

Survey of Maryland Registered Voters About Voting Systems

Donald F. Norris, Director
Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis and Research
Professor of Public Policy
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Presentation for:
The Usability and Security of Electronic Voting Systems Workshop
Center for American Politics and Citizenship
University of Maryland, College Park
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- 800 Maryland Registered Voters (who voted in 2004 General Election)
- 3.5% Margin of Error
- 95% Level of Confidence

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Representativeness

(to 2000 census; SBE registration data)

Note: Sample = Registered voters who voted in 2004 General Election

- **Gender:** nearly identical
- **Political Party:** nearly identical
- **Race:** slight overrepresentation of white voters
- **Age:** overrepresentation of over-50's

Representativeness (cont'd)

- **Education:** overrepresentation of college and graduate professional education (Note: census = age 25 +; Sample = age 18+)
- **Wealth:** Overrepresentation of the more wealthy
- **Location of residency:** nearly identical (slight overrepresentation of Anne Arundel & slight under-representation of Baltimore City)

■ 80.3% correctly recalled using touch screen voting in 2004 General Election

(Absentee and provisionals excluded from sample; only in-precinct voters included)

3.1% Lever machine

7.3% Optical scan

3.9% Punch card

5.5% Didn't recall

- 91.9% reported positive experience voting in 2004 (on MD's touch screen voting system)

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Experience With Voting System Used in 2004

- Easy to use 98.6%
 - No equipment problems 94.8%
 - Made voting faster 84.9%
 - Felt comfortable using 87.9%
 - Confident vote was recorded
and counted accurately 81.5%
- (9.9% disagree; 8.6% don't know)

- Heard or read anything about TS voting systems?: 45.4%
- In Maryland: 11.8%
- In General: 52.1%
- Both: 32.5%

■ Positive

48.8% [22.2%]

■ Negative

47.7% [21.6%]

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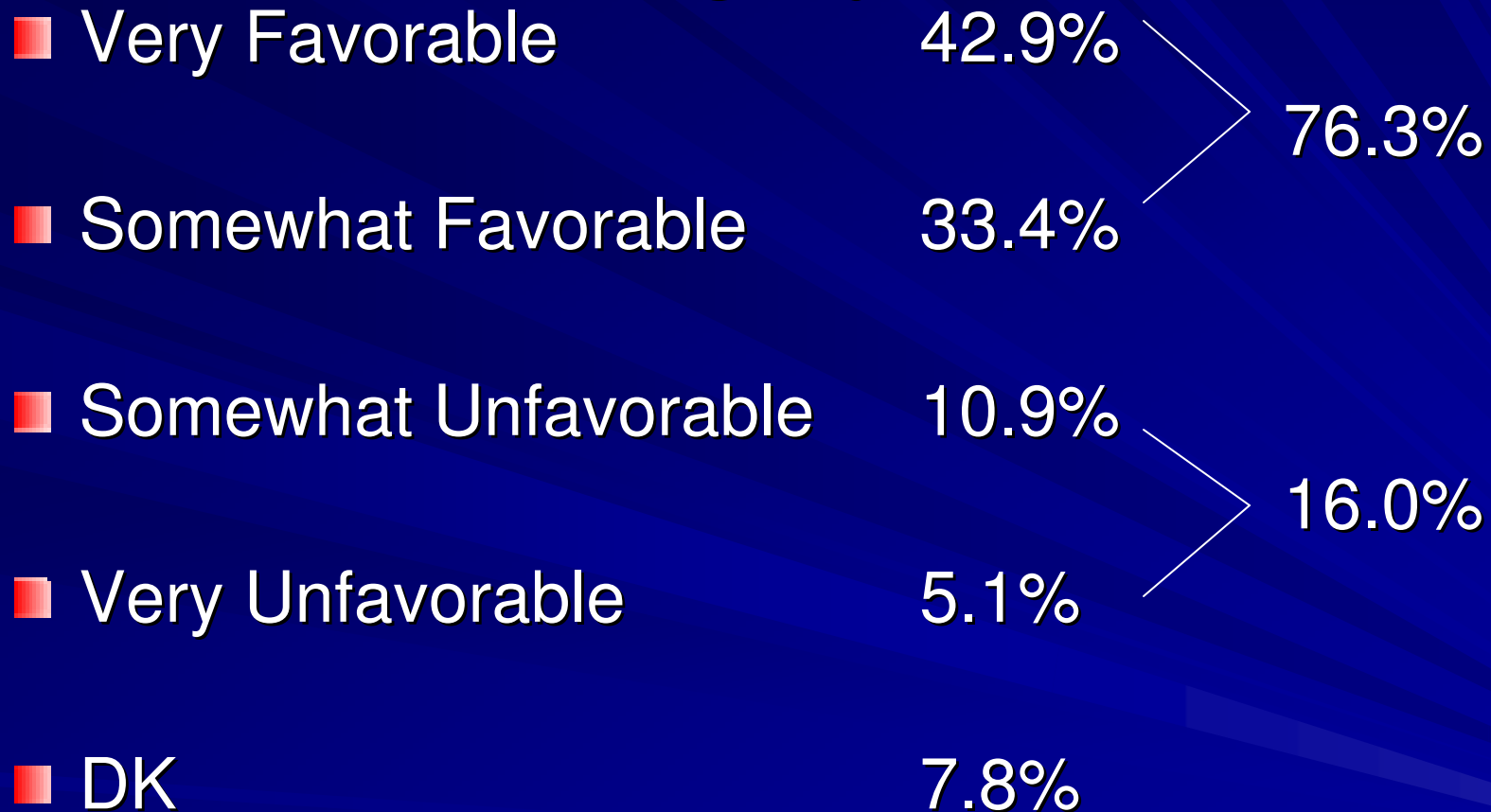
Agree or Disagree with Statements About TS Voting Systems

