GOUCHER POLL

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Hogan Remains Popular; Perceptions of the Maryland Economy Are Positive

Baltimore— The Goucher Poll asked Maryland residents about their opinions toward Governor Larry Hogan, the direction of the state, President Donald Trump and Congress. The Goucher Poll surveyed 800 Maryland adults from February 12-17 and has a margin of error of +/-3.5 percent.

Perceptions of Governor Larry Hogan and the 2018 Gubernatorial Election

Governor Hogan's standing with Marylanders remains unchanged since the September 2017 Goucher Poll. **Sixty-one percent** of Marylanders approve of the job Larry Hogan is doing as governor, **18 percent** disapprove, and **19 percent** say they don't know.

Maryland residents were asked additional questions about Governor Larry Hogan including his ideological leanings and his distance from President Trump.

- **Forty-six percent** of Marylanders think that Governor Hogan is a moderate, while **29 percent** see him as a conservative, **7 percent** view the Governor as a liberal. **17 percent** say they don't know.

- **Forty-seven percent** of Maryland residents believe that Governor Hogan has distanced himself about the right amount from President Trump. **Twenty-two percent** of respondents believe Governor Hogan has distanced himself too little from President Trump and **10 percent** think he has distanced himself too much from President Trump. **Twenty percent** say they don't know.

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Marylanders who indicated that they were interested in the 2018 election and registered to vote in the state were asked whether they would vote to reelect Governor Hogan or vote for a Democratic candidate.

Forty-seven percent of Marylanders say they are leaning toward or will definitely vote to reelect Governor Hogan and **43 percent** say they are leaning toward or will definitely vote for a different candidate.

When asked about the single most important issue for determining their choice for governor, **28 percent** of respondents say the economy and jobs, **24 percent** say education, and **13 percent** say health care. **11 percent** cite racial and social justice issues as the most important factor, while **eight percent** cited taxes.

Maryland voters were divided on how much influence their views toward President Trump would have on their vote for governor. **38 percent** say that their views toward President Trump would influence their vote for governor some or a lot and **60 percent** say their views toward the president would have no or only a little influence on their vote.

"Governor Hogan's reelection chances in blue Maryland are closely tied to the public perception that he is a moderate Republican who has distanced himself from Washington politics," said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center. *"The specter of an unpopular president with shared party affiliation still looms as potential political problem for Mr. Hogan as about a third of Maryland voters say their views toward the president will influence their vote for governor."*

Views toward the State's Most Important Issue, the Direction of the State, and the Current Economic Situation

Twenty-two percent of Marylanders identify economic issues—including jobs, taxes, economic growth, and the budget—and **19 percent** identify education as the most important issues facing Maryland today. **Twelve percent** consider crime and criminal justice to be the most important issue.

In September 2017**, 55 percent** say Maryland is heading in the right direction and **31 percent** say Maryland is off on the wrong track—the lowest point during Mr. Hogan's tenure in office. That number has rebounded; **62 percent** say Maryland is heading in the right direction and **29 percent** say Maryland is off on the wrong track.

Attitudes toward Maryland's economic situation—an important factor in determining the outcome of gubernatorial elections—remain positive; **60 percent** currently hold a mostly positive view of the Maryland economy and **31 percent** hold a mostly negative view.

Views toward the New Tax Plan, President Trump, Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, and Congress

Marylanders were asked whether they expected the recent changes to the federal tax code to increase, decrease, or have no effect on the amount of taxes they will pay over the next couple

years. **Twenty-six percent** think their taxes will decrease, **44 percent** think their taxes will increase, and **18 percent** think the changes to the tax code will have no effect.

Twenty-seven percent of Marylanders approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President of the United States and **68 percent** disapprove. In February 2017, President Trump's approval rating in Maryland was **29 percent**.

Congress continues to earn poor job approval ratings from Maryland residents. Only **11 percent approve** of the job Congress is doing while **83 percent disapprove**.

