INSTITUTE OF POLITICS
UMBC Poll

Results embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2025

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UMBC Poll (Part 1) Topics:
- Quality of life issues facing Baltimore City and County residents
- Satisfaction with Baltimore City and County government services
- Ratings of local services and amenities

Tuesday, April 15 (Baltimore): The UMBC Poll surveyed adult residents of Baltimore City (**n=642, MOE=+/-3.8%**) and County (**n=628, MOE=+/-3.9%**) from Tuesday, April 1 to Sunday, April 6, 2025. 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, April 16, 2025, at 12:01 a.m.

Opinions toward key issues facing Baltimore City and County residents

Baltimore City and County residents were asked to rate whether a series of issues were a major, minor, or not an issue facing residents in their respective jurisdictions.

The percentages below represent a "major" issue:

The cost and availability of housing
- Baltimore City: **70 percent**
- Baltimore County: **67 percent**

The condition of roads and highways in the city/county
- Baltimore City: **73 percent**
- Baltimore County: **49 percent**

The amount of traffic or commute times
- Baltimore City: **40 percent**
- Baltimore County: **49 percent**

The amount of local taxes and fees that residents pay
- Baltimore City: **73 percent**
- Baltimore County: **67 percent**

The quality of K-12 public schools
- Baltimore City: **71 percent**
- Baltimore County: **58 percent**

The availability and quality of public transportation
- Baltimore City: **40 percent**
- Baltimore County: **25 percent**

Crime and public safety
- Baltimore City: **83 percent**
- Baltimore County: **68 percent**

The cost of household energy bills
- Baltimore City: **82 percent**
- Baltimore County: **79 percent**

Economic growth and development
- Baltimore City: **67 percent**
- Baltimore County: **51 percent**

Services that support families and children
- Baltimore City: **57 percent**
- Baltimore County: **42 percent**

The availability of parks, public spaces, and recreational facilities
- Baltimore City: **37 percent**
- Baltimore County: **22 percent**

Poverty and homelessness
- Baltimore City: **84 percent**
- Baltimore County: **50 percent**

Satisfaction with Baltimore City and County government services

Baltimore City and County residents were asked to rate their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with how their local governments were handling public services.

The percentages below represent "very satisfied" or "satisfied":

Trash pickup
- Baltimore City: **68 percent**
- Baltimore County: **85 percent**

Recycling pickup
- Baltimore City: **69 percent**
- Baltimore County: **80 percent**

The responsiveness of emergency services
- Baltimore City: **58 percent**
- Baltimore County: **77 percent**

Policing and public safety
- Baltimore City: **33 percent**
- Baltimore County: **57 percent**

Water billing and administration
- Baltimore City: **28 percent**
- Baltimore County: **53 percent**

Parking enforcement
- Baltimore City: **45 percent**
- Baltimore County: **55 percent**

Courts and the criminal justice system
- Baltimore City: **29 percent**
- Baltimore County: **38 percent**

K-12 public schools
- Baltimore City: **23 percent**
- Baltimore County: **36 percent**

Maintaining local infrastructure, streets, and public spaces
- Baltimore City: **24 percent**
- Baltimore County: **49 percent**

Ratings of public services and amenities

Baltimore City and County residents were asked to rate various services and amenities available in their respective jurisdictions.

The percentages below represent a rating of "excellent" or "good":

Public libraries
- Baltimore City: **62 percent**
- Baltimore County: **68 percent**

Parks and other outdoor recreational spaces
- Baltimore City: **48 percent**
- Baltimore County: **63 percent**

Public recreation centers and gymnasiums
- Baltimore City: **31 percent**
- Baltimore County: **44 percent**

Public sidewalks and walkways
- Baltimore City: **26 percent**
- Baltimore County: **43 percent**

Local animal shelters
- Baltimore City: **40 percent**
- Baltimore County: **40 percent**

Arts, music, and other cultural venues
- Baltimore City: **58 percent**
- Baltimore County: **44 percent**

Sports venues and stadiums
- Baltimore City: **67 percent**
- Baltimore County: **55 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 adult residents of Baltimore City (**n=642**) and County (**n=628**) from Tuesday, April 1 to Sunday, April 6, 2025. The poll was conducted by live interviewers and text-to-web utilizing a dual-frame (landline and cell phone) random sample.

Baltimore City sample:
- **14 percent** of interviews were conducted via landline telephone.
- **86 percent** of the interviews were conducted via cellular telephone, including **55 percent** administered via text-to-web.

Baltimore County sample:
- **3 percent** of interviews were conducted via landline telephone.
- **97 percent** of the interviews were conducted via cellular telephone, including **54 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 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=**+/-3.8%** for the sample of **642** Baltimore City residents
- MOE=**+/-3.9%** for the sample of **628** Baltimore County residents

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, educational attainment, and income to represent the Baltimore City and County adult population targets established by the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates provided by the U.S. Census. Results are presented in column percentages and may not add up to exactly 100 due to rounding and weighting.

