

Press Release: April 5, 2018
Center for the Study of Local Issues
Anne Arundel Community College
101 College Parkway, Arnold MD, 21012-1895
Contact: Dan Nataf 410-777-2733

County Survey Finds Support for Gun Control, Concerns About Mass Shooting at Schools

A survey of 663 Anne Arundel County residents conducted March 23-29 by the Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) at Anne Arundel Community College found that 61 percent of the residents had a “fear that a mass shooting might occur in a school near you.” Respondents were inclined to support many gun control measures such as federal bans on high capacity gun magazines (74 percent favored); a national ban on assault style weapons (70 percent); mandatory background checks for all gun sales (96 percent), and “national testing for knowledge and proficiency in gun use prior to purchase (82 percent). They were generally favorable to “passing more gun control restrictions by Congress” (66 percent). A majority (58 percent) favored a requirement that gun owners acquire liability insurance.

Regarding school-based measures, the public agreed with the use of metal detectors “at all Maryland public schools” (69 percent) as well as the presence of armed police officers (75 percent). They were disinclined to agree with “allowing teachers Maryland public schools to carry guns” (26 percent). A large majority (80 percent) favored imposing “mandatory minimum sentences for those convicted of using guns in the commission of a crime.”

The survey asked some benchmark questions such as the “most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time.” As was the case last fall, the item gaining the plurality of mentions was “illegal drugs” rising from 23 to 28 percent this spring. In fall 2016, crime and drugs combined were only 19 percent compared to 37 percent this spring. Growth/development was mentioned by 10 percent, education by 9 percent, transportation by 8 percent and the economy by 6 percent.

Given the rising preoccupation with the sale and use of illegal opioid drugs, the survey queried whether the public thought that government responses rose to the challenge. Specifically, respondents were asked whether “various programs to deal with the opioid crisis...have had a major positive impact, a moderate impact, or little to no impact.” Very few thought that a major positive impact had been accomplished (4 percent). Rather, respondents were evenly divided between “moderate impact” (34 percent) and “little to no impact” (45 percent). A large number (17 percent) did not offer an opinion. This did not signal much change from last fall when only 46 percent were satisfied with the “effectiveness of the county’s response to rising opioid use.”

Other benchmark questions included right vs. wrong direction for the county, state and country. Economic conditions ratings were included as well as questions about personal economic circumstances such as facing the possibility of unemployment, the cost of education and health care.

The survey also included questions about a variety of stances and policy choices. As was the case last fall, the survey asked respondents to agree/disagree with several statements such as “deport the DACA children of illegal immigrants” (18 percent agreed), or “the Republican tax plan passed late last year will be good for the economy and benefit you personally” (34 percent agreed).

Another section of the survey focused more on state and local issues. The public was generally neutral regarding the building of a MagLev train (only 42 percent favored) or the idea of imposing a health care insurance purchase mandate (27 percent). They tended to favor businesses “with at least 15 workers” providing at least paid five sick days per year (71 percent). Term limits for members of the Maryland General Assembly were favored as well (68 percent). Respondents were favorable to the idea that “recreational marijuana should be made legal, regulated and taxed” (58 percent).

The survey asked whether Anne Arundel County police were “professional and free from corruption” – a very large percentage had no opinion (30 percent) while 41 percent agreed. Nearly half (49 percent) thought that “County public schools do a great job educating students” while 63 percent agreed that “teacher compensation in county public schools is inadequate.”

Not many respondents were convinced that the county had “done a good job balancing demands for new development with measures ensuring our quality of life” (30 percent agreed); a very large percentage (72 percent) thought that “land developers have too much influence on local land use and zoning decisions.”

The Bayhawks’ proposal to convert the Crownsville hospital location into a sports and commercial facility produced a divided result: 38 percent favored, 35 percent opposed and 27 percent were unsure or gave no answer.

A section asked questions relevant to the reelection chances of Governor Larry Hogan, and how he might fare against some possible Democratic contenders – with large numbers of Democrats unable to cite a preference for any of the seven candidates in the field. Given the lack of clear alternative, Governor Hogan was chosen by 56 percent. The job approval of the president, governor and county executive were included showing that the county still likes Hogan (76 percent saying “approve”) but not Trump (34 percent).

A detailed review of these issues as well as other results follows the summary of finding below. The actual questionnaire and percentages can be found in Appendix A at the end of the press release. Open-ended comments offered by online respondents can be found in Appendices 1-15.

Summary of Main Findings

Most Important Problem Facing County Residents: Drugs continue to dominate the public’s concern as it was the most cited element (28 percent) followed by development (10 percent), crime and education (both 9 percent), transportation (8 percent), taxes and the economy (both 6 percent), with the environment at 5 percent (p. 5-6).

Right Direction/Wrong Direction: The percentage of those saying that the **county** was moving in the right direction was down from 60 percent last fall to 47 percent this spring. Regarding the **state**, the spring 2018 survey noted a drop from 60 percent in fall 2017 to 52 percent this spring. The percentage applicable to the **country** also dropped, from 30 to 26 percent (pp. 7-11).

Rating Economic Conditions - County, State and Nation: For the county, the percentage saying “excellent” or “good” dropped from 71 to 68 percent. There was no change for the state - steady at 63 percent. There was some change for the federal level, rising three points to 46 percent (pp. 12-18).

Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents: Starting in March 2008 a variety of items were added to the semi-annual survey to evaluate respondents’ economic experiences and perceptions. The changes from fall 2017 to spring 2018 were modest and mostly positive (p. 18-21).

Consumer Confidence: Two measures – growth and unemployment - were down slightly (5 and points respectively), from fall 2017. Concern about inflation grew 8 points. There was a small increase in optimism about personal financial situation (up 4 points) - (pp. 22-23).

Agreement with Statements About Guns. Respondents were favorable to most gun control measures such as mandatory background checks for all gun purchases (96 percent), a federal ban on high capacity magazines (74 percent) or assault style weapons (70 percent) or the general attitude that Congress should pass more gun control restrictions (66 percent). They also favored measures to increase security at schools such as metal detectors (69 percent) or armed police officers at schools (75 percent) - (p. 24-26).

Agreement with Statements About Other National Issues. A majority agreed that Russian meddling in our elections is a serious threat to American democracy (66 percent) but disagreed with statements favoring the Republican tax plan (34 percent agreed), tariffs (30 percent) and a 25 cent increase in the federal gas tax to fund infrastructure (30 percent) – (p. 27-28).

Agreement with Statements About State and Local Issues. The survey found support for having businesses with at least 15 workers provide five paid sick days (71 percent agreed); term limits for members of the Maryland General Assembly (68 percent); and legalizing recreational marijuana (58 percent). They also agreed with statements saying “land developers have too much influence on local land use and zoning decisions” (72 percent); teacher compensation in county public schools being inadequate (63 percent) and that county police are understaffed and not well compensated (53 percent). Fewer than a majority agreed with statements about building the MagLev train (42 percent) or passing a health care mandate (27 percent). The public was nearly even regarding the Chesapeake Bayhawks proposal to redevelop the Crownsville hospital site, with 38 percent agreeing and 35 percent against (pp. 28-31).

Impact of Programs on Opioid Crisis: Only four percent of the sample felt that government programs seeking to positively impact the opioid crisis had a “major impact.” Another 34 percent felt that such programs had a “moderate impact” while a plurality said “little to no impact” (45 percent) – (pp. 32-33).

Presidential Voting Choices in November 2016. The survey asked respondents to indicate their choice for president in the November 2016 presidential elections. The analysis showed that Democrats had been more likely to defect to Trump than Republicans to Clinton. Ideological differences among Clinton and Trump voters are also highlighted (p. 34-35).

Job Approval for County Executive, Governor and President. County Executive Steve Schuh’s job approval dropped from 49 percent last fall to 41 percent this spring. The percentage of respondents who could not offer an assessment stayed high. Governor Hogan stayed stable at 76 percent as did President Trump at 34 percent. The text compares job approval by party and ideology (pp. 36-41).

Gubernatorial Election in 2018. Governor Hogan continues to maintain a steady level of support with 56 percent saying that they will vote for him in November. Only 17 percent suggested that they would “vote for a Democrat.” Democratic voters were unaware of their candidates for governor with few able to choose among the seven – with Rushern Baker, Ben Jealous and Kevin Kamenetz slightly ahead of

the others, but with very small overall percentages. Hogan runs very strongly among unaffiliated voters, and even comes close to matching the percentage of Democrats who say they would vote for a Democratic candidate. An analysis of the impact of support or opposition to President Trump suggested that opposition was a factor in shaping views about the choice between Hogan and a Democrat (pp. 42-46).

County Executive Race: While incumbent Steve Schuh (38 percent) holds a 15-point lead over his challenger Democrat Steuart Pittman (23 percent), many voters were hard pressed to make a choice with 37 percent unsure. The percentage of unsure voters was 40 percent for Democrats and 47 percent for unaffiliated voters, suggesting that there is still a lot of room for campaigns to affect the outcome (p. 47).

Which Party Do You Trust? The spring 2018 figures showed a small two-point rise from 33 to 35 percent for Democrats along with a five-point dip for Republicans (from 33 to 28 percent). Disgruntlement with the party system seemed reflected in the rise of the “neither” score from 25 to 27 percent (pp. 48-50).

Methodology: The survey polled a random sample of 663 county residents who were at least 18 years old, primarily using a database of listed and unlisted landline numbers along with some cell phone numbers. Telephone interviewing was conducted March 26-29 during evening hours. In addition, members of a CSLI Web panel were also asked to participate in an online version of the survey during the period March 23-29. There was about a 3.7 percent statistical margin of error for the combined sample; the error rate was higher for subgroups such as “Democrats” or “men.” The dataset was weighted by gender, political party and education to better represent the general population. College students were trained and used as telephone interviewers.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., center director, for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 and ddnataf@aacc.edu. Check the CSLI website for results for information and press releases for this and previous surveys: www2.aacc.edu/csli.

Detailed Review of Survey Findings

The Most Important Problem Facing Residents – Drugs Top the List

Recent CSLI polls have shown a rapid and sustained rise in the percentage of respondents pointing to the use or sale of illegal drugs. This spring, 28 percent identified this as the top problem; another 9 percent pointed to crime – with the combined total of 37 percent - a new record for that combined item.

The decline of the economy as the most important problem was again witnessed as only 6 percent mentioned it. In spring 2012, 30 percent had mentioned it. Also notable is the long-term decline of the saliency of taxes: only three years ago (Spring 2015), it was mentioned by 25 percent; it was only presented by 6 percent this spring. Growth and development remained somewhat important as it was mentioned by 10 percent; combined with those mentioning transportation (8 percent) and the environment (5 percent), this constituted a cluster of 23 percent focusing on ecological or infrastructure issues.

Table 1 and Graph 1 summarize recent results.

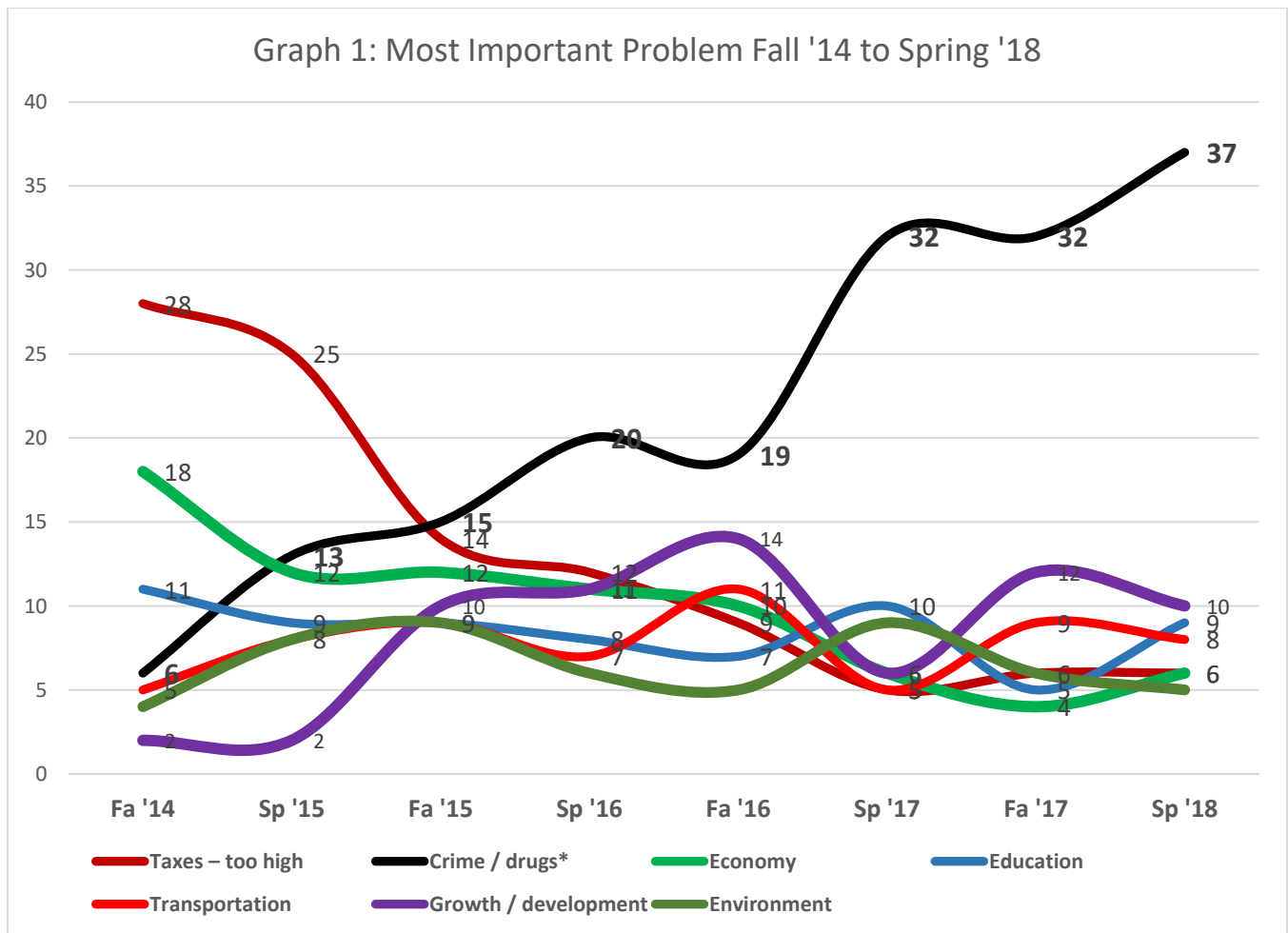


Table 1: “Most Important Problem Facing Residents” – Spring 2008 to Spring 2018¹

	Sp '08	Fa '08	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18	Ave.
Taxes	16	12	10	12	11	13	11	9	17	17	19	19	22	28	25	14	12	9	5	6	6	15
Crime / drugs*	6	4	6	8	6	6	6	8	4	7	5	9	8	6	13	15	20	19	32	32	37	10
Economy	23	38	48	33	36	36	35	48	30	27	23	16	16	18	12	12	11	10	6	4	6	25
Education / school problems	12	10	8	7	8	9	10	5	7	8	8	6	12	11	9	9	8	7	10	5	9	9
Traffic congestion/ problems	7	6	4	5	6	6	3	5	5	6	5	4	4	5	8	9	7	11	6	9	8	6
Growth / development	12	9	5	5	5	2	4	4	4	3	2	4	4	2	2	10	11	14	6	12	10	6
Unsure/no answer	9	7	8	10	10	8	12	8	9	9	10	12	11	12	10	6	8	7	10	1	0	9
Other answer	15	14	11	21	17	21	19	13	24	23	29	30	23	19	21	25	24	24	24	21	24	21
Total	100	100	100	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	101

Note: In this and other tables, totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding. Unless otherwise noted, all numeric values included in tables and graphs are percentages.

*Crime and drugs are presented here as a combined category but are coded independently.

¹ From spring 2007 to spring 2010, surveys' answer categories for “most important problem” included “lack of affordable housing” for interviewers to check off. Previously, that answer to the open-ended question would have been categorized under “economy” a practice which was resumed in fall 2010. The running totals in Table 1 combine both answers into the single “Economy” category.

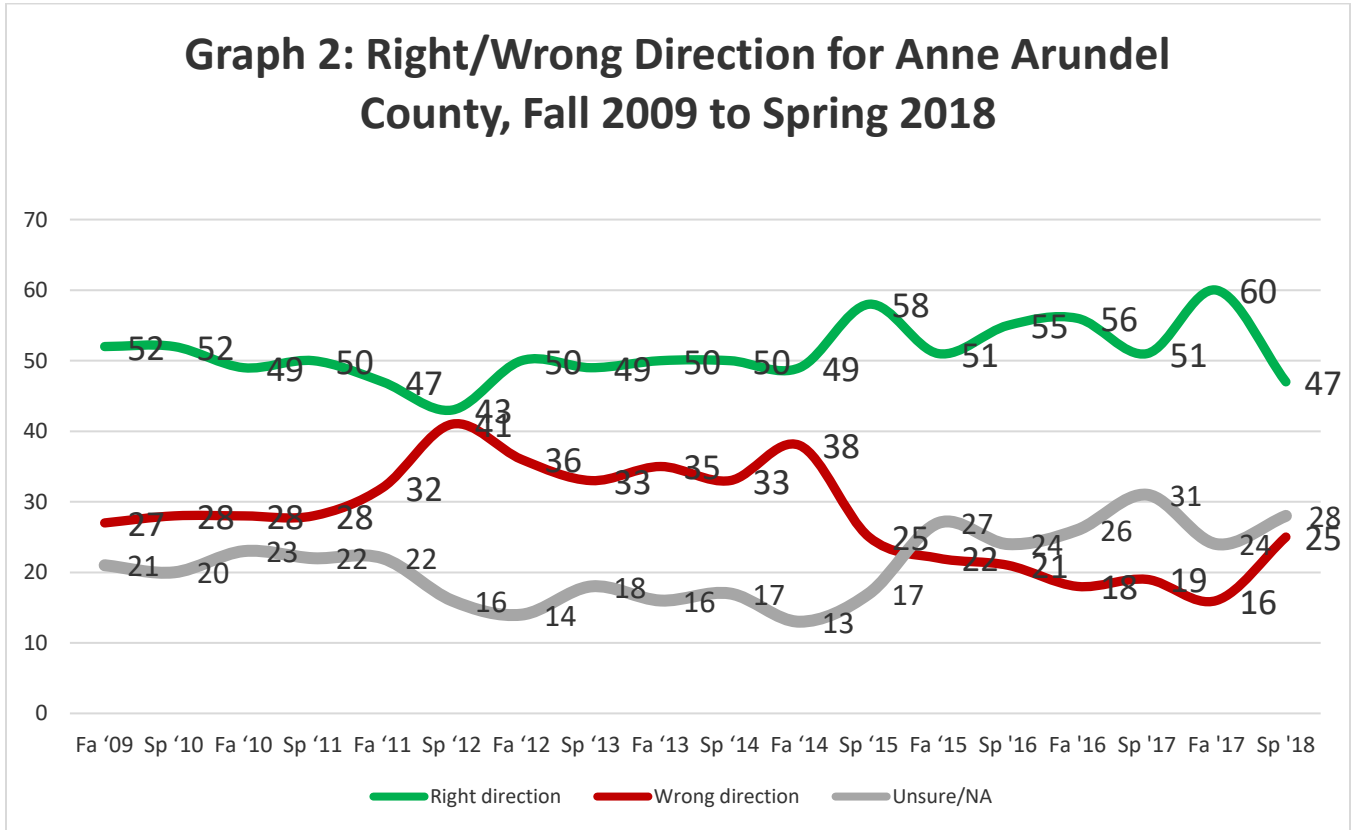
County, State and Nation – Right or Wrong Direction?

Each survey includes a variety of benchmark questions – the “most important problem” has existed since the start of CSLI surveys. Other questions have been more recent – the “right or wrong direction” questions for the county, state and country are among this group. Shown on Table 2 and Graph 2 are the results just for the county: “Overall, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?” There was a 13-point drop in the right direction score from last fall, partly due to a 4-point rise in the percentage without an opinion or “unsure” as well as a 9-point increase in “wrong direction.”

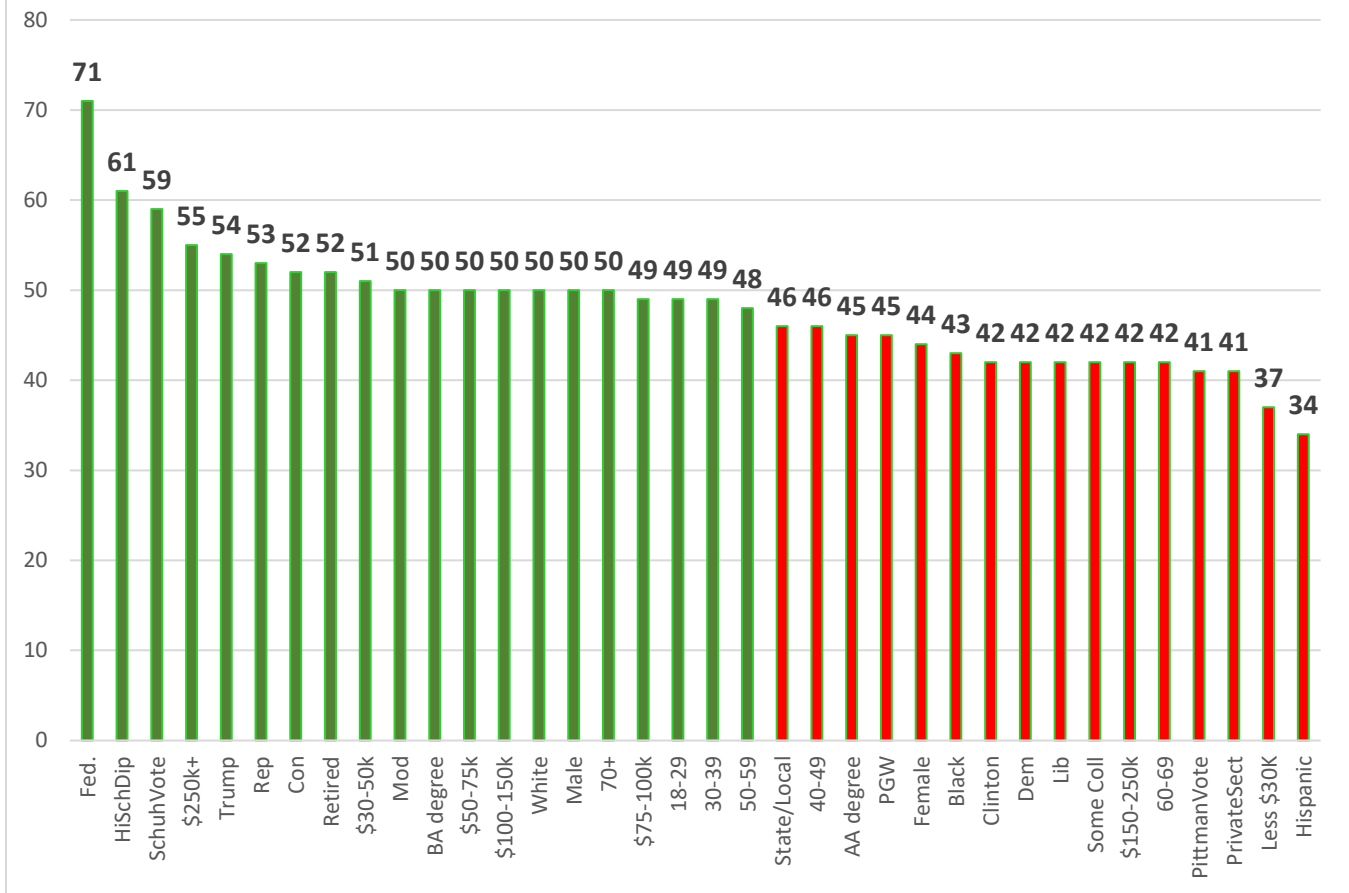
Table 2: Anne Arundel County - Right vs. Wrong Direction Spring 2010 to Spring 2018

	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18	Avg.
Right direction	52	49	50	47	43	50	49	50	50	49	58	51	55	56	51	60	47	51
Wrong direction	28	28	28	32	41	36	33	35	33	38	25	22	21	18	19	16	25	28
DK/NA	20	23	22	22	16	14	18	16	17	13	17	27	24	26	31	24	28	21
Right-wrong	24	21	22	15	2	14	16	15	17	11	33	29	34	38	32	44	23	23
Total	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	100

Graph 2: Right/Wrong Direction for Anne Arundel County, Fall 2009 to Spring 2018



Graph 2a: Demographics by Right Direction Percentage



Graph 2a shows the percentage of respondents in a given demographic category saying “right direction.” Political factors seemed to play an important part since among the highest right direction scores were those saying they would vote for Republican Steve Schuh for county executive, Trump 2016 voters, Republicans and conservatives. By contrast, those with the lowest scores included Clinton voters, Democratic county executive candidate Stuart Pittman voters, Democrats and liberals. Notably, African-Americans and especially Hispanic respondents were also near the bottom.² It is likely that the condition of the county is at least partly filtered by partisanship as well as other social circumstances.

