

**GOUCHER
COLLEGE**

POLL

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Goucher College Poll: Sanders, Biden, Bloomberg leading Maryland Democratic Primary; all Democratic candidates beat President Donald Trump in head-to-head matchups; Trump remains unpopular

BALTIMORE (February 25, 2020)—The Goucher College Poll asked Maryland Democratic likely voters about their presidential primary, how they viewed each Democratic presidential candidate, and their preferences toward candidate ideology and electability versus closeness of position on issues. The poll also asked all Maryland likely voters their preferences in general election matchups between President Donald Trump and each of the Democratic candidates. From **February 13-19, 2020**, the Goucher College Poll surveyed **929** Maryland adults to identify **718** Maryland likely voters, with a margin of error of **+/-3.6 percent**, and **371 (+/- 5.1)** likely Democratic voters.

Twenty-four percent of Maryland Democratic likely voters say they will vote for Bernie Sanders, **18 percent** for Joe Biden, and **16 percent** for Michael Bloomberg. **Seven percent** would vote for Pete Buttigieg, **6 percent** for Amy Klobuchar, and **6 percent** for Elizabeth Warren. All other candidates earn support from **fewer than 1 percent** of voters. **Eighteen percent** have no preference or are undecided.

“There’s been significant change in the preferences of Maryland Democratic likely voters since the September 2019 Goucher College Poll. Reflecting national polls, Sanders has gained ground while both Biden and Warren have lost support in Maryland. After a late entry to the race, Michael Bloomberg has built some support among Maryland Democrats,” said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. “We’ll have a better picture after Super Tuesday, but it’s certainly possible that the Maryland primary will be hotly contested rather than inconsequential to the outcome of the primary.”

Democratic Candidate Favorability Ratings

Maryland Democratic likely voters were asked whether they held a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of the Democratic candidates:

- **74 percent** held a favorable view toward **Bernie Sanders**; **23 percent** held an unfavorable view.
- **67 percent** held a favorable view toward **Elizabeth Warren**; **22 percent** held an unfavorable view.
- **64 percent** held a favorable view toward **Joe Biden**; **32 percent** held an unfavorable view.
- **61 percent** held a favorable view toward **Pete Buttigieg**; **25 percent** held an unfavorable view.
- **54 percent** held a favorable view toward **Michael Bloomberg**; **34 percent** held an unfavorable view.
- **53 percent** held a favorable view toward **Amy Klobuchar**; **21 percent** held an unfavorable view.
- **31 percent** held a favorable view toward **Tom Steyer**; **36 percent** held an unfavorable view.
- **22 percent** held a favorable view toward **Tulsi Gabbard**; **48 percent** held an unfavorable view.

Policy Closeness vs. Electability

Forty-seven percent of Democratic likely voters say it's more important to find a candidate who is likely to defeat Trump, and **39 percent** say finding a candidate whose positions on the issues comes closest to theirs is more important.

General Election Matchups

All Maryland likely voters were asked who they would vote for if the election were between Trump and each one of the Democratic candidates:

- **61 percent** Bernie Sanders/**34 percent** Donald Trump
- **60 percent** Joe Biden/**35 percent** Donald Trump
- **59 percent** Michael Bloomberg/**32 percent** Donald Trump
- **59 percent** Amy Klobuchar/**32 percent** Donald Trump
- **59 percent** Elizabeth Warren/**35 percent** Donald Trump
- **58 percent** Pete Buttigieg/**33 percent** Donald Trump
- **54 percent** Tom Steyer/**36 percent** Donald Trump
- **52 percent** Tulsi Gabbard/**35 percent** Donald Trump

Trump and Congress

Thirty-one percent of Marylanders approve of the job Trump is doing as President of the United States and **62 percent** disapprove. **Thirteen percent** of residents approve of the job Congress is doing and **79 percent** disapprove.

About the Goucher College Poll

The Goucher College Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. The center is directed by Dr. Mileah Kromer, associate professor of political science.

