March 2020

Gonzales Maryland Poll

Gonzales Poll

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Background and Methodology

Patrick E. Gonzales graduated magna cum laude from the University of Baltimore with a degree in political science.

His career in the field of public opinion research began in the mid-1980s as an analyst with *Mason-Dixon Opinion Research*. During this time, Mr. Gonzales helped develop, craft and implement election surveys and exit polls for television and radio in the Baltimore-Washington D.C. metro area.

Mr. Gonzales has polled and analyzed well over a thousand elections in Maryland and across the country since that time. Furthermore, he and his associates have conducted numerous market research projects, crafting message development plans and generating strategy blueprints for businesses and organizations throughout the state.

Over his 35 years conducting public opinion polls, Patrick Gonzales has been widely recognized by his peers for his ability to conduct unbiased surveys, and analyze the results in an impartial, evenhanded manner.

Mr. Gonzales frequently appears on radio and television in the Baltimore-D.C. region as a guest commentator.

Elizabeth Gonzales Byers has joined *Gonzales Research* as Director of Marking and Social Media. She can be contacted at elizabeth@gonzalesresearch.com

This poll was conducted by ***Gonzales Research & Media Services*** from February 22nd through February 28th, 2020. A total of 827 registered voters in Maryland, who indicated that they are likely to vote in the 2020 general election, were queried by live telephone interviews, utilizing both landline (36%) and cell phone (64%) numbers. A cross-section of interviews was conducted throughout the state, reflecting general election voting patterns.

The margin of error (MOE), per accepted statistical standards, is a range of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. If the entire population was surveyed, there is a 95% probability that the true numbers would fall within this range.

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Synopsis

The China Syndrome has hit Maryland. Forty years ago, this was a fanciful phrase used in a movie title to convey the fictional result of a nuclear meltdown, and the accompanying fear. Today, it refers to the peculiar infection - known as coronavirus - which is believed to have started in a "wet market" in Wuhan, China and escaped its borders, and which is currently causing widespread concern here in this country.

Crime, at 24%, remains the number one issue, but apprehension over the coronavirus has triggered healthcare to more than triple to 17% as the #1 issue for Maryland voters over the past 2 months. Crime and healthcare are followed by education (12%), taxes (11%), corruption (9%), and the environment (8%).

Donald Trump's job approval in blue Maryland has seen a slight uptick, but remains low; 42%% approve of the job Trump is doing, while 55% disapprove of the job he is doing as president.

Governor Larry Hogan's imposing job approval numbers persist: 70% approve of the job Hogan is doing as governor, while 21% disapprove, with 9% giving no response.

Statewide, 53% think things in Maryland are moving in the right direction, while 33% say that things are moving in the wrong direction, with 14% of voters here offering no opinion.

The proposition being bandied between some to codify Maryland as a sanctuary state meets much greater resistance among voters across the Old Line State than it seems to in the halls of Annapolis.

Statewide, only 33% of voters support making Maryland a sanctuary state (18% "strongly support" and 15% "somewhat support"), while 52% oppose making Maryland a sanctuary state…44% **strongly** oppose.

Ninety percent of Republicans and 60% of independent voters oppose making Maryland a sanctuary state.

Fifty- five percent of African Americans support making Maryland a sanctuary state.

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Gonzales January 2020 Poll Results

Number One Issue In Maryland

Statewide, crime remains the number one issue for Free State voters at 24%, but anxiety, real and imagined, over the coronavirus has puffed up healthcare 12 points from our January poll, and catapulted it into 2nd place at 17%.

Theses top 2 issues are followed by education at 12%, taxes at 11%, corruption at 9%, and the environment (8%), with other issues receiving five percent or less mention.

