



From: Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Maryland Same-Sex Marriage Referendum

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A new Public Policy Polling survey in Maryland finds a significant increase in support for same-sex marriage among African American voters following President Obama's historic announcement two weeks ago. The referendum to keep the state's new law legalizing same-sex marriage now appears likely to pass by a healthy margin. Here are some key findings:

-57% of Maryland voters say they're likely to vote for the new marriage law this fall, compared to only 37% who are opposed. That 20 point margin of passage represents a 12 point shift from an identical PPP survey in early March, which found it ahead by a closer 52/44 margin.

-The movement over the last two months can be explained almost entirely by a major shift in opinion about same-sex marriage among black voters. Previously 56% said they would vote against the new law with only 39% planning to uphold it. Those numbers have now almost completely flipped, with 55% of African Americans planning to vote *for* the law and only 36% now opposed.

-The big shift in attitudes toward same-sex marriage among black voters in Maryland is reflective of what's happening nationally right now. A new ABC/Washington Post poll finds 59% of African Americans across the country supportive of same-sex marriage. A PPP poll in the critical swing state of Pennsylvania last weekend found a shift of 19 points in favor of same-sex marriage among black voters.

While the media has been focused on what impact President Obama's announcement will have on his own reelection prospects, the more important fallout may be the impact his position is having on public opinion about same-sex marriage itself.

Maryland voters were already prepared to support marriage equality at the polls this fall even before President Obama's announcement. But now it appears that passage will come by a much stronger margin.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 852 likely voters, including an oversample of 398 African Americans, on behalf of Marylanders for Marriage Equality between May 14th and 21st. The survey's overall margin of error is +/-3.4% and for the African American sample it is +/-4.9%.





Maryland Survey Results

Q1 What are the chances you will be voting in the election for president, U.S. senator, and other offices in November 2012--are you 100% certain to vote in that election, quite likely to vote in that election, just somewhat likely to vote in that election, or not likely to vote in that election?

100% likely to vote 97%
 Quite likely to vote 3%
 Just somewhat likely to vote 0%
 Not likely to vote 0%
 Not sure 0%

Q2 If the candidates for President were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama 58%
 Mitt Romney 35%
 Not sure 6%

Q3 Generally speaking, do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same legal rights as traditional marriages in areas such as inheritance and hospital visits?

They should be recognized 52%
 They should not 39%
 Not sure 9%

Q4 The state legislature recently approved a law allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry in Maryland, and there is likely to be a statewide referendum in the November election on whether to keep the law. If the election were held today, do you think you would vote for or vote against the law allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry?

Would vote for the law and feel strongly 46%
 Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly .. 11%
 Would vote against the law and feel strongly.. 36%
 Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly 1%
 Not sure 6%

Q5 Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal 26%
 Moderate 43%
 Conservative 27%
 Not sure 3%

Q6 Are you registered to vote as a Democrat, Republican, or something else?

Democrat 58%
 Republican 26%
 Something else 13%
 Not sure 3%

Q7 Regardless of how you may be registered, how would you describe your overall point of view in terms of the political parties? Would you say that you are a Democrat, a Republican, or an independent?

Democrat 46%
 Republican 22%
 Independent 30%
 Not sure 2%





Q8 What is your gender?

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q9 And to ensure a representative sample, are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

Yes..... 3%
No 94%
Not sure 3%

Q10 What is your race?

White 67%
African-American 25%
Other..... 8%

Q11 What is your age?

18 to 29..... 16%
30 to 45..... 30%
46 to 65..... 39%
Older than 65..... 15%

Q12 What is your religion: Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, another religion, or do you not have a religion?

Protestant 34%
Catholic..... 28%
Jewish..... 7%
Another religion..... 19%
Don't have a religion 11%
Not sure 2%

Q13 Are you currently single and never married, unmarried and living with a partner, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

Single, never married..... 12%
Unmarried, living with partner 6%
Married..... 63%
Separated 2%
Widowed..... 7%
Divorced..... 6%
Not sure 5%

Q14 Are you the parent or legal guardian of any children under age 18?

Yes..... 32%
No 60%
Not sure 8%

Q15 What is the last grade that you completed in school: some high school or less, high school graduate, some college but no degree, vocational training or a two-year college degree, a four-year college or bachelor's degree, some postgraduate work but no degree, two or three years' postgraduate work or a master's degree, or a doctoral or law degree?

