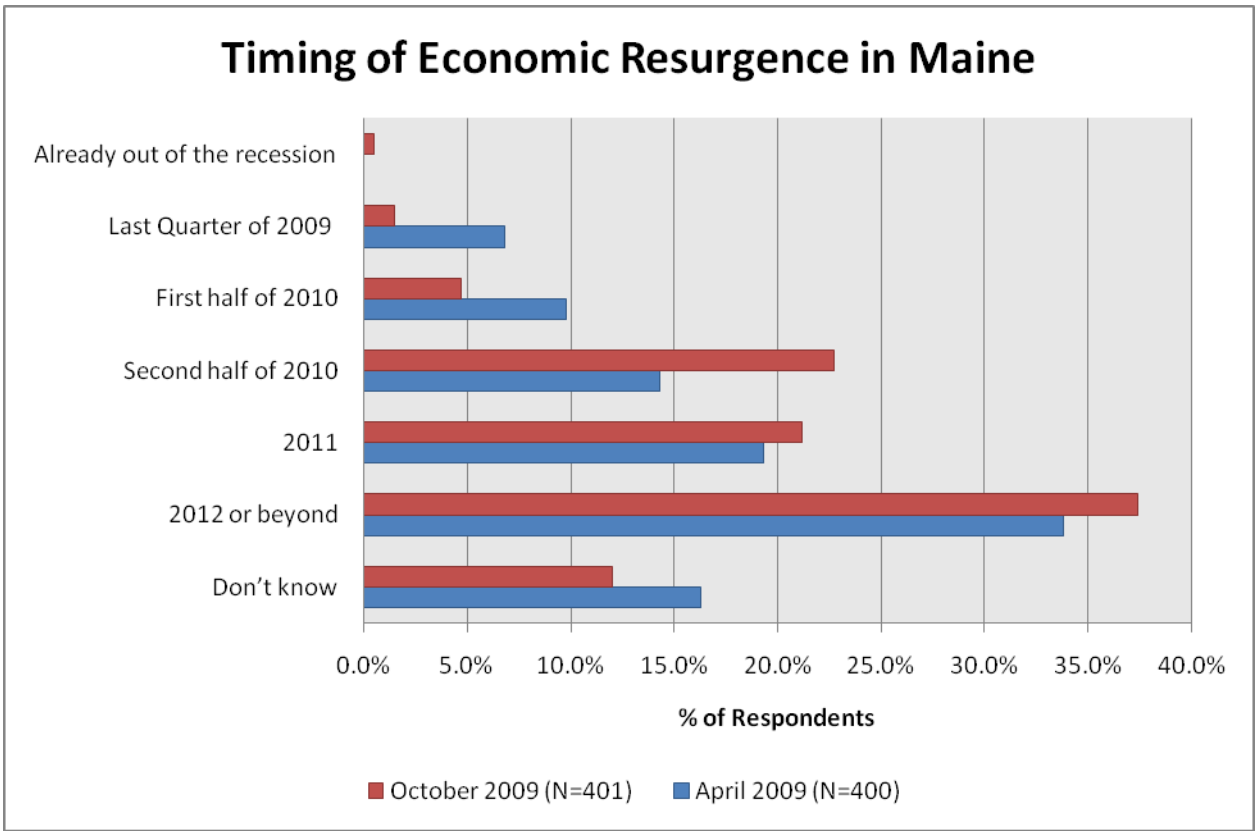
	April 2009 (N=400)	October 2009 (N=401)	
Already out of the recession	N/A	0.5%	
Last half (April) / quarter (October) of 2009	6.8%	1.5%	
First half of 2010	9.8%	4.7%	27.4%
Second half of 2010	14.3%	22.7%	
2011	19.3%	21.2%	
2012 or beyond	33.8%	37.4%	
Don't know	16.3%	12.0%	

More than one-third (37.4%) of respondents think that Maine's economy will come out of the current economic recession in 2012 or beyond, while 21.2% believe Maine will begin to recover in 2011. Twenty-three percent (22.7%) of respondents said the second half of 2010, 4.7% indicated the first half of 2010 (total of 27.4% for 2010), and 1.5% said the last quarter of 2009. Twelve percent (12.0%) of respondents said that they don't know when the Maine economy will come out of the current recession and two respondents (0.5%) believe that the Maine economy is already out of the recession.

Those Who Say That Economic Resurgence Will Take Place in "2012 or Beyond"	
Higher	**Lower**
• Congressional District Two (46.2%)	• Congressional District One (28.7%)

II. FINDINGS – ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Timing of Economic Resurgence in Maine (cont.)



II. FINDINGS – ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Job Security

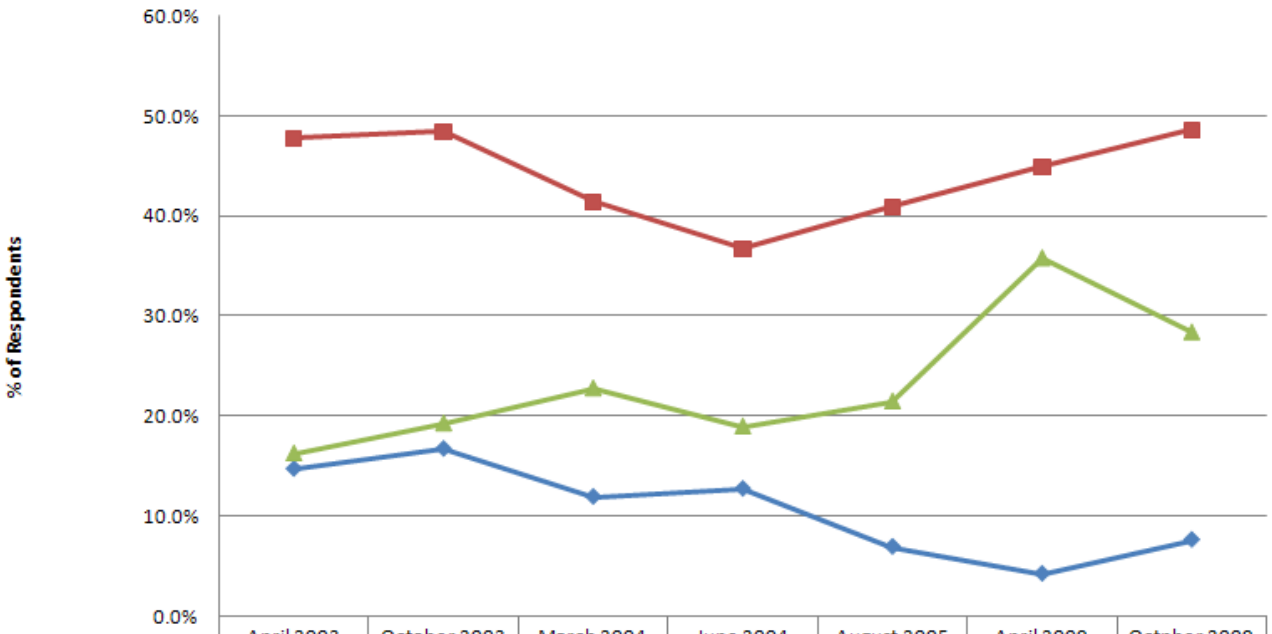
In the past six months, do you feel that your job security has: [Options were rotated]

	April 2003 (N=400)	October 2003 (N=400)	March 2004 (N=400)	June 2004 (N=400)	August 2005 (N=400)	Apr 2009 (N=400)	Oct 2009 (N=401)
Improved	14.8%	16.8%	12.0%	12.8%	7.0%	4.3%	7.7%
Stayed the same	47.8%	48.5%	41.5%	36.8%	41.0%	45.0%	48.6%
Worsened	16.3%	19.3%	22.8%	19.0%	21.5%	35.8%	28.4%
Don't know	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.3%	2.3%	0.3%	0.5%
Retired / Not working	20.5%	14.8%	23.0%	31.3%	28.3%	14.8%	14.7%

Nearly one-half of respondents (48.6%) said that their level of job security has "stayed the same" over the past six months. While 28.4% of those polled indicated that their job security has "worsened" over the past six months, 7.7% reported that it has "improved." Fifteen percent (14.7%) of all respondents said that they are "retired or not working".

There has been a 7.4% decline in those who say there job security has worsened since our April 2009 Omnibus poll.

Job Security (cont.)



	April 2003 (N=400)	October 2003 (N=400)	March 2004 (N=400)	June 2004 (N=400)	August 2005 (N=400)	April 2009 (N=400)	Octpber 2009 (N=401)
Improved	14.8%	16.8%	12.0%	12.8%	7.0%	4.3%	7.7%
Stayed the same	47.8%	48.5%	41.5%	36.8%	41.0%	45.0%	48.6%
Worsened	16.3%	19.3%	22.8%	19.0%	21.5%	35.8%	28.4%

National Public Policy Questions

II. FINDINGS – NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Approval of Barack Obama's Presidency

President Barack Obama has been in office for approximately 9 months. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's presidency thus far? [Options were rotated]

	April 2009* (N=400)	October 2009 (N=401)
Approve	68.3%	57.9%
Disapprove	24.0%	37.9%
Don't know	7.8%	4.2%

