



**Results Embargoed Until Monday, September 26 at 12:01AM**

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***Hogan Remains Popular; Marylanders Divided on Fracking Ban***

**Baltimore**—The Goucher Poll asked Maryland residents about their opinions toward Governor Larry Hogan; the most important issue facing the state; perceptions toward state government structure and process; the post-Labor Day start to Maryland public schools; concern toward the Zika virus; and hydraulic fracturing. The Goucher Poll surveyed 668 Maryland residents from September 17-20 and has a margin of error of +/-3.8 percent.

**Residents Supportive of Governor Hogan and Optimistic on Direction of the State**

When asked about the most important issue facing the state, residents chose education (22 percent), economic growth and development (13 percent), and jobs and unemployment (10 percent). The trend of optimism about the direction of the state continues; 65 percent think the state is heading in the right direction.

Governor Larry Hogan remains popular in Maryland. Seventy percent approve of the job he is doing as governor, 12 percent disapprove, and 17 percent don't know. Residents were also probed on the main reason why they either approved or disapproved of the job Hogan is doing.

Top reasons for approval among those who approve:

- 41 percent say his leadership and/or how he runs the government
- 12 percent say they like him personally or his personal attributes
- 11 percent say he either has or will lower taxes/tolls/fees

Top reasons for disapproval among those who disapprove:

- 33 percent say he hasn't done enough or the right things
- 26 percent say his handling of education or education-related issues
- 11 percent say his handling of public transportation or transportation issues

Hogan's public decision not to endorse or vote for presidential candidate Donald Trump appears to be a good move in the eyes of many Marylanders. Forty-four percent of Marylanders say his decision not to vote for Trump changes their opinion of the governor for the better, 50 percent say it makes no difference, and only 5 percent say it made their opinion of Hogan worse.

### **Cooperation and Divided Government**

When there is a lack of cooperation in state politics, the majority of residents (67 percent) hold both Governor Hogan and the Democratic leadership in Maryland equally responsible. Eight percent say they typically hold Hogan responsible and 18 percent say they hold the Democratic leadership in Maryland responsible.

Fifty percent of residents think government works better when the governor is from the same political party that controls the state legislature and 21 percent of residents think that government works better if the governor is from a different party than the one which controls the state legislature. Seventeen percent volunteered that it either "doesn't make a difference" or "it depends on the party."

### **Executive Orders and the Post-Labor Day Start**

On August 31, Governor Hogan signed an executive order moving the official start date of Maryland public schools until after the Labor Day Weekend. The Goucher Poll has asked about this issue in previous polls, when it was a proposal spearheaded by Comptroller Peter Franchot.

Fifty-four percent of residents think that governors should rarely or never use executive orders to put regulations into effect without approval from the state legislature; 41 percent think governors should use them sometimes or frequently.

Respondents were randomly assigned different versions of a question gauging opinions toward starting school after Labor Day. One version informed the respondent that the official move to a post-Labor Day start was the result of an executive order and the other did not. There was no statistical difference between the results of the two questions.

- 67 support the executive order that moved the official start date to Maryland public schools until after Labor Day Weekend.
- 68 support the move of the official start date to Maryland public schools until after Labor Day Weekend.

*"Nearly a month after Governor Hogan's executive order and heightened public criticism from key lawmakers and education advocates, as well as recent questions concerning the legality of the executive order from the Maryland Attorney General's Office, a post-Labor Day start for Maryland public schools remains popular with the general public." said Dr. Mileah Kromer, Director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center. "This issue highlights larger questions concerning executive control and power during a time of divided government in Maryland."*

## **Fracking**

In 2017, the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in Maryland is set to expire. The Maryland General Assembly may consider a measure to place a permanent ban on the natural gas extraction method during the upcoming legislative session.

Half of Marylanders indicate they have heard “some” or “a lot” about hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, while 47 percent say they have heard “nothing” or “only a little” about it.

Individuals who indicated they had heard at least “a little” about fracking were asked whether the state should ban the drilling practice in the state. Residents were divided on the issue—43 percent support a ban, 32 oppose it, and 24 percent don’t know whether the state should ban fracking.

