



**Press Contact Information**

Mileah Kromer  
Director, Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center  
[mileah.kromer@goucher.edu](mailto:mileah.kromer@goucher.edu)  
Office: 410-337-3296

Kristen Pinheiro  
Senior Director of Communications  
[kristen.pinheiro@goucher.edu](mailto:kristen.pinheiro@goucher.edu)  
Office: 410-337-6316 / Cell: 443-253-3680

**Goucher Poll Releases Results on Politician Approval Ratings,  
Local Presidential Hopefuls, Transportation, Vaccines, and the Environment**

**Baltimore** – The Goucher Poll asked Maryland residents for their perspectives regarding perceptions of elected officials and institutions; most important issues and direction of the state; redistricting; state budgetary priorities; potential presidential runs of Martin O’Malley, Bob Ehrlich, and Ben Carson; key environmental issues, including fracking, the “rain tax,” and sources of pollution; transportation issues, including support for the Red and Purple Lines; and other issues being considered by the Maryland General Assembly.

**Key Legislative Issues: Post-Labor Day Start, Transportation, Sick Leave, and Death With Dignity**

Residents continue to support Comptroller Peter Franchot’s “Let Summer Be Summer” initiative. Seventy-two percent support a statewide mandate requiring schools to start after the Labor Day holiday; 19 percent oppose it. Respondents were then asked why they support or oppose a post-Labor Day start.

**Top Reasons for Support:**

- 20 percent say starting school before Labor Day is disruptive or “doesn’t make sense.”
- 18 percent say it benefits students.
- 18 percent say it benefits families.
- 15 percent say a post-Labor day start is “the way it always was.”

**Top Reasons for Opposition:**

- 27 percent think it will push the end of the school year too far into June.
- 20 percent think it will hurt students.

- 13 percent think the mandated change is not needed or would be disruptive.
- 13 percent think “more school is better,” or summer would be too long.

Marylanders were asked to give their preference on where the government should focus its spending in regard to transportation. Residents were divided on the issue, with half of residents indicating the state government should focus more on improving roads and highways and 45 percent saying the focus should be on improving public transportation.

More than half of Marylanders had heard “nothing at all” about the proposed Red Line transportation project in Baltimore (52 percent) or Purple Line transportation project in the Washington, DC, suburbs (53 percent).

Those who had heard at least “a little” about each respective project were asked if they support or oppose the construction of the Red and/or Purple Lines. Sixty-four percent of Marylanders who have heard of the projects say they support the construction of the Red Line, while 70 percent support the construction of the Purple Line.

Three-fourths of Marylanders support requiring businesses with staffs of 10 or more people to offer their employees an hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked; 21 percent oppose this proposal.

Marylanders were also asked about the “Death With Dignity” legislation recently proposed by state Senator Ron Young (D-Frederick and Washington). Respondents were asked if they support or oppose a policy that would allow terminally ill patients to obtain a prescription for a fatal dose of drugs from a willing doctor. Respondents were also informed that the bill requires the patient to be mentally competent, self-administer the drugs, and have less than six months to live. Sixty percent of residents support the policy, and 35 percent oppose it.

### **Perceptions of Public Officials, Government Institutions, and Redistricting**

While most Marylanders are still unsure how to rate Governor Larry Hogan after his first month in office, those who can rate the job performance of the new governor view him in a positive light. Thirty-nine percent approve of the job he is doing; 17 percent disapprove; and 43 percent did not offer an opinion. Similarly, 33 percent have a favorable opinion; 21 percent have an unfavorable opinion; and 45 percent did not offer an opinion.

When asked about the Maryland General Assembly, 33 disapprove of the job it is doing, and 46 approve; 21 percent don’t know.

Compared with the fall Goucher Poll, Marylanders express a more optimistic view on the direction of the state: 54 percent think Maryland is going in the right direction, while 34 percent think things in the state are going down the wrong track. In terms of trust in government, 66 percent say they can trust the state government to do what is in the public’s interest “some” of the time; 5 percent say “all of the time;” and a quarter say “very little” or “none” of the time.