**The April 2009 poll question read "…for approximately 2 and a half months."*

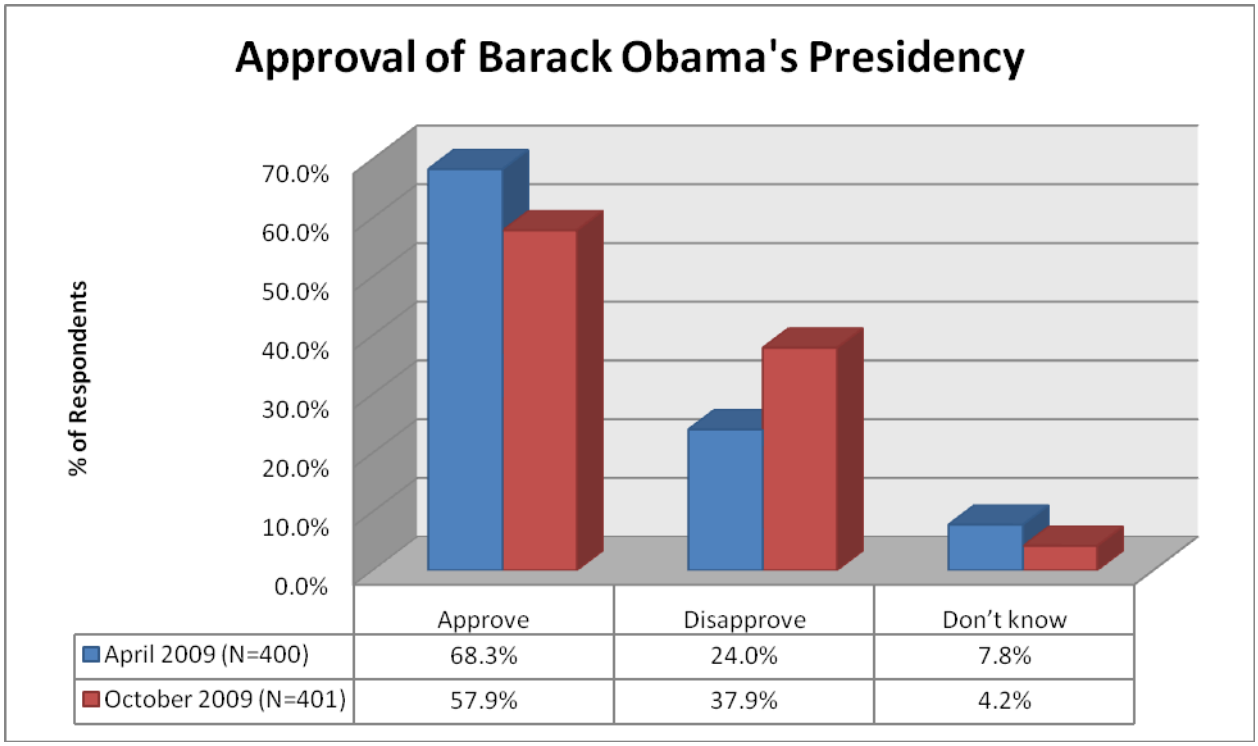
Nearly six in ten (57.9%) respondents indicated that they approve of Barack Obama's presidency thus far, while 37.9% said that they disapprove. Four percent (4.2%) of respondents are unsure of whether they approve of Obama's presidency thus far.

There has been a 10 percentage point decrease in President Obama's approval rating since April, 2009.

"Approve" of Barack Obama's Presidency Thus Far	
Higher	**Lower**
• Democrats (86.6%), Independents (57.4%)*	• Republicans (24.0%)
• Congressional District One (62.9%)	• Congressional District Two (52.8%)

**Results within this cell are also significantly different from each other.*

Approval of Barack Obama's Presidency (cont.)



II. FINDINGS – NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Approval of Barack Obama's Management of Economic Situation

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the current economic situation? [Options were rotated]

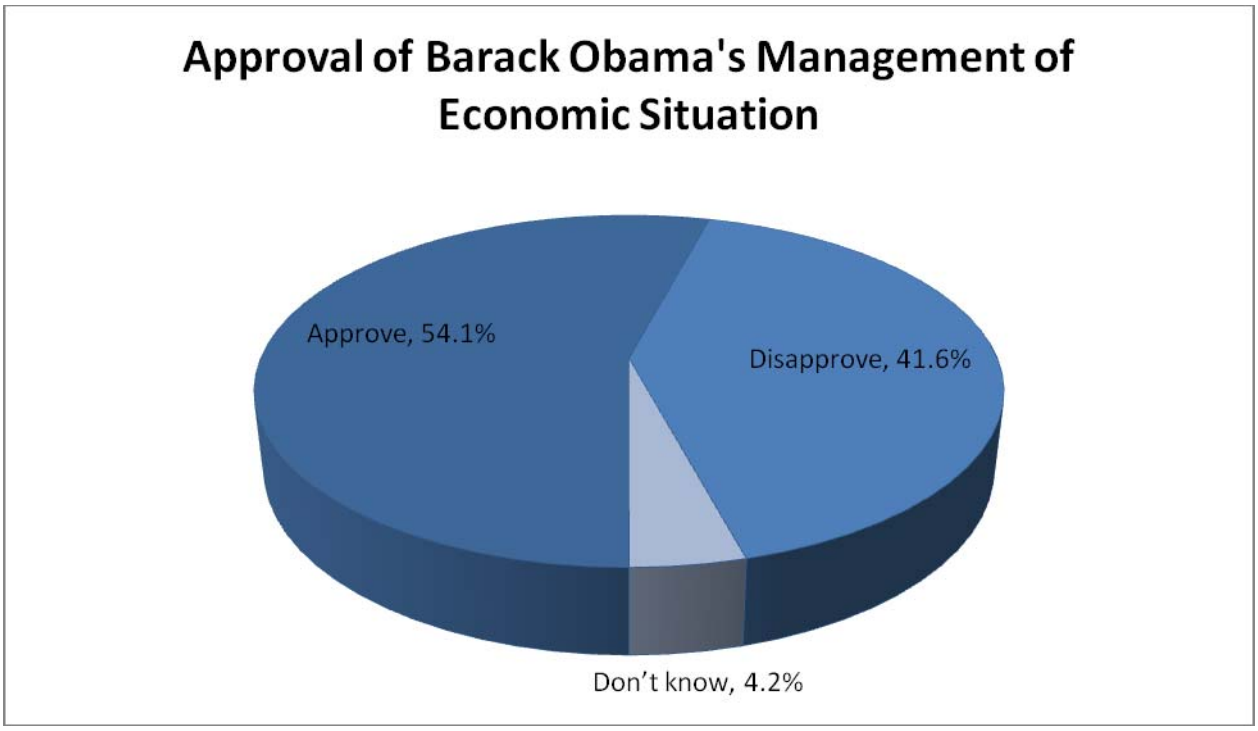
	October 2009 (N=401)
Approve	54.1%
Disapprove	41.6%
Don't know	4.2%

Fifty-four percent (54.1%) of respondents approve of the way Barack Obama is handling the current economic situation, while 41.6% disapprove. Four percent (4.2%) of respondents are unsure.

"Approve" of the Way Barack Obama is Handling the Current Economic Situation	
Higher	**Lower**
• Democrats (83.2%), Independents (50.0%)*	• Republicans (22.5%)
• Congressional District One (59.9%)	• Congressional District Two (48.2%)

**Results within this cell are also significantly different from each other.*

Approval of Barack Obama's Management of Economic Situation (cont.)



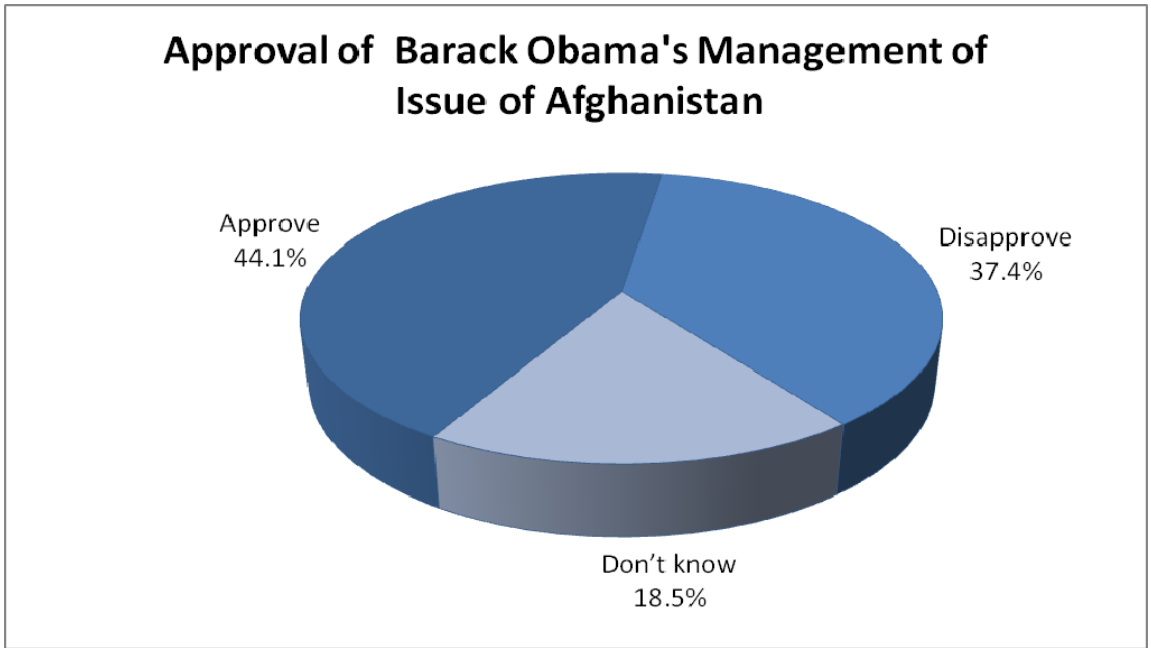
Approval of Barack Obama's Management of the Issue of Afghanistan

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing on the issue of Afghanistan? [Options were rotated]

	October 2009 (N=401)
Approve	44.1%
Disapprove	37.4%
Don't know	18.5%

Forty-four percent (44.1%) of respondents approve of the job President Obama is doing on the issue of Afghanistan, while 37.4% disapprove (a plurality of 6.7%). Nineteen percent (18.5%) of respondents are undecided.

"Approve" of the Way Barack Obama is Managing the Issue of Afghanistan	
Higher	**Lower**
• Democrats (62.4%)	• Republicans (24.8%)



II. FINDINGS – NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

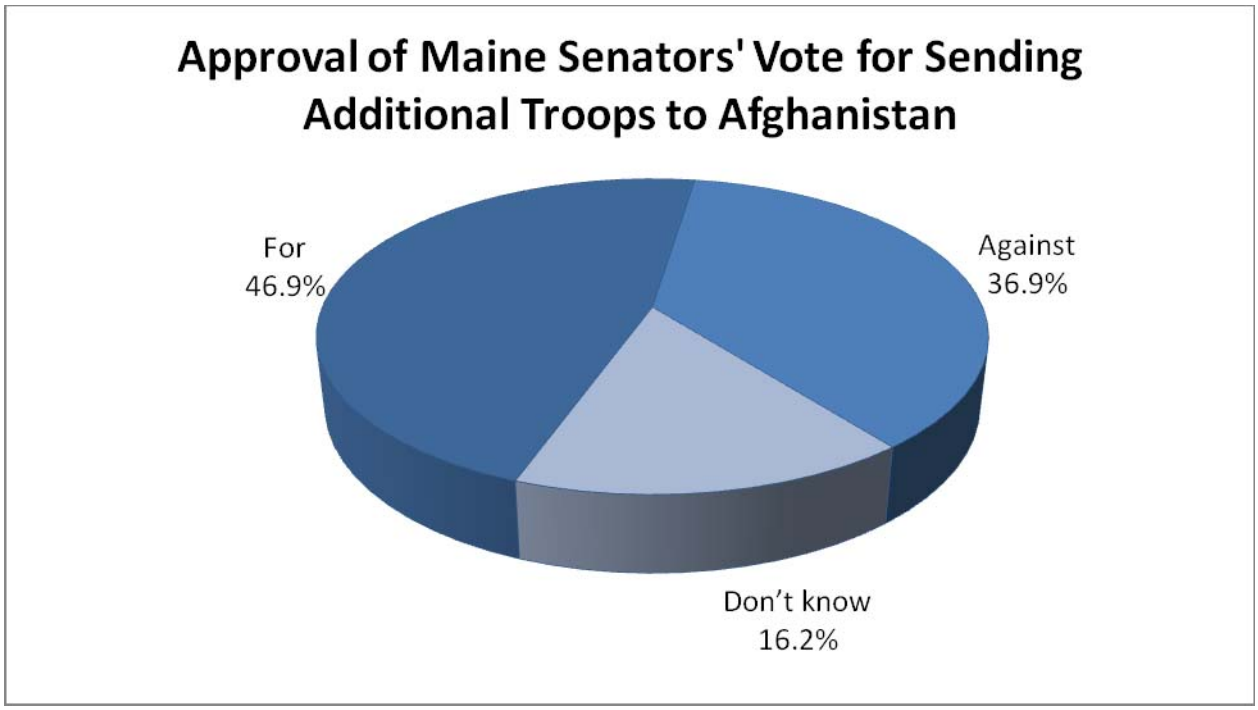
Approval / Disapproval of Maine Senators' Vote for Sending Additional Troops to Afghanistan (Future Vote)

