



**2015 Maryland Policy Choices:
Priorities, Economy, Leadership**

Public Opinion Survey Results

November 2015

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Priorities, Economy, Leadership**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maryland Policy Choices Survey is a telephone public opinion survey conducted by the Schaefer Center for Public Policy at the University of Baltimore. The survey covers a wide range of public policy topics of interest to policymakers and the general public. This excerpt analyzes questions regarding legislative priorities; the economy; and local, state, and national leadership. The excerpt focuses on the differences between the opinions and perceptions of respondents from Baltimore City, the Baltimore metropolitan area, and the rest of Maryland.

As a broad overview:

- Crime stands out as the most important problem facing respondents from Baltimore City.
- Statewide, respondents prioritize topics related to the economy, controlling crime, and education.
- Respondents are optimistic about their future personal economic situations.
- Respondents overwhelmingly believe that Maryland is generally headed in the right direction, while the country is generally headed in the wrong direction.
- The Governor of Maryland received the highest overall performance rating statewide.

METHODOLOGY

The Schaefer Center for Public Policy at the University of Baltimore conducted a telephone survey of 884 total respondents who were at least 18 years of age, 804 of which completed the entire survey. Not all respondents answered every question. Data were collected via Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI) between September 1, 2015 and October 19, 2015. The margin of error for this study is +/- 3.46% at the state level.

The Schaefer Center used a dual-frame sample to conduct the survey, one of landline telephones and one of wireless phones. The landline sample was constructed with a list-assisted random digit dial (RDD) methodology, which uses listed phone numbers to select random blocks of assigned phone numbers sufficient to obtain the necessary number of completed interviews. The wireless phone sample frame was also an RDD frame, but without the list-assisted component.

The final data is weighted to reflect the most recent estimation of wireless phone only dual use, and landline only households throughout the state and to correct for the propensity of women to answer surveys more readily than men. Proportional weighting was used to bring the distribution of respondents into alignment with the Maryland population by giving appropriate weighting factors to each respondent according to the U.S. Census Bureau's population estimates from 2015 and with estimates of the distribution of all wireless phone usage in Maryland provided by the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Results described in this report have been rounded to the nearest whole percentage. In some cases, due to rounding, the figures reported will not sum to 100%. Refusals were omitted and responses were recalculated based on the total number of respondents who did not refuse.

ANALYSIS

This section explores specific questions and crosstabulations in detail. Selected questions of importance have been displayed for further analysis. A full listing of all questions asked in the priorities, economy, and leadership sections of the survey, along with a breakdown by geographic location, can be found in Appendix A.

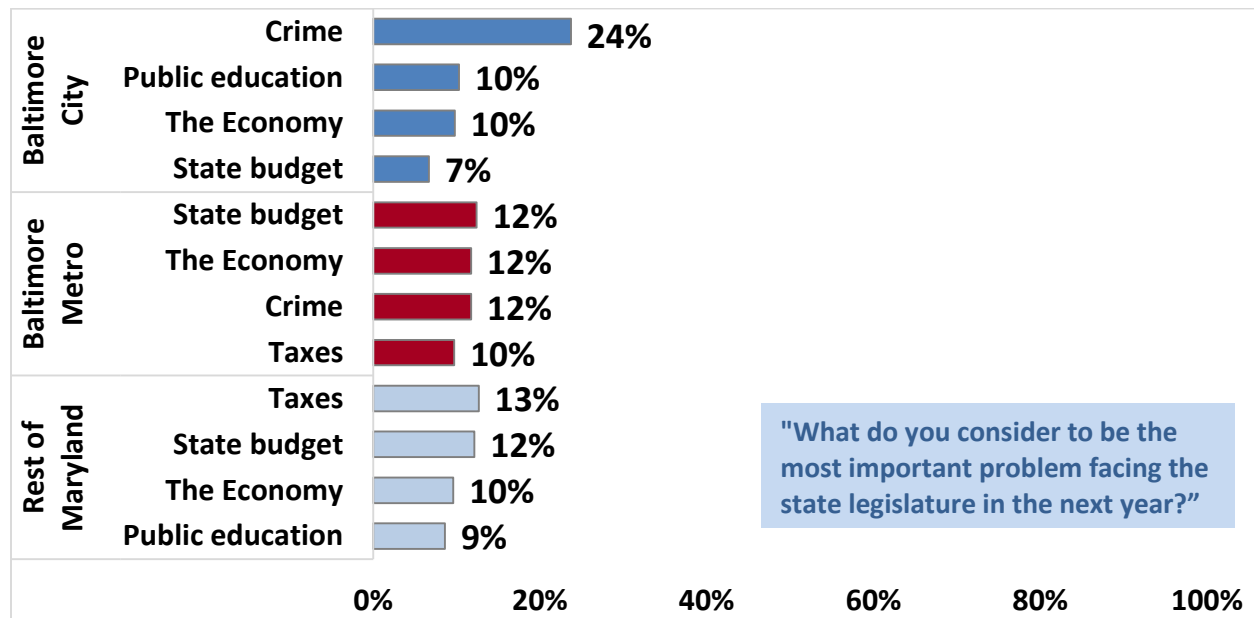
In order to compare results from different parts of the state, respondents were classified as residing in one of Maryland's 23 county jurisdictions or Baltimore City. The geographical breakdown consists of Baltimore City, the Baltimore metropolitan area, and the rest of Maryland. The Baltimore metropolitan area is defined as Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, and Howard County. The rest of Maryland is defined as the remaining counties, outside of Baltimore City and the Baltimore metropolitan area.

The topics discussed in this section include what respondents feel are the most important and least important priorities, how respondents feel about their personal economic situation, the direction of Maryland versus the direction of the country as a whole, and the performance of local, state, and national leaders.

PRIORITIES

Respondents were first asked what they consider to be the most important problem facing Maryland’s legislature. They were not read a list of common problems, but instead, their responses were categorized into 17 predetermined topic areas, including “Other” and “Don’t know.” Chart 1 shows the top four response categories in Baltimore City, the Baltimore metropolitan area, and the rest of Maryland other than “don’t know,” which was either the most popular or second most popular response in each jurisdiction.