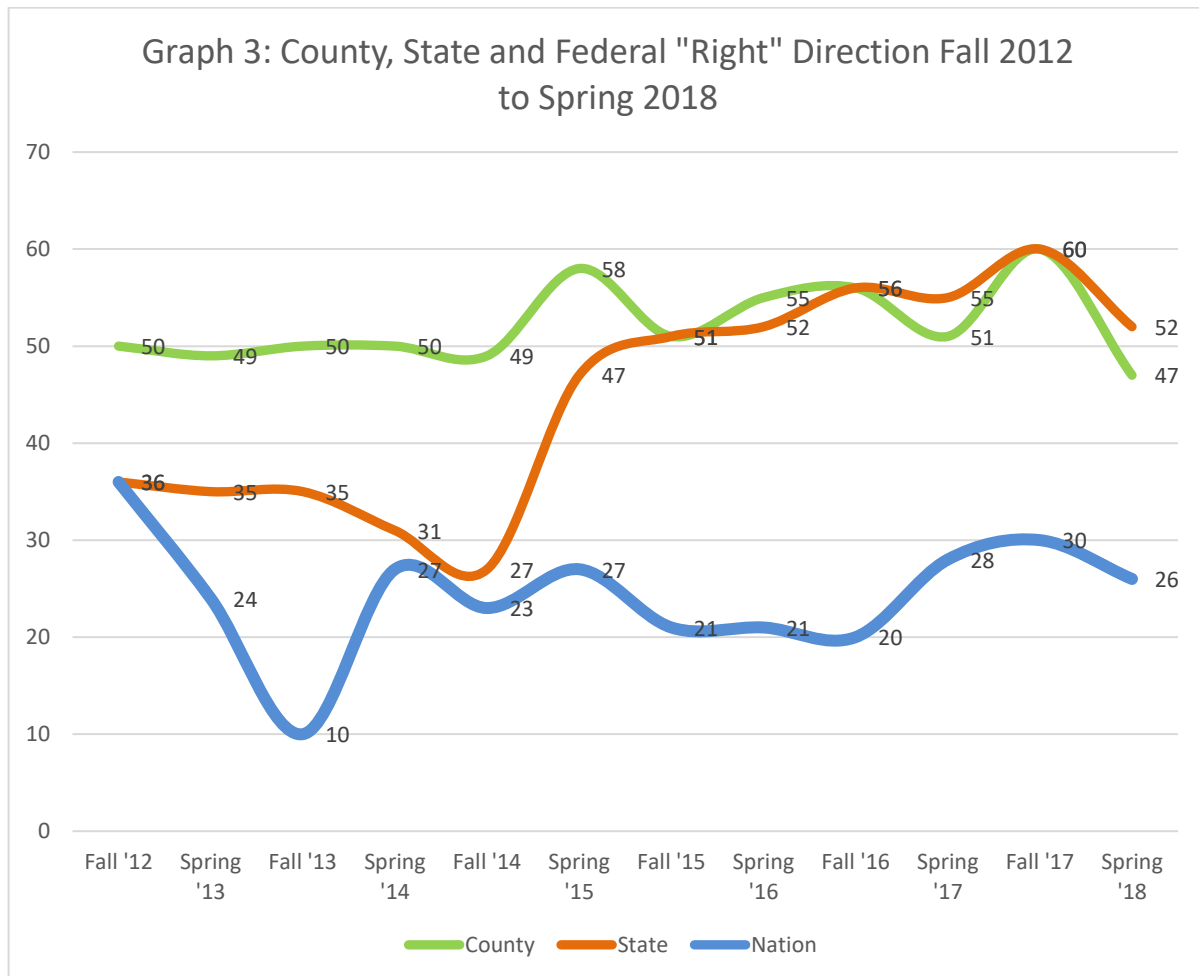
² Note that much smaller percentages of African-Americans and Hispanics are in the sample than for “whites” so the margin of error is much greater.

The survey also asked individuals to indicate right/wrong views about the state and the nation. Table 3 shows the spring 2018 results along with those for the county.

Table 3: Right/Wrong Direction for County, State and Nation, Spring 2018

	Right	Wrong	Unsure/ Don't know	Total
County	47	25	28	100
State	52	27	22	101
Nation	26	59	17	101

Graph 3 shows the trend for the last twelve CSLI surveys at each level of government. The recent downturn for this spring is a break in the general trend of rising “right” scores for all three levels.



The online sample was able to add open-ended answers to some questions. On a selective basis, when these are available they will be exemplified at the end of the section and included in an appendix.

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS:

Positive comments about the county:

- “We have qualified leadership in our county executive, he has the best interest of the citizens at heart.”
- “Managed budget, education under control, no significant scandals.”
- “Love living in AA Co - services (library, senior center, response to homeowner issues) are great!”
- “Working hard on the drug issues, the school safety issues and crime as well as employment.”

Negative comments about the county:

- “There is too much growth and overpopulation without regard to schools, law enforcement, and infrastructure.”
- “Too many unmet needs. Future generations will have to pay the bill.”
- “Over building and anything goes for the builders in the county.”
- “What is leadership doing? Lots of talk, some starts followed by stops, no specific goals.”

Positive comments about the state:

- “Good example of how split parties can work together, I don’t really hear much bickering between the parties.”
- “Bi-partisan deals like the health care exchange support.”
- “Very happy w/Gov. Hogan who always makes sense.”
- “I definitely like to live in MD—I feel my values are respected here.”

Negative comments about the state:

- “Throughout the state we are seeing more gun related violence and robberies.”
- “Gov. Hogan is not standing up to President Trump on fundamental issues.”
- “Spending out of control, poor energy policies hoping that wind and sun will power the state, no solution to deal with federal tax cuts, almost a sanctuary state, CA of the East coast.”
- “Republican leadership opposing family leave, raising minimum wage, maintaining infrastructure, needs of women and children.”

Positive comments about the country:

- “Growing economy and excellent leadership.”
- “President Trump is doing a fantastic job and has accomplished much in a short time in office.”
- “Economy improving, military funded, tax cuts, only bad is out of control spending bill.”

- “Trump is making a difference even with the media, Hollywood, Democrats and Republicans against him.”
- “It's far from perfect but at least SOME things are going well with Trump. Hillary would have been a total disaster.”
- “American citizens deserve to be put first. Taxes have been lowered and business is optimistic.”

Negative comments about the country:

- “Dysfunction in Trump administration is never ending. He has decimated the reputation of the U.S. Congressional Republicans who won't stand up to him.”
- “Corrupt, dangerous and mentally unsound President threatening world peace and democracy.”
- “Hatred by the Democrats of all elected Republicans and especially the President; also applies to Maryland Democrats.”
- “Trade war, lack of diplomacy, surging national debt.”

Rating Economic Conditions – Anne Arundel County

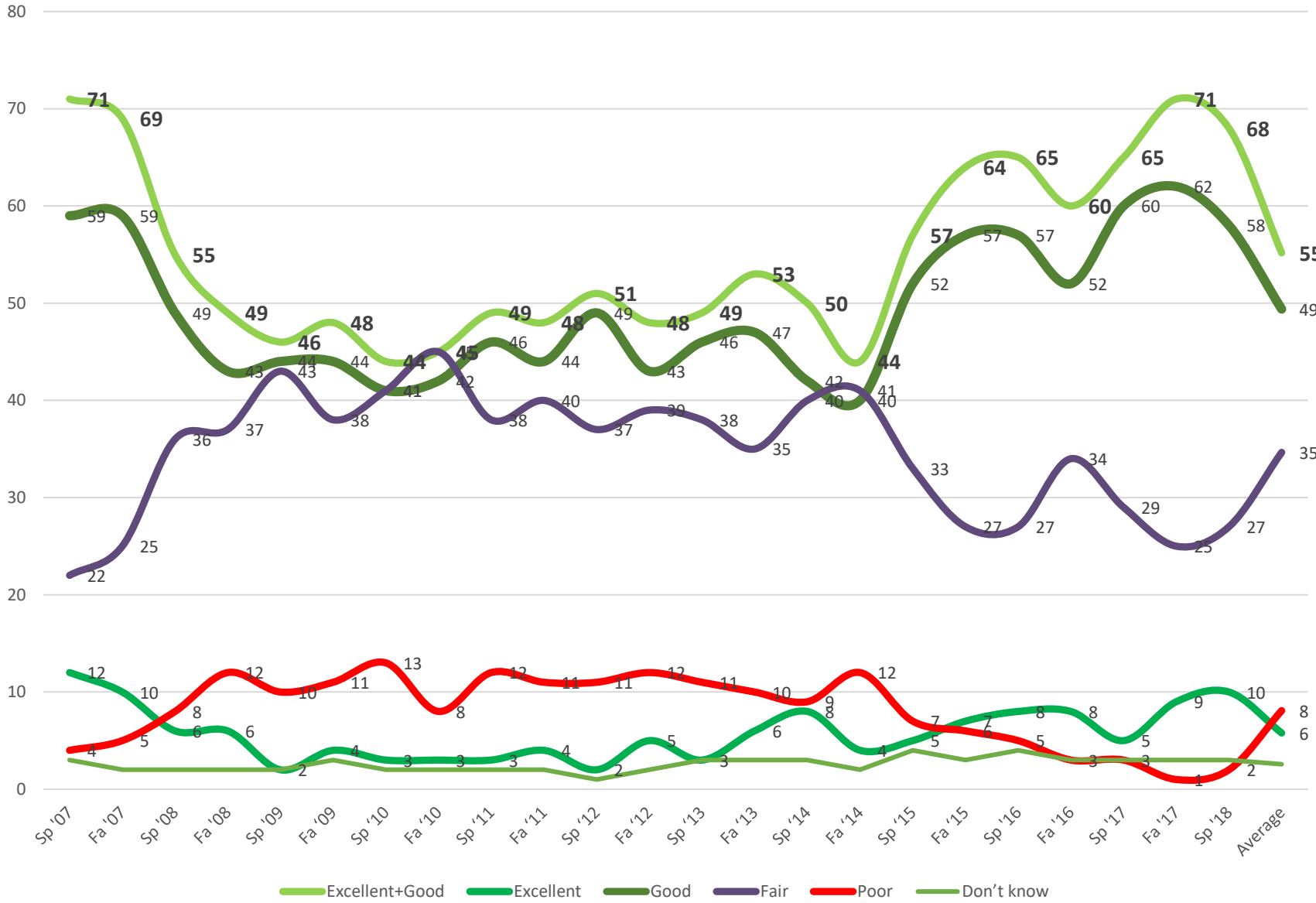
Since March 2002, the CSLI semi-annual survey has asked a benchmark question about the economy: “How would you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County – ‘excellent,’ ‘good,’ ‘only fair’ or ‘poor’?”

As shown on Table 4, since October 2007 the county’s historical average saying that the economy was a combined “excellent” or “good” has been 54 percent. As shown on Graph 4, since falling from historic highs in 2007, from fall 2008 to fall 2014 the percentage oscillated up and down within a relatively narrow band of 44 percent on the low side to 53 percent on the high side. Since spring 2016, CSLI surveys have shown the county’s excellent+good scores hovering in the 60-65 percentage point range; in fall 2017 the score reached a new high of 71 percent. However, this spring the percentage dropped slightly to 68 percent due to a 4-point drop in the “good” percentage.

Table 4: Perceptions of County Economic Conditions – Fall 2007 to Spring 2018

	Fa '07	Sp '08	Fa '08	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18	Avg.
Excellent+ Good	69	55	49	46	48	44	45	49	48	51	48	49	53	50	44	57	64	65	60	65	71	68	54
Excellent	10	6	6	2	4	3	3	3	4	2	5	3	6	8	4	5	7	8	8	5	9	10	6
Good	59	49	43	44	44	41	42	46	44	49	43	46	47	42	40	52	57	57	52	60	62	58	49
Fair	25	36	37	43	38	41	45	38	40	37	39	38	35	40	41	33	27	27	34	29	25	27	35
Poor	5	8	12	10	11	13	8	12	11	11	12	11	10	9	12	7	6	5	3	3	1	2	8
Don't know	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	3
Total	101	101	100	101	100	100	100	101	101	100	101	101	101	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Graph 4: Economic Conditions Ratings for Anne Arundel County Fall 2007 to Spring 2018



Rating Economic Conditions – Maryland

Since spring 2009, the question about rating economic conditions has been extended to the state of Maryland and the country overall.

The combined “excellent+good” score for spring 2018 was unchanged from fall 2017 at 63 percent. This is a 14-point increase since fall 2016 (see Table 5).

Table 5: Perceptions of State Economic Conditions – Spring 2010 to Spring 2018

	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18	Av.
Excellent +Good	31	32	35	33	38	33	30	40	40	28	41	45	53	49	56	63	63	42
Excellent	2	1	3	1	4	3	1	4	4	1	3	2	5	5	3	4	6	3
Good	29	31	32	32	34	30	29	36	36	27	38	43	48	44	53	59	57	39
Fair	46	47	43	41	40	42	41	36	40	40	39	41	36	39	34	29	29	39
Poor	21	19	21	24	21	23	24	21	18	30	16	11	9	9	7	4	5	17
NA/DK	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	3
Total	100	100	100	100	101	100	99	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	99	100	100

Rating Economic Conditions –The National Economy

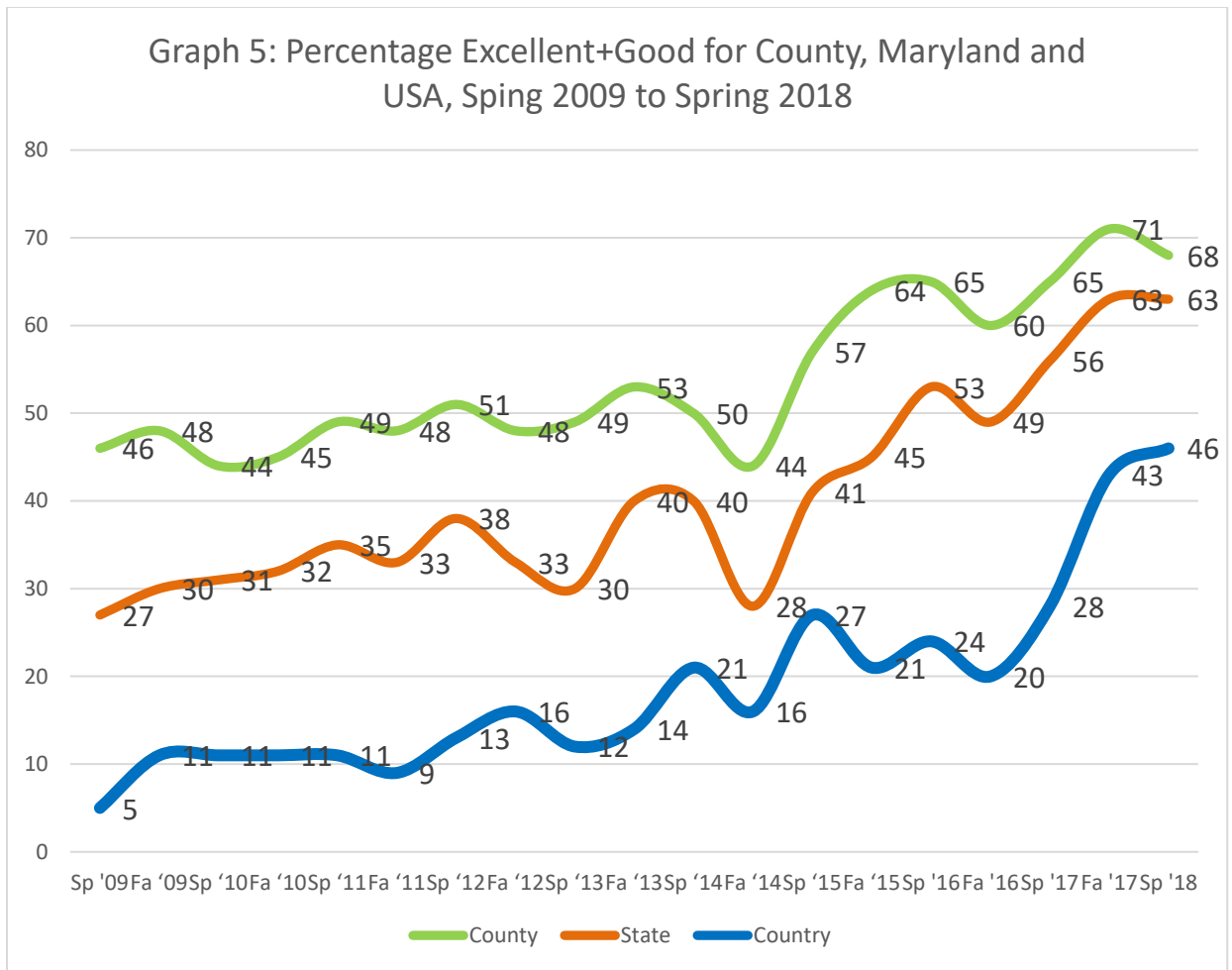
As shown on Graph 5, economic appraisal of the national economy has always lagged significantly behind both the county and state. In the recent past, the combined indicator (excellent + good) for the country increased markedly – first rising to 43 points in fall 2017 – a 15-point increase over spring 2017 and then rising a bit more in spring 2018 to 46 percent.

The national mood as measured by the Gallup polling organization ceased to be collected at the end of 2017; CSLI percentages were compared in previous press releases. At this point, other measures show a high level of consumer confidence.³ Table 6 shows the actual CSLI percentages over time.

Table 6: Perceptions of National Economic Conditions– Spring 2010 to Spring 2018

	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18	Av.
Excellent+ Good	11	11	11	9	13	16	12	14	21	16	27	21	24	20	28	43	46	20
Excellent	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	7	2
Good	10	9	9	7	12	14	10	13	20	15	24	20	23	19	27	40	39	18
Fair	42	41	43	28	47	37	38	31	41	42	32	40	40	38	46	40	36	39
Poor	46	47	45	62	39	46	47	55	37	40	37	36	34	40	23	17	17	39
NA/DK	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	4	3	2	3	4	1	2	2
Total	101	100	101	101	101	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	101	101	101	101	101

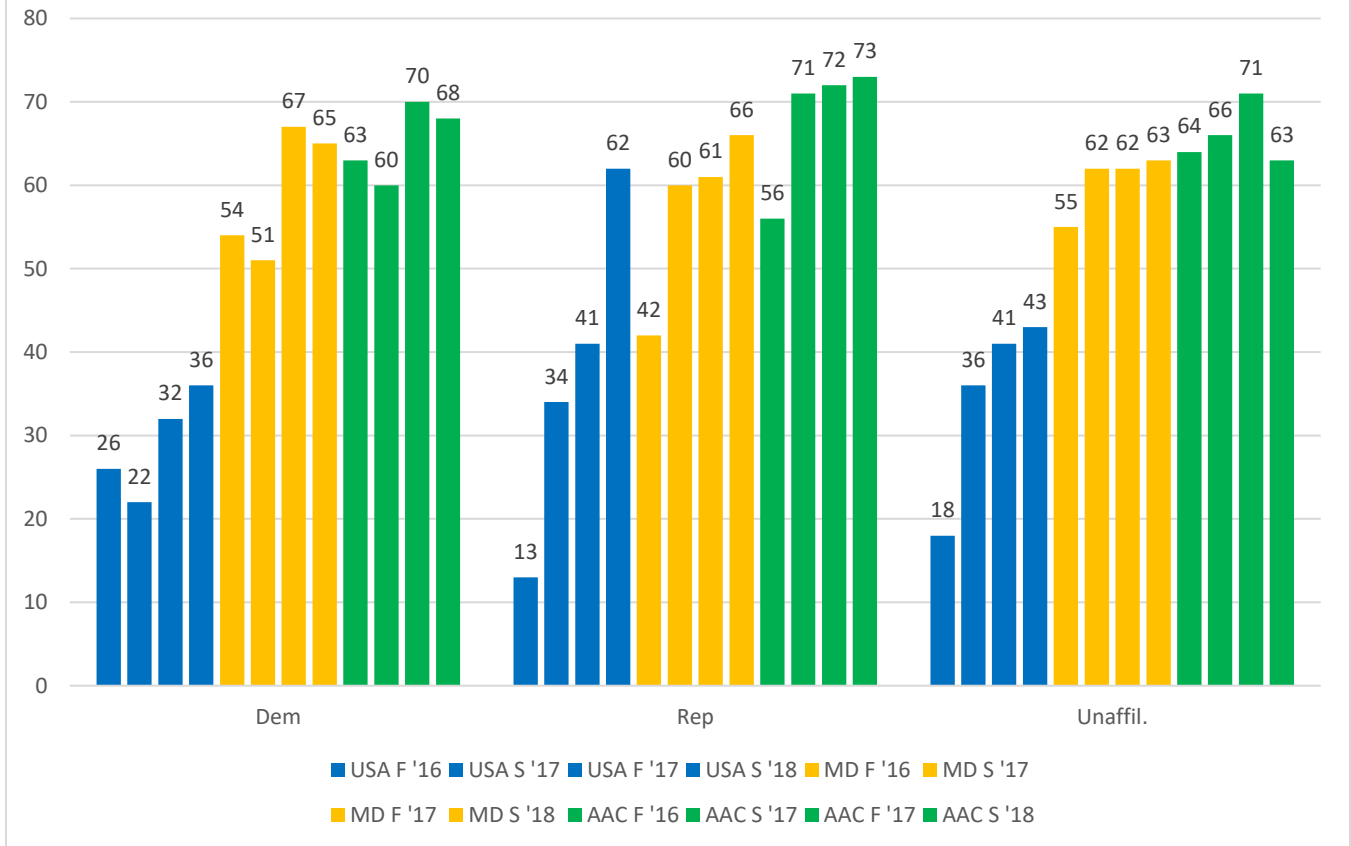
³ The CNBC perspective can be seen at <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/03/29/march-consumer-sentiment.html>. The Gallup tracking ended in December 2017. Those results can be seen at <http://news.gallup.com/poll/151127/Economic-Conditions-Weekly.aspx>.



The partisan aspect of economic perceptions is shown on Graph 6. Democrats’ optimism about economic conditions did not change much from the prior fall 2017 survey. Republican optimism grew a bit at the state and local level, but mostly escalated at the national level, rising 21 points to 62 percent. Unaffiliated voters were mostly unchanged except for the 8-point drop at the county level.

The cause for Republicans’ exceptional rise in optimism may be due to the passage of the tax reform plan at the end of 2017. The survey asked an agree/disagree about this: “The Republican tax plan passed late last year will be good for the economy and benefit you personally.” Only 12 percent of Democrats agreed with this statement; 64 percent of Republicans agreed (and 31 percent of unaffiliated voters). Among Republicans agreeing, 70 percent thought that the country’s economy was excellent or good. This optimism about the impact of the tax reform plan upon the national economy might be the underlying factor causing a sharp rise in the percentage of Republicans saying “excellent or good” when rating the country’s economy.