Respondents were also asked to rate the job their two US Senators are doing:
- Senator Chris Van Hollen: **37 percent** approve, **27 percent** disapprove, **34 percent** don't know
- Senator Ben Cardin: **44 percent** approve, **30 percent** disapprove, **24 percent** don't know

About the Goucher Poll

The Goucher Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. Directed by Dr. 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 Goucher Poll seeks to improve public discourse in Maryland by providing neutral, unbiased, and independent information on citizen perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the Goucher Poll are used to support faculty and student research.

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.

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 **Monday, February 12 to Saturday, February 17, 2018**. During this time, interviews were conducted 1:00pm to 9:00pm on Monday to Friday and 1:00pm to 7:00pm on Saturday. 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. Seventy-six percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 24 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 800 Maryland adults. For a sample size of 800, 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. Margins of error are higher for subsamples.

In addition to sampling error, all surveys are subject to sources of non-sampling error including question wording effects, question order effects, and non-response bias. Margin of error is not adjusted for design effects. Data is weighted by gender, age, race, and region of the state to represent adult population targets established by the American Community Survey (ACS).

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.

Goucher Poll Sample Demographics (in percent)

	Maryland Adult Population Parameter (ACS estimates)	Weighted Sample Estimate **Maryland Adults** (Total=800)	Weighted Sample Estimate **Maryland Registered Voters** (Total=658)
Gender			
Male	48	50	48
Female	52	50	52
Age			
18 to 24	12	11	10
25 to 34	18	16	14
35 to 44	17	17	16
45 to 54	19	20	21
55 to 64	17	18	19
65+	18	19	20
Race			
White	63	59	62
Black	29	32	30
Other	8	9	8
Capitol	36	36	36
Central	46	46	46
Eastern	8	8	8
Southern	6	6	7
Western	4	4	3

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 **800** Maryland adult residents surveyed, **658** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e. independent).

Maryland Voter Registration (in percent)

	Party Registration (December 2017)	Weighted Sample Estimate **Registered Voters** (n=658)
Democratic Party	55	58
Republican Party	26	25
Unaffiliated (Independent)	18	15
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	1	2
Total=	100	100

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

The following questions were asked to the full sample of **800 Maryland adults**. Please refer to **page 18** for the results by registered voter and other key demographics. Results are in percent and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: IMPISSUE
What do you think is the most important issue facing the state of Maryland today?
[OPEN-ENDED]

	FEB 18
Economic issues (jobs/taxes/growth/budget)	22
Education	19
Crime or Criminal Justice or Police	12
Transportation/roads/mass transit	8
Drugs (includes heroin)	7
Politicians in office/running the country OTHER than Trump	6
Environmental issues/concerns	6
Guns/Gun Control	4
Immigration or Undocumented immigrants	2
Something specific about Donald Trump	1
Other:	4
Don't Know (v)	9
Total=	100

Q: HOGANJOB

Do you **[approve or disapprove]** of the way Larry Hogan is handling his job as governor?
PROBE

	OCT 15	FEB 16	SEPT 16	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	3	4	3	7	6	7
Disapprove	15	13	9	10	10	11
Approve	42	43	45	36	42	38
Strongly approve (p)	16	20	25	27	20	23
Don't know (v)	23	21	17	20	20	19
Refused (v)	1	0	1	0	1	2
Total=	636 +/-3.9	545 +/-4.2	668 +/-3.8	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5

Q: HOGANIDEO

In general, do you think that Governor Larry Hogan is [**a conservative, a moderate, or a liberal**]?

	SEPT 17	FEB 18
Conservative	31	29
Moderate	47	46
Liberal	7	7
Don't know (v)	14	17
Refused (v)	0	1
Total=	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5

Q: DISTANCE

Over the past year, has Governor Larry Hogan distanced himself [**too much, about the right amount, or too little**] from President Donald Trump?

	SEPT 17	FEB 18
Too little	27	22
About the right amount	43	47
Too much	11	10
Don't know (v)	18	20
Refused (v)	1	1
Total=	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5

Q: TRACK

In general, do you think things in the **state [are headed in the right direction or are off on the wrong track]**?

