January 2026

Maryland Statewide, Part 2

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 thousands of elections in Maryland and across the country over the past forty years. Further, 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 decades of 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 appears frequently on radio and television in the Baltimore-D.C. region as a guest commentator.

This poll was conducted by ***Gonzales Research & Media Services, Inc.*** from December 21st through January 6th, 2026. A total of 808 registered voters in Maryland, who indicated they are likely to vote in the 2026 general election, were queried by live telephone interviews, utilizing both landline and cell phone 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.

Synopsis

Maryland's resistance to Donald Trump is one of the state's defining reflexes, a kind of built-in recoil shaped by our deep-blue electorate, proximity to D.C., and a landscape where partisan patterns rarely budge. In his three elections here, Trump never received more than 35% of the vote, running aground each time on the same terrain: the dominance of the Baltimore–Washington suburbs, a weak showing with Black voters, and an independent voter bloc that, while persuadable in state races, leans solidly blue in national ones.

Maryland's political mood forms a consistent story across job approval, economic perceptions, and personal financial strain. The president's overall approval rating—36 percent approve, 63 percent disapprove—sets the tone: a state where views are not gently divided but sharply sorted. The intensity of feeling is unmistakable, with *strong* disapproval alone far, far outpacing total approval. What emerges is not a tentative or conflicted electorate but one offering a clear, emphatic judgment.

Two-thirds of Marylanders say their household expenses have worsened over the past year, and only 9 percent say things have improved. That sense of strain crosses demographic and partisan lines, even if the intensity varies. The shared sentiment is unambiguous: for many in the state, daily life feels more expensive, more pressured, and more uncertain.

Voter assessment of the president's handling of the economy follows a familiar arc. A stark 60 percent say his economic handling is "poor," with only 32% calling it "excellent" or "good."

As is often said, perception is reality - a point that dovetails neatly with Lincoln's observation: "Public sentiment is everything."

Gonzales Poll - Maryland Statewide Results Part 2

President Donald Trump Job Approval

Among Maryland voters, 36 percent approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as president (26% *"strongly"* approve and 10% *"somewhat"* approve), while a pronounced 63% disapprove (58% *"strongly"* disapprove and 5% *"somewhat"* disapprove), with only 1 percent offering no opinion.

The numbers reveal a dynamic that feels baked into Maryland's political DNA: a presidency that commands fierce devotion from a minority and equally fierce rejection from a majority. With just over a third of Marylanders offering approval and nearly two-thirds registering disapproval, the presidential portrait in the Old Line State sits on the wall inviting more judgment than discussion.

Party allegiance doesn't merely shape these views, it defines their borders. Among Democrats, approval is a rounding error; among Republicans, disapproval is, illustrating that in polarized times, opinion hardens into identity long before it becomes data. Each side anchors its convictions like a cargo ship in the Bay waiting to get to the Port, leaving independents as the only group here where persuasion still seems possible. Among independents, 42% approve of the job Trump is doing, and 56% disapprove.

President Trump Job Approval	Approve	Disapprove
Statewide	36%	63%
Democrat	9%	90%
Republican	89%	10%
Independent	42%	56%
Women	29%	69%
Men	43%	56%
White	49%	50%
African American	10%	90%
Other	38%	59%
Rural Maryland	56%	42%
Baltimore City	16%	82%
Baltimore Suburbs	40%	59%
Washington Suburbs	27%	72%

Cost of Living

A clear majority of Marylanders say the cost of living has worsened over the past year, with 67 percent reporting that their household expenses are higher than they were twelve months ago. Only 9 percent say things have improved, while nearly a quarter (24%) describe conditions as unchanged. The overall picture is one of broad financial strain, not a mixed or ambiguous set of signals.

Party lines shapes the intensity of the strain but not the direction. Democrats are the most likely to say costs have worsened, with three-quarters (76%) reporting deterioration and almost no one saying things are better. Republicans are less bleak but still tip negative, splitting 50 percent worse to 24 percent better. Independents fall in between, though nearly two-thirds also report worsening conditions. Across party lines, the sense of rising costs is unmistakable. There's a collective feeling in Maryland that we are running faster only to stay in place.