## **Concerns over the Zika Virus**

Thirty-six percent of Maryland residents are “not at all” or “a little” concerned over an outbreak of a disease like the Zika virus and 64 percent are “somewhat” or “very” concerned. In October 2014, the Goucher Poll found similar levels of concern when residents were asked about Ebola—66 percent were “very” or “somewhat” concerned over the outbreak of a disease like Ebola.

## **President Barack Obama and Congress**

President Obama’s job approval ratings among Marylanders have remained consistent during the final stretch of his time in office. Sixty-six percent of Maryland residents approve of the job he is doing, while 29 percent disapprove. Marylanders continue to express their disapproval with Congress; 80 percent disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job.

# 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 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, nonbiased, and independent 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 17, to Tuesday, September 20, 2016. During this time, interviews were conducted 12p.m-9p.m on Saturday and Sunday and 5-9 p.m. and 5-9 p.m Monday and Tuesday. 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. Sixty-four percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 36 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 668 Maryland residents. For a sample size of 668, 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.

## 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)**

	<b>Maryland Adult Population Parameter (Census Estimates)</b>	<b>Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Adults (N=668)</b>	<b>Maryland Registered Voters (N=585)</b>
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	48	48	48
Female	52	52	52
<b>Age</b>			
18 to 24	13	13	11
25 to 34	18	17	16
35 to 44	17	17	17
45 to 54	20	21	21
55 to 64	17	17	18
65+	16	16	17
<b>Race</b>			
White	63	59	61
Black	29	32	31
Other	8	9	8
<b>Region</b>			
Capitol	36	36	36
Central	46	46	47
Eastern	8	7	7
Southern	6	6	6
Western	4	5	4

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 **668** Maryland residents surveyed, **585** 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 2016)	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters (N=585)
Democratic Party	55	57
Republican Party	26	24
Unaffiliated (Independent)	17	15
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	1	4
Total=	100	100 +/-4.0

*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 **668 Maryland adults**. Results are in percent and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding. **Please see our release from Thursday, September 22 for our likely voter (US Senate and US Presidential) poll.**

**Q: IMPISSUE**

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

**[OPEN-ENDED]**

	<b>FEB 16</b>
Education	22
Economy/economic growth/development	13
Job growth/unemployment	10
Crime/criminal justice or police	9
Taxes	8
Environmental issues or concerns	4
Immigration issues	3
Healthcare	3
Transportation/infrastructure	3
Drugs (i.e. heroin)	3
Budget deficit	2
Guns/gun control	2
Politicians in office/how government runs	2
Race and racial inequality	1
Other:	5
<b>Don't Know / Refused (v)</b>	10
<b>Total=</b>	<b>668 +/-3.8</b>

**Q: OBAMAJOB**

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

**PROBE**

	<b>OCT 13</b>	<b>SEPT 14</b>	<b>OCT 15</b>	<b>SEPT 16</b>
Strongly disapprove (p)	22	24	26	19
Disapprove	17	13	12	10
Approve	32	31	25	31
Strongly approve (p)	22	23	28	35
Don't know (v)	5	7	7	5
Refused (v)	1	2	1	1
Total=	665 +/-3.8	708 +/-3.7	636 +/-3.9	668 +/-3.8

**Q: CONGJOB**

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

**PROBE**

	<b>OCT 13</b>	<b>SEPT 14</b>	<b>OCT 15</b>	<b>SEPT 16</b>
Strongly disapprove (p)	62	46	54	47
Disapprove	29	33	29	33
Approve	4	11	8	11
Strongly approve (p)	1	3	1	2
Don't know (v)	4	7	7	7
Refused (v)	1	4	1	1
Total=	665 +/-3.8	708 +/-3.7	636 +/-3.9	668 +/-3.8

**Q: HOGANJOB**

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

**PROBE**

	<b>FEB 15</b>	<b>OCT 15</b>	<b>FEB 16</b>	<b>SEPT 16</b>
Strongly disapprove (p)	4	3	4	3
Disapprove	13	15	13	9
Approve	32	42	43	45
Strongly approve (p)	8	16	20	25
Don't know (v)	43	23	21	17
Refused (v)	1	1	0	1
Total=	619 +/-3.9	636 +/-3.9	545 +/-4.2	668 +/-3.8

Respondents who indicate they “don’t know” or “refused” were skipped to ENDORSE.

If respondent indicates they “strongly approve” or “approve” they received:

**Q: HOGANAPP**

Since you said you **approve** of the job Larry Hogan is doing as governor, what would you say is the main reason for your approval?