Graph 6: Party Registration by "Excellent+Good" for County, State and USA - Fall 2016 to Spring 2018



OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS ABOUT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS:

Positive comments:

- “Improving under the current president (never thought I would say that). Maryland has at least stopped driving out jobs, but still needs to recover from previous political partisan policy.”
- “Government is still good business for AA Co and other portions of MD in proximity to DC. If economy stays good, people will be able to take vacations and stimulate the Eastern Shore.”
- “Much more optimistic- - particularly with the upcoming tax cuts!”
- “The U.S. is pulling out of the long economic downturn.”

Negative comments:

- “The continued emphasis on low taxes causes inevitable under funding of many systems - healthcare, environment, education, public transport/mass transit. This pertains to local, state and federal governments.”
- “Economic inequality. Lack of investment in the future, specifically in health, education, infrastructure. Tax cuts that inhibit investment. Too much military spending.”
- “Wealth is unevenly distributed, poor people can’t break out of the cycle.”
- “Lack of fair wage jobs; increased cost of living. Inability to save for retirement. High cost of post-secondary education.”

Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents

Respondents were asked: “Thinking about your personal circumstances, please tell me whether any of these economic conditions apply to you or your household.”

Table 7 shows the results for recent CSLI surveys. The fall 2014 survey significantly modified the list of items included – two new items were added (“Hard to afford the cost of education” and “Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries”), while several previous items were dropped. Other modifications have occurred over the years, such as the inclusion of questions asking about a “salary increase or other increase in income recently” and whether the respondent had “found a new or better job recently” – these items were introduced in fall 2011. In fall 2016, the healthcare question was changed from “healthcare insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate” to “unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year.” The rationale for this change was to make the question accord with a question asked by Gallup Inc. which claimed to measure healthcare insecurity.⁴

Generally, the yearly changes from spring 2017 to spring 2018 were small and mildly positive. Fewer respondents complained about the rising cost of education or that wages weren’t rising as fast as the cost of living or that they were facing the possibility of unemployment (all down 6 points). There was a 10-point increase in the percentage of those saying that they had received a salary or income increase. There was a 3-point increase in the percentage saying that they had found a new or better job recently.

⁴ See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/192914/healthcare-insecurity-record-low.aspx> for more information about this measure. The most recent Gallup measure for this question had a value of 15.5 percent, similar to average CSLI value of 17 percent. However, one might question how well it actually measures “healthcare insecurity” since the more general framing of the question in our previous surveys usually produced a score about twice as high as this measure. Unfortunately, Gallup no longer appears to be including this question in its Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. See <http://www.well-beingindex.com/>

Table 7: Economic Conditions Applying to Personal Circumstances – Fall 2009 to Spring 2018

Condition	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18	Avg.
Taxes are too high in relation to the govt. services provided	59	63	60	63	58	63	63	62	66	65	74	66	62	59	61	58	55	58	62
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	55	56	56	63	59	66	59	59	60	57	63	57	54	58	57	55	49	49	57
Hard to afford the cost of education	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	45	41	39	39	40	38	33	32	38
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	26	35	31	34	29	36	33	37	34	32	29	31	26	41	32
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	33	31	28	30	29	27	25	24	28
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate/ Unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year (starts fall 2016)	33	32	34	35	32	32	27	32	29	26	40	38	33	38	14	16	18	18	33/17
Facing the possibility of unemployment	24	19	21	20	21	17	14	19	17	16	17	12	12	9	11	14	11	8	16
Found a new or better job recently	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14	16	11	14	16	14	12	11	13	10	8	10	10	13	12
Significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts	70	56	60	52	60	44	38	32	32	26	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	51
Delay in making a major purchase such as a home or car	46	47	44	47	51	45	38	42	38	43	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	45
Hard to afford cost of utilities such as electricity or gas	42	44	43	46	39	39	32	31	29	37	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	40
Hard to afford cost of transportation	17	21	24	41	30	36	30	27	24	24	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	27
Unable to find affordable housing	13	15	10	14	11	15	9	12	14	10	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12
Facing the possibility of house foreclosure or loss	8	7	7	9	8	8	4	7	7	4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7

In the fall 2016 press release, an analysis was offered that distinguished differences between Trump and Clinton voters, with Clinton voters generally more economically optimistic than Trump voters. As shown on Table 7a, there are now few differences between these two groups of voters.

Since fall 2016, the most ideologically charged item showed the greatest difference – whether taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided. This item is essentially a general attitude likely to follow liberal and conservative polarization. It remains a decisive attitudinal difference between the two groups. Clinton voters were a bit more likely to say that it was hard to afford the cost of education (34 vs. 25 percent); Trump voters were somewhat more likely to say that it was hard to afford the cost of food and groceries (18 vs. 27 percent).

In the past, the health care insecurity measure showed the second largest difference, but this stopped being the case in fall 2017 – there was no difference between the two groups in spring 2018.

**Table 7a: Economic Indicators and Voters’
Presidential Preferences**

	Clinton F '16	Clinton S '17	Clinton F '17	Clinton S '18	Trump F'16	Trump S'17	Trump F '17	Trump S'18	Clinton -Trump F '16	Clinton -Trump S'17	Clinton -Trump F'17	Clinton -Trump S'18
Taxes are too high in relation to the govt. services provided	43	40	36	42	79	70	74	76	-36	-30	-38	-34
Unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year	8	12	21	16	20	27	18	16	-12	-15	3	0
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	52	60	46	47	61	49	51	46	-9	11	-5	1
Hard to afford the cost of education	34	43	30	34	40	31	37	25	-6	9	-7	9
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	26	27	24	18	32	30	25	27	-6	-3	-1	-9
Facing the possibility of unemployment	12	21	13	10	12	17	10	5	0	4	3	5
Found a new or better job recently	9	8	10	9	6	15	8	9	3	-7	2	0
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	31	34	27	44	27	37	24	43	4	-3	3	1

Economic Conditions Applying to Individuals/Households – Socio-economic Factors

Table 8 shows the impact of income on the indicators of economic conditions applying to personal circumstances. Dividing the sample of respondents into those earning \$75,000 or less into one group and those earning over \$75,000 into a second group, most desirable outcomes favor the higher income group. The largest differences have been in regard to the questions about the costs of food/groceries, healthcare and education. The lower income group clearly struggled more to pay for such expenses. As in the past, the main conclusion remains that lower income households are substantially more susceptible to negative economic conditions.

Table 8: Income Groups and Economic Indicators

Condition	Sp '18 Under \$75,000	Sp '18 \$75,000+	Under \$75k- Over 75K			
			Fa '16	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18
Hard to afford cost of food and groceries*	42	15	18	32	26	27
Unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year*	28	14	13	11	26	14
Hard to afford the cost of education*	39	29	10	5	2	10
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided*	54	62	-8	8	-1	-8
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living*	57	46	9	8	19	11
Facing the possibility of unemployment	7	7	1	12	5	0
Found a new or better job recently	14	12	0	-6	-3	2
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently*	34	44	-12	-29	-18	-10

Note: Desirable outcomes are bolded. *=p<.01

Consumer Confidence

A section of the survey asked respondents to think about the next 12 months and the county's economy and say whether a given economic condition will be better, the same or worse.

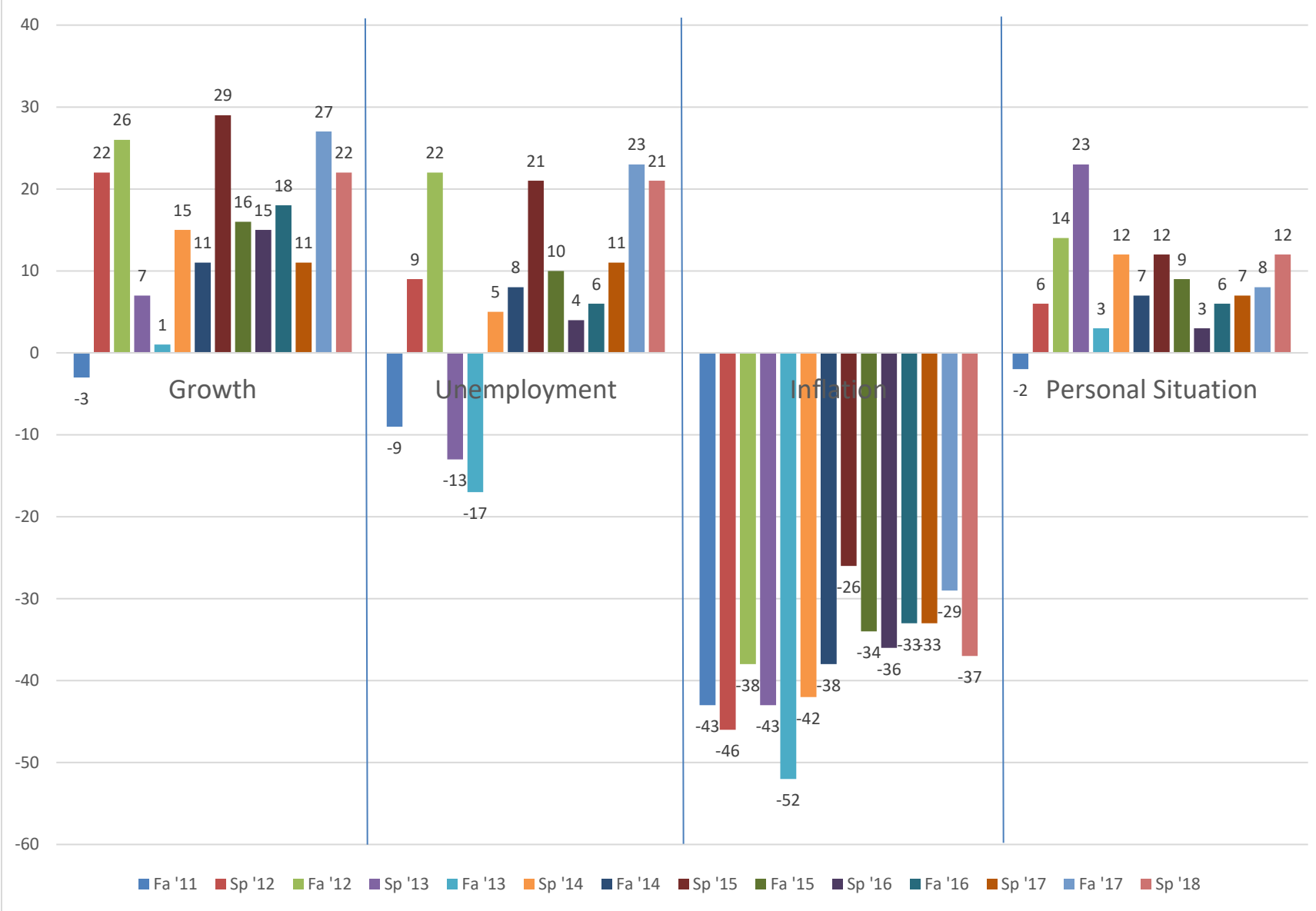
Table 9 shows the results just for spring 2018; Graph 7 shows the results since fall 2011, calculated by subtracting the value of "worse" from the value of "better" (with a higher number indicating greater economic optimism in all cases except for inflation, in which case a smaller negative number indicates the growth of optimism).

Table 9: Economic Conditions over the Next 12 Months, Spring 2018

	Better	Same	Worse	Unsure/NA	Total
Economic growth	33	47	11	9	100
Unemployment	33	46	12	9	100
Inflation	10	32	47	11	100
Your personal financial situation	24	59	12	5	100

As shown on Graph 7, two measures – growth and unemployment - were down slightly (5 and 2 points respectively), from fall 2017. Concern about inflation grew 8 points. There was a small increase in optimism about personal financial situation (up 4 points).

Graph 7: Consumer Confidence Indicators - Better Minus Worse



Agreement with Statements About Federal, State and Local Issues

Major sections of the questionnaire focused on either specific proposals, statements or actions relevant to the country, state or county. Respondents were asked to express their agreement or disagreement to each statement that was presented to them.

Table 10 presents the first group of statements concerning gun violence. Given recent mass shootings at Parkland Florida and more recently at Great Mills High School in Maryland, along with the March 24th “March for Our Lives” in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, a focus on proposals or statements about guns seemed appropriate. Results were sorted by the “agree” score received by an item. Graph 7a shows the net “support” score after subtracting the “oppose” percentage from the “support” percentage.

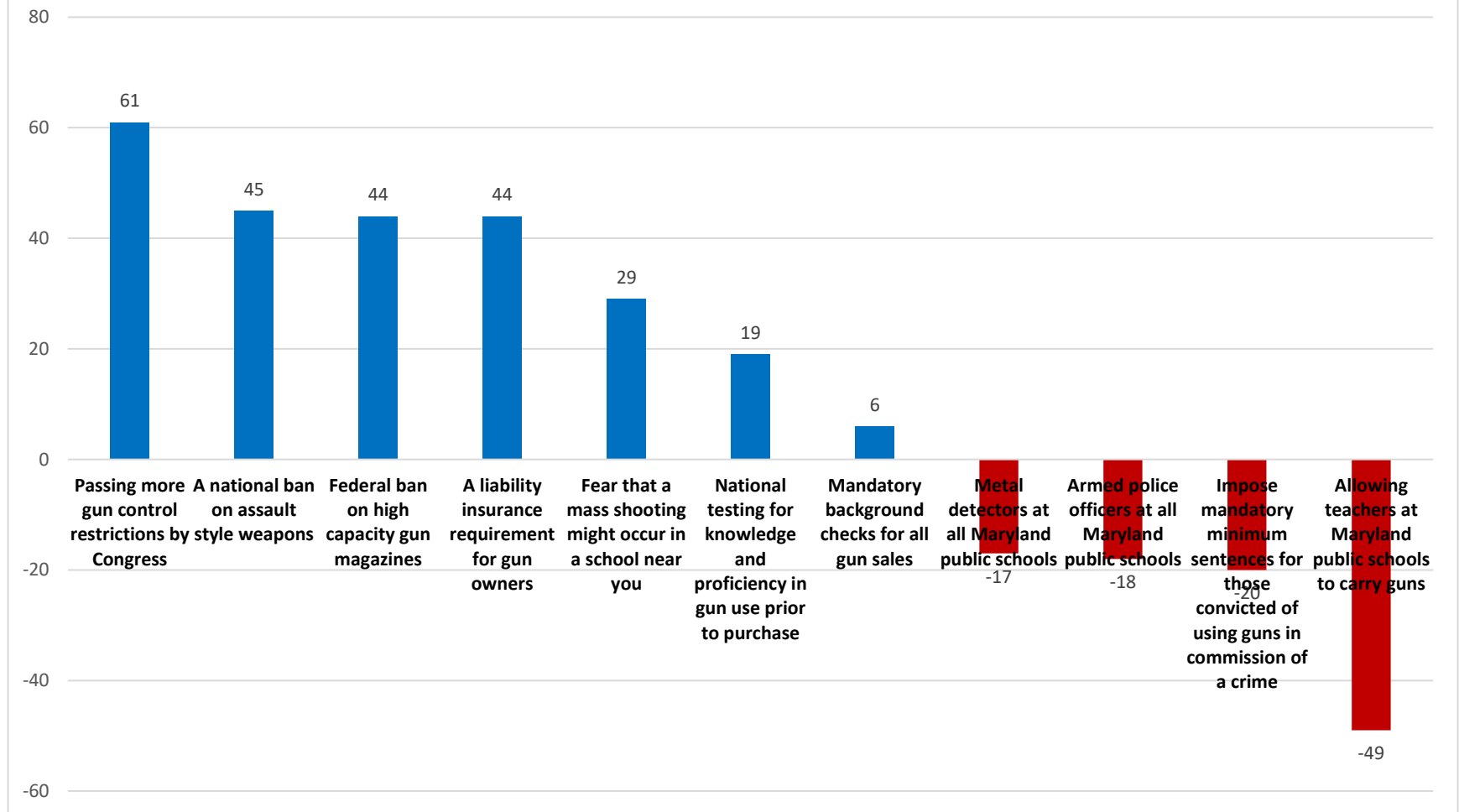
Table 10: Statements–Support for Gun Violence Related Statements or Proposals

Statement/proposal	Agree	Disagree	Unsure/DK
Mandatory background checks for all gun sales	96	3	1
National testing for knowledge and proficiency in gun use prior to purchase	82	14	4
Impose mandatory minimum sentences for those convicted of using guns in commission of a crime	80	12	9
Armed police officers at all Maryland public schools	75	15	10
Federal ban on high capacity gun magazines	74	23	3
A national ban on assault style weapons	70	25	5
Metal detectors at all Maryland public schools	69	22	9
Passing more gun control restrictions by Congress	66	31	3
Fear that a mass shooting might occur in a school near you	61	30	10
A liability insurance requirement for gun owners	58	29	13
Allowing teachers at Maryland public schools to carry guns	26	66	8

Consistent with findings on national surveys, the public was nearly unanimous in wanting mandatory background checks for all gun sales.⁵ Measures meant to limit access to certain weapons (banning assault style weapons and high capacity gun magazines), perfecting gun access processes (national testing for knowledge and proficiency in gun use prior to purchase, liability insurance requirement for gun owners) and hardening sites (metal detectors at all Maryland public schools, armed police officers at all Maryland public schools) all received substantial support. The only measure failing to obtain a majority in favor was the idea of “allowing teachers at Maryland public schools to carry guns” (only 26 percent favored). Graph 7a looks at differences between Clinton and Trump voters on these gun related measures.

⁵ A 2017 Pew [poll](#) found that 84 percent favored background checks for private sales and at gun shows. That same poll found that 68 percent favored banning assault style weapons (CSLI, 70 percent). A discrepancy between the Pew poll and CSLI results was prominent regarding the idea of “allowing teachers and officials to carry guns in k-12 schools” which Pew found at 45 percent, but when asked about “teachers” CSLI found only 26 percent support. However, the Pew question added the words “and officials” which might have included some thought about “school resource officers” implied in the CSLI question about “Armed police officers at all Maryland public schools” favored by 75 percent. A 2017 Gallup [poll](#) found that 96 percent favored “requiring background checks for all gun purchases.” A Politico/Morning Consult [poll](#) in February 2018 found that gun control measures surged, with results showing support for stricter gun laws among registered voters at 68 percent – nearly identical to the 66 percent the CSLI poll found for “passing more gun control restrictions by Congress.”

Graph 7a: Differences between Clinton and Trump Voters Regarding Gun Proposals/Statements



Graph 7a demonstrates that Clinton voters were much more likely to favor restrictions on access to guns. Trump voters were more likely to favor hardening targets and imposing criminal penalties. However, despite these general attitudinal differences, majorities of both Clinton and Trump voters favored the following measures:

- Mandatory background checks for all gun sales
- National testing for knowledge and proficiency in gun use prior to purchase
- Impose mandatory minimum sentences for those convicted of using guns in commission of a crime
- Armed police officers at all Maryland public schools
- Federal ban on high capacity gun magazines
- Metal detectors at all Maryland public schools

These measures could be the basis for bipartisan cooperation in Congress – Maryland already has bans on high capacity gun magazines, assault weapons and imposes comprehensive background checks.

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS:

- “Giving a gun to some of the teachers would be like giving a gun to a 3 year old.”
- “We can't even staff the streets with officers let alone staff all schools with them. And with all of the growth in this county the numbers of police officers employed here is appalling.”
- “Proliferation of military style weapons is not very well managed.”
- “The solution is reasonable gun regulation, not arming teachers and turning schools into forts.”
- “End 2nd amendment right - require license, training, background check, gun registration for all gun owners - outlaw all automatic/assault type personal gun ownership- turn the 'right' into a licensed, regulated 'privilege.’”
- “Congress must refuse contributions from the NRA in order to break the stranglehold they have on our lawmakers. Citizens can exercise their second amendment rights without high-capacity assault-style military weapons. The right to live must supersede the right to own these dangerous weapons.”
- “The 2nd amendment was written to control and place fear in GOVERNMENT EXCESS.”
- “Mental health is more of a problem and contributor to deaths when guns are used than the actual gun.”
- “Mandatory sentences only, no pleas.”
- “Mandatory minimums is a dangerous policy. In the abstract, quite attractive. In the reality, too high and too inflexible. Judges must be allowed discretion.”

Other National Issues

The spring 2018 CSLI survey included five other issues that could be considered federal ones. In each case, the relatively high percentages of those who were either unsure or unable to provide an answer indicates that the public was less aware or convinced about the desirability of each of the statements. Only one statement obtained a majority in support: the idea that Russian meddling in our elections is a serious threat to American democracy (66 percent agreed).

Table 11: Federal Statements – Agree/Disagree

Statements/proposal	Agree	Disagree	Unsure/DK
Russian meddling in our elections is a serious threat to American democracy	66	24	10
The Republican tax plan passed late last year will be good for the economy and benefit you personally	34	44	22
Infrastructure improvements should be funded by a 25-cent increase in the federal gas tax	30	51	20
President Trump’s tariffs will save jobs and boost our economy	30	50	20
Deport the DACA children of illegal immigrants	18	71	10

Three of the statements tapped measures or ideas favored by the Trump administration. The Republican tax plan did not receive much support (only 34 percent agreed), but the large unsure/don’t know value suggests that respondents were still unsure about the content and/or effect of the plan. The percentages were similar regarding the statement “President Trump’s tariffs will save jobs and boost our economy” – these measures are just now being devised and implemented. The notion of financing infrastructure improvements through a 25-cent increase in the federal gas tax was not well received, with only 30 percent favoring. The notion of deporting the “dreamer” children of illegal immigrants protected by the DACA process was not favored at all – only 18 percent agreed with the deportation statements.

Table 11a shows differences between registered Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters regarding these statements. Democrats were much more likely to perceive Russian meddling as a serious threat, while a majority (52 percent, compared to only 45 percent of Trump voters) of Republicans agreed.

Table 11a: Democratic, Republican and Unaffiliated Voters and Federal Statements – Percentage Agreeing

Statements/proposal	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
Russian meddling in our elections is a serious threat to American democracy	83	52	63
The Republican tax plan passed late last year will be good for the economy and benefit you personally	13	61	31
Infrastructure improvements should be funded by a 25-cent increase in the federal gas tax	39	23	34
President Trump’s tariffs will save jobs and boost our economy	15	57	21
Deport the DACA children of illegal immigrants	12	29	21

While a majority of Republicans favored the tax plan, support was only at 61 percent (versus 68 percent for Trump voters); unaffiliated voters – a key swing group – were mostly not favorable (only 31 agreed). Tariffs were even less favored by Republicans (57 percent), although Trump voters were more favorable (67 percent). Unaffiliated voters (21 percent) were near Democrats (15 percent) on this issue. All voters disfavored deportation of DACA children with Trump voters slightly higher in their support (35 percent) than Republicans (29 percent). Even Democrats (39 percent) weren't enthusiastic about funding infrastructure through a 25- cent gas tax.

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS:

- “Infrastructure has enough funding -- just need to do it right the first time.”
- “The new tax plan hurts Marylanders due to our higher state taxes.”
- “The tax plan was grossly irresponsible financial policy and a theft by Republican political donors from the middle class and the neediest in our society.”
- “DACA relief ONLY if accompanied by enhanced Border Security.”
- “All those who are illegals who have broken the law should be deported.”
- “Gas tax increase has not happened in years so should probably be raised but 25 cents is a big chunk of change.”
- “They can stay but no citizenship for legitimate DACA people (35 year olds are not children); they can earn green cards, no voting.”
- “President Trump’s ideas of DACA deportation is truly inhumane and his tariffs go against basic economic principals. Which cause me to wonder what type of business man was he.”

State and Local Issues

The next section of the survey covered some state and local issues. Table 12 shows the questions and the relevant percentages.

