GOUCHER COLLEGE | POLL

Results embargoed until Monday, March 14, at 12:01 a.m.

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Goucher College Poll results:
Maryland residents feel impact of price increases, a majority hold a positive view of the state economy; Residents divided over how state should spend the budget surplus, view crime and public safety as the top priority; Hogan remains popular, opinions divided on Biden; Residents support the legalization of recreational cannabis

BALTIMORE (March 14, 2022)—The Goucher College Poll asked Maryland residents their views on state priorities, direction, and spending; the current economic situation; and the legalization of recreational marijuana. Residents were also asked to rate Gov. Larry Hogan and President Joe Biden. The Goucher College Poll surveyed 635 Maryland adults from March 1 to 6, 2022, and has a margin of error of +/-3.9 percent. Results by voter registration and other key demographics are provided.

Economic Perceptions

More than half (**56 percent**) of Marylanders say that recent price increases have caused either a minor (**26 percent**) or major (**30 percent**) financial hardship. **Forty-three percent** indicate that they have not been impacted. About half (**52 percent**) of residents hold a mostly positive view of the current economic situation in Maryland; **41 percent** hold a mostly negative view.

When asked to compare their current financial situation now to a year ago, **47 percent** say it's "about the same," **33 percent** say it's "worse," and **19 percent** say it's "better."

"Marylanders are definitely feeling an economic pinch. A third say they are worse off financially than they were a year ago, and more than half say they are affected by the recent price increases," said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics at Goucher College. "Price increases have yet to dampen views of the state's broader economic situation—a majority continue to say it's mostly positive, the same as in October though down somewhat from this time last year."

State Priorities, Direction, and Spending

Residents identify crime and public safety (**25 percent**), education (**17 percent**), economic issues and jobs (**14 percent**), and health care (**11 percent**) as the issues they want the state government to prioritize. **Fifty-five percent** say Maryland is heading in the right direction, and **32 percent** say Maryland is on the wrong track.

Residents were equally divided in their opinions toward how the state government should spend the current budgetary surplus: **50 percent** prefer to increase funding for public services and **49 percent** prefer tax cuts.

Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

Sixty-two percent of Maryland residents support the legalization of recreational marijuana, and **34 percent** oppose it.

Among Democrats: **65 percent** support, **32 percent** oppose
Among independents: **65 percent** support, **32 percent** oppose
Among Republicans: **54 percent** support, **44 percent** oppose

Gov. Larry Hogan and President Joe Biden

Gov. Hogan continues to earn widespread support among state residents. **Sixty-five percent** of Marylanders approve of the job Hogan is doing as governor, **25 percent** disapprove, and **8 percent** say they don't know.

Among Democrats: **61 percent** approve, **28 percent** disapprove
Among independents: **69 percent** approve, **22 percent** disapprove
Among Republicans: **71 percent** approve, **23 percent** disapprove

Marylanders are divided in their attitudes toward Joe Biden: **48 percent** approve of the job he's doing as president, and **47 percent** disapprove. Last year, **62 percent** of Maryland residents approved of the job Biden was doing and **31 disapproved**.

Among Democrats: **68 percent** approve, **26 percent** disapprove
Among independents: **34 percent** approve, **62 percent** disapprove
Among Republicans: **16 percent** approve, **82 percent** disapprove

To view archived polls, please visit www.goucher.edu/poll. The second part of this poll will be released on Tuesday, March 15, at 12:01 a.m.

About the Goucher College Poll

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

The Goucher College Poll is funded by the Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics 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 resident perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the poll are used to support faculty and student research.

The Sarah T. Hughes Center for Politics 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 and interviewing were provided by Dynata (https://www.dynata.com/). The survey was conducted **March 1 to 6, 2022**. During this time, interviews were conducted from **1 to 9 p.m**.

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 **635** Maryland adults. For a sample size of **635**, there is a **95 percent** probability the survey results have a +/-**3.9 percentage** point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. For the sample of **593 Maryland adults** identified as registered voters, there is a **95 percent** probability the survey results have a +/-**4.0 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, region, and educational attainment of the state to represent adult population targets established by the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) and U.S. Census.

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 President Joe Biden?
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 Population Parameter *Adults*	Weighted Sample Estimate *Adults* (n=635)	Weighted Sample Estimate *Registered Voters* (n=593)
Gender			
Male	48	48	49
Female	52	52	51
Age			
18 to 24	11	11	10
25 to 34	17	17	16
35 to 44	17	17	17
45 to 54	17	17	17
55 to 64	17	17	18
65+	21	21	22
Race			
White	59	59	60
Black	31	31	31
All other	10	10	9
Education			
High school or less	34	34	33
Tech/AA/some college	25	25	24
Four-year college degree	22	22	23
Adv./professional degree	19	19	20
County/Region			
Montgomery County	17	17	15
Prince George's County	16	16	15
Baltimore County	14	14	14
Baltimore City	10	10	10
Anne Arundel County	10	10	11
Central Region	12	12	13
Western Region	6	6	6
Eastern Shore Region	7	7	7
Southern Region	8	8	9

Counties included in region
- Central: Carroll, Harford, and Howard
- Southern: Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's
- Eastern Shore: Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester
- Western: Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and 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 or unaffiliated, or something else?

Of the **635** Maryland adult residents surveyed, **593** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e., independent).