The Goucher College Poll is fully funded by the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center endowment and does not take additional funding from outside sources. The mission of the Goucher College Poll is to improve public discourse in Maryland by providing neutral, unbiased, and independent information on citizen perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the 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.

For more information, or to view archived polls, please visit www.goucher.edu/poll.



Survey Methodology

To ensure all Maryland residents are represented, the 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 purchased from Dynata (<https://www.dynata.com/>).

The survey was conducted **Thursday, February 13, to Wednesday, February 19**. During this time, interviews were conducted 3 to 9 p.m. on Monday to Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The Goucher College Poll uses Voxco Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) software to administer its surveys. A staff of professionally trained, paid student interviewers conducts the interviews.

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. **Eighty-five percent** of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone and **15 percent** were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with **929** Maryland adults. For a sample size of **929**, there is a **95 percent** probability the survey results have a plus or minus **3.2 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 are 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 College 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.

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

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 College Poll Sample Demographics (in percent)

	Maryland Adult Population Parameter	Weighted Sample Estimate <i>Adults</i> (n=929)	Weighted Sample Estimate <i>Registered Voters</i> (n=823)	Weighted Sample Estimate <i>Likely Voters</i> (n=718)	Weighted Sample Estimate <i>Dem Likely Voters</i> (n=371)
Gender					
Male	47	47	45	45	33
Female	53	53	55	55	67
Age					
18 to 24	12	12	11	10	12
25 to 34	18	18	18	17	18
35 to 44	16	16	17	17	18
45 to 54	18	18	19	21	17
55 to 64	17	17	17	18	17
65+	19	19	18	19	18
Race					
White	61	61	62	65	52
Black	30	30	30	28	41
All other	9	9	8	7	7
Education					
High school or less	35	35	33	31	25
Tech/AA/some college	26	26	26	27	27
Four-year college degree	21	21	21	21	22
Adv./professional degree	18	18	19	21	26
Region					
Montgomery County	17	17	17	18	19
Prince George's County	15	15	14	13	16
Baltimore City	11	11	12	12	19
Baltimore County	14	14	14	14	15
Central Region	21	21	22	22	15
Southern Region	6	6	6	6	6
Eastern Shore Region	8	8	9	8	6
Western Region	8	8	7	8	4

Counties included in region:

- 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 **929** Maryland adult residents surveyed, **823** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e., independent). Of the 823 registered voters, **718** were identified as likely voters.

Maryland Voter Registration (in percent)

	Party Registration (Jan. 2020)	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters (n=823)	Weighted Sample Estimate Likely Voters (n=718)
Democratic Party	55	52	54
Republican Party	25	26	27
Unaffiliated (independent)	19	20	18
Other party	1	2	1
Total=	100	823 +/-3.4	718 +/-3.6

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	Likely Voters	Dem Likely Voters
Conservative	27	27	27	13
Moderate	43	44	45	43
Progressive	25	25	25	42
Don't know (v)	5	4	3	2
Total=	929 +/-3.2	823 +/-3.4	718 +/-3.6	371 +/-5.1

Screens to identify registered voters, likely voters, and Democratic likely voters were administered after respondents received Q: TRUMPJOB and Q: CONGJOB. Q: TRUMPJOB and Q: CONGJOB were asked to the full sample of **929 Maryland adults**. Please refer to **page 14** for the results by registered voter and other key demographics. Results are in percentages and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: TRUMPJOB

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

PROBE

	SEPT 17	FEB 18	SEPT 18	FEB 19	SEPT 19	FEB 20
Strongly disapprove (p)	56	57	61	50	54	51
Disapprove	15	11	10	16	13	11
Approve	13	15	13	16	11	13
Strongly approve (p)	12	12	10	14	16	18
Don't know (v)	3	4	4	3	4	5
Refused (v)	1	1	2	1	2	2
Total=	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	831 +/-3.4	808 +/-3.4	763 +/-3.6	929 +/-3.2

