INSTITUTE OF POLITICS
UMBC Poll

Results embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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UMBC Poll (Part 1) Topics:
- Job approval rating of Gov. Wes Moore
- Views toward the direction of the state
- Trust in federal and state government
- Rating of the Maryland economy
- Impact of the reduction of the federal workforce in Maryland
- Key issues for the Maryland state government to address
- Taxes, spending, and the Maryland budget

Tuesday, February 25 (Baltimore): The UMBC Poll surveyed **803** Maryland adults from Tuesday, February 11 to Saturday, February 15, 2025. Of the **803** Maryland adults surveyed (MOE=+/- **3.5%**), **769** indicated they were registered voters (MOE=+/**3.5%**). Please refer to the methodology statement for information regarding data collection, sample demographics, and the topline results for the questions as worded in the order in which they were administered to respondents.

Click here for results by demographics.

The UMBC Institute of Politics will release Part 2 of this survey on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 12:01 a.m. and Part 3 on Thursday, February 27.

Opinions toward Gov. Wes Moore, the direction of the state, and issues facing the state

Fifty-two percent of Maryland adults approve of the job Wes Moore is doing as governor, **40 percent** disapprove, and **7 percent** don't know.

- Among Democratic voters: **79 percent** approve, **14 percent** disapprove
- Among Republican voters: **16 percent** approve, **76 percent** disapprove
- Among Unaffiliated/Independent voters: **37 percent** approve, **53 percent** disapprove

Forty-two percent of Maryland adults think the state is heading in the right direction, **49 percent** say it's off on the wrong track, and **9 percent** don't know.

"Gov. Wes Moore earns support from a majority of Marylanders during a time of tough budgetary choices and public pessimism about the state's economic conditions. His approval rating is buoyed by his political base—nearly 80 percent of Democrats support the job he's doing. On the other hand, Republicans express broad disapproval of the governor," said Mileah Kromer, Director of the UMBC Institute of Politics.

Marylanders were asked how they would like the Maryland state government to prioritize addressing different issues facing the state.

The percentages below represent a "high" priority:

- Reducing crime and improving public safety: **77 percent**
- The quality of K-12 public education: **74 percent**
- The cost of healthcare: **67 percent**
- The cost of household energy bills: **65 percent**
- The cost and availability of housing: **63 percent**
- The amount of state taxes and fees that residents pay: **62 percent**
- Supporting economic growth and development: **59 percent**
- Protecting the environment: **49 percent**
- The quality of roads and highways: **42 percent**
- The availability and quality of public transportation: **34 percent**

Trust in government

Marylanders trust their state government more than the federal government to "do what is right."

Seventy-six percent of Marylanders say they can trust the federal government "never" or "only some of the time," and **19 percent** say they can trust the federal government "just about always" or "most of the time."

In comparison, **56 percent** of Marylanders say they can trust the Maryland state government "never" or "only some of the time," and **41 percent** say they can trust the Maryland state government "just about always" or "most of the time."

Attitudes toward state economic conditions, taxes, the state budget, and the impact of reducing the federal workforce on Maryland

Thirty-one percent of Maryland adults rate economic conditions in Maryland today as "excellent" or "good," while **67 percent** rate economic conditions as "poor" or "fair."

When asked about state income taxes, **63 percent** of Marylanders prefer a system where "people with higher incomes pay a higher tax rate than those with lower incomes," and **30 percent** prefer a system where "people pay the same tax rate regardless of their income."

Marylanders were also asked about their preferences regarding how state lawmakers should address the state's 3-billion-dollar budget deficit.

- **45 percent** want the budget deficit addressed by "a combination of spending cuts and increases in taxes and fees."
- **37 percent** want the budget deficit addressed "only or mostly with spending cuts to state government programs."
- **12 percent** want the budget deficit addressed "only or mostly with increasing some taxes and fees."

Marylanders were asked whether the Trump Administration's plan to drastically reduce the size of the federal workforce would have a mostly negative, mostly positive, or no real impact on the state.

- **61 percent** say the plan will have a "mostly negative impact."
- **24 percent** say the plan will have a "mostly positive impact."
- **10 percent** say the plan will have "no real impact."

Methodology Statement

The UMBC Poll is conducted under the auspices of the UMBC Institute of Politics and is funded by the UMBC College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

The UMBC Poll surveyed **803** Maryland adults, including **769** registered voters, from Tuesday, February 11 to Saturday, February 15, 2025. The poll was conducted by live interviewers and text-to-web utilizing a dual-frame (landline and cell phone) random sample stratified by county.

- **17 percent** of interviews were conducted via landline telephone.
- **83 percent** of the interviews were conducted via cellular telephone, including **56 percent** administered via text-to-web.

