



Results Embargoed Until Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 12:01am

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MARYLANDERS PREFER POLITICAL LEADERS WHO COMPROMISE; GOVERNOR HOGAN MAINTAINS STRONG APPROVAL, HOLDS ELECTORAL ADVANTAGE AGAINST DEMOCRATIC RIVALS

BALTIMORE, Md. (April 24, 2018) – The Goucher Poll asked Maryland residents about their opinions toward the role of government and political compromise; confidence in elected officials to handle different issues; Maryland’s current direction and economic situation; and about Governor Larry Hogan, Comptroller Peter Franchot, Attorney General Brian Frosh, President Donald Trump and the 2018 gubernatorial election. Marylander’s view of Major League Baseball was also assessed. The Goucher Poll surveyed 617 Maryland adults from April 14-19 and has a margin of error of +/-3.9 percent.

Role of Government and Political Compromise

Sixty-two percent of Marylanders think the government should do more to solve problems and help meet the needs of people. About a **third** think the government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.

About **three-quarters** of Marylanders prefer political leaders who compromise in order to get things done compared to **14 percent** who prefer political leaders who stick to their beliefs even if less gets done.

When there is a lack of cooperation in state government, **67 percent** hold both Governor Larry Hogan and the Democratic leadership in Maryland equally as responsible, while **18 percent** hold the Democratic leadership and **11 percent** hold Governor Hogan responsible.

Confidence in Larry Hogan or the Democratic Leadership to Handle Different Issues

Residents were asked whether they had more confidence in Governor Larry Hogan or the Democratic leadership in Maryland to handle a variety of issues.

Environmental issues

- Larry Hogan (**34 percent**)
- Democratic leadership (**47 percent**)

State budget and finances

- Larry Hogan (**55 percent**)
- Democratic leadership (**28 percent**)

Gun violence

- Larry Hogan (**39 percent**)
- Democratic leadership (**40 percent**)

Transportation and infrastructure

- Larry Hogan (**45 percent**)
- Democratic leadership (**36 percent**)

Economic development and job creation

- Larry Hogan (**49 percent**)
- Democratic leadership (**35 percent**)

Taxes

- Larry Hogan (**47 percent**)
- Democratic leadership (**35 percent**)

Education

- Larry Hogan (**37 percent**)
- Democratic leadership (**44 percent**)

Crime and criminal justice

- Larry Hogan (**48 percent**)
- Democratic leadership (**32 percent**)

“Echoing the bipartisan tone and legislative scope of the 2018 Maryland General Assembly session, most Marylanders say they prefer leaders who compromise and a government that does more to help meet the needs of people,” said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center. “While there are clear divisions on who residents are more confident in to handle different issues, most Marylanders say they hold both Governor Hogan and the Democratic leadership equally responsible when there is a lack of cooperation in state government.”

Direction of the State and Current Economic Situation

Fifty-three percent say Maryland is heading in the right direction and **28 percent** say Maryland is off on the wrong track.

A plurality—**42 percent**—of residents think that the economy in Maryland is better today than it was four years ago, **37 percent** think it’s the same, and **17 percent** think it is worse.

Perceptions of Governor Larry Hogan, President Donald Trump, and the 2018 Gubernatorial Election

Governor Hogan continues to earn high marks from Marylanders. **Sixty-nine percent** of Marylanders approve of the job Hogan is doing as governor and **21 percent** disapprove. President Donald Trump is significantly less popular with Marylanders; **25 percent** approve of the job he is doing and **70 percent** disapprove.

Maryland residents were asked additional questions about Governor Hogan including his ideological leanings and his distance from President Trump.

- **51 percent** of Marylanders think that Governor Hogan is a moderate, while **26 percent** see him as a conservative and **9 percent** view the Governor as a liberal.
- **47 percent** of Maryland residents believe that Governor Hogan has distanced himself “about the right amount” from President Trump. **Twenty-seven percent** of respondents believe Governor Hogan has distanced himself “too little” from President Trump and **9 percent** think he has distanced himself “too much.”

Marylanders who indicated that they were registered to vote, interested in the 2018 election, and likely to vote in the upcoming elections in November were asked whether they would vote for “Republican Larry Hogan” or vote for each one the Democratic candidates:

Larry Hogan (44%) / Rushern Baker (31%) / Undecided (22%)
Larry Hogan (44%) / Ben Jealous (31%) / Undecided (22%)
Larry Hogan (45%) / Kevin Kamenetz (28%) / Undecided (23%)
Larry Hogan (45%) / Rich Madaleno (27%) / Undecided (26%)
Larry Hogan (46%) / Alec Ross (26%) / Undecided (26%)
Larry Hogan (47%) / Jim Shea (27%) / Undecided (25%)
Larry Hogan (45%) / Krish Vignarajah (25%) / Undecided (27%)

Maryland likely voters were also asked how much influence their views toward President Trump will have on their vote for governor. **Thirty-six percent** said that their views toward President Trump will influence their vote for governor “a lot” or “some” and **62 percent** said their views toward the president will have “no” or “only a little” influence on their vote.

