# GOUCHER COLLEGE POLL

In partnership with



Release date and time: Monday, September 19, 2022, at 5 a.m.

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Goucher College Poll results: Democrats lead statewide contests and voters largely set on governor's race; Democratic gubernatorial candidate Moore viewed favorably by a majority of likely voters; Residents feel impact of price increases and are divided on the current economic situation in the state; Hogan maintains strong approval rating across party lines, attitudes toward Biden, Trump polarized; Plurality believe the pandemic isn't over but we have to learn to live without additional mitigation measures.

**BALTIMORE** (September 19, 2022)—The Goucher College Poll was conducted from September 8 to 12, 2022. It surveyed 1,008 Maryland residents (MOE=+/-3.1%) from which 748 likely voters (MOE=+/-3.6%) were identified. Residents were asked their opinions on the direction and the economic conditions of the state, the state of the COVID-19 pandemic, race relations, approaches to addressing crime, and educational issues, as well as their views toward Gov. Larry Hogan, President Joe Biden, and former President Donald J. Trump. Likely voters were asked for their candidate preferences in the upcoming statewide general election contests.

The poll was funded and co-sponsored by the Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics at Goucher College, *The Baltimore Banner*, and WYPR. <u>See the results by demographics</u>.

# Maryland Gubernatorial Race

If the general election for Maryland governor were held today, **53 percent** say they will vote for the Democratic nominee Wes Moore and **31 percent** for the Republican nominee Dan Cox. Libertarian candidate David Lasher and Green Party candidate Nancy Wallace earn **4 percent** and **2 percent** of the vote, respectively. **Nine percent** of Maryland likely voters are currently undecided.

**Sixty-nine percent** of likely voters who choose a candidate say they are "set on this candidate" and **28 percent** say they could change their mind.

Maryland likely voters were also asked how they viewed the Democratic and Republican nominees for governor.

Favorability ratings:

<u>Democratic nominee Wes Moore</u>: **53 percent** favorable / **33 percent** unfavorable / **13 percent** don't know <u>Republican nominee Dan Cox</u>: **30 percent** favorable / **53 percent** unfavorable / **14 percent** don't know

Perceptions of candidate politics:

Republican nominee Dan Cox Far or extreme right: **35 percent** Conservative: **24 percent** Moderate: **12 percent** Progressive or liberal: **4 percent** Far or extreme left: **5 percent** 

Democratic nominee Wes Moore Far or extreme right: 2 percent Conservative: 5 percent Moderate: 22 percent Progressive or liberal: 36 percent Far or extreme left: 13 percent

# Other Statewide Races: Maryland Attorney General, State Comptroller, and U.S. Senate

Maryland likely voters were also asked about the races for Maryland Attorney General, State Comptroller, and U.S. Senate.

<u>Maryland Attorney General</u>: **53 percent** say they will vote for the Democratic nominee Anthony Brown and **31 percent** for the Republican nominee Michael Peroutka. **Fifteen percent** are currently undecided.

<u>State Comptroller</u>: **48 percent** say they will vote for the Democratic nominee Brooke Lierman and **35 percent** for the Republican nominee Barry Glassman. **Sixteen percent** are currently undecided.

<u>U.S. Senate</u>: **56 percent** say they will vote for the Democratic nominee Chris Van Hollen and **33 percent** for the Republican nominee Chris Chaffee. **Eight percent** are currently undecided.

"The Democratic ticket is in a strong position to sweep the statewide contests this cycle. The Democratic nominee Wes Moore is viewed favorably by a majority of state voters, and perceptions of his mix of progressive and moderate politics aligns with how many Maryland voters view themselves," says Mileah Kromer, Director of the Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics at Goucher College. "Dan Cox's endorsement from former President Donald J. Trump and his own political views secured his primary win but remain at odds with the Democratic and independent voters he needs to build a winning coalition."

# Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

A referendum on whether to legalize recreational marijuana for individuals aged 21 and older will also appear on the ballot this November. **Fifty-nine percent** of Maryland residents indicate they will vote in favor of the legalization of recreational marijuana, and **34 percent** say they will vote against it. **Seven percent** are currently undecided. These attitudes closely align with those measured by the Goucher College Poll over the last decade.

Sixty-two percent of voters believe that if voters do decide to legalize recreational marijuana the state should then expunge the records of those charged with or convicted of marijuana use and/or possession crime and 29 percent say the state should not.

