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Marylanders express trust in state government; continue to hold a positive opinion toward the direction of the state, Maryland economy, and Gov. Larry Hogan

BALTIMORE — The Goucher Poll asked Maryland residents about their opinions toward the direction of the state, the most important issue facing Maryland, and their trust in state and federal government; Gov. Larry Hogan's job performance, his character, and whether he should run for president; approval of President Donald Trump, the United States Congress, and the Maryland General Assembly; the amount of public school funding; and how the new federal tax laws are impacting them. The Goucher Poll surveyed **808** Maryland adults from **February 7-12** and has a margin of error of **+/-3.4** percent.

Perceptions of Gov. Larry Hogan's Job Performance, Character, and Potential Presidential Run

Gov. Hogan's strong standing with Marylanders remains unchanged. **Sixty-nine percent** of Marylanders approve of the job Larry Hogan is doing as governor, **14 percent** disapprove, and **14 percent** say they don't know.

Maryland residents were asked additional questions about Gov. Hogan's characteristics and qualities:

- **66 percent** say "keeps his promises" describes him and **16 percent** say it does not.
- 67 percent say "cares about the needs of people like you" describes him and 22 percent say it does not.
- **85 percent** say "is likeable" describes him and **7 percent** say it does not.
- 70 percent say "is honest and trustworthy" describes him and 13 percent say it does not.
- **79 percent** say "works well with both parties to get things done" describes him and **10 percent** say it does not.
- 80 percent say "can manage the government effectively" describes him and 11 percent say it does not.
- **65 percent** say "puts the state's interest ahead of his own political interests" describes him and **19 percent** say it does not.

A third of Marylanders think that Gov. Hogan should run for president in 2020 and 55 percent do not.

"Gov. Hogan's reelection amid a blue wave, sustained positive job approval ratings across party lines, and his approach to politics have caught the attention of 'Never Trump' leaders looking for a challenger to President Trump in the Republican presidential primary," said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. "About a third of Maryland Republicans want to see a Hogan presidential run, which is consistent with recent national polling that suggests many national Republicans nationwide want a different nominee in 2020. Taken together, polling suggests that mounting a primary challenge would be difficult—unless, of course, the volatility of our current national politics dramatically alters the political playing field."

Trust in Government and Opinions Toward President Trump, the US Congress, and the Maryland General Assembly

Thirty percent of Marylanders approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president of the United States and **66 percent** disapprove. At this time last year, President Trump's approval rating in Maryland was **27 percent**. **Nineteen percent** approve of the job Congress is doing and **74 percent disapprove**.

When asked about their state legislature—the Maryland General Assembly—41 percent approve of the job its doing, 30 percent disapprove, and 26 percent don't know.

Marylanders express higher levels of trust in their state government than in the federal government to do what is in the public's interest.

- **73 percent** say they can trust the <u>state</u> government "some" or "all" and **22 percent** say they can trust it "none" or "very little" of the time.
- **34 percent** say they can trust the <u>federal</u> government "some" or "all" and **64 percent** say they can trust it "none" or "very little" of the time.

Most Important Issue, Direction of the State, and the Current Economic Situation

Twenty-one percent of Marylanders identify an economic issue—jobs, taxes, economic growth, or the budget—and **16 percent** identify education as the most important issues facing Maryland today. Another **12 percent** say issues involving crime, criminal justice, and policing are the most important.

Marylanders hold similar views toward the direction of the state and the Maryland economy as they did at this time last year. **Fifty-nine percent** say Maryland is heading in the right direction and **25 percent** say Maryland is off on the wrong track. The majority of Marylanders—**61 percent**—hold a mostly positive view of the Maryland economy, while **28 percent** hold a mostly negative view.

Marylanders were asked whether they expect the changes to the federal tax code to increase, decrease, or have no effect on the amount of taxes they will pay. **Nineteen percent** think their taxes will decrease as a result of the new tax system, **48 percent** think their taxes will increase, and **20 percent** think the changes will have no effect. Last February, **26 percent** thought their taxes will decrease, **44 percent** thought their taxes will increase, and **18 percent** thought the changes to the tax code would have no effect.