President Trump's Handling of the Economy

Marylanders deliver a blunt assessment of Trump's handling of the economy: six in ten rate his performance as *poor*, while only about a third (32%) place him in the excellent-or-good column. The middle ground is almost nonexistent, with just 7 percent calling his performance "fair." This isn't a muddled verdict but a decisively lopsided one.

Democratic respondents are nearly unanimous in their negative ratings, while Republicans overwhelmingly give Trump a thumbs up. Independent voters lean assertively negative as well, with nearly half (47%) rating his performance as poor and only about a third (37%) calling it excellent or good. The partisan divide is wide, but the overall trend is unmistakable.

Demographic patterns reinforce the statewide picture. Women (70%) and African-American voters (82%) register the strongest "poor" grade. Men come in noticeably more positive, but even among them, 48% rate President Trump's handling of the economy as *poor*.

Appendix A: Data Tables – Frequencies & Crosstabs

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

JOB APPROVAL: DONALD TRUMP	Number	Percent
Approve	288	35.6 %
Disapprove	511	63.2 %
No answer	9	1.1 %
Total	808	100.0 %

N=808	JOB APPROVAL: DONALD TRUMP		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
RESULTS			
Statewide	288	511	9
	35.6%	63.2%	1.1%

N=808	JOB APPROVAL: DONALD TRUMP		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
PARTY REGISTRATION			
Democrat	38	399	5
	8.6%	90.3%	1.1%
Republican	182	21	1
	89.2%	10.3%	0.5%
Unaffiliated	68	91	3
	42.0%	56.2%	1.9%

N=808	JOB APPROVAL: DONALD TRUMP		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
GENDER			
Female	127	301	6
	29.3%	69.4%	1.4%
Male	161	210	3
	43.0%	56.1%	0.8%

N=808

	JOB APPROVAL: DONALD TRUMP		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer

RACE/ETHNICITY

	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
White	227 48.5%	236 50.4%	5 1.1%
African American	23 9.5%	217 90.0%	1 0.4%
Other/No answer	38 38.4%	58 58.6%	3 3.0%

N=808

	JOB APPROVAL: DONALD TRUMP		
	Approve	Disapprove	No answer

REGION

	Approve	Disapprove	No answer
Rural Maryland	71 55.9%	54 42.5%	2 1.6%
Baltimore City	10 16.1%	51 82.3%	1 1.6%
Baltimore Suburbs	124 39.6%	187 59.7%	2 0.6%
Washington Suburbs	83 27.1%	219 71.6%	4 1.3%

Is that strongly or somewhat approve/disapprove

TRUMP APPROVAL - INTENSITY	Number	Percent
Strongly approve	209	25.9 %
Somewhat approve	79	9.8 %
Somewhat disapprove	39	4.8 %
Strongly disapprove	472	58.4 %
No answer	9	1.1 %
Total	808	100.0 %

N=808

	TRUMP APPROVAL - INTENSITY				
	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer

RESULTS

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer
Statewide	209	79	39	472	9
	25.9%	9.8%	4.8%	58.4%	1.1%

N=808

	TRUMP APPROVAL - INTENSITY				
	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer

PARTY REGISTRATION

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer
Democrat	21	17	23	376	5
	4.8%	3.8%	5.2%	85.1%	1.1%
Republican	151	31	5	16	1
	74.0%	15.2%	2.5%	7.8%	0.5%
Unaffiliated	37	31	11	80	3
	22.8%	19.1%	6.8%	49.4%	1.9%

N=808

	TRUMP APPROVAL - INTENSITY				
	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer

GENDER

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer
Female	66	61	22	279	6
	15.2%	14.1%	5.1%	64.3%	1.4%
Male	143	18	17	193	3
	38.2%	4.8%	4.5%	51.6%	0.8%