Twenty-four percent of residents think cooperation between the Democrats and Republicans in the state government will increase; 52 think it will stay about the same; and 21 percent think cooperation will decrease.

Respondents were asked to indicate what percent of seats in the Maryland General Assembly were held by women: 23 percent gave a correct response (25-35 percent); 61 percent underestimate the number (24 percent and lower); and 8 percent overestimate it (26 percent and higher). Currently, women hold 31% of the seats in the Maryland General Assembly—the seventh-highest in terms of women’s representation in the nation.

In regard to how Maryland should determine voting district lines, 23 percent prefer a system where districts are determined by the state’s elected officials, and 72 percent prefer a system where districts are determined by an independent commission. Currently, district lines in Maryland are determined by the state’s elected officials and are readjusted after each U.S. Census.

Residents were also asked to weigh in on the areas the state should and should not reduce spending. Fifty-seven percent of residents offered that they do not want to see a reduction in spending toward education and schools; 11 percent do not want a reduction in transportation and infrastructure spending. On the other hand, 35 percent of residents say they don’t know specific areas in which they would like cut; 10 percent would like a reduction in spending on government employees, jobs, and benefits; 8 percent would like a reduction on entitlement programs, welfare, and other forms of social assistance.

Marylanders identify the economy and jobs (24 percent), taxes (19 percent), and education (16 percent) as the biggest issues facing the state.

“The Hogan administration is off to a good start in the eyes of many Marylanders. Understandably, with only a month of service under his belt, many residents are still unsure how to rate the new governor—but overall trust in the state government and views on the direction of the state are more positive than in recent years,” said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center. “His support for redistricting reform and focus on economic, job, and tax issues has broad backing in the constituency. However, he will have to find common ground with Democrats in the General Assembly on funding education if he wants to earn high approval ratings from the citizenry moving forward.”

### **Marylanders and the U.S. Presidency**

President Barack Obama continues to earn higher job approval ratings among Marylanders than he does nationwide; 57 percent approve of the job he is doing, while 36 disapprove. Fifteen percent approve of the job Congress is doing.

Three Marylanders have been mentioned as potential candidates for the 2016 presidential election—former governors Martin O’Malley and Bob Ehrlich and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

Thirty-one percent of Marylanders think Martin O'Malley should run for president in 2016—a 12-point increase from the fall 2014 Goucher Poll. Twenty-two percent of residents think Bob Ehrlich should run, and 30 percent think Ben Carson should run.

### **Environmental Issues: Fracking, Pollution in the Bay, and the Storm Water Management Fee**

Residents were asked their opinions on fracking, the storm water management fee, and sources of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

Forty-five percent of residents oppose hydraulic fracturing in Maryland, and 36 percent support it. Forty-two percent of Marylanders support a ban on the drilling practice; 39 percent oppose a ban. Fifty-seven percent think the word “fracking” carries a negative connotation.

A majority of Marylanders recognize there are high or moderate levels of hydraulic fracturing that occurs in the neighboring states of Pennsylvania (55 percent) and West Virginia (53 percent).

Residents were then asked their opinions on key economic and environmental concerns in regard to fracking.

- 60 percent agree the gas industry benefits from natural gas extraction at the expense of local communities and citizens; 30 percent disagree.
- 59 percent agree increasing taxes on natural gas drilling will discourage drillers from doing business in the state; 36 percent disagree.
- 59 percent agree natural gas drilling in Maryland poses a major risk to the state's water resources; 31 percent disagree.
- 46 percent agree Maryland has lost out on economic growth to neighboring states because of our state's policies on hydraulic fracturing; 34 percent disagree.

Residents were asked about their perceptions concerning sources of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

- 60 percent view agricultural pollutants as a major source.
- 59 percent view waste water pollutants as a major source.
- 52 percent view fossil fuels pollutants as a major source.
- 35 percent view storm water runoff as a major source.
- 34 percent view home and yard pollutants as a major source.
- 27 percent view sediment from upstream from places such as the Conowingo Dam as a major source.