Chart 1 Most Important Problem



Overall, Chart 1 shows that respondents in all parts of the state are concerned with similar issues, and respondents in Baltimore City are very concerned with crime. Each jurisdiction considered public education (primary and secondary education), the economy, the state budget, and to a somewhat lesser extent, crime and taxes to be major problems. While crime is a major issue for respondents in Baltimore City, and a top four issue for respondents in the Baltimore metropolitan area, the rest of Maryland differs slightly in that around 7% considered crime the most important problem. Similarly, while taxes are a top four problem for both the Baltimore metropolitan area and the rest of Maryland, around 6% in Baltimore City considered taxes to be the most important problem. Given that these percentages are within the margin of error of the top rated priorities, it is accurate to suggest that overall, each jurisdiction is primarily concerned with very similar issues. However, the extent of the respondents’ concerns do vary, as seen with Baltimore City highly prioritizing issues related to crime.

Baltimore City was the only jurisdiction where respondents agreed on a single most important problem, crime. In other jurisdictions, respondents were able to agree on a number of categories that collectively represent the most important group of problems, such as public education and the economy. Contributing to the concern with crime in Baltimore City are respondents' concerns about policing in the city. The unrest during the spring of 2015 and the spike in crime to the highest rates in decades likely both play a major role in what respondents in Baltimore City consider the most important problem.

Next, respondents were read a list of priorities for Maryland and asked to rate the importance of each priority on a four point scale ranging from "Very important" to "Not at all important". Chart 2 shows the top four priorities based on those who answered either "Very important" or "Just important." Overall, there is not one single priority that stands out as the most important. Instead, the top four priorities collectively form a group of most important priorities.

Overall, respondents viewed the economy, crime, and education as the top priorities for Maryland. This alignment of top priorities is very similar to Chart 15, which broadly showed that respondents viewed education, the economy, and crime as the most important problems facing Maryland.

Chart 2 Top Priorities

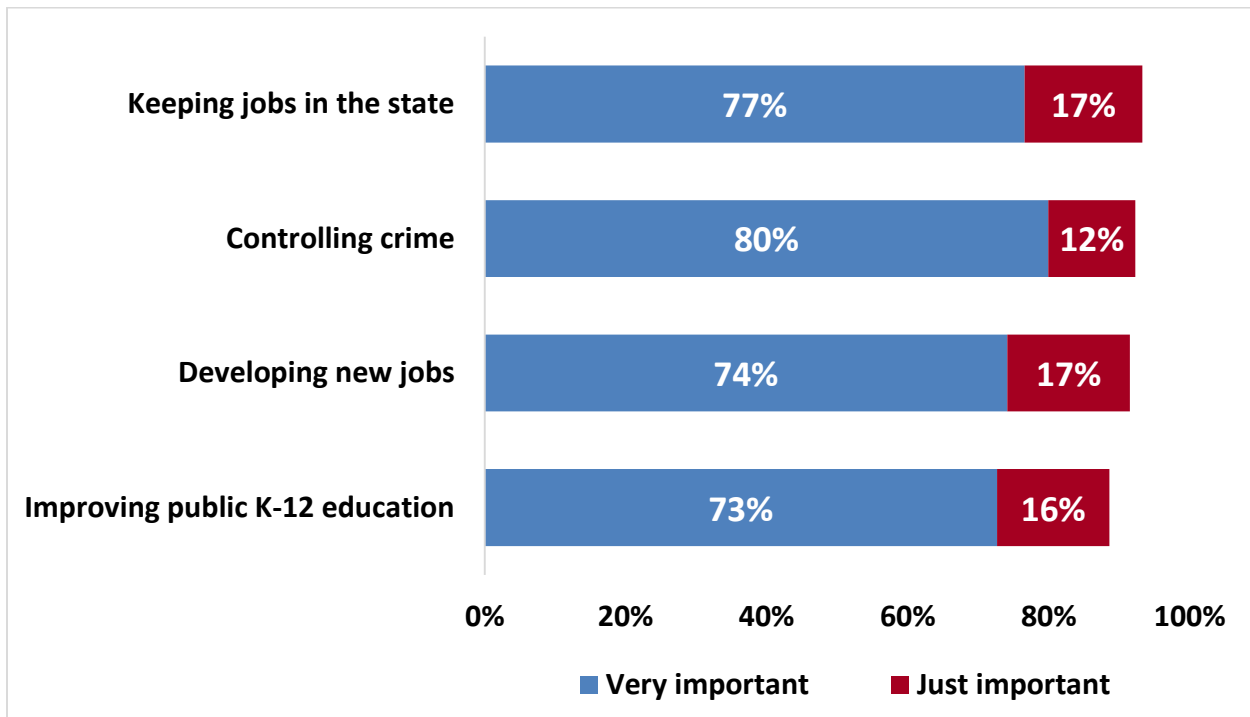
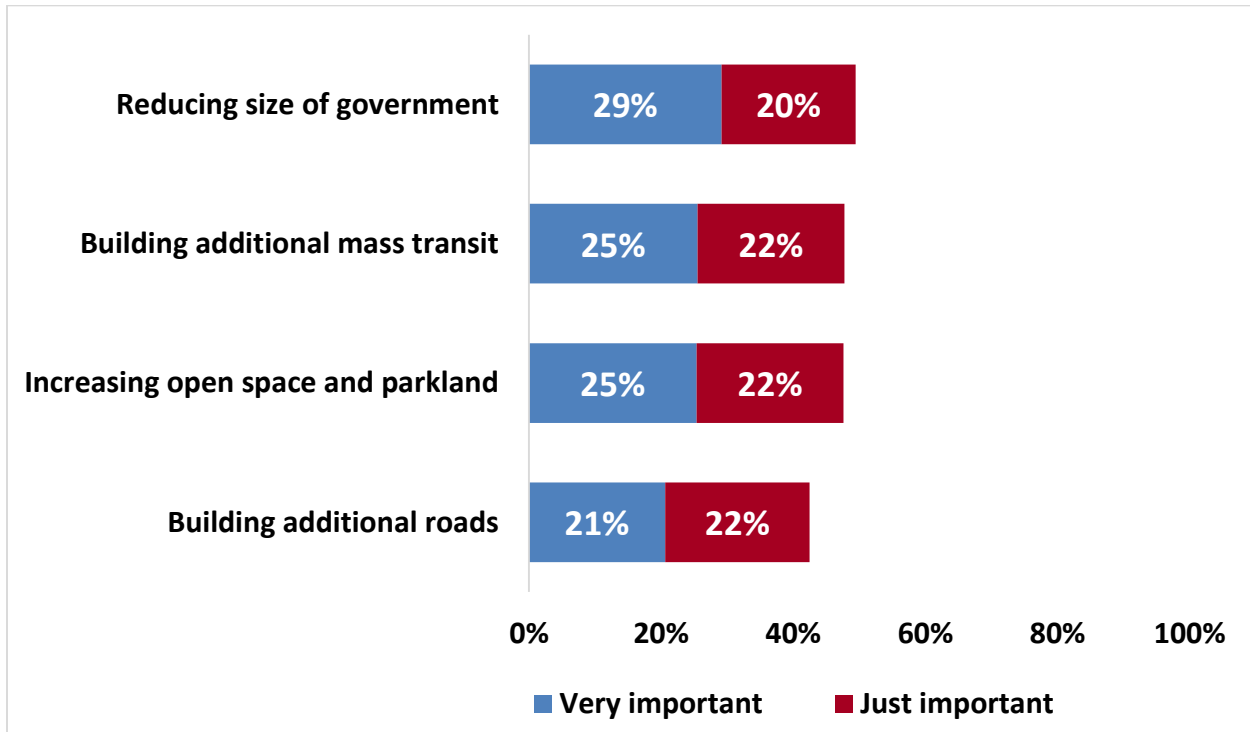