Q: CONGJOB

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

PROBE

	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 19	FEB 20
Strongly disapprove (p)	51	59	41	44
Disapprove	21	27	33	35
Approve	16	6	15	11
Strongly approve (p)	5	2	4	2
Don't know (v)	7	6	6	6
Refused (v)	>1	0	1	2
Total=	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	808 +/-3.4	929 +/-3.2

SCREEN

Q: ATTENTION was administered to respondents who indicated they were:

- **Registered to vote (REGVOTE)**

Q: ATTENTION

How much attention have you been paying to the election or campaigns for president: [**a lot, some, a little, or none at all**]?

	FEB 20
None at all	7
A little	17
Some	29
A lot	47
Don't know/refused (v)	0
Total=	823 +/-3.4

SCREEN

Q: INTEREST was administered to respondents who indicated they were:

- **A registered voter (REGVOTE)**
- **Paying a little, some, or a lot of attention to the campaign for president (ATTENTION)**

Q: INTEREST

As you know, the next election for president of the United States and members of Congress will be held in November. How interested would you say you are in these elections: [**extremely interested, very interested, somewhat interested, or not interested**]?

	FEB 20
Not interested	1
Somewhat interested	16
Very interested	28
Extremely interested	55
Don't know/refused (v)	0
Total=	765 +/-3.5

SCREEN FOR DEMOCRATS

Q: LVDEM was administered to respondents who indicated they were:

- **A registered Democrat (REGVOTE)**
- **Paying a little, some, or a lot of attention to the campaign for president (ATTENTION)**
- **Somewhat, very, or extremely interested in the Democratic primary elections (INTEREST)**

All other voters skip to Q: LV.

Q: LVDEM

What are the chances that you will vote in the Maryland Democratic primary for President of the United States and Congress held this April—are you [**absolutely certain to vote, very likely to vote, are the chances about 50-50, or will you probably not vote**]?

	FEB 20
Probably not vote	1
Chances are about 50-50	6
Very likely to vote	15
Absolutely certain to vote	78
Total=	400 +/-4.9

Q: DEMPREF, Q: CANDFAV, and Q: MOSTIMP were administered to respondents who indicated they were:

- **A registered Democrat (REGVOTE)**
- **Paying a little, some, or a lot of attention to the campaign for president (ATTENTION)**
- **Somewhat, very, or extremely interested in the Democratic primary elections (INTEREST)**
- **Very likely or absolutely certain to vote (LVDEM)**

Q: DEMPREF

I'm going to read a list of all the candidates running for the Democratic nomination for president in 2020. After I read the full list, please tell me who you plan to vote for in the primary. **[candidates rotated]**

	SEPT 19	FEB 20
Bernie Sanders	10	24
Joe Biden	33	18
Michael Bloomberg	--	16
Pete Buttigieg	5	7
Amy Klobuchar	1	6
Elizabeth Warren	21	6
Tulsi Gabbard	>1	>1
Tom Steyer	0	0
Undecided/no preference (v)	15	18
Other response (v)	>1	1
Refused (v)	5	4
Total=	300 +/-5.6	371 +/-5.1

Q: CANDFAV

Next, I'd like you to rate each of the Democratic candidates. Regardless of whether you plan to vote for them, please tell me whether you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of them. [candidates rotated]

PROBE

Q: BIDEN

Joe Biden

Q: BUTTIGIEG

Pete Buttigieg

Q: BLOOMBERG

Michael Bloomberg

Q: GABBARD

Tulsi Gabbard

Q: KLOBUCHAR

Amy Klobuchar

Q: SANDERS

Bernie Sanders

Q: STEYER

Tom Steyer

Q: WARREN

Elizabeth Warren

	Very Unfav	Unfav	Fav	Very Fav	DK/REF (v)
Joe Biden	9	23	40	24	4
Pete Buttigieg	6	19	43	18	14
Michael Bloomberg	14	20	37	17	12
Tulsi Gabbard	20	28	19	3	30
Amy Klobuchar	4	17	40	13	26
Bernie Sanders	6	17	41	33	4
Tom Steyer	8	28	26	5	33
Elizabeth Warren	6	16	43	24	11

Total=371, +/-5.1

Q: MOSTIMP

What's more important to you: [**Finding a candidate whose positions on the issues come closest to yours OR finding the candidate who seems most likely to defeat Donald Trump**]?