Marylanders were also asked to weigh in on the much-debated storm water management fee, commonly called the “rain tax.”

About half of the respondents to the survey were given a question with the phrase “rain tax” included. The other half of respondents were given the same questions without the inclusion of the phrase “rain tax.”

For respondents who received the question without “rain tax” included:

- 51 percent oppose residents paying a storm water management fee to offset environmental damage to the Chesapeake Bay caused by runoff from surfaces such as driveways, roofs, and sidewalks; 46 percent support it.

For respondents who received the question with “rain tax” included:

- 62 percent oppose residents paying a storm water management fee—sometimes called the “rain tax”—to offset environmental damage to the Chesapeake Bay caused by runoff from surfaces such as driveways, roofs, and sidewalks; 36 percent support it.

“While most increases or additional fees are met with public scrutiny, few have received the amount of sustained negative attention and public outcry as the storm water management fee,” said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center. “Our results show that residents do not view runoff from their properties as a major source of pollution in the bay. Couple this perception with major tax and fee fatigue among residents and add in the politically savvy labeling of the storm water management fee as a tax on the rain, and you have a major headache for environmentalists and likeminded Democrats in the state.”

## **Marijuana and Heroin**

Fifty-two percent of Marylanders support making the use of marijuana legal in Maryland; 44 percent oppose.

When asked which substance is the most harmful to a person’s overall health, 46 percent say tobacco is the most harmful, followed by alcohol (22 percent), and sugar (13 percent). Eight percent think marijuana is more harmful to a person’s overall health than tobacco, alcohol, or sugar.

Fifty-five percent disagree that marijuana is a “gateway drug”—i.e., it leads to the use of hard drugs; 43 percent of respondents agree.

Nearly three-quarters of Marylanders view heroin as a major problem in Maryland today; 20 percent think it is a minor problem. Less than 1 percent of residents think it is not a problem at all.

Residents were then asked how the state should address heroin abuse in the state:

- 35 percent think the state should focus on arresting and prosecuting heroin dealers.
- 32 percent think the state should focus on treating and rehabilitating heroin users.
- 23 percent think the state should improve heroin awareness and prevention programs.
- 4 percent think the state should focus on arresting and prosecuting heroin users.

## **Vaccines**

Recent reports of measles have heightened nationwide attention on the subject of childhood vaccinations. In general, most Marylanders agree vaccines are effective at preventing disease (95 percent) and that non-vaccinated people pose a public health risk (83 percent). Nearly three-

quarters of respondents think only vaccinated children should be allowed to attend public and private schools.

# GOUCHER POLL

**Results Embargoed Until Wednesday, February 25, at 12:01 a.m.**

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Office: 410-337-6316 / Cell: 443-253-3680

## **About the Goucher Poll**

The Goucher Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center, which is housed in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Goucher College. Directed by 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 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.



The Goucher Poll seeks to improve public discourse in the state by providing neutral and nonbiased information on citizen perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the Goucher Poll are used to support faculty and student research.

## Survey Methodology

To ensure all Maryland citizens 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 Sunday, February 15, to Thursday, February 19, 2015. During this time, interviews were conducted 12-9 p.m. on Sunday and 5-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday. 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. Fifty-two percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 48 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 619 Maryland citizens. For a sample size of 619, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.9 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. Margins of error are higher for subsamples.

## 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 “X”?

**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 interviewee. 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

	MD Population Parameter	Weighted Sample Estimate
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	.48	.49
Female	.52	.51
18 to 24 Years	.13	.12
25 to 34 Years	.18	.18
35 to 44 Years	.17	.17
45 to 54 Years	.20	.20
55 to 64 Years	.16	.17
65 Years and Older	.16	.16
White	.63	.59
Black	.29	.31
Other	.08	.10
Capitol	.36	.36
Central	.46	.46
Eastern	.08	.08
Southern	.06	.06
Western	.04	.04

*Population parameters are based on Census estimates as of July 2011.  
Sample is weighted by age, gender, race, and region.*

### **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

### **Other Sample Demographics**

Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

If respondent indicates he or she is an Independent:

Because you indicated you were an Independent, do you typically lean toward the Republican or Democratic candidate during elections?