#### Important Issues and Motivations for Maryland Likely Voters

Likely voters were asked to select <u>three</u> issues from a list of issues that could determine their choice for governor. "The economy and taxes," "crime and public safety," and "public schools and education" were among the most selected issues.

- The economy and taxes: 64 percent
- Crime and public safety: 62 percent
- Public schools and education: 60 percent
- Infrastructure like roads, bridges, and highways: 35 percent
- Environmental issues: **28 percent**
- Affordable housing: 26 percent
- Public transportation: 8 percent

Half of voters say that the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade does not make them any more or less motivated to vote in the upcoming election. Forty-four percent say it makes them more motivated to vote. There does appear to be a gender-based difference in motivation related to the overturning of Roe: 49 percent of female voters say it makes them more motivated to vote compared to 38 percent of male voters.

#### Gov. Larry Hogan, President Joe Biden, and Former President Donald J. Trump

Gov. Hogan continues to earn a solid approval rating from Maryland residents, effectively unchanged over the last eight years. The Goucher College Poll has measured Hogan's approval rating throughout his two terms in office. His highest approval rating of **71 percent** was earned in October 2020. **Sixty-two percent** of Marylanders approve of the job Hogan is doing as governor, **28 percent** disapprove, and **8 percent** say they don't know.

Among Democrats: **64 percent** approve, **28 percent** disapprove Among independents: **65 percent** approve, **24 percent** disapprove Among Republicans: **58 percent** approve, **30 percent** disapprove

Marylanders are divided in their attitudes toward Joe Biden: **48 percent** approve of the job he's doing as president, and **48 percent** disapprove.

Among Democrats: **74 percent** approve, **22 percent** disapprove Among independents: **37 percent** approve, **61 percent** disapprove Among Republicans: **14 percent** approve, **84 percent** disapprove

Former President Donald J. Trump is viewed favorably by **32 percent** of Maryland residents. **Sixty-one** percent view him unfavorably.

Among Democrats: 12 percent favorable, 85 percent unfavorable

Among independents: **31 percent** favorable, **57 percent** unfavorable Among Republicans: **69 percent** favorable, **21 percent** unfavorable

# Statewide Perceptions: Direction, Economy, COVID-19, and Race Relations

Forty-five percent of residents say Maryland is heading in the right direction, and **39 percent** say Maryland is off on the wrong track.

A large majority (**68 percent**) of Marylanders say that recent price increases have caused either a minor (**37 percent**) or major (**31 percent**) financial hardship. **Thirty-one percent** indicate that they have not been impacted. Residents are divided in their perceptions of the Maryland economy: **45 percent** held a mostly positive view of the current economic situation in Maryland; **42 percent** hold a mostly negative view. **Twelve percent** say they don't know whether the current economic situation in the state is negative or positive.

Residents also gave their opinions on the current state of the coronavirus pandemic in Maryland:

- **45 percent** say the coronavirus pandemic isn't completely over, but we have to learn to live with ongoing cases without any additional measures to mitigate it.
- 41 percent say the coronavirus pandemic is still ongoing and we need to continue to take measures to mitigate it.
- **11 percent** say the coronavirus pandemic is over.

More than half (**54 percent**) of residents describe race relations in Maryland as "fairly good" and **seven percent** say they are "very good." **Twenty-two percent** describe race relations as "fairly bad" and **9 percent** say they are "very bad."

#### **Education Issues**

Residents were asked whether they agree or disagree with several statements about recent issues regarding K-12 schools.

- **68 percent** agree that "schools should teach students about how racism exists in society and its institutions," **27 percent** disagree.
- **30 percent** agree that "critical race theory, commonly referred to as C-R-T, is currently being taught in Maryland K-12 schools," **44 percent** disagree.
- 54 percent agree that "students should be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend public schools,"
  40 percent disagree.
- **69 percent** agree that "parents should have a say over the curriculum or what is taught to students in K-12 schools," **26 percent** disagree.

#### Approaches to Addressing Crime

Marylanders were asked which of two approaches best described how they think government should prioritize their public safety budgets to best address crime.

- **46 percent** think that more funding should go toward addressing the social and economic causes of crime, such as mental health, drug addiction, housing, and education.
- **27 percent** think that more funding should go toward strengthening the criminal justice system and training law enforcement officers.
- 22 percent volunteer that the government should prioritize both approaches.

# About the Goucher College Poll

The Goucher College Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics at Goucher College. The center is directed by Dr. Mileah Kromer, associate professor of political science.