	SEPT 14	OCT 15	SEPT 16	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18
Wrong track	52	33	19	22	31	29
Right direction	38	56	65	62	55	62
Don't know/Refused (v)	10	11	17	16	14	9
Total=	708 +/-3.7	636 +/-3.9	668 +/-3.8	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5

Q: MDECON

Do you have a [**mostly negative or mostly positive**] view of the current economic situation in Maryland?

	SEPT 17	FEB 18
Mostly negative	33	31
Mostly positive	57	60
Don't know (v)	10	9
Refused (v)	>0	>1
Total=	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5

Q: CONGRESS

Changing topics. . . Do you [**approve or disapprove**] of the way Congress is handling its job?
PROBE

	OCT 13	OCT 15	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	62	54	51	59	62
Disapprove	29	29	21	27	21
Approve	4	8	16	6	8
Strongly approve (p)	1	1	5	2	3
Don't know (v)	4	7	7	6	4
Refused (v)	1	1	>1	0	1
Total=	665 +/-3.8	636 +/-3.9	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5

Q: TRUMPJOB

Do you **[approve or disapprove]** of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

PROBE

	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	56	56	57
Disapprove	8	15	11
Approve	14	13	15
Strongly approve (p)	15	12	12
Don't know (v)	7	3	4
Refused (v)	>1	1	1
Total=	776 +/-3.5	671 +/-3.8	800 +/-3.5

Q: VANHOLLEN

Do you [**approve or disapprove**] of the way Chris Van Hollen is handling his job as US Senator?

PROBE

	FEB 17	FEB 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	9	12
Disapprove	10	15
Approve	28	25
Strongly approve (p)	16	12
Don't know (v)	36	34
Refused (v)	1	2
Total=	776 +/-3.5	800 +/-3.5

Q: CARDIN
Do you [**approve or disapprove**] of the way Ben Cardin is handling his job as US Senator?
PROBE

	FEB 17	FEB 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	10	14
Disapprove	11	16
Approve	29	30
Strongly approve (p)	16	14
Don't know (v)	34	24
Refused (v)	>1	2
Total=	776 +/-3.5	800 +/-3.5

Q: TAXES
As you know, the federal government recently made changes to the tax system. Over the next couple of years, do you think these changes will [**increase, decrease or have no effect on**] the amount of taxes you pay?

	FEB 18
Decrease	26
Stay about the same	18
Increase	44
Some other opinion (v)	2
Don't know (v)	8
Refused (v)	1
Total=	800 +/-3.5

To receive INTEREST the respondent indicated they were a registered voter on REGVOTE.

Q: INTEREST

Changing topics. . . Maryland will hold statewide primary and general elections in 2018. How interested would you say you are in these elections: **extremely interested, very interested, somewhat interested, or not interested**?

	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18
Not interested	7	11	0
Somewhat interested	25	27	25
Very interested	29	28	33
Extremely interested	38	34	42
Don't Know (v)	1	0	0
Total=	698 +/-3.7	671 +/-3.8	658 +/-3.8

To receive REELECT and GOVISSUE respondent must indicate the following:
- **Currently a registered voter**
- **Somewhat, very, or extremely interested in the 2018 election**

Q: REELECT
As you may know, Governor Larry Hogan is up for reelection in 2018. If the election were held today, what statement best describes you:
[**Statements rotated--inversion**]

	FEB 17	SEPT 17	FEB 18
I'd definitely vote for Governor Hogan.	28	23	31
I'm leaning toward Governor Hogan, but could vote for another candidate.	29	28	16
I'm leaning toward another candidate, but could vote for Governor Hogan.	18	21	20
I'd definitely vote for another candidate.	15	21	23
It depends (v)	5	4	6
Don't know (v)	4	3	4
Refused (v)	1	>1	0
Total=	644 +/-3.8	533 +/-4.2	658 +/-3.8

Q: GOVISSUE

Okay, next I'm going to read you a list of issues. Please tell me which of these is the **single most important** issue for you in determining your choice for governor? Is it. . .