Number One Issue in Maryland

Corruption 9%
Taxes 11%
Education 12%
Healthcare 17%
Crime 24%

■ Crime ■ Healthcare ■ Education ■ Taxes ■ Corruption
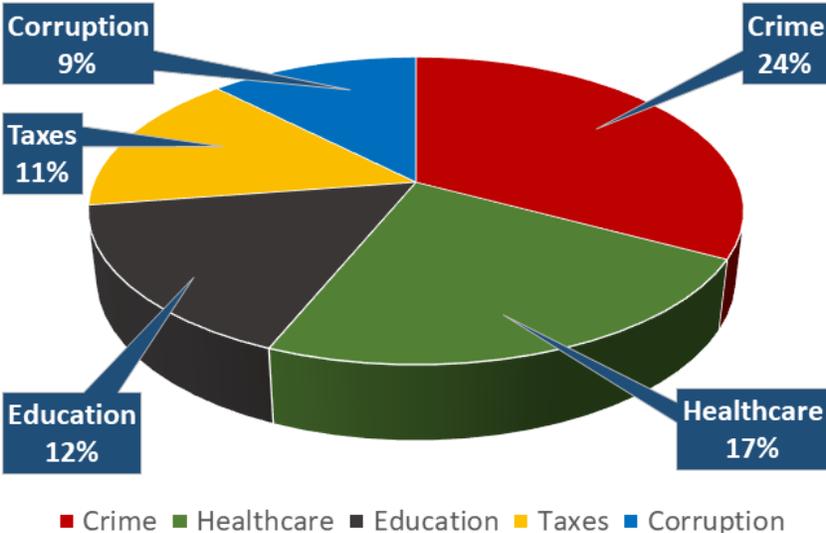
The top 3 issues by party:

Party	#1 Issue	#2 Issue	#3 Issue
Democrat	Crime (24%)	Healthcare (20%)	Education (17%)
Republican	Crime (24%)	Taxes (23%)	Immigration (17%)
Independent	Crime (21%)	Taxes (20%)	Healthcare (15%)

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President Donald Trump

President Donald Trump's job approval in Maryland, while still gloomy, is up slightly since the beginning of the year. Statewide, 42%% approve (up 5 points) of the job Trump is doing as president (33% "strongly approve" and 9% "somewhat approve"), while 55% disapprove of the job he is doing as president (52% "strongly disapprove" and 3% "somewhat disapprove"), with 3% giving no response.

Trump Job Approval
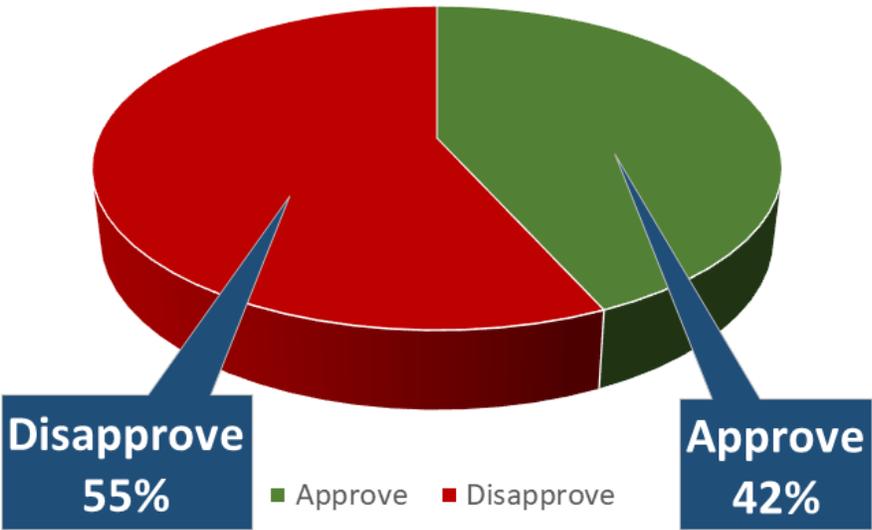
Trump Job Rating by party, gender, age, and race:

Trump Job Rating	Approve	Disapprove
Democrat	16%	81%
Republican	93%	6%
Unaffiliated	39%	55%
Women	37%	60%
Men	47%	50%
Under 50	36%	60%
50 and older	46%	51%
African-American	9%	84%
White	55%	44%

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Trump Economy

President Trump does not see the same bounce in Maryland as in other states when voters are asked to rate his handling of the economy and jobs. Statewide, 45%% approve of his handling of the economy (33% "strongly approve" and 12% "somewhat approve"), while 52% disapprove of his handling of the economy and jobs (41% "strongly disapprove" and 11% "somewhat disapprove").

