



INSTITUTE OF POLITICS UMBC Poll

Results embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Press Contact Information:

Mileah Kromer, Ph.D.

Director, UMBC Institute of Politics

Email: mkromer@umbc.edu

Cherie Parker

Director, UMBC Media Relations

Phone: 240-930-1169

Email: cheriepa@umbc.edu

Part 2 Topics:

- Job approval rating of Gov. Wes Moore, including reasons for approval or disapproval
- Views toward the direction of the state
- Perceptions of economic conditions in Maryland and comparison between the state and the national economic conditions
- Trust in federal, state, and local government
- Trust in neighbors, the Democratic Party, and the Republican Party

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 (Baltimore): The UMBC Poll surveyed **804** Maryland adults from **Tuesday, March 17 to Sunday, March 22, 2026**. Of the **804** Maryland adults surveyed (**MOE=+/- 3.5%**), **731** indicated they were registered voters (**MOE=+/3.6%**). 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 2, at 12:01 a.m.** For previous UMBC Poll results and information about the UMBC Institute of Politics, go to: <https://politics.umbc.edu/>

Want the UMBC Poll delivered to your inbox? [Join our mailing list!](#)

Opinions toward Gov. Wes Moore

Forty-eight percent of Maryland adults approve of the job Wes Moore is doing as governor, **42 percent** disapprove, and **9 percent** don't know.

Job approval rating in previous polls:

- October 2025: **52 percent** approve / **44 percent** disapprove
- February 2025: **52 percent** approved / **40 percent** disapproved
- October 2024: **54 percent** approved / **32 percent** disapproved

As with the previous polls listed above, Gov. Wes Moore's current job approval rating remains sharply divided along party lines:

- Among Democratic voters: **69 percent** approve, **20 percent** disapprove
- Among Republican voters: **25 percent** approve, **73 percent** disapprove
- Among Unaffiliated voters: **39 percent** approve, **50 percent** disapprove

Residents were asked to describe, in their own words, their main reason for either approving or disapproving of Gov. Moore's job performance. Responses were categorized by the UMBC Institute of Politics' student research assistants.

Top reasons for approving:

- Handling of the state economy, jobs, affordability, or crises: **20 percent**
- Leadership, character, integrity, or personal like: **18 percent**
- Cares about or works hard for Maryland residents: **17 percent**
- Standing up to Trump or protecting Maryland from the federal government: **16 percent**

Top reasons for disapproving:

- Raised taxes and fees: **27 percent**
- Poor leadership, dishonesty, or personal dislike: **24 percent**
- Fiscal mismanagement, state budget deficit, or too much spending: **14 percent**
- Cost of living increases, including utility bills: **12 percent**

Direction of the State

Fifty-nine percent of Maryland adults say the state is on the wrong track, while **30 percent** believe it is heading in the right direction.

Right direction or wrong track in previous polls:

- October 2025: **48 percent** wrong track / **40 percent** right direction
- February 2025: **49 percent** wrong track / **42 percent** right direction
- October 2024: **39 percent** wrong track / **46 percent** right direction

Evaluations of Economic Conditions

Seventy-six percent of Marylanders rate the state's economic conditions as "poor" or "fair," while **22 percent** describe them as "good" or "excellent."

Perceptions of economic conditions in previous polls:

- October 2025: **30 percent** "excellent" or "good" / **69 percent** "poor" or "fair"
- February 2025: **31 percent** "excellent" or "good" / **67 percent** "poor" or "fair"
- October 2024: **32 percent** "excellent" or "good" / **66 percent** "poor" or "fair"

When asked to compare economic conditions in Maryland with the rest of the country:

- **45 percent** think economic conditions in Maryland are about the same.
- **29 percent** think economic conditions in Maryland are worse.
- **22 percent** think economic conditions in Maryland are better.

Trust in government, neighbors, and the Democratic and Republican parties

The UMBC Poll asked Marylanders how much they trust their federal, state, and local governments, their neighbors, and the two major political parties.

The percentages below show the share of respondents who said they trust each “just about always” or “most of the time.”

- Your neighbors: **53 percent**
- The Democratic Party: **30 percent**
- Your local government: **29 percent**
- The state government: **27 percent**
- The Republican Party: **20 percent**
- The federal government: **15 percent**

“Attitudes toward the direction of the state and economic conditions have noticeably worsened since the fall, and residents express low levels of trust in all levels of government and both major political parties,” said Mileah Kromer, Director of the UMBC Institute of Politics. “These are exactly the kinds of conditions that erode gubernatorial approval ratings, and our polling reflects that reality. The gap between those who approve and disapprove of Gov. Moore's job performance has narrowed over time, though he remains above water.”

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 **804** Maryland adults, including **731** registered voters, from **Tuesday, March 17 to Sunday, March 22, 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: **67 percent**
- Live-caller cell phone: **25 percent**
- Live-caller landline: **8 percent**

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=**+/-3.5%** for the sample of **804** Maryland adults.
- MOE=**+/-3.6%** for the sample of **731** 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 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.