[READ ITEMS 1-8]

[ITEMS 1-7 ROTATED]

	SEPT 17	FEB 18
Economy and jobs	28	28
Education	21	24
Health care	12	13
Racial and social justice issues	11	11
Taxes	12	8
Environment	7	5
Transportation and infrastructure	5	6
Something else/all:	3	4
Don't know (v)	1	1
Total=	533 +/-4.2	658 +/-3.8

Q: TRUMPEFF

Okay, still thinking about this election, how much—[**not at all, a little, some, or a lot**]—do you think your views toward President Donald Trump will influence how you will vote?

	FEB 17	FEB 18
Not at all	31	49
A little	11	11
Some	10	11
A lot	45	27
Don't know (v)	2	1
Refused (v)	1	1
Total=	644 +/-3.8	658 +/-3.8

Part 2 and Part 3 of this poll will be released on Wednesday, February 21 and Thursday, February 22, respectively.

Results by Demographics (in percent)
• Column percentages
• Unless specified, "don't know," "refused," and other volunteered responses are not included below
• Margin of error is higher for subsamples
• Refer to tables above for questions as worded

	Registered Voters				Maryland Adults							
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All	**Dem**	**Ind**	**Rep**	**Male**	**Female**	**18-34**	**35-54**	**55+**	**White**	**Black**	**Other**
	(n=658)	**(n=385)**	**(n=101)**	**(n=161)**	**(n=398)**	**(n=402)**	**(n=217)**	**(n=294)**	**(n=289)**	**(n=473)**	**(n=275)**	**(n=70)**
Q: HOGANJOB												
Disapprove	19	24	20	6	19	17	20	21	13	16	21	20
Approve	65	56	62	88	64	58	45	60	75	69	50	49
Q: HOGANIDEO												
Conservative	30	30	20	36	32	25	28	31	27	29	27	29
Moderate	50	47	59	50	44	48	34	48	54	55	35	33
Liberal	6	7	5	4	6	8	10	6	6	4	12	10
Q: DISTANCE												
Too little	22	29	19	11	20	24	13	24	26	22	21	21
Right amount	50	49	54	49	50	45	42	50	49	49	46	46
Too much	10	4	9	23	12	8	11	9	10	12	7	10
Q: TRACK												
Wrong track	28	28	26	30	28	29	28	30	28	27	32	28
Right direction	64	62	66	68	62	62	62	60	64	64	58	63
Q: MDECON												
Mostly negative	30	32	30	26	27	34	37	28	29	26	36	40
Mostly positive	61	59	60	67	65	54	53	63	61	66	52	50

	Registered Voters				Maryland Adults								
		Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race			
	All	**Dem**	**Ind**	**Rep**	**Male**	**Female**	**18-34**	**35-54**	**55+**	**White**	**Black**	**Other**	
	(n=658)	**(n=385)**	**(n=101)**	**(n=161)**	**(n=398)**	**(n=402)**	**(n=217)**	**(n=294)**	**(n=289)**	**(n=473)**	**(n=275)**	**(n=70)**	
Q: CONGRESS													
Disapprove	86	90	91	75	84	83	74	85	88	84	85	71	
Approve	10	6	7	18	13	10	15	12	9	11	9	24	
Q: TRUMPJOB													
Disapprove	70	90	68	22	62	74	72	67	66	57	89	70	
Approve	27	8	25	72	33	22	22	27	31	39	7	24	
Q: VANHOLLEN													
Disapprove	28	22	29	39	29	25	38	22	25	25	31	27	
Approve	40	50	35	21	32	41	23	36	48	39	33	29	
Don't know	31	27	34	39	37	31	37	39	26	33	34	41	
Q: CARDIN													
Disapprove	31	24	28	47	32	27	35	24	31	28	30	33	
Approve	48	56	46	30	41	47	31	45	52	46	42	39	
Don't know	20	18	25	21	26	21	33	26	15	23	24	27	
Q: TAXES													
Decrease	26	18	24	44	32	20	26	29	23	33	13	29	
Stay about the same	18	19	16	19	18	18	16	17	21	20	17	11	
Increase	45	52	52	26	39	50	46	45	43	36	58	50	