Interviews were conducted from 1 to 8 p.m., and interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers a maximum of five times. Braun Research provided the sample of telephone numbers and the data collection.

There is a 95 percent probability that the survey results have the following percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question:

- MOE=**+/-3.5%** for the sample of **803** Maryland adults.
- MOE=**+/-3.5%** for the sample of **769** Maryland registered voters.

The margin of sampling error is higher for subgroups and is not adjusted for design effects. Like all public opinion polls, the UMBC Poll is also subject to sources of non-sampling error, such as non-response bias, question-order effects, and question-wording effects. The topline results include the questions as worded in the order in which they were administered to respondents.

Mileah Kromer, Director of the UMBC Institute of Politics, and Ian Anson, Associate Director, process the data collected by the UMBC Poll. Under Kromer and Anson's supervision, student research assistants help with various aspects of the UMBC Poll as part of UMBC's commitment to innovative teaching and learning, research across disciplines, and civic engagement.

The UMBC Poll is committed to methodological transparency. If you have questions about the poll's methodology, contact Mileah Kromer, Director, UMBC Institute of Politics (mkromer@umbc.edu).

Sample Demographics (in percent) and Weighting

The UMBC Poll data is weighted by gender, age, race, geography, and educational attainment to represent the Maryland adult population targets established by the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates provided by the U.S. Census. Results are in column percentages and may not add up to exactly 100 due to weighting and rounding.

		Maryland population parameter	Adults n=803 (+/-3.5%)	Voters n=769 (+/-3.5%)
Gender	Male	48	48	49
	Female	52	52	51
Age	18-24	11	11	11
	25-34	17	17	17
	35-44	17	17	18
	45-54	16	16	16
	55-64	17	17	17
	65+	21	21	21
Race	White	50	50	51
	Black	29	29	30
	Hispanic/Latino	10	10	10
	Asian	7	7	6
	All other	4	4	4
Education	High school graduate/GED or less	34	33	33
	Some college or associate degree	26	26	27
	4-year college degree	22	22	22
	Advanced / post-grad degree	18	18	19
Geography	Montgomery County	17	17	17
	Prince George's County	15	15	15
	Baltimore County	14	14	14
	Anne Arundel County	10	10	10
	Baltimore City	9	9	9
	Central Region	13	13	12
	Western Region	9	9	9
	Eastern Shore Region	8	8	8
	Southern Region	6	6	6

Central region: Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties
Western region: Allegany, Garrett, Frederick, and Washington Counties
Eastern Shore region: Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties
Southern region: Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties

Other sample demographics (in percent)

The data is <u>not</u> weighted by these characteristics.

		Maryland population parameter	Adults n=803 (+/-3.5%)	Voters n=769 (+/-3.5%)
Party*	Democratic	52	--	50
	Republican	24	--	27
	Unaffiliated	22	--	22
	Other	2	--	1
Ideology	Conservative	--	26	26
	Moderate	--	50	50
	Progressive	--	24	24
Income	Under $40,000	16	21	20
	$40,00 to under $75,000	18	24	25
	$75,000 to under $125,000	24	23	23
	$125,000 or more	42	32	32

*The "party" population parameter established by the Maryland State Board of Elections Voter Registration Activity Report (January 2025).

Question design codes

- Bracketed items []: Items in brackets in the questions are administered in a randomized order.
- Probe (p): Response options that include a (p) indicate the use of a probe maneuver to determine a respondent's intensity of expressed opinion. Example: Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of <item>? Would you say very favorable/unfavorable?
- Open-ended: Open-ended questions are those without a defined set of response options.
- Volunteer (v): Response options that include a (v) indicate that the respondent offered a response not read to them in the question.

Topline Results

The topline results below represent the sample of **803** Maryland adults (MOE=+/-**3.5%**). **Click here for results by demographics**. Results are in column percentages and may not add up to exactly 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: TRACK	To get started, do you think that things in Maryland [**are heading in the right direction or are off on the wrong track**]?	Percent
	Wrong track	49
	Right direction	42
	Don't know (v)	9
	Refused (v)	0

Q: MOOREJOB	Do you [**approve or disapprove**] of the way Wes Moore is handling his job as governor?	Percent
	Strongly Disapprove (p)	21
	Disapprove	19
	Approve	32
	Strongly Approve (p)	20
	Don't know (v)	7
	Refused (v)	1

Q: TRUST_FED	How much of the time do you think you can trust the <u>federal</u> government in Washington, DC, to do what is right: [**just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or never**]?	**Percent**
	Never	30
	Only some of the time	46
	Most of the time	15
	Just about always	4
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	1

