

May 2019

# Gonzales Baltimore City Poll



Gonzales Poll

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## Background and Methodology

Patrick E. Gonzales graduated magna cum laude from the University of Baltimore with a degree in political science.

His career in the field of public opinion research began in the mid-1980s as an analyst with *Mason-Dixon Opinion Research*. During this time, Mr. Gonzales helped develop, craft and implement election surveys and exit polls for television and radio in the Baltimore-Washington D.C. metro area.

Patrick Gonzales has polled and analyzed well over a thousand elections in Maryland and across the country since that time. Furthermore, Mr. Gonzales and his associates have conducted numerous market research projects, crafting message development plans and generating strategy blueprints for businesses and organizations throughout the state.

Over his 35 years conducting public opinion polls, Patrick Gonzales has been widely recognized by his peers for his ability to conduct unbiased surveys, and analyze the results in an impartial, evenhanded manner.

Mr. Gonzales frequently appears on radio and television in the Baltimore-D.C. region as a guest commentator.

This poll was conducted by ***Gonzales Research & Media Services*** from April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. A total of 329 registered voters in Baltimore, Maryland, who indicated that they are likely to vote in next year's Democratic primary election for mayor, were queried by live telephone interviews, utilizing both landline and cell phone numbers. A cross-section of interviews was conducted throughout the City, reflecting primary election voting patterns.

The margin of error (MOE), per accepted statistical standards, is a range of plus or minus 5.5 percentage points. If the entire population was surveyed, there is a 95% probability that the true numbers would fall within this range.

## Synopsis

Rome burned...Nero fiddled.

Baltimore, home to my alma mater and deep in the heart of the “Land of Pleasant Living,” is suffering. Two-thirds of its citizens believe the City is moving in the wrong direction; three-quarters are dissatisfied with the quality of education coming from its public schools; and nearly nine-out-of-ten residents are fed up with the efforts to reduce crime in Charm City.

Sixty-three percent of Baltimore voters thought that Mayor Catherine Pugh made the right decision by resigning from office in light of the controversy surrounding her administration. The City’s now in a holding pattern until April 2020, when Democratic primary voters will exert their will and select the next mayor (the November general election will be a mere formality). And, right now, the contest is wide open.

Among likely primary voters, 23% say they would vote for Sheila Dixon, 19% say they would vote for Jack Young, 18% say they’d vote for Marilyn Mosby, 16% say they support Thiru Vignarajah, and 24% are undecided.

If former Mayor Sheila Dixon were to enter the race, she would begin with an advantage over Acting Mayor Jack Young with two crucial voting blocs: older voters, where she has an 8-point margin, and African-American voters, among whom she enjoys an 11-point edge.

If State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby decided to enter the race for mayor, she might be able to energize Baltimore’s younger voters, as a plurality of voters under the age of 55 already favor her over any other candidate included in this poll.

Former prosecutor Thiru Vignarajah gets more than twice the number of white votes (35%) compared to any other candidate included in this poll.

And the buzz has just begun – 2018 gubernatorial nominee Ben Jealous; Councilman and 2018 lieutenant governor candidate Brandon Scott; former police spokesman T.J. Smith; State Senator Jill Carter...all are being mentioned as having a possible interest in entering the campaign.

Whoever becomes Baltimore's next elected mayor starts off with a formidable challenge.

Citywide, only 27% of voters feel that things in Baltimore are moving in the right direction, while a disquieting 63% say things in Baltimore are on the wrong track. Disaffection spans all segments of the City.

A substantial majority of Baltimore residents, not surprisingly, think things today are worse than they were ten years ago. When asked if "*things in Baltimore City are better than they were 10 years ago, worse than they were 10 years ago, or about the same as 10 years ago,*" 57% of residents say things are worse, a meager 15% say better, and 28% say things are the same.

Sixty percent of voters under the age of fifty-five think things are worse today than they were 10 years ago.

Only 20% of voters are satisfied with public education in Baltimore - a measly 5% "very satisfied" - while 73% are dissatisfied with the quality of Baltimore public education.

Among voters under the age of fifty-five, 75% are dissatisfied with the quality of public education in Baltimore City.

Furthermore, just 12% of City voters are satisfied with attempts to reduce crime in Baltimore, while a devastating 83% are dissatisfied with attempts to reduce crime.

Black or white, young or old, male or female...all are exasperated with the attempts being made to reduce crime in Baltimore.

A hundred years ago Baltimore native H. L. Mencken declared, "The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed...by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."

