



INSTITUTE OF POLITICS UMBC Poll

Results embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, November 5, 2025

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UMBC Poll (Part 2) Topics:

- 2026 General Election in Maryland
- Trust and perceptions of political parties
- Split ticket voting and voter motivations

Wednesday, November 5 (Baltimore): The UMBC Poll surveyed **810** Maryland adults, including 757 registered voters, from Tuesday, October 21 to Saturday, October 25, 2025. Of the **810** Maryland adults surveyed (MOE= $\pm$ 3.4%), **757** indicated they were registered voters (MOE= $\pm$ 3.5%). Please refer to the methodology statement for information regarding data collection, sample demographics, and the topline results for the questions as worded in the order in which they were administered to respondents.

[Click here for results by demographics.](#)

The UMBC Institute of Politics will release the final part of this survey on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 12:01 a.m.

Looking ahead to November 2026

In about a year, Maryland voters will cast their ballots for governor, U.S. Congress, the Maryland General Assembly, and other statewide offices. Gov. Wes Moore will be up for reelection this November.

If the election were held today, **49 percent** of registered voters say they would support Democrat Wes Moore, while **29 percent** would back the Republican candidate. Another **12 percent** say they would choose “some other candidate,” and **10 percent** are undecided.

Gov. Moore earns strong support from his Democratic base, with **77 percent** of Democratic voters indicating they plan to vote for him. Unaffiliated voters are evenly divided: **31 percent** say they would vote for Gov. Moore and **31 percent** say they would support the Republican candidate. Only **7 percent** of Republicans say they would cross party lines and vote to reelect Gov. Moore.

When asked about their preferences regarding party control in Congress, **58 percent** of voters say they want to see the Democratic Party win control in November, compared to **32 percent** who want the Republican Party to maintain control. **Seven percent** say they do not care either way.

These attitudes are consistent with opinions measured in a UMBC Poll conducted in the month before the 2024 Election, when voters were asked which party they wanted to control the U.S. Senate:

- **54 percent** favored the Democratic Party
- **32 percent** favored the Republican Party
- **10 percent** said they did not care either way

The UMBC Poll also examined how Maryland voters approach casting their ballots—specifically, their willingness to cross party lines and whether their votes are motivated more by support for a candidate or opposition to another.

- **46 percent** of voters say they are likely to consider voting for a candidate from a political party different from their own, while **50 percent** say they are unlikely to do so.
- **52 percent** of voters say they cast their ballot mostly to support a candidate they like, while **18 percent** say they cast their ballot mostly to oppose a candidate they dislike. More than a quarter (**27 percent**) say a little bit of both motivate them.

Most Maryland voters who took the UMBC Poll indicate that they are habitual voters: **63 percent** say they vote in every election without exception, and another **31 percent** report voting in almost every election. To be sure, according to the Maryland State Board of Elections, just under half of eligible registered voters cast a ballot in the 2022 Midterm Election, when Gov. Wes Moore was elected to his first term in office.

Trust and perceptions of the Democratic and Republican Parties in Maryland

Marylanders were asked which party they trust more — the Democratic Party or the Republican Party — to handle a variety of different issues facing the state.

Healthcare

- Democrats: **57 percent**
- Republicans: **24 percent**

Democrats +33

Public education

- Democrats: **52 percent**
- Republicans: **28 percent**

Democrats +24

Transportation and infrastructure

- Democrats: **48 percent**
- Republicans: **28 percent**

Democrats +20

Job growth and economic development

- Democrats: **45 percent**
- Republicans: **34 percent**

Democrats +11

Immigration

- Democrats: **45 percent**
- Republicans: **37 percent**

Democrats +8

The state budget

- Democrats: **43 percent**
- Republicans: **36 percent**

Democrats +7

Crime and public safety

- Democrats: **38 percent**
- Republicans: **39 percent**

Republicans +1

Marylanders were also asked how well a series of traits describe the Democratic and Republican Parties in Maryland, using a scale from 1 (*"does not describe at all"*) to 5 (*"describes extremely well"*).

The percentages below represent those who rate each characteristic a 4 or 5 on the scale.

