



Results Embargoed Until Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 12:01am

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Marylanders support DACA, have confidence in state government to handle a natural disaster, and divide along racial lines on Confederate statue removal.

Baltimore— The Goucher Poll asked Maryland residents about their opinions toward various statewide policy issues. The Goucher Poll surveyed 671 Maryland residents from September 14-17 and has a margin of error of +/-3.8 percent.

Views on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Immigration

Residents were asked about their general views toward undocumented immigrants working in the United States:

- ❑ **65** percent: Undocumented immigrants should be given a path to citizenship, if they meet certain requirements.
- ❑ **20** percent: Undocumented immigrants should be given a path to legal resident status, but not citizenship.
- ❑ **11** percent: Undocumented immigrants should be identified and deported.

Residents were also asked their views toward the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy which grants temporary legal status to and prevents the deportation of young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. **Three-quarters** of Marylanders support DACA and **20** percent oppose it.

“The Goucher Poll asked Marylanders about immigration and the best policy for specifically addressing the status of young undocumented immigrants back in 2012,” said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center. *“The results of our new poll suggest that opinion has not changed—the majority of Marylanders continue to favor immigration policies focused on a pathway to citizenship or legal status rather than deportation.”*

Natural Disasters, Climate Change, and Wind Turbines

In the wake the recent storms that devastated parts of the United States, **66** percent of residents say they have “a lot” or “some” confidence in the Maryland state government to handle a major natural disaster like a hurricane. **Twenty-eight** percent say they have “none” or only “a little” confidence.

The majority of Marylanders—**69 percent**—believe that the severity storms like Hurricane Harvey or Irma are related to climate change. **About a quarter** of residents disagree that climate change is related to the severity of recent storms.

When asked about climate change, **59** percent of Marylanders believe climate change is caused mostly by human activity, while **35** percent think it is caused mostly by natural patterns in the earth’s environment. **Two** percent of Marylanders do not believe climate change exists.

In May 2017, Maryland regulators approved plans for an offshore wind project off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland. This summer, some officials expressed concern that the sight of these turbines on the horizon could ruin views thus deter tourism. **Eleven** percent say that seeing the turbines on the horizon would make them “less likely” to vacation in Ocean City and **12** percent say it would make them “more likely.” **Three-quarters** of Maryland residents said that seeing wind turbines on the horizon would “make no difference” to them.

Race and society

Residents were also asked about several issues concerning race in American society. Although white and African-American Marylanders express similar views on the general state of race relations in Maryland, African-American and white Marylanders express different views on the issues:

61 percent of Marylanders agree that *“race relations in Maryland have gotten worse over the past few years.”*

- ❑ Among African-Americans, **59** percent agree.
- ❑ Among whites, **61** percent agree.

64 percent of Marylanders agree that *“racial minorities face discrimination on the job or at work in Maryland.”*

- ❑ Among African-Americans, **79** percent agree.
- ❑ Among whites, **55** percent agree.

49 percent of Marylanders agree that “*Confederate statues and symbols should be removed from public spaces in Maryland.*”

- ▣ Among African-Americans, **70** percent agree.
- ▣ Among whites, **38** percent agree.

38 percent of Marylanders agree that “*people of all races receive equal treatment by the police in your community.*”

- ▣ Among African-Americans, **20** percent agree.
- ▣ Among whites, **48** percent agree.

42 percent of Marylanders agree that “*white supremacists groups should be allowed to hold rallies on public grounds in Maryland.*”

- ▣ Among African-Americans, **31** percent agree.
- ▣ Among whites, **49** percent agree.

GOUCHER POLL

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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 Dr. 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 Maryland 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 **Thursday, September 14 to Sunday, September 17, 2017**. During this time, interviews were conducted 5:00pm to 9:00pm on Thursday and Friday and 12:00pm to 9:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. 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. Seventy-six percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 24 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 671 Maryland residents. For a sample size of 671, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.8 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.