Trump Economy Approval
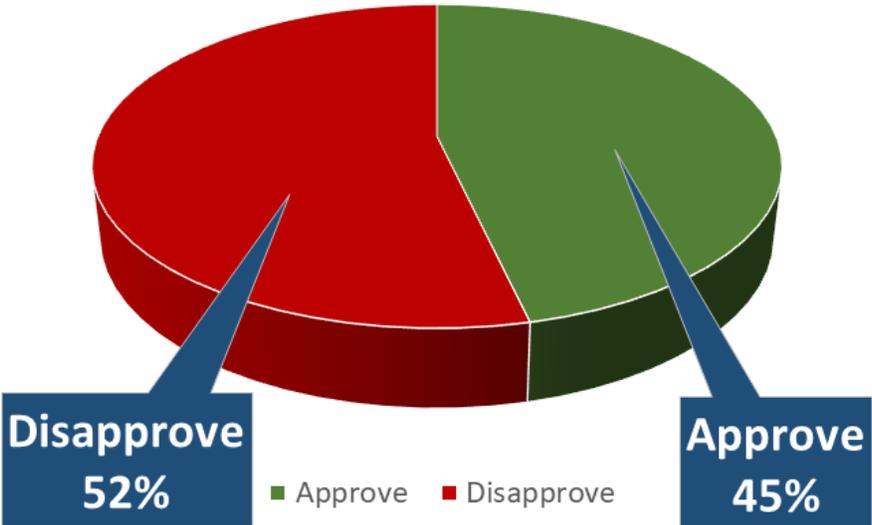
Trump Economy by party, gender, age, and race:

Trump Economy Rating	Approve	Disapprove
Democrat	21%	76%
Republican	94%	5%
Unaffiliated	42%	52%
Women	41%	55%
Men	49%	49%
Under 50	40%	56%
50 and older	49%	49%
African-American	15%	80%
White	58%	41%

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Governor Larry Hogan

Governor Larry Hogan's commanding job approval numbers endure.

Among Maryland voters, 70% approve of the job Hogan is doing as governor (39% "strongly approve" and 31% "somewhat approve"), while 21% disapprove of the job he is doing as governor (6% "strongly disapprove" and 15% "somewhat disapprove"), with 9% tendering no response.

Hogan Job Approval
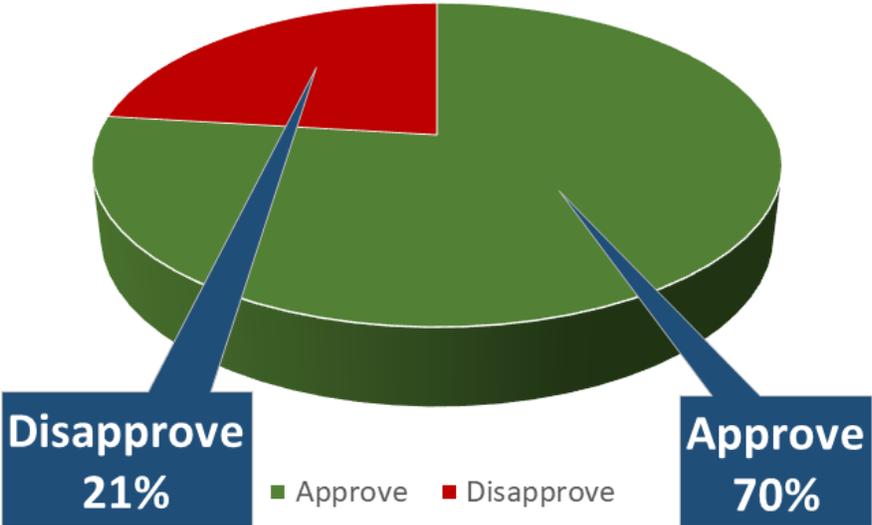
Hogan Job Rating by party, gender, age, and race:

Hogan Job Rating	Approve	Disapprove
Democrat	66%	23%
Republican	79%	15%
Unaffiliated	66%	23%
Women	68%	21%
Men	72%	20%
Under 50	69%	23%
50 and older	71%	19%
African-American	60%	31%
White	74%	17%

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Direction of State

Statewide, 53% think things in Maryland are moving in the right direction, while 33% say that things are moving in the wrong direction, with 14% of voters here offering no opinion.

