



# INSTITUTE OF POLITICS UMBC Poll

**Results embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2026**

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### **Part 3 Topics:**

- Major League Baseball fandom in Maryland
- Attention to and sources for news about Maryland state politics and government
- Political knowledge in Maryland

**Thursday, April 2, 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.](#)

For previous UMBC Poll results and information about the UMBC Institute of Politics, go to: <https://politics.umbc.edu/>

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## Maryland state politics and government news

**Sixty-four percent** of Marylanders say they pay "a great deal" or "some" attention to news about Maryland state politics and government during a typical week, while **35 percent** pay "a little" or "no attention at all."

Among those who pay at least "a little" attention to state political news, the most common sources for news about Maryland state and local government are listed below.

- Local television news: **67 percent**
- Newspapers, in print or online: **47 percent**
- Social media: **56 percent**
- Local radio: **41 percent**
- Podcasts: **19 percent**
- Friends, family, or neighbors: **48 percent**
- Elected officials or government websites: **25 percent**

*Note: This was a multiple-response question; respondents could select more than one source, so results will not sum to 100 percent.*

## State-level political knowledge

Following standard political knowledge battery design, the UMBC Poll presented respondents with five multiple-choice, closed-ended factual questions about the Maryland state government.<sup>1</sup> The questions were designed around facts that casual consumers of Maryland political news would likely have encountered in recent months. The questions as administered appear on pages 8-9.

The average respondent answered 2 out of 5 questions correctly.

*Distribution of correct answers:*

- 0 to 1 correct: **40 percent**
- 2 to 3 correct: **42 percent**
- 4 to 5 correct: **19 percent**

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<sup>1</sup> Political science research and public polling from outlets such as the Pew Research Center and the Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey consistently find that many Americans have limited knowledge of their national government, though the public is well-informed on some issues and items. Research on state and local-level political knowledge shows a similar pattern overall, but with some important distinctions. For example, while overall knowledge levels are comparably low, citizens tend to pay closer attention to state politics when circumstances demand it, particularly when economic conditions are poor, government is underperforming, or political competition is high. If you are interested in learning more about political knowledge, a good starting point is Michael X. Delli Carpini and Scott Keeter's *What Americans Know About Politics and Why It Matters* (1996), widely considered the foundational work in the field.

Some questions were more difficult for Marylanders to answer than others. The percentages below show the share of respondents who answered each individual question correctly. Correct answers appear in parentheses.

- The length of a Maryland governor's term (*4 years*): **62 percent**
- Whether the Maryland state government currently has a budget deficit or surplus (*deficit*): **61 percent**
- The number of Republican seats in Maryland's U.S. House delegation (*1*): **30 percent**
- The length of the Maryland General Assembly's legislative session (*90 days*): **29 percent**
- The approximate share of seats held by Democrats in the Maryland General Assembly (*71 to 80 percent*): **21 percent**

"There are clear benefits to a politically informed citizenry: higher participation rates, greater accountability, and more responsive government," said Mileah Kromer, Director of the UMBC Institute of Politics. "But political knowledge is uneven across topics and levels of government, and research suggests that people can make reasonable political judgments without deep factual knowledge. Cues from daily life and personal experience help residents assess how their government is performing and how policies affect their lives."

## Major League Baseball fandom in Maryland

The long offseason is finally over, and baseball is back.

Before Pete Alonso walked the orange carpet on his first Opening Day at Camden Yards, the UMBC Poll asked Marylanders where their MLB fandom lies.

*The wind-up. . .and here's the pitch. . .*

Do you consider yourself more of a Baltimore Orioles fan, a Washington Nationals fan, a fan of some other team, or not really a baseball fan?

*A high fly ball hit deep to left field ... back goes the outfielder ... back ... and it's GONE! And ain't the beer cold!*

- The Baltimore Orioles: **40 percent**
- The Washington Nationals: **16 percent**
- Some other team: **9 percent**
- Not really a baseball fan: **33 percent**

"It was a no-doubter that the Baltimore Orioles would have a considerable Maryland fandom advantage over the Washington Nationals, their Battle of the Beltways rival," said Mileah Kromer, Director of the UMBC Institute of Politics and Orioles season ticket holder. "Fandom can mean anything from a casual affinity to an obsessed diehard, and every new season presents the opportunity to turn some of the former into the latter. I wish the Nats and all other MLB teams an adequate season and hope their fans have a moderate amount of fun. Let's go O's."

