



To: Vincent DeMarco

From: Steve Raabe

Date: December 5, 2005

Subject: Fair Share Survey Results: Maryland Legislative District 27B

OpinionWorks has conducted a voter survey in Maryland Legislative District 27B to examine support for the Fair Share Bill. Interviews were completed by telephone December 1-2, 2005 among 400 likely general election voters in the district. For this voter sample, the maximum potential margin of sampling error is $\pm 5.0\%$ at a 95% confidence level.

Interviewees were drawn from the most current file of registered voters available, provided by the local board of elections and matched with telephone numbers by a commercial vendor. Voters were selected randomly to be interviewed if they had voted in either of the last two general elections, or had registered to vote since then. Weights were applied to bring the voter sample into strict compliance with the expected 2006 turnout patterns within the district based on gender, partisanship, and region.

The Context: A Swing Legislative District

This legislative district was chosen because it might be considered a “swing” district, having given a solid majority of its votes to Republican gubernatorial candidate Robert Ehrlich while electing a Democratic state delegate in 2002. In fact, this was a strong district for Governor Ehrlich in 2002, delivering 60.2% of its votes to him in the general election.

In terms of registration, the district is nearly evenly split between the two major parties, with 40% registered as Republicans, 43% as Democrats, and 17% for another party or no party.

Support for the Fair Share Bill

We measured basic support for the Fair Share Bill and found that likely voters in this district give the bill resounding support. The question was asked this way:

“Would you favor or oppose a state law requiring all Maryland companies with 10,000 or more employees, such as Wal-Mart and Giant, to spend at least 8 percent of their payroll cost on health care coverage for their employees?” (If Favor/Oppose): “Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?”

Two-thirds of voters in the district support the Fair Share Bill, with a solid majority (56%) saying they “strongly” support the bill:

	District 27B
Strongly favor	56%
Favor, not so strongly	11%
Total Favor	67%
Strongly oppose	12%
Oppose, not so strongly	5%
Total Oppose	17%
Not Sure	16%

Supporters of the Fair Share proposal outnumber opponents by four-to-one. These numbers represent a significant consensus among voters in District 27B in favor of this legislation.