Direction of State by party, gender age, race and region:

Direction of State	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Democrat	56%	25%
Republican	50%	43%
Unaffiliated	50%	40%
Men	52%	33%
Women	56%	33%
Under 50	54%	34%
50 and older	53%	32%
White	49%	30%
African-American	55%	34%
Baltimore Metro	52%	33%
Washington Metro	56%	32%
Rural Maryland	52%	35%

Maryland a Sanctuary State

Statewide, only 33% support making Maryland a sanctuary state (18% "strongly support" and 15% "somewhat support"), while a majority 52% oppose making Maryland a sanctuary state (44% "strongly oppose" and 8% "somewhat oppose"), with 15% offering no opinion.

Sanctuary State	Support	Oppose
Democrat	51%	30%
Republican	3%	90%
Unaffiliated	26%	60%
Women	39%	47%
Men	27%	58%
Under 50	39%	45%
50 and older	28%	58%
African-American	55%	31%
White	24%	61%

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Make Maryland a Sanctuary State by Region

Baltimore Metro

Support   33%
Oppose   51%

Western MD

Support   11%
Oppose   76%

Washington Metro

Support   43%
Oppose   43%

Eastern Shore/ Southern MD

Support   24%
Oppose   61%

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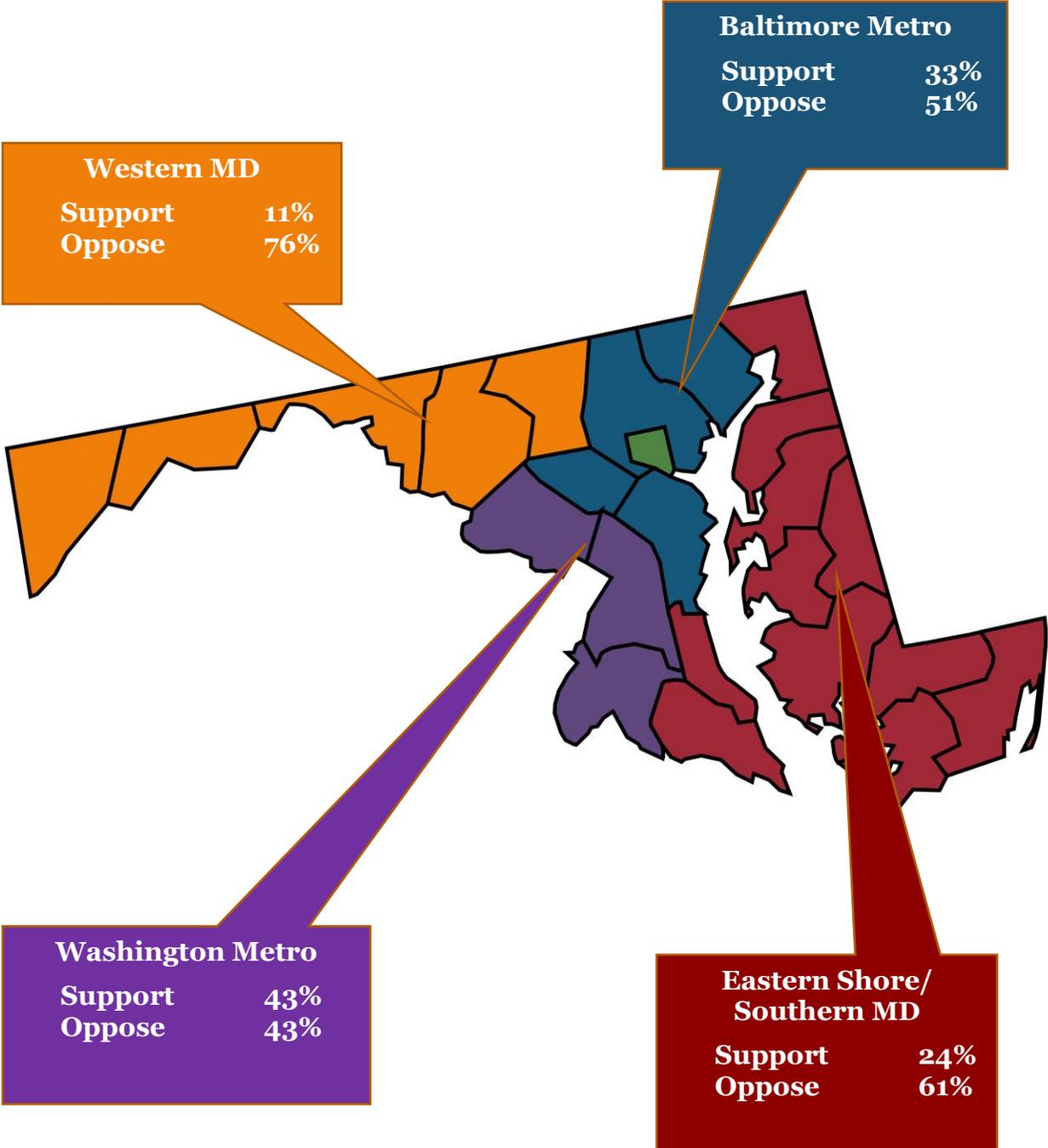
Appendix A: Data Tables