N=808 | TRUMP APPROVAL - INTENSITY

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer
RACE/ETHNICITY					
White	170 36.3%	57 12.2%	21 4.5%	215 45.9%	5 1.1%
African American	11 4.6%	12 5.0%	10 4.1%	207 85.9%	1 0.4%
Other/No answer	28 28.3%	10 10.1%	8 8.1%	50 50.5%	3 3.0%

N=808 | TRUMP APPROVAL - INTENSITY

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No answer
REGION					
Rural Maryland	57 44.9%	14 11.0%	7 5.5%	47 37.0%	2 1.6%
Baltimore City	8 12.9%	2 3.2%	5 8.1%	46 74.2%	1 1.6%
Baltimore Suburbs	86 27.5%	38 12.1%	9 2.9%	178 56.9%	2 0.6%
Washington Suburbs	58 19.0%	25 8.2%	18 5.9%	201 65.7%	4 1.3%

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 14, 2026

QUESTION: Cost of Living How would you describe the cost of living today for you and your family compared to a year ago: would you say it's better, worse, or about the same?

COST OF LIVING COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO	Number	Percent
Better	73	9.0 %
Worse	542	67.1 %
About same	193	23.9 %
Total	808	100.0 %

N=808

COST OF LIVING COMPARED 1 YEAR AGO

	Better	Worse	About same

RESULTS

	Better	Worse	About same
Statewide	73 9.0%	542 67.1%	193 23.9%

N=808

COST OF LIVING COMPARED 1 YEAR AGO

PARTY REGISTRATION

	Better	Worse	About same
Democrat	10 2.3%	336 76.0%	96 21.7%
Republican	49 24.0%	102 50.0%	53 26.0%
Unaffiliated	14 8.6%	104 64.2%	44 27.2%

N=808

COST OF LIVING COMPARED 1 YEAR AGO

GENDER

	Better	Worse	About same
Female	15 3.5%	332 76.5%	87 20.0%
Male	58 15.5%	210 56.1%	106 28.3%

N=808	COST OF LIVING COMPARED 1 YEAR AGO		
	Better	Worse	About same

RACE/ETHNICITY

	Better	Worse	About same
White	55 11.8%	287 61.3%	126 26.9%
African American	7 2.9%	191 79.3%	43 17.8%
Other/No answer	11 11.1%	64 64.6%	24 24.2%

N=808	COST OF LIVING COMPARED 1 YEAR AGO		
	Better	Worse	About same

REGION

	Better	Worse	About same
Rural Maryland	20 15.7%	69 54.3%	38 29.9%
Baltimore City	4 6.5%	46 74.2%	12 19.4%
Baltimore Suburbs	23 7.3%	216 69.0%	74 23.6%
Washington Suburbs	26 8.5%	211 69.0%	69 22.5%

QUESTION: Job Trump is Doing Handling the Economy Overall, how would you rate the job Donald Trump is doing handling the economy: excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor?

TRUMP ECONOMY RATING	Number	Percent
Excellent	132	16.3 %
Good	124	15.3 %
Fair	59	7.3 %
Poor	485	60.0 %
No answer	8	1.0 %
Total	808	100.0 %

N=808

	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING				
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No answer

RESULTS

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No answer
Statewide	132	124	59	485	8
	16.3%	15.3%	7.3%	60.0%	1.0%

N=808

	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING				
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No answer

PARTY REGISTRATION

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No answer
Democrat	13	21	21	386	1
	2.9%	4.8%	4.8%	87.3%	0.2%
Republican	99	62	17	23	3
	48.5%	30.4%	8.3%	11.3%	1.5%
Unaffiliated	20	41	21	76	4
	12.3%	25.3%	13.0%	46.9%	2.5%

N=808

	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING				
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No answer

GENDER

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No answer
Female	30	67	28	305	4
	6.9%	15.4%	6.5%	70.3%	0.9%
Male	102	57	31	180	4
	27.3%	15.2%	8.3%	48.1%	1.1%

