



# INSTITUTE OF POLITICS UMBC Poll

**Results embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

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## **Topics:**

- Francis Scott Key Bridge
- Neighborhood crime and safety
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement and presence
- Approach to violent crime reduction in Baltimore City
- Improving the Inner Harbor area of Baltimore City
- Parks, recreation, and community centers in Baltimore County

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026 (Baltimore):** The UMBC Poll surveyed adult residents of Baltimore City (**n=666, MOE=±3.8%**) and County (**n=602, MOE=±4.0%**) from **Tuesday, April 14 to Sunday, April 19, 2026**. 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, April 30, at 12:01 a.m.** For previous UMBC Poll results and information about the UMBC Institute of Politics, go to: <https://politics.umbc.edu/>

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## **Francis Scott Key Bridge impact and confidence in rebuilding efforts**

Two years have passed since the Francis Scott Key Bridge was struck by a container ship and collapsed. Baltimore City and County residents were asked about the impact of the bridge's loss on the Baltimore-metro region and their confidence in the rebuilding efforts.

### Among Baltimore City residents

**Seventy-six percent** of Baltimore City residents say the loss of the Key Bridge has had "a great deal" or "some" impact on life in the Baltimore-metro area, and **16 percent** say it has impacted life "not at all" or "a little."

- *April 2025:* 79 percent of Baltimore City residents said the loss of the Key Bridge had "a great deal" or "some" impact on life in the Baltimore-metro area, and 17 percent said it impacted life "not at all" or "a little."

**Forty-four percent** of Baltimore City residents are "not at all" or "a little," and **47 percent** are "somewhat" or "very" confident that the bridge will be rebuilt by 2030.

### Among Baltimore County residents

**Eighty-four percent** of Baltimore County residents say the loss of the Key Bridge has had "a great deal" or "some" impact on life in the Baltimore-metro area, and **11 percent** say it has impacted life "not at all" or "a little."

- *April 2025:* 89 percent of Baltimore County residents said the loss of the Key Bridge had "a great deal" or "some" impact on life in the Baltimore-metro area, and 9 percent said it had impacted life "not at all" or "a little."

**Fifty-five percent** of Baltimore County residents are "not at all" or "a little" confident and **42 percent** are "somewhat" or "very" confident that the bridge will be rebuilt by 2030.

## Perceptions of neighborhood public safety and crime reduction approaches

Baltimore City and County residents were asked about the level of crime in their neighborhood compared to last year and how safe they feel walking around their neighborhood after dark.

### Among Baltimore City residents:

- **27 percent** say there is less crime in their neighborhood.
- **44 percent** say there is about the same amount of crime in their neighborhood.
- **21 percent** say there is more crime in their neighborhood.
- **52 percent** feel safe walking around their neighborhood after dark.
- **42 percent** feel unsafe walking around their neighborhood after dark.

### Among Baltimore County residents:

- **15 percent** say there is less crime in their neighborhood.
- **48 percent** say there is about the same amount of crime in their neighborhood.
- **30 percent** say there is more crime in their neighborhood.
- **67 percent** feel safe walking around their neighborhood after dark.
- **29 percent** feel unsafe walking around their neighborhood after dark.

Baltimore City residents were additionally asked which approach to public safety they credit most for the significant decrease in violent crime in recent years.

- **21 percent** say it's the investments in community-based intervention and violence prevention programs that target the groups and individuals at the highest risk of committing crimes.
- **12 percent** say it's the tougher sentences for gun crimes and repeat offenders, prosecuting lower-level quality-of-life crimes, and diverting non-violent offenders into supervised programs.
- **44 percent** say it's the mix of both that has reduced the rate of violent crime in Baltimore City.

## Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement and presence

**Sixty-eight percent** of Baltimore City residents say that ICE has “gone too far,” 12 percent say they have “not gone far enough,” and **14 percent** think their enforcement of immigration laws has been “about right.”

**Forty-nine percent** of Baltimore County residents say that ICE has “gone too far,” 24 percent say they have “not gone far enough,” and **22 percent** think their enforcement of immigration laws has been “about right.”