**[OPEN-ENDED]**

	<b>SEPT 16</b>
His leadership/how he runs government	41
His personal attributes/like him personally	12
He lowered/will lower taxes/tolls	11
How he handles the economy/budget/state finances	9
How he handles education/education issues	9
Other	9
Don't know/Refused (v)	9
Total=	468 +/-4.5

If respondent indicates they “strongly disapprove” or “disapprove” they received:

**Please note that 79 respondents received this question. The margin of error for this question is +/-11.3.**

**Q: HOGANDIS**

Since you said you **disapprove** of the job Larry Hogan is doing as governor, what would you say is the main reason for your disapproval?

**[OPEN-ENDED]**

	<b>SEPT 16</b>
He hasn't done enough or the right things	33
How he handles education/education issues	26
How he handles public transportation issues	11
Lack of care about Baltimore/other specific geographic areas	9
He is a Republican or conservative	2
Other	8
Don't know / Refused (v)	12
Total=	79 +/-11.3

**Q: ENDORSE**

As you may have heard, Governor Larry Hogan has decided not to endorse or vote for presidential candidate Donald Trump. Does this decision change your opinion of Governor Hogan for [the better, the worse, or does it make no difference to you]?

	<b>SEPT 16</b>
Worse	5
No Difference	50
Better	44
Don't know (v)	1
Total=	668 +/-3.8

**Q: TRACK**

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

	OCT 13	SEPT 14	OCT 15	SEPT 16
Wrong track	46	52	33	19
Right direction	45	38	56	65
Don't know/Refused (v)	10	10	11	17
Total=	665 +/-3.8	708 +/-3.7	636 +/-3.9	668 +/-3.8

**[EXEC to ENDORSE Rotated]****Q: EXEC**

As you may know, an executive order is something done by a governor that can put some regulations into effect without approval from the state legislature. Thinking generally, how often—[never, rarely, sometimes, or frequently]—do you think governors should use executive orders?

	SEPT 16
Never	6
Rarely	48
Sometimes	33
Frequently	8
Don't know (v)	5
Total=	668 +/-3.8

**Q: LACK**

Okay, when there is a lack of cooperation in state government, who do you typically view as more responsible—[**Governor Larry Hogan OR the Democratic leadership in Maryland**] or are they equally as responsible?

	<b>SEPT 16</b>
Governor Larry Hogan	8
Democratic Leadership	18
Equally as responsible	67
Don't know/Refused (v)	7
Total=	668 +/-3.8

**Q: DIVIDED**

Does state government typically work better when **the governor is from [the/a same OR different political party than/as] the party that controls the state legislature?**

	<b>SEPT 16</b>
Same as legislature (one-party government)	50
Different than legislature (divided government)	21
Makes no difference / Depends (v)	17
Don't know / Refused (v)	12
Total=	668 +/-3.8

**Q: POLICYINT**

Next, I'm going to ask you about a few policies and issues. . .

**SPLIT SAMPLE**

- ½ of respondents receive START1
- ½ of respondents receive START2

**Note: SEPT16ALL combines the responses from START1 and START2.**

**Q: START1**

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

**Q: START2**

Next, as you may have heard, an executive order moved the official start of Maryland public schools to after Labor Day Weekend beginning next year. Do you [support or oppose] this executive order? **PROBE**

	<b>FEB 15</b>	<b>OCT 15</b>	<b>SEPT 16 START1</b>	<b>SEPT 16 START2</b>	<b>SEPT 16 ALL</b>
Strongly oppose (p)	7	9	6	9	7
Oppose	11	10	9	16	12
Support	34	31	32	30	31
Strongly support (p)	38	41	36	37	37
Don't know (v)	9	7	17	7	12
Refused (v)	1	1	0	1	1
Total=	619 +/-3.9	636 +/-3.9	345 +/-5.3	322 +/-5.5	668 +/-3.8

**Note: FEB15 and OCT15 question wording**—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**

**Q: OUTBREAK**

Is the outbreak of a disease—like the Zika virus—in the United States something that you are [very, somewhat, a little, or not at all] concerned about?