## 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](mailto: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%)
<b>Gender</b>	Male	48	48	49
	Female	52	52	51
<b>Age</b>	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
<b>Race</b>	White	50	51	50
	Black	29	30	29
	Hispanic/Latino	10	10	11
	Asian	7	6	6
	All other	4	3	3
<b>Education</b>	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
<b>Geography</b>	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%)
<b>Party*</b>	Democrat	51	–	50
	Republican	24	–	26
	Unaffiliated	23	–	22
	Other	2	–	2
<b>Ideology</b>	Conservative	–	28	28
	Moderate	–	49	49
	Progressive	–	22	23
<b>Income</b>	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%)
<b>Q: ATTENTION</b>	During a typical week, how much attention do you pay to news about Maryland state politics and government: <b>[no attention at all, a little, some, or a great deal]</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	No attention at all	7
	A little	28
	Some	38
	A great deal	26
	Don't know (v)	0
	Refused (v)	0
<b>Q: SOURCE only administered to respondents who pay at least a little attention to news.</b>		
	Next, I'll read you a list of news sources. For each one, tell me if it's somewhere you regularly get news about Maryland state and local government. <b>[check all that apply]</b> <i>Note: Multi-item response; will not sum to 100.</i>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Q: TV</b>	Local television news	67
<b>Q: NEWSPAPER</b>	Newspapers, in print or online	47
<b>Q: SOCIAL</b>	Social media	56
<b>Q: RADIO</b>	Local radio	41
<b>Q: PODCASTS</b>	Podcasts	19
<b>Q: FRIENDS</b>	Friends, family, or neighbors	48
<b>Q: GOVT</b>	Elected officials or government websites	25
<b>Q: TERM to Q: BUDGET were administered to respondents in a randomized order.</b>		
<b>Q: PK_INT</b>	Next, I'm going to read you a few questions about the Maryland state government. Many people don't know the answers to these questions, so if there are some you don't know, just tell me, and we'll go on.	
<b>Q: TERM</b>	How many years does a Maryland Governor serve in one term? <b>[read list]</b>	<b>Percent</b>
	2 years	15
<b>Correct:</b>	<b>4 years</b>	<b>62</b>
	6 years	7
	Don't know (v)	16
	Refused (v)	1

<b>Q: SESSION</b>	The Maryland General Assembly, the state legislature in Annapolis, meets once a year. How many days is their legislative session? <a href="#">[read list]</a>	<b>Percent</b>
	30 days	10
	60 days	10
<b>Correct:</b>	<b>90 days</b>	<b>29</b>
	120 days	8
	Don't know (v)	42
	Refused (v)	1
<b>Q: MAJORITY</b>	The Democratic Party has long held the majority in the Maryland General Assembly, the state legislature in Annapolis. About what percent of seats do Democrats currently hold? <a href="#">[read list]</a>	<b>Percent</b>
	51 to 60%	14
	61 to 70%	22
<b>Correct:</b>	<b>71 to 80%</b>	<b>21</b>
	80% or more	13
	Don't know (v)	30
	Refused (v)	1
<b>Q: DELEGATION</b>	Maryland has 8 seats in the United States House of Representatives. How many are held by Republicans?	<b>Percent</b>
	0	5
<b>Correct:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>
	2	7
	3	5
	4	6
	5	4
	6	2
	7	1
	8	2
	Don't know (v)	37
	Refused (v)	1
<b>Q: BUDGET</b>	Does the Maryland state government currently have a <b>[budget surplus or a budget deficit]</b> ?	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Correct:</b>	<b>Budget deficit</b>	<b>61</b>
	Budget surplus	9
	Balanced budget / some other opinion	7
	Don't know (v)	21
	Refused (v)	1

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<b>Q: BASEBALL</b>	As you may know, the Major League Baseball season starts next week. Do you consider yourself more of a [ <b>Baltimore Orioles fan, a Washington Nationals fan</b> ], a fan of some other team, or not really a baseball fan?	<b>Percent</b>
	Baltimore Orioles	40
	Washington Nationals	16
	Some other team	9
	Not really a baseball fan	33
	Don't know (v)	1
	Refused (v)	1

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## **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.