Comptroller Peter Franchot and Attorney General Brian Frosh

Thirty-eight percent approve of the job Peter Franchot is doing as Comptroller of Maryland, **13 percent** disapprove, and **47 percent** don’t know.

Thirty-one percent approve of the job Brian Frosh is doing as Attorney General of Maryland, **17 percent** disapprove, and **49 percent** don’t know.

Major League Baseball in Maryland

About half of Marylanders say they aren’t fans of Major League Baseball. **A third** of Marylanders say they are fans of the Baltimore Orioles and **13 percent** say they are fans of the Washington Nationals.

About the Goucher Poll

The Goucher Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. Directed by Dr. Mileah Kromer, the Goucher Poll conducts surveys on public policy, economic, and social issues in Maryland.

The Goucher Poll is fully funded by the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center endowment and does not take additional funding from outside sources. The Goucher Poll seeks to improve public discourse in Maryland by providing neutral, unbiased, and independent information on resident perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the Goucher Poll are used to assist faculty and student research. Goucher College supports the Goucher Poll as part of its commitment to experiential learning.

The Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center is a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations and the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative.



Survey Methodology

To ensure all Maryland residents are represented, the Goucher Poll is conducted using random digit dialing (RDD) of a county-level stratified random sample using landline and cellular telephone numbers. The sample of telephone numbers for the survey is obtained from Survey Sampling International, LLC (<http://www.surveysampling.com/>).

The survey was conducted **Saturday, April 14 to Thursday, April 19, 2018**. During this time, interviews were conducted 12:00pm to 5:00pm on Saturday, 5:00pm to 9:00pm on Sunday, and 12:00pm to 9:00pm on Monday to Friday. The Goucher Poll uses Voxco Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) software to administer its surveys. Interviews are conducted by a staff of professionally trained, paid, student interviewers.

Interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers a maximum of five times. Only Maryland adults—residents aged 18 years or older—were eligible to participate. Interviews were not conducted with adults who were reached at business or work numbers. Seventy-seven percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 23 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 617 Maryland adults. For a sample size of 617, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.9 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. Margins of error are higher for subsamples.

In addition to sampling error, all surveys are subject to sources of non-sampling error including question wording effects, question order effects, and non-response bias. Margin of error is not adjusted for design effects. Data is weighted by gender, age, and region of the state to represent adult population targets established by the American Community Survey (ACS).

Survey Question Design

The Goucher Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which they are administered to respondents.

BRACKETED ITEMS []: Items and statements in brackets are rotated to ensure respondents do not receive a set order of response options presented to them, which maintains question construction integrity by avoiding respondent agreement based on question composition.

Example: [agree or disagree] or [disagree or agree]

PROBE (p): Some questions contain a “probe” maneuver to determine a respondent’s intensity of opinion/perspective. Probe techniques used in this questionnaire mainly consist of asking a respondent if his or her response is more intense than initially provided.

Example: Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of Governor Larry Hogan?

PROBE: Would you say very favorable/unfavorable?

OPEN-ENDED: No response options are provided for an open-ended question, i.e., it is entirely up to the respondent to provide the response information. Any response options provided to the interviewer are not read to respondent; they are only used to help reduce interviewer error and time in coding the response.

VOLUNTEER (v): Volunteer responses means the interviewer did not offer that response option in the question as read to the interviewer. Interviewers are instructed not to offer “don’t know” or “refused” or “some other opinion” to the respondent, but the respondent is free to volunteer that information for the interviewer to record.

Goucher Poll Sample Demographics (in percent)

	Maryland Adult Population Parameter (ACS estimates)	Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Adults (Total=617)	Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Registered Voters (Total=524)	Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Likely Voters (Total=449)
Gender				
Male	48	48	47	48
Female	52	52	53	52
Age				
18 to 24	12	12	12	8
25 to 34	17	17	14	14
35 to 44	17	17	17	17
45 to 54	19	19	19	20
55 to 64	17	17	19	20
65+	18	18	19	20
Race				
White	63	63	64	64
Black	29	24	23	24
Other	8	13	13	13
Region				
Capitol	36	36	35	37
Central	46	46	47	46
Eastern	8	8	8	8
Southern	6	6	6	6
Western	4	4	4	4

Distribution of Regions

Capitol—Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George’s

Central—Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard

Eastern—Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester

Southern—Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s

Western—Allegany, Garrett, Washington

Identifying Voters

Registered voter screen question:

Q: REGVOTE

Are you registered to vote at your current address?