Today, the problems are all too real. No community can prosper when an overwhelming proportion of its members live with unease and frustration.

## Gonzales Baltimore Poll Results - May 2019

### Mayor Catherine Pugh Resignation

(Phone interviews were completed last Wednesday, the day before Mayor Pugh resigned)

Among Baltimore City Democratic primary voters, 63% thought that Mayor Catherine Pugh should resign from office in light of the controversy surrounding her administration, while 23% said she should not resign, and 14% offered no opinion.

By gender, 57% of women felt that Pugh should've resigned, while 26% thought she shouldn't; 74% of men believed Mayor Pugh should've resigned her position and 18% felt she shouldn't have resigned.

Fifty-one percent of black voters felt that Mayor Pugh's decision was the correct one, compared to 85% of white voters who felt that way.

### 2020 Mayoral Democratic Primary Election

A year before the April 2020 primary, the contest to see who will be Baltimore's next elected mayor is wide open.

Among likely Democratic primary voters, 23% say they would vote for Sheila Dixon, 19% say they would vote for Jack Young, 18% say they'd vote for Marilyn Mosby, 16% say they support Thiru Vignarajah, and 24% are undecided.

The results by gender, race, and age:

Mayoral Election	<u>Dixon</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Mosby</u>	<u>Vignarajah</u>
Men	23%	20%	13%	14%
Women	23%	18%	21%	17%
White	9%	17%	3%	35%
African-American	31%	20%	24%	6%
Under 55	19%	20%	21%	18%
55 and older	26%	18%	15%	14%

Former Mayor Dixon bests Acting Mayor Young among two key blocs – older voters (8-point margin) and African-Americans (11-point lead).

If State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby were to take a shot at becoming mayor, she might be able to energize the City’s younger voters, as a plurality of voters under the age of 55 already favor her over the other possible candidates included in this poll.

Thiru Vignarajah, at 35%, gets more than twice the share of the white vote compared to other candidates.

**Direction of the City**

Whoever wins the mayoral election next year will likely begin - from day one - leading a collection of dispirited constituents.

Citywide, only 27% of voters feel that things in Baltimore are moving in the right direction, while a distressing 63% say things in the city are on the wrong track, with 10% offering no opinion.

Dismay is across the board in Charm City:

<b>Direction of City</b>	<b><u>Right Direction</u></b>	<b><u>Wrong Track</u></b>
Men	29%	64%
Women	26%	62%
White	23%	70%
African-American	29%	61%
Under 55	30%	60%
55 and older	25%	65%

**Among no voter bloc is disillusionment about the ways things are going in Baltimore below 60 percent**

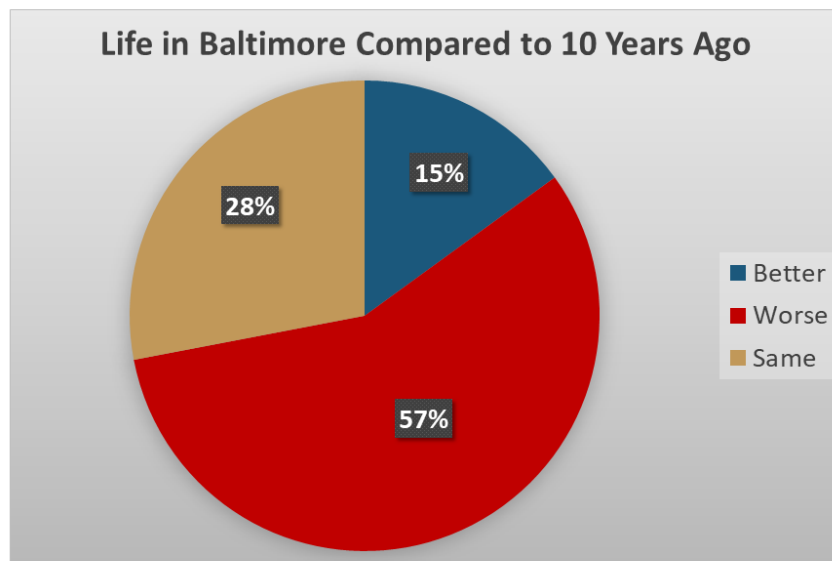
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## Life in the City Compared to 10 Years Ago

Not surprisingly, a substantial majority of Baltimore residents think things in the city today are worse than they were ten years ago.

When asked if “things in Baltimore City are better than they were 10 years ago, worse than they were 10 years ago, or about the same as 10 years ago,” 57% say things are worse, a meager 15% say better, and 28% say things are the same.

