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Maryland Politics Watch

Because Western Avenue is No Longer the Final Frontier

Monday, October 19, 2009

Fed Up in the Free State

Progressive Maryland and Common Cause are using the results of a recent [poll](#) to press their case for campaign finance reform. They certainly have some useful ammunition as the poll shows majority support for public financing. But the poll shows something else: a deep cynicism towards government. And more than that, it shows that the Democratic rank-and-file is extraordinarily suspicious of a state government run by their own party.

Consider the responses to the following questions divided by party affiliation.

"I am worried that large political contributions will prevent lawmakers in Annapolis from tackling the important issues facing Maryland today, like the recession, rising energy costs, reforming health care, and protecting the Chesapeake Bay."

Percentage agreeing, strongly or somewhat:

Democrats: 78.2%
Republicans: 74.0%
Independents: 78.2%
Total: 76.9%

"Right now, would you say elected officials in Maryland are looking out for the needs of everyone, or are mostly concerned with the needs of those who pay for their campaigns?"

Percentage answering those who pay for their campaigns:

Democrats: 51.5%
Republicans: 66.4%
Independents: 54.5%

"Do you agree or disagree that lawmakers in Annapolis are more likely to vote the way their political contributors want them to vote, not how their constituents want them to vote?"

Percentage agreeing, strongly or somewhat, that lawmakers are more likely to vote for contributors:

Democrats: 64.2%
Republicans: 78.1%
Independents: 81.8%