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Michaud edges LePage, voters don't care about his sexuality

Raleigh, N.C. – The needle has moved little if at all in the Maine gubernatorial election in the two and a half months since PPP last took a look at it. In late August, Mike Michaud took the lead over incumbent Republican Paul LePage for the first time, with 39% to LePage's 35% and independent Eliot Cutler at 18%. Now, Michaud tops LePage 38-36 over Cutler's 15%.

The good news for Michaud is that the 10% who at this point are undecided lean pretty strongly his direction. They are largely moderate Democratic and independent women who voted for Obama and still approve of his job performance by a 48-41 margin, versus the president's 46-49 overall spread. They cannot stand LePage, giving him a 26-60 job rating, far worse than his already meager 41-54 overall standing. They also like Michaud (41% favorable, 19% unfavorable) much more than Cutler (28-16).

This is backed up by two-way matchups that continue to show that LePage has likely maxed out his support or nearly so. Michaud would top him 53-39 head-to-head, and Cutler would beat him 49-38. That 39% support versus Michaud is only three points higher than LePage gets in the three-way race. At 72-73% of the Republican vote in all three variations of the race, the governor has reached his ceiling with his base already, and he has little room to grow with either independents or Democrats, unlike Michaud.

Bolstering Michaud's decision to come out and the lack of erosion in his numbers is the fact that 71% of voters do not care about his sexual orientation. 77% of undecided voters, 76% of independents, and even 61% of Republicans agree.

Cutler's support continues to fall to Michaud's advantage. The independent earned 26% of the vote in January, 18% in August, and only 15% now. In that time, Michaud has moved from 30% to 39% to 38%. LePage has mostly plateaued at 34%, 35%, and 36%.

"Mike Michaud's sexual orientation is a non issue to Maine voters," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "His poll numbers now are basically identical to what they were on our last poll in August."

PPP surveyed 964 Maine voters from November 8th to 11th. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.2%. PPP's surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.





Maine Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not sure 5%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Paul LePage's job performance?

Approve 41%
Disapprove..... 54%
Not sure 5%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Eliot Cutler?

Favorable..... 29%
Unfavorable 32%
Not sure 39%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Michaud?

Favorable..... 51%
Unfavorable 33%
Not sure 16%

Q5 If the candidates for Governor next year were independent Eliot Cutler, Republican Paul LePage, and Democrat Mike Michaud, who would you vote for?

Eliot Cutler 15%
Paul LePage 36%
Mike Michaud..... 38%
Not sure 10%

Q6 If the candidates for Governor next year were just Republican Paul LePage and Democrat Mike Michaud, who would you vote for?

Paul LePage 39%
Mike Michaud..... 53%
Not sure 8%

Q7 If the candidates for Governor next year were just Republican Paul LePage and independent Eliot Cutler, who would you vote for?

Paul LePage 38%
Eliot Cutler 49%
Not sure 13%

Q8 Does Mike Michaud's announcement that he's gay make you more or less likely to support him for Governor next year, or does it not make a difference?

More likely..... 12%
Less likely 15%
Doesn't make a difference 71%
Not sure 2%

Q9 In the last presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Barack Obama..... 54%
Mitt Romney..... 37%
Someone else/Don't remember 8%

Q10 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 11%
Somewhat liberal 22%
Moderate..... 28%
Somewhat conservative..... 25%
Very conservative 14%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 54%
Man..... 46%





Q12 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 37%
Republican..... 31%
Independent/Other..... 32%

