



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maine Governor's Race Wide Open

Raleigh, N.C. – Maine voters aren't too familiar with any of the leading candidates for Governor next year, and that leaves the race to replace John Baldacci wide open.

30% of voters say that generally speaking they plan to vote Democratic for Governor next year with 26% intending to vote Republican and 18% saying their preference would be an independent candidate. Maine has been more fertile ground for candidates outside the major two parties than most states, and in a political climate where voters are pretty unhappy with both the Democrats and the Republicans there could be an opening.

Voters in the state are mostly unfamiliar with even some of the better known candidates on both the Democratic and Republican sides. 66% have no opinion about Senate President Libby Mitchell and 75% are ambivalent toward former Attorney General Steve Rowe. 69% are neutral toward repeat candidate Peter Mills and 75% say the same about Les Otten.

Some preliminary head to head contests show an opportunity for Republicans to be successful next year, but also lots of undecided voters. Mills lead Mitchell 34-31 and Rowe 33-25. In both match ups a plurality of the electorate is still undecided. The Democrats each lead Otten- Mitchell by a 34-26 margin and Rowe by a 28-26 spread but again a very significant proportion of the electorate hasn't given it much thought.

“The only thing that's certain about next year's Gubernatorial race is that everything is uncertain,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “There really are no clear favorites and that means just about anything, including the election of an independent or third party candidate, is possible.”

PPP surveyed 1,130 likely voters from October 16th to 19th. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at www.publicpolicypolling.com.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Tom Jensen at 919-744-6312.

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Maine Poll

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor John Baldacci's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 25%
Disapprove..... 57%
Not Sure..... 18%

Q2 Generally speaking next year do you plan to vote for a Democratic, Republican, or third party/independent candidate for Governor? If a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If a third party or independent candidate, press 3. If you're undecided, press 4.

Democrat 30%
Republican..... 26%
Third Party/Independent 18%
Undecided..... 27%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Libby Mitchell? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 18%
Unfavorable 16%
Not Sure..... 66%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve Rowe? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 13%
Unfavorable 12%
Not Sure..... 75%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Peter Mills? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 16%
Unfavorable 15%
Not Sure..... 69%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Les Otten? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 10%
Unfavorable 16%
Not Sure..... 75%

Q7 If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Peter Mills and Democrat Libby Mitchell, who would you vote for? If Peter Mills, press 1. If Libby Mitchell, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

Mills 34%
Mitchell..... 31%
Undecided..... 35%

Q8 If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Peter Mills and Democrat Steve Rowe, who would you vote for? If Peter Mills, press 1. If Steve Rowe, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

Mills 33%
Rowe 25%
Undecided..... 42%





Q9 If the candidates for Governor next year were Democrat Libby Mitchell and Republican Les Otten, who would you vote for? If Libby Mitchell, press 1. If Les Otten, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

Mitchell..... 34%
Otten..... 26%
Undecided..... 40%

Q10 If the candidates for Governor next year were Republican Les Otten and Democrat Steve Rowe, who would you vote for? If Les Otten, press 1. If Steve Rowe, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

Otten..... 26%
Rowe 28%
Undecided..... 46%

Q11 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 22%
Moderate..... 44%
Conservative..... 33%

Q12 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man..... 47%

Q13 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

Democrat..... 38%
Republican..... 30%
Other..... 32%

Q14 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 93%
Other..... 7%

Q15 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29..... 10%
30 to 45..... 22%
46 to 65..... 46%
Older than 65..... 22%





	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Baldacci Approval				
Approve	25%	42%	28%	10%
Disapprove	57%	36%	52%	77%
Not Sure	18%	22%	19%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Generic Ballot for Governor				
Democrat	30%	66%	27%	9%
Republican	26%	3%	18%	52%
Third Party/Independent	18%	12%	20%	18%
Undecided	27%	19%	35%	21%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Mitchell Favorability				
Favorable	18%	31%	19%	7%
Unfavorable	16%	6%	14%	26%
Not Sure	66%	63%	67%	67%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rowe Favorability				
Favorable	13%	21%	14%	5%
Unfavorable	12%	7%	13%	15%
Not Sure	75%	72%	73%	80%





	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Mills Favorability				
Favorable	16%	12%	17%	18%
Unfavorable	15%	14%	17%	14%
Not Sure	69%	74%	66%	68%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Otten Favorability				
Favorable	10%	6%	10%	11%
Unfavorable	16%	18%	18%	12%
Not Sure	75%	76%	72%	77%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Mills/Mitchell				
Mills	34%	8%	28%	59%
Mitchell	31%	64%	30%	10%
Undecided	35%	28%	42%	31%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Mills/Rowe				
Mills	33%	7%	26%	60%
Rowe	25%	54%	25%	6%
Undecided	42%	38%	49%	34%