If “Yes” follow up: Are you registered as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, unaffiliated or something else?

Of the **617** Maryland adult residents surveyed, **524** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e. independent). Of the **524** registered voters, **449** were identified as likely voters.

Maryland Voters (in percent)

	Party Registration* (March 2018)	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters (n=524)	Weighted Sample Estimate Likely Voters (n=449)
Democratic Party	55	52	54
Republican Party	26	26	25
Unaffiliated (Independent)	18	18	17
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	2	4	4
Total=	100	100	100

*Information and statistics on voter registration from the Maryland Board of Elections can be found at <http://www.elections.state.md.us>.

Additional Sample Demographics

	Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Adults (n=617)	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters (n=524)	Weighted Sample Estimate Likely Voters (n=449)
Respondent Ideology			
Conservative	22	23	21
Moderate	48	48	48
Progressive	26	27	30

Note: “Don’t know” and “refused” not shown in table above.

The following questions were asked to the full sample of **617** Maryland adults. Results are in percent and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: TRACK

In general, do you think things in the *state* [are headed in the right direction or are off on the wrong track]?

	SEPT 14	OCT 15	SEPT 16	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18	APR 18
Wrong track	52	33	19	22	31	29	28
Right direction	38	56	65	62	55	62	53
Don't know/Refused (v)	10	11	17	16	14	9	18
Total=	708 +/-3.7	636 +/-3.9	668 +/-3.8	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	617 +/-3.9

Q: MDECON_FOUR

Compared to four years ago, do you think the economy in Maryland is [better today, worse today, or about the same]?

	APR 18
Worse	17
About the same	37
Better	42
Don't know (v)	4
Total=	617 +/-3.9

Q: FROSH

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Brian Frosh is handling his job as Attorney General of Maryland?

PROBE

	APR 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	8
Disapprove	9
Approve	23
Strongly approve (p)	8
Don't know (v)	49
Refused (v)	3
Total=	617 +/-3.9

Q: FRANCHOT

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Peter Franchot is handling his job as Comptroller of Maryland?

PROBE

	APR 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	5
Disapprove	8
Approve	29
Strongly approve (p)	9
Don't know (v)	47
Refused (v)	2
Total=	617 +/-3.9

Q: HOGANJOB

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Larry Hogan is handling his job as governor?

PROBE

	FEB 16	SEPT 16	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18	APR 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	4	3	7	6	7	10
Disapprove	13	9	10	10	11	11
Approve	43	45	36	42	38	41
Strongly approve (p)	20	25	27	20	23	28
Don't know (v)	21	17	20	20	19	9
Refused (v)	0	1	0	1	2	1
Total=	545 +/-4.2	668 +/-3.8	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	617 +/-3.9

Q: HOGANIDEO

In general, do you think that Governor Larry Hogan is [a conservative, a moderate, or a liberal]?

	SEPT 17	FEB 18	APR 18
Conservative	31	29	26
Moderate	47	46	51
Liberal	7	7	9
Don't know (v)	14	17	13
Refused (v)	0	1	1
Total=	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	617 +/-3.9

Q: DISTANCE

Over the past year, has Governor Larry Hogan distanced himself [**too much, about the right amount, or too little**] from President Donald Trump?

	SEPT 17	FEB 18	APR 18
Too little	27	22	27
About the right amount	43	47	47
Too much	11	10	9
Don't know (v)	18	20	16
Refused (v)	1	1	1
Total=	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	617 +/-3.9

Q: HANDLE

Next, I'm going to read you a list of issues facing the state. As I read each one, please tell me whether you have more confidence in [**Governor Larry Hogan or the Democratic leaders in Maryland**] to handle it. . .

	Larry Hogan	Democratic Leadership	Neither (v)	Both (v)	Don't know (v)
Environmental issues	34	47	5	3	11
State budget and finances	55	28	5	2	9
Gun violence	39	40	10	3	8
Transportation and infrastructure	45	36	5	3	11
Economic development and job creation	49	35	5	3	8
Taxes	47	35	7	1	8
Education	37	44	7	2	8
Crime and criminal justice	48	32	8	3	9

Total=617, +/-3.9

Note: "Refused" not included in table above.