Chart 3 shows what priorities respondents viewed as the least important based on the percentage of respondents who answered “Very important” or “Just important.” According to respondents statewide, the least important priority overall was building additional roads. After building additional roads, the next three least important priorities were all about equal in their lack of support. Respondents rated reducing the size of government, building additional mass transit, and increasing open space as the next three least important priorities in Maryland.

Chart 3 Lowest Priorities



In addition to what respondents considered the most important and least important priorities, Table 1 shows the full list of priorities and the percentage of respondents who answered “Very important” or “Just important” by jurisdiction. Aside from the ratings mentioned in Charts 2 and 3, a handful of other ratings stand out.

Overall, respondents from Baltimore City were much more likely to consider any given priority either “Very important” or “Just important” compared to other jurisdictions. Baltimore City respondents were also much more likely to consider improving public K-12 education and developing new jobs as either “Very important” or “Just important.”

Table 1 Priority Ratings

Baltimore City		Baltimore Metro		Rest of Maryland		All of Maryland	
Percent	Response	Percent	Response	Percent	Response	Percent	Response
97%	Improving public K-12 education	95%	Controlling crime	94%	Keeping jobs in the state	93%	Keeping jobs in the state
97%	Developing new jobs	92%	Keeping jobs in the state	89%	Developing new jobs	92%	Controlling crime
96%	Controlling crime	91%	Developing new jobs	89%	Controlling crime	92%	Developing new jobs
94%	Keeping jobs in the state	85%	Protecting the environment	88%	Improving public K-12 education	89%	Improving public K-12 education
91%	Protecting the environment	84%	Improving public K-12 education	80%	Protecting the environment	84%	Protecting the environment
88%	Supporting Baltimore City	81%	Improving existing roadways	78%	Attracting new businesses	81%	Attracting new businesses
87%	Improving education at colleges and universities	80%	Attracting new businesses	75%	Improving existing roadways	79%	Improving existing roadways
87%	Attracting new businesses	76%	Preserving farm land	75%	Improving education at colleges and universities	78%	Improving education at colleges and universities
83%	Improving existing roadways	76%	Improving education at colleges and universities	74%	Preserving farm land	75%	Avoiding tax increases
80%	Reinvesting in older neighborhoods	75%	Avoiding tax increases	72%	Avoiding tax increases	73%	Preserving farm land
79%	Avoiding tax increases	73%	Lowering taxes	70%	Lowering taxes	72%	Lowering taxes
78%	Lowering taxes	70%	Dealing with Illegal Immigration	68%	Revitalizing local business districts	69%	Revitalizing local business districts
70%	Revitalizing local business districts	68%	Revitalizing local business districts	61%	Improving existing mass transit	67%	Reinvesting in older neighborhoods
67%	Preserving farm land	67%	Reinvesting in older neighborhoods	60%	Reinvesting in older neighborhoods	63%	Dealing with Illegal Immigration
64%	Improving existing mass transit	65%	Supporting Baltimore City	60%	Dealing with Illegal Immigration	62%	Supporting Baltimore City
57%	Dealing with Illegal Immigration	62%	Improving existing mass transit	48%	Supporting Baltimore City	62%	Improving existing mass transit
54%	Building additional mass transit	56%	Reducing size of government	47%	Increasing open space and parkland	49%	Reducing size of government
46%	Reducing size of government	52%	Increasing open space and parkland	46%	Reducing size of government	48%	Building additional mass transit
43%	Increasing open space and parkland	47%	Building additional mass transit	46%	Building additional mass transit	48%	Increasing open space and parkland
42%	Building additional roads	40%	Building additional roads	44%	Building additional roads	42%	Building additional roads

Weighted percent answering very important and just important.

Other significant differences between Baltimore City respondents and respondents in the rest of the state include support for Baltimore City, improving education at colleges and universities, and reinvesting in older neighborhoods. In these areas, at least 10 percentage points separate Baltimore City from respondents outside Baltimore City. In fact, respondents' support for Baltimore City was higher in Baltimore City by about 20 percentage points compared to the Baltimore metropolitan area, and by 40 percentage points compared to the rest of Maryland.