	Yes	No	DK
■ Easy to use	91.9%	3.2%	4.9%
■ Count vote accurately	60.5%	19.0%	20.5%
■ Secure	39.9%	29.1%	31.1%
■ Protect privacy	55.6%	24.7%	19.9%

Agree or Disagree with Statements About TS Voting Systems

	Yes	No	DK
■ Accurate Recount	55.9%	21.9%	22.3%
■ Can be corrupted	55.1%	19.9%	26.0%
■ Vote quicker	57.1%	36.8%	4.5%
■ Accessible	54.6%	20.2%	25.1%

General Opinion of TS Voting Systems



- Heard or read about people calling for different voting technologies or equipment to be added to or used in place of Maryland's current touch screen voting system?

22.9% (N = 183)

Primary things heard or read:

Open-ended question
(N = 183)

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
■ Paper trail	35.0	64
■ Trustworthiness	17.5	32
■ Recount (Can't)	9.8	18
■ All of this	13.6	25
■ DK	24.0	44

What Does Paper Trail Mean?

Open-ended question

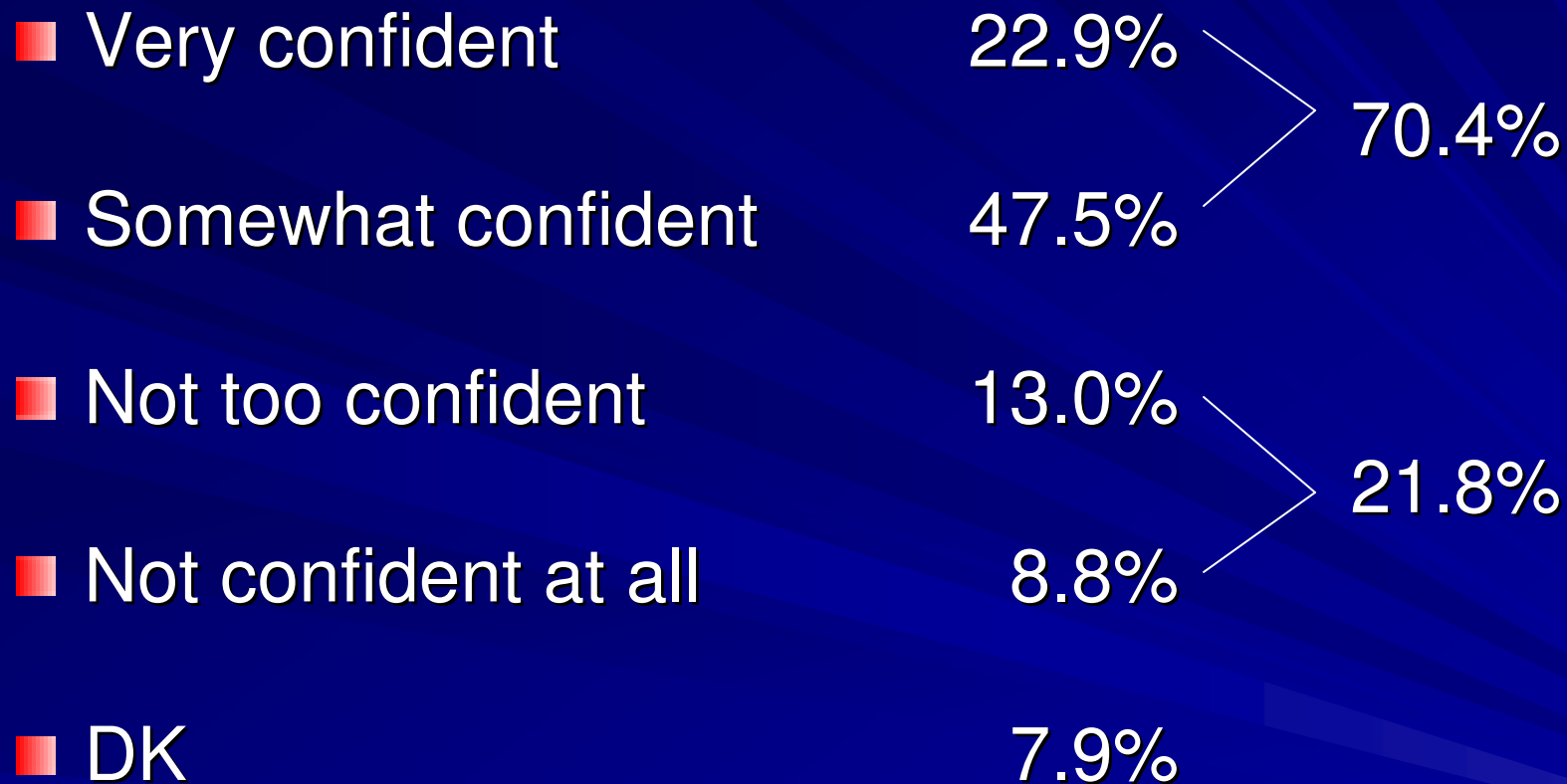
N = 800

- Voter gets receipt & gives to election official 18.9%
- Election officials get paper copies: 11.4%
- Recount: 9.0%
- Voters walk w/ paper receipts of their votes: 8.0%

What Does Paper Trail Mean? Continued

- Voters view paper record behind glass screen 5.5%
- Other 9.1%
- Don't know or means nothing 38.1%

Confidence in MD to Prevent Tampering & Fraud



- Opponents say TS voting systems can't be trusted, etc.

Supporters say TS voting systems are reliable, etc.

- Agree or disagree with statements about TS voting systems:

TS Voting Systems

	Yes	No	DK
■ Reliable	73.1%	16.4%	10.8%
■ Can be trusted	64.4%	24.0%	11.6%
■ Accurately record & count votes	72.9%	15.5%	11.6%

TS Voting Systems

	Yes	No	DK
■ Can be hacked	47.5%	35.8%	16.8%
■ Security Prevents Hacking	52.9%	30.2%	16.9%
■ Confirm votes with paper records or paper receipts	69.4%	23.0%	7.6%

■ Context of Paper Trail

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- 91.9% positive experience voting in 2004
- 81.5% confident vote recorded and counted accurately in 2004
- 45.4% Heard or read anything about TS Voting
- 48.8% Heard or read positive things (of those who had heard or read anything)

Overall Views of TS Voting Systems

	Yes
■ Count vote accurately	60.5%
■ Are secure	39.9%
■ Provide accurate recount	55.9%