Sixty percent of voters under the age of fifty-five think things are worse today than they were 10 years ago.



## Baltimore City Public Education – Level of Satisfaction

Among likely voters in next year’s Democratic primary election, 20% are satisfied with the quality of public education in Baltimore City (5% “very satisfied” and 15% “somewhat satisfied”), while 73% are dissatisfied with the quality of public education in Baltimore (40% “very dissatisfied” and 33% “somewhat dissatisfied”), with 7% giving no opinion.

Among voters under the age of fifty-five, 75% are dissatisfied with the quality of public education in Baltimore City.



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The results by gender, race, and age:

<b>Public Education</b>	<b><u>Satisfied</u></b>	<b><u>Dissatisfied</u></b>
Men	16%	75%
Women	22%	71%
White	18%	74%
African-American	20%	72%
Under 55	20%	75%
55 and older	19%	71%

### **Attempts to Reduce Crime in Baltimore – Level of Satisfaction**

A mere 12% of city voters are satisfied with attempts to reduce crime in Baltimore (5% “very satisfied” and 7% “somewhat satisfied”), while a demoralizing 83% are dissatisfied with attempts to reduce crime (53% “very dissatisfied” and 30% “somewhat dissatisfied”), with 5% offering no response.

Black or white, young or old, male or female...all are exasperated with attempts to reduce crime in Baltimore.

<b>Crime</b>	<b><u>Satisfied</u></b>	<b><u>Dissatisfied</u></b>
Men	11%	83%
Women	12%	83%
White	11%	82%
African-American	12%	84%
Under 55	14%	81%
55 and older	9%	85%

## Appendix A: Data Tables

**QUESTION: Mayor Catherine Pugh Resignation** *In light of the current controversy, do you believe Mayor Catherine Pugh should resign from office, or not?*

**Survey interviews were completed Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, the day before Mayor Pugh resigned**

<u>MAYOR CATHERINE PUGH SHOULD RESIGN</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	208	63.2 %
No	75	22.8 %
No answer	46	14.0 %
Total	329	100.0 %

N=329

	<u>MAYOR CATHERINE PUGH SHOULD RESIGN</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>

### GENDER

Male	93 73.8%	23 18.3%	10 7.9%
Female	115 56.7%	52 25.6%	36 17.7%

N=329

	<u>MAYOR CATHERINE PUGH SHOULD RESIGN</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>

### AGE GROUP

Under 55	109 70.8%	26 16.9%	19 12.3%
55 or older	99 56.6%	49 28.0%	27 15.4%

N=329

	<u>MAYOR CATHERINE PUGH SHOULD RESIGN</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>

### RACE

White	87 85.3%	6 5.9%	9 8.8%
African-American	108 51.4%	66 31.4%	36 17.1%
Other	13 76.5%	3 17.6%	1 5.9%

**QUESTION: 2020 Baltimore City Mayoral Election** *If next year's Democratic primary election for Mayor of Baltimore were held today, for whom would you vote if the candidates were: Sheila Dixon, Marilyn Mosby, Thiru Vignarajah, and Jack Young?*

BALTIMORE CITY 2020 MAYOR ELECTION		
	Number	Percent
Dixon	76	23.1 %
Young	62	18.8 %
Mosby	59	17.9 %
Vignarajah	52	15.8 %
Undecided	80	24.3 %
Total	329	100.0 %

N=329

BALTIMORE CITY MAYOR ELECTION					
	Dixon	Mosby	Vignarajah	Young	Undecided

GENDER

Male	29 23.0%	16 12.7%	17 13.5%	25 19.8%	39 31.0%
Female	47 23.2%	43 21.2%	35 17.2%	37 18.2%	41 20.2%

N=329

BALTIMORE CITY MAYOR ELECTION					
	Dixon	Mosby	Vignarajah	Young	Undecided

AGE GROUP

Under 55	30 19.5%	32 20.8%	28 18.2%	31 20.1%	33 21.4%
55 or older	46 26.3%	27 15.4%	24 13.7%	31 17.7%	47 26.9%

N=329

BALTIMORE CITY MAYOR ELECTION					
	Dixon	Mosby	Vignarajah	Young	Undecided

RACE

White	9 8.8%	3 2.9%	36 35.3%	17 16.7%	37 36.3%
African-American	64 30.5%	51 24.3%	12 5.7%	42 20.0%	41 19.5%
Other	3 17.6%	5 29.4%	4 23.5%	3 17.6%	2 11.8%