Goucher Poll Sample Demographics (in percent)

	Maryland Adult Population Parameter (ACS estimates)	Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Adults (Total=671)	Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Registered Voters (Total=533)
Gender			
Male	48	49	47
Female	52	51	53
Age			
18 to 24	13	13	10
25 to 34	18	15	15
35 to 44	17	18	17
45 to 54	20	21	22
55 to 64	17	16	17
65+	16	17	19
Race			
White	63	61	64
Black	29	30	28
Other	8	9	8
Region			
Capitol	36	36	37
Central	46	46	45
Eastern	8	8	7
Southern	6	6	7
Western	4	4	4

Distribution of Regions

Capitol—Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George’s

Central—Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard

Eastern—Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester

Southern—Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s

Western—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 **671** Maryland residents surveyed, **533** 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 (August 2017)	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters (n=533)
Democratic Party	55	55
Republican Party	26	25
Unaffiliated (Independent)	17	18
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	1	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>.

The following questions were asked to the full sample of **671 Maryland adults**. Results are in percent and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: IMMGEN

Changing topics to immigration in the United States. . . .

I'm going to read you three statements. Please tell me which one generally comes closest to you view about how the federal government policy should address the undocumented immigrants who are currently living in the United States:

[STATEMENTS ROTATED]

#1 Undocumented immigrants should be given a path to citizenship, if they meet certain requirements.

#2 Undocumented immigrants should be given a path to legal resident status, but not citizenship.

#3 Undocumented immigrants should be identified and deported.

	OCT 12	OCT 15	SEPT 17
Statement #1	63	62	65
Statement #2	15	13	20
Statement #3	17	20	11
Some other opinion (v)	3	3	3
Don't know (v)	1	2	0
Refused (v)	1	0	1
Total=	667 +/- 3.8	636 +/-3.9	671 +/-3.8

NOTE: The OCT12 and OCT15 version of this question was worded slightly different than SEPT17.

Please go to www.goucher.edu/poll for full methodology of previous results.

Q: DACA

Do you [**support or oppose**] DACA—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—a policy which grants temporary legal status to and prevents the deportation of young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children?

Probe

	SEPT 17
Strongly oppose (p)	10
Oppose	10
Support	26
Strongly support (p)	49
Don't know (v)	4
Refused (v)	1
Total=	671 +/-3.8

Q: HURRICANE

Changing topics, how much confidence—[**none, a little, some, or a lot**]—do you have in the Maryland state government to handle a major natural disaster like a hurricane?

Probe

	SEPT 17
None	11
A little	17
Some	39
A lot	27
Don't know/Refused (v)	6
Total=	671 +/-3.8

Q: STORMS

Do you [**agree or disagree**] that the severity of recent storms—such as Hurricane Harvey or Irma—is related to climate change?

Probe

	SEPT 17
Strongly disagree (p)	13
Disagree	13
Agree	25
Strongly agree (p)	44
Don't know (v)	5
Refused (v)	0
Total=	671 +/-3.8

Q: CLIMATE

Next, I'm going to read you three statements about climate change. Please tell me which one comes closest to your view:

[STATEMENTS ROTATED]

#1 Climate change is caused mostly by human activity.

#2 Climate change is caused mostly by natural patterns in the earth's environment.

#3 Climate change does not exist.

	OCT 14	SEPT 17
Statement #1 (human activity)	59	59
Statement #2 (natural patterns)	31	35
Statement #3 (does not exist)	4	2
Some other opinion (v)	4	4
Don't know/Refused (v)	2	>1
Total=	708 +/-3.7	671 +/-3.8

Q: WIND

As you may have heard, there is a proposal to build a group of energy-producing wind turbines off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland. The distance of these wind turbines from the shore is currently being discussed.

In your opinion, would seeing these wind turbines on the horizon from the beach make you [**less likely to vacation in Ocean City, more likely to vacation in Ocean City**], or would they make no difference to you?

	SEPT 17
Less likely	11
Would make no difference	75
More likely	12
Don't know/Refused (v)	2
Total=	671 +/-3.8

Q: RACEINTRO

Next, I'm going to read you some statements about issues involving race in society today. For each one, please let me know if you [**agree or disagree**] with it. . .

