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Maine Question 1 narrowly leads; voters want gay marriage

Raleigh, N.C. – Next Tuesday, Maine voters will get to vote whether to reject a state law that requires voters to register at least two business days prior to an election. The vote could come down to the wire. In PPP's poll this past weekend, it was leading 48-44, meaning same-day registration would be restored. Democrats and Republicans are about equally polarized for or against it, but independents favor it, 56-35.

Maine's gay marriage law failed 47-53 at the polls just two years ago, but now, as nearly everywhere, public opinion is shifting rapidly towards same-sex marriage rights. 51% of Maine voters want it to be legal and only 42% illegal, a 15-point reversal from 2009. That is up even seven points from when PPP last polled the state in March; then 47% said gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, and 45% said they should not. If a proposed referendum were on the ballot to re-legalize gay marriage while respecting the right of churches to not perform the ceremonies, it would pass even more handily, 48-35.

Voters were never thrilled with Gov. Paul LePage, but he eked out a win in November 2010 based on a Republican-heavy turnout and a three-way contest. In PPP's final poll of the race, 42% had a favorable opinion of LePage and 51% unfavorable. Now, 43% approve and 48% disapprove of his performance in office, the same as when PPP last polled the state in March. If last fall's election were held now, LePage would still pull the same 38% of the vote he received when he narrowly edged past independent Eliot Cutler, who got 36%. But Cutler would take the reins with 43% in a rematch, with Democrat Libby Mitchell sliding a bit from 19% to 16%.

Voters are split on whether Maine should still be one of two states to allocate its electoral votes by congressional district. 41% favor the status quo, while 40% want the statewide winner to take them all, and 20% are not sure. Though it would undoubtedly help Democratic candidates and hurt Republicans, their voters are not overwhelmingly for or against the proposal, with Democrats at 44-34 and Republicans 35-48.

PPP surveyed 673 Maine voters from October 28th to 31st. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.8%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Maine Survey Results

Q1 Question 1 would reject a new state law requiring new voters to register to vote at least two business days prior to an election. If the election was today, would you vote for or against Question 1?

Would vote for it..... 48%
Would vote against it 44%
Not sure 7%

Q2 Which system would you prefer for dispensing Maine's electoral votes: giving all of them to the statewide winner or giving one to the winner of each individual Congressional District?

Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner 40%
One should be given to the winner of each individual Congressional District 41%
Not sure 20%

Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Paul LePage's job performance?

Approve..... 43% *Not sure* 9%
Disapprove..... 48%

Q4 If you could do last fall's election for Governor over again would you vote for independent Eliot Cutler, Republican Paul LePage, or Democrat Libby Mitchell?

Eliot Cutler 43%
Paul LePage 38%
Libby Mitchell 16%
Not sure 2%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Susan Collins' job performance?

Approve 54% *Not sure* 10%
Disapprove..... 35%

Q6 Do you favor a law allowing marriage licenses for same-sex couples that protects religious freedom by ensuring no religion or clergy be required to perform such a marriage in violation of their religious beliefs?

Yes..... 48%
No 35%
Not sure 17%

Q7 Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal or illegal?

Legal 51%
Illegal 42%
Not sure 8%

Q8 Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry 46%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry 36%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship 17%
Not sure 1%

Q9 Do you support or oppose the goals of the Occupy Wall Street movement?

Support 47%
Oppose 32%
Not sure 21%

Q10 Do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement?

Support 33%
Oppose 51%
Not sure 16%





Q11 Do you have a higher opinion of the Occupy Wall Street movement or the Tea Party movement?

Occupy Wall Street 52%
Tea Party 33%
Not sure 15%

Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain 38%
Barack Obama 57%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

Q13 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 11%
Somewhat liberal 23%
Moderate 33%
Somewhat conservative 19%
Very conservative 14%

Q14 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man 47%

Q15 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 41%
Republican 35%
Independent/Other 24%