Do you think that Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe should vote for or against sending additional troops to Afghanistan? [Options were rotated]

	October 2009 (N=401)
For	46.9%
Against	36.9%
Don't know	16.2%

Nearly one-half of those polled (46.9%) think that Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe should vote for sending additional troops to Afghanistan. While 36.9% are opposed to this action, 16.2% of respondents are unsure.

"Approve" of Maine Senators' Vote for Sending Addition Troops to Afghanistan	
Higher	**Lower**
• Republicans (62.0%)	• Democrats (39.6%)



Healthcare Reform Questions

II. FINDINGS – HEALTH CARE REFORM QUESTIONS

Opinions on Current Health Care System

How would you describe the current health care system in the United States? Do you think it is: [Options were rotated]

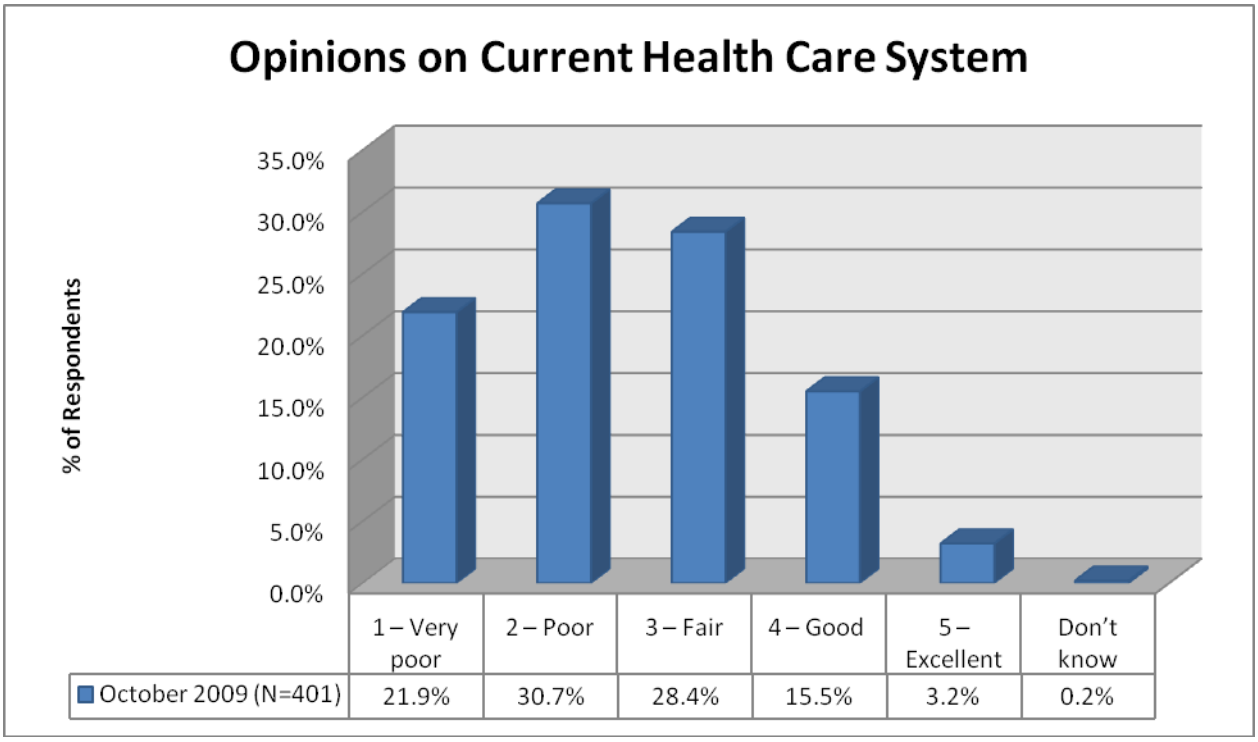
	October 2009 (N=401)	
1 – Very poor	21.9%	52.6%
2 – Poor	30.7%	
3 – Fair	28.4%	
4 – Good	15.5%	18.7%
5 – Excellent	3.2%	
Don't know	0.2%	
Mean (1 to 5)	2.47	

More than one-half of respondents (52.6%) described the current health care system in the United States as either "poor" (30.7%) or "very poor" (21.9%). **While 28.4% gave a rating of "fair," a total of 18.7% of those polled indicated that the current health care system in the US is either "good" (15.5%) or "excellent" (3.2%). The overall rating was 2.47 on a scale of 1 to 5.**

Describe Current Healthcare System as "Very Poor" or "Poor"	
Higher	**Lower**
• Democrats (65.1%), Independents (57.4%)	• Republicans (31.8%)

Describe Current Healthcare System as "Good" or "Excellent"	
Higher	**Lower**
• Republicans (32.6%)	• Democrats (8.7%)
• Age: 55 + (22.3%)	• Age: 18-34 (6.4%)

Opinions on Current Health Care System (cont.)



II. FINDINGS – HEALTH CARE REFORM QUESTIONS

Approval of Barack Obama's Health Care Plan

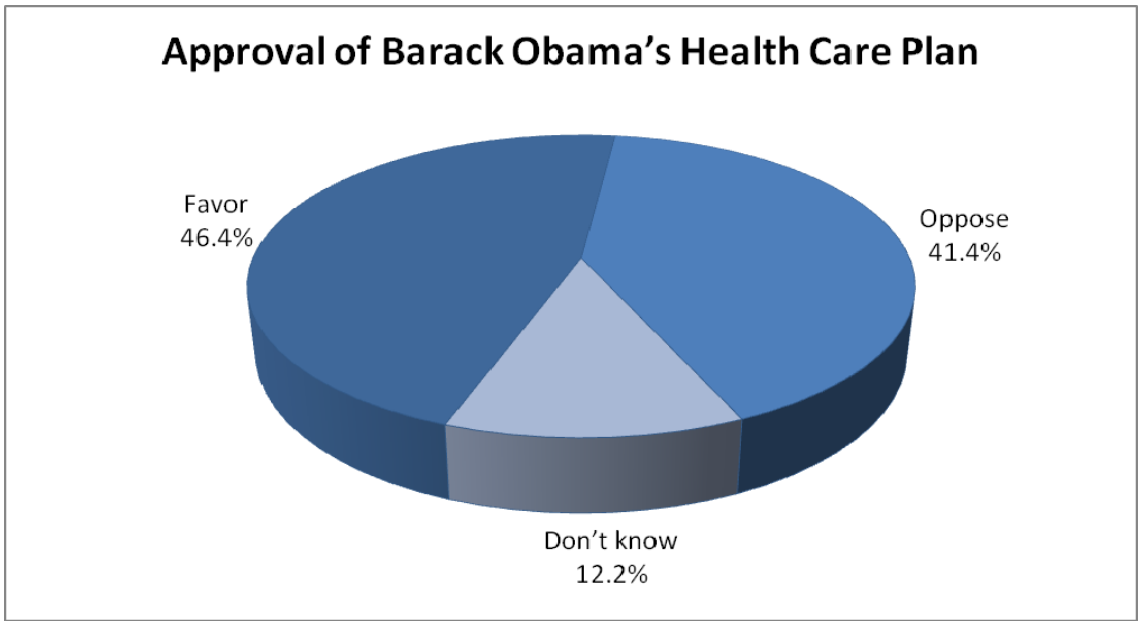
In general, do you favor or oppose President Obama's plan for health care reform? [Options were rotated]

	October 2009 (N=401)
Favor	46.4%
Oppose	41.4%
Don't know	12.2%

Nearly one-half of those polled (46.4%) favor President Obama's plan for health care reform, while 41.4% oppose it. Twelve percent (12.2%) of respondents are unsure.

"Favor" Barack Obama's Health Care Plan	
Higher	**Lower**
• Democrats (71.8%), Independents (41.7%)*	• Republicans (20.8%)

**Results within this cell are also significantly different from each other.*



II. FINDINGS – HEALTH CARE REFORM QUESTIONS

Approval of Government Administered Health Insurance Plan

Would you favor or oppose the government offering everyone a government administered health insurance plan – something like the Medicare coverage that people 65 and older get – that would compete with private health insurance plans? [Options were rotated]