		Baltimore City population parameter	Baltimore City sample estimate n=642 +/-3.8%	Baltimore County population parameter	Baltimore County sample estimate n=628 +/-3.9%
Gender	Male	45	45	47	47
	Female	55	55	53	53
Age	18-24	11	11	11	11
	25-34	23	23	17	17
	35-44	17	18	17	17
	45-54	13	13	16	15
	55-64	16	16	17	18
	65+	19	19	23	22
Race	White	29	29	56	56
	Black	58	59	29	29
	Hispanic/Latino	6	6	6	6
	Asian	3	3	6	6
	All other	3	3	3	4
Education	High school graduate/GED or less	42	41	34	33
	Some college or associate degree	25	25	28	28
	4-year college degree	18	18	22	22
	Advanced / post-grad degree	16	16	16	16
Income	Under $40,000	33	29	16	16
	$40,00 to under $75,000	23	25	21	21
	$75,000 to under $125,000	21	22	25	26
	$125,000 or more	23	24	36	37

Other sample demographics (in percent)
The data is **not** weighted by these characteristics.

		Baltimore City population parameter	Baltimore City sample estimate n=642 +/-3.8%	Baltimore County population parameter	Baltimore County sample estimate n=628 +/-3.9%
Party*	Democrat	74	70	53	45
	Republican	7	12	24	31
	Unaffiliated	16	16	21	23
	Other	3	2	1	1
Ideology	Conservative	--	19	--	30
	Moderate	--	52	--	51
	Progressive	--	29	--	19
Years living in the city or county	Less than a year	--	1	--	2
	One to 5 years	--	7	--	11
	6 to 10 years	--	10	--	11
	More than 10 years	--	82	--	76
Children in the home	No	--	71	--	62
	Yes	--	29	--	38

*The party population parameter is established by the Maryland State Board of Elections Voter Registration Activity Report (March 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 that lack a predefined 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 samples of Baltimore City (n=642, MOE=+/- 3.8%) and County (n=628, MOE=+/- 3.9%) adults. **Click here for results by demographics**. Results are presented in column percentages and may not add up to exactly 100 due to rounding and weighting.

Label	Question	Balt. City Adults n=642 +/-3.8%	Balt. County Adults n=628 +/-3.9%
Q: ISSUES	Next, I'm going to read you a list of issues facing **Baltimore City** / **Baltimore County**. As I read each one, please tell me whether you think it is a [**major issue, minor issue, or not an issue**] facing **city / county** residents:		
	Q: HOUSING to Q: POVERTY were administered to respondents in a randomized order.		
Q: HOUSING	*The cost and availability of housing*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Not an issue	9	10
	Minor issue	19	21
	Major issue	70	67
	Don't know (v)	2	2
	Refused (v)	0	0
Q: ROADS	*The condition of roads and highways in the **city / county***	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Not an issue	4	12
	Minor issue	21	39
	Major issue	73	49
	Don't know (v)	1	1
	Refused (v)	0	0

Q: TRAFFIC	*The amount of traffic or commute times*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Not an issue	16	12
	Minor issue	40	36
	Major issue	40	49
	Don't know (v)	3	2
	Refused (v)	0	0
Q: PAY	*The amount of local taxes and fees that residents pay*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Not an issue	7	6
	Minor issue	18	26
	Major issue	73	67
	Don't know (v)	2	2
	Refused (v)	1	0
Q: PUBLICEDU	*The quality of K-12 public schools*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Not an issue	6	9
	Minor issue	16	25
	Major issue	71	58
	Don't know (v)	7	8
	Refused (v)	1	0
Q: PUBTRANSIT	*The availability and quality of public transportation*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Not an issue	18	25
	Minor issue	36	40
	Major issue	40	25
	Don't know (v)	6	9
	Refused (v)	1	1

Q: CRIME	Crime and public safety	Percent	Percent
	Not an issue	2	3
	Minor issue	13	27
	Major issue	83	68
	Don't know (v)	2	1
	Refused (v)	0	0
Q: BILLS	The cost of household energy bills	Percent	Percent
	Not an issue	5	3
	Minor issue	10	16
	Major issue	82	79
	Don't know (v)	2	1
	Refused (v)	0	0
Q: GROWTH	Economic growth and development	Percent	Percent
	Not an issue	9	11
	Minor issue	20	33
	Major issue	67	51
	Don't know (v)	3	4
	Refused (v)	0	0
Q: PARENTS	Services that support families and children	Percent	Percent
	Not an issue	11	15
	Minor issue	22	31
	Major issue	57	42
	Don't know (v)	9	11
	Refused (v)	1	0