<b>Party Identification</b>	
Republican	.26
Democrat	.52
Independent	.10
Other	.08
Don’t Know/Refused (v)	.04

## Survey Results<sup>1</sup>

### Q: IMPISSUE

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

[OPEN ENDED]

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Economy and/or Jobs	23.5
Taxes	19.2
Education	16.0
Budget Deficit	5.8
Crime	5.1
Healthcare	4.6
Drugs	4.2
Environmental Concerns	4.0
Dislike/Complaint About Political Parties/Govt./Govt. Officials	2.6
Affordable Housing/Homelessness	2.2
Guns/Gun Control	1.1
Other:	4.5
Don't Know (v)	7.2
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

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<sup>1</sup> Percent totals may not add up to 100 due to weighting and/or rounding.

**Q: OBAMAJOB**

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

**PROBE**

	<b>MAR 13</b>	<b>OCT 13</b>	<b>MAR 14</b>	<b>SEPT 14</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Disapprove (p)	23.3	22.1	25.4	23.8	22.0
Disapprove	14.4	17.0	14.8	13.3	14.4
Approve	34.6	32.4	31.2	30.9	29.2
Strongly Approve (p)	22.8	22.1	20.9	22.7	27.6
Don't Know (v)	4.6	5.3	7.0	7.4	6.0
Refused (v)	0.4	1.0	0.6	1.8	0.9
Total=	100.0 791 +/-3.4	100.0 665 +/-3.8	100.0 861 +/-3.3	100.0 708 +/-3.7	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: CONGJOB**

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Congress is handling its job?

**PROBE**

	<b>MAR 13</b>	<b>OCT 13</b>	<b>MAR 14</b>	<b>SEPT 14</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Disapprove (p)	57.3	62.3	51.5	45.9	47.2
Disapprove	26.6	29.1	31.4	33.4	33.4
Approve	9.1	4.2	10.0	10.5	12.6
Strongly Approve (p)	0.9	0.5	2.1	3.0	2.5
Don't Know (v)	5.5	3.6	4.5	6.9	3.9
Refused (v)	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3
Total=	100.0 791 +/-3.4	100.0 665 +/-3.8	100.0 861 +/-3.3	100.0 708 +/-3.7	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: HOGANFAV**

Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of Governor Larry Hogan?

**PROBE**

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Very Unfavorable (p)	3.7
Unfavorable	16.9
Favorable	23.8
Very Favorable (p)	9.1
Don't Know (v)	45.3
Refused (v)	1.2
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: HOGANJOB**

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

**PROBE**

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Disapprove (p)	3.7
Disapprove	12.8
Approve	31.5
Strongly Approve (p)	7.7
Don't Know (v)	43.3
Refused (v)	0.9
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: TRACK**

In general, do you think things in the state are [headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track]?

	MAR 13	OCT 13	MAR 14	SEPT 14	FEB 15
Wrong Track	46.8	45.6	51.7	52.0	34.1
Right Direction	43.6	44.7	41.0	37.7	53.5
Don't Know/Refused (v)	9.7	9.7	7.2	10.2	12.4
Total=	100.0 791 +/-3.4	100.0 665 +/-3.8	100.0 861 +/-3.3	100.0 708 +/-3.7	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**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 13	MAR 14	FEB 15
Strongly Disapprove (p)	14.5	15.3	12.7
Disapprove	23.1	21.8	20.6
Approve	32.4	34.0	38.4
Strongly Approve (p)	5.1	5.4	7.2
Don't Know (v)	24.8	23.3	21.0
Refused (v)	0.1	0.3	0.1
Total=	100.0 791 +/-3.4	100.0 861 +/-3.3	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: STINT**

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

	<b>MAR 13</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
None	13.5	8.9
Very Little	19.8	15.6
Some	60.4	66.4
All of the Time	3.7	5.4
Don’t Know (v)	2.1	3.3
Refused (v)	0.4	0.4
Total=	100.0 791 +/-3.4	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: MDCOOP**

Do you think cooperation between the [Republicans and Democrats] in the state government will [increase, decrease, or stay about the same] this year?

