

Job Approval for Governor, President in Stark Contrast in New Maryland Poll
Governor Has the Advantage Over an Unnamed Democratic Challenger Headed into 2018
Democrats Have the Edge in Legislative Races
A Plurality of Marylanders Support Expanding Medicare to Cover All Americans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Annapolis, Nov. 14) Job approval ratings for Republican Governor Larry Hogan and President Donald Trump stand in stark contrast, according to a new statewide poll of Maryland voters released today by the non-partisan firm OpinionWorks. The poll of 850 Maryland registered voters was conducted October 25-November 7, 2017, and has a $\pm 3.3\%$ margin of sampling error.

Contrasting Approval Ratings

Nearly three years into his term, Governor Hogan retains a very positive job rating in this two-to-one Democratic state, with 67% of voters saying they approve of his job performance. Only 29% of voters disapprove. Hogan's support crosses party lines, with 59% of Democrats approving, along with 65% of Independents and 85% of Republicans.

By contrast, nearly two-thirds of Maryland voters (63%) disapprove of President Trump's job performance, with a 51% majority disapproving *strongly*. Only 34% of voters in Maryland approve of Trump's presidency, with 15% approving strongly. While 84% of Democrats in Maryland disapprove of the President, 75% of Republicans continue to approve of the job he is doing. Independent voters are more likely to side with Democrats on the question of Trump, with 60% disapproving and only 36% approving of the job he is doing.

"Governor Hogan continues to successfully navigate his tricky relationship with the national Republican Party and with the Democratic voters in his own state," said OpinionWorks President Steve Raabe, who authored the poll. "Maybe he should offer a training course for other Republican leaders."

Hogan in a Strong Electoral Position; Democrats Hold the Advantage in the Legislature

Looking ahead to 2018, a plurality of the State's voters said they support Governor Hogan (43%) over a generic Democratic challenger (28%). In such a hypothetical matchup, the Governor wins his own party by 80% to 4%, while losing registered Democrats by a margin of 44% to 23%, with most of the remainder undecided. At this stage, Independent voters opt strongly for the Governor over an unnamed Democratic challenger, by a margin of 48% to 16%.

Today, there is no evident enthusiasm gap between the two major parties, with 71% of Democrats and 74% of Republicans saying they are "absolutely certain to vote" in 2018. Independent voters are much less enthused, with only 46% saying they are absolutely certain to vote. In the Governor's race among "absolutely certain" voters, the margin today is 45% for Hogan to 31% for the Democratic challenger.

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In a generic state legislative ballot, 42% of Maryland's voters say they are more likely to vote for Democratic legislative candidates, compared to 23% who are more likely to vote for the Republicans. One-third (32%) said they are not sure yet or may split their ballot between the parties. Sixty-five percent of Democrats and 60% of Republicans said they are more likely to vote for the legislative candidates of their own party. Independents split almost evenly, with 25% opting for Democratic candidates, 22% for Republicans, and the remainder saying they are not sure, or will not vote for either major party's candidates.

Medicare For All is a Toss-up in Maryland

In the poll's one issue question, a narrow plurality – within the survey's margin of error – said they would favor “expanding Medicare to cover all Americans, regardless of their age.” Forty-five percent of Maryland voters support expanding Medicare to cover all Americans, 43% oppose that, and 13% said they are not sure.

“There is a strong constituency in Maryland for universal Medicare, even if support does not reach a majority. If this idea ever became a legislative proposal, these results show it would be a vigorous debate on both sides,” Raabe said.

How This Poll Was Conducted

OpinionWorks periodically conducts voter polls in Maryland, its local jurisdictions, and the surrounding states. Formed in 2001 and based in Annapolis, OpinionWorks is independent and non-partisan. The questions summarized in this release are OpinionWorks' own, and not paid for by any outside sponsors.

This statewide poll of 850 Maryland registered voters was conducted October 25-November 7, 2017. The survey sample represents the partisan and demographic makeup of the statewide electorate, reflecting their views within a potential margin of error of $\pm 3.3\%$ at the 95% confidence level. Live interviewers reached voters on both wireless and landline telephones, and a third group of voters were given the option of responding to the survey online to ensure that this poll best represented the statewide electorate.