Cares about ordinary people

- Democrats: **46 percent**
- Republicans: **22 percent**

Democrats +24

Focused on issues I care about

- Democrats: **41 percent**
- Republicans: **27 percent**

Democrats +14

Shares my values

- Democrats: **39 percent**
- Republicans: **27 percent**

Democrats +12

Capable of handling a crisis

- Democrats: **37 percent**
- Republicans: **27 percent**

Democrats +10

Gets things done

- Democrats: **27 percent**
- Republicans: **21 percent**

Democrats +6

Keeps promises

- Democrats: **27 percent**
- Republicans: **22 percent**

Democrats +5

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 **810** Maryland adults, including **757** registered voters, from Tuesday, October 21 to Saturday, October 25, 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 **49 percent** via text-to-web and **38 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 the 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=**+/-3.4%** for the sample of **810** Maryland adults.
- MOE=**+/-3.5%** for the sample of **757** 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 also subject to sources of non-sampling error, 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 is weighted by gender, age, race, geography, and educational attainment to represent the Maryland adult population targets established by the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates provided by the U.S. Census. Results are in column percentages and may not add up to exactly 100 due to weighting and rounding.

		Maryland population parameter	Maryland Adults n=810 (+/-3.4%)	Registered Voters n=757 (+/-3.5%)
Gender	Male	48	48	49
	Female	52	52	51
Age	18-24	11	11	10
	25-34	17	17	17
	35-44	17	17	18
	45-54	16	17	17
	55-64	17	17	17
	65+	21	21	21
Race	White	50	51	52
	Black	29	29	29
	Hispanic/Latino	10	10	9
	Asian	7	7	6
	All other	4	3	4
Education	High school graduate/GED or less	34	33	32
	Some college or associate degree	26	26	27
	4 year college degree	22	20	20
	Advanced / post-grad degree	18	21	21
Geography	Montgomery County	17	17	16
	Prince George's County	15	15	15
	Baltimore County	14	14	13
	Anne Arundel County	10	10	10
	Baltimore City	9	9	9
	Central Region	13	13	13
	Western Region	9	9	9
	Eastern Shore Region	8	7	7
	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 not weighted by these characteristics.

		Maryland population parameter	Maryland Adults n=810 (+/-3.4%)	Registered Voters n=757 (+/-3.5%)
Party*	Democrat	52	--	51
	Republican	24	--	24
	Unaffiliated	22	--	24
	Other	2	--	1
Ideology	Conservative	--	27	26
	Moderate	--	49	49
	Progressive	--	24	24
Income	Under \$40,000	16	11	11
	\$40,00 to under \$75,000	18	18	18
	\$75,000 to under \$125,000	24	28	29
	\$125,000 or more	42	43	43

*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.

Topline Results

The topline results below represent the sample of **810** Maryland adults (MOE=+/-**3.4%**). [Click here for results by demographics](#). Results are in column percentages and may not add up to exactly 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: TRUST	Changing topics to political parties. Who do you trust more—[the Democratic Party or the Republican Party]—in Maryland to handle each of the following issues in the state:	
<i>T_CRIME to Q: T_EDU were administered to respondents in a randomized order.</i>		
Q: T_CRIME	<i>Crime and public safety</i>	Percent
	Democratic Party	38
	Republican Party	39
	Trust them equally (v)	6
	Don't trust either one (v)	16
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	0
Q: T_IMM	<i>Immigration</i>	Percent
	Democratic Party	45
	Republican Party	37
	Trust them equally (v)	2
	Don't trust either one (v)	14
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0
Q: T_HEALTH	<i>Healthcare</i>	Percent
	Democratic Party	57
	Republican Party	24
	Trust them equally (v)	3
	Don't trust either one (v)	15
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: T_BUDGET	<i>The state budget</i>	Percent
	Democratic Party	43
	Republican Party	36
	Trust them equally (v)	3
	Don't trust either one (v)	15
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	0
Q: T_GROWTH	<i>Job growth and economic development</i>	Percent
	Democratic Party	45
	Republican Party	34
	Trust them equally (v)	5
	Don't trust either one (v)	14
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	0
Q: T_TI	<i>Transportation and infrastructure</i>	Percent
	Democratic Party	48
	Republican Party	28
	Trust them equally (v)	7
	Don't trust either one (v)	15
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	0
Q: T_EDU	<i>Public education</i>	Percent
	Democratic Party	52
	Republican Party	28
	Trust them equally (v)	3
	Don't trust either one (v)	14
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: DESCRIBE	Next, I'm going to read you a list of characteristics that people sometimes use to describe the two major political parties.	
Q: DES_DEM and Q: DES_REP batteries were administered to respondents in a randomized order.		
Q: DES_DEM	On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "does not describe at all" and 5 means "describes extremely well," how well does each of the following characteristics describe the Democratic Party in Maryland today:	
Q: D_FOCUS to Q: D_CARES were administered to respondents in a randomized order.		
Q: D_SHARE	<i>Shares my values</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	32
	2	11
	3	16
	4	20
	5 Describes extremely well	19
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	1
Q: D_FOCUS	<i>Focused on issues I care about</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	32
	2	10
	3	15
	4	22
	5 Describes extremely well	19
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	1
Q: D_CAPABLE	<i>Capable of handling a crisis</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	31
	2	11
	3	18
	4	21
	5 Describes extremely well	16
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	1