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Decrease	21.0
Stay About the Same	52.1
Increase	23.9
Don’t Know (v)	3.0
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9



**Q: WOMENPER**

Taking your best guess, about what percent of the seats in the Maryland General Assembly—the state legislature in Annapolis—are held by women?

**[OPEN-ENDED]**

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Incorrect Response—Underestimates, 0-24 Percent	61.2
Correct Response—25-35 Percent	23.0
Incorrect Response—Overestimates, 36-100 Percent	8.1
Don't Know (v)	7.6
Refused (v)	0.1
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

*Note: 31 percent of the seats in the Maryland General Assembly are held by women.*

**Q: REDISTRRICT**

As you may know, every 10 years Maryland is required to adjust voting districts based on the results of the U.S. Census. I'm going to read you two ways in which the state could determine these district lines; please tell me which one you think is the best approach. . .

**[Statements Rotated]**

#1: A system where districts are determined by the state's elected officials

#2: A system where districts are determined by an independent commission

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Statement #1 (elected officials)	22.5
Statement #2 (independent commission)	72.2
Some Other Opinion/Approach (v)	2.2
Don't Know (v)	3.1
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: CUT**

Similar to your own household budget, sometimes the state has to make tough decisions on how to reduce spending. With this in mind, what is one general area where you think the state should reduce spending?

**[OPEN-ENDED]**

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Government Employee Salaries/Jobs/Benefits	10.2
Entitlements/Welfare/Social Assistance Programs	7.9
Transportation and Infrastructure	7.0
Cut Taxes in General	6.9
Across-the-Board/Cuts to All Spending and/or Programs	4.8
Education	4.4
Police and Prisons	3.6
Corporate/Business Tax Breaks	3.2
Environmental Protection/Cleanup	2.1
Casinos	1.7
Misc./Other	13.4
Don't Know(v)	34.8
Total	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: NOTCUT**

Now, on the other hand, what is one general area where you think the state should not reduce any spending?

**[OPEN-ENDED]**

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Education/Schools	56.8
Transportation/Infrastructure	11.3
Crime Prevention/Police/Public Safety	6.1
Social Services for Children/Elderly/Poor/Disadvantaged	5.5
Public Health/Healthcare	4.4
Environmental Protection	3.9
Retirement/Salaries/Jobs	1.7
Other:	3.4
Don't Know (v)	6.9
Total	100.0 619 +/-3.9

As you may have heard, three Marylanders have expressed interest in running for President of the United States.

[OMALL to CARSON rotated]

**Q: OMALL**

In your opinion, should former Governor Martin O’Malley run for president in 2016?

**Q: EHRlich**

In your opinion, should former Governor Robert Ehrlich run for president in 2016?

**Q: CARSON**

In your opinion, should Ben Carson run for president in 2016?

	O’MALLEY		EHRlich	CARSON
	SEPT 14	FEB 15	FEB 15	FEB 15
No	65.2	60.3	63.6	46.6
Yes	19.2	30.7	22.4	29.7
It Depends (v)	6.7	2.4	2.7	2.4
Don’t Know (v)	8.6	6.4	11.1	21.0
Refused (v)	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3
Total=	100.0 708 +/-3.7	100.0 619 +/-3.9	100.0 619 +/-3.9	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: FRACKSUPP**

Changing topics, do you [**support or oppose**] the extraction of natural gas from shale deposits—known as hydraulic fracturing or fracking—here in Maryland?

**PROBE**

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Oppose (p)	26.1
Oppose	18.9
Support	18.2
Strongly Support (p)	17.6
Don't Know (v)	18.7
Refused (v)	0.5
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: TERM**

In general when you hear the word “fracking” do you consider it a [**positive or negative**] term?

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Negative	57.2
Positive	22.4
Neutral/Neither (v)	10.8
Don't Know (v)	9.5
Refused (v)	0.1
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: PA**

**Q: WV**

Thinking beyond Maryland, in terms of your perception of hydraulic fracturing in [Pennsylvania]/[West Virginia] would you say that there is. . .