To view archived polls, please visit www.goucher.edu/poll.

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, unbiased, 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**, **February 7**, **to Tuesday**, **February 12**. During this time, interviews were conducted 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday to Friday and 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. 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-seven percent** of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone and **23 percent** were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with **808** Maryland adults. For a sample size of **808**, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus **3.4 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 of the state to represent adult population targets established by the most recent 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, 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.

<u>Example</u>: 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 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.

Goucher Poll Sample Demographics (in percent)

Goucher Poll Sample Demo	grapnics (in pe		
	Maryland Adult Population Parameter	Weighted Sample Estimate Adults	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters
		(n=808)	(n=707)
Gender			
Male	47	47	47
Female	53	53	53
Age			
18 to 24	12	12	9
25 to 34	18	18	18
35 to 44	16	16	17
45 to 54	18	18	19
55 to 64	17	17	18
65+	19	18	19
Race			
White	61	61	62
Black	30	30	29
Other	9	9	9
Education			
High school or less	35	35	33
Tech school/some college	26	26	26
College degree	21	21	22
Adv./professional degree	18	18	19
Geography			
Central Region	21	17	18
Montgomery County	17	15	15
Prince George's County	15	11	10
Baltimore County	14	14	14
Baltimore City	11	21	21
Western Region	8	8	8
Eastern Shore Region	8	8	8
Southern Region	6	6	6

Counties included in regions:

• Central: Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, and Howard

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

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 <u>808</u> Maryland adult residents surveyed, <u>707</u> indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e., independent).

Maryland Voter Registration (in percent)

	Party Registration (Oct 2018)	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters (n=707)
Democratic Party	55	51
Republican Party	26	28
Unaffiliated (Independent)	18	17
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	2	4
Total=	100	707 +/-3.7

Information on voter registration in Maryland from the Board of Elections can be found at http://www.elections.state.md.us.

Q: IDEO

Do you consider yourself to be politically [conservative, moderate, or progressive]?

	All Adults	Registered Voters
Conservative	30	29
Moderate	43	43
Progressive	23	23
Don't know (v)	4	4
Total=	808 +/-3.4	707 +/-3.7

The following question was asked to the full sample of <u>808 Maryland adults</u>. Please refer to **page 14** for the results by registered voter and other key demographics. Results are in percent and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: IMPISSUE

What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Maryland today?

[OPEN-ENDED]

[OPEN-ENDED]	FEB 19
Education	16
Crime/criminal justice/police	12
Taxes	8
Economy/economic growth/development	6
Job growth/ unemployment	5
Drugs/heroin	5
Environmental issues/ concerns	4
Guns/Gun Control	4
Washington politics/Pres. Trump	4
Transportation/roads/mass transit	3
Healthcare	3
Immigration	2
Housing / Cost of Living	2
Budget / budgetary issues	2
Other:	12
Don't Know (v)	12
Total=	808 +/-3.4

Q: TRACK
In general, do you think things in the state [are headed in the right direction or are off on the wrong track]?

	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18	APR 18	SEPT 18	FEB 19
Wrong track	22	31	29	28	30	25
Right direction	62	55	62	53	54	59
Don't know/Refused (v)	16	14	9	18	16	16
Total=	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	617 +/-3.9	831 +/-3.4	808 +/-3.4

Q: HOGANJOB

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Larry Hogan is handling his job as governor? PROBE

	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18	APR 18	SEPT 18	FEB 19
Strongly disapprove (p)	7	6	7	10	8	4
Disapprove	10	10	11	11	9	10
Approve	36	42	38	41	36	39
Strongly approve (p)	27	20	23	28	28	30
Don't know (v)	20	20	19	9	17	14
Refused (v)	0	1	2	1	3	3
Total=	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	617 +/-3.9	831 +/-3.4	808 +/-3.4

Q: CHARACTER

Next, I'm going to read you a list of different characteristics and qualities. For each one, please tell me whether it **describes or does not describe** Gov. Larry Hogan.