	October 2009 (N=401)
Favor	57.4%
Oppose	37.2%
Don't know	5.5%

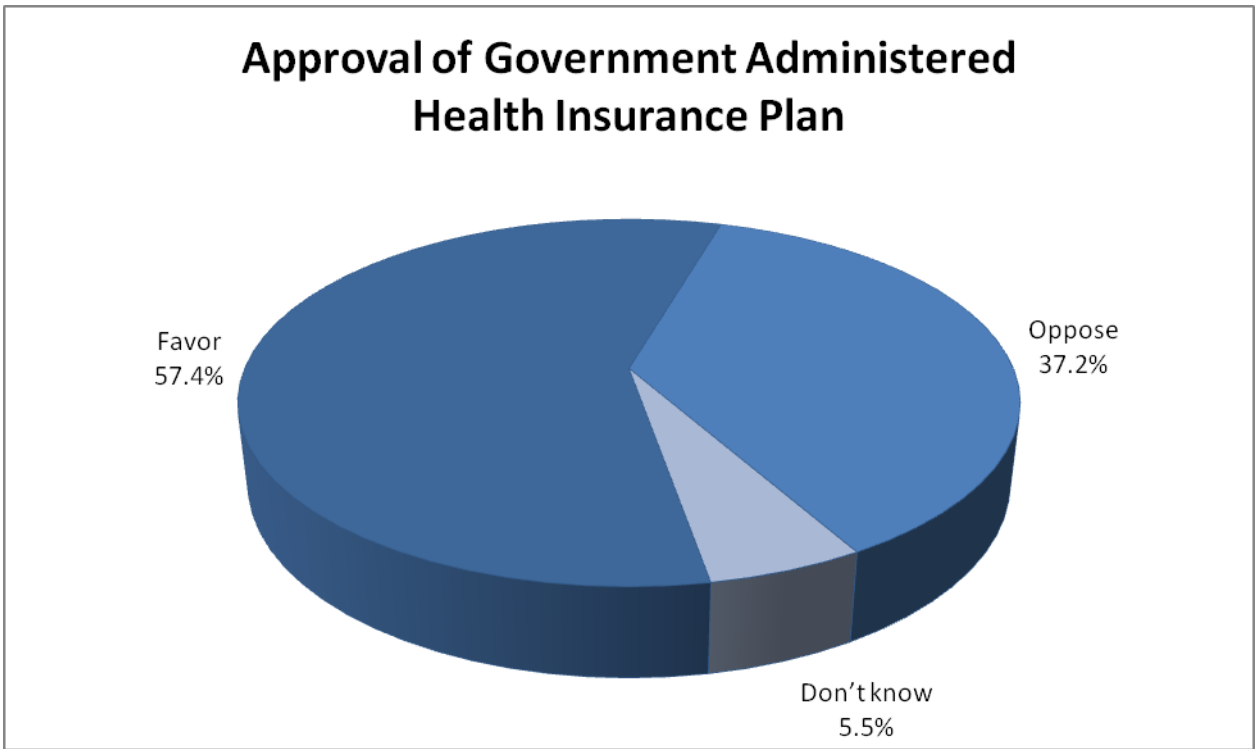
Nearly six in ten (57.4%) Maine citizens polled favor the government offering a government administered health insurance plan that would compete with private health insurance plans, while 37.2% oppose this idea. Six percent (5.5%) of respondents are unsure.

Thus Mainers favor a public option by 20 percentage points.

"Favor" Government Administered Health Insurance Plan	
Higher	**Lower**
• Democrats (80.5%), Independents (61.1%)*	• Republicans (27.1%)

**Results within this cell are also significantly different from each other.*

Approval of Government Administered Health Insurance Plan (cont.)



II. FINDINGS – HEALTH CARE REFORM QUESTIONS

Approval of Increased Regulation of Private Health Insurance Companies

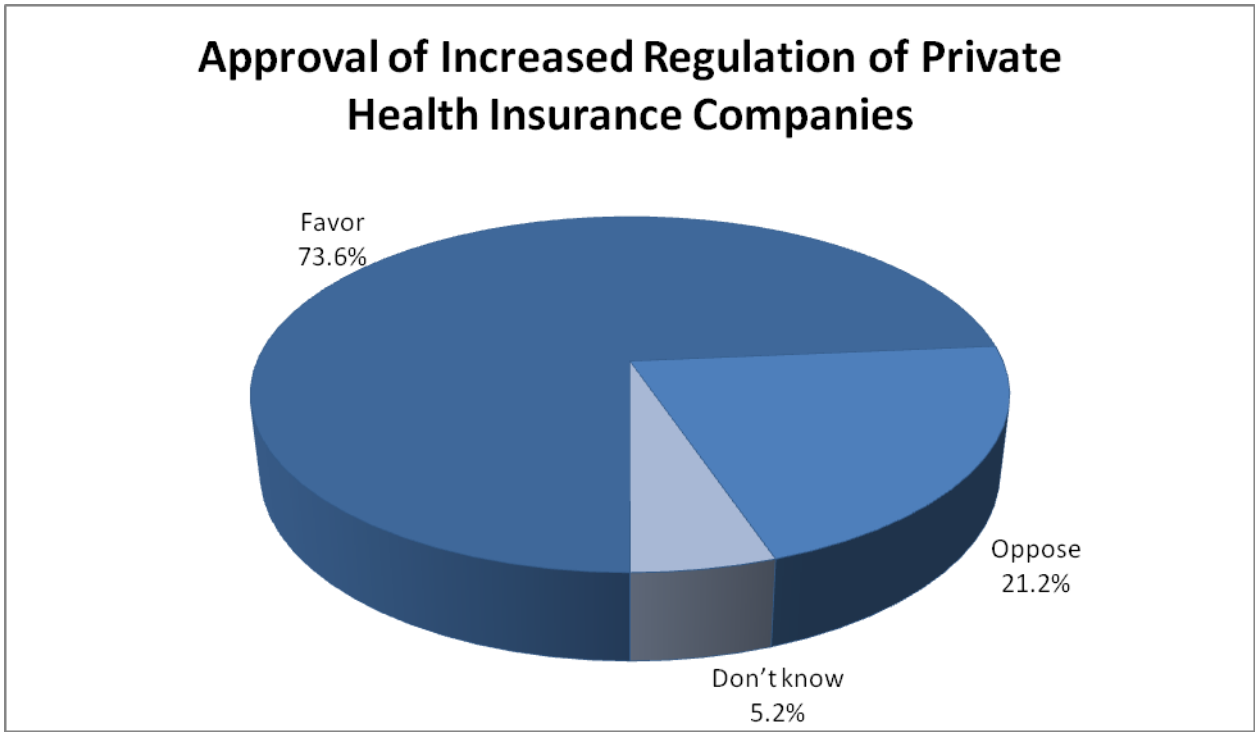
Would you favor or oppose increased regulation on private health insurance companies, such as limiting the amount insurance companies can charge patients for out-of-pocket costs and limiting the ability of insurance companies to deny people coverage? [Options were rotated]

	October 2009 (N=401)
Favor	73.6%
Oppose	21.2%
Don't know	5.2%

By a very significant majority Mainers favor increased regulation on private health insurance companies (73.6%), while only 21.2% oppose this idea. Five percent (5.2%) of those polled are unsure.

"Oppose" Increased Regulation on Private Health Insurance Companies	
Higher	**Lower**
• Republicans (37.2%)	• Democrats (10.7%), Independents (17.6%)

Approval of Increased Regulation of Private Health Insurance Companies(cont.)



Maine – Public Policy Questions / November Elections

II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Vote on Question 1

Question 1 – "Do you want to reject the new law that lets same-sex couples marry and allows individuals and religious groups to refuse to perform these marriages?" If today was Election Day, how would you vote on this issue?

	October 2009 (N=401)	
Vote YES	40.9%	42.9%
Lean YES	2.0%	
Vote NO	50.6%	51.8%
Lean NO	1.2%	
Still undecided	5.2%	
Total YES (vote and lean)	42.9%	
Total NO (vote and lean)	51.8%	

Fifty-two percent (51.8%) of respondents indicated that, if today were Election Day, they would reject (50.6% vote NO, 1.2% lean NO) this referendum question, thus upholding the new law allowing same-sex couples to marry. Forty-three percent (42.9%) of respondents said that they would vote in favor (40.9% vote YES, 2.0% lean YES) of this question, and 5.2% are undecided. **Thus, there is a 9 percentage point margin in favor of rejecting the referendum question.**

The undecided factor is low.

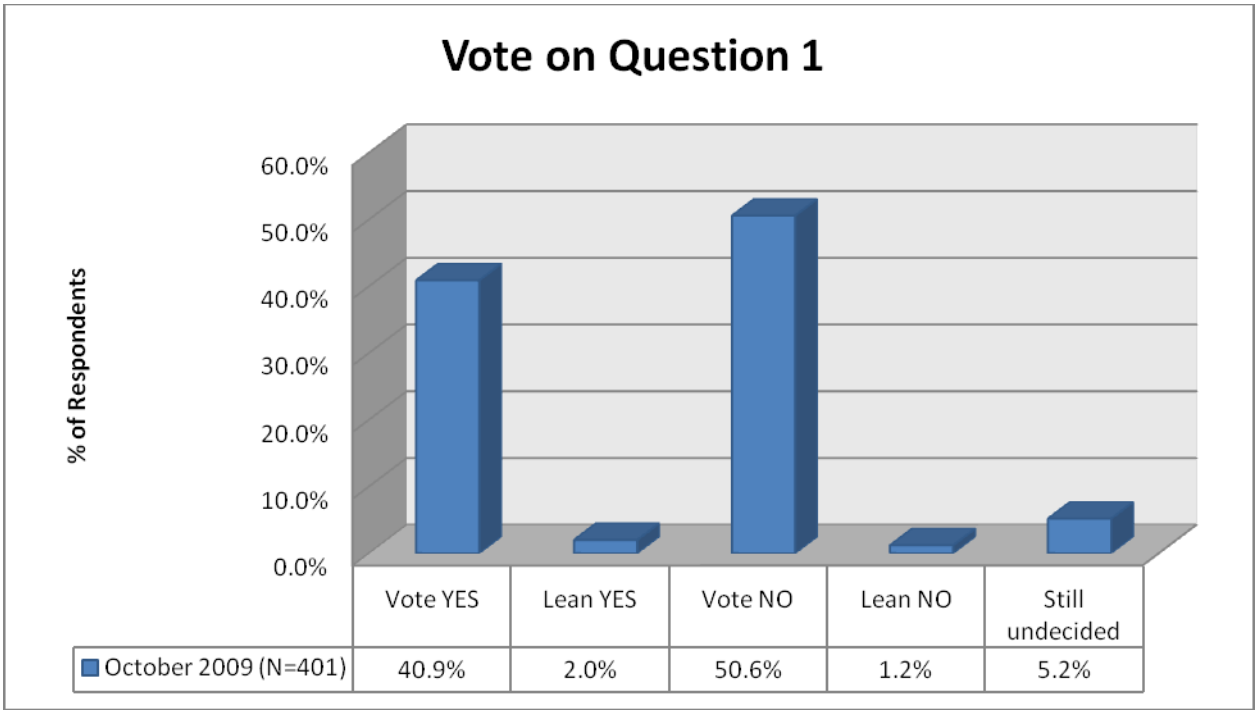
"Vote YES"	
Higher	**Lower**
• Congressional District Two (51.8%)	• Congressional District One (34.2%)
• Republicans (64.3%)	• Democrats (24.2%), Independents (42.6%)*
• Those who believe that if the gay marriage law is upheld it will result in gay marriage being taught in Maine schools (75.6%)	• Those who do not believe that if the gay marriage law is upheld it will result in gay marriage being taught in Maine schools (23.9%)

**Results within this cell are also significantly different from each other.*

Vote on Question 1 (cont.)