The Goucher College Poll is funded by the Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics endowment and partnerships with trusted media organizations. The mission of the Goucher College Poll is to improve public discourse in Maryland by providing neutral, unbiased, and independent information on resident perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the poll are used to support faculty and student research.

The Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics is a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations and the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative.

For more information, or to view archived polls, please visit www.goucher.edu/poll.



## Survey Methodology

The poll is conducted using random digit dialing (RDD) random sample using landline and cellular telephone numbers. Braun Research collected the data and Dynata supplied the sample of telephone numbers. The survey was conducted **September 8 to September 12, 2022**. During this time, interviews were conducted from 1 to 9 p.m. Interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers a maximum of five times. Only Maryland statewide residents aged 18 years or older were eligible to participate. Interviews were not conducted with adults who were reached at business or work numbers.

**Eighty-one percent** of the interviews were completed on a cell phone and **19 percent** were conducted on a landline. **Fifteen percent** of the cell phone sample utilized text-to-web. Interviews for this survey were completed with **1,008 adults**. For a sample size of 1,008, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a +/-3.1 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, region, and educational attainment to represent adult population targets established by the most recent five-year average American Community Survey (ACS) estimates and U.S. Census.

# **Survey Question Design**

The Goucher College 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, 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 respondents if their responses are more intense than initially provided.

Example: Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of President Joe Biden? **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 the 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

The sample is weighted by the following demographic characteristics:

		Maryland population parameter	Weighed sample estimate (adults) n=1,008 MOE=+/-3.1	Weighted sample estimate ( <u>likely voters)</u> n=748 MOE=+/-3.6
Gender	Male	48	48	48
	Female	52	52	52
Age	18-24	11	11	6
	25-34	17	17	15
	35-44	17	17	16
	45-54	17	17	19
	55-64	17	17	19
	65+	20	21	25
Race	White	59	59	63
	Black	31	31	30
	All other	10	10	7
Education	High school graduate/GED or less	35	31	26
	Some college or associate degree	27	26	26
	4-year college degree	21	23	25
	Advanced/post-grad degree	17	20	23
County/Region*	Montgomery County	17	17	16
	Prince George's County	16	16	18
	Baltimore County	14	14	13
	Baltimore City	10	10	9
	Anne Arundel County	10	10	10
	Central Region	12	12	13
	Western Region	6	6	6
	Eastern Shore Region	9	9	9
	Southern Region	6	6	6

\*Counties included in region:

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

# Other sample demographics

The sample is not weighted by the following demographic characteristics:

		Weighed sample estimate ( <u>adults</u> ) n=1,008 MOE=+/-3.1	Weighted sample estimate ( <u>likely voters)</u> n=748 MOE=+/-3.6)
Party	Democrat	52	53
	Republican	27	29
	Unaffiliated/Independent	19	17
	Other	2	2
ldeology	Conservative	30	31
	Moderate	42	43
	Progressive	22	23
	Don't know/Refused (v)	6	4
Income	Under \$40,000	23	17
	\$40,00 to under \$75,000	21	22
	\$75,000 to under \$125,000	21	22
	\$125,000 or more	29	33
	Don't know/Refused (v)	6	6

The following questions were asked to the full sample of 1,002 Maryland adults. Results are in percent and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding. Questions appear in the order in which they were administered to the respondent.

Q: TRACK	Do you think things in Maryland are [heading in the right direction or are off on the wrong track]?	Percent
	Wrong track	39
	Right direction	45
	Don't know (v)	14
	Refused (v)	2
Q: HOGANJOB	Do you [disapprove or approve] of the way Larry Hogan is handling his job as governor?	Percent
	Strongly disapprove	10
	Disapprove	18
	Approve	41
	Strongly approve	21
	Don't know (v)	8
	Refused (v)	2
Q: MDECON	Do you have a [mostly negative or mostly positive] view of the current economic situation in Maryland?	Percent
	Mostly negative	42
	Mostly positive	45
	Don't know (v)	12
	Refused (v)	1
Q: PRICE	Have recent price increases caused any financial hardship for you or others in your household, or not? If Yes: Has that been a major or minor financial hardship?	Percent
	No hardship	31
	Minor hardship	37
	Major hardship	31
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0
Q: BIDENJOB	Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?	Percen
	Strongly disapprove	34
	Disapprove	14
	Approve	27
	Strongly approve	21
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	1