	Does NOT describe	Describes	Don't know (v)	Refused (v)
Q: PROMISE Keeps his promises	16	66	16	2
Q: CARES Cares about the needs of people like you	22	67	9	2
Q: LIKEABLE Is likeable	7	85	6	2
Q: HONEST Is honest and trustworthy	13	70	14	3
Q: WORKS Works well with both parties to get things done	10	79	9	2
Q: MANAGE Can manage the government effectively	11	80	7	2
Q: STATE Puts the state's interests ahead of his own political interests	19	65	13	3

N=808, +/-3.4%

Q: PRESHOGAN

Okay, now thinking ahead to the presidential election in 2020. Do you think Gov. Larry Hogan should run for president of the United States, or not?

	FEB 19
No	55
Yes	33
Maybe/It depends (v)	4
Don't know (v)	6
Refused (v)	2
Total=	808 +/-3.4

Q: MDECON

Do you have a [mostly negative or mostly positive] view of the current economic situation in Maryland?

	SEPT 17	FEB 18	FEB 19
Mostly negative	33	31	28
Mostly positive	57	60	61
Don't know (v)	10	9	11
Refused (v)	0	>1	0
Total=	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	808 +/-3.4

Q: MDGAJOB

Now, thinking about the Maryland state legislature—the legislature located in Annapolis—do you [approve or disapprove] of the way the Maryland General Assembly is handling its job?

PROBE

	MAR 14	FEB 15	FEB 16	FEB 17	FEB 18	FEB 19
Strongly disapprove (p)	15	13	12	11	16	9
Disapprove	22	21	19	13	18	21
Approve	34	38	37	35	34	33
Strongly Approve (p)	5	7	7	7	8	8
Don't know (v)	23	21	23	33	24	26
Refused (v)	1	0	1	1	1	3
Total=	861 +/-3.3	619 +/-3.9	545 +/-4.2	776 +/-3.5	800 +/-3.5	808 +/-3.4

Q: TRUST_STATE

How much of the time—[all, some, very little, none of the time]—do you think you can trust the state government in Annapolis to do what is in the public's interest?

	MAR 13	FEB 15	FEB 16	FEB 19
None	14	9	11	8
Very little	20	16	17	14
Some	60	66	63	62
All of the time	4	5	6	11
Don't know (v)	2	3	2	4
Refused (v)	0	1	0	1
Total=	791 +/-3.4	619 +/-3.9	545 +/-4.2	808 +/-3.4

Q: TRUST_FED

Okay, now, how much of the time—[none, very little, some, or all of the time]—can you trust the <u>federal</u> government in Washington, DC, to do what is in the public's interest?

	FEB 19
None	30
Very little	34
Some	31
All of the time	3
Don't know (v)	1
Refused (v)	1
Total=	808 +/-3.4

Q: CONGJOBChanging topics—Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Congress is handling its job?

PROBE

	OCT 13	SEPT 14	OCT 15	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 19
Strongly disapprove (p)	62	46	54	51	59	41
Disapprove	29	33	29	21	27	33
Approve	4	11	8	16	6	15
Strongly approve (p)	1	3	1	5	2	4
Don't know (v)	4	7	7	7	6	6
Refused (v)	1	4	1	>1	0	1
Total=	665 +/-3.8	708 +/-3.7	636 +/-3.9	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	808 +/-3.4

Q: TRUMPJOB

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president? PROBE

	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18	APR 18	SEPT 18	FEB 19
Strongly disapprove (p)	56	56	57	56	61	50
Disapprove	8	15	11	14	10	16
Approve	14	13	15	14	13	16
Strongly approve (p)	15	12	12	11	10	14
Don't know (v)	7	3	4	3	4	3
Refused (v)	>1	1	1	2	2	1
Total=	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	617 +/-3.9	831 +/-3.4	808 +/-3.4

Q: TAXES

As you know, last year the federal government made changes to the tax system. Do you think these changes will [increase, decrease or have no effect on] the amount of taxes you pay?