Preference of Catholic voters

	Catholic Voters (N=110)
YES	50.0%
NO	42.7%
Undecided	7.3%



See also results of another question on this issue on page 37.

II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Vote on Question 2

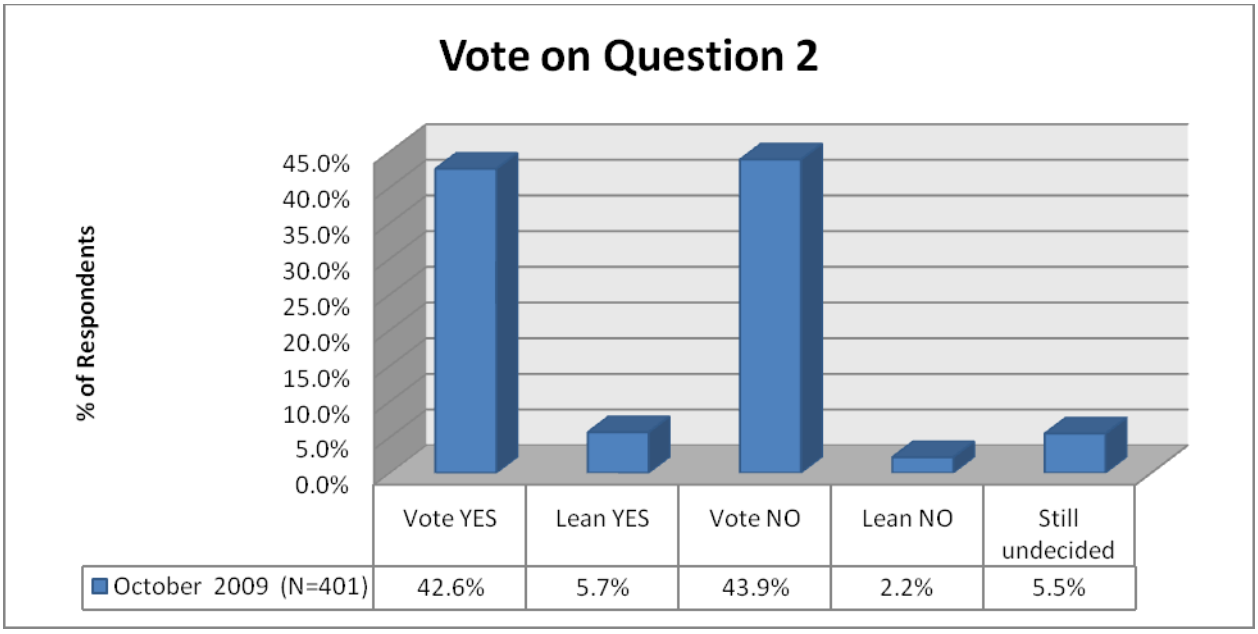
Question 2 – "Do you want to cut the rate of the municipal excise tax by an average of 55% on motor vehicles less than six years old and exempt hybrid and other alternative-energy and highly fuel-efficient motor vehicles from sales tax and three years of excise tax?" If today was Election Day, how would you vote on this issue?

	October 2009 (N=401)	
Vote YES	42.6%	48.3%
Lean YES	5.7%	
Vote NO	43.9%	46.1%
Lean NO	2.2%	
Still undecided	5.5%	
Total YES (vote and lean)	48.3%	
Total NO (vote and lean)	46.1%	

Forty-eight percent (48.3%) of respondents reported that, if today were Election Day, they would support (42.6% vote YES, 5.7% lean YES) this municipal excise tax referendum question. Forty-six percent (46.1%) of respondents said that they would oppose (43.9% vote NO, 2.2% lean NO) this question, and 5.5% are undecided. **Respondents are equally divided on this measure at this point in time.**

No statistically significant differences were found among demographic subgroups with the exception of the 18-34 year age group who are strongly in favor of this measure (59.2%).

Vote on Question 2 (cont.)



II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Vote on Question 3

Question 3 – "Do you want to repeal the 2007 law on school district consolidation and restore the laws previously in effect?" If today was Election Day, how would you vote on this issue?

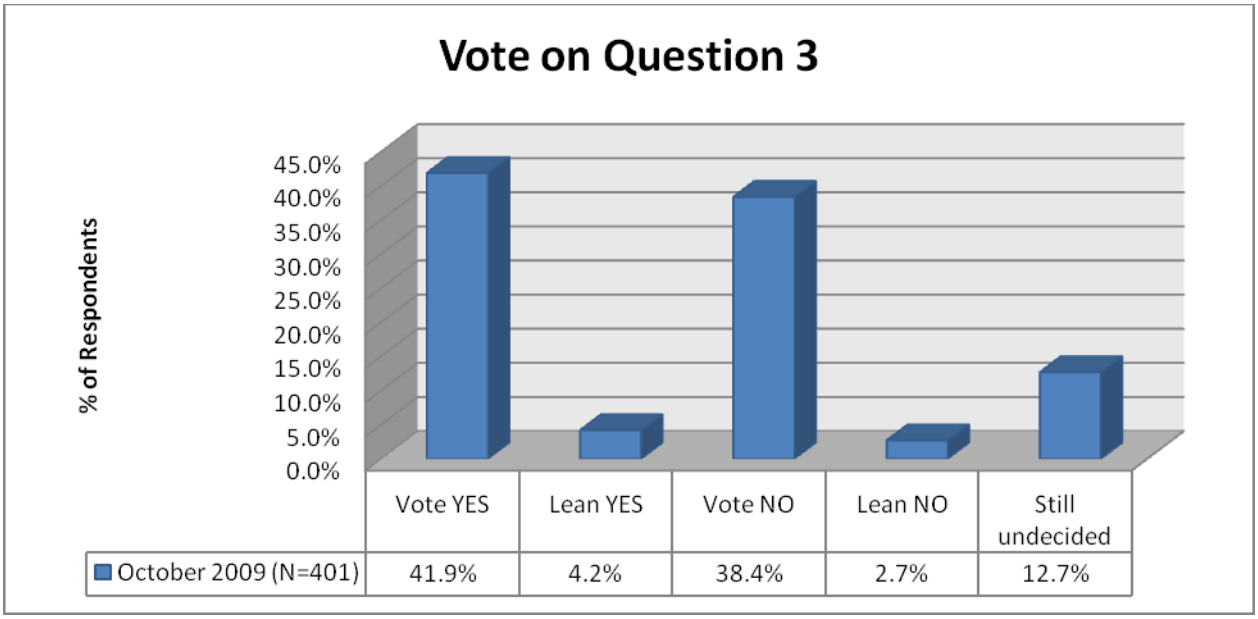
	October 2009 (N=401)	
Vote YES	41.9%	46.1%
Lean YES	4.2%	
Vote NO	38.4%	41.1%
Lean NO	2.7%	
Still undecided	12.7%	
Total YES (vote and lean)	46.1%	
Total NO (vote and lean)	41.1%	

Forty-six percent (46.1%) of respondents indicated that, if today were Election Day, they would support (41.9% vote YES, 4.2% lean YES) on the referendum question regarding school district consolidation. Forty-one percent (41.1%) of respondents said that they would oppose (38.4% vote NO, 2.7% lean NO) this question, and 12.7% are undecided.

Thus there is a 5.0% margin in favor of this proposal.

"Vote YES"	
Higher	**Lower**
• Congressional District Two (54.8%)	• Congressional District One (37.6%)

Vote on Question 3 (cont.)



II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Vote on Question 4

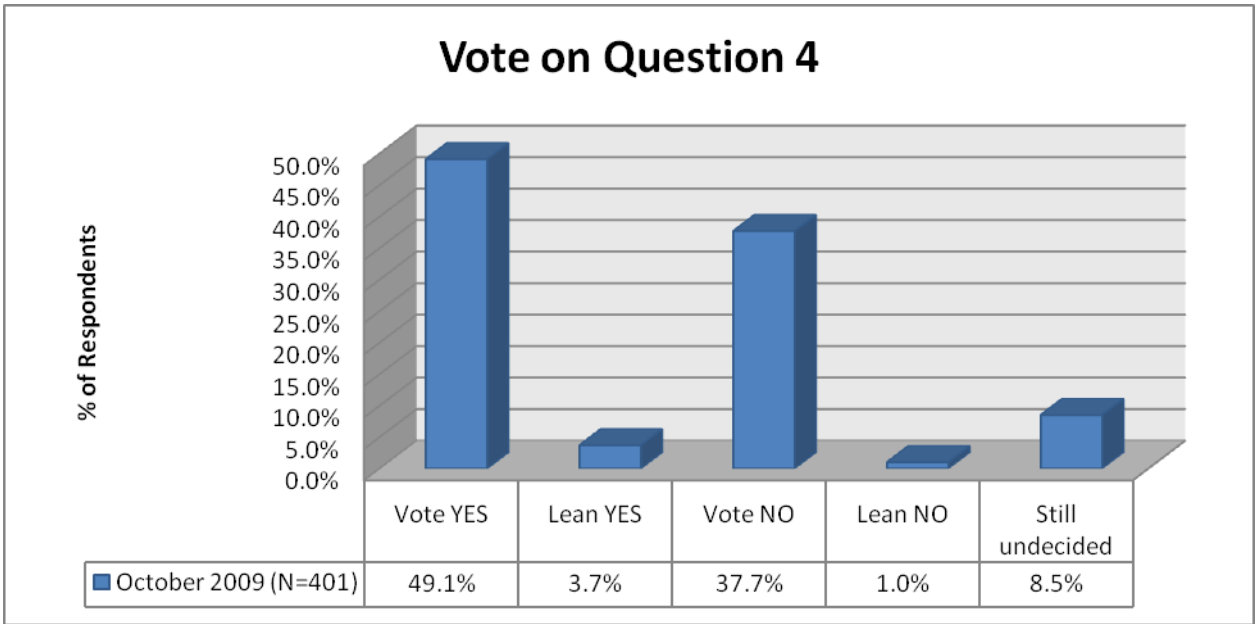
Question 4 – "Do you want to change the existing formulas that limit state and local government spending and require voter approval by referendum for spending over those limits and for increases in state taxes?" This question is also known as TABOR II. If today was Election Day, how would you vote on this issue?