Q13 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 91%
Other..... 9%

Q14 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..... 12%
30 to 45..... 20%
46 to 65..... 43%
Older than 65..... 26%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	79%	2%	30%
Disapprove	49%	14%	98%	56%
Not sure	5%	7%	0%	15%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
LePage Approval				
Approve	41%	15%	81%	30%
Disapprove	54%	81%	15%	50%
Not sure	5%	3%	4%	20%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Cutler Favorability				
Favorable	29%	42%	14%	17%
Unfavorable	32%	21%	46%	35%
Not sure	39%	37%	40%	48%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Michaud Favorability				
Favorable	51%	76%	18%	36%
Unfavorable	33%	11%	65%	35%
Not sure	16%	13%	17%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Cutler/LePage/Michaud				
Eliot Cutler	15%	19%	8%	17%
Paul LePage	36%	10%	77%	28%
Mike Michaud	38%	61%	7%	34%
Not sure	10%	11%	7%	21%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
LePage/Michaud				
Paul LePage	39%	12%	80%	32%
Mike Michaud	53%	81%	14%	46%
Not sure	8%	7%	6%	22%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
LePage/Cutler				
Paul LePage	38%	12%	80%	28%
Eliot Cutler	49%	76%	11%	42%
Not sure	13%	13%	9%	31%