The table below shows how often respondents have personally seen an ICE officer in their jurisdiction since the start of 2026:

	Baltimore City	Baltimore County
Never	<b>48</b>	<b>60</b>
Less than once a month	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
About once a month	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
A couple of times a month	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>
Weekly	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Multiple times a week	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

## Improving the Inner Harbor area of Baltimore City

Baltimore City residents were asked, “*What amenities, business, or other factors would make downtown Baltimore City—the area near the Inner Harbor—a better place to visit or work?*”

**Twenty-one percent** of Baltimore City residents didn’t know how to make downtown Baltimore City a better place to visit or work.

The responses of those who offered an opinion were categorized:

- Improve public safety: **23 percent**
- Expand business development, retail, and dining: **16 percent**
- Improve parking, transportation, and infrastructure: **10 percent**
- More entertainment, events, and activities: **4 percent**
- Improve physical upkeep and cleanliness: **4 percent**
- Add more green space, parks, and public spaces: **3 percent**
- Increase in affordable housing and residential development: **2 percent**

## **Parks, recreation, and community centers in Baltimore County**

Baltimore County residents were asked about their use of the county's parks, playgrounds, recreation, and community centers, their level of interest in various types of recreational offerings, and what improvements would make them more likely to visit.

Most Baltimore County residents (**76 percent**) have visited one of Baltimore County's parks, playgrounds, recreation, and community centers within the last year, and **22 percent** say they have never visited any of Baltimore County's parks, playgrounds, recreation, or community centers in the past 12 months.

Baltimore County residents were also asked to rate their interest in various types of recreational opportunities and spaces on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "not at all interested" and 5 means "extremely interested." The share saying they are "very" or "extremely" interested (4 or 5) in each type of offering is as follows:

- Outdoor and nature recreational spaces like parks or trails: **67 percent**
- Community and recreation centers: **51 percent**
- Arts, culture, and historical programs and sites: **48 percent**
- Youth and family programming: **44 percent**
- Courts and fields for sports: **44 percent**
- Boating, sailing, fishing, and other facilities along the county's waterfront: **42 percent**
- Agricultural and environmental education: **44 percent**

Baltimore County residents were asked, *"In your own words, what types of amenities, services, or activities would make you more likely to visit or use Baltimore County Recreation and Parks facilities or participate in their programming?"*

Their open-ended responses were categorized, and the top three groups are:

- Programs, events, and activities: **17 percent**
- Safety, cleanliness, and maintenance: **9 percent**
- Facilities and infrastructure: **7 percent**

## Methodology Statement

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

The UMBC Poll surveyed adult residents of Baltimore City (**n=666**) and County (**n=602**) from **Tuesday, April 14 to Sunday, April 19, 2026**. The poll was conducted by live interviewers and text-to-web utilizing a dual-frame (landline and cell phone) random sample stratified by county.

Text-to-web: **48 percent** (Baltimore City) / **45 percent** (Baltimore County)  
Live-caller cell phone: **44 percent** (Baltimore City) / **53 percent** (Baltimore County)  
Live-caller landline: **8 percent** (Baltimore City) / **2 percent** (Baltimore County)

Interviews were conducted from 1 to 8 p.m., and interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers up to 5 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=±3.8%** for the sample of **666** Baltimore City residents  
**MOE=±4.0%** for the sample of **602** 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 non-sampling error, including 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, analyze the data collected by the UMBC Poll. Under their supervision, research assistants Trisha Sirsat, Audrey Grutzik, and Sofia Cabrera support all aspects of the IoP's work 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, at [mkromer@umbc.edu](mailto:mkromer@umbc.edu).

## Sample Demographics (in percent) and Weighting

Survey data were weighted by gender, age, race, educational attainment, and income to align with Baltimore City and County adult population parameters derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. All results are reported as column percentages; figures may not sum to exactly 100 percent due to rounding and the application of survey weights.

		Balt City population parameter	Balt City sample estimate <b>n=666</b> <b>±3.8%</b>	Balt Co population parameter	Balt Co sample estimate <b>n=602</b> <b>±4.0%</b>
Gender	Male	45	45	47	47
	Female	54	55	53	53
Age	18-24	11	11	11	11
	25-34	23	23	17	17
	35-44	18	18	17	17
	45-54	13	13	16	15
	55-64	16	16	18	18
	65+	19	19	22	22
Race	White	29	29	55	56
	Black	58	59	29	29
	Hispanic/Latino	6	6	6	6
	Asian	3	3	6	6
	All other	10	3	5	3
Education	High school diploma or less	40	41	33	34
	Some college or associate's degree	25	25	27	28
	Bachelor's degree	18	18	22	22
	Graduate or professional degree	16	16	16	17
Income	Under \$40,000	26	29	15	16
	\$40,000 to under \$75,000	23	25	19	21
	\$75,000 to under \$125,000	20	22	23	26
	\$125,000 or more	22	24	33	37

## Other sample demographics (in percent)

The data are not weighted by these characteristics.

