

News From

Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors' Association

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Gonzales Poll Shows Marylanders Overwhelmingly Oppose Gas Tax Increase & Indexing

Annapolis, MD – A recent survey finds that Marylanders overwhelmingly oppose increasing the state's gas tax, even when the money is to be used only for transportation projects.

The survey, conducted by renowned firm Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies, found that 76% of Marylanders oppose a gas tax increase of 10 cents per gallon. The Poll results echo a similar Poll conducted by Gonzales in September of 2011. While no specific proposals have been made this session the Governors Blue Ribbon Commission recommended a 15 cent a gallon increase among other vehicle related fee increases. A 10 cent increase was considered in the 2011 session of the Maryland General Assembly, but did not pass.

An additional question was asked regarding indexing the gas tax that would raise the gas tax automatically each year and an astounding 97% opposed this proposal referred to as "indexing". It is certainly clear from the Poll results that Marylanders want a thorough review of any gas tax increase before it is automatically enacted.

"This survey shows that Marylanders everywhere are feeling the pinch at the pump. Constituents are telling Maryland lawmakers that the well is dry. Neither Maryland consumers nor Maryland businesses can afford to pay any more in fuel costs and that any costs added to the gas tax will be passed directly on to consumers both at the pump and in the cost of all goods that Marylanders purchase," said Peter Horrigan, president of the Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association.

"This survey confirms what we hear from our customers on a daily basis. Gas prices are too high and now is not the time to raise fuel taxes causing us to pay more," added Horrigan.

The survey, available at www.mapda.org on the Home page under Gas Tax Poll was conducted by telephone from January 9th through 15th, 2012. A total of 808 registered Maryland voters who regularly vote and represent a cross section that reflects general election voting patterns in jurisdictions statewide participated.