

N=1,077 registered voters statewide, Dec 15, 2021-Jan 10, 2022

Introduction and Screening

S4. With which party are you registered?

Democratic.....	54%
Republican.....	23%
Independent/Unaffiliated.....	20%
Another party (<i>Specify.</i>).....	*%
Not sure.....	3%

S5. When there are elections, do you always, usually, sometimes, rarely or never vote?

Always.....	57%
Usually.....	27%
<i>Top 2 (Always + Usually)</i>	84%
Sometimes.....	12%
Rarely.....	4%
Never (<i>Thank and terminate.</i>)	
(<i>Do not read</i>): Not sure or prefer not to say (<i>Thank and terminate.</i>)	

Favorabilities

- Following is a list of people and groups. For each one, please say if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion. (*Randomize list.*)
 - Joe Biden
 - Larry Hogan
 - Maryland Chamber of Commerce
 - AARP
 - The Maryland General Assembly
 - Chris Van Hollen
 - Your State Senator
 - Your State House Member(s)

Statewide	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Very favorable	31%	28%	12%	25%	13%	18%	20%	15%
Somewhat favorable	25%	35%	27%	33%	29%	22%	30%	31%
Total Favorable	56%	64%	39%	58%	42%	40%	50%	46%
Neutral (or not sure)	11%	18%	49%	32%	42%	43%	34%	37%
Somewhat unfavorable	10%	11%	8%	7%	9%	8%	9%	10%
Very unfavorable	23%	7%	4%	4%	7%	9%	7%	7%
Total Unfavorable	32%	18%	12%	10%	16%	17%	16%	17%

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2. In the next state legislative elections, are you more likely to vote for...?

(Rotate choices 1 & 2):

The Democratic candidates.....	50%
The Republican candidates.....	27%
Not planning to vote for either	7%
Not sure or prefer not to say.....	16%

Paid Family and Medical Leave

3. In general, do you think people should be able to take time away from work for major needs like the birth of a new child or serious illness?

Yes.....	92%
No	4%
Not sure	4%

4. Current law allows many workers to take up to 12 weeks of leave to care for a newborn or newly adopted child, a seriously ill family member, or their own serious health condition. But that leave is unpaid.

The Maryland General Assembly is considering a proposal to create a family and medical leave insurance program that would provide workers with partial wage replacement for up to 12 weeks when they need time away from work to provide care for a new child, a seriously ill family member, or their own serious health condition.

Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this proposal?

Strongly favor.....	61%
Somewhat favor	27%
Total Favor.....	88%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	3%
Total Oppose	9%
Not sure	3%

5. The family and medical leave insurance program would be funded by a premium collected through payroll deductions. The average cost to workers could be in the range of \$3 to \$6 per week.

Knowing this, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the proposal to create a family and medical leave insurance program for Maryland workers?

Strongly favor.....	42%
Somewhat favor	33%
Total Favor.....	75%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	9%
Total Oppose	18%
Not sure	6%

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Context

6. During a time of pandemic, is it more important or less important for workers to have access to a family and medical leave program.

More important 84%
 Less important..... 7%
 Not sure 9%

7. If Governor Hogan said family and medical leave was a bad idea and threatened to veto it, would that make you more likely to oppose it, or wouldn't affect how you feel?

More likely to oppose it..... 24%
 Wouldn't affect how I feel 63%
 Not sure 13%

8. Here is a list of things that might encourage or enable people to go back to work and keep their jobs. For each one, please say if you think it would help a lot, a little, or not at all to get people back to work. (Randomize list.)

- A. Access to paid leave when they have a family or medical need
- B. Affordable childcare
- C. Better working conditions
- D. Higher wages
- E. Lower unemployment benefits

Statewide	A	B	C	D	E
Help a lot	68%	72%	68%	73%	27%
Help a little	23%	21%	23%	20%	24%
Total Would Help	91%	93%	91%	92%	51%
Would not help at all	5%	4%	6%	5%	37%
Not sure	4%	3%	3%	3%	12%

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Message Testing

9. Here are some additional facts about this proposal. For each fact you {see/hear}, please say if you like it a lot, like it a little, are neutral, dislike it a little, or dislike it a lot. (Randomize.)
- A. Just like social security, employers and their employees would both pay in to support this program.
 - B. Low-income workers, who are more likely to live paycheck to paycheck, would get a larger percentage of their wages replaced, compared to higher-income workers.
 - C. By requiring businesses across the state to participate in this program, it would spread out the cost and make it more affordable for everyone.
 - D. The money would go into a special trust fund and could not be spent for other purposes.
 - E. To prevent abuse of this program, a doctor will be required to certify that time away from work is needed, and the length of time needed.
 - F. Payments to workers who take leave would vary depending on income, ranging up to a cap of \$1,000 per week.
 - G. By creating an important new benefit for workers, this program will help businesses recruit and retain the best workers.
 - H. The program will save taxpayers money through reduced Medicaid spending, less dependence on social services, and lower unemployment.
 - I. The pandemic is disproportionately affecting women, who have to leave the workforce to care for children and family members. This program would allow women to take the leave they need and then return to work.
 - J. If you received family medical leave, it would include a guarantee that your job would be there when you are ready to come back.

