INSTITUTE OF POLITICS
UMBC Poll

Results embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025

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UMBC Poll (Part 1) Topics:

- State priorities
- Redistricting

Monday, December 15 (Baltimore): The UMBC Poll surveyed **801** Maryland adults (MOE=+/-**3.5%**), including **769** registered voters (MOE=+/-**3.5%**), from **Tuesday, December 2 to Saturday, December 6, 2025**. Please refer to the methodology statement for information on data collection and sample demographics, and to the topline results for the questions as worded and in the order administered.

Click here for results by demographics.

The UMBC Institute of Politics will release Part 2 of this survey on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, and Part 3 on Monday, December 22, 2025, both at 12:01 a.m.

State Priorities

Marylanders were asked to describe the most important issue facing the state in their own words. After categorizing their responses, three primary themes emerged: economy, jobs, and cost of living (**25 percent**); taxes, budget, and government spending (**23 percent**); and government leadership, politics, and democracy (**15 percent**).

The UMBC Poll also asked residents to evaluate how much of a priority various issues should be for the Maryland state government. The percentages below show the share of respondents who rated each issue as a "high" priority.

- The cost of healthcare: **77 percent**
- The quality of K-12 public education: **75 percent**
- Reducing crime and improving public safety: **73 percent**
- The amount of state taxes and fees that residents pay: **67 percent**
- The cost and availability of housing: **65 percent**
- The cost of household energy bills: **65 percent**
- Supporting economic growth and development: **61 percent**
- The quality of roads and highways: **42 percent**
- The availability and quality of public transportation: **34 percent**
- Redrawing congressional district lines: **27 percent**

Attitudes toward Maryland's Congressional District Lines and Midcycle Redistricting

Twenty-eight percent of Marylanders say the U.S. House of Representatives district lines are drawn fairly, while **41 percent** say they are drawn unfairly. **Twenty-nine percent** don't know whether the congressional districts are drawn fairly or unfairly in Maryland.

Respondents who said "unfairly" were then asked, "*Since you said unfairly, do the congressional districts in Maryland mostly favor Democrats or mostly favor Republicans*?"

- **33 percent** say the congressional district lines in Maryland favor Democrats
- **8 percent** say the congressional district lines in Maryland favor Republicans

Marylanders report differing levels of attention to a proposal to redraw Maryland's congressional district lines midcycle for the 2026 elections:

- None: **17 percent**
- A little: **18 percent**
- Some: **29 percent**
- A lot: **30 percent**

The **77 percent** of respondents who paid at least "a little" attention were asked which statement comes closest to their attitude about midcycle redistricting:

- I don't like it, and it should not be done: **40 percent**
- I don't like it, but it is necessary: **21 percent**
- I like it, but it's the wrong thing to do **7 percent**
- I like it, and we should do it: **24 percent**

Eighty-one percent of Marylanders think that purposefully drawing congressional district lines to favor one party over another is a "major" problem for American democracy, and **8 percent** say it's a "minor" problem. Only **2 percent** say it is not a problem at all.

If Marylanders had the power to decide how district lines are drawn, **63 percent** say they prefer a nonpartisan, independent commission, and **12 percent** say they prefer a system in which elected officials draw the lines. **Fourteen percent** offered some other opinion.

Methodology Statement

The UMBC Poll is conducted under the auspices of the UMBC Institute of Politics and is funded by the UMBC College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

The UMBC Poll surveyed **801** Maryland adults, including **769** registered voters, from **Tuesday, December 2 to Saturday, December 6, 2025**. The poll was conducted by live interviewers and text-to-web utilizing a dual-frame (landline and cell phone) random sample stratified by county.

- **13 percent** of interviews were conducted by landline telephone.
- **87 percent** of interviews were conducted by cellular telephone, including **56 percent** via text-to-web and **31 percent** by live caller.

Interviews were conducted from 1 to 8 p.m., and interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers a maximum of five times. Braun Research provided the sample of telephone numbers and data collection.

There is a 95 percent probability that the survey results have the following percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question:

- MOE=**+/-3.5%** for the sample of **801** Maryland adults.
- MOE=**+/-3.5%** for the sample of **769** Maryland registered voters.

