



INSTITUTE OF POLITICS UMBC Poll

Results embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025

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UMBC Poll (Part 2) Topics:

- Rating of the natural environment in Maryland
- Attitudes toward expanding energy sources in the state
- Assessment of respondents' overall health
- Most urgent health or healthcare problems facing Maryland
- Whether the respondent has avoided medical care due to cost

Wednesday, February 26 (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 3 of this survey on Thursday, February 27 at 12:01 a.m. Previous UMBC Poll results can be found at politics.umbc.edu.

Opinions toward the natural environment and energy sources in Maryland

Fifty-nine percent of Maryland residents view the overall quality of the state's natural environment as "excellent" or "good," and **40 percent** say it's "poor" or "fair."

Marylanders were asked whether they would support or oppose the expansion of different energy sources in the state.

- **80 percent** support expanding the use of solar energy.
- **74 percent** support expanding the use of natural gas.
- **70 percent** support expanding the use of wind energy.
- **68 percent** support expanding the use of waste-to-energy.
- **63 percent** support expanding the use of geothermal energy.
- **51 percent** support expanding the use of nuclear energy.
- **42 percent** support expanding the use of coal.

Evaluation of overall personal health and urgent healthcare issues facing Maryland residents

Seventy percent of Marylanders rate their overall health as "excellent" or "good," and **29 percent** say it's "poor" or "fair."

Thirty-four percent of state residents say that they or a household member has avoided seeking medical care over the last year due to cost.

Marylanders were asked to identify the state's most urgent health or healthcare problem. The most frequent responses are categorized below:

- Cost of healthcare and insurance: **37 percent**
- Chronic health issues: **25 percent**
- Access to healthcare: **12 percent**

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 not 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: ENVQUAL	Changing topics, how would you rate the overall quality of the natural environment in Maryland today: [excellent, good, fair, or poor]?	Percent
	Poor	6
	Fair	34
	Good	50
	Excellent	9
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0

Q: SOURCE The following is a list of energy sources. For each one, please tell me whether you [**support or oppose**] expanding its use as an energy source in Maryland.

Q: NATGAS to Q: COAL were administered to respondents in a randomized order.

Q: NATGAS	<i>Natural gas</i>	Percent
	Strongly oppose (p)	6
	Oppose	15
	Support	41
	Strongly support (p)	33
	Don't know (v)	5
	Refused (v)	0

Q: NUCLEAR	<i>Nuclear</i>	Percent
	Strongly oppose (p)	18
	Oppose	20
	Support	25
	Strongly support (p)	26
	Don't know (v)	10
	Refused (v)	1

Q: WIND	<i>Wind</i>	Percent
	Strongly oppose (p)	13
	Oppose	13
	Support	31
	Strongly support (p)	39
	Don't know (v)	5
	Refused (v)	0

Q: SOLAR	<i>Solar</i>	Percent
	Strongly oppose (p)	7
	Oppose	9
	Support	30
	Strongly support (p)	50
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	1

Q: GEO	<i>Geothermal</i>	Percent
	Strongly oppose (p)	5
	Oppose	9
	Support	35
	Strongly support (p)	28
	Don't know (v)	23
	Refused (v)	1

Q: WASTE	<i>Waste-to-energy i.e., burning waste to convert it into usable energy</i>	Percent
	Strongly oppose (p)	8
	Oppose	12
	Support	40
	Strongly support (p)	28
	Don't know (v)	11
	Refused (v)	1

Q: COAL	<i>Coal</i>	Percent
	Strongly oppose (p)	27
	Oppose	24
	Support	27
	Strongly support (p)	15
	Don't know (v)	7
	Refused (v)	1

Q: HEALTH	Changing topics, would you say that your overall health is [excellent, good, fair, or poor]?	Percent
	Poor	4
	Fair	25
	Good	52
	Excellent	18
	Don't know (v)	0
	Refused (v)	1

Q: URGENT	In your opinion, what is the most urgent health or healthcare problem facing Maryland residents today? [open-ended]	Percent
	Cost of healthcare and insurance	37
	Chronic health issues	25
	Access to healthcare	12
	Health inequities and social factors	2
	Environment and lifestyle issues	4
	Other	9
	Don't know (v)	9
	Refused (v)	2

Note: Q: URGENT is an open-ended question. A team of undergraduate student research assistants coded the responses into categories.

Q: AVOID	In the last year, have you or anyone in your household avoided seeking medical care due to cost?	Percent
	No	65
	Yes	34
	Don't know / unsure (v)	1
	Refused (v)	0



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.