Three items gained the broadest support: the idea that land developers have too much influence on local land use and zoning decisions (72 percent agreed), having some small businesses provide workers 5 paid sick days (71 percent), and imposing term limits on members of the Maryland General Assembly (68 percent).

A majority of respondents also agreed that teacher compensation was inadequate (63 percent), recreational marijuana should be legalized (58 percent) and that county police are understaffed and not well compensated (53 percent). Respondents were less convinced that “Anne Arundel police are professional and free from corruption” (41 percent), or that county public schools do a great job educating students (49 percent).

Several of the items received relatively high “unsure/don’t know” scores – implying that respondents didn’t have much knowledge upon which to agree or disagree. The highest such scores were for determining whether police were understaffed/not well compensated (34 percent) or professional/free from corruption (30 percent), implying that the public doesn’t have a clear idea about the county’s police force. High uncertainty scores also diminished support for the proposal by the Chesapeake Bayhawks lacrosse team to revamp the Crownsville hospital location (38 percent agreed, 27 percent were unsure/don’t know). A high uncertainty score also reduced the agreement score for the

statement, “The county has done a good job balancing demands for new development with measures ensuring our quality of life” (30 percent agreed, 24 percent were unsure/don’t know).

The lowest agree score was obtained by the statement, “Maryland should pass a health care mandate forcing those without insurance to purchase it or face a fine” (27 percent agreed). In a letter to the Baltimore Sun, one of the most forceful proponents of maintaining the health care mandate, Vincent Demarco, argued “The General Assembly should also address directly Congress’ decision to stop enforcement of the individual mandate after 2019. This can be done through the creative health insurance down payment proposal by Sen. Brian Feldman (SB 1011) and Joseline Peña-Melnyk (HB 1167) which would take the money uninsured *people would have to pay the state* (italics added) and use it to get them insured.”⁶ He claims that an OpinionWorks survey showed broad support for a mandate concept which would use such funds to be applied to the cost of obtaining insurance.⁷ Perhaps had the CSLI question been rephrased to incorporate the “down payment” concept, a higher degree of support might have been obtained. However, it is clear that just on face value, the mandate concept did not have much appeal to Anne Arundel residents overall.

Table 12: State and Local Issues – Percentages Agreeing/disagreeing

	Agree	Disagree	Unsure/DK
Land developers have too much influence on local land use and zoning decisions	72	10	18
Businesses with at least 15 workers should provide them with 5 paid sick days per year	71	21	4
Members of the Maryland General Assembly should be limited to serving only two terms.	68	22	10
Teacher compensation in county public schools is inadequate	63	18	19
Recreational marijuana should be made legal, regulated and taxed	58	33	9
County police are understaffed and not well compensated	53	13	34
County public schools do a great job educating students	49	35	13
While costly, building a MagLev train from Baltimore to Washington is a good idea	42	40	18
Anne Arundel police are professional and free from corruption	41	29	30
The Chesapeake Bayhawks lacrosse team proposal about building a stadium and eventually other fields, hotels and commercial development in the former Crownsville hospital location.	38	35	27
The county has done a good job balancing demands for new development with measures ensuring our quality of life	30	46	24
Maryland should pass a health care mandate forcing those without insurance to purchase it or face a fine	27	64	9

⁶ See <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/readersrespond/bs-ed-rr-health-mandate-letter-20180326-story.html>.

⁷ “In a poll conducted by OpinionWorks for Citizen’s Health Initiative, a state healthcare advocacy group, 65% of Maryland residents were actually in favor of the ACA’s individual mandate; 52% in favor of a state-specific individual mandate.” See <http://healthcareforall.com/2017/12/individual-healthcare-mandate-being-considered-in-maryland/>.

Table 12a considers these same issues by listing agreement scores by party registration. The fourth column subtracts the Republican percentage from the Democratic one – the table is sorted by the size of the difference between the two figures. Democrats were much more enthusiastic about the five-day paid sick leave proposal, although a majority of Republicans still supported it. Democrats were also more inclined to support the health care mandate, but not very supportive overall. Republicans were much more likely to support term limits for members of the Maryland General Assembly, although a majority of Democrats also supported the idea. This seems to reflect Republican Governor Larry Hogan’s advocacy of this measure.⁸ Republicans were also more inclined to support the Bayhawks’ proposal regarding the Crownsville hospital site while Democrats were favorable to building a “MagLev train” – although neither group had a majority in support.

Table 12a: State and Local Issues – Percentages Agreeing by Party Registration

	Overall	Dems	Reps	Dem-Rep	Unaffil.
Businesses with at least 15 workers should provide them with 5 paid sick days per year	71	79	54	25	82
Maryland should pass a health care mandate forcing those without insurance to purchase it or face a fine	27	36	17	19	29
County public schools do a great job educating students	49	56	42	14	62
Recreational marijuana should be made legal, regulated and taxed	58	62	49	13	64
While costly, building a MagLev train from Baltimore to Washington is a good idea	42	45	33	12	42
Teacher compensation in county public schools is inadequate	63	68	59	9	59
Land developers have too much influence on local land use and zoning decisions	72	77	73	4	69
Anne Arundel police are professional and free from corruption	41	43	48	-5	30
The county has done a good job balancing demands for new development with measures ensuring our quality of life	30	27	32	-5	30
County police are understaffed and not well compensated	53	51	59	-8	47
The Chesapeake Bayhawks lacrosse team proposal about building a stadium and eventually other fields, hotels and commercial development in the former Crownsville hospital location.	38	34	44	-10	35
Members of the Maryland General Assembly should be limited to serving only two terms.	68	58	83	-25	65

In the past, CSLI surveys have asked about the legalization of marijuana. In spring 2011, respondents were asked about supporting the “purchase of marijuana for medical purposes”: 65 percent supported this idea. In spring 2014, the survey included the statement, “legalization of marijuana for recreational use, with a high tax and restrictions against sale to minors”: only 36 percent supported. This spring the question was phrased a bit differently: “Recreational marijuana should be made legal,

⁸ See <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-hogan-term-limits-20180109-story.html> where he is quoted as saying, “Our founding fathers never envisioned professional politicians who spend their entire careers in office,” Hogan said. “It has led to out-of-control partisanship.”

regulated and taxed.” These results suggest a massive 22-point shift in attitudes towards recreational marijuana over the four-year period, with even 49 percent of Republicans supporting this idea.

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS: (Most were focused on the Crownsville issue by request on the questionnaire)

- “A park and wooded forest is better use of the property.”
- “Quality business park with access to 97.”
- “The Bayhawks proposal is the worst idea. With so few public lands left, we need parks.”
- “Tear down the buildings and let it grow wild so we have more trees for cleaning and producing better quality air. Put some paths for use by hikers, bikers, horseback riders, etc. Maybe add some picnic tables, maybe even tent sites and just let it be.”
- “Crownsville should be open to drug and alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, and nonprofit groups that will preserve and care for the environment.”
- “Center for the arts, sciences and other educational opportunities that would provide internships and exposure to real job experiences for students (high school and college). Include focus on agriculture and sustainable energy development, implementation and usage.”
- “The Crownsville location needs to be used for providing shelter for our homeless and mentally ill citizens of our County.”
- “Crownsville should be a renewable energy park, along with drug treatment. Respect historical areas.”
- “More support for medical marijuana and study whether it is effective for treating opioid addiction, it would be great if Crownsville could attract a science/tech research center.”
- “Building the MagLev train would only benefit those who can afford to ride it and that is not me! Employers should be free to make arrangements with their employees. Forcing healthcare is a mistake. Instead work toward cross state line insurance competition.”
- “Don't know much about MagLev - but I see signs on people's property against it. The emphasis on politically correct social behavior over actual education is a problem everywhere in public schools.”
- “Most of our high school graduates cannot even take college algebra without taking noncredit math courses. Our schools will do almost anything to pass children to get their federal funding. They don't care if they are actually educated. Can't spell, can't write.”
- “Teachers are overworked and underpaid. We expect too much of them. We focus too much on testing. There is too much bullying in our schools. Crownsville should become a mental health and addiction center so we can deal with the epidemic of heroin overdoses and the mental health crisis.”

Efforts to Deal with Opioid Crisis

As mentioned earlier, the public’s concern with the use of illegal drugs has paralleled government efforts to implement measures meant to deter sales, overprescribing and to provide treatment for users. Governor Hogan has asked Congress to “step up” on opioid funding.⁹ He has offered a variety of proposals, saying “As the first governor in the country to declare a true state of emergency in response to the opioid epidemic, I am committed to doing everything in our power to bring those responsible for this scourge to justice and prevent future victims.”¹⁰ According to an article in the Capital, “Anne Arundel County officials are looking to invest in peer-based addiction recovery efforts as the county saw more than one fatal overdose every three days last year due to opioids.”¹¹

Given this attention to the issue, the survey asked, “County and state governments have created various programs to deal with the opioid crisis. Do you think that they have had a major positive impact, a moderate impact, or little to no impact?”

Table 13 presents the results for the overall sample as well as some other groups. Partisan differences were virtually nonexistent. Those under 40 were more likely to think that government programs had had some “moderate” impact (46 percent) compared to those over 40 (31 percent). Among those who thought that illegal drug sale/use was the “most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County” a greater percentage seemed to express frustration as 51 percent said “little to no impact” compared with only 42 percent of those choosing another issue as the most important one. Overall, nearly one half of the sample (45 percent) chose “little to no impact” while only four percent said “major impact.” Given the high saliency and common perception of little impact of government programs especially among those choosing this issue as the most pressing, it seems likely that government officials and candidates running in 2018 will focus on this problem.

Table 13: Impact of Programs on Opioid Crisis by Party, Age and Most Important Problem

	Overall	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.	Under 40	40+	Most impt.	Not most impt.
Major impact	4	3	4	5	4	4	5	3
Moderate impact	34	35	32	31	46	31	36	33
Little to no impact	45	45	46	47	37	48	51	43
Unsure, no answer	17	17	18	13	14	18	9	20

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS:

- “Need to do more, crack down on improper prescribing.”
- “More treatment centers and prevention programs.”
- “Make all drug use legal as long as you register with the government. Then once the addicts learn to come to the government facilities to get their fixes in a safe environment, the government can run programs to wean folks off of the drugs.”

⁹ See <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-hogan-opioid-senate-20180308-story.html>.

¹⁰ See <http://www.wmdt.com/news/maryland/maryland-officials-announce-measures-to-continue-fighting-the-opioid-epidemic/689959259> for both the quotation and a summary of his proposals.

¹¹ See <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/maryland/articles/2018-01-02/anne-arundel-looks-to-2018-to-turn-tide-on-opioid-crisis> - this was the AP version of the Capital article dated January 2, 2018.

- “I am worried that we are off on another government overreaction power increase based on overblown ‘crisis’ rhetoric. I have benefited from opioid medicine during an illness and am grateful they were available to me.”
- “I am a nurse but am not sure what these programs are doing or what influence they have. I care for patients every single week with substance abuse issues. Mental health facilities and programs in general are inadequate here in Maryland and across the country.”

Presidential Voting Choices in November 2016

The press release has pointed to the inclusion of a question about voters' choices for president during last November's election when conducting other analyses. In this section, the results for that question will be more thoroughly presented.

Tables 14 and 14a show the percentages voting for Clinton, Trump, someone else, didn't vote or wouldn't give an answer over the last two surveys. These are listed for the entire sample as well as by party and ideology.

Comparing the fall 2017 to the spring 2018 results for the presidential vote in November 2016, there were some small differences, with a slightly higher percentage for Trump this spring. Ideological differences between the two samples were few; party differences were also small. Both samples showed that the defection levels of Democratic voters were higher (i.e., Democrats voting for Trump) than was the case among Republican voters.

Table 14: Presidential Vote by Party and Ideology, Fall 2017

	Overall	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Clinton	37	79	38	3	67	9	36
Trump	37	0	30	80	12	73	21
Someone else	9	3	15	5	8	9	16
Didn't vote	12	16	12	7	9	7	23
NA/DK	5	3	5	4	4	4	5
Total	100	101	100	99	100	101	101

Table 14a: Presidential Vote by Party and Ideology, Spring 2018

	Overall	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Clinton	36	72	38	6	66	7	30
Trump	39	5	32	78	15	73	32
Someone else	8	7	12	5	7	8	13
Didn't vote	11	14	13	5	7	9	11
NA/DK	6	3	6	7	4	3	13
Total	100	101	100	99	100	101	101

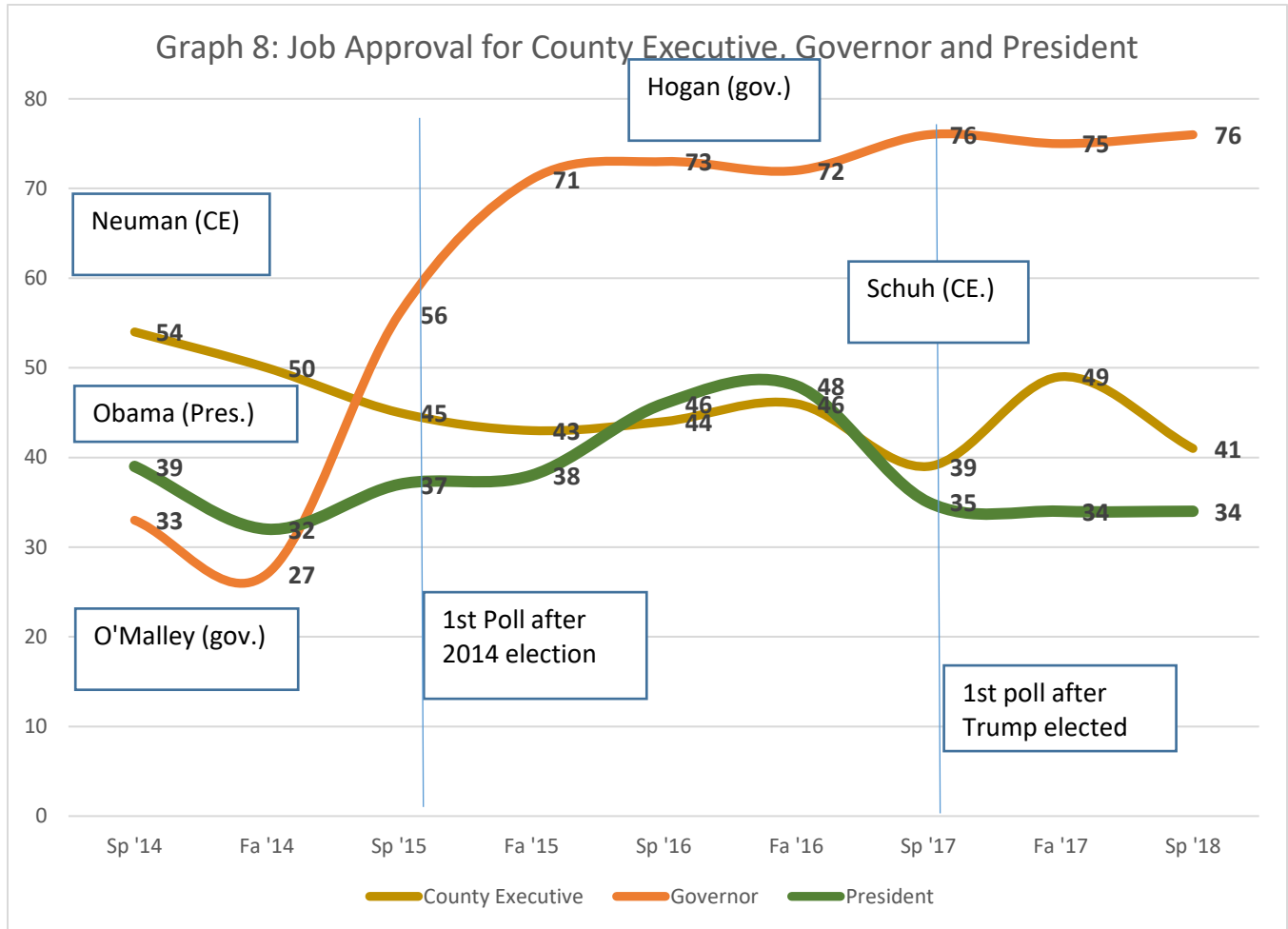
Using just the spring 2018 survey findings, it is clear from Table 14b that Democrat defections were mostly from ideological conservatives as over half of such Democrats voted for Trump. Ideological conservatives among Republicans and unaffiliated voters were virtually unanimous in voting for Trump. Slightly more Democratic moderates (15 percent) voted for Trump than Republican moderates voted for Clinton (11 percent). There were no Republican liberals. This points to the more complex ideological composition of the Democratic Party, whose challenges in bridging gaps among ideological persuasions are more acute than is the case within the Republican Party.

Table 14b: Presidential Vote for Ideological Groups within Each Party

		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Democrats	Clinton	81	65	19
	Trump	3	15	55
Republicans	Clinton	n.a.	11	4
	Trump	n.a.	58	87
Unaffiliated	Clinton	56	35	0
	Trump	11	16	88

Job Approval: County Executive, Governor, President

Each CSLI semi-annual survey asks respondents to indicate approval or disapproval of the job performed by an incumbent in office. Graph 8 shows the percentages saying “approve” for the county executive, the governor and the president.



The change in leadership in the governor’s office created a jump in approval values: by fall 2017, Governor Hogan was 48 points higher than Governor O’Malley in fall 2014. Including the results for spring 2018, Hogan’s approval has been essentially unchanged at around 75 percent.

Regarding the county executive’s office, there was a gradual diminution in approval values based on the transition from Laura Neuman to Steve Schuh, with the latter’s approval rating appearing to stabilize around 43-46 approval range until spring 2017 when it dropped to 39 percent. Schuh’s job approval seems prone to oscillations as it rose to 49 percent in fall 2017, only to drop to 41 percent this spring.

In the spring 2017 CSLI press release, it was speculated that this drop paralleled the drop in presidential job approval – possibly affecting Schuh’s popularity since he supported Donald Trump’s candidacy, unlike Governor Hogan who did not. However, the fall 2017 CSLI survey did not see an

improvement in Trump’s job approval, while Schuh’s job approval jumped ten points to 49 percent – his highest total thus far. Perhaps the diminished saliency of the election has lessened the carryover of Trump disapproval to Schuh. In previous press releases, it has been speculated that Schuh’s job approval was affected at least partly by Trump’s – but the latter’s approval figure was unchanged from fall to spring, while Schuh’s approval dropped from 49 to 41 percent.

Last fall, Schuh had twice as much approval than disapproval (49 vs. 18 percent); his spring disapproval number was nearly unchanged (21 percent), but the unsure/don’t know figure rose from 33 to 38 percent, accounting for most of the drop in approval score.

Governor Hogan has enjoyed a long streak of popularity since fall 2015 when his job approval score first reached the 70 percent range. The spring 2018 survey found his job approval up one point at 76 percent. Table 15 shows the overall job approval figures for Hogan, Schuh and Trump.

Hogan’s popularity cuts across the ideological and party spectrum. He has the approval of 70 percent of Democrats and even 55 percent of liberals. Schuh only gains a majority among conservatives and Republicans – in some cases having a larger “unsure/don’t know” score than approval figure especially outside his conservative/Republican base.

President Trump has been deeply polarizing – gaining very little support among Democrats, unaffiliated voters, moderates and liberals.

Table 15: Job Approval for Hogan, Schuh and Trump by Ideology and Party, Spring 2018

	Overall	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Hogan	76	55	81	84	70	85	81
Schuh	41/38	27/38	39/41	58/28	33/38	53/32	42/45
Trump	34	2	23	78	12	63	26
Total	100	101	100	99	100	101	101

Note: Schuh’s scores are both approval and unsure/don’t know

Regarding presidential job approval, President Trump held steady – 34 percent (see Table 16 and Graph 9).

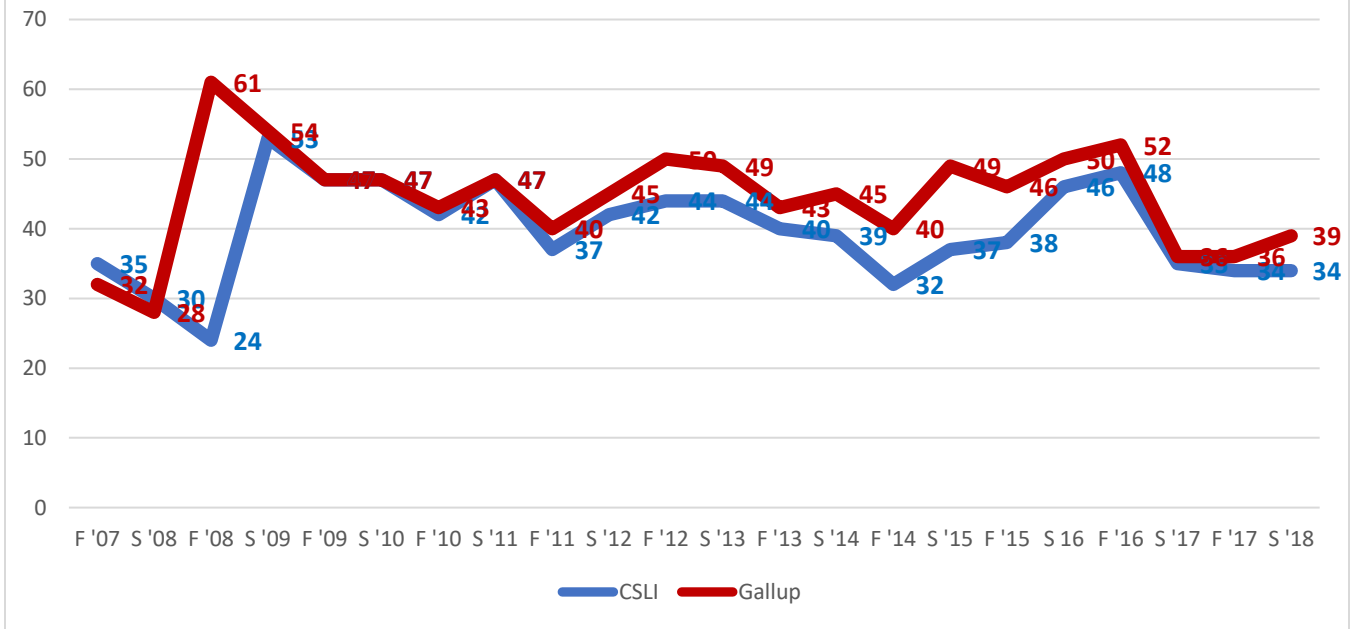
Since fall 2007, CSLI polls of county residents have generally tracked national presidential job approval trends as indicated by Gallup surveys.¹² For the period closest to that during which CSLI was calling residents, Gallup’s presidential job approval surveys conducted during the time the CSLI survey was in the field (March 23-29), found that around 39 percent of the American public approved Trump’s job as president. (See Graph 9 for a comparison of Gallup and CSLI findings.)