		Balt City population parameter	Balt City sample estimate <b>n=666</b> <b>±3.8%</b>	Balt Co population parameter	Balt Co sample estimate <b>n=602</b> <b>±4.0%</b>
Party*	Democrat	73	71	52	45
	Republican	7	11	24	31
	Unaffiliated	18	17	22	24
	Other	2	0	2	1
Ideology	Conservative	--	21	--	31
	Moderate	--	40	--	49
	Progressive	--	39	--	20
Residency length	Less than a year	--	3	--	3
	One to 5 years	--	11	--	10
	6 to 10 years	--	9	--	10
	More than 10 years	--	77	--	77
Children in home	No	--	68	--	66
	Yes	--	32	--	34

\*The "party" population parameter is established by the Maryland State Board of Elections Voter Registration Activity Report (March 2026).

### 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 have no 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.

The UMBC Institute of Politics is a member of the [American Association for Public Opinion Research's Transparency Initiative](#) and provides the required elements of disclosure with every release.



## Topline Results

The topline results below represent the sample of **666** Baltimore City residents (**MOE=±3.8%**) and **602** Baltimore County residents (**MOE=±4.0%**). Results are reported as column percentages and may not sum to exactly 100 due to weighting and rounding. [Click here for results by demographics.](#)

Label	Question	Baltimore City Adults n=666 ±3.8%	Baltimore County Adults n=602 ±4.0%
<b>Q: CRIME_NB</b>	Is there [ <b>more, less</b> ], or about the same amount of crime in your neighborhood as there was a year ago?	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	Less	27	15
	About the same	44	48
	More	21	30
	Don't know (v)	7	7
	Refused (v)	1	0
<b>Q: SAFETY</b>	Do you typically feel [ <b>safe or unsafe</b> ] walking around your neighborhood after dark?	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>PROBE</b>	Very unsafe (p)	12	6
	Unsafe	30	23
	Safe	39	48
	Very safe (p)	13	19
	Don't know (v)	5	4
	Refused (v)	1	0
<b>Q: BRIDGE</b>	As you know, the Francis Scott Key Bridge was hit by a container ship and collapsed two years ago. In your opinion, to what extent has the loss of the Key Bridge impacted life in the Baltimore-metro area:	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	Not at all	7	4
	A little	9	7
	Some	29	20
	A great deal	47	64
	Don't know (v)	8	4
	Refused (v)	0	0

<b>Q: REBUILT</b>	How confident are you – <b>[not at all, a little, somewhat, or very]</b> – that the Francis Scott Key Bridge will be rebuilt by 2030?	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	Not at all confident	25	33
	A little confident	19	22
	Somewhat confident	32	30
	Very confident	15	12
	Don't know (v)	8	2
	Refused (v)	1	0
<b>Q: ICE_FAR</b>	Changing topics, from everything you've seen or read, how would you describe the actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, commonly referred to as ICE, in enforcing immigration laws? Do you think they have: <b>[gone too far, not gone far enough,]</b> or are their actions about right?	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	Not gone far enough	12	24
	About right	14	22
	Gone too far	68	49
	Don't know (v)	5	2
	Refused (v)	1	2
<b>Q: ICE_SEEN</b>	Since the start of 2026, how often have you personally seen ICE officers in Baltimore City / Baltimore County?	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	Never	48	60
	Less than once a month	13	13
	About once a month	11	7
	A couple of times a month	12	9
	Weekly	2	2
	Multiple times a week	4	1
	Don't know (v)	7	6
Refused (v)	2	1	
<b><i>Q: VISIT to Q: AMENITIES administered to Baltimore County residents only.</i></b>			
<b>Q: VISIT</b>	Changing topics, in the past 12 months, how often have you visited any of Baltimore County's parks, playgrounds, recreation, or community centers?	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	Never	--	22
	Once or twice	--	16
	A few times	--	28
	About once a month	--	11
	Several times a month or more	--	21
	Don't know (v)	--	1
	Refused (v)	--	0

**Q: TYPES**

The following are some types of recreational opportunities and spaces offered by Baltimore County Parks and Recreation. Using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "not at all interested" and 5 means "extremely interested," how interested are you in each one. . .

