



Results Embargoed Until Monday, September 25, 2017 at 12:01am

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Governor Hogan maintains strong approval ratings; Marylanders have a positive view of Maryland's economic situation

Baltimore— The Goucher Poll asked Maryland residents about their opinions toward Governor Larry Hogan, the direction of the state, President Donald Trump and Congress. The Goucher Poll surveyed 671 Maryland residents from September 14-17 and has a margin of error of +/-3.8 percent.

Governor Larry Hogan

Governor Hogan's standing with Marylanders remains unchanged since the February 2017 Goucher Poll. Sixty-two percent of Marylanders approve of the job Larry Hogan is doing as governor, 16 percent disapprove, and 20 percent say they don't know. His highest approval rating measured by the Goucher Poll—70 percent—was registered September 2016.

Maryland residents were asked several additional questions about Governor Larry Hogan including his ideological leanings, whether he represents the future or the past of the Republican Party, and his distance from President Trump.

Forty-seven percent of Marylanders think that Governor Hogan is a moderate, while 31 percent see him as a conservative and 7 percent view the Governor as a liberal.

When asked if Governor Hogan represents the Republican Party of the past or future, 44 percent of Marylanders said he represents the future Republican Party, while 24 percent believe the Governor represents the Republican Party of the past.

Forty-three percent of respondents suggested that Hogan has distanced himself "about the right amount" from President Trump. Twenty-seven percent of respondents believe Governor Hogan has distanced himself too little from the President, and eleven percent think he has distanced himself too much.

Marylanders who indicated that they were interested in the 2018 election and registered to vote in the state were asked whether they would vote to reelect Governor Hogan. A majority of Marylanders—51 percent—say they are leaning toward voting to reelect Governor Hogan or will definitely vote to reelect Governor Hogan. Forty-two percent say they are leaning toward or would definitely vote for another candidate in the 2018 gubernatorial election.

These Maryland voters were asked about the single most important issue for determining their choice for governor, 28 percent say economy and jobs, 21 percent say education, and 12 percent say taxes or health care.

“Governor Larry Hogan has now maintained his 60-plus approval rating since February 2016,” said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center. *“His more recent public distancing from President Donald Trump’s policies on issues like healthcare and immigration have likely helped to maintain his approval ratings among Democrats and Independents—both of which he’ll need to do well with if he wants to become the second two-term Republican governor in Maryland’s history.”*

The Most Important Issues facing Maryland, Direction of the State, and the Current Economic Situation

Twenty-four percent of Marylanders identified economic issues—including jobs, taxes, economic growth, and the budget—and 14 percent identified education as the most important issues facing Maryland today.

Fifty-five percent say Maryland is heading in the right direction and 31 percent say Maryland is off on the wrong track. While opinion about the direction of the state remains positive, that has diminished since this time last year, when 65 percent of Marylanders said the state was going in the right direction.

Fifty-seven percent of residents have a mostly positive view of the current economic situation in Maryland, 33 percent have a mostly negative view, and 10 percent don’t know.

President Donald Trump and the US Congress

Twenty-five percent of Marylanders approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President of the United States and 71 percent disapprove. In February 2017, President Trump’s approval rating in Maryland was 29 percent.

Congress continues to earn poor job approval ratings from Marylanders. Only 8 percent approve of the job Congress is doing while 86 disapprove.

“The President has maintained his popularity among Maryland Republicans since the February Goucher Poll,” said Kromer, *“but his ratings among Democrats have only gotten worse, to the point that more than 90 percent of Maryland Democrats disapprove of the job he is doing.”*

GOUCHER POLL

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About the Goucher Poll

The Goucher Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. Directed by Dr. Mileah Kromer, the Goucher Poll conducts surveys on public policy, economic, and social issues in Maryland.

Goucher College supports the Goucher Poll as part of its mission to instill in its students a sense of community where discourse is valued and practiced. The Goucher Poll is fully funded by the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center endowment and does not take additional funding from outside sources. The Goucher Poll seeks to improve public discourse in Maryland by providing neutral, nonbiased, and independent information on citizen perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the Goucher Poll are used to support faculty and student research.

The Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center is a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations and the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative.



Survey Methodology

To ensure all Maryland residents are represented, the Goucher Poll is conducted using random digit dialing (RDD) of a county-level stratified random sample using landline and cellular telephone numbers. The sample of telephone numbers for the survey is obtained from Survey Sampling International, LLC (<http://www.surveysampling.com/>).

The survey was conducted **Thursday, September 14 to Sunday, September 17, 2017**. During this time, interviews were conducted 5:00pm to 9:00pm on Thursday and Friday and 12:00pm to 9:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. The Goucher Poll uses Voxco Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) software to administer its surveys. Interviews are conducted by a staff of professionally trained, paid, student interviewers.

Interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers a maximum of five times. Only Maryland adults—residents aged 18 years or older—were eligible to participate. Interviews were not conducted

with adults who were reached at business or work numbers. Seventy-six percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 24 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 671 Maryland residents. For a sample size of 671, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.8 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. Margins of error are higher for subsamples.