Table 16: Presidential Job Approval

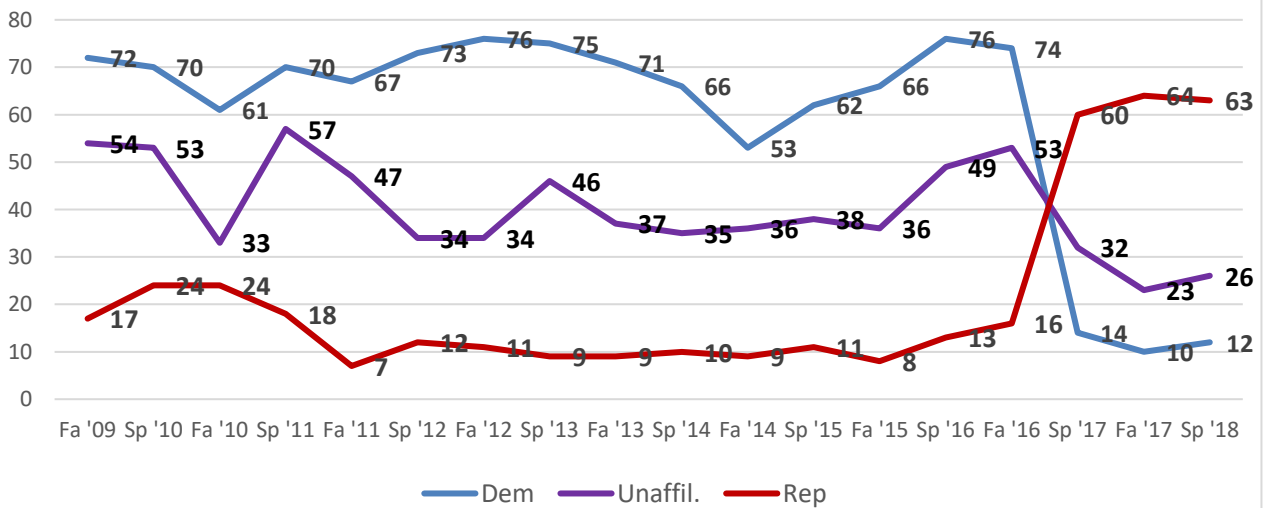
	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18
Approve	53	47	47	42	47	37	42	44	44	40	39	32	37	38	46	48	35	34	34
Disapprove	31	42	45	49	44	56	49	50	51	53	52	58	56	52	47	46	54	55	56
No answer	16	11	8	10	9	7	8	6	4	7	9	9	7	10	7	6	11	11	11
Total	100	100	100	101	100	100	99	100	99	100	100	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	101

¹² See http://www.gallup.com/poll/201617/gallup-daily-trump-job-approval.aspx?g_source=trump+job+approval&g_medium=search&g_campaign=tiles for Trump’s job approval findings cited here prior to spring 2018. Gallup switched to a weekly job approval collection process in 2018, so the new site is found at <http://news.gallup.com/poll/203207/trump-job-approval-weekly.aspx>.

Graph 9: Presidential Job Approval - CSLI and Gallup



Graph 10: Presidential Job Approval by Party Registration – Fall '09 to Spring '18



The interplay of party and ideology has consistently been a prominent part in shaping the scores for presidential job approval. During President Obama’s terms in office, Democrats gave him high scores, although conservative Democrats were consistently the least enthusiastic with scores that were up to 62 percentage points lower than offered by liberal Democrats. Liberal unaffiliated voters also gave Obama high scores.

With the emergence of a Republican president, a reversal of these tendencies would be expected. Graph 10 shows that Democrats remain very unlikely to approve of Trump's performance as president – moving up two points to 12 percent approving. Unaffiliated voters were somewhat more likely to approve of his job performance but remained generally dissatisfied at 26 percent. Only Republicans were relatively enthusiastic, at 63 percent.

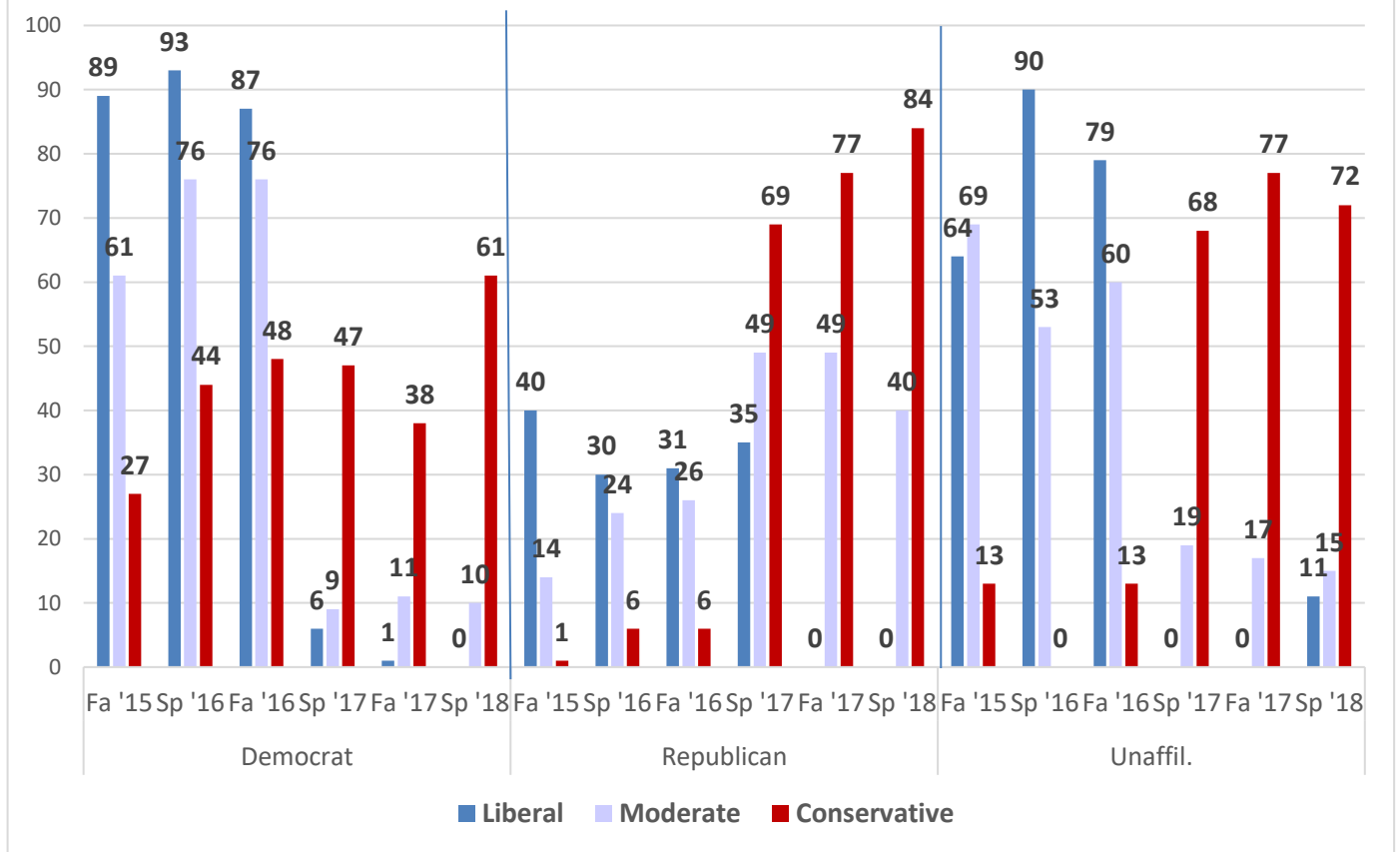
As seen in Graph 11, conservative voters consistently provided Trump's highest scores. Among conservative Democrats, his scores were often about the same as Obama received. Trump's score in spring 2018 was a new historic high among conservative Democrats (61 percent).

Support for Trump among moderate and liberal Democrats was very low in spring 2017 and has shown no signs of improvement in spring 2018.

Trump continues to receive high scores among conservative Republicans – rising from 77 percent in fall 2017 to 84 percent this spring. His score among moderate Republicans had plateaued at 49 percent but dropped further to only 40 percent this spring.

Unaffiliated voters who are not conservatives have yet to warm up to Trump. He continued to run strong among those who were conservatives - obtaining scores remarkably close to those among conservative Republicans. However, his low overall job approval score has reflected the tepid support among moderate unaffiliated respondents – who in spring 2018 constituted 55 percent of all unaffiliated voters, compared to the 22 percent who were conservative (18 percent were liberals). Thus, his low scores among moderates and liberals explain why his job approval scores have been consistently lower than Obama's in 2016.

Graph 11: Presidential Job Approval by Party and Ideology



OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

SCHUH:

- “His leadership and proposals, to date, seem reasonable and that's all you can ask.”
- “Better than the predecessor.”
- “He knows what he is doing. Keeping taxes in AA county lower than the surrounding counties.”
- “Basically doing a good job, am concerned that he has become too willing to allow more growth in the county.”
- “He is overly-concerned w/ commercial interest to the detriment of local residents.”
- “Pro-developer, pro-Peroutka...”
- “Inadequate funding for education, support of council chair Peroutka, participation in the 287g program with ICE while displaying ignorance about the immigration process and the struggles of immigrants.”

HOGAN:

- “He seems reasonable, but is also held in check by the legislature being a Democratic party majority.”
- “Despite being a Republican I think he's doing a pretty good job.”
- “For a Republican in a Democratic state, he’s done a good job on compromise and some resistance to Trump and his administration.”
- “He has done a good job reducing fees and taxes and spending less.”
- “He provides common sense solutions to problems and isn't afraid to step across party lines in the interest of serving the people.”
- “He has promoted very little policy and is focused on politics instead.”
- “Although good in some areas, he still preaches a too GOP conservative approach on taxes, infrastructure funding, etc.”
- “The man has had very little effect as Governor and his habit of jumping on the winning side of an issue after his own compromise positions fail is grating.”
- “Elimination of the Baltimore red line. Did not speak out against Trump's immigration policies. Has implemented some Democrat policies, but usually only when politically advantageous.”

TRUMP:

- “I approve for the most part what he is trying to do but the democrats and their dirty tricks are obstructing his progress.”
- “While I may not like him personally he is shaking the status quo up - about darn time.”
- “Doing a great job if they would allow him to do what he was elected to do.”
- “I love that he stands up for the forgotten Americans and there are many. I've heard many elected officials praise the people that cross our borders, they are given many monies to live and our own people are the forgotten ones. Also, people brought to our Country and our States and our people are not even told of them or where they were located, too! Our President wants Americans to be helped first!”
- “He is trying to fulfill the promises that he ran on. He is trying to secure the border, strengthen the military and not make every issue in the nation a cause for more federal spending.”
- “He is willfully ignorant, has not appointed competent staff, and is hurting the presidency by his boorish behavior.”
- “There is not enough room for me to explain how unhappy I am with this President. However, I will say that citizens should use their power to vote by truly researching the candidate and it should be mandated that a candidate has served at least two terms in either House or the Senate.”
- “He embarrasses the U.S., his economic policies could ruin the country, his moral depravity is epic, and he can't keep a cabinet or employ qualified people.”
- “Ego and ignorance is not a combination that produces thoughtful and effective programs.”

Gubernatorial Race

The survey asked a series of questions relevant to upcoming 2018 state elections for governor. The first set of questions focused on the upcoming primary elections on June 26. Respondents were first asked “how sure are you about voting in that election” – and told to use a 0-100 percent scale to indicate certainty of voting. Table 17 shows the distribution of Democratic respondents across four columns, each corresponding to a degree of certainty of voting, with the cells showing support for a given gubernatorial candidate. The final column shows the overall percentage of the vote for a candidate.

Five of the Democratic candidates received some expression of support: Jim Shea and Alex Ross did not. Clearly, Anne Arundel County Democrats do not yet have a strong preference for any of the candidates. The range of overall percentages was very limited: 2-6 percent. With 64 percent of all voters and even 62 percent of likely voters (90-100 percent likely to vote) “unsure” about their choice – the field remains wide open. Naturally, this is not likely to be the case in Maryland overall with two candidates – Rushern Baker and Kevin Kamenetz – being county executives of major counties (Prince George’s and Baltimore). According to a poll conducted by Gonzales Research in January, Rushern Baker was leading with 24 percent, followed by a tie between Kevin Kamenetz and Ben Jealous (14 percent). That poll showed 33 percent as undecided.¹³ As reported in The Washington Post, a Goucher poll released in February showed Baker in the lead (19 percent) with Kamenetz (12 percent) and Jealous (10 percent) trailing. A full fifty percent were unsure.¹⁴ Given these results, an upset is always possible, but the frontrunners appear to be Baker, Kamenetz and Jealous.

Table 17: Democratic Gubernatorial Candidates – Preference by Certainty of Voting and Overall

Candidate	0	1-49	50-89	90-100	Overall
Rushern Baker	0	0	6	6	6
Ben Jealous	0	0	6	7	6
Kevin Kamenetz	0	0	0	5	4
Richard Madelano	0	0	0	3	2
Krish Vignarajah	0	0	0	4	3
Unsure	63	83	69	62	64
None	25	9	12	9	10
No answer	12	9	7	5	6
Percent of Dem Voters	5	5	15	75	100/101

Note: Some figures in crosstabulations may be slightly different than in frequency distributions since rounding and missing values affect final calculations.

The survey asked voters to project to November and indicate a choice between “A Democrat,” Larry Hogan, “unsure” and “someone else.” Again using the 100 point scale, it followed up with a request that voters indicate how “sure are you that you won’t change your mind by November?” Table 18 shows the results.

¹³ See <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-baker-leads-governor-race-poll-20180109-story.html>. See also <http://www.gonzalesresearch.com/>.

¹⁴ See https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/goucher-poll-race-for-maryland-democratic-gubernatorial-nomination-is-wide-open/2018/02/21/1fc05a18-1716-11e8-92c9-376b4fe57ff7_story.html?utm_term=.8e246a57dc69.

Table 18: Gubernatorial Vote by Certainty of Choice

Candidate	0	1-49	50-89	90-100	Overall
Democrats					
A Democrat	6	54	27	49	34
Larry Hogan	4	7	40	40	32
Someone else/other	41	22	15	1	14
Unsure	49	17	18	9	20
Percent of Dems	18	5	35	42	
Republicans					
A Democrat	0	14	3	1	1
Larry Hogan	18	73	61	92	83
Someone else/other	0	0	1	1	1
Unsure	82	14	31	5	13
Percent of Reps	3	4	21	72	
Unaffiliated					
A Democrat	0	0	14	10	9
Larry Hogan	27	39	50	68	56
Someone else/other	0	30	5	6	6
Unsure	64	30	32	17	28
Percent of unaffiliated	15	5	27	53	
Overall					
A Democrat	4	29	18	18	17
Larry Hogan	10	35	47	71	56
Someone else/other	28	15	9	2	8
Unsure	57	21	25	8	19
Percent of all voters	11	5	28	56	

Hogan’s overall “re-elect” percentage was 56, down somewhat from 60 percent he received last fall. The major fluidity is less in the percentage of those saying “A Democrat” which was 17 percent this spring and 16 percent last fall. Instead, the percentage of voters who have not yet settled on a candidate has remained large (saying “unsure/someone else”) – 27 percent this spring. Moreover, 71 percent of voters with the highest certainty of not changing their minds (56 percent, thus $.71*56=40\%$) were settled on Hogan, while only 18 percent ($.18*56=10\%$) were settled on voting for an unnamed Democrat – see Table 18.

If all those who did not support Hogan were to vote for the Democratic candidate, this would result in a 56/44 percent split between the two. This would be a remarkable turnaround for the Democratic candidate in Anne Arundel County, where Anthony Brown only obtained 32 percent in 2014. However, with large sections of Democratic and unaffiliated voters apparently inclined to vote for Hogan – only a tremendous candidate and highly effective campaign could galvanize Anne Arundel voters to provide over 40 percent of the vote to the Democrat.¹⁵

Since Gavin Buckley’s election in Annapolis by a massive 23 points over incumbent Republican mayor Mike Pantiledes in November 2017, there has been speculation that voter intensity has been on

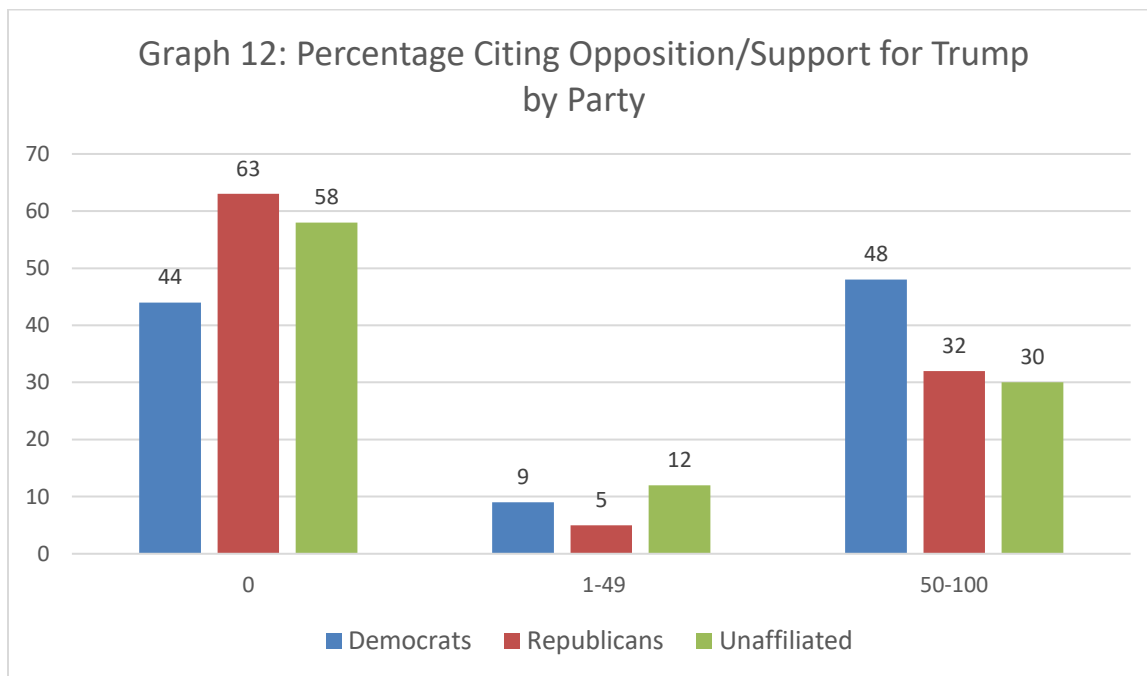
¹⁵ For reference, Democratic candidates have obtained the following percentages of the vote since 1994: ‘94, 40%; ‘98, 43%; ‘02, 35%; ‘06, 42%; ‘10, 43%, ‘14, 32%. The average percentage over that time has been 39.2 percent.

the Democratic side, due especially to antipathy to President Donald Trump. In an attempt to measure the degree to which such antipathy might be present in the choice of governor, the survey included the question, “Using the 0-100 scale, how much is your voting choice for governor influenced by your desire to express your support or opposition to President Trump?”

Table 19 and Graph 12 show the results.

Table 19: Opposition/Support for Trump by Party

Party	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated	Overall
0	44	63	58	54
1-49	9	5	12	7
50-89	26	15	16	20
90-100	22	17	14	19
Total	100	100	100	100



Graph 12 combines the top two categories (50-100) for ease of comparison. Clearly, Democrats are more motivated by their feelings about Trump (48 percent citing it) compared to Republicans (32 percent) who are themselves barely distinguishable from unaffiliated (30 percent).

Table 20 further consolidates the categories into just two: 0-49 and 50-100 and then compares voting intentions for governor by party. The percentage of Democrats likely to vote for a Democratic candidate for governor does increase with a growing intensity of opposition to President Trump: only 27 percent of low intensity Democrats are likely to vote for the Democratic candidate compared to 39 percent of higher intensity Democrats. The latter are much less likely to vote for Governor Hogan (21 percent) compared to the low intensity Democrats (41 percent). Rational Democratic strategy would seem to be to shift more Democrats into the “opposition to Trump” category as this would better ensure a Democratic vote in November as they now seem evenly split (49/51 percent).

Republicans who answered this question might have been on either side of the oppose/support Trump question. Those who are the least concerned about Trump are *more* likely to vote (87 percent) for

Hogan than those who are more concerned (73 percent). Republican strategy would seem inclined to diminish the Trump factor as an element in motivating voters.

Unaffiliated voters were similar to Republicans – those most concerned about Trump were less likely (46 percent) to vote for Hogan than those with less concern (63 percent). Conversely, those most concerned were more likely to vote for the Democrat (24 percent) than those who were less concerned (11 percent). Again, this falls into the rational campaign strategies outlined above: Democrats are advantaged by highlighting Trump; Republicans are better off by not accentuating a linkage to Trump.

Table 20: Gubernatorial Vote by Support/Opposition to President Trump

Candidate	0-49	50-100	Overall
Democrats			
A Democrat	27	39	33
Larry Hogan	41	21	31
Someone else/other	10	18	14
Unsure	23	22	22
Percent of Dems	49	51	
Republicans			
A Democrat	1	3	2
Larry Hogan	87	73	82
Someone else/other	2	1	2
Unsure	9	21	13
Percent of Reps	66	34	
Unaffiliated			
A Democrat	4	18	9
Larry Hogan	63	46	57
Someone else/other	5	6	5
Unsure	26	31	28
Percent of Unaffiliated	65	35	
Overall			
A Democrat	11	24	16
Larry Hogan	65	41	55
Someone else/other	5	11	8
Unsure	18	22	20
Percent of overall	59	41	

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS REGARDING “FACTORS SHAPING CHOICE FOR GOVERNOR”

- “Democrats exercise complete control of the legislature so it is extremely important to have a Republican governor.”
- “Hogan seems to be a moderate with common sense.”
- “Seems to be doing a good job. Moderate.”
- “Hogan willing to work both sides of issue for benefit of all Marylanders.”

- “He is doing a good job, regardless of what is occurring in Washington.”
- “No decent Democrat candidate.”
- “There are several excellent Democrat candidates, all of whom would be preferable to Hogan.”
- “I would wait to see further what Gov. Hogan has in mind and whether I like another candidate or party.”
- “I would like Hogan to further distance himself from Trump.”
- “The country and the world is changing regardless of what Hogan believes, we need a thoughtful program to address issues like Baltimore crime, economic development, inequality, and the divisions within the State.”

County Executive Race

The survey also asked about the race for county executive. Both parties have only a single nominee, so the current candidates – incumbent Steve Schuh and Democratic challenger Steuart Pittman – will face off in November’s general elections.

Table 21 presents voters’ choices by party. Overall, Schuh leads Pittman by 15 percentage points: 38 to 23 percent. However, it is clear that Schuh is better known to Republicans than Pittman is to Democrats since the latter (40 percent) were much more likely to say “unsure” than was the case among Republicans (29 percent). Nearly half (47 percent) of unaffiliated voters were unsure as well. Compared to Hogan’s vote (56 percent), Schuh has not yet galvanized the public to a similar degree making the county executive race more competitive than the race for governor in this county.

