GOUCHER POLL

RESULTS EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, AT NOON E.S.T.

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Baltimore – Twenty-seven percent of Maryland residents indicate the economy is the most important issue facing the state today. Another 15 percent say the most important issue is taxes, followed by 14 percent saying it is education. Forty-six percent believe the state has gotten off on the wrong track, while 45 percent think it is going in the right direction.

The poll, conducted October 27-31, surveyed a dual-frame (landlines and cell phones) random sample of 665 Maryland residents and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points. The sample is of all Maryland residents and does not restrict by registered or likely voters.

Residents were divided on their opinions about Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley. Forty-one percent of Marylanders have a favorable view of O'Malley, while 40 percent have an unfavorable view. Eighteen percent of Marylanders indicated they "didn't know" whether they had a favorable or unfavorable view of the governor.

Gubernatorial Election
Marylanders also were asked whether they recognized the names of the candidates running for governor of the state. Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and Attorney General Doug Gansler are the most recognizable names in the race. On the Republican side, Harford County Executive David Craig is recognized by 31 percent of respondents.

Name Recognition of Maryland Gubernatorial Candidates
62 percent recognize "Anthony Brown"
58 percent recognize "Doug Gansler"
49 percent recognize "Dutch Ruppersberger"
31 percent recognize "David Craig"
23 percent recognize "Charles Lollar"
22 percent recognize "Ron George"
13 percent recognize "Heather Mizeur"

Respondents also were asked what characteristic they would like to have in a new governor. Being honest and trustworthy topped the list (19 percent), followed by caring about and having compassion for all Marylanders across the state (13 percent). Respondents also indicated they want a new governor who is focused on the economy, jobs, and fiscal responsibility (8 percent).

When asked about the issues they most wanted the General Assembly to focus on when the session begins in January, Marylanders indicate they wanted the legislature to focus on economic and budget issues (17 percent), followed closely by taxes (15 percent), and jobs/unemployment (13 percent). Another 12 percent indicate they wanted the Maryland General Assembly to address education.

"It is clear that Marylanders have the economy and taxes on their minds—not only for the upcoming legislative session, but also as a focus in the gubernatorial race," said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center. "Still wary from the recent federal government shutdown, residents will be looking to Annapolis to ensure the economic stability of the state."

Minimum Wage

Marylanders were asked whether the state's minimum wage should be raised to $10 per hour. About half of the respondents to the survey were given a question that included the current minimum wage ($7.25 per hour). The other half were given the same question, but without the inclusion of the current minimum wage rate. Overall, a large majority of Marylanders support raising the minimum wage to $10 per hour.

Here are the results for the questions as worded:

> As you may know, the minimum wage in Maryland is $7.25 per hour. Would you [support or oppose] raising the state minimum wage to $10 per hour?
> Support: 70 percent
> Oppose: 27 percent

> Would you [support or oppose] raising the state minimum wage to $10 per hour?
> Support: 74 percent
> Oppose: 24 percent

Pensions
Marylanders also were asked if the average state pension in Maryland was too little, too much, or about the right amount. Half of the respondents were given a question that included the approximate average state pension (about $12,000 annually; source: Maryland State Retirement and Pension System Report, 2012), while the other half were not.

Here are the results for the questions as worded:

> Next, I'd like to ask you two questions about pensions. In Maryland, retired state employees receive an average annual pension of about $12,000 per year. Do you think the average pension for a retired Maryland state employee is [too little, too much, or about the right amount]?
> Too Little: 59 percent
> About the Right Amount: 26 percent

Too Much: 4 percent
Don't Know: 9 percent

Next, I'd like to ask you two questions about pensions. Do you think the average pension for a retired Maryland state employee is [too little, too much, or about the right amount]?
Too Little: 36 percent
About the Right Amount: 21 percent
Too Much: 11 percent
Don't Know: 31 percent

Sixty-seven percent of respondents agreed that all Maryland workers, not just those employed by the state or local governments, should have a pension, while 28 percent disagreed.