In addition to sampling error, all surveys are subject to sources of non-sampling error including question wording effects, question order effects, and non-response bias. Margin of error is not adjusted for design effects. Data is weighted by gender, age, race, and region of the state to represent adult population targets established by the American Community Survey (ACS).

Survey Question Design

The Goucher Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which they are administered to respondents.

BRACKETED ITEMS []: Items and statements in brackets are rotated to ensure respondents do not receive a set order of response options presented to them, which maintains question construction integrity by avoiding respondent agreement based on question composition.

Example: [agree or disagree] or [disagree or agree]

PROBE (p): Some questions contain a “probe” maneuver to determine a respondent’s intensity of opinion/perspective. Probe techniques used in this questionnaire mainly consist of asking a respondent if his or her response is more intense than initially provided.

Example: Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of President Obama?

PROBE: Would you say very favorable/unfavorable?

OPEN-ENDED: No response options are provided for an open-ended question, i.e., it is entirely up to the respondent to provide the response information. Any response options provided to the interviewer are not read to respondent; they are only used to help reduce interviewer error and time in coding the response.

VOLUNTEER (v): Volunteer responses means the interviewer did not offer that response option in the question as read to the interviewer. Interviewers are instructed not to offer “don’t know” or “refused” or “some other opinion” to the respondent, but the respondent is free to volunteer that information for the interviewer to record.

Goucher Poll Sample Demographics (in percent)

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

Distribution of Regions

Capitol—Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George’s

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

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

Southern—Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s

Western—Allegany, Garrett, Washington

Registered Voters

Registered voter screen question:

Q: REGVOTE

Are you registered to vote at your current address?

If “Yes” follow up: Are you registered as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, unaffiliated or something else?

Of the **671** Maryland residents surveyed, **533** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e. independent).

Maryland Voter Registration/Likely Voters (in percent)

	Maryland Board of Elections Registration (August 2017)	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters (n=533)
Democratic Party	55	55
Republican Party	26	25
Unaffiliated (Independent)	17	18
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	1	2
Total=	100	100

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

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

Q: IMPISSUE

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

[OPEN-ENDED]

	FEB 17
Economic issues (jobs/taxes/growth/budget)	24
Education	14
General complaint about politicians/parties/politics	5
Transportation/roads/mass transit	4
Drugs (includes heroin)	6
Immigration	3
Crime or criminal justice or police	10
Environmental issues/concerns	7
Healthcare	4
Other:	11
Don't Know (v)	11
Total=	671 +/-3.8

Q: HOGANJOB

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

PROBE

	FEB 15	OCT 15	FEB 16	SEPT 16	FEB 17	SEPT 17
Strongly disapprove (p)	4	3	4	3	7	6
Disapprove	13	15	13	9	10	10
Approve	32	42	43	45	36	42
Strongly approve (p)	8	16	20	25	27	20
Don't know (v)	43	23	21	17	20	20
Refused (v)	1	1	0	1	0	1
Total=	619 +/-3.9	636 +/-3.9	545 +/-4.2	668 +/-3.8	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8

Q: HOGANIDEO

In general, do you think that Governor Larry Hogan is [a conservative, a moderate, or a liberal]?

	SEPT 17
Conservative	31
Moderate	47
Liberal	7
Don't know (v)	14
Refused (v)	0
Total=	671 +/-3.8

Q: FUTURE

Do you think that Larry Hogan represents [the Republican Party of the past or the future of the Republican Party]?

	SEPT 17
Past	24
Future	44
Neither (v)	7
Both (v)	2
Don't know (v)	22
Refused (v)	1
Total=	671 +/-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	FEB 17	SEPT 17
Wrong track	46	52	33	19	22	31
Right direction	45	38	56	65	62	55
Don't know/Refused (v)	10	10	11	17	16	14
Total=	665 +/-3.8	708 +/-3.7	636 +/-3.9	668 +/-3.8	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8

Q: MDECONDo you have a [**mostly negative or mostly positive**] view of the current economic situation in Maryland?

	SEPT 17
Mostly negative	33
Mostly positive	57
Don't know (v)	10
Refused (v)	>0
Total=	671 +/-3.8

Q: CONGRESSChanging 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
Strongly disapprove (p)	62	46	54	51	59
Disapprove	29	33	29	21	27
Approve	4	11	8	16	6
Strongly approve (p)	1	3	1	5	2
Don't know (v)	4	7	7	7	6
Refused (v)	1	4	1	>1	0
Total=	665 +/-3.8	708 +/-3.7	636 +/-3.9	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8

Q: TRUMPJOB

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

PROBE

	FEB 17	SEPT 17
Strongly disapprove (p)	56	56
Disapprove	8	15
Approve	14	13
Strongly approve (p)	15	12
Don't know (v)	7	3
Refused (v)	>1	1
Total=	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8

Q: DISTANCE

Over the past year, has Governor Larry Hogan distanced himself [too much, about the right amount, or too little] from President Donald Trump?