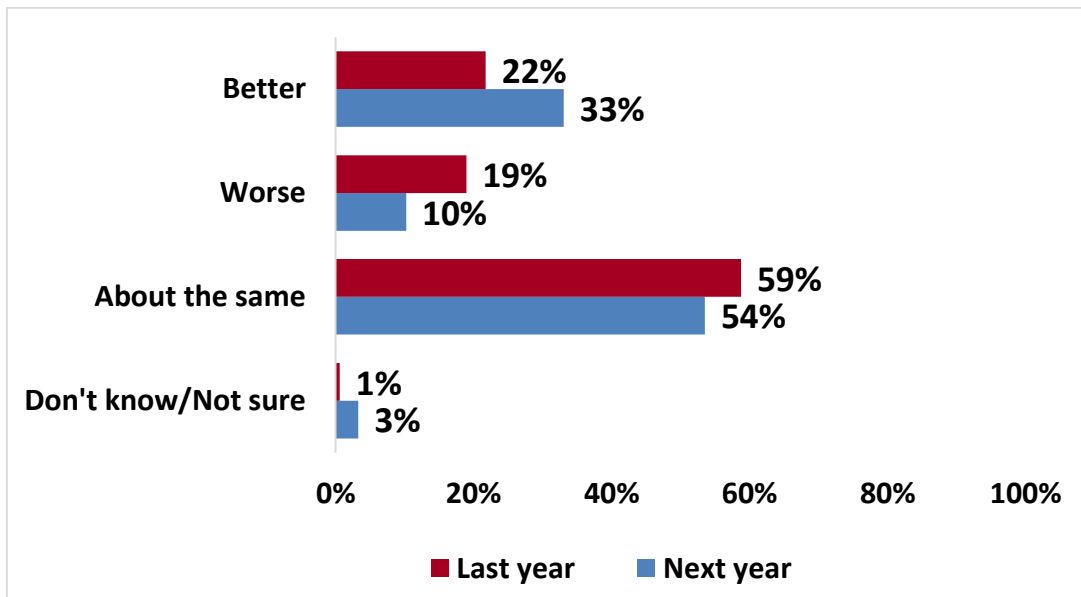
In the Baltimore metropolitan area, respondents were more likely to prioritize dealing with illegal immigration and reducing the size of government. These priorities were at least 10 percentage points higher in the Baltimore metropolitan area compared to outside the metropolitan area. In the rest of Maryland, respondents were less likely to consider priorities either "Very important" or "Just important." These respondents typically viewed issues such as controlling crime, protecting the environment, and improving existing roadways as important, but less important than respondents in Baltimore City and the Baltimore metropolitan area.

ECONOMY

Respondents were asked a series of questions pertaining to the economy. Topics included Maryland's economy, the respondent's personal economic situation, and the direction of the state and country.

Chart 4 shows how respondents answered when asked about their personal economic situation. Respondents were asked to compare their current personal economic situation to their economic situation last year, and then asked to project how they think their economic situation a year from now would compare to their current situation.

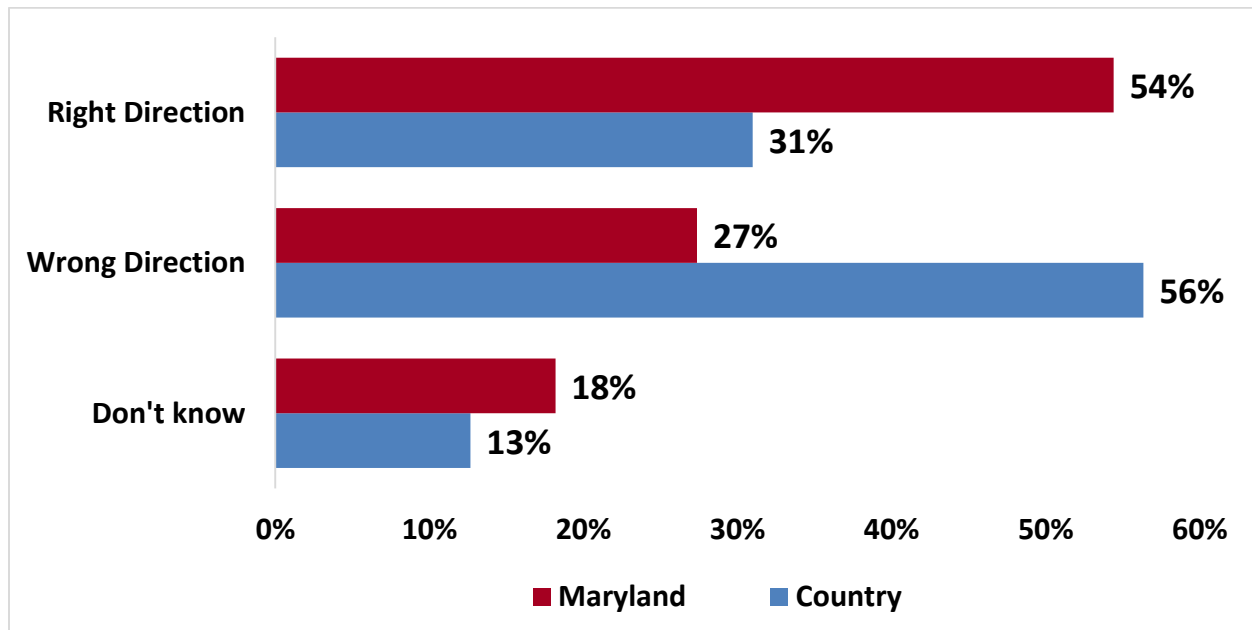
Chart 4 Personal Economic Situation



The majority of respondents answered that their economic situation was about the same last year as it is this year. Respondents who felt that they had been either better off or worse off last year were nearly equal at about 20% each.

When respondents were asked how they expect their future personal economic situation to compare to their current economic situation, many respondents were optimistic. Only 10% of respondents felt that they would be worse off next year. In fact, 33% said they believe they will be better off next year, meaning unlike in the previous year, there was a clear distinction between those who answered better off and worse off. However, similar to how respondents answered the previous year question, most felt that their economic situation next year would be about the same as it is this year.

Chart 5 Direction of State and Country



The next question asked respondents whether they felt Maryland and the country as a whole are headed in the right or wrong direction. Respondents expressed a clear and obvious difference in how they view the direction of Maryland versus the direction of the country. Respondents overwhelmingly thought that Maryland is headed in the right direction and the country is headed in the wrong direction. Statewide, 54% of respondents felt Maryland is generally headed in the right direction, while only 27% felt that Maryland is generally headed in the wrong direction. As for the country as a whole, the percent who felt the country is headed in the right or wrong direction is essentially reversed, with 31% of respondents expressing the country is generally headed in the right direction, and 56% of respondents expressing the country is generally headed in the wrong direction.