Maryland Voter Registration (in percent)

	Maryland Voter Registration *January 2022*	Weighted Sample Estimate *Registered Voters (n=593)*
Democratic Party	55	54
Republican Party	24	21
Unaffiliated (i.e., independent)	20	23
Other party	2	2
Total=	100	593 +/-3.9

Note: Voter registration statistics from the Maryland State 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**]?

	Adults	Voters
Conservative	21	20
Moderate	51	51
Progressive	25	27
Don't know/refused (v)	3	2
Total=	635 +/-3.9	593 +/-3.9

The following questions were asked to the full sample of **635 Maryland adults**. **A link to the results by demographics is found at the bottom of page 13.** Results are in percent and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: TRACK
In general, do you think things in the state [**are heading in the right direction or are off on the wrong track**]?

	FEB 18	FEB 19	FEB 20	OCT 20	MAR 21	OCT 21	MAR 22
Wrong track	29	25	32	31	31	31	32
Right direction	62	59	49	63	62	59	55
Don't know/refused (v)	9	16	19	6	7	10	13
Total=	800 +/-3.5	808 +/-3.4	713 +/-3.7	1,002 +/-3.1	725 +/-3.6	700 +/-3.7	635 +/-3.9

Q: HOGANJOB
Do you [**approve or disapprove**] of the way Larry Hogan is handling his job as governor?
PROBE

	FEB 18	FEB 19	FEB 20	OCT 20	MAR 21	OCT 21	MAR 22
Strongly disapprove (p)	7	4	7	11	11	8	12
Disapprove	11	10	13	12	14	14	13
Approve	38	39	43	39	35	47	45
Strongly approve (p)	23	30	19	32	30	21	20
Don't know (v)	19	14	17	5	9	7	8
Refused (v)	2	3	1	1	1	3	3
Total=	800 +/-3.5	808 +/-3.4	713 +/-3.7	1,002 +/-3.1	725 +/-3.6	700 +/-3.7	635 +/-3.9

Q: BIDENJOB
Changing topics to national politics, do you [**approve or disapprove**] of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?
PROBE

	MAR 21	OCT 21	MAR 22
Strongly disapprove (p)	26	31	27
Disapprove	5	12	20
Approve	20	27	29
Strongly approve (p)	42	26	19
Don't know (v)	6	3	4
Refused (v)	1	1	1
Total=	725 +/-3.6	700 +/-3.7	635 +/-3.9

Q: PRIORITIES

As you know, the state government is always faced with competing priorities. I'm going to read you a list of general issue areas. If you had to identify **one** area that you think should be the **top** priority for the state government to address, which would it be:

[ITEMS ROTATED]

	MAR 22
Crime and public safety	25
Education	17
Economic issues and jobs	14
Health care	11
Environmental issues and climate change	8
Housing and community development	7
Transportation and infrastructure	7
Race and social justice issues	6
Other issue or multiple issues (v)	3
Don't know (v)	0
Refused (v)	1
Total=	635 +/-3.9

Q: BUDGET

The state of Maryland currently has a budget surplus. The governor and the state legislature in Annapolis will decide how to spend the extra revenue during the 2022 legislative session. In thinking about how this money should be spent, which of the following comes closest to what you generally prefer: **[decreasing taxes or increasing funding for public services]**?

	MAR 22
Decreasing taxes	49
Increasing funding for public services	50
Some other opinion/it depends (v)	>1
Don't know/refused (v)	>1
Total=	635 +/-3.9

Q: MDECON

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

	SEPT 17	FEB 18	FEB 19	SEPT 19	OCT 21	MAR 22
Mostly negative	33	31	28	29	37	41
Mostly positive	57	60	61	60	53	52
Don't know (v)	10	9	11	10	10	6
Refused (v)	0	>1	0	1	0	1
Total=	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5	808 +/-3.4	763 +/-3.6	700 +/-3.7	635 +/-3.9

Q: ECONPAST
Thinking back, is your current personal financial situation [**better, about the same, or worse**] than it was a year ago?

	OCT 12	OCT 13	OCT 14	OCT 15	SEPT 18	MAR 22
Worse	24	28	31	22	14	33
About the same	41	45	41	49	53	47
Better	34	27	26	29	32	19
Don't know (v)	0	0	1	0	1	1
Refused (v)	1	1	1	0	--	0
Total=	667 +/-3.7	665 +/-3.8	708 +/-3.7	636 +/-3.9	831 +/-3.4	635 +/-3.9

Q: PRICE
Have recent price increases caused any financial hardship for you or others in your household, or not?
If "**Yes**," follow up: Has that been a [**major or minor**] financial hardship?

	MAR 22
No	43
Yes, minor	26
Yes, major	30
Some other opinion (v)	>1
Don't know (v)	>1
Refused (v)	--
Total=	635 +/-3.9

Q: LEGALIZE
Do you [**support or oppose**] making marijuana legal for recreational use in Maryland?
PROBE

	FEB 15	FEB 16	FEB 17	SEPT 18	SEPT 19	MAR 21	OCT 21	MAR 22
Strongly oppose (p)	24	22	24	22	22	17	21	20
Oppose	20	17	12	11	15	11	12	14
Support	27	29	26	21	27	27	25	29
Strongly support (p)	25	25	32	41	30	40	35	33
Don't know (v)	4	6	5	5	5	4	4	3
Refused (v)	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	1
Total=	619 +/-3.9	545 +/-4.2	776 +/-3.5	831 +/-3.4	808 +/-3.4	725 +/-3.6	700 +/-3.7	635 +/-3.9

Note: "For recreational use" was added to question wording in SEPT18.

See results by demographics.