The margin of sampling error is higher for subgroups and is not adjusted for design effects. Like all public opinion polls, the UMBC Poll is subject to non-sampling errors, such as non-response bias, question-order effects, and question-wording effects. The topline results include the questions as worded in the order in which they were administered to respondents.

Mileah Kromer, Director of the UMBC Institute of Politics, and Ian Anson, Associate Director, process the data collected by the UMBC Poll. Under Kromer and Anson's supervision, student research assistants help with various aspects of the UMBC Poll as part of UMBC's commitment to innovative teaching and learning, research across disciplines, and civic engagement.

The UMBC Poll is committed to methodological transparency. If you have questions about the poll's methodology, contact Mileah Kromer, Director, UMBC Institute of Politics (mkromer@umbc.edu).

Sample Demographics (in percent) and Weighting

The UMBC Poll data are weighted by gender, age, race, geography, and educational attainment to reflect the Maryland adult population targets established by the most recent 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates from the U.S. Census. Results are reported as column percentages and may not sum to 100 due to weighting and rounding.

		Maryland population parameter	Maryland Adults n=801 (+/-3.5%)	Registered Voters n=769 (+/-3.5%)
Gender	Male	48	48	48
	Female	52	52	52
Age	18-24	11	11	11
	25-34	17	17	17
	35-44	17	17	17
	45-54	16	16	16
	55-64	17	17	18
	65+	21	21	21
Race	White	50	50	50
	Black	29	29	30
	Hispanic/Latino	10	10	11
	Asian	7	7	7
	All other	4	3	3
Education	High school grad/GED or less	34	34	33
	Some college/associate degree	26	26	26
	4-year college degree	22	19	19
	Advanced/post-grad degree	18	22	22
Geography	Montgomery County	17	17	17
	Prince George's County	15	15	15
	Baltimore County	14	14	14
	Anne Arundel County	10	10	9
	Baltimore City	9	9	9
	Central Region	13	13	13
	Western Region	9	9	9
	Eastern Shore Region	8	8	8
	Southern Region	6	6	6

Central region: Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties
Western region: Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and Washington Counties
Eastern Shore region: Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties
Southern region: Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties

Other sample demographics (in percent)
The data is <u>not</u> weighted by these characteristics.

		Maryland population parameter	Maryland Adults n=801 (+/-3.5%)	Registered Voters n=769 (+/-3.5%)
Party*	Democrat	52	--	52
	Republican	24	--	24
	Unaffiliated	22	--	23
	Other	2	--	1
Ideology	Conservative	--	28	27
	Moderate	--	46	46
	Progressive	--	26	27
Income	Under $40,000	16	13	13
	$40,00 to under $75,000	18	19	19
	$75,000 to under $125,000	24	32	33
	$125,000 or more	42	35	35

*The "party" population parameter established by the Maryland State Board of Elections Voter Registration Activity Report (September 2025).

Question design codes

- **Bracketed items [ ]**: Items in brackets in the questions are administered in a randomized order.
- **Probe (p)**: Response options that include a (p) indicate the use of a probe maneuver to determine a respondent's intensity of expressed opinion. Example: Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of <item>? Would you say very favorable/unfavorable?
- **Open-ended**: Open-ended questions are those without a defined set of response options.
- **Volunteer (v)**: Response options that include a (v) indicate that the respondent offered a response not read to them in the question.

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Topline Results

The topline results below are based on a sample of 801 Maryland adults (MOE = +/- 3.5%). **Click here for results by demographics**. Results are reported as column percentages and may not sum to exactly 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: ISSUE	To begin, what do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Maryland today? [open-ended response]	Percent
	Economy, jobs, and cost of living	25
	Taxes, budget, and government spending	23
	Government leadership, politics, and democracy	15
	Housing and homelessness	7
	Crime, public safety, and drugs	7
	Healthcare	3
	Education and schools	2
	Transportation and infrastructure	2
	Other	6
	Don't know / Refused (v)	11

Q: FAVOR	I'm going to ask you a few questions about district lines for the U.S. House of Representatives. First, thinking about the districts for the U.S. House of Representatives in Maryland, do you think these districts are drawn [**fairly or unfairly**]? If unfairly: Since you said unfairly, do the congressional districts in Maryland [mostly favor Democrats or mostly favor Republicans]?	Percent
	Unfairly: Favor Democrats	33
	Unfairly: Favor Republicans	8
	Fairly	28
	Don't know (v)	29
	Refused (v)	3