#1 A high level of hydraulic fracturing in [Pennsylvania]/[West Virginia]

#2 A moderate level of hydraulic fracturing in [Pennsylvania]/[West Virginia]

#3 Very little hydraulic fracturing in [Pennsylvania]/[West Virginia]

#4 No hydraulic fracturing in [Pennsylvania]/[West Virginia]

	<b>PA</b>	<b>WV</b>
	<b>FEB 15</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
High	21.7	20.2
Moderate	32.9	33.1
Very Little	14.6	15.8
No	2.2	2.5
Don't Know (v)	28.6	28.4
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: BAN**

Would you [support or oppose] a ban on hydraulic fracturing or fracking here in Maryland?

**PROBE**

	<b>SEPT 14</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Oppose (p)	12.8	15.6
Oppose	17.9	23.3
Support	21.7	20.0
Strongly Support (p)	30.4	22.3
Don't Know (v)	16.6	18.5
Refused (v)	0.6	0.3
Total=	100.0 470 +/-4.5	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: BUSINESS**

**Q: WATER**

**Q: COMM**

**Q: GROWTH**

Now, I'm going to read you a list of statements regarding natural gas and fracking. For each statement I read, please tell me if you [agree or disagree] with it. . .

**PROBE**

**[Statements Rotated]**

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>DK/ REF</b>
Increasing taxes on natural gas drilling in Maryland will discourage drillers from doing business in the state.	10.3	25.8	37.7	21.4	4.7
Natural gas drilling in Maryland poses a major risk to the state's water resources.	10.3	20.6	29.4	29.2	10.6
The gas industry benefits from natural gas extraction at the expense of local communities and citizens.	10.9	19.0	33.5	26.4	10.3
Maryland has lost out on economic growth to neighboring states because of our state's policies on hydraulic fracturing.	12.2	21.5	31.5	14.5	20.3

Total=619, +/-3.9

**Q: POTLEG**

Changing topics, I'm going to ask you a few questions about drugs. In general, do you [**support or oppose**] making the use of marijuana legal in Maryland?

**PROBE**

	<b>OCT 13</b>	<b>MAR 14</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Oppose (p)	19.5	24.4	24.0
Oppose	20.8	15.0	19.9
Support	25.9	25.6	26.7
Strongly Support (p)	25.0	24.5	25.5
Don't Know (v)	7.5	9.8	3.9
Refused (v)	1.3	0.7	0.1
Total=	100.0 665 +/-3.8)	100.0 861 +/-3.3	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: POTHARM**

Thinking generally, which of the following substances would you say is the most harmful to a person's overall health: [**tobacco, alcohol, sugar, or marijuana**]?

If "all" or combination follow-up: "Now, if you had to choose just one, which substance would you say is the most harmful?"

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Tobacco	46.2
Alcohol	22.4
Sugar	13.2
Marijuana	7.8
Combination/Some Other Response	9.0
Don't Know (v)	0.7
Refused (v)	0.7
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9



**Q: POTHARD**

Do you [**agree or disagree**] that marijuana is a “gateway drug”—in that it leads to the use of hard drugs?

**PROBE**

	<b>MAR 14</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Disagree	26.3	27.5
Disagree	25.9	27.0
Agree	20.1	20.6
Strongly Agree	19.2	21.9
Don't Know (v)	8.0	2.9
Refused (v)	0.5	0.1
Total=	100.0 861 +/-3.3	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: HEROIN1**

In your opinion, is heroin use a [**major problem, minor problem, or not a problem**] in Maryland today?

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Not a Problem	0.7
Minor Problem	20.2
Major Problem	73.5
Don't Know (v)	5.6
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: HEROIN2**

There are a number of ways the state could address heroin abuse—on which one of the following do you think the state should focus its funding and efforts?