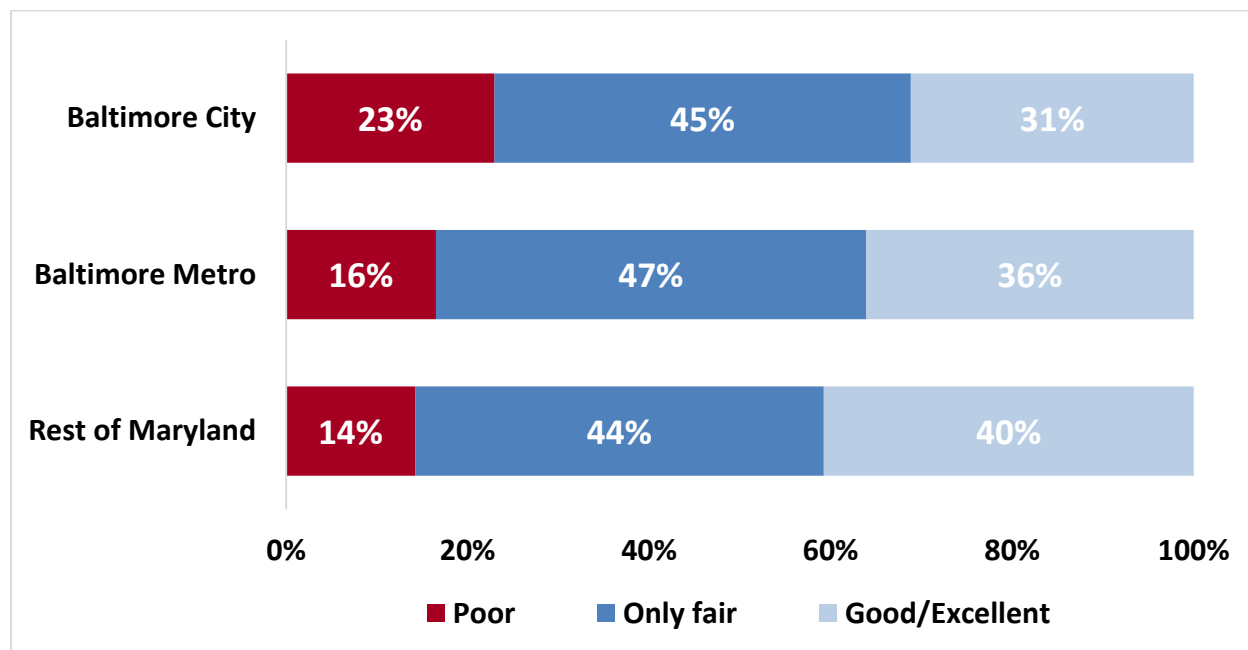
Overall, the questions about the economy suggest a sense of optimism among respondents regarding the current economic climate and direction in Maryland. Respondents were more likely to answer that they would be better off in the coming year, compared to the previous year, and respondents were also more likely to think Maryland is headed in the right direction, compared to the country as a whole.

LEADERSHIP

Respondents were then asked questions about the state government and political leadership on the local, state, and national levels. Chart 6 shows how respondents felt about the performance

of the state government in solving problems in Maryland. Respondents were asked to rate the performance of the state government on a four point scale ranging from “Poor” to “Excellent.” Those who answered “Good” or “Excellent” have been combined, and the small percentage of respondents who answered “Don’t know” have been excluded from the chart.

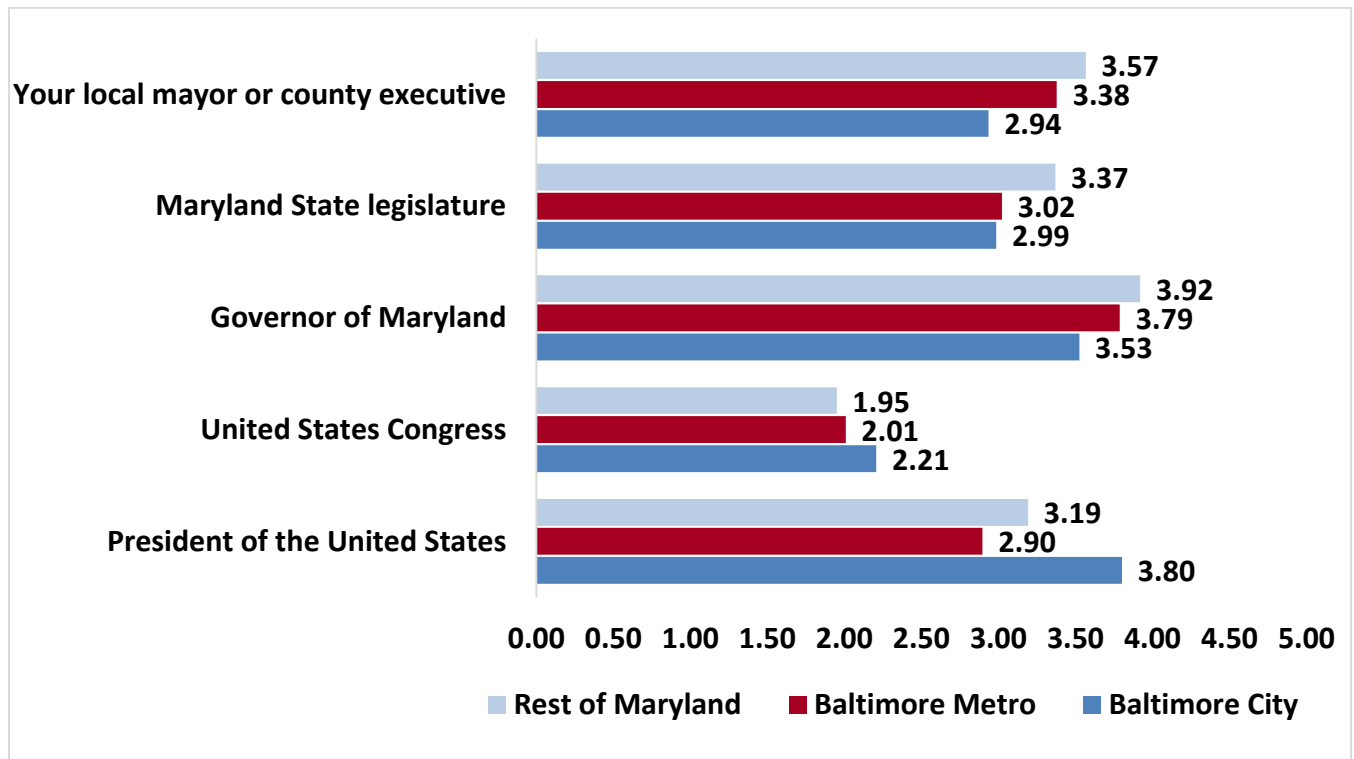
Chart 6 Performance of State Government



Most respondents, regardless of jurisdiction, felt that the state government was “Only fair” in solving problems in Maryland. However, the total percentage of respondents who felt the state government did a “Good” or “Excellent” job was not far behind. The percentage of respondents who felt the state government did a “Poor” job trailed the percentage of respondents who answered either “Only fair” or at least “Good” in each jurisdiction. However, respondents in Baltimore City were much more likely to respond that the state government does a poor job in solving problems in Maryland. Respondents from the Baltimore metropolitan area and the rest of Maryland had very similar opinions of the state government and the distributions of respondents’ opinions were nearly equal.

