



Please attribute this information to:

Monmouth University Poll

West Long Branch, NJ 07764
www.monmouth.edu/polling

For immediate release:
Thursday, October 21, 2010

Contact:
PATRICK MURRAY
732-263-5858 (office)
732-979-6769 (cell)
pdmurray@monmouth.edu

MARYLAND CD01: HARRIS v. KRATOVIL

Republican challenger holds 11 point lead

In a rematch of the 2008 election for Maryland's 1st Congressional District, Republican challenger Andy Harris holds an 11 point lead over Democrat incumbent Frank Kratovil. The *Monmouth University Poll* finds the race stands at 53% for Harris to 42% for Kratovil.

This district is comprised of nine counties that make up Maryland's Eastern Shore plus parts of three other counties in the Baltimore area. In 2008, the same two candidates vied for an open seat – open due to Harris' defeat of incumbent Wayne Gilchrest in the GOP primary. In that race, Kratovil won a narrow victory by racking up an 11 point margin in his native Eastern Shore to offset Harris' 12 point advantage in the western part of the district. That scenario is unlikely to play out this year. The poll finds Harris with an advantage in both the eastern (50% to 44%) and western (56% to 40%) portions of the district.

"Prior to 2008, this seat was safely in the Republican fold. It looks like it will revert to form in 2010," said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Congressman Kratovil's job performance rating among likely voters in his district is decidedly negative at 34% approve to 49% disapprove. He garners personal ratings of 37% favorable to 44% unfavorable. In contrast, 45% of voters give Harris a favorable rating and 36% an unfavorable one.

Fully 3-in-4 (76%) 1st District voters think the country is on the wrong track, and most give President Barack Obama negative (64%) rather than positive (32%) job performance ratings. Voters here are also much more likely to prefer having the Republicans (58%) rather than the Democrats (31%) in charge of Congress next year.

The Democratic Party is viewed favorably by just 33% of voters in Maryland's 1st District and unfavorably by 62%. The Republican Party fares much better at 51% favorable to 41% unfavorable. The Tea Party movement also gets mostly positive reviews, with a rating of 52% favorable to 37% unfavorable.

The Monmouth University Poll was conducted by automated telephone interviewing with 637 likely voters from October 16 to 19, 2010. This sample has a margin of error of ± 3.9 percent.

DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

1. If the election for United States Congress from Maryland's 1st Congressional District were today, would you vote for Andy Harris the Republican, Frank Kratovil the Democrat, or some other candidate? [At this moment, do you lean toward Andy Harris or lean toward Frank Kratovil?] [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Andy Harris	53%	11%	58%	84%	63%	43%	62%	47%	53%
Frank Kratovil	42%	86%	34%	11%	32%	52%	32%	49%	42%
Other - Undecided	5%	3%	8%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Unwtd N	637	182	196	259	427	210	122	170	345

[QUESTIONS 2 AND 3 WERE ROTATED]

2. Is your general opinion of Andy Harris favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of Andy Harris?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	45%	9%	49%	72%	56%	35%	49%	40%	47%
Unfavorable	36%	67%	32%	12%	28%	43%	32%	43%	32%
No opinion	19%	23%	18%	16%	16%	22%	19%	17%	21%
Unwtd N	637	182	196	259	427	210	122	170	345

3. Is your general opinion of Frank Kratovil favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of Frank Kratovil?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	37%	68%	29%	17%	32%	41%	27%	45%	36%
Unfavorable	44%	15%	55%	61%	51%	38%	50%	40%	44%
No opinion	19%	17%	17%	23%	17%	21%	24%	15%	20%
Unwtd N	637	182	196	259	427	210	122	170	345

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Frank Kratovil is doing as your Congressman?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Approve	34%	61%	27%	16%	30%	38%	28%	41%	31%
Disapprove	49%	20%	59%	68%	60%	40%	55%	46%	50%
Not sure	17%	19%	14%	16%	10%	23%	17%	13%	20%
Unwtd N	637	182	196	259	427	210	122	170	345

5. Are things in the United States going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Right direction	20%	46%	12%	3%	19%	20%	13%	24%	20%
Wrong track	76%	47%	83%	95%	80%	72%	83%	71%	76%
Not sure	4%	7%	5%	2%	1%	7%	4%	6%	4%
Unwtd N	637	182	196	259	427	210	122	170	345

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Approve	32%	74%	21%	4%	25%	38%	21%	40%	29%
Disapprove	64%	23%	74%	92%	72%	57%	75%	56%	66%
Not sure	4%	3%	5%	4%	3%	5%	3%	4%	5%
Unwtd N	637	182	196	259	427	210	122	170	345

7. Who would you rather see in control of Congress next year – the Democrats, the Republicans, or does it make no difference?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Democrats	31%	76%	17%	2%	23%	37%	17%	40%	30%
Republicans	58%	15%	60%	92%	66%	50%	67%	49%	60%
No difference	12%	10%	23%	6%	11%	13%	17%	11%	10%
Unwtd N	637	182	196	259	427	210	122	170	345

[QUESTIONS 8 AND 9 WERE ROTATED]

8. Is your general opinion of the Democratic party favorable or unfavorable?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	33%	79%	18%	4%	26%	40%	22%	44%	22%
Unfavorable	62%	18%	73%	91%	71%	53%	73%	51%	65%
No opinion	5%	3%	9%	4%	3%	7%	4%	5%	6%
Unwtd N	637	182	196	259	427	210	122	170	345

9. Is your general opinion of the Republican party favorable or unfavorable?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	51%	13%	46%	87%	55%	47%	55%	44%	55%
Unfavorable	41%	78%	40%	10%	39%	42%	36%	50%	36%
No opinion	8%	9%	14%	3%	5%	11%	9%	7%	8%
Unwtd N	637	182	196	259	427	210	122	170	345

10. Is your general opinion of the Tea Party movement favorable or unfavorable?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-44	45-59	60+
Favorable	52%	16%	59%	76%	60%	44%	62%	44%	53%
Unfavorable	37%	72%	30%	11%	32%	41%	26%	42%	38%
No opinion	12%	11%	11%	12%	8%	15%	12%	13%	10%
Unwtd N	637	182	196	259	427	210	122	170	345

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, New Jersey. The poll was conducted on October 16-19, 2010 with a random sample of 637 likely voters in Maryland's 1st Congressional District. The sample was drawn from a list of households with voters who cast ballots in at least two of the last four general elections and further screened for those who say they are either "certain" or "likely" to vote in this November's election. The voter list was obtained from Aristotle, Inc. and automated voice interviewing services were provided by Survey USA in Clifton, New Jersey.

For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported by gender or party identification, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>POLL DEMOGRAPHICS</i>				
<i>Likely Voter Sample (weighted)</i>				
<i>Household Registration</i>	<i>Self-Reported Party ID</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Race</i>
<i>45% Democrat</i>	<i>33% Democrat</i>	<i>48% Male</i>	<i>23% 18-44</i>	<i>90% White, non-Hispanic</i>
<i>46% Republican</i>	<i>39% Republican</i>	<i>52% Female</i>	<i>35% 45-59</i>	<i>10% Other</i>
<i>9% Other</i>	<i>28% Independent</i>		<i>42% 60+</i>	

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