Q: TRUST_STATE	What about the <u>Maryland state</u> government in Annapolis? How much of the time can you trust the Maryland state government to do what is right: [**just about always, most of the time, only some of the time, or never**]?	**Percent**
	Never	14
	Only some of the time	42
	Most of the time	35
	Just about always	6
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	1

Q: ECONNOW	Thinking about the Maryland economy…how would you rate overall economic conditions in the state today: [**poor, fair, good, or excellent**]?	**Percent**
	Poor	29
	Fair	38
	Good	28
	Excellent	3
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: REDUCE	As you may know, the Trump administration is implementing policies to drastically reduce the size of the federal workforce. Do you think the reduction in the federal workforce will have a [**mostly positive impact, mostly negative impact, or no real impact**] on Maryland?	**Percent**
	Mostly negative impact	61
	No real impact	10
	Mostly positive impact	24
	Some other opinion / It depends (v)	2
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	0

Q: EC_ISSUES	I'm going to read you a list of issues facing the state. As I read each one, please tell me whether you think it should be a [**high, medium, low, or not a priority**] for the Maryland state government to address:

Q: HOUSING to Q: ENV were administered to respondents in a randomized order.

Q: HOUSING	The cost and availability of housing	Percent
	Not a priority at all	2
	Low priority	8
	Medium priority	26
	High priority	63
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: ROADS	The quality of roads and highways	Percent
	Not a priority at all	2
	Low priority	12
	Medium priority	43
	High priority	42
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: PAY	The amount of state taxes and fees that residents pay	Percent
	Not a priority at all	2
	Low priority	9
	Medium priority	25
	High priority	62
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: PUBLICEDU	*The quality of K-12 public education*	**Percent**
	Not a priority at all	1
	Low priority	4
	Medium priority	18
	High priority	74
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: PUBTRANSIT	*The availability and quality of public transportation*	**Percent**
	Not a priority at all	7
	Low priority	16
	Medium priority	40
	High priority	34
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	0

Q: CRIME	*Reducing crime and improving public safety*	**Percent**
	Not a priority at all	1
	Low priority	5
	Medium priority	16
	High priority	77
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: BILLS	*The cost of household energy bills*	**Percent**
	Not a priority at all	1
	Low priority	6
	Medium priority	27
	High priority	65
	Don't know (v)	0
	Refused (v)	0

Q: HEALTHCARE	*The cost of healthcare*	**Percent**
	Not a priority at all	2
	Low priority	7
	Medium priority	22
	High priority	67
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: GROWTH	*Supporting economic growth and development*	**Percent**
	Not a priority at all	3
	Low priority	7
	Medium priority	30
	High priority	59
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	0

Q: ENV	*Protecting the environment*	**Percent**
	Not a priority at all	4
	Low priority	12
	Medium priority	34
	High priority	49
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: TAX1	Thinking generally, do you prefer a state income tax system where: **[items 1-2 rotated/read to respondent**]	**Percent**
1	People with higher incomes pay a higher tax rate than those with lower incomes.	63
2	People pay the same tax rate regardless of their income.	30
	Some other opinion (v)	3
	Don't know / unsure (v)	2
	Refused (v)	1

Q: BUDGET	As you may know, Maryland lawmakers are debating how to address the 3-billion-dollar budget deficit the state faces in the coming year. Typically, lawmakers can address a state budget deficit by [cutting spending on state government programs and services, raising some taxes and fees], or some combination of the two. How would you prefer that the Maryland state government address the budget deficit: [**items 1-3 rotated/read to respondent**]	Percent
1	Only or mostly with spending cuts to state government programs and services.	37
2	A combination of spending cuts and increases in taxes and fees.	45
3	Only or mostly with increasing some taxes and fees.	12
	Don't know / unsure (v)	5
	Refused (v)	1

UMBC

Our Mission

UMBC is a dynamic public research university integrating teaching, research and service to benefit the citizens of Maryland. As an Honors University, the campus offers academically talented students a strong undergraduate liberal arts foundation that prepares them for graduate and professional study, entry into the workforce, and community service and leadership.

UMBC emphasizes science, engineering, information technology, human services and public policy at the graduate level. UMBC contributes to the economic development of the State and the region through entrepreneurial initiatives, workforce training, K- 16 partnerships, and technology commercialization in collaboration with public agencies and the corporate community. UMBC is dedicated to cultural and ethnic diversity, social responsibility and lifelong learning.

Our Vision

Our UMBC community redefines excellence in higher education through an inclusive culture that connects innovative teaching and learning, research across disciplines, and civic engagement. We will advance knowledge, economic prosperity, and social justice by welcoming and inspiring inquisitive minds from all backgrounds.