	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Mitchell/Otten				
Mitchell	34%	68%	35%	10%
Otten	26%	5%	21%	47%
Undecided	40%	27%	44%	43%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Otten/Rowe				
Otten	26%	7%	21%	47%
Rowe	28%	58%	28%	8%
Undecided	46%	35%	51%	46%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Baldacci Approval			
Approve	25%	25%	25%
Disapprove	57%	53%	61%
Not Sure	18%	21%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Ballot for Governor			
Democrat	30%	34%	24%
Republican	26%	23%	29%
Third Party/Independent	18%	14%	22%
Undecided	27%	29%	25%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Mitchell Favorability			
Favorable	18%	20%	16%
Unfavorable	16%	10%	23%
Not Sure	66%	71%	61%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rowe Favorability			
Favorable	13%	13%	13%
Unfavorable	12%	8%	17%
Not Sure	75%	79%	70%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Mills Favorability			
Favorable	16%	13%	19%
Unfavorable	15%	11%	19%
Not Sure	69%	75%	61%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Otten Favorability			
Favorable	10%	7%	12%
Unfavorable	16%	11%	22%
Not Sure	75%	82%	66%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Mills/Mitchell			
Mills	34%	27%	42%
Mitchell	31%	35%	27%
Undecided	35%	38%	31%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Mills/Rowe			
Mills	33%	26%	40%
Rowe	25%	27%	24%
Undecided	42%	47%	36%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Mitchell/Otten			
Mitchell	34%	37%	31%
Otten	26%	20%	33%
Undecided	40%	43%	35%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Otten/Rowe			
Otten	26%	20%	33%
Rowe	28%	29%	27%
Undecided	46%	51%	40%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Baldacci Approval				
Approve	25%	39%	11%	23%
Disapprove	57%	40%	76%	58%
Not Sure	18%	21%	13%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Generic Ballot for Governor				
Democrat	30%	64%	3%	13%
Republican	26%	4%	62%	18%
Third Party/Independent	18%	8%	12%	34%
Undecided	27%	23%	23%	36%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Mitchell Favorability				
Favorable	18%	30%	9%	12%
Unfavorable	16%	9%	24%	17%
Not Sure	66%	61%	67%	71%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Rowe Favorability				
Favorable	13%	20%	9%	8%
Unfavorable	12%	11%	14%	12%
Not Sure	75%	70%	77%	80%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Mills Favorability				
Favorable	16%	12%	24%	14%
Unfavorable	15%	18%	12%	14%
Not Sure	69%	70%	64%	72%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Otten Favorability				
Favorable	10%	7%	14%	9%
Unfavorable	16%	20%	11%	16%
Not Sure	75%	74%	75%	75%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Mills/Mitchell				
Mills	34%	12%	64%	31%
Mitchell	31%	59%	6%	22%
Undecided	35%	29%	29%	48%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Mills/Rowe				
Mills	33%	11%	65%	30%
Rowe	25%	50%	4%	16%
Undecided	42%	39%	31%	54%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Mitchell/Otten				
Mitchell	34%	63%	8%	25%
Otten	26%	6%	52%	26%
Undecided	40%	31%	40%	49%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Otten/Rowe				
Otten	26%	8%	52%	23%
Rowe	28%	52%	7%	21%
Undecided	46%	40%	41%	56%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Baldacci Approval			
Approve	25%	26%	17%
Disapprove	57%	56%	64%
Not Sure	18%	18%	18%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Generic Ballot for Governor			
Democrat	30%	31%	16%
Republican	26%	26%	27%
Third Party/Independent	18%	16%	31%
Undecided	27%	27%	25%





	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Mitchell Favorability			
Favorable	18%	18%	15%
Unfavorable	16%	15%	32%
Not Sure	66%	67%	52%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rowe Favorability			
Favorable	13%	13%	8%
Unfavorable	12%	11%	22%
Not Sure	75%	75%	71%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Mills Favorability			
Favorable	16%	16%	23%
Unfavorable	15%	14%	24%
Not Sure	69%	70%	53%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Otten Favorability			
Favorable	10%	9%	13%
Unfavorable	16%	16%	21%
Not Sure	75%	75%	66%





	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Mills/Mitchell			
Mills	34%	33%	41%
Mitchell	31%	32%	21%
Undecided	35%	35%	37%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Mills/Rowe			
Mills	33%	33%	36%
Rowe	25%	26%	19%
Undecided	42%	41%	46%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Mitchell/Otten			
Mitchell	34%	35%	26%
Otten	26%	26%	33%
Undecided	40%	40%	42%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Otten/Rowe			
Otten	26%	26%	32%
Rowe	28%	29%	19%
Undecided	46%	45%	49%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Baldacci Approval					
Approve	25%	21%	17%	26%	32%
Disapprove	57%	61%	66%	56%	48%
Not Sure	18%	18%	17%	17%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Ballot for Governor					
Democrat	30%	38%	26%	29%	29%
Republican	26%	21%	33%	22%	28%
Third Party/Independent	18%	23%	17%	17%	16%
Undecided	27%	17%	24%	31%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Mitchell Favorability					
Favorable	18%	19%	9%	19%	24%
Unfavorable	16%	14%	13%	18%	16%
Not Sure	66%	67%	78%	63%	60%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rowe Favorability					
Favorable	13%	6%	9%	15%	14%
Unfavorable	12%	13%	10%	13%	12%
Not Sure	75%	81%	81%	72%	73%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Mills Favorability					
Favorable	16%	17%	9%	17%	22%
Unfavorable	15%	16%	15%	16%	13%
Not Sure	69%	67%	76%	68%	65%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Otten Favorability					
Favorable	10%	11%	7%	11%	9%
Unfavorable	16%	12%	10%	20%	15%
Not Sure	75%	77%	83%	69%	76%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Mills/Mitchell					
Mills	34%	30%	37%	31%	37%
Mitchell	31%	35%	26%	34%	30%
Undecided	35%	35%	37%	35%	33%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Mills/Rowe					
Mills	33%	30%	36%	31%	36%
Rowe	25%	29%	24%	27%	22%
Undecided	42%	42%	40%	42%	42%





	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Mitchell/Otten					
Mitchell	34%	31%	29%	38%	32%
Otten	26%	28%	32%	23%	27%
Undecided	40%	40%	39%	39%	41%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Otten/Rowe					
Otten	26%	27%	31%	23%	27%
Rowe	28%	28%	27%	31%	25%
Undecided	46%	45%	42%	46%	48%