	October 2009 (N=401)	
Vote YES	49.1%	52.8%
Lean YES	3.7%	
Vote NO	37.7%	38.7%
Lean NO	1.0%	
Still undecided	8.5%	
Total YES (vote and lean)	52.8%	
Total NO (vote and lean)	38.7%	

Just over one-half (52.8%) of respondents reported that, if today were Election Day, they would support (49.1% vote YES, 3.7% lean YES) this referendum question. Thirty-nine percent (38.7%) of respondents said that they would oppose (37.7% vote NO, 1.0% lean NO) this question, and 8.5% are undecided. **Thus, there is a 14 percentage point margin in favor of this referendum question at this point in time.**

"Vote YES"	
Higher	**Lower**
• Republicans (62.8%), Independents (61.1%)	• Democrats (40.3%
• Those who indicated that they plan to vote YES on referendum Question 1 (vote / lean combined) (68.6%)	• Those who indicated that they plan to vote NO on referendum Question 1 (vote / lean combined) (41.3%)

Vote on Question 4 (cont.)

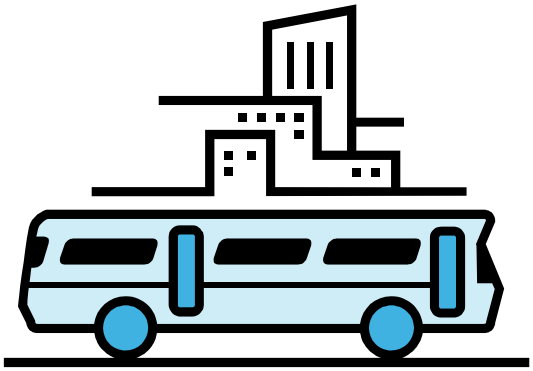


II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Vote on Question 6

Question 6 – "Do you favor a $71,250,000 bond issue for improvements to highways and bridges, airports, public transit facilities, ferry and port facilities, including port and harbor structures, as well as funds for the LifeFlight Foundation that will make the State eligible for over $148,000,000 in federal and other matching funds?" If today was Election Day, how would you vote on this issue?

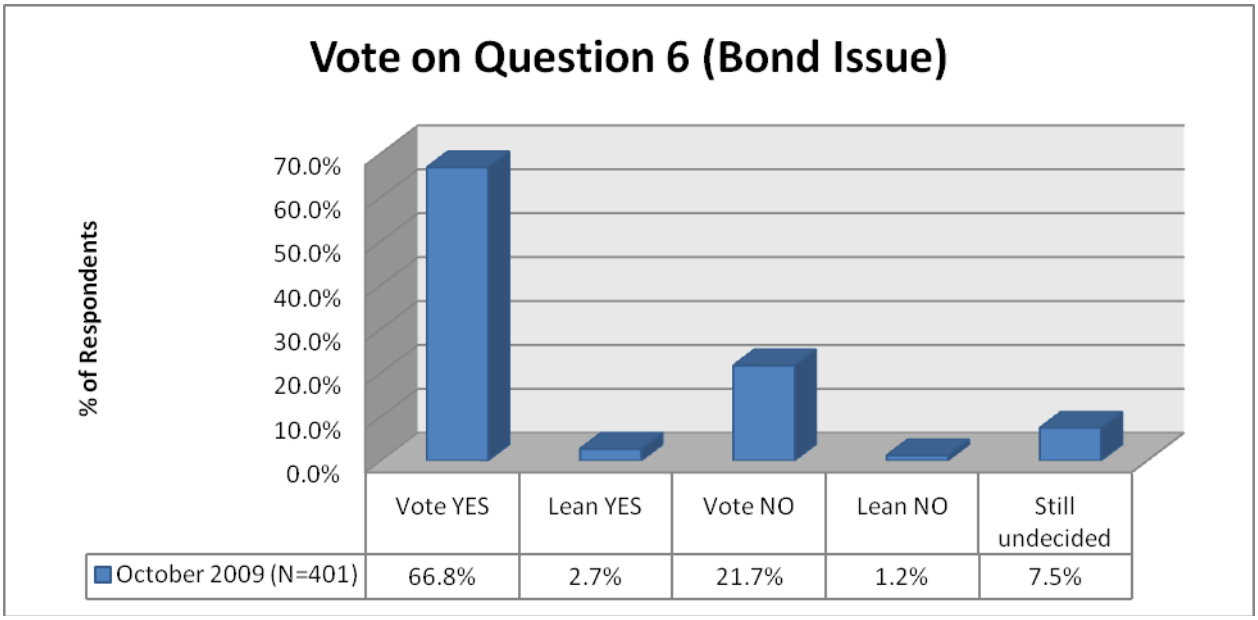
	October 2009 (N=401)	
Vote YES	66.8%	69.5%
Lean YES	2.7%	
Vote NO	21.7%	22.9%
Lean NO	1.2%	
Still undecided	7.5%	
Total YES (vote and lean)	69.5%	
Total NO (vote and lean)	22.9%	



Approximately seven in ten (69.5%) respondents indicated that, if today were Election Day, they would support (66.8% vote YES, 2.7% lean YES) this transportation referendum question. Twenty-three percent (22.9%) of respondents said that they would oppose (21.7% vote NO, 1.2% lean NO) this question, and 7.5% are undecided. **Thus, there is a very significant margin in favor of this referendum question.**

Vote on Question 6 (Bond Issue)	
Higher	**Lower**
• Democrats (81.9%)	• Republicans (57.4%), Independents (68.5%)
• Those who indicated that they plan to vote NO on Question 1 (vote / lean combined) (82.7%)	• Those who indicated that they plan to vote YES on Question 1 (vote / lean combined) (57.6%)

Vote on Question 6 (cont.)



II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Belief that Gay Marriage Will be Taught in Public Schools

Do you believe that if the gay marriage law is upheld in Maine that it will result in gay marriage being taught in public schools?

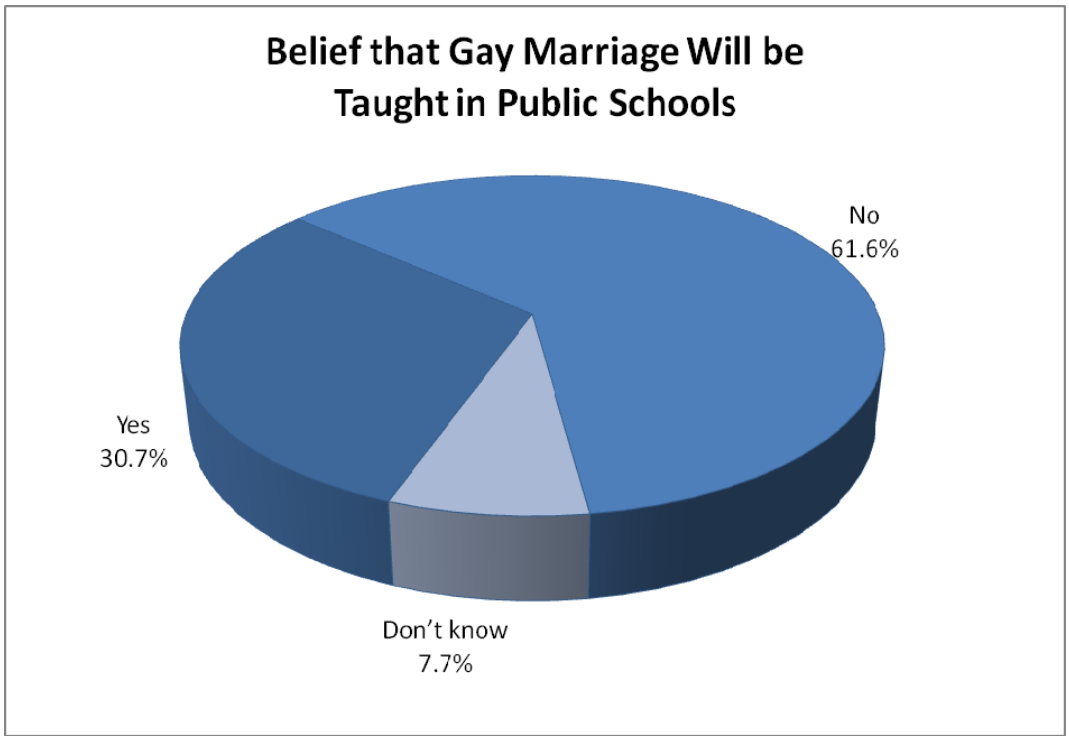
	October 2009 (N=401)
Yes	30.7%
No	61.6%
Don't know	7.7%

By a margin of 2:1 Mainers do not believe that if the gay marriage law is upheld in Maine it will result in gay marriage being taught in public schools.

"Yes" Believe that Gay Marriage Will be Taught in Public Schools	
Higher	**Lower**
• Congressional District Two (37.7%)	• Congressional District One (23.8%)
• Republicans (48.1%)	• Democrats (18.8%), Independents (26.9%)
• Religion: Evangelical Protestant (63.6%)	• Religion: None (21.7%)

A strong majority of Catholics (60.0%) do not believe that gay marriage will be taught in Maine public schools if the current law is upheld while 28.2% do. This reflects the viewpoint of the population at large. However, 28.2% of Catholics do.

Belief that Gay Marriage Will be Taught in Public Schools if the current law is upheld (cont.)



II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Governor Baldacci's Job Performance Rating

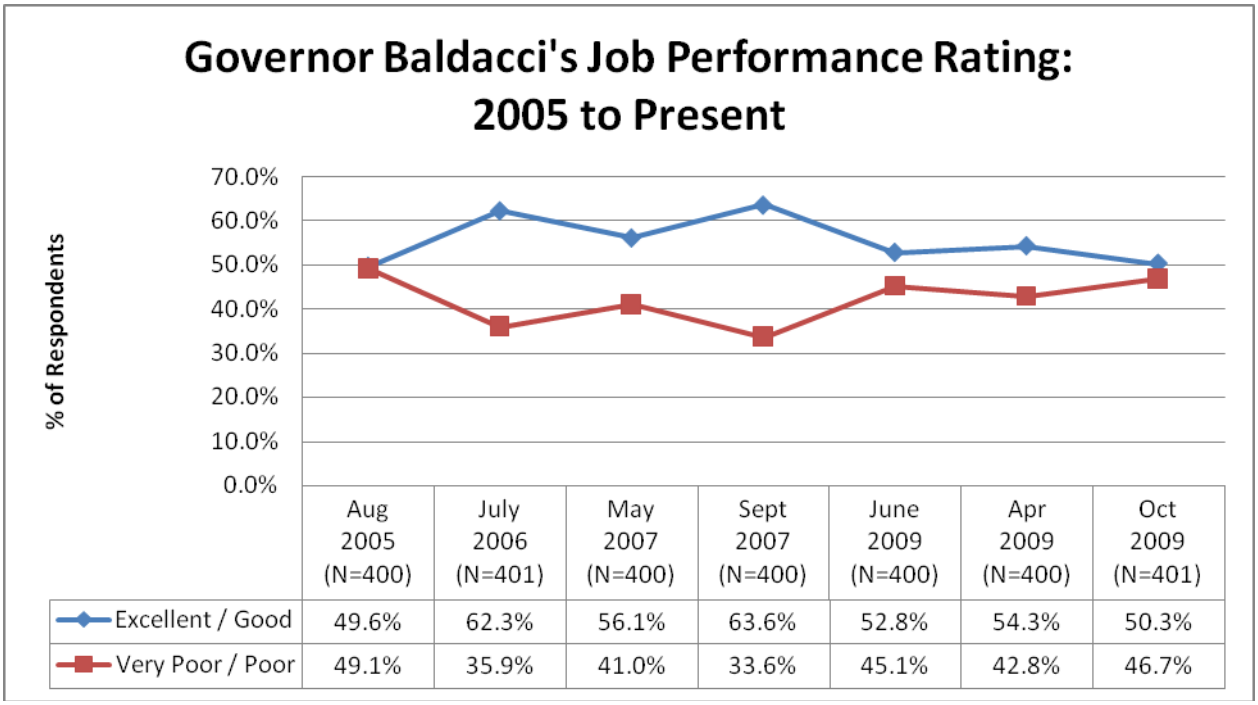
How would you rate Governor John Baldacci's job performance? Is it: [Options were rotated]