Additional crosstabs of the survey results are available upon request, and Mileah Kromer, the director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center, is available for comment. She can be reached at mileah.kromer@goucher.edu or 724-840-0990. For additional media requests, please contact Kristen Pinheiro, director of media relations, at 410-337-6316 or Kristen.pinheiro@goucher.edu.

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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 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 citizens are represented, the Goucher Poll is conducted using random digit dialing (RDD) of a 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 Sunday, October 27, to Thursday, October 31. During this time, interviews were conducted 1-9 p.m. on Sunday and 5-9 p.m. Monday through Thursday. 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. For each landline number reached, one adult from that household was selected on the basis of being the oldest or youngest adult in that residence. Thirty-eight percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 62 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 665 Maryland citizens. For a sample size of 665, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.8 percent margin of error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. Margin of errors are higher for subsamples.

Survey Question Design

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

BRACKED 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: The open-ended question provides no response options, 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 respondents; 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 a response option in the question, as read to the respondent. 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

	MD Population Parameter	Weighted Sample Estimate
Gender		
Male	.48	.48
Female	.52	.52
Age		
18 to 24 Years	.13	.13
25 to 34 Years	.18	.18
35 to 44 Years	.17	.18
45 to 54 Years	.20	.20
55 to 64 Years	.16	.16
65 Years and Older	.16	.15
Race		
White	.63	.61
Black	.29	.31
Other	.08	.08
Region		
Capitol	.36	.37
Central	.46	.47
Eastern	.08	.07
Southern	.06	.05
Western	.04	.04

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

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

Other Sample Demographics

Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

        If respondent indicates they are an Independent:

        Because you indicated you were an Independent, do you typically lean toward the

        Republican or Democratic candidate during elections?

Party Identification	
Republican	.27
Democrat	.54
Independent	.11
Other	.07
Don't Know/Refused (v)	.01

Survey Results[1]

Q: IMPISSUE
What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Maryland today?
[OPEN ENDED]

	Percent
Economy/Jobs	27.2
Taxes	15.0
Education	13.8
Health Care	9.6
Budget Deficit	4.9
Transportation/Roads/Mass Transit	3.1
Crime and Prison System	3.0
Guns/Gun Control	2.8
Government Officials/Parties	2.7
Environmental Issues/Concerns	2.1
Gay Marriage	1.2
Immigration	0.8
Drugs	0.7
Other	7.4
Don't Know (v)	5.7
Total=	100.0

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[1] Percent totals may not add up to 100 due to weighting and/or rounding.

Q: OMALLFAV
Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of Governor Martin O'Malley?
PROBE

	OCT 12	MAR 13	OCT 13
Very Unfavorable (p)	18.9	26.1	21.2
Unfavorable	16.9	19.2	19.2
Favorable	34.3	34.6	31.5
Very Favorable (p)	10.8	11.2	9.9
Don't Know (v)	18.3	8.4	17.6
Refused (v)	0.8	0.4	0.6
Total=	100.0 (667, +/-3.7)	100.0 (791, +/-3.4)	100.0 (665, +/-3.8)

Q: NAMEREC
Next, I am going to mention the names of some people in the news. For each one, please tell me if you recognize the name.

[NAMES RANDOMIZED]

	Recognizes Name	Does Not
Anthony Brown	62.3	37.7
Doug Gansler	57.9	42.1
Dutch Ruppersberger	49.1	50.9
David Craig	30.6	69.4
Charles Lollar	22.7	77.3
Ron George	21.6	78.4
Heather Mizeur	13.1	86.9

Total=665, +/-3.8

Q: GOVCHAR

As you know, Maryland will elect a new governor in 2014. Thinking generally, what is a characteristic you would like to have in the new governor?