Table 21: County Executive Vote by Party and Overall

Candidate	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated	Overall
Steve Schuh	17	63	33	38
Steuart Pittman	41	7	15	23
Unsure	40	29	47	37
No answer	2	2	4	3
Total	100	101	99	101

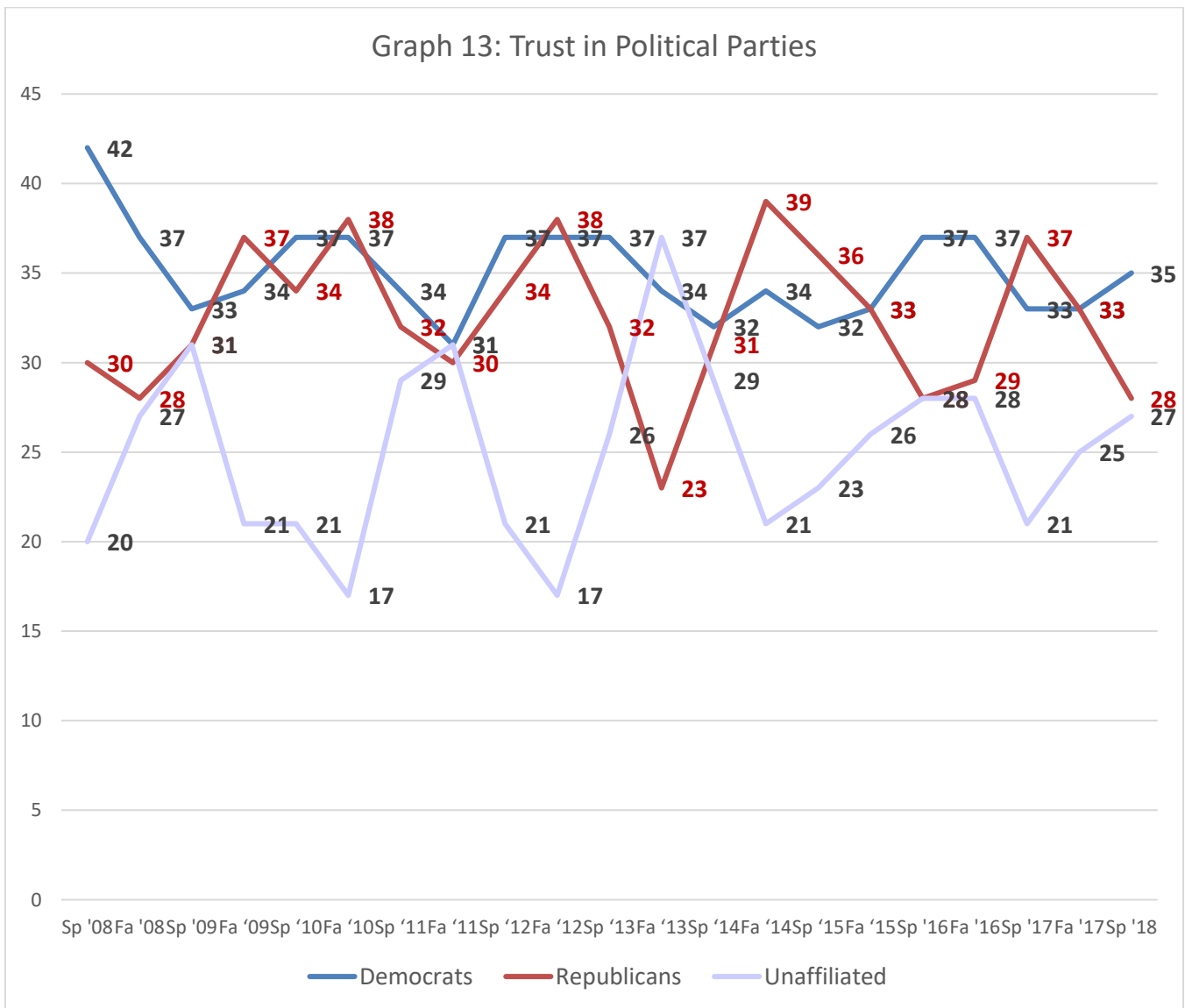
OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS ABOUT COUNTY EXECUTIVE RACE

- “Steve's policies are closer to my way of thinking.”
- “Schuh is smart and one hopes he will learn how to be an effective leader in his second term! Yes, that hope has a 50/50 chance of success, but perhaps in a second term, Schuh will reach out to others and become more effective.”
- “I am happy with the way things are currently.”
- “Steve Schuh is too influenced by big money and his inner posse.”
- “Steve Schuh has gone development crazy, time for another person to be county executive.”
- “I need to learn more about Pittman.”
- “Don't know anything about Pittman.”
- “Haven't paid much attention yet, will decide closer to election...”

Trust in Political Parties

Since 2008, the CSLI survey has asked which party “do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years.” Graph 13 shows that there have been some sharp oscillations, with Republican scores as low as 23 percent and as high as 39 percent. Democrats have experienced less variation in trust levels, ranging from 32 to 42 percent. Those saying “neither” – a volunteered answer not prompted by the question - have varied the most, from a low of 17 to a high of 37 percent.

The spring 2018 figures showed a small two-point rise from 33 to 35 percent for Democrats along with a five-point dip for Republicans (from 33 to 28 percent). Disgruntlement with the party system seemed reflected in the rise of the “neither” score from 25 to 27 percent.



Historically, changes in the “neither” score appear related to the presence of an election, during which time voters polarize along their partisan inclinations. Prior to the 2016 elections, the average “neither” score for election periods (fall 2008, fall 2010, fall 2012, fall 2014) was only 19 percent; outside of election periods it has been 27 percent – the current score for spring 2018.

In fall 2016, the neither score was 28 percent, well above the historic average. Perhaps optimistic that Trump’s election signaled a break with the two-party stalemate typifying President Obama’s terms in office, that score dropped *after* the election (spring 2017) to the benefit of Republicans. About 18 months after the election, the rise in “neither” scores show that expectations for a more productive relationship between Congress and the president have yet to materialize.

Table 22 includes information about party registration and trust in parties. It shows that there has been a steady if unspectacular rise among Democrats in their patterns of trust for their own party (a slight rise from 61 to 63 to 65) percent saying “trust Democrats.” During the same period of time (spring 2017 to spring 2018) Republicans saw a 14-point drop in trust among those in their party, along with a 9- point rise in the percentage saying “neither.” Unaffiliated voters provided a boost to Democrats (from 24 to 30 during the period from fall 2017 to spring 2018) and a smaller increase to Republicans (20 to 23 percent).

Table 22: Trust Political Parties by Registration

	Democrat			Republican			Unaffiliated		
	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18
Trust Democrats	61	63	65	6	4	7	26	24	30
Trust Republicans	12	11	9	69	64	55	33	20	23
Trust neither	19	18	18	20	26	29	32	42	37
NA/DK/Other party	8	8	8	5	6	9	9	15	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	100

OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS ABOUT TRUST IN PARTIES:

Democrats:

- “They seem to be less money hungry, willing to compromise and are more honest.”
- “Taxes, environment, healthcare positions of Dems more like mine.”
- “In the absence of a viable third party who will rebuild labor unions, work for universal healthcare, work on preserving digital privacy and improving public education through Undergraduate studies, I have to support the Democrats.”
- “Democrats care about people. Republicans care about money.”
- “Democrats try to look to the future and improve our standard of living. Republicans are full of fear, live in the dark ages and only seem to care about lower taxes.”
- “Democrats want to do away with the American way of government.”
- “Democrats have proven themselves to be liars, self-serving, and socialists.”

Republicans:

- “Financially we are better with Republicans.”
- “Overall I'll choose Republicans. But that doesn't mean I'm satisfied with the direction the Republican party is going.”
- “I have been a life long member of the Republican Party and after the presidential election switched to independent because I was so disheartened with both parties.”
- “Republicans keep silent in the face of all Trump has said and done to bring down this country. So many legislators are throwing in the towel and leaving public service. And Democrats can't seem to get together on a platform or message.”

Both:

- “Both parties have failed us. However, with the influx of funds and PACS, it is going to be hard to remove such conflicts from our process.”
- “We need to remove career politicians.”
- “Neither party has answers. They seem to be all the same. They love the media and attention. They don't have answers or proactive action. It is always blame game and digging up dirt on the opposite party. We need term limits!”
- “They both are not doing a realistic good job.”

Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 663 county residents who were at least 18 years old, primarily using a database of listed and unlisted landline numbers along with some cell phone numbers. Telephone interviewing was conducted March 26-29 during evening hours. In addition, members of a CSLI Web panel were also asked to participate in an online version of the survey during the period March 23-29. There was about a 4.2 percent statistical margin of error for the combined sample; the error rate was higher for subgroups such as “Democrats” or “men.” The dataset was weighted by gender, political party and education to better represent the general population. College students were trained and used as telephone interviewers.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., center director, for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 and ddnataf@aacc.edu. Check the CSLI website for results for information and press releases for this and previous surveys: www2.aacc.edu/csli.

Appendix A:

CSLI Semi-Annual Survey – Spring 2018 with Frequencies (percentages instead of coded values)

1. What do you think is the most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time? (DON'T READ THE LIST! Have them *volunteer* an answer.)

Problem	Choose ONE
Crime (other than drug related – e.g., robbery, burglary, assault)	9
Drugs (use or sale of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or use of prescription pain killers for non-medical purposes.)	28
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	6
Education , problems with schools	9
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	5
Government ethics – corrupt, immoral	2
Government waste – inefficient, spends too much	2
Government lack resources –for roads, schools, services	3
Growth/overpopulation - too much development	10
Healthcare (cost, access)	2
Taxes – too high	6
Transportation problems/traffic congestion	7
Other answer - write in:	6
Unsure/No Answer/Don't know (hereafter NA/DK)	5

2. The next questions ask you to say whether things are going in the right or wrong direction. First, would you say that Anne Arundel County is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction? How about the STATE of Maryland? How about the NATION as a whole?

	Right	Wrong	Unsure	NA/DK
2.1 County	47	25	24	4
2.2 State	52	27	19	3
2.3 Nation	26	59	15	2

3. Next I would like to know how you would rate economic conditions in the County -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor? How about the STATE? How about the NATION?

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	NA/DK
3.1 County	10	58	27	2	3
3.2 State	6	57	29	5	3
3.3 Nation	7	39	36	17	2

4. Thinking now about your personal circumstances, please tell me whether any of these economic conditions apply to you or your household.

	Applies	Doesn't apply	NA/DK
4.1 Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	49	47	4
4.2 Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	41	56	3
4.3 Facing the possibility of unemployment	8	88	5
4.4 Found a new or better job recently	13	84	3
4.5 Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	24	74	2
4.6 Hard to afford the cost of education	32	63	6
4.7 Taxes are too high compared to the value of government services provided	58	35	8
4.8 Unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year	18	79	2

5. Thinking about the next twelve months and the county's economy, please answer the following questions by saying whether a particular condition will be better, the same or worse:

	Better	Same	Worse	Unsure/DK
5.1 Economic growth	33	47	11	9
5.2 Unemployment	33	46	12	9
5.3 Inflation	10	32	47	11
5.4 Your personal financial situation	24	59	12	5

6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements or proposals dealing with guns?

Statement/proposal	Agree	Disagree	Unsure/DK
6.1 Passing more gun control restrictions by Congress	66	31	3
6.2 Federal ban on high capacity gun magazines	74	23	3
6.3 A national ban on assault style weapons	70	25	5
6.4 Mandatory background checks for all gun sales	96	3	1
6.5 National testing for knowledge and proficiency in gun use prior to purchase	82	14	4
6.6 A liability insurance requirement for gun owners	58	29	13
6.7 Fear that a mass shooting might occur in a school near you	61	30	10
6.8 Allowing teachers at Maryland public schools to carry guns	26	66	8
6.9 Metal detectors at all Maryland public schools	69	22	9
6.10 Armed police officers at all Maryland public schools	75	15	10
6.11 Impose mandatory minimum sentences for those convicted of using guns in commission of a crime	80	12	9

7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements or proposals about national issues?

Statements/proposal	Agree	Disagree	Unsure/DK
7.1 Russian meddling in our elections is a serious threat to American democracy	66	24	10
7.2 The Republican tax plan passed late last year will be good for the economy and benefit you personally	34	44	22
7.3 Infrastructure improvements should be funded by a 25 cent increase in the federal gas tax	30	51	20
7.4 Deport the DACA children of illegal immigrants	18	71	10
7.5 President Trump’s tariffs will save jobs and boost our economy	30	50	20

8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about state and county issues:

Statements/proposal	Agree	Disagree	NA/DK
8.1 While costly, building a MagLev train from Baltimore to Washington is a good idea	42	40	18
8.2 Maryland should pass a health care mandate forcing those without insurance to purchase it or face a fine	27	64	9
8.3 Businesses with at least 15 workers should provide them with 5 paid sick days per year	71	21	4
8.4 Members of the Maryland General Assembly should be limited to serving only two terms.	68	22	10
8.5 Recreational marijuana should be made legal, regulated and taxed	58	33	9
8.6 Anne Arundel police are professional and free from corruption	41	29	30
8.7 County police are understaffed and not well compensated	53	13	34
8.8 The county has done a good job balancing demands for new development with measures ensuring our quality of life	30	46	24
8.9 Land developers have too much influence on local land use and zoning decisions	72	10	18
8.10 County public schools do a great job educating students	49	35	13
8.11 Teacher compensation in county public schools is inadequate	63	18	19
8.12 The Chesapeake Bayhawks lacrosse team proposal about building a stadium and eventually other fields, hotels and commercial development in the former Crownsville hospital location.	38	35	27

9. County and state governments have created various programs to deal with the opioid crisis. Do you think that these have had a major positive impact, a moderate impact, or little to no impact?

(1) Major positive impact 4% (2) Moderate impact 34% (3) Little to no impact 45% (0) Unsure, N.A. 17%

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the following elected officials are handling their jobs?

Elected official	Approve	Disapprove	NA/DK
10.1 County Executive Steve Schuh (“Shoe”)	41	21	38
10.2 Governor Larry Hogan	76	11	13
10.3 President Donald Trump	34	56	11

11. If you voted for a presidential candidate in 2016, for whom did you vote?

- (1) Hillary Clinton 36% (2) Donald Trump 39% (3) Someone else 8%
(4) Didn't vote 11 (0) NA/DK 6%

12. With which political party, if any, are you registered?

- (1) Democratic (go to Q13) 41%
(2) Republican (go to Q13) 38%
(3) Unaffiliated (or "independent") (go to Q13) 14%
(4) Other (go to Q13) 1%
(5) None (not registered to vote) 6% (go to **Q20 on page 5**) (0) NA/DK (go to **Q20 on page 5**) 1%

=>(ASK Q13 ONLY IF REGISTERED TO VOTE, OTHERWISE SKIP TO 20)

13. Primary elections in Maryland are coming in June. Using a scale of 0 to 100 percent, how sure are you about voting in that election? See discussion in text

=>ASK Q14 ONLY IF REGISTERED AS DEMOCRATIC (see Q12): (OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q15)

14. Which of the following Democratic candidates for governor, if any, seems most likely to gain your support?

- (1) Rushern Baker 6% (2) Ben Jealous 6% (3) Kevin Kamenetz 4%
(4) Richard Madelano 2%
(5) Alec Ross 0% (6) Jim Shea 0% (7) Krish Vignarajah 3% or
(8) Are unsure at this time 64% (9) none 10% (0) No answer 6%

=>**15. (ASK ALL REGISTERED TO VOTE)**

Thinking ahead to the governor's race in November, are you be more likely to vote for a Democrat or the Republican Larry Hogan – or are you unsure at this time?

- (1) A Democrat 17% (2) Larry Hogan 56% (3) Unsure at this time 19% (4) Some other answer 8% (0) NA 1%

16. Using the 0 to 100 percent scale, how sure are you that you won't change your mind by November? See discussion in text.

17. Using the 0 to 100 percent scale, how much is your voting choice for governor influenced by your desire to express your support or opposition to President Trump: See discussion in text.

(No question 18)

19. Focusing now on the race for county executive, are you more likely to vote for Republican Steve Schuh (“Shoe”), or would you be more likely to support his Democratic opponent Steuart Pittman?

(1) Steve Schuh 38% (2) Steuart Pittman 23% (3) Unsure at this time 38% (0) N. A. 3%

=>(ASK ALL) 20. Overall, which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years?

(1) Democrats 35% (2) Republicans 28% (3) Neither (*volunteered*) 27% (4) Other (*volunteered*) 1% (0) NA/DK 8%

We are almost done. The last few questions will help us to better understand your responses.

21. Which of the following best describes your political beliefs: Conservative, Moderate or Liberal?

(1) Conservative 28% (2) Moderate 45% (3) Liberal 21% (0) NA/DK 6%

(No question 22)

23. What is your age? _____ (*ideally, a specific year of age – 23, 44, 81*)

Age range	Percentage
18-29	19
30-39	4
40-49	8
50-59	21
60-69	25
70+	24

24. I am going to read some categories relating to education. Please stop me when I reach the category in which the highest level of your formal education falls.

(1) Less than a high school diploma 3%	(5) Completed a 4-year bachelor's degree 18%
(2) A high school diploma 12%	(6) Post graduate work (e.g., MA/MS/JD/Ph.D.) 24%
(3) Some college but no 2-year degree 27%	(7) Something else? 0%
(4) Completed at least a 2-year college degree but not a 4 year degree 17%	(0) NA/DK 0%

25. I am going to read some categories relating to income. Please stop me when I reach the category in which your household income falls.

- (1) Less than \$30,000 10%
- (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000 10%
- (3) \$50,001 to \$75,000 14%
- (4) \$75,001-\$100,000 14%
- (5) \$100,001-\$150,000 24%
- (6) \$150,001-\$250,000 12%
- (7) Over \$250,000 6%
- (0) **NA/DK** 9%

26. Stop me when I reach the employment category that best describes your situation.

Category	Choice
Caregiver or parent	4
Fully retired	33
Semi-retired	6
Self employed	6
Employed part time	10
Employed for a company in the private sector	16
Employed for state and local government	7
Employed for federal government	3
Employed in a private non-profit organization	3
Student	8
Unemployed and seeking a job	1
NA/DK	2

27. Regarding race or ethnicity, how would you describe yourself?

- (1) White 81%
- (2) Black or African American 10%
- (3) Hispanic or Latino 3%
- (4) Asian 1%
- (5) Mixed 2% (6) Other 2% (0) NA/DK 2%

28. What is your religion, if any? (Read if respondent doesn't immediately respond)

- (1) None (*e.g. atheist, agnostic*) 14%
- (2) Non-practicing (*e.g. doesn't go to religious places or celebrate religious holidays*) 6%
- (3) Evangelical or born again Christian (*e.g. possibly Baptist, Pentecostal*) 11%
- (4) Catholic 27%
- (5) Protestant (*e.g. possibly Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopalian*) 20%
- (6) Some other Christian (*e.g. possibly Mormon*) 7%
- (7) Jewish 2%
- (8) A 'spiritual person' not associated with an organized religion 6%
- (9) Something else (*e.g. Hindu, Muslim*) 4%
- (0) NA/DK 4%

29. What is your current marital status?

- (1) Single 23% (2) Married 59% (3) Separated/divorced 6% (4) Widowed 9%
- (5) Living Together 2% (6) Other 1% (0) NA/DK 1%

29.1 I have one last request: In an attempt to provide students with more opportunities to survey the public, the Center is asking whether we can contact you occasionally by email to participate in future surveys. Can we count on your help?

(1) **Yes** 40%

(2) **No** (Go to “That concludes our survey...”) 60%

29.2 IF YES: “What email address shall we use to contact you?”

(CLEAR SPELLING/HANDWRITING PLEASE!)

“That concludes our survey, thanks for participating”

Once the respondent hangs up, make sure to enter GENDER and ZIP CODE

30. Gender of respondent to whom you were speaking: (1) Male 49% (2) Female 51% (9) Unknown

31. Zipcode (from calling sheet) _____

NA	5.4%
20708	0.3%
20711	0.6%
20715	0.2%
20724	1.1%
20729	0.3%
20733	0.4%
20751	2.3%
20755	0.2%
20764	0.9%
20765	0.4%
20776	1.2%
20778	0.2%
20779	0.5%
21012	6.3%
21032	3.4%
21035	2.1%
21037	3.3%
21054	2.8%
21056	0.1%
21060	4.3%
21061	7.0%
21068	0.2%
21076	2.1%
21090	1.8%
21106	0.2%
21108	4.6%
21113	3.9%
21114	5.8%
21122	0.3%
2114	0.2%
21140	0.8%
21144	5.3%
21146	8.7%
21148	0.2%
21212	0.2%
21226	0.4%
21261	0.3%
21401	8.5%
21403	6.1%
21405	0.2%

21408	0.2%
21409	5.4%
21504	0.3%
21706	0.3%
21961	0.2%
71076	0.2%
71122	0.2%
Total	100.0%

Appendix 1: Most Important Problem – Open-Ended Comments

Note: These comments in this appendices have been copied verbatim; the comments found in the text were edited for clarity.

Illegal immigration

Teachers are underpaid and students are undeserved. Education is the key to growth and low crime
Inadequate law enforcement from the cops to the judges. Schools do not teach students but are indoctrinating them. County and state road work is the pits. Too much spent on illegal individuals rather than citizens of this country.

At the Federal level it seems that Congress, once again, is spending too much time, resources, etc. on their well being. There seems to be very little effort to take care of the elderly, veterans, and the "little" guy in general.

Natural and native trees, plants and wildlife are being displaced by homes, roads, lawns and ornamental plants. This is bad for the ecology and not good watershed stewardship.

Increased development, particularly in Critical Areas, is threatening the entire character of the area. Poor water quality is a threat to both the local economy and public health.

Gun Control. We are killing our children.

There is development all over the County, without regard for the impact on schools, infrastructure and the environment. I would have also chosen government ethics, as well, because County Executive Schuh, having received a huge percentage of his campaign funds from developers, is clearly in their pocket.

I feel no one cares about the drugs, it brings \$ into the system

The BW Parkway at Route 32 is a joke - at all hours Even the BW at 175 is often just as bad. Let's get the Feds to widen these sections to 3 lanes !

Fortunate to live in a state which seems to stand behind access to health care and 10 essential health benefits in Affordable Care Act. Though difficult to find affordable access to mental health services.

Climate change.

Proposed stadium and related facilities by Bayhawks organization will spoil the peaceful, rural nature of the Crownsville communities and shows disrespect to the historic Crownsville Hospital grounds.. Why not place the stadium on a site where malls are closing and infrastructure is already available (e.g., Marley Station Mall)? While the community has protested and presented viable options, politicians do not seem to be listening to those who will be most effected by this decision.

Gerrymandering is the worst in the country. Corrupt Mike Miller and Mike Busch.

State's capital and public transit to elsewhere other than work commuting times

So much is dependent on transportation -- access to jobs, education, healthcare -- and it affects the Bay and environment. And certainly "too much development" is a reflection that we have inadequate public transportation facilities.

I am so tired of the government waste in both the state and local and federal level. We should definitely institute term limits for all political positions. Career politicians are too arrogant to listen to their constituents. No single issue jumps out for me - If I think longer term, then caring for our environment is critical, as I believe our county will be severely impacted by climate change. And education, because of the need to prepare our children for a very different future. But short term, I would say we have to address the increased availability and use of opioids.

Need to provide for over crowding and better compensate our educational staff.

Not a problem with schools but a need to keep the emphasis on decent pay for teachers plus the upkeep and replacement of old schools (especially Quarterfield Elementary).

Population growth beyond adequate facilities affects school success, safety and crime, the environment, roads and traffic. Cut development to sustainable amounts and you get rid of a lot of problems.

Impeaching the President

The major underlying problem of all the above issues is eroding family values.

Opiates are killing people. Cocaine & crack are ruining lives. Even the "socially acceptable" substances (alcohol & marijuana) chemically alter the brain and are not contributing to the good of society. Ask anyone whose family has been affected.

I could have selected more. However the liberal democrats don't give the governor and team any slack in passing bills.

PERSONAL - I RELY ON WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION, MY POV BEING PRIMARY SOURCE. DRIVING CURRENTLY NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO PHYSICAL INJURY. THERE ARE NO PUBLIC ACCESS ALTERNATE OPTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN THE 21035 ZIP CODE.

Tough to choose between this one and the environment, but, of course, they are cause and effect, hence this choice.

Overpopulation impacts all of the others issues with the exception of Government Ethics.

The roads are jammed. I started riding the MARC train and was very surprised to see how often they are delayed and cancelled and there is no easy way to find out if a specific train is on time on my smart phone.

It's time to help lighten the load on the parkway and rt 50 with better and more reliable mass transit

The Scenic/Historic Mountain Road Peninsula! What happened to all the criteria concerning development on these "Scenic/Historic Roads?" LIP SERVICE BY THE POLITICIANS! NOTHING BUT!

Our BGE bills are KILLING us! Something needs to be done about that company's exorbitant rates!

I believe drugs lead to health issues, unemployment, education issues. It basically affects all of us.

The intersection at route 50 and 97 is a mess...

Drugs are the lead cause for crime

duplicate stores like Target, Royal Farms, etc. being built which cause loss of trees, congestion and they're just NOT needed. There are too many of these and it's unsightly... all of this causes more traffic congestion, and environmental impacts. there are also too many Over 55 communities being built.

The spending and high taxes go hand in hand. Even unnecessary projects won't accept a low bid to do repairs or renovations.

Children are no longer taught how to think, they are taught what to think! They are not being prepared to be effective citizens or adults able to cope and be successful in the real world. They lack basic skills in reading, writing, and math compared to other countries. Sad!