	Aug 2005 (N=400)	July 2006 (N=401)	May 2007 (N=400)	Sept 2007 (N=400)	June 2008 (N=400)	Apr 2009 (N=400)	Oct 2009 (N=401)
Excellent	1.8%	6.2%	3.8%	3.3%	1.8%	2.3%	3.2%
Good	47.8%	56.1%	52.3%	60.3%	51.0%	52.0%	47.1%
Poor	31.8%	25.4%	29.0%	24.3%	28.8%	29.5%	32.2%
Very Poor	17.3%	10.5%	12.0%	9.3%	16.3%	13.3%	14.5%
Don't know	1.5%	1.7%	3.0%	3.0%	2.3%	3.0%	3.0%
Excellent / Good	49.6%	62.3%	56.1%	63.6%	52.8%	54.3%	50.3%
Very Poor / Poor	49.1%	35.9%	41.0%	33.6%	45.1%	42.8%	46.7%

One-half (50.3%) of the Maine citizens polled said that they rate Governor Baldacci's job performance as either "good" (47.1%) or "excellent" (3.2%). Forty-seven percent (46.7%) of respondents rated his performance as either "poor" (32.2%) or "very poor" (14.5%), and 3.0% said that they don't know.

"Good / Excellent" Job Performance Ratings for Governor Baldacci	
Higher	**Lower**
• Independents (58.3%), Democrats (57.7%)	• Republicans (34.9%)
• Congressional District One (58.4%)	• Congressional District Two (42.2%)

Governor Baldacci's Job Performance Rating (cont)



	Aug 2005 (N=400)	July 2006 (N=401)	May 2007 (N=400)	Sept 2007 (N=400)	June 2009 (N=400)	Apr 2009 (N=400)	Oct 2009 (N=401)
Excellent / Good	49.6%	62.3%	56.1%	63.6%	52.8%	54.3%	50.3%
Very Poor / Poor	49.1%	35.9%	41.0%	33.6%	45.1%	42.8%	46.7%

II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

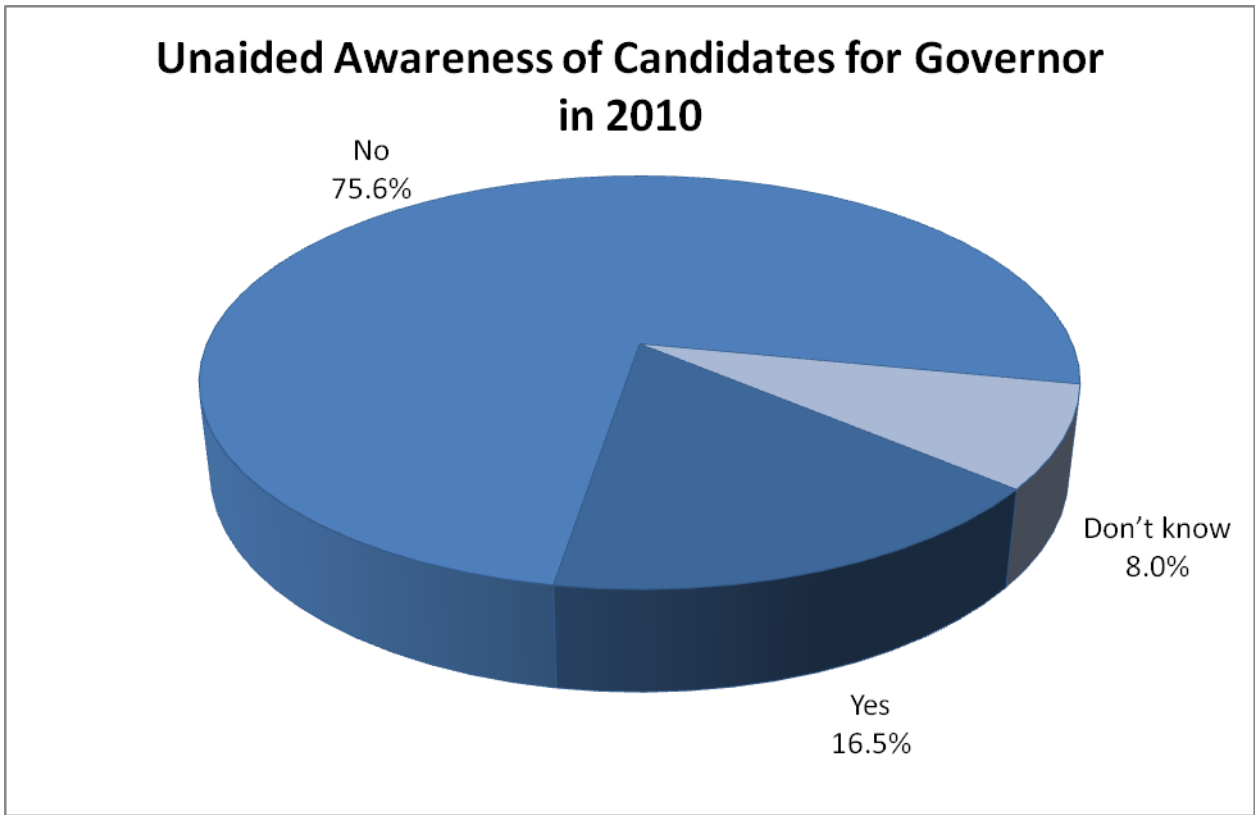
Unaided Awareness of Candidates for Governor in 2010

Are you aware of any candidates who are running for Governor of Maine in 2010? [Open ended question]

	October 2009 (N=401)
Yes	16.5%
No	75.6%
Don't know	8.0%

Seventeen percent (16.5%) of respondents indicated that they are aware of any candidates who are running for Governor of Maine in 2010. While three-fourths (75.6%) of those polled said that they are unaware of candidates running in Maine's gubernatorial election in 2010, 8.0% of respondents are unsure.

No statistically significant differences were found among demographic subgroups.



Unaided Awareness of Candidates for Governor in 2010 (cont.)

What are the names of the candidates you are aware of who are running for Governor of Maine in 2010? Any others? [Unaided; Multiple responses were recorded]

October 2009	% Of the total sample (N=401)*
Peter Mills	4.5%
Steve Rowe	4.5%
Les Otten	2.7%
Paul LePage	2.2%
Libby Mitchell	2.0%
Dawn Hill	1.0%
Matt Jacobson	1.0%
Eliot Cutler	0.7%
Bruce Poliquin	0.7%
Rosa Scarcelli	0.5%
Donna Dion	0.2%
Patrick McGowan	0.2%
John Richardson	0.2%
Other	0.7%

** Answers were provided by 66 of 401 respondents*

Of the total sample of 401 respondents, approximately five percent (4.5%) each indicated, unaided, that they are aware that Peter Mills and Steve Rowe are running for Maine Governor in 2010. All other potential candidates were named by fewer than three percent of respondents.

Aided Awareness of Candidates for Governor in 2010 (cont)

I am going to read you a list of people in public life here in Maine. I would like you to tell me whether or not you are aware that he or she is running for Governor of Maine in 2010. If you have not heard of the person, please say so. **[Asked if not mentioned in the open ended question]**

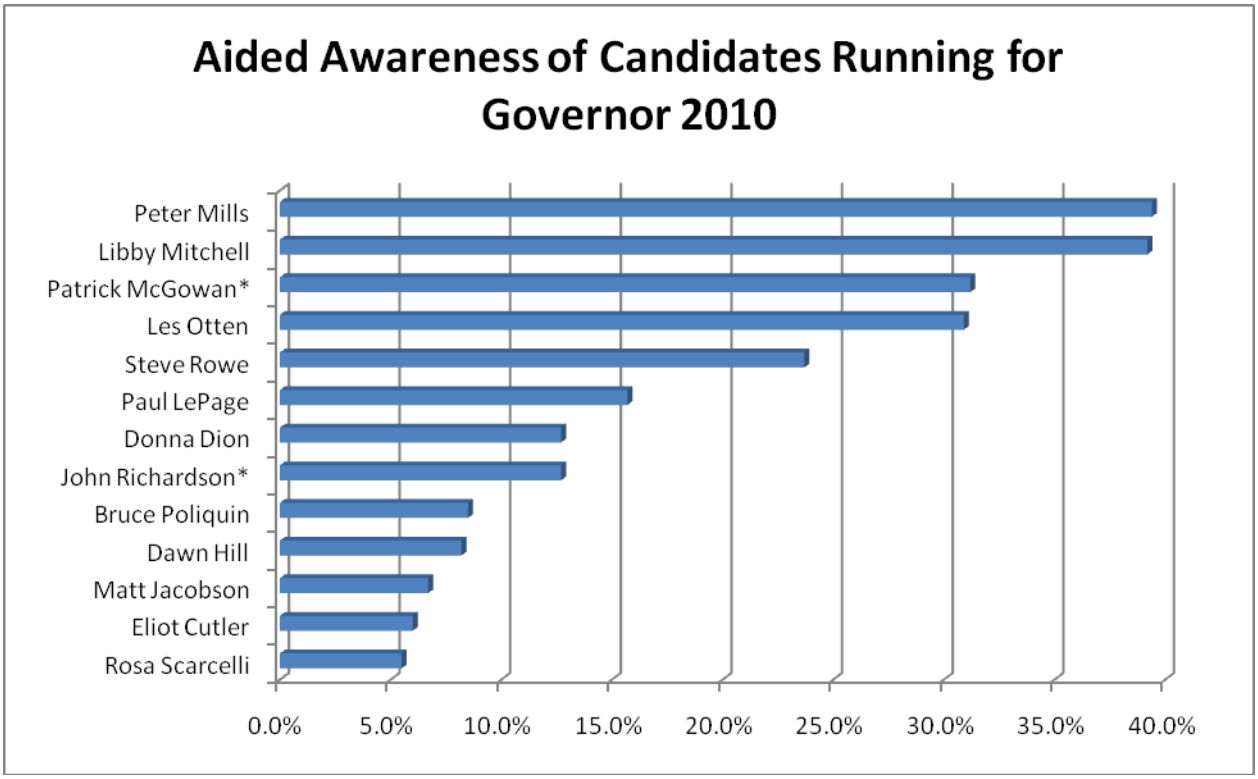
	Aware person is running (total aware)	Unaware person is running	Have not heard of person	Don't know
Peter Mills	39.4%	35.4%	24.9%	0.2%
Libby Mitchell	39.2%	34.4%	25.2%	1.2%
Patrick McGowan*	31.2%	41.1%	26.2%	1.5%
Les Otten	30.9%	36.9%	31.2%	1.0%
Steve Rowe	23.7%	38.4%	36.2%	1.7%
Paul LePage	15.7%	44.4%	38.4%	1.5%
Donna Dion	12.7%	44.9%	40.9%	1.5%
John Richardson*	12.7%	46.1%	39.4%	1.7%
Bruce Poliquin	8.5%	46.6%	43.1%	1.7%
Dawn Hill	8.2%	46.4%	43.4%	2.0%
Matt Jacobson	6.7%	46.1%	45.4%	1.7%
Eliot Cutler	6.0%	45.9%	46.4%	1.7%
Rosa Scarcelli	5.5%	46.6%	46.1%	1.7%