Chart 7 shows how respondents rated local, state, and national leaders. Respondents were asked to rate how well leaders are doing in dealing with current issues on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being excellent and 1 being poor.

Chart 7 Leadership Ratings



The Governor of Maryland received the highest overall mean rating (3.79) and United States Congress received the lowest overall mean rating (2.03). The highest rating given by both the Baltimore metropolitan area and by the rest of Maryland was for the Governor of Maryland. The rest of Maryland’s rating of the governor was the highest rating given in the survey.

The President of the United States received the highest rating in Baltimore City, and the second highest rating overall, just ahead of the metropolitan area’s rating of the governor. Outside of Baltimore City, the president was the lowest rated chief executive among metropolitan respondents and respondents from the rest of Maryland.

Overall, respondents rated individual elected leaders higher than legislative bodies. All three jurisdictions gave the lowest rating to the United States Congress. Baltimore City gave Congress the highest rating of the three jurisdictions, but still gave Congress a lower rating than any other category. The Maryland state legislature received the second lowest overall rating (3.17). Respondents from the rest of Maryland were most favorable towards the Maryland legislature.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 2 Weighted Survey Demographics¹

Gender	Male	48%
	Female	52%
Race	White - not Hispanic	62%
	Black - not Hispanic	30%
	Hispanic	2%
	Other	3%
Education	Less than high school	3%
	High school graduate or GED	22%
	Some college or Tech School	27%
	College graduate	27%
	Graduate or Professional Education	20%
Registered to Vote	Yes	92%
	No	7%
Party	Democrat	53%
	Republican	26%
	Green Party	<1%
	Libertarian Party	<1%
	Independent / Unaffiliated	13%
Ideology	Liberal	20%
	Moderate	25%
	Conservative	19%
	Do not think in those terms	33%
Income	Less than \$25,000	12%
	Between \$25,000 and \$50,000	21%
	Between \$50,000 and \$100,000	24%
	Over \$100,000	25%
Age	18 years to 34 years	15%
	35 years to 54 years	29%
	55 years to 64 years	22%
	65 years and older	30%

¹ Percentages displayed have been weighted and may not equal 100% due to refusals and rounding.

APPENDIX A: FULL RESULTS

Below are the full weighted frequencies and crosstabulations from all questions related to priorities, the economy, and leadership. Respondents who refused to answer have not been included in the calculated percentages.

Frequencies

What do you consider to be the most important problem facing the state legislature in the next year?	
Response	Percent n = 885
Crime	12%
State budget	11%
The Economy	10%
Taxes	10%
Public education (primary and secondary)	9%
Health care	4%
Unemployment	4%
Higher education	3%
Immigration. Illegal Immigration	3%
Welfare / Taking care of poor and those in need.	3%
Drugs	2%
The Environment	2%
Mass transit	1%
Highway Congestion	1%
Terrorism, terrorist attacks	0%
Other	6%
Don't know	18%
Total	100%

Developing new jobs	
Response	Percent n = 871
Very important	74%
Just important	17%
Only somewhat important	7%
Not at all important	1%
Don't know	0%
Total	100%

Avoiding tax increases	
Response	Percent n = 870
Very important	54%
Just important	21%
Only somewhat important	14%
Not at all important	10%
Don't know	2%
Total	100%

Preserving farm land	
Response	Percent n = 869
Very important	47%
Just important	26%
Only somewhat important	19%
Not at all important	7%
Don't know	1%
Total	100%

Improving existing mass transit	
Response	Percent n = 873
Very important	40%
Just important	23%
Only somewhat important	22%
Not at all important	14%
Don't know	2%
Total	100%

Attracting new businesses	
Response	Percent n = 870
Very important	58%
Just important	23%
Only somewhat important	15%
Not at all important	4%
Don't know	0%
Total	100%

Protecting the environment	
Response	Percent n = 873
Very important	62%
Just important	22%
Only somewhat important	12%
Not at all important	4%
Don't know	0%
Total	100%

Dealing with Illegal Immigration	
Response	Percent n = 872
Very important	44%
Just important	19%
Only somewhat important	21%
Not at all important	14%
Don't know	2%
Total	100%

Lowering taxes	
Response	Percent n = 872
Very important	53%
Just important	19%
Only somewhat important	14%
Not at all important	12%
Don't know	1%
Total	100%

Controlling crime	
Response	Percent n = 869
Very important	80%
Just important	12%
Only somewhat important	5%
Not at all important	2%
Don't know	0%
Total	100%

Reinvesting in older neighborhoods	
Response	Percent n = 869
Very important	40%
Just important	27%
Only somewhat important	24%
Not at all important	8%
Don't know	2%
Total	100%

Improving existing roadways	
Response	Percent n = 871
Very important	53%
Just important	27%
Only somewhat important	17%
Not at all important	4%
Don't know	0%
Total	100%

Building additional mass transit	
Response	Percent n = 871
Very important	25%
Just important	22%
Only somewhat important	27%
Not at all important	24%
Don't know	2%
Total	100%

Reducing size of government	
Response	Percent n = 873
Very important	29%
Just important	20%
Only somewhat important	26%
Not at all important	21%
Don't know	4%
Total	100%

Revitalizing local business districts	
Response	Percent n = 873
Very important	40%
Just important	29%
Only somewhat important	21%
Not at all important	7%
Don't know	3%
Total	100%

Increasing open space and parkland	
Response	Percent n = 871
Very important	25%
Just important	22%
Only somewhat important	31%
Not at all important	19%
Don't know	3%
Total	100%

Improving public K-12 education	
Response	Percent n = 870
Very important	73%
Just important	16%
Only somewhat important	6%
Not at all important	4%
Don't know	1%
Total	100%

Improving education at colleges and universities

Response	Percent n = 874
Very important	59%
Just important	19%
Only somewhat important	15%
Not at all important	7%
Don't know	1%
Total	100%

Building additional roads

Response	Percent n = 873
Very important	21%
Just important	22%
Only somewhat important	31%
Not at all important	26%
Don't know	1%
Total	100%

Supporting Baltimore City

Response	Percent n = 873
Very important	42%
Just important	20%
Only somewhat important	19%
Not at all important	16%
Don't know	3%
Total	100%

Keeping jobs in the state

Response	Percent n = 875
Very important	77%
Just important	17%
Only somewhat important	5%
Not at all important	1%
Don't know	0%
Total	100%

In terms of the overall Maryland economy, do you think things in the next year will get better, worse, or stay the same?