**[Statements Rotated]**

- #1 Treating and rehabilitating heroin users
- #2 Arresting and prosecuting heroin dealers
- #3 Arresting and prosecuting heroin users
- #4 Improving heroin awareness and prevention programs

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Arresting and Prosecuting Heroin Dealers	34.7
Treating and Rehabilitating Heroin Users	31.9
Improving Heroin Awareness and Prevention Programs	23.0
Arresting and Prosecuting Heroin Users	4.2
Some Other Opinion/Combination (v)	5.7
Don't Know (v)	0.5
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: START**

Next, as you may have heard, there is a proposal to move the official start date of Maryland public schools to after Labor Day Weekend. Do you [**support or oppose**] this proposal?

**PROBE**

	<b>SEPT 14</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Oppose (p)	8.4	7.4
Oppose	8.6	11.2
Support	30.3	33.7
Strongly Support (p)	41.0	38.3
Don't Know (v)	11.2	9.0
Refused (v)	0.4	0.4
Total=	100.0 708 +/-3.7	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Respondents who answered “Don’t Know” or “Refused” were not asked STARTSUP or STARTOPP.**

**If respondent answered “Strongly Support” or “Support” to START:**

**Q: STARTSUP**

Because you said you supported moving the official start date of Maryland public schools to after Labor Day weekend, can you tell me the main reason for your support?

**[OPEN-ENDED]**

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Before Labor Day Start Is Disruptive and/or “Doesn’t Make Sense”	19.6
Benefits Students	18.4
Benefits Families	18.3
“The Way It Always Was”/Nostalgia	14.7
Economic Reasons	10.2
Vacation-Related Reasons	8.1
Benefits Teachers	3.5
Other	3.9
Don’t Know (v)	2.9
Refused (v)	0.3
Total=	100.0 446 +/-4.6

**If respondent answered “Strongly Oppose” or “Oppose” to START:**

**Q: STARTOPP\***

Because you said you opposed moving the official start date of Maryland public schools to after Labor Day weekend, can you tell me the main reason for your opposition?

**[OPEN-ENDED]**

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Pushes End Date of School Too Far in June	26.6
Hurts Students	20.3
Change Not Needed/ Would Be Disruptive	13.3
More School Is Better/Summer Too Long	12.8
Family/Child Care Issues	7.4
Hurts Teachers	8.8
Economic Reasons	2.1
Other	6.5
Don't Know (v)	2.2
Total=	100.0 116 +/-8.9

**\*NOTE: There are 116 responses to STARTOPP (due to the number of respondents who indicated they opposed the post-Labor Day start date). The margin of error for a subsample of 116 is +/-8.9.**

**Q: TRANSFOCUS**

Next, I'm going to read you two statements about where the state government should focus its spending in regard to transportation in the state. Please tell me which one comes closest to your opinion:

**[Statements Rotated]**

Statement #1: The state government should focus more on improving roads and highways.

Statement #2: The state government should focus more on improving public transportation.

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Statement #1 (roads and highways)	50.0
Statement #2 (public transportation)	45.1
Some Other Opinion/Focus on Both (v)	4.4
Don't Know (v)	0.5
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: REDLINE1**

How much have you heard—[a lot, some, a little, or nothing at all]—about the proposed Red Line public transportation project in Baltimore?

**Q: PURPLELINE1**

How much have you heard—[a lot, some, a little, or nothing at all]—about the Purple Line public transportation project in the Washington, DC, suburbs?

	<b>RED LINE</b>	<b>PURPLE LINE</b>
	<b>FEB 15</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
Nothing at All	51.9	52.8
A Little	30.0	22.0
Some	11.8	9.0
A lot	5.6	14.6
Don't Know (v)	0.7	1.6
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9	100.0 619 +/-3.9

Respondents who answered “Nothing at All,” “Don’t Know,” or “Refused” were not read **REDLINE2** or **PURPLELINE2**.

**Q: REDLINE2**

Because you said you have heard of the Red Line, do you [**support or oppose**] its construction?

**Q: PURPLELINE2**

Because you said you have heard of the Purple Line, do you [**support or oppose**] its construction?