Statewide	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Like it a lot	42%	46%	53%	46%	52%	41%	47%	48%	59%	70%
Like it a little	30%	23%	22%	25%	26%	28%	28%	25%	21%	16%
Total Like it	73%	69%	75%	72%	78%	69%	75%	74%	79%	86%
Neutral (or not sure)	18%	20%	17%	19%	15%	23%	19%	19%	15%	10%
Dislike it a little	5%	6%	5%	5%	4%	5%	2%	4%	3%	2%
Dislike it a lot	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	1%
Total Dislike it	10%	11%	9%	9%	7%	8%	6%	7%	6%	4%

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10. If you knew the program was administered by the State of Maryland rather than a private organization, would you trust it more, trust it less, or would that make no difference to you?

(Randomize):

Trust it more	38%
No difference.....	34%
Trust it less.....	18%
(Always last): Not sure	10%

11. The weekly cost to the average worker in Maryland would be \$3.62. Is this amount...

(Randomize):

Less than you would expect	35%
About what you would expect.....	36%
More than you would expect.....	15%
(Always last): Not sure	14%

12. Do you think employers and workers should...?

(Randomize):

Contribute equally to this program.....	41%
The employer should contribute more	39%
The worker should contribute more	10%
(Always last): Not sure	10%

13. Would you rather...?

(Rotate):

Make this program free for the smallest employers, requiring big businesses to pay a little more	50%
Require all employers to pay into the program regardless of size, making it a little cheaper for everybody	35%
(Always last): Not sure	15%

14. Would you prefer a paid family and medical leave program that is funded by...?

(Randomize):

Contributions split between employers and employees	47%
Only employer contributions	18%
Only employee contributions	9%
State taxpayer dollars.....	13%
(Always last): Not sure	13%

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(Split Sample A/B):

15A. If Governor Hogan said this program would be a new \$200 tax on Maryland families, would you agree or disagree with him?

Agree 30%
Disagree..... 43%
Not sure 27%

15B. If someone said this program would be a new \$200 tax on Maryland families, would you agree or disagree with them?

Agree 29%
Disagree..... 42%
Not sure 29%

Retest Support and Political Impact

16. Based on everything you know right now, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the proposal to create a family and medical leave insurance program for Maryland workers?

Strongly favor 40%
Somewhat favor 38%
Total Favor..... 78%
Somewhat oppose 8%
Strongly oppose 6%
Total Oppose 14%
Not sure 9%

(Rotate next two questions):

17. If you learned that the Democratic candidate in your legislative district supported creating a family and medical leave insurance program for Maryland workers while the Republican candidate opposed it, who would you be more likely to vote for...?

(Rotate choices 1 & 2):

The Democratic candidate..... 59%
The Republican candidate..... 21%

(Do not read):

Not planning to vote (Skip to Question 19.) 2%
Not sure or prefer not to say..... 19%

18. If you learned that the Republican candidate in your legislative district supported creating a family and medical leave insurance program for Maryland workers while the Democratic candidate opposed it, who would you be more likely to vote for...?

(Rotate choices 1 & 2):

The Democratic candidate..... 26%
The Republican candidate..... 43%

(Do not read):

Not planning to vote (Skip to Question 19.) 4%
Not sure or prefer not to say..... 28%

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19. If this this proposal to create a family and medical leave insurance program passed the General Assembly and became law in Maryland, would it make you feel more motivated to vote in the next election, or would it not affect how motivated you feel to vote?

Would make me feel more motivated to vote.....	42%
Would not affect how motivated I feel to vote	49%
Prefer not to say or not sure	9%

Classifying the Survey

These last few questions are to classify the survey only.

C1. What is your age?

18 to 34	30%
35 to 49	24%
50 to 64	24%
65 or older	18%
Prefer not to say	4%

C2. What is the last grade in school that you completed?

Less than 12th grade.....	1%
High school diploma or GED	21%
Some college or 2-year degree	33%
Bachelor's degree or 4-year college degree	25%
Post-graduate work or advanced degree.....	19%
Not sure or prefer not to say.....	1%

C3. Do you identify your race or ethnicity as...? Choose any that apply to you. (Allow multiple.)

African-American or Black.....	31%
Asian.....	7%
Caucasian or White.....	58%
Hispanic or Latino	5%
Middle Eastern or North African	1%
Native American or Alaska Native	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	*%
Something else (Specify.)	1%
Not sure or prefer not to say.....	2%

C4. What is your gender?

Male	48%
Female	51%
Another gender category (Specify.).....	*%
Prefer not to say.....	*%

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C5. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

1.....	22%
2.....	31%
3.....	23%
4.....	12%
5 or more.....	11%
Not sure or prefer not to say.....	1%

C6. How would you describe your current work status? (Single response.)

(Phone: Do not read):

Work full-time	47%
Work part-time.....	13%
Stay-at-home caretaker or homemaker	5%
Student.....	2%
Retired	18%
Unable to work	6%
Not working, looking for work	6%
Something else (Specify.)	1%
Prefer not to say.....	1%

C7. About what was the total income for all members of your household last year before taxes?
Just give it your best guess.

Less than \$25,000.....	15%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	22%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	20%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	16%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	13%
\$150,000 or more.....	9%
Not sure or prefer not to say.....	5%

That completes the survey. Thank you for your time. Your responses have been recorded.