QUESTION 1: Number One Issue in Maryland *What is the number one issue Maryland government should deal with right now?*

#1 ISSUE IN MARYLAND	Number	Percent
Crime	199	24.1 %
Healthcare	141	17.0 %
Education	99	12.0 %
Taxes	87	10.5 %
Corruption	74	8.9 %
Environment	62	7.5 %
Transportation	42	5.1 %
Immigration	43	5.2 %
Opioid Crisis	37	4.5 %
Economy	18	2.2 %
N/A	25	3.0 %
Total	827	100.0 %

Healthcare jumped 12 points from our January survey, due to current fears over the coronavirus threat.

N=827	#1 ISSUE IN MARYLAND										
	Crime	Educat-ion	Trans	Opioid Crisis	Taxes	Immi-gration	Corrup-tion	Health-care	Envir-onment	Econ-omy	N/A
PARTY											
Democrat	113 24.9%	77 17.0%	37 8.1%	24 5.3%	5 1.1%	1 0.2%	21 4.6%	92 20.3%	56 12.3%	10 2.2%	18 4.0%
Republican	57 24.2%	8 3.4%	0 0.0%	1 0.4%	55 23.3%	40 16.9%	39 16.5%	29 12.3%	3 1.3%	1 0.4%	3 1.3%
Independent	29 21.2%	14 10.2%	5 3.6%	12 8.8%	27 19.7%	2 1.5%	14 10.2%	20 14.6%	3 2.2%	7 5.1%	4 2.9%

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N=827	#1 ISSUE IN MARYLAND										
	Crime	Educat-ion	Trans	Opioid Crisis	Taxes	Immi-gration	Corrup-tion	Health-care	Envir-onment	Econ-omy	N/A
GENDER											
Female	103 23.9%	56 13.0%	20 4.6%	21 4.9%	38 8.8%	21 4.9%	33 7.7%	81 18.8%	35 8.1%	9 2.1%	14 3.2%
Male	96 24.2%	43 10.9%	22 5.6%	16 4.0%	49 12.4%	22 5.6%	41 10.4%	60 15.2%	27 6.8%	9 2.3%	11 2.8%

N=827	#1 ISSUE IN MARYLAND										
	Crime	Educat-ion	Trans	Opioid Crisis	Taxes	Immi-gration	Corrup-tion	Health-care	Envir-onment	Econ-omy	N/A
AGE GROUP											
Under 50	95 26.5%	42 11.7%	23 6.4%	21 5.8%	27 7.5%	13 3.6%	24 6.7%	63 17.5%	31 8.6%	10 2.8%	10 2.8%
50 or older	104 22.2%	57 12.2%	19 4.1%	16 3.4%	60 12.8%	30 6.4%	50 10.7%	78 16.7%	31 6.6%	8 1.7%	15 3.2%