**PROBE**

	<b>RED LINE</b>	<b>PURPLE LINE</b>
	<b>FEB 15</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Oppose (p)	6.9	4.3
Oppose	6.7	9.3
Support	41.4	39.0
Strongly Support (p)	22.8	31.2
Don't Know (v)	22.2	16.2
Total=	100.0 294 +/-5.7	100.0 282 +/-5.8



**Q: SICK**

Next, I want to ask you about some other policies being discussed by the state legislature. Do you [**support or oppose**] requiring businesses with staffs of 10 or more people to offer employees an hour of sick leave for every 30 hours they work?

**PROBE**

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Oppose (p)	8.9
Oppose	12.5
Support	33.7
Strongly Support (p)	40.9
Don't Know (v)	3.7
Refused (v)	0.3
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**SPLIT SAMPLE**

**Half of respondents randomly received STORM.**

**Half of respondents randomly received RAIN.**

**Q: STORM**

Do you [**support or oppose**] Maryland residents paying a storm water management fee to offset the cost of environmental damage to the Chesapeake Bay caused by runoff from surfaces such as driveways, roofs, and sidewalks?

**Q: RAIN**

Do you [**support or oppose**] Maryland residents paying a storm water management fee—*sometimes called the “rain tax”*— to offset the cost of environmental damage to the Chesapeake Bay caused by runoff from surfaces such as driveways, roofs, and sidewalks?

	<b>STORM</b>	<b>RAIN</b>
	<b>FEB 15</b>	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Oppose (p)	29.6	41.4
Oppose	21.0	20.1
Support	25.8	19.7
Strongly Support (p)	20.1	15.8
Don't Know (v)	3.0	2.6
Refused (v)	0.5	0.4
Total=	100.0 314 +/-5.5	100.0 305 +/-5.6

**Q: TERMINAL**

As you may have heard, a policy recently was proposed that would allow terminally ill patients to obtain a prescription for a fatal dose of drugs from a willing doctor. To be eligible, these patients would have to be diagnosed as having less than six months to live, be mentally competent, and self-administer the drugs. Do you [**oppose or support**] this policy?

**PROBE**

	<b>FEB 15</b>
Strongly Oppose (p)	23.4
Oppose	11.9
Support	31.7
Strongly Support (p)	28.0
Don't Know (v)	4.1
Refused (v)	0.9
Total=	100.0 619 +/-3.9

**Q: PREVENT**

**Q: RISK**

**Q: VAXKIDS**

Next, changing topics, I'm going to read you some statements about vaccines. As I read each one, please tell whether you [**agree or disagree**] with it. . .

**PROBE**

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>DK/ REF</b>
Vaccines are effective at preventing diseases.	1.3	2.2	36.1	59.2	1.2
Non-vaccinated people pose a public health risk.	4.7	10.5	33.6	49.5	1.7
Only vaccinated children should be allowed to attend public and private schools.	9.5	14.0	30.9	43.2	2.4

Total=619, +/-3.9

- Q: AG**
- Q: STORMWTR**
- Q: WASTE**
- Q: FUELS**
- Q: HOME**
- Q: DAM**

Next, I'd like to ask you about sources of pollution. As I read each one, please tell me whether it is a [**major, minor, or not**] a source of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

**[Statements Rotated]**

	<b>Not</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>DK/ REF</b>
Agricultural Pollutants—Such as Animal Manure or Excess Fertilizer Applied to Crops and Fields	6.8	30.9	59.7	2.6
Wastewater Pollutants—Such as the Discharge From Sewer and Septic Systems	3.8	33.8	59.3	3.1
Fossil Fuel Sources—Such as Electric Power Generation, Industry, or Transportation Emissions	7.9	35.6	52.2	4.3
Storm Water Pollutants—Such as the Runoff From Surfaces Like Roofs, Sidewalks, or Roads	11.0	51.7	34.9	2.4
Home and Yard Pollutants—Such as Fertilizers and Yard and Pet Waste	11.4	51.8	34.2	2.6
Sediment From Upstream—From Sources Such as the Conowingo Dam	11.5	44.8	27.1	16.6

Total=619, +/-3.9