■ Can be corrupted	51.1%

Confidence in MD to Prevent Tampering and Fraud

■ Confident	70.4%
■ Not confident	21.8%
■ Don't know	7.9%

General Opinion of TS Voting Systems

■ Favorable	76.3%
■ Unfavorable	16.0%
■ Don't know	7.8%

■ Heard or read of controversy
in Maryland 22.9%

■ Heard or read about paper trail 8%

Understanding of Paper Trail

■ Voter gets receipt & gives to election official	18.9%
■ Election officials get paper copies	11.4%
■ Recount	9.0%
■ Voters walk w/ paper receipts of their votes	8.0%
■ Voters view paper record behind glass screen	5.5%
■ Other	9.1%
■ Don't know or means nothing	38.1%

Agree or disagree with statements about TS voting, after being told of the controversy

■ TS systems:

Are reliable	71.3%
Can be trusted	64.4
Accurately record and count votes	72.9
Can be hacked	47.5
Security prevents hacking	52.9

Conclusions

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■ No crisis of confidence revealed

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- High level of confidence in Maryland's current voting system
- High favorable opinion about TS voting systems

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- Little awareness of controversy around Maryland's voting system
(1 in 4.5 registered voters)
- Less awareness of paper trail
(8% of registered voters)

- Concern that system can be corrupted or hacked
- Belief that security measures prevent hacking
- Higher level of confidence that MD has done all it could to prevent tampering & fraud

■ Trust in Computers: 70.0 %

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■ Trust in Government: 49.4%

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Maryland Registered Voters' Opinions About Voting and Voting Technologies

Prepared for the Maryland State Board of Elections

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Baltimore County
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National Center for the Study of Elections
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Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis & Research
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

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