N=827	#1 ISSUE IN MARYLAND										
	Crime	Educat-ion	Trans	Opioid Crisis	Taxes	Immi-gration	Corrup-tion	Health-care	Envir-onment	Econ-omy	N/A
RACE											
African American	61 25.5%	52 21.8%	16 6.7%	6 2.5%	9 3.8%	2 0.8%	10 4.2%	45 18.8%	21 8.8%	6 2.5%	11 4.6%
White	125 23.9%	43 8.2%	22 4.2%	27 5.2%	67 12.8%	32 6.1%	60 11.5%	84 16.1%	38 7.3%	11 2.1%	13 2.5%
Other/ Refused	13 19.7%	4 6.1%	4 6.1%	4 6.1%	11 16.7%	9 13.6%	4 6.1%	12 18.2%	3 4.5%	1 1.5%	1 1.5%

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N=827	#1 ISSUE IN MARYLAND										
	Crime	Educat-ion	Trans	Opioid Crisis	Taxes	Immi-gration	Corrup-tion	Health-care	Envir-onment	Econ-omy	N/A
REGION											
Baltimore Metro	106 29.6%	42 11.7%	13 3.6%	12 3.4%	36 10.1%	15 4.2%	31 8.7%	61 17.0%	25 7.0%	7 2.0%	10 2.8%
Washington Metro	52 18.3%	45 15.8%	24 8.5%	15 5.3%	25 8.8%	12 4.2%	20 7.0%	54 19.0%	20 7.0%	7 2.5%	10 3.5%
Rural Maryland	41 22.2%	12 6.5%	5 2.7%	10 5.4%	26 14.1%	16 8.6%	23 12.4%	26 14.1%	17 9.2%	4 2.2%	5 2.7%

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QUESTION 2: Trump Job Approval *Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as president?*

JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP	Number	Percent
Approve	344	41.6 %
Disapprove	455	55.0 %
No answer	28	3.4 %
Total	827	100.0 %

Is that strongly or somewhat approve/disapprove?

JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP	Number	Percent
Strongly Approve	269	32.5 %
Somewhat Approve	75	9.1 %
Somewhat Disapprove	25	3.0 %
Strongly Disapprove	430	52.0 %
No answer	28	3.4 %
Total	827	100.0 %

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
PARTY			
Democrat	71	367	16
	15.6%	80.8%	3.5%
Republican	220	13	3
	93.2%	5.5%	1.3%
Independent	53	75	9
	38.7%	54.7%	6.6%

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
GENDER			
Female	158	258	15
	36.7%	59.9%	3.5%
Male	186	197	13
	47.0%	49.7%	3.3%

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N=827	JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
AGE GROUP			
Under 50	128 35.7%	215 59.9%	16 4.5%
50 or older	216 46.2%	240 51.3%	12 2.6%

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
RACE			
African American	22 9.2%	201 84.1%	16 6.7%
White	287 55.0%	227 43.5%	8 1.5%
Other/ Refused	35 53.0%	27 40.9%	4 6.1%

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
REGION			
Baltimore Metro	153 42.7%	195 54.5%	10 2.8%
Washington Metro	75 26.4%	193 68.0%	16 5.6%
Rural Maryland	116 62.7%	67 36.2%	2 1.1%

QUESTION 3: Hogan Job Approval *Do you approve or disapprove of the job Larry Hogan is doing as governor?*

JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN	Number	Percent
Approve	579	70.0 %
Disapprove	171	20.7 %
No answer	77	9.3 %
Total	827	100.0 %

Is that strongly or somewhat approve/disapprove?

JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN	Number	Percent
Strongly Approve	324	39.2 %
Somewhat Approve	255	30.8 %
Somewhat Disapprove	124	15.0 %
Strongly Disapprove	47	5.7 %
No answer	77	9.3 %
Total	827	100.0 %

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
PARTY			
Democrat	301 66.3%	104 22.9%	49 10.8%
Republican	187 79.2%	35 14.8%	14 5.9%
Independent	91 66.4%	32 23.4%	14 10.2%

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
GENDER			
Female	294 68.2%	92 21.3%	45 10.4%
Male	285 72.0%	79 19.9%	32 8.1%

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N=827	JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer

AGE GROUP

	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
Under 50	248 69.1%	82 22.8%	29 8.1%
50 or older	331 70.7%	89 19.0%	48 10.3%

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer

RACE

	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
African American	144 60.3%	74 31.0%	21 8.8%
White	387 74.1%	86 16.5%	49 9.4%
Other/ Refused	48 72.7%	11 16.7%	7 10.6%