	SEPT 19	FEB 20
Issues that come closest	40	39
Likely to defeat Donald Trump	46	47
Want both (v)	12	12
Don't know (v)	1	1
Refused (v)	1	1
Total=	300 +/-5.6	371 +/-5.1

Q: LV was administered to respondents who indicated they were:

- **Registered to vote (REGVOTE)**
- **Paying a little, some, or a lot of attention to the campaign for president (ATTENTION)**
- **Somewhat, very, or extremely interested in the Democratic primary elections (INTEREST)**

Q: LV

What are the chances that you will vote in the general election for President of the United States and Congress this November—are you [**absolutely certain to vote, very likely to vote, are the chances about 50-50, or will you probably not vote**]?

	FEB 20
Probably not vote	1
Chances are about 50-50	4
Very likely to vote	9
Absolutely certain to vote	86
Don't know (v)	0
Total=	754 +/-3.6

Q: HORSERACE was administered to respondents who indicated they were:

- Registered to vote (REGVOTE)
- Paying a little, some or a lot of attention to the campaign for president (ATTENTION)
- Somewhat, very, or extremely interested in the election (INTEREST)
- Very likely or absolutely certain to vote (LV)

Q: HORSERACE

Next, I'm going to ask how you would vote in an election between Republican Donald Trump and some of the specific Democratic candidates currently running to be president of the United States.

Who would you vote for if the candidates were: [the Republican Donald Trump and the Democrat NAME]?
[candidates rotated]

	Donald Trump	Dem candidate	Vote for other candidate (v)	Won't vote (v)	DK/REF (v)
Biden vs. Trump	35	60	1	0	4
Bloomberg vs. Trump	32	59	3	1	5
Buttigieg vs. Trump	33	58	3	0	6
Gabbard vs. Trump	35	52	3	1	9
Klobuchar vs. Trump	32	59	2	1	6
Sanders vs. Trump	34	61	1	0	4
Steyer vs. Trump	36	54	3	0	7
Warren vs. Trump	35	59	2	1	3

Total=718, +/-3.6

Crosstabs are not available for the battery of questions asked to Democratic likely voters due to sample size.

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=823)	Dem (n=427)	Ind (n=169)	Rep (n=211)	Male (n=436)	Female (n=493)	18-34 (n=282)	35-54 (n=319)	55+ (n=328)	White (n=566)	Black (n=278)	Other (n=85)
Q: TRUMPJOB												
Disapprove	64	88	59	19	49	72	75	58	54	51	85	57
Approve	31	8	30	76	42	22	17	33	42	43	7	33
Q: CONGJOB												
Disapprove	82	81	87	82	77	81	79	83	75	84	73	66
Approve	11	12	9	10	14	13	11	11	18	10	18	21

	Maryland Adults							
	College		Region			Ideology		
	>4-year degree (n=566)	4-year degree + (n=363)	MG/ PG (n=297)	Central/ Balt Metro (n=426)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=206)	Cons (n=253)	Mod (n=398)	Prog (n=230)
Q: TRUMPJOB								
Disapprove	53	75	73	62	44	25	70	89
Approve	39	19	17	32	52	68	21	9
Q: CONGJOB								
Disapprove	78	80	79	77	82	81	82	79
Approve	14	12	14	14	12	12	13	13