Q: ATTENTION	As you may know, redistricting, the process of redrawing electoral district boundaries for the US House of Representatives, typically happens every 10 years. Some Republican-led states, like Texas, plan to redraw their district lines mid-cycle to help Republicans win more seats in the U.S. House of Representatives in the November 2026 elections. In response, some Democratic-led states, including Maryland, are considering redrawing their congressional district lines to help Democrats win more seats. How much attention, if any, have you paid to the proposal to redraw Maryland's congressional district lines mid-cycle for the November 2026 elections?	Percent
	None	17
	A little	18
	Some	29
	A lot	30
	Don't know (v)	4
	Refused (v)	2

Q: LIKE	From everything you've read or heard, what comes closest to your opinion regarding mid-cycle redrawing of the congressional district lines in Maryland for the November 2026 elections:	**Percent**
	I don't like it, and it should not be done.	40
	I don't like it, but it is necessary.	21
	I like it, but it's the wrong thing to do.	7
	I like it, and we should do it.	24
	Don't know (v)	5
	Refused (v)	3

Q: PROBLEM	In your opinion, when congressional districts are purposefully drawn to favor one party over another, is that [a major, a minor, or not a problem] for American democracy?	**Percent**
	Not a problem	2
	Minor problem	8
	Major problem	81
	Don't know (v)	6
	Refused (v)	2

Q: METHOD	If you had to decide how district lines are drawn in Maryland, which method would you choose: [statements rotated]	**Percent**
	#1: A system where the state's elected officials draw the district lines	12
	#2: A system where a non-partisan, independent commission draw the district lines	63
	Some other opinion (v)	14
	Don't know (v)	8
	Refused (v)	2

Q: PRIORITY	Changing topics, I'm going to read you a list of issues facing the state. For each one, please tell me whether it should be a [high, medium, or low] priority for the Maryland state government to address:	

Q: HOUSING	*The cost and availability of housing*	**Percent**
	Low priority	9
	Medium priority	24
	High priority	65
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: ROADS	*The quality of roads and highways*	Percent
	Low priority	11
	Medium priority	46
	High priority	42
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: PAY	*The amount of state taxes and fees that residents pay*	Percent
	Low priority	6
	Medium priority	25
	High priority	67
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	0

Q: PUBLICEDU	*The quality of K-12 public education*	Percent
	Low priority	4
	Medium priority	17
	High priority	75
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	1

Q: PUBTRANSIT	*The availability and quality of public transportation*	Percent
	Low priority	24
	Medium priority	40
	High priority	34
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	0

Q: CRIME	*Reducing crime and improving public safety*	Percent
	Low priority	4
	Medium priority	22
	High priority	73
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: BILLS	*The cost of household energy bills*	Percent
	Low priority	6
	Medium priority	28
	High priority	65
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: HEALTHCARE	*The cost of healthcare*	**Percent**
	Low priority	7
	Medium priority	15
	High priority	77
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0
Q: GROWTH	*Supporting economic growth and development*	**Percent**
	Low priority	7
	Medium priority	30
	High priority	61
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	1
Q: REDRAW	*Redrawing congressional district lines*	**Percent**
	Low priority	42
	Medium priority	25
	High priority	27
	Don't know (v)	4
	Refused (v)	1

Our Mission

UMBC is a dynamic public research university integrating teaching, research and service to benefit the citizens of Maryland. As an Honors University, the campus offers academically talented students a strong undergraduate liberal arts foundation that prepares them for graduate and professional study, entry into the workforce, and community service and leadership.

UMBC emphasizes science, engineering, information technology, human services and public policy at the graduate level. UMBC contributes to the economic development of the State and the region through entrepreneurial initiatives, workforce training, K- 16 partnerships, and technology commercialization in collaboration with public agencies and the corporate community. UMBC is dedicated to cultural and ethnic diversity, social responsibility and lifelong learning.

Our Vision

Our UMBC community redefines excellence in higher education through an inclusive culture that connects innovative teaching and learning, research across disciplines, and civic engagement. We will advance knowledge, economic prosperity, and social justice by welcoming and inspiring inquisitive minds from all backgrounds.