	Base	2012 Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else/Don't remember
Michaud's Announcement: More/Less Likely to Support Him				
More likely	12%	19%	4%	1%
Less likely	15%	7%	28%	22%
Doesn't make a difference	71%	74%	65%	71%
Not sure	2%	0%	3%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	46%	76%	80%	55%	14%	6%
Disapprove	49%	20%	13%	37%	83%	93%
Not sure	5%	4%	7%	8%	3%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
LePage Approval						
Approve	41%	13%	8%	31%	73%	80%
Disapprove	54%	86%	88%	62%	23%	13%
Not sure	5%	1%	4%	8%	4%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cutler Favorability						
Favorable	29%	39%	41%	35%	19%	9%
Unfavorable	32%	34%	19%	25%	40%	49%
Not sure	39%	26%	41%	40%	40%	42%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Michaud Favorability						
Favorable	51%	83%	73%	60%	30%	8%
Unfavorable	33%	11%	9%	22%	52%	76%
Not sure	16%	6%	17%	18%	18%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cutler/LePage/Michaud						
Eliot Cutler	15%	11%	22%	17%	11%	7%
Paul LePage	36%	10%	7%	24%	64%	80%
Mike Michaud	38%	74%	60%	46%	14%	6%
Not sure	10%	6%	12%	12%	11%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
LePage/Michaud						
Paul LePage	39%	18%	7%	27%	66%	82%
Mike Michaud	53%	81%	87%	62%	23%	10%
Not sure	8%	1%	6%	11%	11%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
LePage/Cutler						
Paul LePage	38%	16%	9%	25%	67%	79%
Eliot Cutler	49%	75%	81%	57%	19%	12%
Not sure	13%	9%	10%	18%	14%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Michaud's Announcement: More/Less Likely to Support Him						
More likely	12%	39%	15%	9%	4%	2%
Less likely	15%	3%	5%	10%	24%	41%
Doesn't make a difference	71%	58%	78%	79%	68%	55%
Not sure	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	46%	51%	41%
Disapprove	49%	43%	56%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
LePage Approval			
Approve	41%	34%	49%
Disapprove	54%	60%	47%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cutler Favorability			
Favorable	29%	31%	27%
Unfavorable	32%	24%	41%
Not sure	39%	45%	32%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Michaud Favorability			
Favorable	51%	58%	42%
Unfavorable	33%	22%	46%
Not sure	16%	20%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cutler/LePage/Michaud			
Eliot Cutler	15%	14%	15%
Paul LePage	36%	29%	45%
Mike Michaud	38%	45%	31%
Not sure	10%	12%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
LePage/Michaud			
Paul LePage	39%	30%	49%
Mike Michaud	53%	62%	42%
Not sure	8%	8%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
LePage/Cutler			
Paul LePage	38%	31%	47%
Eliot Cutler	49%	54%	42%
Not sure	13%	15%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Michaud's Announcement: More/Less Likely to Support Him			
More likely	12%	15%	9%
Less likely	15%	13%	19%
Doesn't make a difference	71%	72%	70%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	76%	11%	46%
Disapprove	49%	20%	86%	46%
Not sure	5%	4%	3%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
LePage Approval				
Approve	41%	15%	75%	38%
Disapprove	54%	82%	20%	54%
Not sure	5%	2%	5%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cutler Favorability				
Favorable	29%	41%	13%	31%
Unfavorable	32%	28%	45%	23%
Not sure	39%	30%	41%	47%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Michaud Favorability				
Favorable	51%	83%	19%	45%
Unfavorable	33%	10%	61%	32%
Not sure	16%	7%	20%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cutler/LePage/Michaud				
Eliot Cutler	15%	16%	9%	19%
Paul LePage	36%	9%	72%	34%
Mike Michaud	38%	64%	11%	35%
Not sure	10%	11%	8%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
LePage/Michaud				
Paul LePage	39%	11%	73%	38%
Mike Michaud	53%	82%	19%	52%
Not sure	8%	6%	8%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
LePage/Cutler				
Paul LePage	38%	13%	72%	34%
Eliot Cutler	49%	74%	16%	51%
Not sure	13%	13%	11%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Michaud's Announcement: More/Less Likely to Support Him				
More likely	12%	20%	4%	11%
Less likely	15%	6%	32%	12%
Doesn't make a difference	71%	74%	61%	76%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	46%	46%	45%
Disapprove	49%	49%	48%
Not sure	5%	5%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
LePage Approval			
Approve	41%	41%	38%
Disapprove	54%	54%	52%
Not sure	5%	5%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cutler Favorability			
Favorable	29%	30%	24%
Unfavorable	32%	31%	36%
Not sure	39%	39%	41%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Michaud Favorability			
Favorable	51%	51%	49%
Unfavorable	33%	33%	34%
Not sure	16%	16%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cutler/LePage/Michaud			
Eliot Cutler	15%	15%	15%
Paul LePage	36%	37%	35%
Mike Michaud	38%	38%	39%
Not sure	10%	10%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
LePage/Michaud			
Paul LePage	39%	39%	35%
Mike Michaud	53%	54%	46%
Not sure	8%	7%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
LePage/Cutler			
Paul LePage	38%	39%	36%
Eliot Cutler	49%	49%	41%
Not sure	13%	12%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Michaud's Announcement: More/Less Likely to Support Him			
More likely	12%	12%	15%
Less likely	15%	15%	18%
Doesn't make a difference	71%	71%	65%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	46%	50%	44%	48%	43%
Disapprove	49%	44%	49%	49%	51%
Not sure	5%	6%	7%	4%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
LePage Approval					
Approve	41%	29%	37%	43%	45%
Disapprove	54%	62%	57%	52%	51%
Not sure	5%	9%	6%	5%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cutler Favorability					
Favorable	29%	24%	25%	32%	30%
Unfavorable	32%	24%	34%	32%	33%
Not sure	39%	53%	41%	35%	38%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Michaud Favorability					
Favorable	51%	50%	46%	52%	53%
Unfavorable	33%	29%	29%	35%	35%
Not sure	16%	21%	25%	13%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cutler/LePage/Michaud					
Eliot Cutler	15%	24%	15%	13%	13%
Paul LePage	36%	24%	35%	39%	40%
Mike Michaud	38%	44%	36%	38%	39%
Not sure	10%	9%	14%	10%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
LePage/Michaud					
Paul LePage	39%	29%	39%	41%	40%
Mike Michaud	53%	56%	54%	53%	51%
Not sure	8%	15%	7%	6%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
LePage/Cutler					
Paul LePage	38%	26%	37%	40%	42%
Eliot Cutler	49%	65%	42%	50%	46%
Not sure	13%	9%	21%	10%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Michaud's Announcement: More/Less Likely to Support Him					
More likely	12%	30%	8%	10%	11%
Less likely	15%	15%	12%	15%	20%
Doesn't make a difference	71%	56%	78%	74%	66%
Not sure	2%	-	3%	1%	3%