	Maryland Likely Voters											
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
Q: HORSERACE	All (n=818)	Dem (n=384)	Ind (n=129)	Rep (n=193)	Male (n=322)	Female (n=396)	18-34 (n=188)	35-54 (n=268)	55+ (n=262)	White (n=466)	Black (n=202)	Other (n=50)
Q: BIDEN												
Donald Trump	34	7	42	82	46	25	21	38	41	45	12	28
Joe Biden	60	89	49	15	50	69	73	56	56	51	83	62
Q: BLOOMBERG												
Donald Trump	32	8	29	79	44	22	18	33	40	42	8	31
Michael Bloomberg	59	83	59	16	47	69	70	55	56	50	82	55
Q: BUTTIGIEG												
Donald Trump	33	10	31	79	45	23	20	35	40	43	9	32
Pete Buttigieg	58	82	54	16	48	66	69	55	54	50	79	54
Q: GABBARD												
Donald Trump	35	10	36	81	46	26	24	37	41	43	17	30
Tulsi Gabbard	53	79	40	11	42	61	62	46	51	45	70	52
Q: KLOBUCHAR												
Donald Trump	32	8	31	81	46	21	17	36	39	43	9	29
Amy Klobuchar	59	85	55	13	48	68	72	54	55	49	83	57

	Maryland Likely Voters							
	College		Region			Ideology		
	<4-year degree (n=417)	4-year degree + (n=301)	MG/ PG (n=221)	Central/ Balt Metro (n=340)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=157)	Cons (n=196)	Mod (n=320)	Prog (n=181)
Q: HORSERACE								
Q: BIDEN								
Donald Trump	45	20	23	33	54	75	25	7
Joe Biden	51	73	74	60	41	22	70	88
Q: BLOOMBERG								
Donald Trump	41	19	15	33	54	72	21	7
Michael Bloomberg	50	71	77	57	41	22	68	86
Q: BUTTIGIEG								
Donald Trump	43	18	17	33	54	75	23	3
Pete Buttigieg	48	72	74	58	37	20	65	91
Q: GABBARD								
Donald Trump	44	21	24	33	55	76	25	7
Tulsi Gabbard	44	64	62	55	35	19	57	82
Q: KLOBUCHAR								
Donald Trump	43	18	17	33	53	74	22	4
Amy Klobuchar	51	71	74	59	38	20	67	91

	Maryland Likely Voters											
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
Q: HORSERACE	All (n=818)	Dem (n=384)	Ind (n=129)	Rep (n=193)	Male (n=322)	Female (n=396)	18-34 (n=188)	35-54 (n=268)	55+ (n=262)	White (n=466)	Black (n=202)	Other (n=50)
Q: SANDERS												
Donald Trump	34	6	40	85	45	25	21	35	42	45	9	30
Bernie Sanders	60	89	50	11	49	70	76	57	54	49	87	60
Q: STEYER												
Donald Trump	36	11	38	83	48	26	25	38	41	45	16	30
Tom Steyer	54	79	45	11	43	63	62	49	52	45	74	52
Q: WARREN												
Donald Trump	35	10	33	85	48	24	20	39	42	47	8	31
Elizabeth Warren	58	85	52	12	46	69	70	55	54	47	87	55

	Maryland Likely Voters							
	College		Region			Ideology		
	<4-year degree (n=417)	4-year degree + (n=301)	MG/PG (n=221)	Central/Balt Metro (n=340)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=157)	Cons (n=196)	Mod (n=320)	Prog (n=181)
Q: HORSERACE								
Q: SANDERS								
Donald Trump	43	21	21	32	57	75	25	4
Bernie Sanders	52	72	74	61	40	20	68	92
Q: STEYER								
Donald Trump	44	23	23	36	54	77	27	7
Tom Steyer	51	68	66	56	33	18	58	88
Q: WARREN								
Donald Trump	47	21	21	35	56	78	25	6
Elizabeth Warren	44	66	74	58	38	19	66	91