	Maryland Adults				
	College		**Region**		
	>4-year degree (n=356)	4-year degree + (n=443)	Capitol (n=289)	Central (n=396)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=142)
Q: HOGANJOB					
Disapprove	14	21	21	17	15
Approve	59	63	55	64	67
Q: HOGANIDEO					
Conservative	30	28	28	29	30
Moderate	36	55	44	49	45
Liberal	9	5	6	7	9
Q: DISTANCE					
Too little	16	26	27	20	17
Right amount	43	51	43	51	46
Too much	14	7	7	10	16
Q: TRACK					
Wrong track	31	27	24	32	31
Right direction	59	64	64	60	62
Q: MDECON					
Mostly negative	36	26	27	34	29
Mostly positive	53	65	63	56	62

	Maryland Adults				
	College		Region		
	>4-year degree (n=356)	4-year degree + (n=443)	Capitol (n=289)	Central (n=396)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=142)
Q: CONGRESS					
Disapprove	75	89	88	81	81
Approve	16	8	10	12	14
Q: TRUMPJOB					
Disapprove	58	76	82	65	47
Approve	36	20	15	29	47
Q: VANHOLLEN					
Disapprove	30	25	24	28	34
Approve	27	44	45	34	25
Don't know	40	29	30	35	38
Q: CARDIN					
Disapprove	33	27	25	32	34
Approve	36	50	48	45	33
Don't know	28	20	26	20	31
Q: TAXES					
Decrease	24	28	27	25	28
Stay about the same	17	20	17	20	17
Increase	46	43	47	44	39

To receive <u>INTEREST</u> respondent must indicate the following:

- **Currently a registered voter**

		Registered Voters										
		Party Registration			**Gender**		**Age**			**Race**		
	All	**Dem**	**Ind**	**Rep**	**Male**	**Female**	**18-34**	**35-54**	**55+**	**White**	**Black**	**Other**
	(n=658)	**(n=385)**	**(n=101)**	**(n=161)**	**(n=318)**	**(n=339)**	**(n=157)**	**(n=243)**	**(n=258)**	**(n=412)**	**(n=196)**	**(n=50)**
Q: INTEREST												
Not/Somewhat	25	22	26	29	23	26	39	21	19	24	25	28
Very/Extremely	75	78	74	71	77	74	61	79	81	76	75	72

	Registered Voters				
	College		**Region**		
	>4-year degree	**4-year degree or more**	**Capitol**	**Central**	**Outside Urban Corridor**
	(n=268)	**(n=369)**	**(n=233)**	**(n=304)**	**(n=121)**
Q: INTEREST					
Not/Somewhat	32	20	19	25	34
Very/Extremely	68	80	81	75	66

To receive <u>REELECT</u>, <u>GOVISSUE</u>, and <u>TRUMPEFF</u> respondent must indicate the following:
- **Currently a registered voter**
- **Somewhat, very, or extremely interested in the 2018 election**

	Registered Voters											
	Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Black	Other
	(n=658)	(n=385)	(n=101)	(n=161)	(n=318)	(n=339)	(n=157)	(n=243)	(n=258)	(n=412)	(n=196)	(n=50)
Q: REELECT												
Definitely/Lean Hogan	47	30	50	87	55	40	36	48	54	59	26	38
Definitely/Lean Dem candidate	43	62	34	5	36	49	54	40	39	33	63	50
Q: TRUMPEFF												
Not/little	60	52	64	72	64	55	47	64	63	66	52	38
Some/a lot	38	45	34	26	34	42	51	34	34	32	46	60

	Registered Voters				
	College		Region		
	>4-year degree	4-year degree or more	Capitol	Central	Outside Urban Corridor
	(n=268)	(n=369)	(n=233)	(n=304)	(n=121)
Q: REELECT					
Definitely/Lean Hogan	53	44	35	51	61
Definitely/Lean Dem candidate	35	48	53	40	31
Q: TRUMPEFF					
Not/little	59	60	57	63	57
Some/a lot	38	38	42	34	42