Some high school or less..... 2%
High school graduate 10%
Some college but no degree 18%
Vocational training/Two-year degree..... 11%
Four-year degree 21%
Some postgrad work..... 5%
Two/three years' postgrad work/Masters 19%
Doctoral/law degree..... 6%
Not sure 8%

Q16 Region

Western Maryland (301 Area Code) 50%
Eastern Maryland (410 Area Code) 50%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology			
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Not sure
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	58%	89%	64%	22%	40%
Mitt Romney	35%	6%	28%	76%	31%
Not sure	6%	5%	8%	2%	28%

	Base	Party Registration			
		Democrat	Republican	Something else	Not sure
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	58%	83%	13%	44%	34%
Mitt Romney	35%	14%	83%	46%	4%
Not sure	6%	3%	4%	11%	62%

	Base	Party ID			
		Democrat	Republican	Independent	Not sure
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	58%	91%	10%	46%	36%
Mitt Romney	35%	6%	88%	43%	19%
Not sure	6%	3%	2%	11%	45%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	58%	64%	52%
Mitt Romney	35%	31%	40%
Not sure	6%	5%	8%

	Base	Hispanic/Spanish-speaking Background?		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	58%	46%	58%	64%
Mitt Romney	35%	54%	36%	18%
Not sure	6%	-	6%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	58%	46%	90%	65%
Mitt Romney	35%	47%	8%	20%
Not sure	6%	7%	2%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	58%	61%	68%	53%	48%
Mitt Romney	35%	36%	25%	39%	47%
Not sure	6%	3%	7%	8%	5%

	Base	Religion					
		Protestant	Catholic	Jewish	Another religion	Don't have a religion	Not sure
Obama/Romney							
Barack Obama	58%	56%	42%	67%	73%	80%	44%
Mitt Romney	35%	36%	53%	31%	23%	15%	26%
Not sure	6%	8%	5%	2%	4%	6%	31%

	Base	Relationship Status						
		Single, never married	Unmarried, living with partner	Married	Separated	Widowed	Divorced	Not sure
Obama/Romney								
Barack Obama	58%	78%	55%	56%	61%	53%	49%	57%
Mitt Romney	35%	20%	40%	38%	36%	40%	41%	22%
Not sure	6%	2%	6%	6%	3%	6%	10%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Parent of Child Under 18?		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	58%	63%	57%	51%
Mitt Romney	35%	34%	38%	25%
Not sure	6%	4%	5%	24%

	Base	Education								
		Some high school or less	High school graduate	Some college but no degree	Vocational training/Two-year degree	Four-year degree	Some postgrad work	Two/three years' postgrad work/Masters	Doctoral/law degree	Not sure
Obama/Romney										
Barack Obama	58%	64%	50%	54%	55%	59%	52%	67%	65%	57%
Mitt Romney	35%	29%	45%	43%	39%	35%	36%	30%	33%	24%
Not sure	6%	8%	5%	4%	6%	6%	12%	4%	2%	19%

	Base	Region	
		Western Maryland (301 Area Code)	Eastern Maryland (410 Area Code)
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	58%	67%	49%
Mitt Romney	35%	26%	45%
Not sure	6%	6%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology			
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Not sure
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?					
They should be recognized	52%	83%	57%	17%	39%
They should not	39%	11%	34%	75%	25%
Not sure	9%	6%	9%	8%	37%

	Base	Party Registration			
		Democrat	Republican	Something else	Not sure
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?					
They should be recognized	52%	66%	29%	48%	17%
They should not	39%	28%	63%	40%	23%
Not sure	9%	6%	8%	12%	60%

	Base	Party ID			
		Democrat	Republican	Independent	Not sure
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?					
They should be recognized	52%	72%	20%	48%	26%
They should not	39%	21%	71%	42%	33%
Not sure	9%	7%	9%	11%	41%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?			
They should be recognized	52%	56%	48%
They should not	39%	35%	43%
Not sure	9%	9%	9%

	Base	Hispanic/Spanish-speaking Background?		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?				
They should be recognized	52%	40%	53%	49%
They should not	39%	60%	39%	20%
Not sure	9%	-	9%	32%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?				
They should be recognized	52%	51%	55%	57%
They should not	39%	42%	34%	22%
Not sure	9%	7%	11%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?					
They should be recognized	52%	58%	54%	52%	43%
They should not	39%	39%	32%	40%	48%
Not sure	9%	3%	14%	8%	9%

	Base	Religion					
		Protestant	Catholic	Jewish	Another religion	Don't have a religion	Not sure
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?							
They should be recognized	52%	46%	42%	74%	55%	83%	31%
They should not	39%	47%	43%	22%	40%	9%	38%
Not sure	9%	8%	14%	4%	5%	8%	31%