Sample Demographics (in percent) and Weighting

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

		Maryland population parameter	Maryland Adults n=804 (+/-3.5%)	Maryland Voters n=731 (+/-3.6%)
Gender	Male	48	48	49
	Female	52	52	51
Age	18-24	11	11	11
	25-34	17	17	16
	35-44	17	17	18
	45-54	16	16	16
	55-64	17	17	18
	65+	21	21	22
Race	White	50	51	50
	Black	29	30	29
	Hispanic/Latino	10	10	11
	Asian	7	6	6
	All other	4	3	3
Education	High school diploma or less	34	33	31
	Some college or associate's degree	26	26	27
	Bachelor's degree	22	20	21
	Graduate or professional degree	18	21	22
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	13
	Western Region	9	9	8
	Eastern Shore Region	8	8	7
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	Maryland Adults n=804 (+/-3.5%)	Maryland Voters n=731 (+/-3.6%)
Party*	Democrat	51	–	50
	Republican	24	–	26
	Unaffiliated	23	–	22
	Other	2	–	2
Ideology	Conservative	–	28	28
	Moderate	–	49	49
	Progressive	–	22	23
Income	Under \$40,000	16	22	21
	\$40,000 to under \$75,000	18	25	25
	\$75,000 to under \$125,000	24	24	24
	\$125,000 or more	42	29	30

*The “party” population parameter established by the Maryland State Board of Elections Voter Registration Activity Report (February 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 **804** Maryland adults (**MOE=+/-3.5%**). [Click here for results by demographics](#). Results are reported as column percentages and may not sum to exactly 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Label	Question	Maryland Adults n=804 (+/-3.5%)
Q: TRACK	Do you think that things in Maryland [are heading in the right direction or are off on the wrong track]?	Percent
	Wrong track	59
	Right direction	30
	Don't know (v)	10
	Refused (v)	1
Q: MOOREJOB	Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Wes Moore is handling his job as governor of Maryland?	Percent
PROBE	Strongly Disapprove (p)	24
	Disapprove	18
	Approve	31
	Strongly Approve (p)	17
	Don't know (v)	9
	Refused (v)	1
<i>Q: MOORE_A only administered to respondents who approved of Gov. Wes Moore.</i>		
Q: MOORE_A	Since you said that you approve of the job Wes Moore is doing as governor, what is the main reason for your approval? [open-ended]	Percent
	Handling of the state economy, jobs, affordability, or crises	20
<i>Coded responses:</i>	Leadership, character, integrity, or personal like	18
	Cares about or works hard for MD residents	17
	Standing up to Trump or protecting MD from federal govt	16
	Likes political party (Democratic), political views, and policies	8
	Other	7
	Don't know	10
	Refused	4

Q: MOORE_D only administered to respondents who disapproved of Gov. Wes Moore.

Q: MOORE_D		Percent
	Since you said you disapprove of the job Wes Moore is doing as governor, what is the main reason for your disapproval? [open-ended]	
	Raised taxes and fees	27
	Poor leadership, dishonesty, or personal dislike	24
<i>Coded responses:</i>	Fiscal mismanagement, state budget deficit, or too much spending	14
	Cost of living increases, including utility bills	12
	Handling of crime, public safety, or immigration policy	5
	Dislikes political party (Democratic), ideology, or policies	4
	Other	9
	Don't know	3
	Refused	2
Q: MD_ECON		Percent
	Thinking about the Maryland economy...how would you rate overall economic conditions in the state today: [poor, fair, good, or excellent] ?	
	Poor	32
	Fair	44
	Good	19
	Excellent	3
	Don't know (v)	2
	Refused (v)	0
Q: COMPARE		Percent
	Do you think economic conditions in Maryland are [better, worse, or about the same] as economic conditions in the rest of the country?	
	Worse	29
	About the same	45
	Better	22
	Don't know (v)	4
	Refused (v)	1

Q: TRUST	Next, I'm going to read you a list of institutions and groups. For each one, please tell me whether you trust them to do the right thing: [just about always, most of the time, some of the time, very rarely, or never]?	Percent
<i>Q: T_FED to Q: T_REP were administered to respondents in a randomized order.</i>		
Q: T_FED	<i>The federal government in Washington, DC</i>	Percent
	Never	23
	Rarely	30
	Some of the time	26
	Most of the time	10
	Just about always	5
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	2
Q: T_STATE	<i>The Maryland state government in Annapolis</i>	Percent
	Never	12
	Rarely	20
	Some of the time	32
	Most of the time	22
	Just about always	5
	Don't know (v)	7
	Refused (v)	1
Q: T_LOCAL	<i>Your local government</i>	Percent
	Never	10
	Rarely	18
	Some of the time	37
	Most of the time	23
	Just about always	6
	Don't know (v)	4
	Refused (v)	1
Q: T_NEIGHBOR	<i>Your neighbors</i>	Percent
	Never	6
	Rarely	9
	Some of the time	25
	Most of the time	34
	Just about always	19
	Don't know (v)	6
	Refused (v)	1

Q: T_DEMS	<i>The Democratic Party</i>	Percent
	Never	17
	Rarely	20
	Some of the time	29
	Most of the time	21
	Just about always	9
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	1
Q: T_REP	<i>The Republican Party</i>	Percent
	Never	32
	Rarely	24
	Some of the time	20
	Most of the time	14
	Just about always	6
	Don't know (v)	3
	Refused (v)	2



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.