

To: Chesapeake Climate Action Network

**From: Steve Raabe, President
OpinionWorks, LLC**

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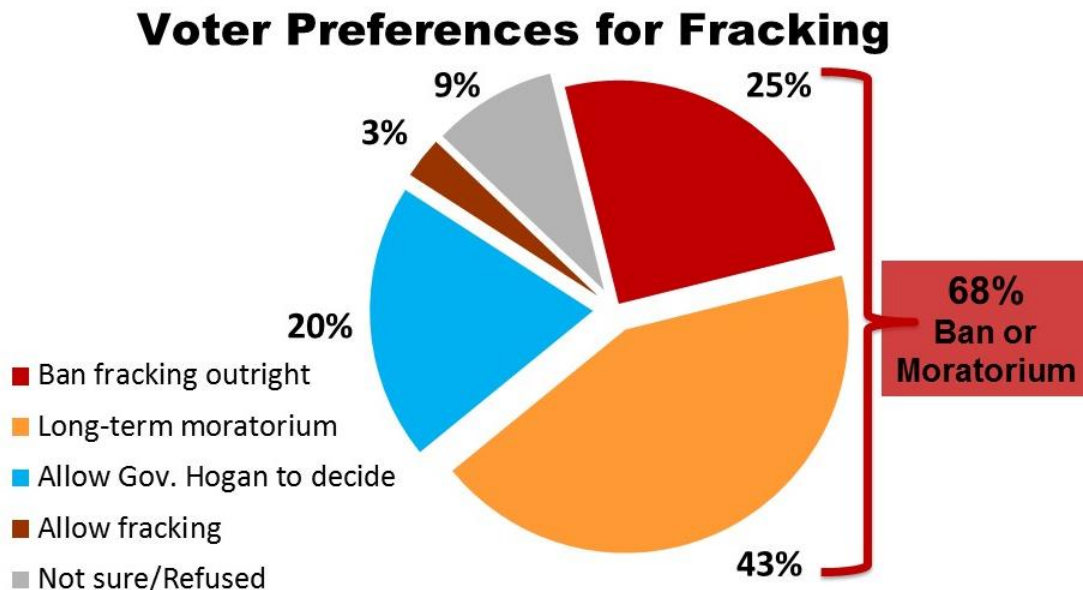
Subject: Maryland Voter Poll on Fracking

Chesapeake Climate Action Network commissioned this statewide Maryland voter poll to measure citizen attitudes about fracking in Maryland.

This telephone poll of 500 randomly-selected Maryland registered voters was conducted by telephone February 3-11, 2015, using trained and supervised live interviewers. The poll is balanced to reflect the geographic, political, and demographic makeup of the statewide electorate. The findings have a potential sampling error of no more than ± 4.5 percent at the 95% confidence level.

Strong Voter Opposition to Allowing Fracking in Maryland

Two-thirds of Maryland voters (68%) would either ban fracking outright in the state, or would place a long-term moratorium on fracking until studies show it could be done with little risk. Twenty-five percent would ban fracking, and 43% would impose a long-term moratorium.



“After more than six years of study, the New York State Health Department declared in December that “fracking” for natural gas posed too many human and environmental health risks to be done safely, so the governor banned the practice of fracking in the state. In Maryland, no fracking yet occurs, but studies have found that fracking here would pose similar risks. Knowing this, which of these options comes closest to what you think Maryland’s legislature should do?” (Randomize options):

“Ban fracking in Maryland outright, as New York State did;
Place a long-term moratorium or hold on fracking until new studies show it can be done with little risk;
Allow Governor Hogan to decide whether fracking will occur in Maryland”

Maryland Voter Poll on Fracking

March 2, 2015

Page 2

Only one voter in five (20%) thinks the Maryland General Assembly should leave the decision on fracking to Governor Hogan, while 3% of voters volunteered that they favor fracking in Maryland. Nine percent were not sure or refused to say how they felt.

Opposition to Allowing Fracking Extends to All Voter Subgroups

Voter opposition to allowing fracking extends to all voter subgroups. As outlined in the table below, a majority of partisans of both major political parties would ban fracking outright or impose a moratorium on fracking. Even among Republicans, the preference is for the legislature to decide rather than leaving the decision to Governor Hogan.

Fracking Preferences among Voter Subgroups

Voter Group	Ban Fracking	Long-term Moratorium	Gov. Hogan Decide
All Voters	25%	43%	20%
Men	22%	41%	24%
Women	27%	44%	17%
Whites	24%	44%	23%
African-Americans	26%	43%	12%
All Others	28%	37%	22%
Baltimore City	23%	39%	18%
Baltimore County	23%	44%	24%
Montgomery County	31%	49%	15%
Prince George's County	28%	41%	9%
Central Maryland (10 metropolitan jurisdictions)	25%	43%	20%
Rural Counties (14 counties in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, Eastern Shore)	28%	44%	24%
Democrats	29%	44%	14%
Republicans	15%	41%	37%
Independents	26%	41%	16%

How This Poll Was Conducted

OpinionWorks interviewed 500 randomly-selected registered voters across Maryland by telephone February 3–11, 2015. The interviews were conducted by trained and supervised live interviewers who are skilled in opinion research best practices.

The poll has a potential sampling error of no more than $\pm 4.5\%$ 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 Maryland had been interviewed.

Interviewees were drawn randomly from the database of registered voters, supplied by the State Board of Elections and matched with landline and cellular telephone numbers by a commercial vendor. The sample was balanced geographically and by political party during interviewing, and respondents were screened to ensure that only registered voters were interviewed. Weights were applied to bring the voter sample into compliance with the demographic breakdown of the registered voter population.

Brief Background on OpinionWorks

OpinionWorks conducts frequent opinion studies at the state and local level across the country. We are the polling organization for *The Baltimore Sun* newspaper in Maryland, and have polled for numerous other media throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. We have conducted statewide surveys for the court systems in Florida and Utah; for the health departments in West Virginia and the District of Columbia; for public universities in New York, Maryland, and Utah; and for conservation agencies and advocates in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware. In addition to these public surveys, we assess donor and customer relationships for a variety of non-profit and for-profit entities nationally.