

To: Jen Pauliukonis, President
Marylanders To Prevent Gun Violence, Inc.

From: Steve Raabe, OpinionWorks

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Subject: Maryland 6th District Voter Poll: Handgun Purchaser Licensing

This new poll of 6th Congressional District voters shows very strong support for federal legislation designed to encourage handgun purchaser licensing. Furthermore, the poll demonstrates that voters are much more inclined to vote for a Congressional candidate who favors this legislation and penalize a candidate who opposes it.

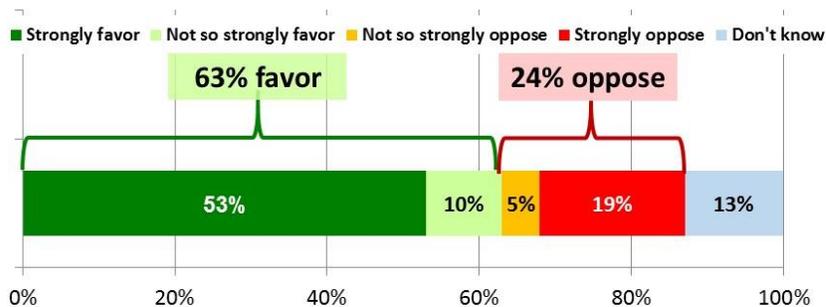
This telephone survey of 400 randomly-selected 6th Congressional District registered voters was conducted June 11-14, 2016, and has a ±4.9% potential margin of sampling error. A detailed methodology statement is found at the end of this summary of the poll's results.

Very Strong Voter Support for Federal Legislation Encouraging Handgun Purchaser Licensing

This voter poll in Maryland's 6th Congressional District, which stretches from Western Montgomery County through rural Western Maryland, finds very strong support for federal legislation which would encourage states to enact handgun purchaser licensing requirements, like the handgun purchaser licensing law that already exists in Maryland. The federal bill, called the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act, would encourage this through a grant program that would help offset the costs for States to implement handgun purchaser licensing.

This proposal is supported by 63% of voters in the district, with only 24% opposed. A 53% majority of voters in the district *strongly* support the legislation. Voters were told that Maryland has such a handgun purchaser licensing requirement already in place.

Voter Support for Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act
Maryland 6th Congressional District



"44 percent of the guns traced to crime in Maryland in 2013 came from other states with no purchaser licensing requirements. There is now a bill in Congress called the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act. It would set up a grant program to encourage other states to enact handgun licensing requirements by helping offset the costs of implementing handgun purchaser licensing. Would you favor or oppose this federal legislation? " (If favor/oppose):
"Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?"

Support Across the District

Though the level of support varies by jurisdiction, voters in all five counties support the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act. Majorities support the legislation in Montgomery, Frederick, Washington, and Allegany Counties, and a solid plurality support it in Garrett County.

Support for the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act by County

	Support	Oppose	Net
Montgomery County	70%	18%	+ 52%
Frederick County	69%	19%	+ 50%
Washington County	50%	42%	+ 8%
Allegany County	50%	28%	+ 22%
Garrett County	45%	20%	+ 20%

Congressional Candidates’ Stand on This Issue Strongly Impacts Their Voter Support

Support for this proposal is so strong that it causes a large swing in voter intention in the Congressional race in the 6th District. Congressman Delaney starts off with a large lead over Amie Hoeber in a general election matchup. His lead today among registered voters is 27 percentage points, 44% to 17%.

Presented with the hypothetical idea that John Delaney supports the federal Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act and Amie Hoeber opposes it, Delaney’s lead grows. Under this scenario, he now leads his opponent by 57% to 23%, a margin of 34 percentage points.

Startlingly, though, when voters are presented with the alternative scenario – Hoeber supporting the legislation and Delaney opposing it – Hoeber suddenly jumps into a lead. Now Hoeber leads the race by 12 points, 44% to 32%.

Impact of Handgun Purchaser Licensing on the 6th District Congressional Race

	Delaney Support + Lean	Hoeber Support + Lean	Net
Baseline Horse Race	44%	17%	Delaney leads by 27%
Delaney Supports the Legislation, Hoeber Opposes It	57%	23%	Delaney leads by 34%
Hoeber Supports the Legislation, Delaney Opposes It	32%	44%	Hoeber leads by 12%

“If the election for United States Congress were being held today, and the candidates were (rotate): [John Delaney or Amie Hoeber, who would you vote for?” (If initially undecided): “Whom do you lean towards at this time?”

(Next two questions rotated):

“If you learned that John Delaney supported the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act while Amie Hoeber opposed it, who would you vote for?” (If initially undecided): “Whom would you lean towards?”

“If you learned that Amie Hoeber supported the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act while John Delaney opposed it, who would you vote for?” (If initially undecided): “Whom would you lean towards?”

This dramatic 46-point swing in voter sentiment is unusual, and underlines the importance of handgun purchaser licensing to voters in the 6th District.

How This Poll Was Conducted

OpinionWorks interviewed 400 randomly-selected registered voters across Maryland's 6th Congressional District by telephone June 11–14, 2016. This poll has a maximum potential sampling error of no more than $\pm 4.9\%$ at the 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 District had been interviewed.

Interviewees were drawn randomly from the a commercially-available database of registered voters, and matched with both landline and wireless telephone numbers. 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 close 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.