Q: TRUMPFAV	Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of former President Donald Trump?	Percent
	Very unfavorable	46
	Unfavorable	15
	Favorable	14
	Very favorable	18
	Don't know (v)	4
	Refused (v)	3
Q: EDUINT	Changing topics, I'm going to read you several statements about K-12 schools. Please tell me whether you [agree or disagree] with each one: [statements rotated]	
Q: RACISM	Schools should teach students about how racism exists in society and its institutions.	Percent
	Strongly disagree	15
	Disagree	12
	Agree	27
	Strongly agree	41
	Don't know (v)	4
	Refused (v)	1
Q: CRT	Critical race theory, commonly referred to as C-R-T, is currently being taught in Maryland K-12 schools.	Percent
	Strongly disagree	27
	Disagree	17
	Agree	16
	Strongly agree	14
	Don't know (v)	24
	Refused (v)	2
Q: VACCINE	Students should be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend public schools.	Percent
	Strongly disagree	25
	Disagree	15
	Agree	22
	Strongly agree	32
	Don't know (v)	4
	Refused (v)	1

Q: PARENTS	Parents should have a say over the curriculum or what is taught to students in K-12 schools.	Percent
	Strongly disagree	10
	Disagree	16
	Agree	33
	Strongly agree	36
	Don't know (v)	4
	Refused (v)	1
Q: CRIME	Changing topics, I'm going to read you two approaches on how government should prioritize their public safety budgets to best address crime. Please tell me which one comes closest to your opinion even if neither are exactly right:	Percent
	More funding should go toward addressing the social and economic causes of crime, such as mental health, drug addiction, housing, and education.	46
	More funding should go toward strengthening the criminal justice system and training law enforcement officers.	27
	Government should prioritize both (v)	22
	Some other opinion (v)	2
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	1
Q: RACE_REL	For the most part, do you think race relations in Maryland are [very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad]?	Percent
	Very bad	9
	Fairly bad	22
	Fairly good	54
	Very good	7
	Don't know (v)	7
	Refused (v)	1
Q: COVID	Which of the following best, even if not perfectly, describes your opinion toward the current state of the coronavirus pandemic in Maryland?	Percent
	The coronavirus pandemic is over.	11
	The coronavirus pandemic isn't completely over but we have to learn to live with ongoing cases without any additional measures to mitigate it.	45
	The coronavirus pandemic is still on going and we need to continue to take measures to mitigate it.	41
	Don't know (v)	2

The following	question was administered to the full sample of 1,008 Maryland adults (MOE=	+/-3.09):
Q: REGVOTE	Are you registered to vote in Maryland at your current address? If yes: Are currently you registered as a Republican, Democrat, independent or unaffiliated, or something else?	Percent
	Democrat	52
	Republican	27
	Independent or unaffiliated	19
	Registered other party	2
The following or registered to v	question was administered to the <u>931 Maryland adults</u> who indicated they we ote:	re
Q: INTEREST	As you may know, there will be a statewide general election in November. How interested are you in these elections: extremely, very, somewhat, or not at all?	Percen
	Not interested at all	5
	Somewhat interested	22
	Very interested	30
	Extremely interested	42
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	0
	question was administered to the <u>873 registered voters</u> who were somewhat, rested in the election:	very, or
Q: OFTEN	How often do you typically vote in general elections: always, almost always, sometimes, seldomly, or never?	Percen
	Never	1
	Seldomly	4
	Sometimes	10
	Almost always	22
	Always	63
	I haven't yet been eligible to vote in a general election (v)	1
	Don't know (v)	0
-	question was administered to the <u>830 registered voters</u> who sometimes, almo ays voted OR who haven't yet been eligible to vote in a general election:	st
Q: LV	Which of the following statements best describes you?	Percen
	I probably will NOT vote in the November statewide general election.	1
	I MAY vote in the November statewide general election.	9
	Unless some emergency comes up, I WILL vote in the November statewide	11
	general election.	14
		76

The following questions were administered to the <u>748 registered voters</u> who indicated they will or definitely will vote in the general election. Likely voters n=748, MOE=+/-3.6%

> > 8

1 0

Percent

71

28

1

0

A top 3 issue

Don't know (v)

Environmental issues

Not a top 3 issue

A top 3 issue

Don't know (v)

Refused (v)

Refused (v)

**Q: ENVIRO** 

Q: ISSUE	Okay, I'm going to read you a list of issues. I know that voters ca lot of different issues, but please tell me which THREE of these the most important issue in determining your choice for governor	are usually
Q: CRMSAF	Crime and public safety	Percent
	Not a top 3 issue	37
	A top 3 issue	62
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0
Q: ECONTAX	The economy and taxes	Percent
	Not a top 3 issue	35
	A top 3 issue	64
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0
Q: PUBSCH	Public schools and education	Percent
	Not a top 3 issue	39
	A top 3 issue	60
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0
Q: INFRA	Infrastructure like roads, bridges, and highways	Percent
	Not a top 3 issue	63
	A top 3 issue	35
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0
Q: TRANSIT	Public transportation	Percent
	Not a top 3 issue	91