[OPEN ENDED]

	Percent
Honest/Truthful/Trustworthy	19.1
Cares/Has Compassion for All Marylanders/Maryland Society/Communities	13.1
Focused on Economy/Jobs/Fiscal Responsibility	8.1
Integrity/Sense of Right and Wrong	5.9
Bipartisan/Compromise/Negotiate	4.3
Cares/Focuses on Education/Educational System	4.3
Strong Leadership Qualities/Role Model	4.0
Conservative/Small Government/Republican	3.4
Fair	3.0
Transparent/Accessible/Approachable	3.0
Reduces Taxes	3.0
Smart/Knowledgeable/Intelligent/Competent	2.7
Business-Minded/Oriented	2.6
Liberal/Progressive/Democrat	2.2
Christian/Religious/Moral Values	1.3
Moderate	0.6
Other	11.9
Don't Know (v)	7.1
Refused (v)	0.3
Total=665, +/-3.8	100.0

Q: LEGISSUE
Of all the issues facing the state today, which one do you most want the state legislature—the legislature located in Annapolis—to concentrate on when it begins its session in January?
[OPEN ENDED]

	Percent
Economic/Budgetary Issues	17.2
Taxes	15.1
Jobs/Unemployment	12.7
Education	12.1
Health Care	7.2
Guns	3.5
Environmental Concerns	3.0
Crime/Drugs	2.5
Social Issues	1.9
Immigration	1.2
Transportation/Infrastructure	1.1
Marijuana	1.0
Other	8.2
Don't Know	12.6
Refused	0.5
Total=665, +/-3.8	100.0

Q: TRACK

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

	OCT 12	MAR 13	OCT 13
Wrong Track	40.3	46.8	45.6
Right Direction	55.8	43.6	44.7
Don't Know (v)	4.0	9.7	9.7
Total=	100.0 (667, +/- 3.79)	100.0 (791, +/-3.48)	100.0

Minimum Wage

Half of the survey respondents randomly received WAGE1A, while the other half received WAGE1B. The sets of questions differ by one key component—WAGE1A includes a statement informing respondents of the current minimum wage in Maryland.

Q: WAGE1A
As you may know, the minimum wage in Maryland is $7.25 per hour. Would you [support or oppose] raising the state minimum wage to $10 per hour?
PROBE

Q: WAGE1B
Would you [support or oppose] raising the state minimum wage to $10 per hour?
PROBE

	1A	1B
Strongly Oppose (p)	12.0	9.8
Oppose	15.2	13.9
Support	21.1	26.0
Strongly Support (p)	48.5	48.3
Don't Know/Refused (v)	3.3	2.0
Total=	100.0 (318 +/-5.5)	100.0 (347, +/-5.2)

Pensions

Half of the survey respondents randomly received PEN1A, while the other half received PEN1B. The sets of questions differ by one key component—PEN1A includes a statement informing respondents of the average state employee pension in Maryland. All respondents received PEN2. *Source: Maryland State Retirement and Pension System Report, 2012*

Q: PEN1A
Next, I'd like to ask you two questions about pensions. Do you think the average pension for a retired Maryland state employee is [too little, too much, or about the right amount]?

Q: PEN1B
Next, I'd like to ask you two questions about pensions. In Maryland, retired state employees receive an average annual pension of about $12,000 per year. Do you think the average pension for a retired Maryland state employee is [too little, too much, or about the right amount]?

	1A	1B
Too Little	36.4	59.0
About the Right Amount	21.2	26.4
Too Much	10.6	4.3
Don't Know (v)	31.1	8.8
Refused (v)	0.7	1.6
Total=	100.0 (341, +/-5.3)	100.0 (323, +/-5.4)

Q: PEN2

Please tell me whether you [disagree or agree] with the following statement:
"All Maryland workers, not just those employed by the state or local governments, should have a pension."
PROBE

	Percent
Strongly Disagree (p)	8.4
Disagree	19.2
Agree	33.1
Strongly Agree (p)	33.5
Don't Know (v)	5.5
Refused (v)	0.4
Total=665, +/-3.8	100.0