GOUCHER POLL

Results Embargoed Until Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 12:01AM

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Trump, Congress Unpopular in Maryland

Baltimore—The Goucher Poll asked Maryland residents for their opinions regarding President Donald Trump, Senator Ben Cardin, Senator Chris Van Hollen, and the US Congress. The Goucher Poll was conducted from February 18-21, surveyed 776 Maryland adults and has a margin of error of +/-3.5.

Popularity of President Donald Trump

Twenty-nine percent of Marylanders approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President of the United States and 64 percent disapprove.

Opinions toward President Trump are heavily divided along partisan lines:
Presidential Job Approval Ratings
Among Registered Democrats: 7 percent approve, 88 percent disapprove
Among Registered Independents: 29 percent approve, 56 percent disapprove
Among Registered Republicans: 71 percent approve, 22 percent disapprove

"President Trump's approval ratings in Maryland—a state he lost by 25 points in November—reflect his difficulties garnering support outside of his core base," said Dr. Mileah Kromer, Director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center. *"At the same time, the majority of Republicans in Maryland approve of the job he is doing. However, in a solid blue state, that isn't enough to put his approval ratings above water."*

Popularity of Maryland Senators and U.S. Congress

Thirty-six percent of Marylanders "don't know" whether they approve or disapprove of the job newly-elected U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen is doing. Forty-four percent approve of the job he is doing and 19 percent disapprove. Forty-five percent of Marylanders approve of the job U.S. Senator Ben Cardin is doing, 21 percent disapprove, and 34 percent don't know. Senator Cardin will be up for re-election in the 2018 cycle.

Both Senators and President Trump have a higher approval rating than Congress. Twenty-one percent approve of the job Congress is doing and 72 percent disapprove.

The second part of this poll will be released on Monday, February 27 at 12:01am.

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 Mileah Kromer, the Goucher Poll conducts surveys on public policy, economic, and social issues in Maryland.

Goucher College supports the Goucher Poll as part of its mission to instill in its students a sense of community where discourse is valued and practiced. 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 the state by providing neutral, nonbiased, and independent information on citizen perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the Goucher Poll are used to support faculty and student research.

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, February 18, to Tuesday, February 21, 2017. During this time, interviews were conducted 12p.m-9p.m on Saturday and Sunday and 5-9 p.m. and 5-9 p.m Monday and Tuesday. 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. Sixty-eight percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 32 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 776 Maryland residents. For a sample size of 776, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.5 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, race, 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 President Obama?
> **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.

Sample Demographics (in percent)

	Maryland Adult Population Parameter (Census Estimates)	Goucher Poll Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Adults (n=776)	Goucher Poll Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Registered Voters (n=698)
Gender			
Male	48	51	51
Female	52	49	49
Age			
18 to 24	13	12	11
25 to 34	18	16	15
35 to 44	17	17	18
45 to 54	20	21	21
55 to 64	17	17	17
65+	16	17	18
Race			
White	63	61	63
Black	29	30	29
Other	8	9	8
Region			
Capitol	36	35	33
Central	46	47	49
Eastern	8	7	7
Southern	6	7	7
Western	4	4	4

Distribution of Regions

<u>Capitol</u>–Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's
<u>Central</u>–Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard
<u>Eastern</u>–Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester
<u>Southern</u>–Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's
<u>Western</u>–Allegany, Garrett, Washington

Registered 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 **776** Maryland residents surveyed, **698** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic,
Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e. independent).

Maryland Voter Registration/Likely Voters (in percent)

	Maryland Board of Elections Registration (January 2017)	Weighted Sample Estimate **Registered Voters** **(N=698)**
Democratic Party	55	54
Republican Party	26	28
Unaffiliated (Independent)	18	16
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	2	2
Total=	100	100

Information on voter registration in Maryland from the Board of Elections can be found at
[*http://www.elections.state.md.us*](http://www.elections.state.md.us).

Q: CONGJOB
Changing topics, do you **[approve or disapprove]** of the way Congress is handling its job?
PROBE

	OCT 13	SEPT 14	OCT 15	FEB 17
Strongly disapprove (p)	62	46	54	51
Disapprove	29	33	29	21
Approve	4	11	8	16
Strongly approve (p)	1	3	1	5
Don't know (v)	4	7	7	7
Refused (v)	1	4	1	>1
Total=	665 +/-3.8	708 +/-3.7	636 +/-3.9	776 +/-3.5

Q: TRUMPJOB
Do you **[approve or disapprove]** of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?
PROBE

	FEB 17
Strongly disapprove (p)	56
Disapprove	8
Approve	14
Strongly approve (p)	15
Don't know (v)	7
Refused (v)	>1
Total=	776 +/-3.5

Q: VANHOLLEN
Do you [**approve or disapprove**] of the way Chris Van Hollen is handling his job as US Senator?
PROBE

	FEB 17
Strongly disapprove (p)	9
Disapprove	10
Approve	28
Strongly approve (p)	16
Don't know (v)	36
Refused (v)	1
Total=	776 +/-3.5

Q: CARDIN
Do you [**approve or disapprove**] of the way Ben Cardin is handling his job as US Senator?

	FEB 17
Strongly disapprove (p)	10
Disapprove	11
Approve	29
Strongly approve (p)	16
Don't know (v)	34
Refused (v)	>1
Total=	776 +/-3.5

Note: In March 2013, the Goucher Poll measured Senator Cardin's favorability ratings: 41 favorable, 22unfavorable, 36 don't know/refused. Full results:
http://www.goucher.edu/Documents/Poli_Sci/hughes/March20201320Goucher20Poll20Results20(Tuesday).pdf

Results by Demographics (in percent)
• Column percentages
• Unless specified, "Don't Know," "Refused," and other volunteered responses are not included below
• Margin of error is <u>higher</u> for subsamples
• Refer to tables above for questions as worded

| | Registered Voters | | | | Maryland Adults | | | | | | | |
| | | Party Registration | | | Gender | | Age | | | Race | | |
	All (n=698)	Dem (n=375)	Ind (n=113)	Rep (n=197)	Male (n=399)	Female (n=377)	18-34 (n=219)	35-54 (n=294)	55+ (n=263)	White (n=469)	Black (n=234)	Other (n=73)
Congress												
Disapprove	73	83	69	54	71	73	67	72	76	68	78	78
Approve	21	12	25	39	22	20	28	20	17	24	16	18
Trump												
Disapprove	64	88	56	22	60	68	63	68	60	51	87	74
Approve	28	7	29	71	32	25	29	25	33	42	6	18
Van Hollen												
Disapprove	19	16	18	24	21	17	23	17	18	19	19	22
Approve	46	59	37	28	43	45	36	44	51	40	53	41
Don't Know	35	25	45	48	36	37	40	39	30	41	28	34
Cardin												
Disapprove	21	17	20	31	24	18	20	21	22	22	20	16
Approve	45	53	33	36	43	46	34	44	54	44	47	39
Don't Know	34	30	46	33	33	36	46	35	24	34	33	42