Q16 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 94%
Other 6%

Q17 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29 8%
30 to 45 23%
46 to 65 44%
Older than 65 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Question 1				
Would vote for it	48%	31%	61%	36%
Would vote against it	44%	62%	33%	41%
Not sure	7%	7%	6%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Should EVs Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?				
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	37%	42%	36%
One should be given to the winner of each individual Congressional District	41%	48%	37%	30%
Not sure	20%	15%	21%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
LePage Approval				
Approve	43%	81%	18%	33%
Disapprove	48%	11%	73%	43%
Not sure	9%	7%	8%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cutler/LePage/Mitchell Redo				
Eliot Cutler	43%	16%	63%	28%
Paul LePage	38%	79%	12%	29%
Libby Mitchell	16%	3%	23%	39%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Collins Approval				
Approve	54%	56%	53%	56%
Disapprove	35%	33%	38%	26%
Not sure	10%	12%	9%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Favor Gay Marriage w/ Religious Exception?				
Yes	48%	29%	61%	39%
No	35%	54%	22%	33%
Not sure	17%	17%	17%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Same-sex Legal/Illegal				
Legal	51%	15%	75%	43%
Illegal	42%	77%	17%	47%
Not sure	8%	8%	8%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	46%	11%	70%	40%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	36%	56%	23%	33%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	32%	7%	24%
Not sure	1%	0%	1%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Support/Oppose OWS Goals				
Support	47%	16%	69%	32%
Oppose	32%	61%	12%	35%
Not sure	21%	23%	19%	33%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Support/Oppose Tea Party Goals				
Support	33%	77%	6%	12%
Oppose	51%	10%	81%	31%
Not sure	16%	14%	13%	57%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Higher Opinion of OWS or Tea Party?				
Occupy Wall Street	52%	11%	82%	32%
Tea Party	33%	77%	4%	34%
Not sure	15%	12%	15%	34%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Question 1						
Would vote for it	48%	68%	65%	46%	31%	36%
Would vote against it	44%	30%	31%	43%	59%	59%
Not sure	7%	2%	4%	11%	10%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Should EVs Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?						
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	42%	46%	40%	33%	35%
One should be given to the winner of each individual Congressional District	41%	42%	32%	40%	48%	45%
Not sure	20%	16%	22%	20%	18%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
LePage Approval						
Approve	43%	10%	17%	37%	72%	86%
Disapprove	48%	84%	76%	52%	16%	8%
Not sure	9%	5%	7%	11%	11%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cutler/LePage/Mitchell Redo						
Eliot Cutler	43%	63%	64%	48%	24%	8%
Paul LePage	38%	5%	11%	30%	67%	89%
Libby Mitchell	16%	29%	24%	18%	9%	2%
Not sure	2%	2%	1%	5%	1%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Collins Approval						
Approve	54%	45%	51%	63%	64%	32%
Disapprove	35%	52%	35%	30%	26%	49%
Not sure	10%	3%	14%	8%	10%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Favor Gay Marriage w/ Religious Exception?						
Yes	48%	64%	68%	48%	34%	18%
No	35%	20%	23%	28%	42%	74%
Not sure	17%	15%	9%	24%	24%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Same-sex Legal/Illegal						
Legal	51%	88%	76%	56%	19%	8%
Illegal	42%	11%	18%	33%	68%	90%
Not sure	8%	1%	6%	11%	13%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	46%	86%	74%	46%	16%	7%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	36%	8%	22%	39%	66%	35%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	6%	4%	14%	17%	58%
Not sure	1%	-	-	1%	1%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Support/Oppose OWS Goals						
Support	47%	77%	74%	54%	14%	10%
Oppose	32%	16%	11%	21%	62%	62%
Not sure	21%	7%	15%	25%	25%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Support/Oppose Tea Party Goals						
Support	33%	8%	12%	18%	62%	83%
Oppose	51%	84%	80%	60%	18%	4%
Not sure	16%	8%	9%	22%	20%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Higher Opinion of OWS or Tea Party?						
Occupy Wall Street	52%	83%	82%	62%	15%	4%
Tea Party	33%	10%	6%	16%	70%	87%
Not sure	15%	7%	11%	22%	16%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Question 1			
Would vote for it	48%	52%	44%
Would vote against it	44%	39%	50%
Not sure	7%	9%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should EVs Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?			
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	39%	40%
One should be given to the winner of each individual Congressional District	41%	34%	48%
Not sure	20%	27%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
LePage Approval			
Approve	43%	34%	53%
Disapprove	48%	55%	41%
Not sure	9%	11%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cutler/LePage/Mitchell Redo			
Eliot Cutler	43%	49%	36%
Paul LePage	38%	29%	48%
Libby Mitchell	16%	19%	13%
Not sure	2%	2%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Collins Approval			
Approve	54%	57%	51%
Disapprove	35%	32%	39%
Not sure	10%	11%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Favor Gay Marriage w/ Religious Exception?			
Yes	48%	52%	43%
No	35%	29%	42%
Not sure	17%	19%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Same-sex Legal/Illegal			
Legal	51%	59%	41%
Illegal	42%	32%	52%
Not sure	8%	9%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	46%	52%	39%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	36%	33%	40%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	15%	20%
Not sure	1%	1%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support/Oppose OWS Goals			
Support	47%	51%	43%
Oppose	32%	25%	39%
Not sure	21%	24%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support/Oppose Tea Party Goals			
Support	33%	24%	43%
Oppose	51%	58%	44%