Q: LACK

Okay, when there is a lack of cooperation in state government, who do you typically view as more responsible—[**Governor Larry Hogan OR the Democratic leadership in Maryland**] or are they equally as responsible?

	SEPT 16	APR 18
Governor Larry Hogan	8	11
Democratic Leadership	18	18
Equally as responsible	67	67
Don't know/Refused (v)	7	4
Total=	668 +/-3.8	617 +/-3.9

Q: GOVTVIEW

I'm going to read you two statements, please tell me which one of these statements comes closer to your view: (ROTATE)

Statement #1: Government should do more to solve problems and help meet the needs of people.

Statement #2: Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals

	APR 18
#1 Government should do more	62
#2 Government doing too many things	31
Some other opinion (v)	5
Don't know (v)	1
Refused (v)	1
Total=	617 +/-3.9

Q: COOP

Thinking about the best approach for political leadership, is it more important to you [that political leaders compromise in order to get things done OR that political leaders to stick to their beliefs even if less gets done.]

	APR 18
Should compromise	77
Should stick to beliefs	14
Some other opinion (v)	7
Don't know (v)	1
Refused (v)	1
Total=	617 +/-3.9

Q: TRUMPJOB

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

PROBE

	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18	APR 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	56	56	57	56
Disapprove	8	15	11	14
Approve	14	13	15	14
Strongly approve (p)	15	12	12	11
Don't know (v)	7	3	4	3
Refused (v)	>1	1	1	2
Total=	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	617 +/-3.9

Q: BASEBALL

Next, just for fun. Do you consider yourself a fan of Major League Baseball?

IF RESPONDENT SAYS YES: Okay, would you say you are [**more of a Baltimore Orioles fan, more of a Washington Nationals fan**], or are you a fan of another team?

	APR 18
No—Not a fan of MLB	48
Yes— Baltimore Orioles fan	32
Yes— Washington Nationals fan	13
Yes— Another team	5
Don't know (v)	2
Total=	617 +/-3.9

Only registered voters were asked the following questions:

Q: INTEREST

Changing topics. . . Maryland will hold statewide primary and general elections in 2018. How interested would you say you are in these elections: **extremely interested, very interested, somewhat interested, or not interested?**

	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18	APR 18
Not interested	7	11	0	6
Somewhat interested	25	27	25	26
Very interested	29	28	33	32
Extremely interested	38	34	42	36
Don't Know (v)	1	0	0	0
Total=	698 +/-3.7	671 +/-3.8	658 +/-3.8	524 +/-4.2

IF somewhat, very, or extremely interested GO to LV

IF not interested, don't know, or refused SKIP to DEMO

Q: LV

What are the chances that you will vote in the November 2018 Maryland general elections for Governor, Senate, and other state-level offices--are you **absolutely certain to vote, very likely to vote, are the chances 50-50, or don't you think you will vote?**

	APR 18
Don't think you will vote	2
Chances are about 50-50	6
Very likely to vote	15
Absolutely certain	77
Don't know at this time (v)	>1
Total=	491 +/-4.4

IF absolutely certain or very likely GO to LHSVDEM

IF 50-50, don't think you will vote, don't know, or refused SKIP to DEMO

To receive **LHVSDEM** and **TRUMPEFF** respondent must indicate the following:

- **Currently a registered voter**
- **Somewhat, very, or extremely interested in the 2018 election**
- **Absolutely certain or very likely to vote**

Q: LHVSDEM

Next, I'm going to ask how you would vote in an election between Republican Larry Hogan some of the specific Democratic candidates currently running to be Governor of Maryland.

Who would you vote for if the election was between: [the **Republican Larry Hogan** and the Democrat <candidate name>]?

[BAKER to VIGNARAJAH randomized]

	Larry Hogan	Democratic Candidate	Other candidate (v)	Don't know (v)
Rushern Baker	44	31	2	22
Ben Jealous	44	31	1	22
Kevin Kamenetz	45	28	1	23
Rich Madaleno	45	27	1	26
Alec Ross	46	26	1	26
Jim Shea	47	27	1	25
Krish Vignarajah	45	25	1	27

Total=449, +-4.6

Note: "Refused" not included in table above.

Q: TRUMPEFF

Okay, still thinking about this election, how much—[**not at all, a little, some, or a lot**—do you think your views toward President Donald Trump will influence how you will vote?

	FEB 17	FEB 18	APR 18
Not at all	31	49	50
A little	11	11	12
Some	10	11	11
A lot	45	27	25
Don't know (v)	2	1	2
Refused (v)	1	1	0
Total=	644 +/-3.8	658 +/-3.8	449 +/-4.6