



INSTITUTE OF POLITICS UMBC Poll

Results embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025

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UMBC Poll (Part 2) Topics:

- State budget deficit
- Francis Scott Key Bridge timeline and impact

Wednesday, December 17 (Baltimore): The UMBC Poll surveyed **801** Maryland adults (MOE= $\pm 3.5\%$), including **769** registered voters (MOE= $\pm 3.5\%$), 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 3 of this survey on Monday, December 22, 2025, at 12:01 a.m.

Addressing the State Budget Deficit

Marylanders were asked about their preferences regarding how state lawmakers should address the projected \$1.4 billion budget deficit in the upcoming legislative session in Annapolis:

- **41 percent** want the budget deficit addressed “only or mostly with spending cuts to state government programs.”
- **40 percent** want the budget deficit addressed by “a combination of spending cuts and increases in taxes and fees.”
- **10 percent** want the budget deficit addressed “only or mostly with increasing some taxes and fees.”

The UMBC Poll asked a version of this question on its February 2025 poll; [the results were similar](#).

Residents were also asked how different factors were contributing to the state budget shortfall. The results below show the percent of respondents who said, “a great deal”:

- Spending decisions that outpace state revenue: **55 percent**
- Inflation and the rising cost of government operations: **51 percent**
- The federal government shutdown and other national economic pressures: **45 percent**
- Increased costs of Medicaid and other social programs: **43 percent**
- Slower economic growth and underperforming economic conditions: **39 percent**

Rebuilding the Francis Scott Key Bridge

Marylanders expressed some optimism about the time it will take to rebuild and reopen the Francis Scott Key Bridge:

- Less than 5 years: **25 percent**
- 5 to 10 years: **54 percent**
- 11 to 20 years: **12 percent**
- More than 20 years: **3 percent**

Nearly three-quarters (**71 percent**) of residents think that the loss of the Key Bridge has had “a great deal” or “some” impact on life in the Baltimore-metro area, **12 percent** think there has been “a little” or “no” impact, and **17 percent** don’t know.

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 not 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.



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.

As you may know, Maryland lawmakers will address the \$1.4 billion budget deficit the state faces in the upcoming legislative session in Annapolis.		
Q: ADDRESS	Typically, lawmakers can address a state budget deficit by [cutting spending on state government programs and services, raising some taxes and fees] , or some combination of the two. How would you prefer that the Maryland state government address the budget deficit?	Percent
	Only or mostly with spending cuts to state government programs and services.	41
	A combination of spending cuts and increases in taxes and fees.	40
	Only or mostly with an increase in some taxes and fees.	10
	Don't know (v)	7
	Refused (v)	3
Q: DEFICIT	Next, I'm going to read you a list of factors that can contribute to state budget deficits. For each one, please tell me how much you think it's contributing to Maryland's state budget shortfall: [not at all, a little, some, a great deal]	Percent
Q: INFLATION to Q: SPENDING were administered to respondents in a randomized order.		
Q: INFLATION	<i>Inflation and the rising cost of government operations</i>	Percent
	Not at all	6
	A little	12
	Some	27
	A great deal	51
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	1
Q: MEDICAID	<i>Increased costs of Medicaid and other social programs</i>	Percent
	Not at all	10
	A little	12
	Some	30
	A great deal	43
	Don't know (v)	5
	Refused (v)	1

Q: SHUTDOWN	<i>The federal government shutdown and other national economic pressures</i>	Percent
	Not at all	17
	A little	16
	Some	19
	A great deal	45
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	1
Q: SLOWER	<i>Slower economic growth and underperforming economic conditions</i>	Percent
	Not at all	8
	A little	14
	Some	33
	A great deal	39
	Don't know (v)	5
	Refused (v)	1
Q: SPENDING	<i>Spending decisions on state government priorities that outpace the revenue it brings in</i>	Percent
	Not at all	3
	A little	7
	Some	27
	A great deal	55
	Don't know (v)	6
	Refused (v)	1
Q: OPEN	As you know, the Francis Scott Key Bridge was hit by a container ship and collapsed in March of 2024.	
	From everything you've seen or read, how long do you think it will take before it is rebuilt and reopened?	Percent
	Less than 5 years	25
	5 to 10 years	54
	11 to 15 years	9
	16 to 20 years	3
	21 to 25 years	1
	26 to 30 years	0
	More than 30 years	2
	Don't know (v)	4
	Refused (v)	1

Q: IMPACT	To what extent has the loss of the Key Bridge impacted life in the Baltimore-metro area: [not at all, a little, some, or a great deal] ?	Percent
	Not at all	5
	A little	7
	Some	28
	A great deal	43
	Don't know (v)	17
	Refused (v)	0



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.