



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Maine favors gay marriage**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – In November 2009, Maine voters rejected the state's then new law legalizing same-sex marriage, but more than a year removed from that vote, voters are now narrowly in favor of legalizing these unions once again. 47% want gay marriage to be the law, and 45% oppose it being legal. The quarter of voters who claim to be independents overwhelmingly support same-sex unions, 56-37, along with 71% of Democrats, but 21% of Democrats and 77% of Republicans prefer the status quo. As in most places across the country, only senior citizens, those over the age of 65, resist change. Pluralities to slim majorities of every other age group favor same-sex marriage.

“We’re seeing sentiment on gay marriage moving more and more toward equality as time passes and older generations are replaced with their more socially progressive younger counterparts,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

New Governor Paul LePage is considerably more popular than his predecessor, Democrat John Baldacci, who had a 2:1 disapproval-approval margin in PPP’s final poll before the 2010 election. But LePage is still underwater with Maine voters, not getting much of a honeymoon at all. 43% approve, but 48% disapprove of his job performance so far, putting him in almost as bad shape as polarizing Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and ousted Ohio Governor Ted Strickland. Independents are down on him, 38-50, and slightly more Democrats disapprove than Republicans approve.

Maine’s junior Senator Susan Collins is not quite as popular as her senior colleague, Olympia Snowe, but is still one of the country’s most popular senators with her constituents. Collins has a 56-34 approval-disapproval ratio, up a bit from a few months ago. Like Snowe, Collins is more popular with Democrats than even independents, and certainly better liked than by her own party. Republicans approve only 48-42, but Democrats and independents give Collins almost identical 61-30 and 60-30 margins.

Rep. Mike Michaud has a 54-28 favorability margin statewide, better than his colleague Chellie Pingree’s 45-39. Both are Democrats. Michaud does so well because he has a 30-49 with the opposite party. Pingree polarizes the two parties, and also does not quite match Michaud’s 57-24 with independents, getting only 47-33.

PPP surveyed 1,247 Maine voters from March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-2.8%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





## Maine Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Paul LePage's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 43%  
*Disapprove*..... 48%  
*Not sure* ..... 9%

**Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Susan Collins' job performance?

*Approve* ..... 56%  
*Disapprove*..... 34%  
*Not sure* ..... 10%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Chellie Pingree?

*Favorable* ..... 45% *Not sure* ..... 16%  
*Unfavorable*..... 39%

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

*Favorable* ..... 54% *Not sure* ..... 18%  
*Unfavorable*..... 28%

**Q5** Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?

*Favor* ..... 47%  
*Oppose*..... 45%  
*Not sure* ..... 8%

**Q6** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

*Very liberal*..... 11%  
*Somewhat liberal* ..... 20%  
*Moderate*..... 30%  
*Somewhat conservative*..... 22%  
*Very conservative* ..... 17%

**Q7** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 53%  
*Man*..... 47%

**Q8** 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* ..... 39%  
*Republican*..... 36%  
*Independent/Other*..... 26%

**Q9** If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

*White* ..... 95%  
*Other*..... 5%

**Q10** 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*..... 6%  
*30 to 45*..... 30%  
*46 to 65*..... 44%  
*Older than 65*..... 20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>LePage Approval</b>						
<b>Approve</b>	43%	11%	10%	32%	74%	86%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	88%	79%	57%	17%	8%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	1%	11%	11%	9%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Collins Approval</b>						
<b>Approve</b>	56%	45%	66%	71%	55%	27%
<b>Disapprove</b>	34%	46%	26%	20%	36%	61%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	9%	8%	9%	9%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Pingree Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	83%	71%	56%	18%	6%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	39%	8%	13%	24%	67%	82%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	9%	16%	20%	15%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Michaud Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	54%	76%	77%	65%	36%	16%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	13%	11%	11%	46%	65%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	11%	12%	24%	18%	19%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Gay Marriage</b>						
Favor	47%	91%	72%	55%	21%	7%
Oppose	45%	7%	21%	32%	71%	89%
Not sure	8%	2%	7%	13%	8%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>LePage Approval</b>			
Approve	43%	39%	49%
Disapprove	48%	52%	44%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Collins Approval</b>			
Approve	56%	60%	51%
Disapprove	34%	28%	41%
Not sure	10%	12%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Pingree Favorability</b>			
Favorable	45%	47%	43%
Unfavorable	39%	34%	45%
Not sure	16%	19%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Michaud Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	54%	53%	55%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	25%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	22%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gay Marriage</b>			
<b>Favor</b>	47%	51%	43%
<b>Oppose</b>	45%	40%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>LePage Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	43%	15%	77%	38%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	80%	13%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	5%	10%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Collins Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	56%	61%	48%	60%
<b>Disapprove</b>	34%	30%	42%	30%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	9%	10%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Pingree Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	73%	13%	47%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	39%	12%	72%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	14%	15%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Michaud Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	54%	75%	30%	57%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	11%	49%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	13%	22%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gay Marriage</b>				
<b>Favor</b>	47%	71%	15%	56%
<b>Oppose</b>	45%	21%	77%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>LePage Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	43%	43%	45%
<b>Disapprove</b>	48%	48%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	9%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Collins Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	56%	56%	48%
<b>Disapprove</b>	34%	34%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	10%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Pingree Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	45%	42%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	39%	39%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	16%	13%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Michaud Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	54%	54%	54%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	28%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	18%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Gay Marriage</b>			
<b>Favor</b>	47%	47%	50%
<b>Oppose</b>	45%	45%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	8%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>LePage Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>43%</b>	51%	43%	41%	47%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>48%</b>	41%	50%	51%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	8%	7%	8%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Collins Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>56%</b>	43%	55%	57%	59%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>34%</b>	49%	34%	34%	32%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	8%	11%	9%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Pingree Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>45%</b>	38%	40%	49%	47%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>39%</b>	46%	42%	37%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>16%</b>	16%	18%	14%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Michaud Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>54%</b>	54%	53%	55%	55%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>28%</b>	22%	28%	29%	28%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	24%	19%	17%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gay Marriage</b>					
<b>Favor</b>	<b>47%</b>	51%	48%	50%	38%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>45%</b>	46%	46%	42%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>8%</b>	3%	6%	8%	12%