Q: D_DONE	<i>Gets things done</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	31
	2	14
	3	24
	4	18
	5 Describes extremely well	9
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	1
Q: D_CARES	<i>Cares about ordinary people</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	31
	2	9
	3	13
	4	21
	5 Describes extremely well	25
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	1
Q: D_PROMISE	<i>Keeps promises</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	32
	2	14
	3	22
	4	20
	5 Describes extremely well	7
	Don't know (v)	4
	Refused (v)	1

Q: DES_REP	On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means “does not describe at all” and 5 means “describes extremely well,” how well does each of the following characteristics describe the Republican Party in Maryland today:	
<i>Q: D_FOCUS to Q: D_CARES were administered to respondents in a randomized order.</i>		
Q: D_SHARE	<i>Shares my values</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	46
	2	10
	3	14
	4	12
	5 Describes extremely well	15
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	0
Q: D_FOCUS	<i>Focused on issues I care about</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	47
	2	12
	3	11
	4	13
	5 Describes extremely well	14
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	1
Q: D_CAPABLE	<i>Capable of handling a crisis</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	38
	2	12
	3	18
	4	12
	5 Describes extremely well	15
	Don't know (v)	6
	Refused (v)	0
Q: D_DONE	<i>Gets things done</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	40
	2	14
	3	19
	4	10
	5 Describes extremely well	11
	Don't know (v)	5
	Refused (v)	0

Q: D_CARES	<i>Cares about ordinary people</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	46
	2	14
	3	15
	4	10
	5 Describes extremely well	12
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	0
Q: D_PROMISE	<i>Keeps promises</i>	Percent
	1 Does not describe at all	42
	2	13
	3	17
	4	12
	5 Describes extremely well	10
	Don't know (v)	6
	Refused (v)	1
Q: FREQ to Q: SPLIT was only administered to the 757 respondents who indicated that they were registered to vote.		
Q: FREQ	Which best describes how often you vote since you became eligible?	Percent
	Rarely or never	1
	Some elections	4
	Almost every election, only missing a couple	31
	Every election without exception	63
	Don't know (v)	0
	Refused (v)	0
Q: GOV_HR	I know it's a long way away, but if the 2026 election for Maryland governor were held today, would you vote for [Democrat Wes Moore, the Republican candidate] , or some other candidate?	Percent
	Democrat Wes Moore	49
	Republican candidate	29
	Some other candidate	12
	Undecided / Don't know (v)	10
	Refused (v)	0

Q: CONTROL	Thinking about the outcome of the general election in November from a national perspective, would you want to see the [Republican Party or the Democratic Party] win control of the US Congress, or do you not care either way?	Percent
	Democratic Party	58
	Republican Party	32
	Do not care either way	7
	Some other opinion (v)	2
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	1
Q: FORAGAINST	I'm interested in what motivates you to vote. In recent elections, have you cast a ballot [mostly to support a candidate that you like or mostly to oppose a candidate that you don't like] ?	Percent
	Oppose the other candidate	18
	Support a candidate	52
	A little bit of both (v)	27
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	2
Q: SPLIT	In general, how [likely or unlikely] are you to consider voting for a candidate from a political party different from your own?	Percent
	Very unlikely (p)	22
	Unlikely	28
	Likely	30
	Very likely (p)	16
	Don't know (v)	3
	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.