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer

REGION

	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
Baltimore Metro	249 69.6%	76 21.2%	33 9.2%
Washington Metro	190 66.9%	69 24.3%	25 8.8%
Rural Maryland	140 75.7%	26 14.1%	19 10.3%

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QUESTION 4: Trump Economy Job Approval *Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the economy and jobs?*

JOB APPROVAL: TRUMP ECONOMY	Number	Percent
Approve	373	45.1 %
Disapprove	429	51.9 %
No answer	25	3.0 %
Total	827	100.0 %

Is that strongly or somewhat approve/disapprove?

JOB APPROVAL: TRUMP ECONOMY	Number	Percent
Strongly Approve	277	33.5 %
Somewhat Approve	96	11.6 %
Somewhat Disapprove	94	11.4 %
Strongly Disapprove	335	40.5 %
No answer	25	3.0 %
Total	827	100.0 %

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: TRUMP ECONOMY		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
PARTY			
Democrat	93	347	14
	20.5%	76.4%	3.1%
Republican	222	11	3
	94.1%	4.7%	1.3%
Independent	58	71	8
	42.3%	51.8%	5.8%

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: TRUMP ECONOMY		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
GENDER			
Female	178	237	16
	41.3%	55.0%	3.7%
Male	195	192	9
	49.2%	48.5%	2.3%

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N=827	JOB APPROVAL: TRUMP ECONOMY		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer

AGE GROUP

	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
Under 50	145 40.4%	201 56.0%	13 3.6%
50 or older	228 48.7%	228 48.7%	12 2.6%

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: TRUMP ECONOMY		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer

RACE

	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
African American	36 15.1%	191 79.9%	12 5.0%
White	302 57.9%	213 40.8%	7 1.3%
Other/ Refused	35 53.0%	25 37.9%	6 9.1%

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: TRUMP ECONOMY		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer

REGION

	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
Baltimore Metro	164 45.8%	186 52.0%	8 2.2%
Washington Metro	91 32.0%	180 63.4%	13 4.6%
Rural Maryland	118 63.8%	63 34.1%	4 2.2%

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Trump Economy Approval **by** Trump Overall Job Approval

N=827	JOB APPROVAL: TRUMP ECONOMY		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer

JOB APPROVAL: PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

Approve	340	3	1
	98.8%	0.9%	0.3%
Disapprove	27	423	5
	5.9%	93.0%	1.1%
No answer	6	3	19
	21.4%	10.7%	67.9%

Only 6% of Maryland voters who disapprove of Trump generally approve of the job he is doing handling the economy and jobs

QUESTION 5: Direction of State *Overall, would you say things in Maryland are moving in the right direction, or would you say things are off on the wrong track?*

DIRECTION OF STATE	Number	Percent
Right Direction	442	53.4 %
Wrong Track	272	32.9 %
No answer	113	13.7 %
Total	827	100.0 %

N=827

	DIRECTION OF STATE		
	Right Direction	Wrong Track	No answer
PARTY			
Democrat	255	115	84
	56.2%	25.3%	18.5%
Republican	118	102	16
	50.0%	43.2%	6.8%
Independent	69	55	13
	50.4%	40.1%	9.5%

Democrats, interestingly, are least likely to think things in Maryland are moving in the wrong direction.

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N=827	DIRECTION OF STATE		
	Right Direction	Wrong Track	No answer

GENDER

	Right Direction	Wrong Track	No answer
Female	222 51.5%	141 32.7%	68 15.8%
Male	220 55.6%	131 33.1%	45 11.4%

N=827	DIRECTION OF STATE		
	Right Direction	Wrong Track	No answer

AGE GROUP

	Right Direction	Wrong Track	No answer
Under 50	192 53.5%	123 34.3%	44 12.3%
50 or older	250 53.4%	149 31.8%	69 14.7%

N=827	DIRECTION OF STATE		
	Right Direction	Wrong Track	No answer

RACE

	Right Direction	Wrong Track	No answer
African American	118 49.4%	72 30.1%	49 20.5%
White	288 55.2%	176 33.7%	58 11.1%
Other/ Refused	36 54.5%	24 36.4%	6 9.1%