	FEB 18	FEB 19
Decrease	26	19
Stay about the same	18	20
Increase	44	48
Some other opinion (v)	2	3
Don't know (v)	8	10
Refused (v)	1	0
Total=	800 +/-3.5	808 +/-3.4

NOTE: FEB18 used a slightly different question wording. See www.goucher.edu/poll for details.

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			Ger	Gender Age					Race		
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Black	Other	
	(n=707)	(n=362)	(n=119)	(n=200)	(n=380)	(n=428)	(n=245)	(n=277)	(n=286)	(n=493)	(n=242)	(n=73)	
Q: TRACK													
Wrong track	25	22	21	29	24	25	23	26	25	22	28	34	
Right direction	59	59	60	62	63	55	60	55	61	62	55	49	
Q: HOGANJOB													
Disapprove	14	18	14	5	14	14	19	17	8	12	20	12	
Approve	71	65	71	89	68	70	54	68	84	76	60	53	
Q: PROMISE													
Does NOT describe	15	18	17	5	15	17	27	15	7	12	19	33	
Describes	67	62	62	84	66	65	49	67	78	72	60	42	
Q: CARES													
Does NOT describe	22	26	24	10	20	24	29	22	17	15	30	44	
Describes	68	63	62	85	68	65	55	67	76	74	58	45	
Q: LIKEABLE													
Does NOT describe	6	8	7	1	7	6	11	7	2	3	13	10	
Describes	88	85	88	94	84	86	76	85	93	89	79	79	
Q: HONEST													
Does NOT describe	12	15	15	3	12	14	23	13	6	9	19	25	
Describes	72	67	73	87	70	69	58	67	83	78	58	52	

				Marylan	d Adults			
	Col	lege		Region		Ideology		
	>4-year degree (n=492)	4-year degree + (n=316)	MG/ PG (n=259)	Central/ Balt Metro (n=372)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=177)	Cons (n=240)	Mod (n=346)	Prog (n=184)
Q: TRACK	, ,	, ,			<u> </u>	,	<u> </u>	
Wrong track	27	21	18	28	28	35	18	25
Right direction	56	62	61	58	58	50	70	49
Q: HOGANJOB								
Disapprove	14	15	15	17	8	10	10	29
Approve	69	70	61	73	74	77	73	53
Q: PROMISE								
Does NOT describe	17	14	17	16	12	14	13	20
Describes	65	66	58	69	68	74	69	51
Q: CARES								
Does NOT describe	23	21	22	23	20	17	19	32
Describes	66	68	65	69	65	73	71	52
Q: LIKEABLE								
Does NOT describe	8	6	7	9	3	4	4	15
Describes	86	84	83	86	85	87	88	75
Q: HONEST								
Does NOT describe	13	14	14	15	10	7	14	20
Describes	71	69	67	69	74	74	70	62

		Registered Voters				Maryland Adults							
		Part	y Registra	ition	Ger	Gender Age					Race		
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Black	Other	
	(n=707)	(n=362)	(n=119)	(n=200)	(n=380)	(n=428)	(n=245)	(n=277)	(n=286)	(n=493)	(n=242)	(n=73)	
Q: WORKS													
Does NOT describe	11	11	17	5	11	10	13	10	7	9	11	13	
Describes	80	80	72	89	79	80	69	82	86	81	78	75	
Q: MANAGE													
Does NOT describe	9	10	13	4	12	10	17	11	6	6	18	19	
Describes	83	82	82	90	79	82	69	82	88	85	72	75	
Q: STATE													
Does NOT describe	21	26	21	7	17	21	25	21	13	15	24	29	
Describes	65	58	70	81	68	62	56	62	75	71	55	57	
Q: PRESHOGAN													
No	56	57	59	52	58	52	52	55	56	54	54	63	
Yes	32	32	31	35	29	36	34	34	30	32	34	29	
Q: MDECON													
Mostly negative	26	29	25	16	22	33	32	26	26	21	39	36	
Mostly positive	63	60	55	76	67	55	53	68	62	67	52	49	
Q: MDGAJOB													
Disapprove	30	23	35	37	37	25	26	36	29	31	29	36	
Approve	43	47	40	40	39	43	41	36	44	42	40	33	
Don't know	26	28	24	21	23	30	30	27	23	25	29	27	
Q: TRUST_STATE													
None/little	20	15	20	28	24	20	20	22	23	21	23	26	
Some/all	74	79	76	68	72	74	75	74	70	73	73	70	