When the question was asked in an aided fashion, approximately four in ten respondents indicated that they are aware that Peter Mills (39.4%) and Libby Mitchell (39.2%) are running for Maine Governor in 2010. While 31.2% of those surveyed reported that they are aware that Patrick McGowan* is a gubernatorial candidate, 30.9% said they are aware of Les Otten's candidacy. Other aided awareness levels are as follows: Steve Rowe (23.7%), Paul LePage (15.7%), Donna Dion (12.7%), John Richardson* (12.7%), Bruce Poliquin (8.5%), Dawn Hill (8.2%), Matt Jacobson (6.7%), Eliot Cutler (6.0%), and Rosa Scarcelli (5.5%).

**Note - these two frequently mentioned candidates have not yet formally declared.*

II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Aided Awareness of Candidates for Governor in 2010 (cont)



**Note - these two frequently mentioned candidates have not yet formally declared.*

II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Preparation for H1N1 Outbreak

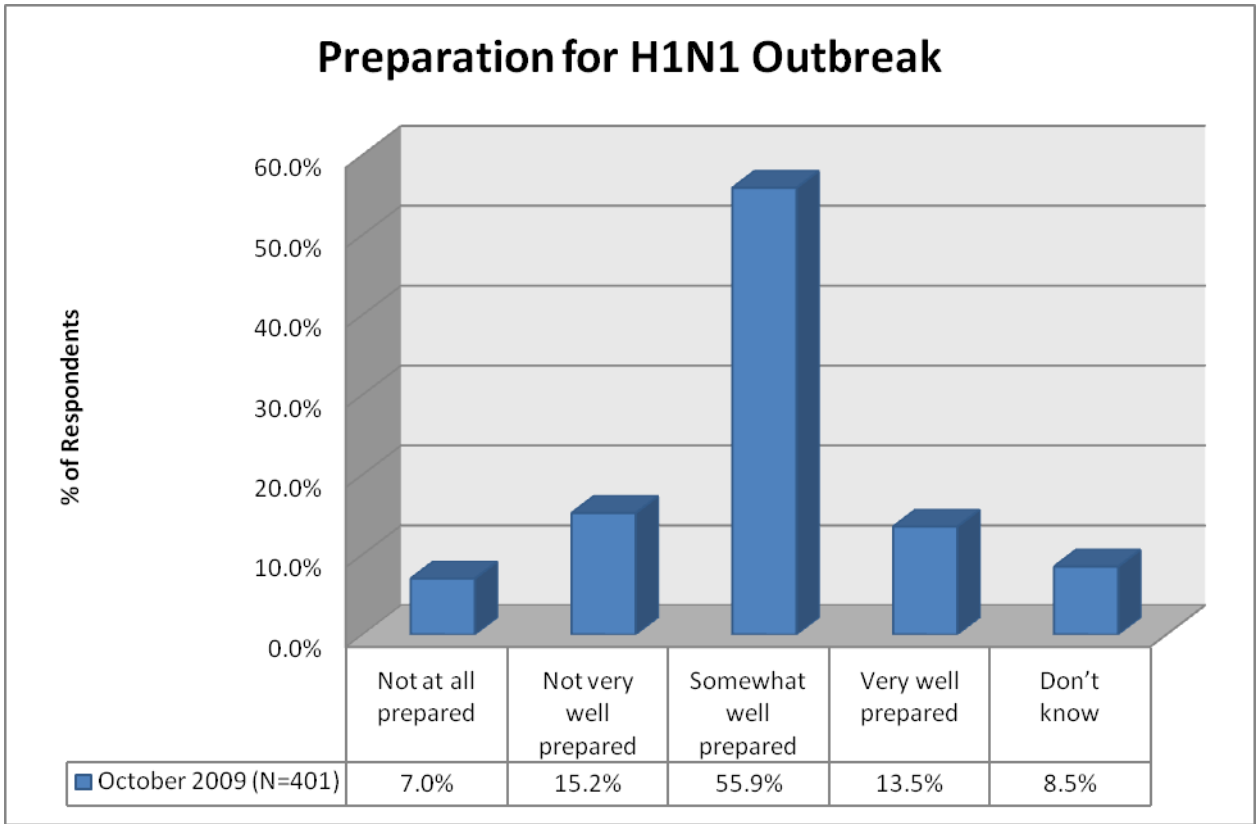
Should there be a severe H1N1 outbreak – also known as the swine flu – in Maine, how well do you think that the State Government is organized to deal with the situation? [Options were rotated]

	October 2009 (N=401)	
Not at all prepared	7.0%	22.2%
Not very well prepared	15.2%	
Somewhat well prepared	55.9%	69.4%
Very well prepared	13.5%	
Don't know	8.5%	
Not at all / Not very prepared	22.2%	
Somewhat / Very prepared	69.4%	

Seven in ten (69.4%) Maine citizens polled feel that Maine State Government is either "somewhat well prepared" (55.9%) or "very well prepared" (13.5%) to deal with the situation should there be a severe H1N1 outbreak in the state. Twenty-two percent (22.2%) of those surveyed indicated that Maine is either "not very well prepared" (15.2%) or "not at all prepared" (7.0%) to handle an H1N1 outbreak. Approximately nine percent (8.5%) of respondents are unsure.

No statistically significant differences were found among demographic subgroups.

Preparation for H1N1 Outbreak (cont.)



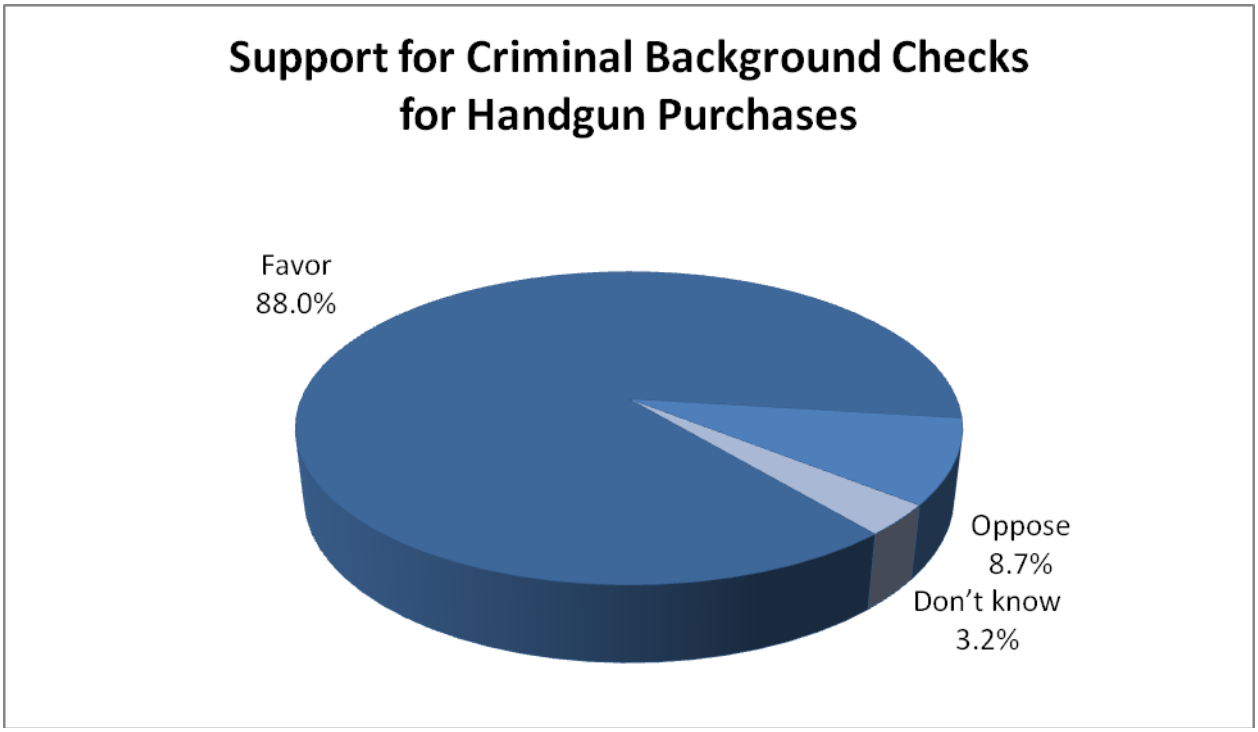
II. FINDINGS – MAINE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS

Support for Criminal Background Checks for Handgun Purchases

Would you favor or oppose changing Maine law to start requiring criminal background checks before people can purchase handguns at gun shows? [Options were rotated]

	October 2009 (N=401)
Favor	88.0%
Oppose	8.7%
Don't know	3.2%

Nearly nine in ten (88.0%) Maine citizens polled would favor changing Maine law to start requiring criminal background checks before people can purchase handguns at gun shows. While 8.7% of respondents indicated that they would oppose such a measure, 3.2% are unsure.

"Favor" Criminal Background Checks for Handgun Purchases	
Higher	**Lower**
• Independents, Democrats • Females	• Republicans • Males

Support for Criminal Background Checks for Handgun Purchases (cont.)