



From: Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling

Subject: Maine Governor's Race Largely Unchanged After Debates

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Public Policy Polling's newest Maine survey finds that after three televised debates, the race for governor is still a very tight contest between incumbent Paul LePage and Democrat Mike Michaud. LePage and Michaud each have 40%, with Eliot Cutler trailing at 17%.

Key findings from the survey include:

-Paul LePage continues to be one of the most unpopular governors in the country. Only 43% of voters have a favorable opinion of him to 53% who have a negative one. His numbers among independents are particularly low with only 34% seeing him favorably to 60% who have an unfavorable opinion.

-The biggest factor in this race remaining so close is that Cutler, consistently in a distant third place, is continuing to siphon off enough of the anti-LePage vote to keep the contest in toss-up range.

-Among the voters who support Cutler, 55% say Michaud would be their second choice to just 35% who say LePage would be their second choice. In a head to head contest, Michaud would have a five point lead over LePage, 49 to 44. This is supported by the fact that 73% of Cutler supporters have a negative view of LePage.

-Michaud has the highest favorability rating of the candidates in the race at 47%, followed by LePage at 43%, and Cutler at 39%.

-Michaud leads with: independents (40% Michaud, 28% LePage, 29% Cutler); women (43% Michaud 37% LePage and 17% Cutler); and young people (47% Michaud, 43% LePage 10% Cutler).

Trailing by 23 points with only 11 days to go until the election, there is virtually no way Cutler can overtake LePage and Michaud. But by splitting the anti-LePage vote, the support Cutler is pulling from Michaud could be just enough to re-elect LePage in this razor-thin contest.

PPP interviewed 660 likely voters on October 22nd and 23rd. The margin of error for the poll is +/-3.6%. This survey was conducted on behalf of Maine Conservation Voters Action Fund.





Maine Survey Results

Q1 The candidates for Governor are independent Eliot Cutler, Republican Paul LePage, and Democrat Mike Michaud. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Eliot Cutler 17%
Paul LePage 40%
Mike Michaud..... 40%
Undecided..... 3%

Q2 If you had to choose between just Republican Paul LePage and Democrat Mike Michaud for Governor, who would you vote for?

Paul LePage 44%
Mike Michaud..... 49%
Not sure 7%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Eliot Cutler?

Favorable..... 39%
Unfavorable 38%
Not sure 23%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Paul LePage?

Favorable..... 43%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure 4%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Michaud?

Favorable..... 47%
Unfavorable 46%
Not sure..... 7%

Q6 In the last presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Barack Obama..... 53%
Mitt Romney..... 39%
Someone else / Don't remember 7%

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 36%
Republican..... 31%
Independent / Other..... 33%

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

White 89%
Other..... 11%

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..... 10%
30 to 45..... 19%
46 to 65..... 43%
Older than 65..... 28%





	Base	2012 Pres Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Gov				
Eliot Cutler	17%	20%	13%	23%
Paul LePage	40%	14%	76%	35%
Mike Michaud	40%	64%	9%	27%
Undecided	3%	2%	1%	15%

	Base	2012 Pres Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Gov Leaners				
Paul LePage	44%	18%	80%	39%
Mike Michaud	49%	75%	17%	33%
Not sure	7%	7%	2%	28%

	Base	2012 Pres Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Cutler Favorability				
Favorable	39%	40%	39%	36%
Unfavorable	38%	43%	34%	23%
Not sure	23%	18%	27%	41%

	Base	2012 Pres Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
LePage Favorability				
Favorable	43%	18%	77%	42%
Unfavorable	53%	80%	18%	44%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	14%

	Base	2012 Pres Vote		
		Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Someone else / Don't remember
Michaud Favorability				
Favorable	47%	70%	17%	37%
Unfavorable	46%	23%	78%	44%
Not sure	7%	7%	5%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gov			
Eliot Cutler	17%	17%	18%
Paul LePage	40%	37%	44%
Mike Michaud	40%	43%	36%
Undecided	3%	4%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gov Leaners			
Paul LePage	44%	41%	47%
Mike Michaud	49%	52%	46%
Not sure	7%	7%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cutler Favorability			
Favorable	39%	39%	39%
Unfavorable	38%	36%	40%
Not sure	23%	25%	20%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
LePage Favorability			
Favorable	43%	41%	45%
Unfavorable	53%	55%	50%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Michaud Favorability			
Favorable	47%	50%	43%
Unfavorable	46%	43%	50%
Not sure	7%	7%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Gov				
Eliot Cutler	17%	14%	9%	29%
Paul LePage	40%	20%	75%	28%
Mike Michaud	40%	63%	14%	40%
Undecided	3%	3%	2%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Gov Leaners				
Paul LePage	44%	22%	78%	36%
Mike Michaud	49%	73%	19%	52%
Not sure	7%	5%	3%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Cutler Favorability				
Favorable	39%	35%	33%	49%
Unfavorable	38%	46%	40%	27%
Not sure	23%	19%	27%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
LePage Favorability				
Favorable	43%	22%	76%	34%
Unfavorable	53%	74%	21%	60%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
Michaud Favorability				
Favorable	47%	71%	19%	46%
Unfavorable	46%	24%	76%	42%
Not sure	7%	5%	5%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gov			
Eliot Cutler	17%	16%	31%
Paul LePage	40%	40%	37%
Mike Michaud	40%	42%	24%
Undecided	3%	2%	7%





	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gov Leaners			
Paul LePage	44%	44%	44%
Mike Michaud	49%	50%	41%
Not sure	7%	6%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Cutler Favorability			
Favorable	39%	38%	51%
Unfavorable	38%	37%	41%
Not sure	23%	25%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
LePage Favorability			
Favorable	43%	43%	44%
Unfavorable	53%	53%	47%
Not sure	4%	4%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Michaud Favorability			
Favorable	47%	48%	34%
Unfavorable	46%	44%	62%
Not sure	7%	8%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gov					
Eliot Cutler	17%	10%	32%	16%	13%
Paul LePage	40%	43%	27%	41%	46%
Mike Michaud	40%	47%	40%	40%	36%
Undecided	3%	-	2%	3%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gov Leaners					
Paul LePage	44%	46%	36%	45%	47%
Mike Michaud	49%	47%	55%	50%	44%
Not sure	7%	7%	8%	5%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cutler Favorability					
Favorable	39%	28%	43%	41%	38%
Unfavorable	38%	56%	24%	41%	36%
Not sure	23%	16%	33%	18%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
LePage Favorability					
Favorable	43%	49%	31%	44%	48%
Unfavorable	53%	51%	62%	52%	49%
Not sure	4%	-	8%	4%	4%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Michaud Favorability					
Favorable	47%	47%	47%	47%	45%
Unfavorable	46%	42%	44%	48%	48%
Not sure	7%	11%	10%	5%	7%

