

MEMORANDUM

TO: FRIENDS OF KEN ULMAN
FROM: GARIN-HART-YANG RESEARCH GROUP
DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2010
RE: RECENT SURVEY AMONG HOWARD COUNTY VOTERS

The results of our late August survey among Howard County voters show that County Executive Ken Ulman continues to maintain his strong popularity and he is extremely well-positioned to win reelection by a solid margin over his Republican opponent.

Mr. Ulman's job rating as County Executive remains virtually unchanged from the exceptional results he garnered in our April survey; currently, 69% of Howard County voters approve of his performance, compared to just 13% who disapprove.

Despite the INCREASING partisanship in the nation and in Maryland throughout the course of the year, the ONE Democrat that Howard County Republicans hold in high regard is Ken Ulman, who continues to achieve a net favorable job rating from Republicans (47% approve, 24% disapprove). And Mr. Ulman enjoys a phenomenal 73% approval rating from the crucial bloc of registered Independents.

Thus, County Executive Ulman holds a commanding 62%-to-29% lead over Trent Kittelman in the initial ballot test, with 9% of voters undecided. Compared to our April survey, Trent Kittelman's support has only grown by 2%, while the incumbent has actually INCREASED his support by 3%.

With approximately two months remaining until the general election, Trent Kittelman faces a number of heavy obstacles in her challenge to County Executive Ulman. For example, she continues to lag in name recognition, with just 47% of Howard County voters who recognize her name. However, it is not even certain that increasing her profile will markedly improve her prospects: Ken Ulman holds a strong twenty-point lead even among voters who recognize Trent Kittelman.

This memorandum is based on a survey conducted among 400 likely voters in Howard County. The survey was conducted between August 30 and September 1, 2010, and has a margin of error of ± 5.0 percentage points.