	<b>OCT 14</b>	<b>SEPT 16</b>
Not at all concerned	15	14
A little concerned	18	22
Somewhat concerned	26	32
Very concerned	40	32
Don't know (v)	1	0
Refused (v)	0	0
Total=	708 +/-3.7	668 +/-3.8

Note: **OCT14** question wording—Changing subjects, is the outbreak of a disease—like Ebola—in the United States something you are [very, somewhat, a little, or not at all] concerned about?

**Q: FRACK1**

How much have you heard—[a lot, some, little or nothing at all]—about hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking?

	OCT 14	SEPT 16
Nothing at all	34	21
A little	19	26
Some	15	21
A lot	28	29
Don't know (v)	5	3
Refused (v)	1	0
Total=	708 +/-3.7	668 +/-3.8

If respondent indicated they knew “**nothing at all**,” “**don't know**,” or “**refused**” they were not given **FRACK2**.

**Q: FRACK2**

Do you [support or oppose] a ban on hydraulic fracturing in Maryland?

**PROBE**

	OCT 14	SEPT 16
Strongly oppose (p)	13	11
Oppose	18	21
Support	22	21
Strongly support (p)	30	22
Don't know (v)	17	24
Refused (v)	1	1
Total=	470 +/-4.5	504 +/-4.4

NOTE: **OCT14** question wording—Would you [support or oppose] a ban on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, here in Maryland? **PRO**

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			Gender		Age			Race		
	Dem (n=331)	Ind (n=91)	Rep (n=143)	Male (n=320)	Female (n=348)	18-34 (n=198)	35-54 (n=250)	55+ (n=210)	White (n=390)	Black (n=215)	Other (n=63)
<b>Obama Approval</b>											
Disapprove	11	36	73	33	24	16	30	38	42	6	22
Approve	85	57	20	58	72	78	61	59	51	90	70
<b>Congress Approval</b>											
Disapprove	81	83	82	87	72	75	77	87	83	78	66
Approve	14	6	12	6	18	18	14	6	10	14	19
<b>Hogan Approval</b>											
Disapprove	15	8	6	12	12	18	10	10	13	12	10
Approve	69	78	85	72	69	59	76	74	72	68	67
<b>Hogan on Trump</b>											
Worse	2	3	13	7	3	5	2	9	7	1	6
No difference	39	54	67	50	50	48	50	51	47	52	56
Better	59	42	20	43	45	46	47	40	45	44	36
<b>Direction of State</b>											
Wrong Track	14	18	25	18	20	23	18	16	18	21	18
Right Direction	67	69	61	66	63	62	65	67	67	58	70
<b>Use of Exec Orders</b>											
Never or Rarely	51	62	61	55	53	55	56	50	60	46	46
Sometimes or Frequently	43	32	37	39	43	42	38	44	36	50	48
<b>Lack of Cooperation</b>											
Governor Larry Hogan	10	8	8	8	9	8	7	11	10	8	5
Democratic Leadership	8	27	38	21	15	7	20	25	26	7	11
Equally as responsible	77	56	49	65	69	80	67	56	58	79	84

	Registered Voters			Gender		Age			Race		
	Dem (n=331)	Ind (n=91)	Rep (n=143)	Male (n=320)	Female (n=348)	18-34 (n=198)	35-54 (n=250)	55+ (n=210)	White (n=390)	Black (n=215)	Other (n=63)
<b>Divided/one-party</b>											
Gov from same party	57	40	43	46	53	57	44	49	48	56	39
Gov from diff party	16	24	30	28	15	16	29	17	23	15	32
No difference/depends	15	30	20	15	20	15	17	20	20	13	21
<b>Post-Labor Day Start (all)</b>											
Oppose	20	21	19	20	19	29	16	15	20	18	21
Support	68	62	72	63	72	54	74	73	67	68	70
<b>Concern over Zika</b>											
Not or a Little	29	46	40	44	28	44	36	28	37	35	32
Somewhat or Very	71	54	59	56	71	56	63	72	63	65	68
<b>Fracking Attention</b>											
Nothing or A little	47	48	37	40	54	59	47	37	35	67	53
Some or A lot	51	49	61	57	42	38	49	60	63	27	45
<b>Fracking ban</b>											
Oppose	25	23	58	42	23	35	32	33	36	27	28
Support	51	49	20	41	44	43	43	42	45	37	40
Don't Know	24	27	20	15	32	20	26	25	19	36	33