				Maryland	Adults				
	Col	lege		Region			Ideology		
	>4-year degree	4-year degree +	MG/ PG	Central/ Balt Metro	Outside Urban Corridor	Cons	Mod	Prog	
O WODYG	(n=492)	(n=316)	(n=259)	(n=372)	(n=177)	(n=240)	(n=346)	(n=184)	
Q: WORKS	_		_			_			
Does NOT describe	9	11	8	11	10	5	8	18	
Describes	79	79	79	81	76	86	82	69	
Q: MANAGE									
Does NOT describe	13	7	12	12	7	8	10	15	
Describes	78	83	79	81	80	83	81	76	
Q: STATE									
Does NOT describe	18	20	20	21	14	13	17	28	
Describes	66	63	61	66	69	70	68	51	
Q: PRESHOGAN									
No	56	53	51	58	53	58	51	56	
Yes	32	34	37	31	30	25	38	34	
Q: MDECON									
Mostly negative	30	23	28	30	22	24	25	37	
Mostly positive	56	69	60	61	63	64	64	54	
Q: MDGAJOB									
Disapprove	34	25	24	35	32	39	26	26	
Approve	39	43	41	40	40	28	48	41	
Don't know	25	30	32	23	26	29	24	30	
Q: TRUST_STATE									
None/little	24	18	15	25	25	31	18	19	
Some/all	70	77	79	72	67	65	77	74	

		Registered Voters				Maryland Adults						
		Part	y Registra	tion	Ger	Gender Age				Race		
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Black	Other
	(n=707)	(n=362)	(n=119)	(n=200)	(n=380)	(n=428)	(n=245)	(n=277)	(n=286)	(n=493)	(n=242)	(n=73)
Q: TRUST_FED												
None/little	64	68	61	57	69	58	61	62	67	62	66	64
Some/all	34	30	37	40	30	38	37	36	30	35	31	33
Q: CONGJOB												
Disapprove	77	74	68	89	78	71	61	78	83	79	63	81
Approve	17	20	25	6	78	71	30	16	13	15	29	12
Q: TRUMPJOB												
Disapprove	66	89	61	26	61	69	78	64	56	51	92	79
Approve	30	9	33	69	32	28	21	27	41	45	2	20
Q: TAXES												
Decrease	19	9	21	37	23	14	18	19	19	23	8	23
Have no effect	19	19	10	27	20	21	19	16	24	24	12	22
Increase	48	58	50	27	42	53	53	55	36	39	67	42

		Maryland Adults										
	Co	llege		Region		Ideology						
	>4-year degree	4-year degree +	MG/ PG	Central/ Balt Metro	Outside Urban Corridor	Cons	Mod	Prog				
	(n=492)	(n=316)	(n=259)	(n=372)	(n=177)	(n=240)	(n=346)	(n=184)				
Q: TRUST_FED												
None/little	66	59	59	62	72	61	64	69				
Some/all	31	39	38	35	25	36	34	30				
Q: CONGJOB												
Disapprove	73	77	67	78	79	83	75	65				
Approve	22	15	24	19	12	11	19	30				
Q: TRUMPJOB												
Disapprove	60	74	80	63	48	32	74	96				
Approve	35	22	14	32	49	62	21	2				
Q: TAXES												
Decrease	20	16	16	19	22	28	14	14				
Have no effect	20	20	15	19	29	23	20	19				
Increase	45	52	58	48	33	34	53	58				