Traffic and over building houses and twin houses.

This one issue, drugs, has such a wide ranging effect on the county. It alters taxes, expenses, crime, health care, jail system and so much more. There are several high ranking issues on this list.

cost of living too high /lack of affordable housing

County can't keep up with growth.

Education is the root cause of most of the other issues

The economy is the foundation for the rest of community life. If there are difficulties there, other issues arise and are exacerbated.

My husband and I were looking at buying a house closer to Gibson Island, but once we added my now hour plus commute (to Columbia, 26 miles) to the congestion and travel time on Mountain Road, we changed our minds. Moving further down Mountain Road would make my commute almost two hours by only adding 5 more miles. Ridiculous. Too many homes have been built without any thought to the supporting infrastructure.

Too much development affects many of the other categories- education, transportation, government ethics and so forth.

Appendix 2: Right/Wrong Direction for COUNTY – Open-Ended Comments

This is something can only be determined through hindsight.
not enough info
Not sure what's going on. The election is coming up and things will change again
I limit my news exposure.
Because bldg more residents (town center, etc), which means more tax base.
general knowledge
Not sure what or whom to believe
Not sure what, if anything, the county legislature has accomplished this year.
some good some poor actions
County Executive's Administration and Sheriffs Department
I don't hear positive news. It seems most things are about the same as they have been.
Finally the people who have the ability to make change are beginning to move forward
Too much focus is being placed on the consequential outcomes of the true root cause of societal problems.
not sure how things are going it depends on where you live in the county
I see both good & bad decisions being made by County Council & County Exec. so will have to wait to see how things progress.
Putting money back into infrastuctue
While the county's development is leading to jobs, it is becoming overcrowded and a less attractive place to live.
The legislative session still has a few weeks left. There is still time to pass bills that will impact the county (either positively or negatively).
Things seem to be remaining steady, but I see no great improvements being made. A lot of issues are not just county related, but statewide.
drug problem - county working hard to slow and eventually stop sale. Also the county is working quite well to support those wishing to stop using (safe stations, funding, etc.)
Morality is relative, schools are expected to raise children, citizens are second class
I don't follow county news as much as I follow state and national news.
I believe there are some good people working on the needs of the county but we are faced with lots of waste at the state level.
I am not as informed as I should be on the county.
Don't know if they know what to do
I do not follow local politics closely enough to say.
I don't feel I am up o the issues at this time.
Controlling the Bay with environmental projects
The county has a Govenor who cares
Good schools
Taxes kept low !
We have qualified leadership in our county executive, he has the best interest of the citizens at heart.
The county seems to be doing pretty well, but there Ida more crime and businesses closing than I recall in the past.
Good at stopping unwanted housing in areas we should keep environmentally safe.
Not sure how our resources are used but generally think the county is headed in the right direction

managed budget, education under control, no significant scandals

This is a good county to live in.

Mostly right, but getting bad press (unfairly) for CHS incident. If you know about the multiple bullying incidents that preceded the "racial problem", it appears that the bullies are crying racism.

I believe Hogan is trying to do some good things with no help of the camped in Democrats

Programs are being implemented to improve life in our area.

Steve Shuh seems to be doing the right things for our county

Lots of visible local investment - parks, environment, schools

The county government is managing things mostly well, concerned about continued growth.

Taxes are stable, from what I hear, our schools are good and local leaders are trying to get our drug problem under control.

Love living in AA Co - services (library, senior center, response to homeowner issues) are great!

Our problems are being addressed.

The governor has a good handle on the issues I feel are important. I do not have confidence in other leaders

At least local government is making some effort instead of just saying they will

Schuh is doing a pretty good job.

Pretty much doing the best they can, but AA Co is constrained by the progressive ideology of the State.

AACO government is making changes to improve living in the county.

county government seems to be functioning fairly responsibly: unlike other jurisdictions, schools are maintained, grade/ testing results don't seem to be manipulated, roads are repaired, parks/ trails are maintained, government appears to be responsive to citizen concerns.

Reasonable property taxes and good services

On mos (not all)t issues they are moving in the right directions, budget is uncontrol,schools are funded, libraries are building

Because Anne Arundel County provides services to help all of it's citizens from the homeless to the affluent.

gov and county except doing great job. Country political disaster with no compromise possible due to radical right and radical left litmis tests

Good, responsive government in place

It's lovely place to retire, with many affordable options for activities.

Working hard on the drug issues, the school safety issues and crime as well as employment.

Generally, I live in a good area with few problems that have touched my family.

It seems like AA County makes sound decisions and concentrates on the important issues.

Over population

Too much development, too many townhouses, etc.

too many building projects, too many bridge and road repairs

Poor schools, roads, county services--- for a start --- the rest is a mess.

Heroin problem is growing exponentially

Too much emphasis and money going to the ultra rich, and leaving the little guy to fend for himself.

There is too much growth and overpopulation without regard to schools, law enforcement, and infrastructure.

Some good and some bad - drug crisis is out of control and too much growth

Racial incidents in school, Peroutka/Shuh racial issues, etc.

Too many unmet needs. Future generations will have to pay the bill.

Too much development without proper concern for environmental issues primarily, and traffic issues 2nd

Too much red tape when dealing with issues. Political correctness over rides common sense.
It is becoming more difficult for the middle-class to be able to live here
Far too much spent on illegals
It depends on who the county elects in November. More of the same at the County Executive and County Council level will continue problems with overdevelopment, disregard for immigrants and insufficient focus on protecting open space and fragile coastal areas.
Too much uncontrolled development without keeping up with public infrastructure and services
Crime in AA County is on the rise in areas that never seemed to have to worry before.
Not doing enough to stem the drug addiction problems, such as illegal opioids and cocaine.
Too much emphasis on development.
need long range planning to support schools and teachers
too liberal agendas; voting registration is a joke when people can lie about citizenship and no one checks their statements. My vote is watered down by illegals!
Exec Schuh is all of a sudden anti-development. I wonder if it's because it's an election year.
to much development for current roadways
Overdevelopment
Too much growth in overpopulated areas.
too much development
I usually think things are going right in the county but there seems to be so much building going on in the Annapolis/Arnold area that I worry about traffic and crowding at the schools.
Wrong not doing better on drug crisis
Over development is deleterious to our quality of life.
Blight in older areas which can be refurbished
Republican leadership putting business first ignoring infrastructure and school needs.
Over building and anything goes for the builders in the county.
The US is in peril because of the chaos in the Whitehouse.
County Exec is allowing too much development
Development, overcrowded roads are problems
Concerned about drugs, taxes, partisan politics and overdevelopment. Want more gun control.
I don't see anything good getting done
COUNTY EXEC IS UNRESPONSIVE TO MIDDLE-LOWER INCOME RESIDENTS
Politicians mainly local are so wedded to campaign funding from developers that the environment is being raped.
AAC has been taken over by developers and entrepreneurs whose goal is financial profit.
Roads are getting worse
Schuh's lack of leadership and support of teachers and his clear disrespect of their careers demonstrated to me how far apart he is to my values.
Schools are focused on standardized testing rather than teaching and the well-being of students.
Over development without proper planning; crowded roads
Steve Schuh - over development, no education support,
The schools seem to be stagnant, county development continues but without county investment in infrastructure and facilities. When is the last time the county added sports fields? The existing ones are WAY over subscribed.
Developers ripping out forests; adding traffic to every road.

County executive is inept. Thinks he's president of AAC. ARROGANT.
THE SPINELESS POLITICIANS DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THE CONSTITUENTS UNTIL IT'S TIME TO VOTE!
Education and school building repair and replacement are underfunded. Classroom sizes are too large.
Teachers have insufficient classroom resources.
the county has approved too much development/density leading to increasingly bad and dangerous traffic
Too much buildout stressing already inadequate public facilities.
too many housing developments without considering traffic congestion on existing roads/ without road expansion
over building is definitely a issue for many residents. i really see no effort to reforest our county, a tragic environmental problem
Too much poverty
Do not like Schuh's priorities
Need to use education dollars wiser
Rolling back of environmental standards, immigration issues and DACA, lack of role models, all these on the Federal level.
Shuh seems unable to move the county positively. And many councilmen seem only interested in their own personal agenda
Over taxed and over regulated
Over development and not enough infrastructure.
High taxes and over crowding continue to escalate.
what is leadership doing? Lots of talk, some starts followed by stops, no specific goals
Overdevelopment resulting in traffic congestion
Future plans for AA county are not readily found.
Traffic is going from bad to worse.
Degrading quality of public services, infrastructure, police, etc.
too many rules, too crowded, high taxes, govt intrusion
Taxes too high and the government can only increase spending
Uncontrolled building.
Too much development.
Way too much building and no consideration for how this is affecting our waterways.
We need a more pro police/fire county executive
County is very overdeveloped. We have become the right arm of Baltimore City.
Seems we worry too much about low taxes rather than making sure we have the resources we need.
Legalizing Marijuana, expanding casinos, expanding welfare. Ignoring families, enabling drug use & dependency.
Overdevelopment
Inadequate investment in education; anti immigrant policies; insufficient environmental protections
Too much development

Appendix 3: Right/Wrong Direction – State

too many issues to consider

This is something can only be determined through hindsight.

afraid that politics is getting in the way

same as above

Government-wide acknowledgement that politicians must get involved

A little of both. Gov. Hogan has done a lot of good, but BCity, PGC0 & MoCo still rule the state

Politics not working together

Other areas of Maryland may have differing problems.

Governor Hogan is ok, but the state legislature is still trying to control our lives and tax us to death.

Right from the governor, wrong for house & senate

In some areas (gun control) we are heading in the right direction, but in others Hogan is on the wrong path.

A Republican governor. Tired old Democratic leadership in the legislature.

Same as above, except safe stations. We need them everywhere, not just i one county.

Governor Hogan is trying, but the old boy Democrats need to get out of the way. Baltimore and it's leaders are a disgrace

Morality is relative, schools are expected to raise children, citizens are second class

Hogan has great ideas but here again we need term limits and get rid of the obstructionists

The Maryland governor is making chances to improve living in Maryland, however the State Senators & Representatives are not.

Too bleeding heart and not enough common sense.

I don't feel I am up o the issues at this time.

It is a mixed bag of policies

Maryland is such a diverse place the some locales are moving in the wrong direction and some in the right direction.

Govenor who cares

Good example of how split parties can work together

I don't really hear any bickering between the parties.

Right enough

Under Gov. Hogen not to bad unfortunately there is an election coming up and the democratics want to change things. It

Demo that likes the gov. But admires rushern baker too.

Hogan is a good governor

Although I am a democrat, I am overall pleased with the direction Governor Hogan is taking our state.

Democrats control everything

Governor Hogan!

Keeping up with the needs of the people in Maryland

More common sense bi-partisan legislation is getting passed.

governor good

Right we have a good governor but weak legislature

I definitely like to live in MD—I feel my values are respected here.

I think Maryland has managed to escape many of the problems facing other parts of the country: no fracking, the Bay program did get funded, our reps in Congress are, with one exception, reasonable men not obligated to the NRA.

Maryland is a progressive, well governed state.

Governor is making decisions for MD, not following someone else's agenda.

Job creation is moving forward, helps economy. Business growth is headed in the right direction

I am generally happy with the way things are going in the State but then get discouraged when I see problems of crime & police corruption in Baltimore.

Despite its many problems, Maryland is more on the right path than most states. We were the 3rd state to ban fracking.

bi-partisan deals like the health care exchange support

Gov Hogan is doing a great job despite the opposition of the democratically controlled legislature.

We have a great governor, but a shameless Democrat controlled legislature who do not respect the will of the people.

Employment up; efforts to assist with health insurance for more; attempts to alleviate some of the damage to tax payers with new tax law; attempt to improve transportation via high speed trains.

Hogan doing good job. Anti Trump -lower fees. Bay bridge toll good example. Proactive- broaden sever rivet bridge.

Very happy w/Gov Hogan who always makes sense.

We have problems, but they are being addressed.

New governor is doing great. However, the effects of violence in Baltimore caused by the political leadership there, has had a negative effect on the way this state is viewed.

Things seem to be moving at the moment toward a more bipartisan solution. I like that.

Hogan is doing great, a wonderful leader always working on getting things done.

Hogan is doing a pretty good job.

State is attempting to deal with the opioid issue, holding administrators/educators responsible for honestly reporting grades and graduation rates, dealing with blighted areas in Baltimore, and dealing with school violence.

Among other factors, sensible gun control and a moderate Governor

The current governor is doing a good job. He seems fair and balanced.

Because I believe that Governor Hogan has good insight on our needs for Maryland

Maryland has by in large continued to prosper and with the exception of nation wide problems and the continued systemic failures in Baltimore.

Governor Hogan is leading well, cutting waste while improving infrastructure and creating jobs

Hogan is moving the right direction on all fronts

The Governor is on top of critical issues such as taxes, crime, drug, etc.

Seems to be a positive attitude state-wise with businesses expanding.

I agree with most of the liberal policies in place.

I believe the Governor is doing an amazing job on all of the problems in the counties an state.

Roads are a mess, street lights on 24 hrs, traffic control systems are questionable, House &Senate are useless.

True infrastructure maintenance is being ignored ro pushed down the road.

Progressive state, great Attorney General, responding to dismantling of ACA. Need to get rid of Hogan.

Baltimore leadership , enough said.

Far too much spent on illegals no real funding for the wall should be no harbor for illegals

Again, depends on the next governor. If Hogan is reelected, we will not see sufficient pushback against the policies of the President and GOP at the national level.

Overall okay, except traffic is horrendous from development or regional growth and lack of capacity

Throughout the state we are seeing more gun related violence and robberies.

To much crime,offenders get off easy

Career politicians

People are incarcerated and NOT given any type of rehabilitation before being released back into society.

Like Hogan a lot !

I don't know of any statewide effort to deal with climate change.

Gov. Hogan is not standing up to President Trump on fundamental issues

We have qualified leadership in our governor, he has the best interest of the citizens at heart.

Gov. Hogan is doing a good job of taking Maryland where it needs to go without following a hyper-partisan agenda.

I say wrong because time and time again, career politicians are not listening to Governor

Disappointed in some decisions, e.g. Baltimore city school funding, red line. We need better schools everywhere and better public transportation.

encouraging illegal aliens to come to MD is dangerous to the citizens and stresses our resources spending out of control, poor energy policys hoping that wind and sun will power the state, no solution to deal with federal tax cuts, almost a sanctuary state, CA of the east coast

Gerrymandering!

Republican leadership opposing family leave, raising minimum wage, maintaining infrastructure, needs of women and children.

All though we have a Republican governor, single party rule leads to corruption and more problems. Maryland is addicted to Federal dollars and lack of interest in manufacturing/small business development.

When public school teachers need to financially supplement their classes in order to provide quality education while millions of dollars are floating into the state through casinos--yeah, we're headed in the wrong direction.

Politics have become very ugly. Opioid epidemic is a drag on the economy. Would like stronger gun control.

Governor promise was to do away with state taxes on pensions not happened yet

Evenwith a Republican Governor, it's still a very liberal state, just look at Baltimore's homicide rate

Too liberal and imposing laws that are too costly without accountability

GOVERNOR UNRESPONSIVE TO MIDDLE-LOWER INCOME RESIDENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

More needs to be done for failing infrastructure plus education. Children should not have to go to school without heat.

Infrastruture needs work

I am not a fan of Hogan's leadership when it comes to education. He has chosen business interests over educational and labor policies too many times. His milquetoast response to serious racial issues also concerns me.

Hogan - same as above. Too friendly to businesses - not enough consumer protections

I just completed my taxes tonight. It is amazing how complex MD taxes are!

I'm not sure where MD is going; but its starting to look like failure is now being rewarded. Sure looks like Baltimore City is getting too many monies! Money is not the problem for that area which I will not visit anymore!

The cost of living in MD is VERY high; even Gov. Hogan stated when he was running for office about the number of people leaving MD to find a more affordable place to live.

Gun issues and protesting is getting out of control

Hogan changes priorities on environmental and development; needs of state overridden by eastern shore politicians

Parts of MD are suffering even more and need more help and less red tape

trying to get Amazon and giving them tax break when they make billions--doesn't make good sense--
gambling-marijuana

there are duplicate businesses being built within 2 miles of each other here in Crofton. Two Chick Fils, Two McDonalds,, now a second Royal Farms, it's ridiculous. traffic here is terrible. Traffic noise to residents has doubled. Massive deforestation without reforestation is occurring here.

Too much corruption

Governor Hogan has little power in this one party (very radical) state.

more and more spending, more and more agencies all trying to spend and give away all the money they can and to raise the budget for the next year.

While the governor has done many things that I approve of, he has pushed for too much of his party's anti-middle class agenda.

This Progressive ideology of the Left controlling the State punishes achievers, encourages idleness of some, and reduces freedom of all.

Over crowding and infrastructure need to be addressed for the long term.

Only plan is to not to do anything!! Proudly not doing anything!! Proud of no programs and bragging about no programs.

disatisfied with the legislature, not happy with the attempts to take power from the Board of public works, not happy with attempts to place more restrictions on 2nd amendment rights, nothing is being done about Baltimore

Taxes too high.

Taxes

Fortunately, we have different parties in the executive and the legislative branches. There does need to be more balance within the legislative branch so that one view does not trample the others and no one perspective predominates.

Too much development, overcrowding.

Taxes are so high, you get nothing for it.

Legislature not in tune with electorate

lower taxes

Appendix 4: Right/Wrong Direction for Country – Open-Ended Comments

This is something can only be determined through hindsight.

Once again an election is coming.

This is why I limit my news.

Working on trying to unite, without hate more jobs for people

President Trump! Tired of lying politicians.

President has tried to make in roads. lowering taxes etc but again congress doesn't do their job.

Good and bad choices are being made

A little of both. The "chaos in DC" makes me uneasy. The relentless pursuit to topple the POTUS is appalling

Our country is more divided than ever, but some good things are happening.

I live here.

President Trump is trying but the liberal rabble is against ANYTHING & ALL HE HAS TO SAY &/OR DO TO MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! They should all be made to disappear!

Ridiculous political situation but so much good in individual Americans.

There appear to be concerted efforts to vote into office those who value human life and freedom to express one's religious beliefs

Liberal policies

Economy improving, but intolerance and obstructionism on the Left is tearing country apart.

We need to tough on other countries

See County, State. Add divisiveness and political correctness.

Economy is headed in the right direction Prosperity for most Americans will result in the long term.

Hopefully the President can wake up the Congress and get them headed in the right direction.....

Like Trump's Policies a lot !

Growing economy and excellent leadership.

economy improving, military funded, tax cuts, only bad is out of control spending bill

Economy is moving forward/up.

Trump is making a difference even with the media, hollywood, democrats and republicans against him

Improvement in government

Trump doing an amazing job.

President Trump is doing a fantastic job and has accomplished much in a short time in office.

The economy is strong. The immigration problem is lessening. But automatic guns remain a problem.

The President provides good leadership.

It's far from perfect but at least SOME things are going well with Trump. Hillary would have been a total disaster.

People need to stop putting roadblocks to the president. Term limits for House and Senate is a must

The President & some members of Congress are making chances to improve life in the U.S.

American citizens deserve to be put first. Taxes have been lowered and business is optimistic.

Tax cuts and increasing emphasis on national security.

Trump is taking the government in the right direction

Finally a President who is putting the country back together and has this country's interest first and foremost.

I feel the President is doing a job and would do a much better job if people would stop trying to find a reason to oust him.

Tax cuts for small businesses

it is such a mess, I don't know where to begin
Gsoverment and President too radically conservative, no care for citizens
Trump
Starting with the President, far to many resources are being expended to put even more money in the pocket of the very rich.
The White House occupant and cabinet members
Democracy under attack by Trump.
Waaayyyy to much to list. The President, Congress, liberals, etc., etc.
environmental, immigration, social problems persist.
This administration does not reflect the desires and needs of the majority of Americans. President is an embarrassment
Corrupt, dangerous and mentally unsound President threatening world peace and democracy.
Volatile, Inhumane President, unstable White House, terrible policies re: environment, immigration, world safety, you name it
Liberalism.
not enough support for 2nd amendment
With Donald Trump as President, the country is losing its democratic (small "d") and moral compass. Far too many Americans are accepting and approving a man who is violating all the norms and civil precedents of government function both here and internationally.
Trump is a disgrace and his lack of leadership is harming the country and congress is not stopping him
Blue ribbon fool in wh. Like the fact that he wants to challenge status quo, but he lacks common sense.
the problem seems to be country wide
Career polticians
Because our President is divisive
Too many people are re-arrested and put back into prison with no way of getting help.
Can't believe anything....only thing politicians care about is getting re-elected.
Dysfunction in Trump administration is never ending. He had decimated the reputation of the U.S.
Congressional Republicans won't stand up to him.
The current administration doesn't believe in climate change.
Nothing good can come out of this presidency
Trump has proven to be an incompetent and dangerous leader. He needs to be removed from office as soon as possible.
hatred by the Democrats of all elected Republicans and especially the President; also applies to Maryland Democrats
The current Presidential Administration is causing tremendous damage to our democratic institutions.
The President is trying to lead but, the infighting in congress is very unnerving.
I do not like or trust our current President and the Congress seems to be unable to stand up to him in a meaningful way.
As of today Trump signed the 1.3 trillion dollar spending bill....big mistake caving into the Democrats
Degradation of environment,higher taxes on poor and middle-class
Lack of leadership and White House staff that is not qualified.
President's Administration
Congress and media need to get their act together
Donald Trump

I am extremely distressed by many of the actions of our President, and the failure of our famous checks and balances. We are more divided than ever, and our future is more uncertain.
President Trump has caused the biggest division in our country. No respect or morals. Very concerned for our country.

Wrong due to Trump and Congress

I am unhappy with the out of control spending in DC & the deliberate attempt to undermine everything done by the President

Trump

As long as Trump is President I feel we are going in the wrong direction.

The president is a disaster for our country.

Our problems are keeping us stagnant.

I'm scared of the zigzagging government ignorance

Republican Party abandons integrity for oligarchy.

Our President is an embarrassment and an egotistical maniac who should be impeached and removed from office.

There is no effective leadership in the Whitehouse

The hatred of good government that the current administration has.

Too much effort, emphasis and attention is being placed on political posturing and self-aggrandizement.

The daily chaos coming from this administration is disgusting.

Am very concerned about the direction the country is taking in many areas, including education, LGBT rights, immigration and gun control.

Trump is insane and dangerous.

nation as a whole is in a crisis

Health care, weather change, gun laws

I totally disagree w/ President Trump's philosophies and actions. He is a disaster for our country.

The president doesn't know what he doesn't know & doesn't care that he doesn't know anything about how to be president. The party in power is interested only in maintaining that power and the good of the Country is not a big priority.

Holding people accountable who abuse the laws and safety net systems

The president

A RACIST, MISOGYNIST, UNQUALIFIED, MENTALLY UNSTABLE CRIMINAL IS PRESIDENT

Trump is wiping out everything that Obama did for the country whether it be the DACA kids or education or mondy for chesapeake Bay Out country is being trashed for the good of his \$\$\$ friends. AND He has picked totally unqualified people for positions.

Obvious to everyone--the inmates (alt right and so called President) have taken over the asylum--too many examples to list.

trade war, lack of diplomacy, surging national debt

Current issues with the president and the divisive tone.

The current administrations handling of global affairs, revenue management (2018 tax bill) and skirting of rules and established ethics all concern me.

Our current Federal government is highly corrupt and works only for their benefit. The vast majority of our citizens are being punished for not being wealthy.

Having a non-Republican as the Republican president is helping the Democrats which helps no one but the self-appointed nannies of the nanny state.

Trump - where to begin.....

Isolationism, racism, too many guns, environment being ravished, stupid tariffs, white supremacy rising.....
Trump is intellectually, experientially and morally totally unfit for office of president. Dangerous.
Where to start....so many against our elected President and neither party will work with him. I feel our
Country is a lost cause!

