

To: Vincent DeMarco, Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence
From: Steve Raabe, OpinionWorks
Date: February 20, 2013
Subject: Maryland Voter Poll Results: Handgun Licensing

Overview

Our latest poll of Maryland voters shows overwhelming support for a proposal to require a license to purchase a handgun, with 81% in support and only 13% opposed. The proposal is strongly supported in all parts of the state and among all types of voters, making this as close to a consensus as can be found on a major issue of the day.

This telephone survey of 974 randomly-selected Maryland registered voters was conducted February 15-19, 2013, and carries a margin of sampling error no greater than $\pm 3.1\%$. A detailed methodology statement is found at the end of this memorandum, following our summary of the poll's results.

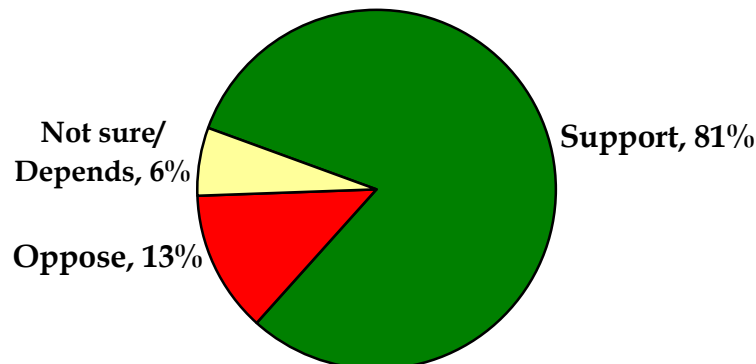
Detailed Findings

Marylanders Overwhelmingly Support Licensing Handgun Purchasers

This registered voter poll identifies profound support across the state for a proposal to require a license to purchase a handgun in Maryland that would include a fingerprint, criminal background check, and safety training. There are few major public policy proposals today that enjoy this level of support.

Statewide, 81% of registered voters support this proposal, and 13% oppose it. Another 6% said they are not sure.

Requiring a License to Purchase a Handgun in Maryland
Level of Support among Registered Voters Statewide



"Would you support requiring a license to purchase a handgun in Maryland that would include a fingerprint, criminal background check and safety training?"

Support is strong across all voter subgroups. Support for licensing handgun purchases reaches a high of 89% among Democrats and African-American voters, and in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties.

In the most conservative and rural parts of the state, support for this proposal remains in the 70s. Registered Republicans support licensing by a 39-point margin, 64% to 25%.

Support for Handgun Licensing by Voter Subgroup

	Support	Oppose	Net
All Voters	81%	13%	+ 68%
Democrats	89%	7%	+ 82%
Republicans	64%	25%	+ 39%
Independents/3 rd Party	78%	17%	+ 61%
White	80%	15%	+ 65%
African-American	89%	9%	+ 80%
Other Race/Ethnicity	72%	13%	+ 59%
Baltimore City	84%	13%	+ 71%
Baltimore County	80%	15%	+ 65%
Greater Baltimore ¹	77%	17%	+ 60%
Montgomery County	89%	5%	+ 84%
Prince George’s County	89%	8%	+ 81%
Greater Washington ²	86%	8%	+ 78%
Eastern Shore	71%	17%	+ 54%
Southern Maryland ³	79%	17%	+ 62%
Western Maryland ⁴	77%	13%	+ 64%

¹Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll, Harford, Howard

²Charles, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s

³Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s

⁴Allegany, Garrett, Washington

How This Poll Was Conducted

OpinionWorks interviewed 974 randomly-selected registered voters across Maryland by telephone February 15–19, 2013. This statewide poll has a potential sampling error of no more than ± 3.1% at a 95% confidence level, meaning that, at least 95% of the time, the survey results would differ by no more than that margin if *every* registered voter in the State had been interviewed.

Interviewees were drawn randomly from the database of Maryland’s registered voters, supplied by the State Board of Elections and matched with telephone numbers by a commercial vendor. The sample was balanced geographically and by political party during the interviewing process, and respondents were screened to ensure that only registered voters were interviewed. Trained and supervised live interviewers conducted these calls. Weights were applied to bring the voter sample into strict compliance with the demographic breakdown of the registered voter population.

Brief Background on OpinionWorks

OpinionWorks is a non-partisan, independent polling organization based in Annapolis, Maryland, conducting frequent opinion studies in Maryland and the surrounding states. We are the polling organization for *The Baltimore Sun*; we work frequently for public sector agencies at the state and local level measuring public attitudes about services; and we conduct audience research for a variety of non-profit and for-profit entities to test issues of perception, stewardship, and engagement.