Response	Percent n = 865
Better	28%
Worse	17%
About the same	51%
Don't know/Not sure	5%
Total	100%

Are you better off, worse off, or about the same as you were last year?

Response	Percent n = 863
Better	22%
Worse	19%
About the same	59%
Don't know/Not sure	1%
Total	100%

Do you think you will be better off, worse off, or about the same a year from now?

Response	Percent n = 863
Better	33%
Worse	10%
About the same	54%
Don't know/Not sure	3%
Total	100%

Would you say things in Maryland headed in the right or wrong direction?

Response	Percent n = 862
Right Direction	54%
Wrong Direction	27%
Don't know	18%
Total	100%

Would you say things in the country as a whole are headed in the right or wrong direction?

Response	Percent n = 859
Right Direction	31%
Wrong Direction	56%
Don't know	13%
Total	100%

In general, how would you rate the performance of state government in solving problems in Maryland?

Response	Percent n = 862
Poor	17%
Only fair	45%
Good	34%
Excellent	2%
Don't know	2%
Total	100%

How good of a job does the President of the United States do in dealing with current issues?

Response	Percent n = 864
1 - Poor	20%
2	11%
3	20%
4	26%
5 - Excellent	22%
Don't know	1%
Total	100%

How good of a job does the United States Congress do in dealing with current issues?

Response	Percent n = 864
1 - Poor	44%
2	28%
3	18%
4	6%
5 - Excellent	2%
Don't know	2%
Total	100%

How good of a job does the Governor of Maryland do in dealing with current issues?

Response	Percent n = 862
1 - Poor	6%
2	10%
3	30%
4	30%
5 - Excellent	17%
Don't know	8%
Total	100%

How good of a job does the Maryland State legislature do in dealing with current issues?

Response	Percent n = 861
1 - Poor	13%
2	15%
3	46%
4	16%
5 - Excellent	2%
Don't know	7%
Total	100%

How good of a job does your local mayor or county executive do in dealing with current issues?

Response	Percent n = 862
1 - Poor	12%
2	13%
3	36%
4	24%
5 - Excellent	8%
Don't know	7%
Total	100%

Crosstabulations:

What do you consider to be the most important problem facing the state legislature in the next year?	Baltimore City n = 194	Baltimore Metro n = 298	Rest of Maryland n = 395
Crime	24%	12%	7%
Drugs	3%	0%	4%
The Economy	10%	12%	10%
The Environment	1%	2%	2%
Mass transit	1%	1%	2%
Highway Congestion	0%	1%	2%
Health care	4%	6%	2%
Higher education	3%	2%	4%
Immigration. Illegal Immigration	1%	4%	3%
Public education (primary and secondary)	10%	9%	9%
State budget	7%	12%	12%
Taxes	6%	10%	13%
Terrorism, terrorist attacks	1%	1%	0%
Unemployment	3%	3%	5%
Welfare / Taking care of poor and those in need	6%	1%	3%
Other	5%	8%	5%
Don't know	19%	16%	19%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Developing new jobs	Baltimore City n = 191	Baltimore Metro n = 296	Rest of Maryland n = 387
Very important	83%	72%	71%
Just important	14%	19%	18%
Only somewhat important	3%	8%	8%
Not at all important	0%	1%	2%
Don't know	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Avoiding tax increases	Baltimore City n = 188	Baltimore Metro n = 296	Rest of Maryland n = 387
Very important	56%	55%	52%
Just important	23%	20%	20%
Only somewhat important	11%	15%	15%
Not at all important	8%	9%	11%
Don't know	2%	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Preserving farm land	Baltimore City n = 188	Baltimore Metro n = 295	Rest of Maryland n = 384
Very important	41%	51%	47%
Just important	26%	25%	27%
Only somewhat important	16%	18%	20%
Not at all important	15%	5%	6%
Don't know	2%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Improving existing mass transit	Baltimore City n = 191	Baltimore Metro n = 296	Rest of Maryland n = 386
Very important	46%	36%	39%
Just important	18%	26%	22%
Only somewhat important	24%	20%	22%
Not at all important	10%	15%	15%
Don't know	2%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Attracting new businesses	Baltimore City n = 190	Baltimore Metro n = 295	Rest of Maryland n = 385
Very important	65%	55%	56%
Just important	22%	24%	23%
Only somewhat important	11%	14%	17%
Not at all important	3%	6%	4%
Don't know	0%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Protecting the environment	Baltimore City n = 191	Baltimore Metro n = 296	Rest of Maryland n = 388
Very important	72%	63%	57%
Just important	19%	22%	23%
Only somewhat important	6%	11%	15%
Not at all important	4%	4%	4%
Don't know	0%	0%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Dealing with Illegal Immigration	Baltimore City n = 189	Baltimore Metro n = 295	Rest of Maryland n = 389
Very important	35%	52%	42%
Just important	21%	18%	18%
Only somewhat important	25%	17%	22%
Not at all important	15%	12%	16%
Don't know	3%	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Lowering taxes	Baltimore City n = 188	Baltimore Metro n = 296	Rest of Maryland n = 386
Very important	63%	50%	50%
Just important	15%	22%	19%
Only somewhat important	8%	16%	16%
Not at all important	12%	10%	14%
Don't know	2%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Controlling crime	Baltimore City n = 188	Baltimore Metro n = 295	Rest of Maryland n = 385
Very important	87%	84%	74%
Just important	9%	11%	15%
Only somewhat important	3%	3%	9%
Not at all important	2%	2%	2%
Don't know	0%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Reinvesting in older neighborhoods	Baltimore City n = 189	Baltimore Metro n = 294	Rest of Maryland n = 384
Very important	60%	38%	32%
Just important	20%	29%	28%
Only somewhat important	14%	26%	27%
Not at all important	5%	6%	10%
Don't know	2%	1%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Improving existing roadways	Baltimore City n = 190	Baltimore Metro n = 296	Rest of Maryland n = 387
Very important	56%	54%	49%
Just important	27%	27%	26%
Only somewhat important	15%	16%	19%
Not at all important	2%	2%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Building additional mass transit	Baltimore City n = 189	Baltimore Metro n = 294	Rest of Maryland n = 386
Very important	33%	19%	26%
Just important	21%	27%	19%
Only somewhat important	25%	23%	30%
Not at all important	20%	28%	22%
Don't know	1%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Reducing size of government	Baltimore City n = 192	Baltimore Metro n = 296	Rest of Maryland n = 385
Very important	25%	34%	28%
Just important	21%	22%	18%
Only somewhat important	21%	26%	29%
Not at all important	26%	15%	22%
Don't know	7%	3%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Revitalizing local business districts	Baltimore City n = 189	Baltimore Metro n = 295	Rest of Maryland n = 387
Very important	41%	40%	39%
Just important	29%	28%	30%
Only somewhat important	21%	21%	21%
Not at all important	4%	8%	9%
Don't know	4%	3%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Increasing open space and parkland	Baltimore City n = 188	Baltimore Metro n = 296	Rest of Maryland n = 387
Very important	24%	28%	25%
Just important	19%	24%	22%
Only somewhat important	28%	33%	31%
Not at all important	26%	13%	20%
Don't know	3%	3%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Improving public K-12 education	Baltimore City n = 189	Baltimore Metro n = 295	Rest of Maryland n = 385
Very important	88%	67%	70%
Just important	10%	17%	18%
Only somewhat important	1%	7%	8%
Not at all important	1%	6%	4%
Don't know	1%	3%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Improving education at colleges and universities	Baltimore City n = 191	Baltimore Metro n = 296	Rest of Maryland n = 387
Very important	72%	55%	55%
Just important	15%	20%	20%
Only somewhat important	7%	16%	17%
Not at all important	5%	6%	8%
Don't know	1%	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Building additional roads	Baltimore City n = 190	Baltimore Metro n = 295	Rest of Maryland n = 388
Very important	19%	18%	24%
Just important	23%	23%	21%
Only somewhat important	32%	30%	31%
Not at all important	25%	29%	23%
Don't know	1%	0%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Supporting Baltimore City	Baltimore City n = 189	Baltimore Metro n = 297	Rest of Maryland n = 387
Very important	74%	40%	29%
Just important	15%	25%	19%
Only somewhat important	4%	21%	26%
Not at all important	7%	12%	23%
Don't know	1%	3%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Keeping jobs in the state	Baltimore City n = 191	Baltimore Metro n = 296	Rest of Maryland n = 388
Very important	81%	76%	75%
Just important	13%	17%	19%
Only somewhat important	6%	6%	4%
Not at all important	1%	1%	2%
Don't know	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

