



August 2006

Baldacci, Snowe, Allen and Michaud Dominate Race

In the latest MainePulse survey, Mainers who are likely to vote in the general elections this year were most likely to report that they would vote for John Baldacci for governor. In addition, Mainers likely to vote were most likely to favor Olympia Snowe for U.S. Senator, and Mike Michaud and Tom Allen for U.S. Congressmen.

The MainePulse August survey, which ran August 16 through August 25, asked 993 Maine residents how they would vote if general elections were held today. Data was weighted to represent the population of Maine residents by county.

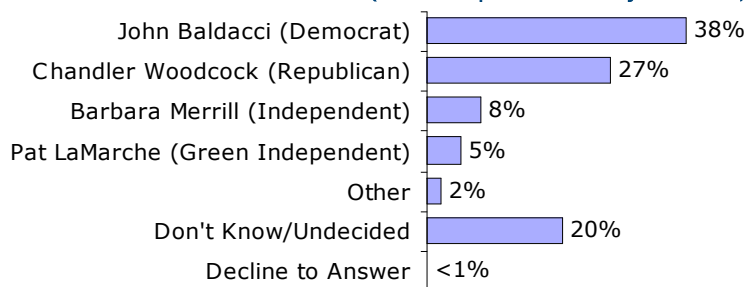
Elections

When asked who they would vote for if the gubernatorial election were held today, nearly two fifths (38%) of Mainers likely to vote this year chose John Baldacci. Over a quarter (27%) supported Chandler Woodcock. A fifth (20%) of Mainers likely to vote are undecided as to who they would vote for.

- Democrats (61%) were significantly more likely than Republicans (8%) and Independents (34%) to favor John Baldacci, and Republicans (68%) were significantly more likely than Democrats (4%) and independents (19%) to favor Chandler Woodcock.
- Although Independents (31%) were significantly more likely than Democrats (18%) and Republicans (13%) to be undecided, they were more likely to favor John Baldacci (34%) than Chandler Woodcock (19%).

Gubernatorial Elections: Who would you vote for?

(Base: Respondents Likely to Vote; n=916)

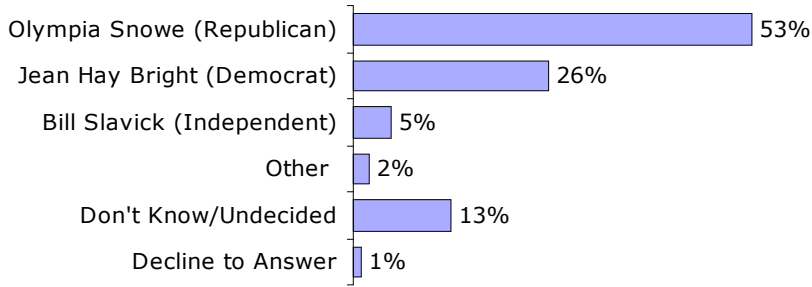


Olympia Snowe (53%) is currently the leader in the senatorial race among those likely to vote this year, followed distantly by Jean Hay Bright (26%). A seventh (13%) of Mainers were undecided as to who they would vote for.

- Republicans (71%) and Independents (63%) were significantly more likely than Democrats (38%) to say they would vote for Olympia Snowe. In contrast, Democrats (48%) were more likely than Republicans (0%) and Independents (11%) to favor Jean Hay Bright.

Senatorial Elections: Who would you vote for?

(Base: Respondents Likely to Vote; n=915)

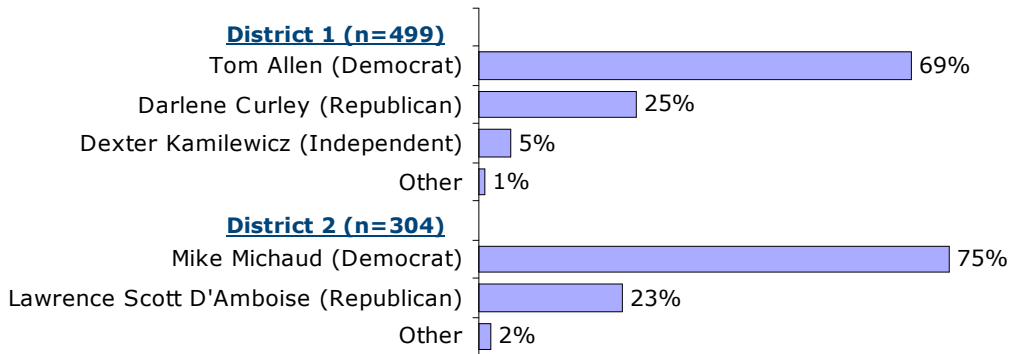


Tom Allen (69%) and Mike Michaud (75%) both lead the Congressional race in each of their respective districts among those likely to vote.

- Tom Allen has nearly all of the Democratic (94%) and Independent (80%) votes in District 1, as well as over a quarter of the Republican (27%) votes.
- In District 2, Mike Michaud has most of the Democratic (94%) and Independent (88%) votes, and nearly a third of the Republican (31%) votes.

Congressional Elections: Who would you vote for?

(Base: Respondents Likely to Vote)



TABOR

Mainers are currently divided over the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) referendum, a citizen initiated referendum that would impose tax and spending limits on the government. Just over two fifths (42%) of those likely to vote this year said they would vote "Yes" to the question: "Do you want to limit increases in state and local government spending to the rate of inflation plus population growth and to require voter approval for all tax and fee increases?" However, a similar proportion (44%) said they would vote "No." Less than a fifth (14%) were undecided.

- Republicans (69%) were significantly more likely than Democrats (23%) and Independents (46%) to report that they would vote "Yes" for TABOR. In contrast, Democrats (63%) were significantly more likely than Republicans (20%) and Independents (37%) to say they would vote "No" if they voted today.
- Those with less than a college degree (56%) were significantly more likely than college graduates (40%) and those with at least some post graduate work (31%) to say they would vote "Yes." In contrast, those with more education were significantly more likely than those with less education to say they would vote "No" (Post Grad: 58%, College Grad: 41%, Less than college: 28%).
- In addition, those with annual incomes of \$75K and above (49%) were significantly more likely than those with annual incomes of less than \$35K (33%) to say they would vote "No" on the referendum.

Political Party Affiliation

Mainers are slightly more likely to be Democrats (42%) than Republicans (26%) or Independents (23%). About 3% are affiliated with some other political party, and 4% are not registered.

Most (92%) Mainers participating in the study reported that they are likely to vote in general elections on November 7th this year.