Not sure	16%	18%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Higher Opinion of OWS or Tea Party?			
Occupy Wall Street	52%	57%	47%
Tea Party	33%	26%	41%
Not sure	15%	17%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Question 1				
Would vote for it	48%	60%	29%	56%
Would vote against it	44%	33%	64%	35%
Not sure	7%	7%	7%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should EVs Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?				
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	44%	35%	39%
One should be given to the winner of each individual Congressional District	41%	34%	48%	40%
Not sure	20%	21%	17%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
LePage Approval				
Approve	43%	15%	80%	38%
Disapprove	48%	76%	12%	52%
Not sure	9%	9%	7%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cutler/LePage/Mitchell Redo				
Eliot Cutler	43%	59%	16%	55%
Paul LePage	38%	9%	79%	31%
Libby Mitchell	16%	30%	4%	11%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Collins Approval				
Approve	54%	51%	53%	61%
Disapprove	35%	42%	34%	26%
Not sure	10%	7%	13%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Favor Gay Marriage w/ Religious Exception?				
Yes	48%	58%	32%	52%
No	35%	24%	53%	26%
Not sure	17%	18%	14%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Same-sex Legal/Illegal				
Legal	51%	72%	24%	53%
Illegal	42%	22%	67%	39%
Not sure	8%	7%	10%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	46%	67%	20%	48%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	36%	25%	49%	36%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	8%	30%	15%
Not sure	1%	1%	0%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support/Oppose OWS Goals				
Support	47%	65%	23%	51%
Oppose	32%	14%	55%	27%
Not sure	21%	20%	22%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support/Oppose Tea Party Goals				
Support	33%	8%	70%	24%
Oppose	51%	79%	14%	58%
Not sure	16%	14%	16%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Higher Opinion of OWS or Tea Party?				
Occupy Wall Street	52%	77%	18%	58%
Tea Party	33%	11%	67%	22%
Not sure	15%	12%	15%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Question 1			
Would vote for it	48%	48%	62%
Would vote against it	44%	45%	30%
Not sure	7%	7%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Should EVs Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?			
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	40%	34%
One should be given to the winner of each individual Congressional District	41%	40%	47%
Not sure	20%	20%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
LePage Approval			
Approve	43%	43%	35%
Disapprove	48%	48%	55%
Not sure	9%	9%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cutler/LePage/Mitchell Redo			
Eliot Cutler	43%	43%	40%
Paul LePage	38%	39%	31%
Libby Mitchell	16%	16%	26%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Collins Approval			
Approve	54%	55%	45%
Disapprove	35%	36%	31%
Not sure	10%	10%	24%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Favor Gay Marriage w/ Religious Exception?			
Yes	48%	49%	35%
No	35%	35%	31%
Not sure	17%	17%	34%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Same-sex Legal/Illegal			
Legal	51%	50%	53%
Illegal	42%	42%	29%
Not sure	8%	7%	17%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	46%	46%	54%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	36%	36%	34%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	18%	9%
Not sure	1%	1%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Support/Oppose OWS Goals			
Support	47%	47%	51%
Oppose	32%	32%	26%
Not sure	21%	21%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Support/Oppose Tea Party Goals			
Support	33%	33%	29%
Oppose	51%	52%	48%
Not sure	16%	15%	24%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Higher Opinion of OWS or Tea Party?			
Occupy Wall Street	52%	52%	56%
Tea Party	33%	34%	22%
Not sure	15%	15%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Question 1					
Would vote for it	48%	61%	41%	51%	47%
Would vote against it	44%	39%	48%	42%	45%
Not sure	7%	-	12%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should EVs Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?					
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	37%	30%	41%	48%
One should be given to the winner of each individual Congressional District	41%	47%	48%	39%	34%
Not sure	20%	16%	22%	21%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
LePage Approval					
Approve	43%	58%	45%	37%	46%
Disapprove	48%	32%	49%	56%	40%
Not sure	9%	11%	6%	7%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cutler/LePage/Mitchell Redo					
Eliot Cutler	43%	32%	36%	49%	43%
Paul LePage	38%	32%	51%	32%	39%
Libby Mitchell	16%	32%	13%	16%	14%
Not sure	2%	5%	-	2%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Collins Approval					
Approve	54%	58%	52%	56%	52%
Disapprove	35%	21%	35%	38%	36%
Not sure	10%	21%	13%	6%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Favor Gay Marriage w/ Religious Exception?					
Yes	48%	37%	46%	53%	44%
No	35%	42%	35%	33%	36%
Not sure	17%	21%	19%	14%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Same-sex Legal/Illegal					
Legal	51%	47%	46%	58%	43%
Illegal	42%	53%	40%	37%	48%
Not sure	8%	-	14%	5%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	46%	53%	40%	52%	39%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	36%	32%	43%	33%	36%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	17%	16%	17%	14%	25%
Not sure	1%	-	-	1%	0%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support/Oppose OWS Goals					
Support	47%	58%	32%	53%	47%
Oppose	32%	32%	35%	29%	33%
Not sure	21%	11%	33%	18%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support/Oppose Tea Party Goals					
Support	33%	42%	36%	30%	32%
Oppose	51%	37%	51%	54%	52%
Not sure	16%	21%	13%	16%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Higher Opinion of OWS or Tea Party?					
Occupy Wall Street	52%	47%	43%	58%	51%
Tea Party	33%	53%	36%	27%	34%
Not sure	15%	-	20%	15%	15%