In terms of the overall Maryland economy, do you think things in the next year will get better, worse, or stay the same?	Baltimore City n = 187	Baltimore Metro n = 295	Rest of Maryland n = 384
Better	20%	34%	27%
Worse	24%	13%	17%
About the same	52%	49%	51%
Don't know/Not sure	4%	4%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Are you better off, worse off, or about the same as you were last year?	Baltimore City n = 188	Baltimore Metro n = 293	Rest of Maryland n = 384
Better	22%	21%	22%
Worse	16%	19%	20%
About the same	60%	60%	57%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Do you think you will be better off, worse off, or about the same a year from now?	Baltimore City n = 187	Baltimore Metro n = 294	Rest of Maryland n = 382
Better	36%	30%	34%
Worse	8%	9%	12%
About the same	52%	58%	51%
Don't know/Not sure	4%	3%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Would you say things in Maryland headed in the right or wrong direction?	Baltimore City n = 186	Baltimore Metro n = 293	Rest of Maryland n = 382
Right Direction	49%	58%	54%
Wrong Direction	35%	25%	26%
Don't know	16%	17%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Would you say things in the country as a whole are headed in the right or wrong direction?	Baltimore City n = 184	Baltimore Metro n = 293	Rest of Maryland n = 382
Right Direction	40%	27%	30%
Wrong Direction	48%	60%	58%
Don't know	13%	13%	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%

In general, how would you rate the performance of state government in solving problems in Maryland?	Baltimore City n = 186	Baltimore Metro n = 294	Rest of Maryland n = 383
Poor	23%	16%	14%
Only fair	45%	47%	44%
Good	30%	33%	38%
Excellent	1%	3%	2%
Don't know	2%	1%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%

How good of a job does the President of the United States do in dealing with current issues?	Baltimore City n = 188	Baltimore Metro n = 294	Rest of Maryland n = 382
1 - Poor	11%	26%	21%
2	5%	18%	10%
3	20%	18%	21%
4	24%	23%	28%
5 - Excellent	39%	15%	20%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

How good of a job does the United States Congress do in dealing with current issues?	Baltimore City n = 187	Baltimore Metro n = 293	Rest of Maryland n = 383
1 - Poor	39%	43%	48%
2	25%	30%	27%
3	24%	18%	15%
4	7%	6%	6%
5 - Excellent	3%	2%	2%
Don't know	2%	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

How good of a job does the Governor of Maryland do in dealing with current issues?	Baltimore City n = 186	Baltimore Metro n = 294	Rest of Maryland n = 383
1 - Poor	11%	6%	4%
2	11%	9%	10%
3	34%	26%	31%
4	23%	33%	30%
5 - Excellent	14%	22%	14%
Don't know	6%	4%	11%
Total	100%	100%	100%

How good of a job does the Maryland State legislature do in dealing with current issues?	Baltimore City n = 187	Baltimore Metro n = 293	Rest of Maryland n = 381
1 - Poor	16%	14%	11%
2	14%	17%	14%
3	50%	46%	44%
4	11%	16%	19%
5 - Excellent	3%	1%	3%
Don't know	6%	5%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%

How good of a job does your local mayor or county executive do in dealing with current issues?	Baltimore City n = 187	Baltimore Metro n = 294	Rest of Maryland n = 382
1 - Poor	22%	10%	10%
2	19%	12%	12%
3	33%	37%	36%
4	12%	31%	25%
5 - Excellent	8%	6%	9%
Don't know	6%	5%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Location	President of the United States	United States Congress	Governor of Maryland	Maryland State legislature	Your local mayor or county executive
Baltimore City	3.80	2.21	3.53	2.99	2.94
Baltimore Metro	2.90	2.01	3.79	3.02	3.38
Rest of Maryland	3.19	1.95	3.92	3.37	3.57
All of Maryland	3.22	2.03	3.79	3.17	3.37