



**Results Embargoed Until Tuesday, October 6 at 12:01AM**

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*Clinton Leads Rivals among Maryland Democratic Primary Voters*

**Baltimore**—The Goucher Poll asked Maryland Democratic voters for their opinions regarding candidates for the Democratic presidential primary.

If the Democratic primary were held today, 43 percent of Maryland Democrats say they would vote for Hillary Clinton, 23 percent for Joe Biden, and 17 percent for Bernie Sanders. Mirroring nationwide polling, two percent of Maryland Democratic voters would support former Governor Martin O’Malley’s bid for the Democratic nomination.

Respondents were also asked who they think will win the nomination, regardless of who they personally support. Fifty-four percent of Maryland Democrats think Hillary Clinton will win, 14 percent think Joe Biden will win, and eight percent think Bernie Sanders will win.

When asked for the most important issue in determining their vote, 33 percent say economy, budget, or tax issues; 13 percent say international affairs or foreign policy; seven percent say women’s issues; and six percent say education.

“The gains Bernie Sanders made with Democratic voters in New Hampshire and Iowa are not reflected in Maryland. Hillary Clinton remains the clear front-runner, even with the undeclared Joe Biden in the mix,” said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. “Although Martin O’Malley was a popular two-term governor among Democrats in the state, his campaign’s difficulties in gaining traction nationwide are reflected in Maryland.”

# 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, 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 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 Saturday, September 26, to Thursday, October 1, 2015. During this time, interviews were conducted 10a.m-7p.m on Saturday, 12-9 p.m. on Sunday and 5-9 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. 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-four percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 45 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 880 Maryland residents, of these residents 739 indicated they were registered to vote in Maryland. For a sample size of 880, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.3 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. For sample size of 739 registered voters, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.6 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 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.

**Sample Demographics (in percent)**

	MD Adult Population Parameter	Weighted Sample Estimate (N=880)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	48	50
Female	52	50
<b>Age</b>		
18 to 24	13	11
25 to 34	18	18
35 to 44	17	17
45 to 54	20	21
55 to 64	17	16
65+	16	17
<b>Race</b>		
White	63	61
Black	29	30
Other	8	9
<b>Region</b>		
Capitol	36	30
Central	46	53
Eastern	8	6
Southern	6	6
Western	4	5

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

**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 **880** Maryland residents surveyed, **739** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e. independent).

**Maryland Voter Registration (in percent)**

	MD Board of Elections Registration (April 2015)	Weighted Sample Estimate (N=739)
Democratic Party	54	50
Republican Party	26	29
Unaffiliated (Independent)	18	18
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	2	3

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

**Sample Demographics of Registered Voters (in percent)**

	MD Adult Population Parameter	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters Only (N=739)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	48	50
Female	52	50
<b>Age</b>		
18 to 24	13	10
25 to 34	18	18
35 to 44	17	16
45 to 54	20	21
55 to 64	17	17
65+	16	18
<b>Race</b>		
White	63	63
Black	29	29
Other	8	8
<b>Region</b>		
Capitol	36	30
Central	46	54
Eastern	8	6
Southern	6	5
Western	4	5

**Survey Results**

- Of the 739 Maryland registered voters, 373 indicated they were registered with the Democratic Party; results below are of **registered Democrats only**.
- Results in percent. Percent totals may not add up to 100 due to weighting and/or rounding.

**Q: PRIMINT**

As you know, Maryland primary elections for US President and a US Senate seat will be held in April 2016.

How interested would you say you are in these primary elections: **extremely interested, very interested, somewhat interested, or not very interested?**

	<b>OCT 15</b>
Not very interested	6
Somewhat interested	19
Very interested	41
Extremely interested	33
Don't Know (v)	1
Total=	373 +/-5.1



**Q: PRIM14**

Thinking back to the last statewide primary election in 2014, did you vote in the 2014 Maryland primary elections?

If “Yes”: Did you vote in the Republican or Democratic Primary?

**Q: PRIM12**

Now, thinking back to the last presidential primary elections in 2012, did you vote in the 2012 Maryland presidential primary elections?

If “Yes”: Did you vote in the Republican or Democratic Primary?

	<b>2014 Primary</b>	<b>2012 Primary</b>
Yes, voted in Democratic primary	75	80
No, did not vote in Democratic primary	23	18
Don't know / Can't remember (v)	2	2
Total=	373 +/-5.1	373 +/-5.1

**Q: LV**

Which of the following statements best describes you. . .(response options read to respondent)

1. I will probably **NOT** vote in the 2016 Maryland primary elections.
2. I **MAY** vote in the 2016 primary election,
3. Unless some emergency comes up, I **WILL** vote in the 2016 primary election,
4. I will **DEFINITELY** vote in the 2016 Primary election, or
5. I just don't know at this time

	<b>OCT 15</b>
Will NOT vote	2
MAY vote	7
WILL vote	16
Will DEFINITELY vote	68
Just don't know at this time	7
Refused (v)	373 +/-5.1

**Respondents who indicated they will not vote, just don't know at this time, or refused, were not asked PLAN.**

**Q: PLAN**

As of right now, which primary do you plan on voting in for the 2016 Maryland primary elections in April—the Republican or the Democratic?

	<b>OCT 15</b>
Confirms Democratic primary	88
Republican primary	3
Not sure / It depends / Don't know (v)	8
Refused (v)	1
Total=	339 +/-5.3

Maryland Democratic Primary Voter Screen

To receive DEMPREZ and DEMWIN, respondent must indicate the following:

- Currently a registered Democrat
- May, will, or will definitely vote in the 2016 primary election
- Confirms they plan to vote in the Democratic primary in 2016

**Q: DEMPRESZ**

I'm going to read you the names of the candidates who are either running or considering running for the Democratic presidential nomination.

If the Democratic primary for president were held today, which of the following would you support for the Democratic nomination . . . **[Candidates Rotated]** [Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, Martin O'Malley, Lincoln Chafee, or Jim Webb]

	<b>OCT 15</b>
Hillary Clinton	43
Joe Biden	23
Bernie Sanders	17
Martin O'Malley	2
Jim Webb	2
Lincoln Chafee	0
Other/Someone else:	1
Not sure/undecided (v)	11
Refused (v)	1
Total=	300 +/-5.7

**Q: DEMWIN**

Regardless of who you would personally like to win the Democratic primary, who do you think will win the nomination?

	<b>OCT 15</b>
Hillary Clinton	54
Joe Biden	14
Bernie Sanders	8
Martin O'Malley	4
Jim Webb	0
Lincoln Chafee	0
Other/Someone else:	1
Not sure/undecided (v)	18
Refused (v)	1
Total=	300 +/-5.7

**Q: PREZIMP**

There are many important issues facing the country today. For you, what issue is the most important in determining your vote in the presidential primary?

**[OPEN-ENDED]**

	<b>OCT 15</b>
Economy / Budget / Taxes	33
International Affairs / Foreign Policy	13
Women's Issues	7
Education	6
Health care Issues	5
Environment	4
Immigration	4
Race and Civil Rights Issues	3
Crime and Guns	3
Other:	12
Don't Know / No Response (v)	10
Total=	300 +/-5.7