**QUESTION: Direction of Baltimore City Overall, would you say things in Baltimore City are moving in the right direction, or would you say things are off on the wrong track?**

<u>DIRECTION OF BALTIMORE CITY</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Right Direction	89	27.1 %
Wrong Track	207	62.9 %
No answer	33	10.0 %
Total	329	100.0 %

N=329

	<u>DIRECTION OF BALTIMORE CITY</u>		
	<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Track</u>	<u>No answer</u>

GENDER

Male	36 28.6%	81 64.3%	9 7.1%
Female	53 26.1%	126 62.1%	24 11.8%

N=329

	<u>DIRECTION OF BALTIMORE CITY</u>		
	<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Track</u>	<u>No answer</u>

AGE GROUP

Under 55	46 29.9%	93 60.4%	15 9.7%
55 or older	43 24.6%	114 65.1%	18 10.3%

N=329

	<u>DIRECTION OF BALTIMORE CITY</u>		
	<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Track</u>	<u>No answer</u>

RACE

White	24 23.5%	71 69.6%	7 6.9%
African-American	61 29.0%	127 60.5%	22 10.5%
Other	4 23.5%	9 52.9%	4 23.5%

**QUESTION: Baltimore Compared to 10 Years Ago** *Do you think things in Baltimore City are better than they were 10 years ago, worse than they were 10 years ago, or about the same?*

<u>BALTIMORE CITY TODAY vs. 10 YEARS AGO</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Better	49	14.9 %
Worse	189	57.4 %
Same	91	27.7 %
Total	329	100.0 %

N=329	<u>BALTIMORE CITY TODAY vs. 10 YEARS AGO</u>		
	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>

GENDER

Male	17 13.5%	72 57.1%	37 29.4%
Female	32 15.8%	117 57.6%	54 26.6%

N=329	<u>BALTIMORE CITY TODAY vs. 10 YEARS AGO</u>		
	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>

AGE GROUP

Under 55	26 16.9%	92 59.7%	36 23.4%
55 or older	23 13.1%	97 55.4%	55 31.4%

N=329	<u>BALTIMORE CITY TODAY vs. 10 YEARS AGO</u>		
	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>

RACE

White	11 10.8%	64 62.7%	27 26.5%
African-American	34 16.2%	114 54.3%	62 29.5%
Other	4 23.5%	11 64.7%	2 11.8%

**QUESTION: Quality of Public Education** *How satisfied are you with the quality of public education in Baltimore City?*

<u>QUALITY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Satisfied	64	19.5 %
Dissatisfied	239	72.6 %
No answer	26	7.9 %
Total	329	100.0 %

***Is that very or somewhat satisfied/dissatisfied?***

<u>QUALITY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Very Satisfied	16	4.9 %
Somewhat Satisfied	48	14.6 %
Somewhat Dissatisfied	108	32.8 %
Very Dissatisfied	131	39.8 %
No answer	26	7.9 %
Total	329	100.0 %

N=329

<u>QUALITY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION</u>				
<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No answer</u>

GENDER

Male	4 3.2%	16 12.7%	45 35.7%	49 38.9%	12 9.5%
Female	12 5.9%	32 15.8%	63 31.0%	82 40.4%	14 6.9%

N=329

<u>QUALITY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION</u>				
<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No answer</u>

AGE GROUP

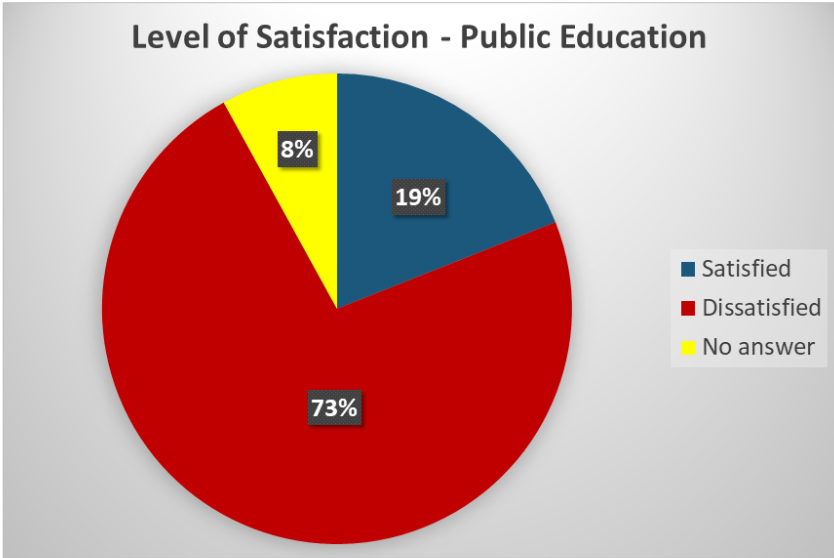
Under 55	9 5.8%	22 14.3%	53 34.4%	62 40.3%	8 5.2%
55 or older	7 4.0%	26 14.9%	55 31.4%	69 39.4%	18 10.3%

