



**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Rick Abbruzzese  
(410) 814-4206

*Chris Cillizza: Bob Ehrlich is the Weakest Incumbent Governor in America*

*Washington Post Political Analyst Ranks Ehrlich Last; Follows O'Malley's Impressive Fundraising Totals and 13-Point Lead in WSJ/Zogby Poll*

BALTIMORE, MD (January 20, 2006) – Martin O'Malley's campaign for Governor received a boost today from *Washington Post* political analyst Chris Cillizza. In his blog, "The Fix," Cillizza ranked Ehrlich as the most vulnerable incumbent governor in America, and placed Maryland as the 5<sup>th</sup> most likely state to have a change of party in the statehouse.

Cillizza noted that O'Malley "continues to distance himself from his Democratic primary opponent," and "O'Malley's strength is a major problem for Ehrlich, who is hoping for a competitive (and nasty) Democratic primary to improve his chances at reelection." Cillizza continues, "... the Democratic nature of the state coupled with a strong Democratic year could spell doom for [Ehrlich]."

This is yet another validation of Ehrlich's vulnerability. It also follows a week of strong indicators for the O'Malley-Brown campaign. On Sunday, the campaign announced that it ended last year with more money on hand than any gubernatorial or senate challenger campaign did at a similar point in the 2004 cycle. Yesterday, a *Wall Street Journal/Zogby* Battleground Poll showed O'Malley leading Ehrlich by 52.6%-40%. It also comes as the General Assembly continues to override Ehrlich vetoes on critical issues ranging from the minimum wage to juvenile justice.

To see the full Chris Cillizza column, visit: <http://blogs.washingtonpost.com/thefix/>

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Friends of Martin O'Malley – 2400 Boston Street, Suite 203 – Baltimore, MD 21224 – 410-814-4206 – fax: 410-814-4219

Authority: Friends of Martin O'Malley, Martin F. Cadogan, Treasurer