Q: HOUSING	Affordable housing	Percent
	Not a top 3 issue	73
	A top 3 issue	26
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0
Q: ISSUE_OTH	Other issue (v)	Percent
	Not a top 3 issue	94
	A top 3 issue	5
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0
Q: SC_MOTIVATE	Has the Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade made you [more motivated or less motivated] to vote in the upcoming 2022 midterm election, or has it not made a difference?	Percent
	Less motivated	3
	Made no difference	50
	More motivated	44
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	1
Q: CAND_FAV	Next, I'd like to get your opinion on two of the candidates running for governor of Maryland. Regardless of who you plan to vote for, please tell me whether you have a [favorable or unfavorable] view of each one: [candidates rotated]	
Q: MOORE_FAV	The Democratic nominee Wes Moore	Percent
	Very unfavorable	15
	Unfavorable	18
	Favorable	29
	Very favorable	24
	Don't know (v)	13
	Refused (v)	1
Q: COX_FAV	The Republican nominee Dan Cox	Percent
	Very unfavorable	31
	Unfavorable	22
	Favorable	17
	Very favorable	13
	Don't know (v)	14
	Refused (v)	2

Q: CAND_IDEO	Next, I'd like to know how you generally view the politics of the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor.	
Q: COX_IDEO	Which label best describes the Republican nominee, Dan Cox, is he: [far or extreme left, progressive or liberal, moderate, conservative, or far or extreme right]?	Percent
	Far or extreme right	35
	Conservative	24
	Moderate	12
	Progressive or liberal	4
	Far or extreme left	5
	Don't know (v)	18
	Refused (v)	2
Q: MOORE_IDEO	Which label best describes the Democratic nominee, Wes Moore, is he: [far or extreme left, progressive or liberal, moderate, conservative, or far or extreme right]?	Percent
	Far or extreme right	2
	Conservative	5
	Moderate	22
	Progressive or liberal	36
	Far or extreme left	13
	Don't know (v)	18
	Refused (v)	2
Q: GOV_RACE	Okay, if the election for Maryland governor were held today, which of the following candidates would you support:	Percent
	The Democratic candidate Wes Moore	53
	The Republican candidate Dan Cox	31
	The Libertarian candidate David Lasher	4
	The Green Party candidate Nancy Wallace	2
	Some other candidate (v)	1
	Undecided or don't know (v)	9
	Refused (v)	1
Q: GOV_FIRM	Is there a chance you could change your mind or are you set on this candidate for governor?	Percent
	Could change mind	28
	Set on this candidate	69
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	0

Q: AG_RACE	Next, I'm going to ask you about the other statewide races. If the election for Maryland Attorney General were held today, who would you vote for	Percent
	The Democratic candidate Anthony Brown	53
	The Republican candidate Michael Peroutka	31
	Some other candidate (v)	1
	Undecided or don't know (v)	15
	Refused (v)	0
Q: COMP_RACE	If the election for Maryland State Comptroller were held today, who would you vote for	Percent
	The Democratic candidate Brooke Lierman	48
	The Republican candidate Barry Glassman	35
	Some other candidate (v)	1
	Undecided or don't know (v)	16
	Refused (v)	1
Q: SEN_RACE	If the election for United States Senate were held today, who would you vote for	Percent
	The Democratic candidate Chris Van Hollen	56
	The Republican candidate Chris Chaffee	33
	Some other candidate (v)	2
	Undecided or don't know (v)	8
	Refused (v)	0
Q: MARIJUANA	Along with the various statewide and local races, a referendum on whether to legalize recreational marijuana for individuals aged 21 and older will appear on the ballot this November. Will you [vote for or vote against] the legalization of recreational marijuana?	Percent
	Vote against	34
	Vote for	59
	Undecided or don't know (v)	7
	Refused (v)	0
Q: EXPUNGE	Regardless of how you plan to vote on the issue, if voters do decide to legalize recreational marijuana, do you think the state [should or should not] then expunge the records of those charged or convicted of marijuana use and/or possession crimes?	Percent
	Should not	29
	Should	62
	Don't know or unsure (v)	8
	Refused (v)	1