N=329

QUALITY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION				
Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No answer

RACE

White	6 5.9%	13 12.7%	39 38.2%	36 35.3%	8 7.8%
African-American	9 4.3%	33 15.7%	66 31.4%	85 40.5%	17 8.1%
Other	1 5.9%	2 11.8%	3 17.6%	10 58.8%	1 5.9%



**QUESTION: Attempts To Reduce Crime** *How satisfied are you with attempts to reduce crime in Baltimore City?*

<u>ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE CRIME</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Satisfied	38	11.6 %
Dissatisfied	274	83.3 %
No answer	17	5.2 %
Total	329	100.0 %

*Is that very or somewhat satisfied/dissatisfied?*

<u>ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE CRIME</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Very Satisfied	15	4.6 %
Somewhat Satisfied	23	7.0 %
Somewhat Dissatisfied	100	30.4 %
Very Dissatisfied	174	52.9 %
No answer	17	5.2 %
Total	329	100.0 %

N=329

ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE CRIME

	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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GENDER

Male	6 4.8%	8 6.3%	40 31.7%	65 51.6%	7 5.6%
Female	9 4.4%	15 7.4%	60 29.6%	109 53.7%	10 4.9%

N=329

ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE CRIME

	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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AGE GROUP

Under 55	7 4.5%	15 9.7%	42 27.3%	83 53.9%	7 4.5%
55 or older	8 4.6%	8 4.6%	58 33.1%	91 52.0%	10 5.7%

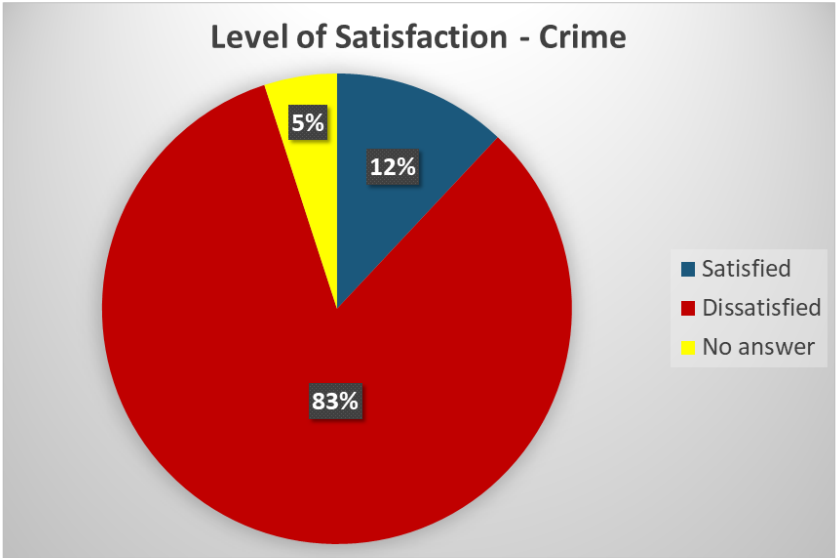


N=329

ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE CRIME				
Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No answer

RACE

White	4 3.9%	7 6.9%	29 28.4%	55 53.9%	7 6.9%
African-American	11 5.2%	14 6.7%	64 30.5%	112 53.3%	9 4.3%
Other	0 0.0%	2 11.8%	7 41.2%	7 41.2%	1 5.9%



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## Appendix B: Baltimore Poll Sample Demographics

<u>GENDER</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	126	38.3 %
Female	203	61.7 %
Total	329	100.0 %

<u>AGE</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
18 to 34	55	16.7 %
35 to 44	47	14.3 %
45 to 54	52	15.8 %
55 to 64	72	21.9 %
65 and older	103	31.3 %
Total	329	100.0 %

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Under 55	154	46.8 %
55 or older	175	53.2 %
Total	329	100.0 %

<u>RACE</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	102	31.0 %
African-American	210	63.8 %
Other	17	5.2 %
Total	329	100.0 %