**Q: OUTDOOR to Q: YOUTH were administered to respondents in a randomized order.**

<b>Q: OUTDOOR</b>	<i>Outdoor and nature recreational spaces like parks or trails</i>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1 Not		--	7
2 Slightly		--	4
3 Somewhat		--	21
4 Very		--	22
5 Extremely		--	45
Don't know (v)		--	1
Refused (v)		--	0
<b>Q: SPORTS</b>	<i>Courts and fields for sports</i>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1 Not		--	16
2 Slightly		--	7
3 Somewhat		--	29
4 Very		--	14
5 Extremely		--	30
Don't know (v)		--	3
Refused (v)		--	0
<b>Q: BOATS</b>	<i>Boating, sailing, fishing, and other facilities along the County's waterfront</i>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1 Not		--	20
2 Slightly		--	6
3 Somewhat		--	29
4 Very		--	16
5 Extremely		--	26
Don't know (v)		--	2
Refused (v)		--	0
<b>Q: ARTS</b>	<i>Arts, culture, and historical programs and sites</i>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1 Not		--	13
2 Slightly		--	7
3 Somewhat		--	30
4 Very		--	20
5 Extremely		--	28
Don't know (v)		--	1
Refused (v)		--	0

<b>Q: AG</b>	<i>Agricultural and environmental education</i>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	1 Not	--	15
	2 Slightly	--	9
	3 Somewhat	--	30
	4 Very	--	21
	5 Extremely	--	23
	Don't know (v)	--	2
	Refused (v)	--	0
<b>Q: CENTER</b>	<i>Community and recreation centers</i>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	1 Not	--	13
	2 Slightly	--	7
	3 Somewhat	--	26
	4 Very	--	21
	5 Extremely	--	30
	Don't know (v)	--	3
	Refused (v)	--	0
<b>Q: YOUTH</b>	<i>Youth and family programming</i>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	1 Not	--	17
	2 Slightly	--	9
	3 Somewhat	--	28
	4 Very	--	15
	5 Extremely	--	29
	Don't know (v)	--	2
	Refused (v)	--	0
<b>Q: AMENITIES</b>	In your own words, what types of amenities, services, or activities would make you more likely to visit or use Baltimore County Recreation and Parks facilities or participate in their programming? <b>[Open-ended]</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<i>Coded responses:</i>	Trails, outdoor recreation, and nature	--	6
	Safety, cleanliness, and maintenance	--	9
	Programs, events, and activities	--	17
	Aquatic facilities	--	3
	Facilities and infrastructure	--	7
	Access, affordability, and awareness	--	2
	Nothing or not interested	--	4
	Other	--	4
	Don't know (v)	--	34
	Refused (v)	--	14

**Q: REDUCE to Q: DOWNTOWN administered to Baltimore City residents only.**

Q: REDUCE	As you may have heard, violent crime, including murder, has dramatically decreased in Baltimore City over the past few years. Which of the following reasons do you credit most for the decline?	Percent	Percent
<i>Order randomized:</i>	Investments in community-based intervention and violence prevention programs that target the groups and individuals at the highest risk of committing crimes.	21	--
<i>Order randomized:</i>	Tougher sentences for gun crimes and repeat offenders, prosecuting lower-level quality-of-life crimes, and diverting non-violent offenders into supervised programs.	12	--
	It's the mix of both that has reduced the rate of violent crime in Baltimore City.	44	--
	Neither approach made a difference. (v)	11	--
	Don't know (v)	10	--
	Refused (v)	2	--
Q: DOWNTOWN	In your own words, what amenities, business, or other factors would make downtown Baltimore City – the area near the Inner Harbor – a better place to visit or work? <i>[Open-ended]</i>	Percent	Percent
<i>Coded responses:</i>	Improve public safety	23	--
	Expand business development, retail, and dining	16	--
	Improve parking, transportation, and infrastructure	10	--
	Add more green space, parks, and public spaces	3	--
	More entertainment, events, and activities	4	--
	Improve physical upkeep and cleanliness	4	--
	Increase affordable housing and residential development	2	--
	Other	10	--
	Don't know (v)	21	--
	Refused (v)	7	--



### **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-12 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.