N=827	DIRECTION OF STATE		
	Right Direction	Wrong Track	No answer

REGION

	Right Direction	Wrong Track	No answer
Baltimore Metro	186 52.0%	117 32.7%	55 15.4%
Washington Metro	160 56.3%	90 31.7%	34 12.0%
Rural Maryland	96 51.9%	65 35.1%	24 13.0%

QUESTION 6: Sanctuary State *Do you support or oppose making Maryland a Sanctuary State?*

SANCTUARY STATE	Number	Percent
Support	273	33.0 %
Oppose	432	52.2 %
No answer	122	14.8 %
Total	827	100.0 %

Is that strongly or somewhat support/oppose?

SANCTUARY STATE	Number	Percent
Strongly Support	149	18.0 %
Somewhat Support	124	15.0 %
Somewhat Oppose	66	8.0 %
Strongly Oppose	366	44.3 %
No answer	122	14.8 %
Total	827	100.0 %

N=827	SANCTUARY STATE		
	Support	Oppose	No answer
PARTY			
Democrat	230	137	87
	50.7%	30.2%	19.2%
Republican	7	213	16
	3.0%	90.3%	6.8%
Independent	36	82	19
	26.3%	59.9%	13.9%

Significant majorities of Republicans and independents oppose making Maryland a sanctuary state.

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N=827	SANCTUARY STATE		
	Support	Oppose	No answer

GENDER

	Support	Oppose	No answer
Female	168 39.0%	203 47.1%	60 13.9%
Male	105 26.5%	229 57.8%	62 15.7%

N=827	SANCTUARY STATE		
	Support	Oppose	No answer

AGE GROUP

	Support	Oppose	No answer
Under 50	141 39.3%	162 45.1%	56 15.6%
50 or older	132 28.2%	270 57.7%	66 14.1%

N=827	SANCTUARY STATE		
	Support	Oppose	No answer

RACE

	Support	Oppose	No answer
African American	132 55.2%	75 31.4%	32 13.4%
White	123 23.6%	318 60.9%	81 15.5%
Other/ Refused	18 27.3%	39 59.1%	9 13.6%

N=827	SANCTUARY STATE		
	Support	Oppose	No answer

REGION

	Support	Oppose	No answer
Baltimore Metro	119 33.2%	184 51.4%	55 15.4%
Washington Metro	122 43.0%	121 42.6%	41 14.4%
Rural Maryland	32 17.3%	127 68.6%	26 14.1%

Appendix B: Maryland Poll Sample Demographics

PARTY	Number	Percent
Democrat	454	54.9 %
Republican	236	28.5 %
Independent	137	16.6 %
Total	827	100.0 %

AGE	Number	Percent
18 to 39	173	20.9 %
40 to 49	186	22.5 %
50 to 59	198	23.9 %
60 and older	270	32.6 %
Total	827	100.0 %

AGE GROUP	Number	Percent
Under 50	359	43.4 %
50 or older	468	56.6 %
Total	827	100.0 %

RACE	Number	Percent
African American	239	28.9 %
White	522	63.1 %
Other/Refused	66	8.0 %
Total	827	100.0 %

GENDER	Number	Percent
Female	431	52.1 %
Male	396	47.9 %
Total	827	100.0 %

REGION	Number	Percent
Baltimore Metro	358	43.3 %
Washington Metro	284	34.3 %
Rural Maryland	185	22.4 %
Total	827	100.0 %

Part 1 - Embargoed until 12:01 a.m., Thursday, March 5th, 2020

Region Classifications

Baltimore Metro	Number	Percent
Baltimore City	74	20.7 %
Anne Arundel County	79	22.1 %
Baltimore County	118	33.0 %
Harford County	39	10.9 %
Howard County	48	13.4 %
Total	358	100.0 %

Washington Metro	Number	Percent
Montgomery County	139	48.9 %
Prince George's County	120	42.3 %
Charles County	25	8.8 %
Total	284	100.0 %

Rural Maryland	Number	Percent
Eastern Shore/Southern Maryland	89	48.1 %
Western Maryland	96	51.9 %
Total	185	100.0 %

Part 1 - Embargoed until 12:01 a.m., Thursday, March 5th, 2020