	SEPT 17
Too little	27
About the right amount	43
Too much	11
Don't know (v)	18
Refused (v)	1
Total=	671 +/-3.8

Q: INTEREST

Changing topics. . . Maryland will hold statewide primary and general elections in 2018.

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

	FEB 17	SEPT 17
Not very interested	7	11
Somewhat interested	25	27
Very interested	29	28
Extremely interested	38	34
Don't Know (v)	1	0
Total=	698 +/-3.7	671 +/-3.8

To receive **REELECT** and **GOVISSUE** respondent must indicate the following:

- **Currently a registered voter**
- **Somewhat, very, or extremely interested in the 2018 election**

Q: REELECT

As you may know, Governor Larry Hogan is up for reelection in 2018. If the election were held today, what statement best describes you:

[Statements rotated--inversion]

	FEB 17	SEPT 17
I'd definitely vote for Governor Hogan.	28	23
I'm leaning toward Governor Hogan, but could vote for another candidate.	29	28
I'm leaning toward another candidate, but could vote for Governor Hogan.	18	21
I'd definitely vote for another candidate.	15	21
It depends (v)	5	4
Don't know (v)	4	3
Refused (v)	1	>1
Total=	644 +/-3.8	533 +/-4.2

Q: GOVISSUE

Okay, next I'm going to read you a list of issues. Please tell me which of these is the single most important issue for you in determining your choice for governor? Is it. . .

[READ ITEMS 1-8]

[ITEMS 1-7 ROTATED]

	SEPT 17
Economy and jobs	28
Education	21
Taxes	12
Health care	12
Racial and social justice issues	11
Environment	7
Transportation and infrastructure	5
Something else:	3
Don't know (v)	1
Total=	533 +/-4.2

Results by Demographics (in percent)

- Column percentages
- Unless specified, “don’t know,” “refused,” and other volunteered responses are not included below
- Margin of error is higher for subsamples
- Refer to tables above for questions as worded

	Registered Voters				Maryland Adults							
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=533)	Dem (n=294)	Ind (n=94)	Rep (n=133)	Male (n=327)	Female (n=344)	18-34 (n=193)	35-54 (n=258)	55+ (n=219)	White (n=409)	Black (n=201)	Other (n=60)
Q: HOGANJOB												
Disapprove	18	22	15	9	17	17	15	19	15	15	19	23
Approve	67	59	72	82	64	61	50	65	70	68	51	63
Q: HOGANIDEO												
Conservative	31	34	20	30	28	34	26	32	34	31	32	30
Moderate	53	48	63	59	51	44	39	50	52	54	36	40
Liberal	7	7	9	5	8	6	11	5	6	4	12	13
Q: FUTURE												
Past	24	28	26	15	24	24	24	24	25	21	29	28
Future	47	42	46	62	42	46	42	43	46	49	35	34
Q: TRACK												
Wrong track	27	26	31	25	34	29	36	31	27	28	37	32
Right direction	58	58	55	65	55	55	51	55	57	58	51	48
Q: MDECON												
Mostly negative	31	29	33	31	31	35	37	32	29	28	40	38
Mostly positive	59	62	47	63	58	55	51	59	58	60	52	48

	Registered Voters				Maryland Adults							
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=533)	Dem (n=294)	Ind (n=94)	Rep (n=133)	Male (n=327)	Female (n=344)	18-34 (n=193)	35-54 (n=258)	55+ (n=219)	White (n=409)	Black (n=201)	Other (n=60)
Q: CONGRESS												
Disapprove	88	89	86	87	85	86	78	90	87	86	84	89
Approve	6	7	7	5	9	7	11	5	9	8	9	7
Q: TRUMPJOB												
Disapprove	71	93	71	21	65	76	80	70	64	60	93	71
Approve	25	5	20	73	30	20	19	23	32	35	5	21
Q: DISTANCE												
Too little	28	37	30	8	25	30	29	28	25	24	34	23
About the right amount	46	47	40	48	43	43	37	45	46	46	38	43
Too much	12	4	16	28	13	9	7	11	15	13	6	13
Q: INTEREST												
Not very/somewhat	29	26	30	34	44	32	54	34	28	37	41	33
Very/extremely	71	74	70	66	56	67	46	66	72	63	59	67

To receive **REELECT** respondent must indicate the following:

- Currently a registered voter
- Somewhat, very, or extremely interested in the 2018 election

	Registered Voters											
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=533)	Dem (n=)	Ind (n=)	Rep (n=)	Male (n=249)	Female (n=284)	18-34 (n=135)	35-54 (n=208)	55+ (n=190)	White (n=343)	Black (n=146)	Other (n=44)
Q: REELECT												
Definitely Hogan/Lean Hogan	51	35	59	83	55	47	45	50	56	58	32	55
Definitely Other/Lean Other	42	57	30	16	38	46	46	46	35	36	60	34