Q: SPACES	The availability of parks, public spaces, and recreational facilities	Percent	Percent
	Not an issue	20	35
	Minor issue	39	42
	Major issue	37	22
	Don't know (v)	3	1
	Refused (v)	1	0
Q: POVERTY	Poverty and homelessness	Percent	Percent
	Not an issue	3	11
	Minor issue	11	34
	Major issue	84	50
	Don't know (v)	2	4
	Refused (v)	0	1
Q: SERVICES	Next, I'm going to read you a list of services provided by your local government. For each one, please tell me whether you are [**dissatisfied or satisfied**] with how the [**Baltimore City / Baltimore County**] government handles it. PROBE		
Q: TRASH to Q: MAINTAIN were administered to respondents in a randomized order.			
Q: TRASH	Trash pickup	Percent	Percent
	Very dissatisfied (p)	15	5
	Dissatisfied	15	9
	Satisfied	45	51
	Very satisfied (p)	23	34
	Don't know (v)	1	1
	Refused (v)	0	0

Q: RECYCLING	*Recycling pickup*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Very dissatisfied (p)	11	7
	Dissatisfied	14	10
	Satisfied	48	53
	Very satisfied (p)	21	27
	Don't know (v)	6	3
	Refused (v)	0	0
Q: EMERGENCY	*The responsiveness of emergency services*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Very dissatisfied (p)	15	5
	Dissatisfied	18	8
	Satisfied	43	51
	Very satisfied (p)	15	26
	Don't know (v)	8	10
	Refused (v)	1	0
Q: POLICING	*Policing and public safety*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Very dissatisfied (p)	30	15
	Dissatisfied	33	25
	Satisfied	26	46
	Very satisfied (p)	7	11
	Don't know (v)	4	3
	Refused (v)	1	1

Q: WATER	Water billing and administration	Percent	Percent
	Very dissatisfied (p)	39	14
	Dissatisfied	28	20
	Satisfied	23	43
	Very satisfied (p)	5	10
	Don't know (v)	5	11
	Refused (v)	0	1
Q: PARKING	Parking enforcement	Percent	Percent
	Very dissatisfied (p)	19	10
	Dissatisfied	25	17
	Satisfied	36	43
	Very satisfied (p)	9	12
	Don't know (v)	11	17
	Refused (v)	1	1
Q: CRIMINAL	Courts and the criminal justice system	Percent	Percent
	Very dissatisfied (p)	34	22
	Dissatisfied	26	26
	Satisfied	25	33
	Very satisfied (p)	4	5
	Don't know (v)	10	13
	Refused (v)	1	0

Q: PUBSCHOOLS	*K-12 public schools*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Very dissatisfied (p)	30	22
	Dissatisfied	34	30
	Satisfied	19	30
	Very satisfied (p)	4	6
	Don't know (v)	12	11
	Refused (v)	1	1
Q: MAINTAIN	*Maintaining local infrastructure, streets, and public spaces*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Very dissatisfied (p)	32	19
	Dissatisfied	40	31
	Satisfied	19	40
	Very satisfied (p)	5	9
	Don't know (v)	4	2
	Refused (v)	0	0
Q: AMENITIES	Next, I'd like to ask you to rate some different local public services and other amenities in the **city / county**. As I read each one, please tell me whether they are [**excellent, good, fair, or poor**] in **Baltimore City / Baltimore County**.		
Q: LIBRARY to Q: SPORTS were administered to respondents in a randomized order.			
Q: LIBRARY	*Public libraries*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Poor	7	5
	Fair	24	18
	Good	38	42
	Excellent	24	26
	Don't know (v)	6	9
	Refused (v)	0	0

Q: PARKS	*Parks and other outdoor recreational spaces*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Poor	16	7
	Fair	33	26
	Good	35	46
	Excellent	13	17
	Don't know (v)	4	4
	Refused (v)	0	0
Q: REC	*Public recreation centers and gymnasiums*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Poor	26	15
	Fair	30	25
	Good	23	34
	Excellent	8	10
	Don't know (v)	13	15
	Refused (v)	1	1
Q: SIDEWALK	*Public sidewalks and walkways*	**Percent**	**Percent**
	Poor	34	23
	Fair	37	32
	Good	20	38
	Excellent	6	5
	Don't know (v)	2	3
	Refused (v)	0	0

Q: SHELTER	Local animal shelters	Percent	Percent
	Poor	13	9
	Fair	23	23
	Good	28	30
	Excellent	12	10
	Don't know (v)	24	26
	Refused (v)	0	1
Q: ARTS	Arts, music, and other cultural venues	Percent	Percent
	Poor	12	15
	Fair	23	27
	Good	38	33
	Excellent	20	11
	Don't know (v)	7	14
	Refused (v)	0	0
Q: SPORTS	Sports venues and stadiums	Percent	Percent
	Poor	4	11
	Fair	19	19
	Good	38	39
	Excellent	29	16
	Don't know (v)	9	15
	Refused (v)	0	0

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.