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, January 14, 2026

N=808

	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING				
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No answer

RACE/ETHNICITY

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No answer
White	106 22.6%	93 19.9%	35 7.5%	229 48.9%	5 1.1%
African American	9 3.7%	15 6.2%	18 7.5%	197 81.7%	2 0.8%
Other/No answer	17 17.2%	16 16.2%	6 6.1%	59 59.6%	1 1.0%

N=808

	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING				
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No answer

REGION

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No answer
Rural Maryland	40 31.5%	25 19.7%	12 9.4%	48 37.8%	2 1.6%
Baltimore City	5 8.1%	5 8.1%	6 9.7%	46 74.2%	0 0.0%
Baltimore Suburbs	50 16.0%	55 17.6%	27 8.6%	178 56.9%	3 1.0%
Washington Suburbs	37 12.1%	39 12.7%	14 4.6%	213 69.6%	3 1.0%

Trump's Rating on Economy Combined

TRUMP ECONOMY RATING	Number	Percent
Excellent/Good	256	31.7 %
Fair/Poor	544	67.3 %
No answer	8	1.0 %
Total	808	100.0 %

N=808	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING		
	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer

RESULTS

	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer
Statewide	256	544	8
	31.7%	67.3%	1.0%

N=808	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING		
	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer

PARTY REGISTRATION

	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer
Democrat	34	407	1
	7.7%	92.1%	0.2%
Republican	161	40	3
	78.9%	19.6%	1.5%
Unaffiliated	61	97	4
	37.7%	59.9%	2.5%

N=808	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING		
	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer

GENDER

	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer
Female	97	333	4
	22.4%	76.7%	0.9%
Male	159	211	4
	42.5%	56.4%	1.1%

N=808	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING		
	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer

RACE/ETHNICITY

	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer
White	199 42.5%	264 56.4%	5 1.1%
African American	24 10.0%	215 89.2%	2 0.8%
Other/No answer	33 33.3%	65 65.7%	1 1.0%

N=808	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING		
	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer

REGION

	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer
Rural Maryland	65 51.2%	60 47.2%	2 1.6%
Baltimore City	10 16.1%	52 83.9%	0 0.0%
Baltimore Suburbs	105 33.5%	205 65.5%	3 1.0%
Washington Suburbs	76 24.8%	227 74.2%	3 1.0%

Trump Economy Rating by Trump Job Approval

N=808	TRUMP ECONOMY RATING		
	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer

JOB APPROVAL: DONALD TRUMP

	Excellent/Good	Fair/Poor	No answer
Approve	248	38	2
	86.1%	13.2%	0.7%
Disapprove	8	501	2
	1.6%	98.0%	0.4%
No answer	0	5	4
	0.0%	55.6%	44.4%

98% of voters who disapprove of Trump's overall job performance rate his handling of the economy as either fair or poor.

Appendix B: Maryland Poll Sample Demographics

PARTY REGISTRATION	Number	Percent
Democrat	442	54.7 %
Republican	204	25.2 %
Unaffiliated	162	20.0 %
Total	808	100.0 %

AGE	Number	Percent
18 to 34	159	19.7 %
35 to 49	194	24.0 %
50 to 64	218	27.0 %
65 and older	237	29.3 %
Total	808	100.0 %

RACE/ETHNICITY	Number	Percent
White	468	57.9 %
African American	241	29.8 %
Other/No answer	99	12.3 %
Total	808	100.0 %

GENDER	Number	Percent
Female	434	53.7 %
Male	374	46.3 %
Total	808	100.0 %

REGION	Number	Percent
Rural Maryland	127	15.7 %
Baltimore City	62	7.7 %
Baltimore Suburbs	313	38.7 %
Washington Suburbs	306	37.9 %
Total	808	100.0 %

Regional Groupings

Rural Maryland – includes Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

Baltimore City – includes Baltimore City.

Baltimore Suburbs – includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties.

Washington Suburbs – includes Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties.