



Results Embargoed Until Wednesday, February 24 at 12:01AM

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Clinton Continues to Lead in Maryland; Edwards and Van Hollen in Dead Heat

Baltimore—The Goucher Poll asked likely Maryland Democratic voters for their opinions regarding candidates for the Maryland Democratic presidential and Maryland Democratic senatorial primaries.

If the Democratic presidential primary were held today, 58 percent of Maryland Democratic voters say they will vote for Hillary Clinton and 28 percent for Bernie Sanders. Twelve percent are currently undecided.

“What we find in Maryland is similar to what we find in other states with a large proportion of African Americans in their statewide Democratic electorates—Hillary Clinton maintains a significant electoral advantage,” said Mileah Kromer, Director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. “Her strength in racially diverse electorates, combined with Sanders’ focusing his campaign resources in other states, will make Clinton difficult to beat in Maryland.”

When asked about the senatorial primary, 37 percent of Maryland Democratic voters say they will vote for Chris Van Hollen and 39 percent for Donna Edwards—a statistical tie, taking into account the margin of error. Twenty-three percent are currently undecided.

“A dead heat with nearly a quarter of the voters still undecided makes for an exciting race,” said Kromer. “The test for Edwards will be her ability to translate her current electoral support to campaign-sustaining donations. Van Hollen has the money in his campaign coffers for a strong push to the finish.”

GOUCHER POLL

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About the Goucher Poll

The Goucher Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center, which is housed in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Goucher College. Directed by Mileah Kromer, the Goucher Poll conducts surveys on public policy, economic, and social issues in Maryland.

Goucher College supports the Goucher Poll as part of its mission to instill in its students a sense of community where discourse is valued and practiced. The Goucher Poll is fully funded by the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center endowment and does not take additional funding from outside sources.

The Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center is a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations and the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative.



The Goucher Poll seeks to improve public discourse in the state by providing neutral and nonbiased information on citizen perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the Goucher Poll are used to support faculty and student research.

Survey Methodology

To ensure all Maryland residents are represented, the Goucher Poll is conducted using random digit dialing (RDD) of a county-level stratified random sample using landline and cellular telephone numbers. The sample of telephone numbers for the survey is obtained from Survey Sampling International, LLC (<http://www.surveysampling.com/>).

The survey was conducted Saturday, February 13, to Thursday, February 18, 2016. During this time, interviews were conducted 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, 12 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, and 5 to 9 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. The Goucher Poll uses Voxco Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) software to administer its surveys. Interviews are conducted by a staff of professionally trained, paid, student interviewers.

Interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers a maximum of five times. Only Maryland adults—residents aged 18 years or older—were eligible to participate. Interviews were not conducted with adults who were reached at business or work numbers. Sixty-five percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 35 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 794 Maryland residents, of these residents 670 indicated they were registered to vote in Maryland. For a sample size of 794, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.5 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. For sample size of 670 registered voters, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.8 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. Margins of error are higher for subsamples.

Survey Question Design

The Goucher Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which they are administered to respondents.

BRACKETED ITEMS []: Items and statements in brackets are rotated to ensure respondents do not receive a set order of response options presented to them, which maintains question construction integrity by avoiding respondent agreement based on question composition.

Example: [agree or disagree] or [disagree or agree]

PROBE (p): Some questions contain a “probe” maneuver to determine a respondent’s intensity of opinion/perspective. Probe techniques used in this questionnaire mainly consist of asking a respondent if his or her response is more intense than initially provided.

Example: Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of President Obama?

PROBE: Would you say very favorable/unfavorable?

OPEN-ENDED: No response options are provided for an open-ended question, i.e., it is entirely up to the respondent to provide the response information. Any response options provided to the interviewer are not read to respondent; they are only used to help reduce interviewer error and time in coding the response.

VOLUNTEER (v): Volunteer responses means the interviewer did not offer that response option in the question as read to the interviewer. Interviewers are instructed not to offer “don’t know” or “refused” or “some other opinion” to the respondent, but the respondent is free to volunteer that information for the interviewer to record.

Sample Demographics (in percent)

	MD Adult Population Parameter	Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Adults (N=794)	Maryland Democratic Registered Voters (N=363)
Gender			
Male	48	48	43
Female	52	52	57
Age			
18 to 24	13	12	7
25 to 34	18	17	14
35 to 44	17	18	20
45 to 54	20	20	21
55 to 64	17	16	19
65+	16	17	20
Race			
White	63	59	48
Black	29	32	45
Other	8	9	8
Region			
Capitol	36	36	41
Central	46	47	45
Eastern	8	7	6
Southern	6	6	4
Western	4	4	3

Population parameters are based on Census estimates as of July 2011.
 Sample is weighted by age, region, and race.

Distribution of Regions

Capitol–Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George’s

Central–Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard

Eastern–Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester

Southern–Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s

Western–Allegany, Garrett, Washington

Registered Voters

Registered voter screen question:

Q: REGVOTE

Are you registered to vote at your current address?

If “Yes” follow up: Are you registered as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, unaffiliated or something else?

Of the **794** Maryland residents surveyed, **670** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e. independent).

Maryland Voter Registration (in percent)

	MD Board of Elections Registration (April 2015)	Weighted Sample Estimate (N=670)
Democratic Party	54	54
Republican Party	26	28
Unaffiliated (Independent)	18	15
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	2	3
Total=	100	100 670 +/-3.8

Information on voter registration in Maryland from the Board of Elections can be found at <http://www.elections.state.md.us>.

Survey Results—Registered Democratic Voters

- Of the **670** Maryland registered voters, **363** indicated they were registered with the Democratic Party; results below are of **registered Democrats only**.
- For a sample size of **363** registered Democrats, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 5.1 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question.
- Results in percent. Percent totals may not add up to 100 due to weighting and/or rounding.

Q: PRIMINT

As you know, Maryland primary elections for US President and a US Senate seat will be held in April 2016.

How interested would you say you are in these primary elections: **extremely interested, very interested, somewhat interested, or not very interested?**

	FEB 2016
Not very interested	5
Somewhat interested	21
Very interested	32
Extremely interested	42
Don't Know (v)	0
Total=	100 363 +/-5.1

Q: PRIM14

Thinking back to the last statewide primary election in 2014, did you vote in the 2014 Maryland primary elections?

If “Yes”: Did you vote in the Republican or Democratic Primary?

Q: PRIM12

Now, thinking back to the presidential and senatorial primary elections in 2012, did you vote in the 2012 Maryland presidential and senatorial elections?

If “Yes”: Did you vote in the Republican or Democratic Primary?

	2014 Primary	2012 Primary
Yes, voted in Democratic primary	73	75
No, did not vote in Democratic primary	24	22
Don't know / Can't remember (v)	3	3
Total=	100 363 +/-5.1	100 363 +/-5.1

Q: LV

Which of the following statements best describes you. . .(response options read to respondent)

1. I will probably **NOT** vote in the 2016 Maryland primary elections.
 2. I **MAY** vote in the 2016 primary election,
 3. Unless some emergency comes up, I **WILL** vote in the 2016 primary election,
 4. I will **DEFINITELY** vote in the 2016 Primary election, or
 5. I just don't know at this time
9. Refused (v)

	FEB 2016
Will NOT vote	1
MAY vote	8
WILL vote	13
Will DEFINITELY vote	71
Just don't know at this time	7
Refused (v)	1
Total=	100 363 +/-5.1

Respondents who indicated they “will not vote,” “just don’t know at this time,” or “refused,” were not asked PLAN and skipped to DEMOGRAPHICS.

Q: PLAN

As of right now, which primary do you plan on voting in for the 2016 Maryland primary elections in April—the Republican or the Democratic?

	FEB 2016
Confirms Democratic primary	92
May switch/vote in different primary	3
Not sure / It depends / Don't know (v)	5
Total=	335 +/-5.1

Respondents who indicated they “may switch or vote in a different primary” or are “not sure/it depends, or don’t know” were not asked **DEMPREZ or **DEMSEN** and were skipped to **DEMOGRAPHICS**.**

To receive **DEMPREZ** and **DEMSEN**, respondent must have indicated the following:

- **Currently a registered Democrat**
- **May, will, or will definitely vote in the 2016 primary election**
- **Confirms they plan to vote in the Democratic primary in 2016**

Democratic Likely Voters

- Of the **363** Maryland registered Democratic voters, **307** were screened as likely voters in the Democratic primary; results below are of these **Democratic likely voters only**.
- For a sample size of **307** registered Democrats, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 5.6 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question.
- Results in percent. Percent totals may not add up to 100 due to weighting and/or rounding.

Q: DEMPRESZ

I'm going to read you the names of the candidates who are running for the Democratic presidential nomination.

If the Democratic primary for president were held today, which of the following would you support for the Democratic nomination. . . (read list to respondent)

[Candidates Rotated]

1. Hillary Clinton
2. Bernie Sanders

	OCT 2015	FEB 2016
Hillary Clinton	43	58
Joe Biden	23	--
Bernie Sanders	17	28
Martin O'Malley	2	--
Jim Webb	2	--
Lincoln Chafee	0	--
Other/Someone else:	1	1
Not sure/undecided (v)	11	12
Refused (v)	1	1
Total=	100 300 +/-5.7	100 307 +/-5.6

Q: DEMSEN

Next, I'm going to read you the names of the candidates who are running for the Democratic nomination for US Senate in Maryland.

If the Democratic primary for the US Senate seat were held today, which of the following would you support for the Democratic nomination... (Read list to respondent)

[Candidates Rotated]

1. Donna Edwards
2. Chris Van Hollen

	FEB 2016
Donna Edwards	39
Chris Van Hollen	37
Other/Someone else (v):	0
Not sure/undecided (v)	23
Refused (v)	1
Total=	100 307 +/-5.6