

For Immediate Release:
May 27, 2011

Contact: Ryan Duffy
(850) 222-1996

Sachs/Mason-Dixon Poll Finds Strong National Support For a Balanced Budget Amendment

~46 percent of Americans more likely to vote for presidential candidate
supporting a balanced budget amendment~

Tallahassee, FL – As the intense debate over the federal budget continues to dramatically unfold in Washington, a new Sachs/Mason-Dixon poll finds an overwhelming number of Americans would support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring Congress to pass a balanced budget every year.

“Americans are concerned about our nation’s deepening deficit and as a result, an overwhelming number support a balanced budget amendment,” said Alia Faraj-Johnson, Partner and Executive Vice President of Ron Sachs Communications. “Candidates from both parties would be wise to support the measure, which will help keep Congress’ spending in check and ensure our government is tightening its belt, like many American families.”

In addition to the strong support for a balanced budget amendment, a plurality of those surveyed also indicated they would be more likely to support a presidential candidate who favors a balanced budget amendment. According to the poll, 46 percent of those surveyed would be more likely to vote for a candidate if they also supported a balanced budget amendment, while 21 percent indicated they would be less likely.

Among the poll’s key findings:

- 81 percent of Republicans, 68 percent of independents and 45 percent of Democrats support a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- The amendment is opposed by 44 percent of Democrats, 11 percent of Republicans and 25 percent of independents surveyed.
- When asked if a candidate’s support for the amendment would have any effect on their vote, 27 percent reported it would have “no effect” on their vote, including 35 percent of Democrats, 24 percent of Republicans and 23 percent of independents.
- Democrats are split on the amendment with 45 percent in favor of it and 44 percent opposed.

Currently, nearly every state in the nation has a balanced budget amendment, prohibiting states from spending more than they have. Amending the U.S. Constitution to require Congress to pass a balanced budget would require either approval through a Constitutional Convention or three-fourths of the state legislatures to approve it for ratification.

The Sachs/Mason-Dixon Poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent. A total of 625 adults were interviewed between May 23 and 24 nationwide by telephone. The poll was commissioned by Tallahassee-based Ron Sachs Communications and conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, Inc.

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625 adults interviewed nationwide from May 23-24, 2011 by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. The margin for error is $\pm 4\%$.

QUESTION: Currently, nearly every state in the nation has a balanced budget amendment, prohibiting states from spending more than they have. The U.S. Congress, however, is not currently required to balance the federal budget. Do you support or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring Congress to pass a balanced budget every year?

	<u>NATION</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>IND</u>
SUPPORT	65%	45%	81%	68%
OPPOSE	27%	44%	11%	25%
UNDECIDED	8%	11%	8%	7%

QUESTION: If a presidential candidate supported a balanced budget amendment, would you be more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them, or would it not have a major effect on your voting decision?

	<u>NATION</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>IND</u>
MORE LIKELY	46%	21%	64%	51%
LESS LIKELY	21%	37%	7%	19%
NO EFFECT	27%	35%	24%	23%
NOT SURE	6%	7%	5%	7%