	Base	Relationship Status						
		Single, never married	Unmarried, living with partner	Married	Separated	Widowed	Divorced	Not sure
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?								
They should be recognized	52%	62%	58%	52%	25%	43%	53%	43%
They should not	39%	30%	42%	40%	75%	43%	39%	22%
Not sure	9%	8%	-	8%	-	13%	8%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Parent of Child Under 18?		
		Yes	No	Not sure
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?				
They should be recognized	52%	60%	51%	31%
They should not	39%	35%	41%	38%
Not sure	9%	5%	8%	31%

	Base	Education								
		Some high school or less	High school graduate	Some college but no degree	Vocational training/Two-year degree	Four-year degree	Some postgrad work	Two/three years' postgrad work/Masters	Doctoral/law degree	Not sure
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?										
They should be recognized	52%	26%	38%	48%	58%	55%	55%	60%	72%	35%
They should not	39%	56%	56%	45%	35%	36%	34%	34%	27%	31%
Not sure	9%	18%	5%	7%	7%	9%	11%	6%	1%	34%

	Base	Region	
		Western Maryland (301 Area Code)	Eastern Maryland (410 Area Code)
Should Same-sex Marriages Have Same Rt's as Other Marriages?			
They should be recognized	52%	57%	48%
They should not	39%	36%	41%
Not sure	9%	7%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology			
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Not sure
SSM Referendum					
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	74%	50%	13%	34%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	9%	13%	11%	2%
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	11%	28%	73%	32%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	3%	1%	2%	4%
Not sure	6%	3%	8%	2%	28%

	Base	Party Registration			
		Democrat	Republican	Something else	Not sure
SSM Referendum					
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	59%	22%	41%	17%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	12%	11%	12%	-
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	24%	62%	39%	23%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	1%	2%	3%	-
Not sure	6%	4%	3%	6%	60%

	Base	Party ID			
		Democrat	Republican	Independent	Not sure
SSM Referendum					
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	65%	15%	42%	26%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	12%	13%	10%	3%
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	16%	68%	41%	25%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	2%	2%	-	8%
Not sure	6%	6%	1%	7%	37%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
SSM Referendum			
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	50%	42%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	12%	11%
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	31%	41%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	1%	2%
Not sure	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Hispanic/Spanish-speaking Background?		
		Yes	No	Not sure
SSM Referendum				
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	38%	47%	33%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	18%	11%	2%
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	41%	35%	49%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	-	2%	-
Not sure	6%	2%	5%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
SSM Referendum				
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	47%	42%	51%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	11%	13%	8%
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	38%	34%	24%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	1%	2%	-
Not sure	6%	3%	9%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
SSM Referendum					
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	53%	49%	45%	34%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	11%	16%	8%	10%
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	31%	26%	40%	49%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	3%	-	2%	3%
Not sure	6%	3%	9%	5%	4%

	Base	Religion					
		Protestant	Catholic	Jewish	Another religion	Don't have a religion	Not sure
SSM Referendum							
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	39%	36%	73%	46%	79%	31%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	7%	15%	9%	19%	6%	-
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	48%	39%	18%	27%	12%	38%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	2%	1%	-	2%	1%	-
Not sure	6%	5%	9%	-	6%	1%	31%

	Base	Relationship Status						
		Single, never married	Unmarried, living with partner	Married	Separated	Widowed	Divorced	Not sure
SSM Referendum								
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	56%	55%	46%	16%	38%	46%	34%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	5%	21%	10%	39%	9%	10%	21%
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	27%	20%	37%	41%	42%	39%	45%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	4%	1%	1%	3%	2%	-	-
Not sure	6%	8%	3%	6%	-	9%	5%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Parent of Child Under 18?		
		Yes	No	Not sure
SSM Referendum				
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	53%	45%	24%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	14%	9%	16%
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	25%	39%	51%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	2%	1%	-
Not sure	6%	6%	5%	9%

	Base	Education								
		Some high school or less	High school graduate	Some college but no degree	Vocational training/Two-year degree	Four-year degree	Some postgrad work	Two/three years' postgrad work/Masters	Doctoral/law degree	Not sure
SSM Referendum										
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	15%	26%	41%	50%	51%	40%	56%	72%	28%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	40%	21%	12%	8%	10%	28%	7%	2%	8%
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	42%	46%	38%	32%	33%	31%	31%	25%	48%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	3%	1%	0%	4%	2%	-	2%	-	-
Not sure	6%	-	5%	8%	7%	5%	-	4%	1%	16%

	Base	Region	
		Western Maryland (301 Area Code)	Eastern Maryland (410 Area Code)
SSM Referendum			
Would vote for the law and feel strongly	46%	50%	42%
Would vote for the law but don't feel strongly	11%	11%	12%
Would vote against the law and feel strongly	36%	32%	39%
Would vote against the law but don't feel strongly	1%	2%	1%
Not sure	6%	5%	6%