[**WORK to RALLY randomized**]

Q: WORK

Racial minorities face discrimination on the job or at work in Maryland.

Q: STATUES

Confederate statues and symbols should be removed from public spaces in Maryland.

Q: POLICE

People of all races receive equal treatment by the police in your community.

Q: WORSE

Race relations in Maryland have gotten worse over the past few years.

Q: RALLY

White supremacists groups should be allowed to hold rallies on public grounds in Maryland.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	DK/ REF (v)
Racial minorities face discrimination on the job or at work in Maryland.	8	16	37	27	12
Confederate statues and symbols should be removed from public spaces in Maryland.	26	18	21	28	7
People of all races receive equal treatment by the police in your community.	34	22	21	17	6
Race relations in Maryland have gotten worse over the past few years.	6	25	29	32	8
White supremacists groups should be allowed to hold rallies on public grounds in Maryland.	37	17	30	12	4

Total=100 (671, +/-3.8)

Note: POLICE was previously asked on the October 2015 and February 2016 Goucher Poll.

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 higher for subsamples
- Refer to tables above for questions as worded

	Registered Voters				Maryland Adults							
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=533)	Dem (n=294)	Ind (n=94)	Rep (n=133)	Male (n=327)	Female (n=344)	18-34 (n=193)	35-54 (n=258)	55+ (n=219)	White (n=409)	Black (n=201)	Other (n=60)
Q: IMMGEN												
Path to citizenship (#1)	65	74	66	41	61	69	70	67	59	62	71	68
Path to legal residency (#2)	21	19	20	26	21	19	21	16	24	21	20	17
Deportation (#3)	11	4	5	29	14	8	8	12	13	14	5	13
Q: DACA												
Oppose	20	10	16	46	22	17	13	21	24	24	10	22
Support	75	86	77	48	72	79	82	74	70	70	86	75
Q: HURRICANE												
None/Little	25	21	33	26	29	27	35	26	24	25	31	36
Some/Lot	69	73	58	70	64	69	58	71	68	70	65	51
Q: STORMS												
Disagree	26	11	23	62	30	22	19	30	28	33	15	18
Agree	69	85	71	32	64	74	77	66	65	62	81	80

	Registered Voters				Maryland Adults							
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=533)	Dem (n=294)	Ind (n=94)	Rep (n=133)	Male (n=327)	Female (n=344)	18-34 (n=193)	35-54 (n=258)	55+ (n=219)	White (n=409)	Black (n=201)	Other (n=60)
Q: CLIMATE												
Manmade (#1)	60	73	67	25	57	61	69	59	51	53	68	67
Natural patterns (#2)	34	22	29	66	35	35	23	36	42	40	26	28
Doesn't exist (#3)	1	0	0	5	2	1	3	1	1	1	3	2
Q: WIND												
Less likely	11	9	13	16	12	11	9	10	16	11	13	10
No difference	75	75	74	74	73	77	75	76	74	77	72	70
More likely	13	16	9	9	14	10	17	12	8	10	13	18
Q: WORK												
Disagree	26	18	16	50	28	22	20	24	30	30	15	25
Agree	63	73	70	35	61	67	73	66	54	55	79	72
Q: STATUES												
Disagree	43	24	44	86	46	41	38	43	50	56	20	40
Agree	50	68	50	10	47	51	56	49	43	38	70	55
Q: POLICE												
Disagree	54	62	66	25	53	60	64	56	49	43	79	67
Agree	40	32	24	69	42	34	32	39	42	48	20	28

	Registered Voters				Maryland Adults							
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=533)	Dem (n=294)	Ind (n=94)	Rep (n=133)	Male (n=327)	Female (n=344)	18-34 (n=193)	35-54 (n=258)	55+ (n=219)	White (n=409)	Black (n=201)	Other (n=60)
Q: WORSE												
Disagree	31	33	28	27	34	27	27	32	32	29	34	30
Agree	61	57	63	68	58	65	64	60	60	61	59	67
Q: RALLY												
Disagree	52	59	53	40	45	63	64	53	47	49	67	48
Agree	44	37	44	59	51	34	32	44	49	49	31	39