This is, by far, the CRAZIEST administration I've ever witnessed in all my 64 years! NEVER have SO many
people either quit or gotten fired from top government positions like what's going on now! It's unsettling &
downright SCARY!

Same as above only magnified!

Crazy president, crazy cabinet, crazy agenda. Warmongering, voter suppression. Racist, sexist, anti-choice,
xenophobic policies. Deregulation of banks, destruction of environment, attempts to defund public education.
Uneven distribution of tax burden. To name a few!

Trump untruthful, unethical, incompetent; creates chaos and endangers national security and foments
divisiveness

Directly due to the alleged potus

Too much churn parties won't work together, uncivil.

Trump is ruining everything he touches

The rich rule the rest.

Making too many completely ridiculous statements, laws and decisions that are not based on common sense

Trump - need I say more? (economy, relationship with other nations, treatment of people not like him. . .

We are too divided and can't get anything done

low paying jobs without healthcare-shootings-protests that get out of hand with violence or disrupts others
freedom-gambling-bribes-marijuana

answer is the same for County and state. The lack of environmental protections are affecting all other aspects
of quality of life.

Too much corruption

Do not like Trump's priorities or the polarization he has engendered

Poor leadership from the White House and Congress

The current administration is both incompetent and corrupt, and the current Congress is dominated by anti-
democratic (with a small "d") extremists.

Polarization driven by the losing party.

Lack of integrity in the Executive branch, NRA support rather than support of the citizens, support of the rich
over the middle class and poor to name a few.

Too much drama all the time, chaos.

Trump is a disaster.

Tax reform was a joke rich get richer

Up until the Omnibus bill, I felt we were moving the "RIGHT" way - 3% growth every qtr great change after 8
yrs of less growth EVERY qtr but Omnibus betrays a lot. We'll see.

National security, immigration, racial and income inequality, gun violence all need to be addressed, just not in
the way it is currently being done.

Lack of common sense and humanity on both sides of the party.

The President and gerrymandered Congressional districts

trump is divisive, ignorant, and obviously doesn't work well with anyone!!

Rich getting richer and middle class carrying the weight

taxes too high, gov waste too much money, too much corruption, no confidence in FBI, too many politicians not willing to work together because all they care about is keeping their party in power and winning the next election

The current president is a joke and an embarrassment. He's way over his head and doesn't have a clue.

Income disparity, unethical leaders, ineffective leadership, undereducated leaders

Election of a President who had more issues than the norm

Because President Trump does not have the best interest of our Country but for his rich friends

Debate has disappeared.

Crazy president, way too much instability and uncertainty.

Trump and the Republican Party have alienated our allies, emboldened our enemies, and weakened our standing in the world as a whole. On the domestic front their tax cut will do nothing for the middle class, their deregulation campaign will have calamitous results for the economy and environment for decades and their judicial appointees are the stuff of nightmares.

Devisive politics

The country is so divided all because the liberals did not get the President they wanted. God help us.

Too much division and entrenchment of the political parties. Elected officials are paralyzed by fear.

I am in complete disagreement with the Trump Administration.

Trump.

Everything Trump. Backwards on the environment, health, foreign policy, immigration, economic inequality

Totally dysfunctional congress

Too much mean-spiritedness, too much focus on the wrong issues, total lack of unity.

Appendix 5: Economic Condition Rating for Anne Arundel County - Open-Ended Comments

Maryland and Anne Arundel County depend upon government activity for revenue. The USA is rebuilding the manufacturing sector and as a result prosperity will result for most Americans.

While Anne Arundel County and Maryland enjoy generally good economic conditions, there are many pockets of poverty that are generally ignored. This is even more true for the country as a whole. The divide between the haves and the have-nots is widening. This situation has only been exasperated by the Trump administration and the Republican majority in Congress.

I don't really have much data to explain. Most people I know are working & have their own homes. Some of the younger ones are struggling more, but they live paycheck to paycheck, are drowning in debt & won't change any of their habits

U.S. fair: Pres. Trump's choices in actions & members of the Cabinet.

I think the US economy has done very well over the past 7-8 years. I am concerned that the 2018 tax bill will cause a recession in the near terms.

Good for some; terrible for others. Racism and mean-spiritedness is at an all-time high since the so-called president was elected by deceiving voters.

I would have marked excellent but there are many changes required to overturn, repeal etc. the 8 years under Obama. Also, O'Malley's over taxing administration is still affecting the state.

Currently ok, but not sustainable

Business seems to be stable.

For now, still good. Worried about effects of Trump's economic policies and removal of the regulations put in place to prevent free fall like 2008. Also the increase of the National Debt to the detriment of ordinary people

Much more optimistic - particularly with the upcoming tax cuts !

at last someone in power who knows what will work

Trump has the economy booming for the time being.

Positive economy and job growth.

The U.S. is pulling out of the long economic downturn.

MD economy and the country have been doing well for quite a while. I wish gas prices would go back down.

Good & getting better. Under Trump.

We have a lot of government in this area and it sustains our economy better than most of the country. The trickle down of money helps this area, no matter what the business is.

Compared to other countries in the world, we still have it very good economically.

Improving under the current president (never thought I would say that). Maryland has at least stopped driving out jobs, but still needs to recover from previous political partisan policy.

Government is still good business for AA Co and other portions of MD in proximity to DC. If economy stays good, people will be able to take vacations and stimulate the eastern shore.

I think it has improved.

Because Anne Arundel County and Maryland has a Comptroller that has fiscal plans to help bring money into Maryland. President Trump fiscal programs do not understand the needs of the Country's economic needs worried about trade issues, and new policies of current administration

Emphasis on wrong morals, Politics is self serving

Wages too low

Needs to be a major blue collar education and retraining effort to increase employment in that demographic.

I have no confidence in the federal government.

Maryland is excessive in taxes for welfare and similar programs

If you look at unemployment numbers alone, I would say excellent. However, there is rising income equality everywhere, exacerbated by the federal tax cut, and unless this is addressed, it will continue to be a deficient economy.

Housing costs are out of control. Too many townhouses which will have long term negative impacts

More jobs for people willing to work

Wealth is unevenly distributed, poor people can't break out of the cycle.

Workers have no economic power. When once noncompete agreements were once for the rainmakers in a company, low wage earners are being forced to agree to them in exchange for a job.

The inequality in our country concerns me about regarding our economy. There are many people left behind.

Maryland & the county have highly paid government employees who spend help keep the economy vibrant.

Need larger wage increase for the working people.

Maryland would be in better shape if illegals were not supported by our tax dollars

Destructive nature of inequality.

Income disparity is a huge problem though. Rich are getting richer & poor are only just holding on.

GREAT IF YOUR INCOME IS \$500K plus/year; not so for the 70+% below that. Healthcare, living, housing, expenses increasing, salaries not matching the rise. Economic inequality expanding exponentially.

See above answer--uber rich -great, financially challenged--serious problems

Lack of fair wage jobs; increased cost of living. Inability to save for retirement. High cost of post-secondary education.

There are so many areas in our Country that are not well off.

Still a huge disparity between social groups.

The continued emphasis on low taxes causes inevitable under funding of many systems - healthcare, environment, education, public transport/mass transit. The pertains to local, state and federal governments

We are subsisting on Social Security disability. We are about to lose our house. There is no savings. Interest rates are rising as are consumer goods prices.

Wildly unequal distributions of income and of wealth.

overall I'm guessing most states are good but realize there is major loss of jobs in some states such as Michigan, and so on. Lack of environmental protection and repairs to old pipes and other structures like bridges, etc are impacting states.

Too much poverty

The USA which could be the richest country with all our natural resources is in serious and ever increasing debt and not working to pay off the debt but to just keep borrowing and spending.

The County and Maryland are stagnant; a go along, get along strategy, if you can call it a strategy. If you were the good fairy and awoke Hogan or Schuh in the middle of the night and asked them what their major priority is; both world babble on about "doing better, governing smarter, etc." but no specific program and no vision, thus, no programs. Trump is an idiot, sadly!!

too much public debt, too much spending, high taxes

Must bring middle class jobs back.

Anne Arundel has gotten top-heavy, leaving middle and lower income families scrambling and anxious.

Income distribution and violence remain problems throughout

Trump needs to stop his tweets and get on with being President

We rely too much on government as the economic engine in the county and state. We are still in recovery mode nationally.

Too many people living in poverty.

Economic inequality. Lack of investment in the future, specifically in health, education, infrastructure. Tax cuts that inhibit investment. Too much military spending.
State is too reliant on federal government

Appendix 6: Gun Questions - Open-Ended Comments

Giving a gun to some of the teachers would be like giving a gun to a 3 year old.

We can't even staff the streets with officers let alone staff all schools with them. And with all of the growth in this county the numbers of police officers employed here is appalling.

Proliferation of military style weapons is not very well managed.

The solution is reasonable gun regulation, not arming teachers and turning schools into forts.

Mandatory sentences only, no pleas.

The 2nd amendment was written to control and place fear in GOVERNMENT EXCESS

No one needs assault rifle to hunt. There is no reason they should be allowed except with military or law enforcement. They should be confiscated from everyone else.

Why do we need guns, too many in Baltimore city, killing one another the parents of DACA

Maryland should do this & not wait for Federal policy to change

As a former teacher and administrator there is no way I would ever carry a gun.

Congress must refuse contributions from the NRA in order to break the stranglehold they have on our lawmakers. Citizens can exercise their second amendment rights without high-capacity assault-style military weapons. The right to live must supersede the right to own these dangerous weapons.

There's a difference in your statement of allowing teachers to carry guns and arming a qualified teacher to do so. We do not need all teachers to carry guns; that is an absurd statement and smacks of a liberal bias.

Guns are not the problem. Our society is the problem. All the gun control legislation MD has passed and it didn't stop that kid in southern MD from killing. A good guy with a gun stopped the killing.

change Supreme Court make-up so 2nd Amendment 'A well regulated Militia, being necessary.. 'is recognized as not freedom to anyone to own guns

Mandatory minimums is a dangerous policy. In the abstract, quite attractive. In the reality, too high and too inflexible. Judges must be allowed discretion.

So many issues were missed in Texas shooting. Stop being afraid of targeting someone who needs mental health help.

Ban assault weapons is a must, no reason to own them. They are not used for hunting

The minimum standards for sentencing for gun related crime I am concerned over true equity of sentencing

We need to look for mentally ill people more diligently and have a clear place to report concerns where there will be an immediate response. I believe a specific task force for this would be better than the general police.

I don't like mandatory sentencing. I like the courts & judges to have the option of applying the law as they see fit. It is important to have judges who actually follow the law and not make their own.

mental health is more of a problem and contributor to deaths when guns are used than the actual gun.

We need to address the amount of guns available in this country. If guns were not so readily available I truly believe the amount of gun violence would decrease.

I believe in the right to bear arms; however, a gun that has been designed for warfare should not be accessible for anyone but military personnel.

Gun control is not the issue. If guns had never been invented, people will still find a way to lash out and hurt other people by other means--perhaps with chemicals. The underlying issue is that those who feel wronged don't have the emotional maturity or the understanding of how to cope with major emotional issues and seek for justice or revenge. Generally it is a lack of understanding of what life is REALLY all about.

This needs to change.

I have grandkids in AACPS. Of course I am concerned. None of the proposed restrictions would have prevented the tragedies. Armed school resource officers that DO THEIR JOB, might have. I grew up in a home with firearms. Always locked & we were taught safety & respect.

I have mixed feelings with what should be done in the schools to protect the students. I believe there is no way to stop a mentally disturbed individual in all ways.

Just enforce all the laws we now have.

The NRA should not be allowed to dominate gun-control legislation.

end 2nd amendment right - require license, training, background check, gun registration for all gun owners - outlaw all automatic/assault type personal gun ownership- turn the 'right' into a licensed, regulated 'privilege'

I do not want teachers to be in a position of guarding the children with a gun.

No laws will prevent people from getting what they want. Has not worked drugs. Prohibition did not last or work gun control laws will not work either without much harsher penalties including death sentences

This would have to be with bias regarding the crime and location of crime. For example, those in higher socioeconomic backgrounds should not have lighter sentences.

Many of the proposal to keep students safe IN school means they cannot go OUTSIDE for sports, recess, drills, etc. Too many police are unfamiliar with students with special needs and over-react to their crisis situation, not to mention the unstable police officers I've met in general.

This country has gone insane over the right to bear arms, a misinterpretation of the 2nd amendment.

Guns are not the problem. People are the problem. However, protection from the behavior of these mentally ill, evil people is necessary. Training, preparation and other means to prevent incidents are required.

I work in a DCPS school and we have to go through metal detectors. When I worked in a tougher DCPS school we had armed police officers permanently assigned to the school.

More guns is not the solution!

Answered unsure on several items because hard to judge without some idea of details.

MAXIMUM!

GUNS don't kill people; PEOPLE kill people!

Taking guns away from law abiding citizens does not stop a criminal. In fact it is the opposite. Should we ban fire detectors because we have a fire department???

Was surprised when one of the students at March for Life announced how much \$ Marco Rubio had received from NRA. But is \$ contributed by PAC from NRA also available. Need transparency as to \$ source because that shows who the politician will be working for/with.

I am a gun owner/collector (2 rifles 1 pistol) and am a combat veteran (Vietnam). IMHO there is no place in a civilized society for functioning assault style or semi-automatic weapons. Our schools do need heightened security measures starting with metal detectors and 100% compliance with entrance/egress

There are enough gun laws already.

RE: minimum sentences - it depends on the circumstances

Teachers need to teach.

Only if teachers want to carry and it has to be secured.

Guns are not the problem. I attended school in an era whereby fellas had their guns in their vehicles for hunting before and after school. Boys carried pocket knives. The difference is there were morals and respect for human life. Where is the outcry and questions about the decline in the perceived value of human life?

I absolutely do not want teachers carrying guns - very scary and so many risks that outweigh the benefits. I have mixed feelings of armed police at schools - it creates a militant environment for students which can be intimidating. But better security at all schools should be done.

Much can be done without infringing on second amendment.

We have plenty of laws already but they are loosely enforced by liberal judges. Democrats have a HORRIBLE record in this area. They are soft on crime. They want to interfere with the Second Amendment which they have no right to do. It was already debated by the Founding Fathers. The case is closed and the Second Amendment is here to stay.

I believe allowing teachers to carry guns will help because schools are now a soft target, an easy mark for someone who is unhinged. I would not mind if volunteers such as retired police or police who are retired or work part time but can volunteer for a few hours a week were used to beef up school security. Mandatory minimums almost always end up in bad sentencing, with no leeway for actual judgement on the part of judges.

The key to "a national ban on assault style weapons" is properly defining those weapons. Appearance should not be a part of it; capability of rapidly firing (semiautomatic or automatic) a large number (more than about 5) of rounds should be. I disapprove of mandatory minimum sentences in general, because they remove any flexibility for the judge to consider the circumstances of the individual case.

Criminals don't obey laws. Adding more gun laws which harass law abiding citizens accomplishes nothing. 100% security is not possible, in schools or against terrorists - that's the reality no matter how many marches are held. BETTER QUESTIONS => Why are these kids killing each other? What are they being TAUGHT or NOT BEING TAUGHT that may be causing this BLACK HOLE inside of some of them that they will come and kill their classmates?

I would say 80% of the gun crimes are done by stolen guns, so gun control laws don't help. It's like castration yourself because your neighbor have too many kids. The criminals are going through commit the crime no matter what.

Such proposals only apply to law abiding citizens. When are we going to address the core issues. Like properly sharing mental health records with the national background check data base.

One size doesn't fit all. It is the job of elected officials to analyze and address problems in a thoughtful fashion and explain how and why a program will work. Who has any idea what the County Executive or Annapolis Mayor actually want to do and how they plan on accomplishing it - same for our Governor - all talk and no leadership!! they can't seem to even work with their legislative bodies!!

Passing a test to demonstrator knowledge before being allowed to exercise your constitutional is unacceptable and reminds me too much of the time in our countries history where some state used knowledge tests to disenfranchise voters. How can we expect the federal gov to ban assault weapons when they can't even agree on the definition of assault weapon and many of them have bare minimal gun knowledge. Teachers who are trained and willing should be allowed to conceal carry but no one should know who is carrying and who is not

A mass shooting could occur or some one could run down students with a car. Either one is possible. Could it happen. Maybe. Maybe not. Answer the question of how many students are killed each year in car accidents verses shootings.

And take the ability for a judge to reduce sentence away, only can increase sentence

Common sense would help with no special interests involved but public safety

the 2nd amendment is as important as the other amendments. It enables them. Guns aren't about hunting they are about liberty. Look at the tyrants and dictators in history who imposed gun control

I'm not sure training would help.

Metal detectors would help but not stop all attacks.

Maryland needs to maintain strong gun control laws.

Passing laws and mandating requirements doesn't change a criminal mind. I know MANY folks who own guns who would never dream of pointing that gun at a human. We have to change hearts and minds, not laws. We can NEVER have enough laws to legislate morality. It will only confine the people who already follow the laws. It will have no effect on the lawless or the mentally disturbed.

Allowing to teachers to carry only after extreme vetting

The second amendment states: "A well regulated militia."

Appendix 7: Other National Issues - Open-Ended Comments

Infrastructure has enough funding -- just need to do it right the first time.....

The new tax plan hurts Marylanders due to our higher state taxes

The tax plan was grossly irresponsible financial policy and a theft by Republican political donors from the middle class and the neediest in our society.

I have no confidence in the president.

Support DACA and against tariffs

Why don't the illegals file for citizenship, then apply for welfare

The tax plan will benefit us personally but not most people or the country.

DACA relief ONLY if accompanied by enhance Border Security

Trump is shirking his responsibility to protect American democracy by refusing to set up safeguards to protect our elections from future Russian meddling. The Republican tax plan is a gift to the wealthy and will only exasperate the economic divide in this country. We desperately need infrastructure improvements. If this requires an increase in the gas tax, so be it. Trump's war on immigrants, including DACA children, is deplorable. President Trump's tariffs will cause future economic problems that will have a disproportionate impact on those already struggling financially.

Do something for DACA children, but end the program and reestablish our immigrant requirements

tariffs may save some jobs but not good for economy as a whole

25cent gas tax in a state that has one of the highest taxes on gas already, is absurd.

Illegal means illegal, and, unfortunately, the parents of DACA children made a really bad choice for their children. That decision has already taught them a lack of respect for our laws and an entitlement attitude for our resources.

Our national government is totally screwed up

All those who are illegals who have broken the law should be deported

most Americans are too fixated on social media to know when they are being manipulated, so it was easy for the Russians, but it has been easy for anyone who wants to use social media that way. Illegal means illegal, what's hard to understand about that. Stop with the emotions and deal with the facts - they cost us money and not many of them really contribute to paying their fair share.

DACA should have been signed already as it was presented. Tax relief benefits everyone a little right now but the 1% over time are saving far more. The economy did not need this tax break, Trump wanted it. Russians are long overdue for heavier sanctions.

Russia has always meddled. much ado about nothing. DACA children should apply for legal status, tariffs are a double edged sword

DACCA children should remain but the wall should be built and chain migration stopped.

gas tax increase has not happened in years so should probably be raised but 25 cents is a big chunk of change

How can you hold children hostage for a wall, budget cuts, arrogance.

Children brought here illegally should be allowed to be legal residents, but not citizens, and not be allowed to vote.

Trump couldn't even hold onto his own businesses without the help of his father, multiple banks and short changing those who worked for him. I feel he did not truly win the election, but has benefit from the actions of outside influences. Whether he knew about these actions or not, he is still should not be in office.

I have mixed opinions on all of these topics

Our last Pres, sure meddled in foreign elections; too soon to analyze the new tax changes on me; It's time to rethink federal gas taxes - all cars, including electric and Prius type, should pay the same; find another source of funds for bike lanes, etc.; Washington made the problem and now they want to do nothing...as usual; the tariff problem is over my pay grade to try and figure out.

America First!

Illegal immigrants and underage minors should go. Innocent children who are now adults and grew up here, should stay.

FYI: Your last question "President Trump's tariffs" is phrased with bias. Careful how you word your questions. we already pay very high taxes on gas. Why are taxpayers being asked to pay more taxes for infrastructures when Corporations received huge tax breaks. Why aren't corporations paying more of their fair share to maintain infrastructures in the US?

DACA- deport those with criminal records. Provide a path forward to citizenship to those who are productive members of society.

There is PLENTY of money already in the system for both infrastructure and education but corrupt politicians frequently use that money for other things. Enough! They don't deserve a penny more.

In the past when taxes were reduced more money flowed into the private sector and more jobs were created. The government has been steadily expanding for many decades and it has not solved the problems it was thought it would.

Gas and consumption taxes are regressive. We should add more tax brackets at the upper levels, and do away with the SSI cap.

DACA children did not themselves do anything wrong; deporting them would make them the victims of misdemeanors committed by others.

Not supported by facts, here say is inadmissible

They can stay but no citizenship for legitimate DACA people (35 year olds are not children); they can earn green cards, no voting

I'm all for American products and obeying laws.

The DACA families should be kept together.

We need thoughtful analysis of problems that produce pragmatic solutions.

Many countries meddle in our elections. The tax cut meant we receive \$100 more each month.

Beware of unintended consequences

President Trump's ideas of DACA Deportation is truly inhumane and his tariffs goes against basic economic principals. Which cause me to wonder what type of business man was he.

Fair trade. Our leaders have negotiated some pretty bad trade deals.

Trump is a massive disaster and you can't trust anything he does or says

As long as you pay taxes and are improving the community in which you live, you should be permitted to stay.

Appendix 8: State and Local Issues - Open-Ended Comments

Parkland, open space, recreation area

Would be a great place for the Homeless.

Turn it back into a Mental Facility.

Sell it.

Anything that will not cause traffic issues. How about an open green space? There doesn't seem to be too much of that anymore in this county.

A park and wooded forest is better use of the property.

Pass recreational marijuana, stop putting minorities and low level drug offenders in jail.

That's going to be a hard one. Anyone interested in purchasing Crownsville faces asbestos removal costs.

Quality Business park with access to 97

I think major improvements to the area roads would need to be made to the area around Crownsville to be able to handle a stadium and hotels. The entire area is shut down by RenFest traffic, so that should be a consideration.

Reuse as mental health facility, too many homeless are roaming the streets ill

Health care mandate only if affordable decent health care is available

Mass transit needs improvement but don't think MagLev is the solution.

The Crownsville hospital location should be developed to better serve the citizens of this area without destroying the watershed and wildlife/environmental treasures. The fire house needs to be moved from Herald Harbor to this more centrally-located area. An additional school, which our county sorely needs, could be built. The area could also be used as a treatment center for veterans and individuals suffering from opioid addictions. A museum documenting the history of the Crownsville Hospital would also be an appropriate and respectful addition. The fairgrounds serve the entire county, and the hospital ground houses the Anne Arundel County Food Bank and the Chrysalis House, which provides addiction treatment to women and their children. These important facilities should not be displaced for the Bayhawks proposed development, which are unnecessary and unwanted.

The Bayhawks proposal is the worst idea. With so few public lands left, we need parks.

keep the rural nature of the area. People choose to live on this side of the river for a reason. We do not need another Ritchie hwy corridor

Tear down the buildings and let it grow wild so we have more trees for cleaning and producing better quality air. Put some paths for use by hikers, bikers, horseback riders, etc. Maybe add some picnic tables, maybe even tent sites and just let it be. I believe it attaches to other forests which could be incorporated at a later date for more trails. We don't need the extra pavement and buildings. Our County literally stinks when you come back from other, cleaner states. I didn't realize how bad it is until I went on vacation last Summer in New Hampshire and came back to a return of migraines, sinus problems and coughing which had disappeared while vacationing. I hear of more and more cancer cases as well, many of which I believe are environmental. Building the MagLev train would only benefit those who can afford to ride it and that is not me! Employers should be free to make arrangements with their employees. Forcing healthcare is a mistake. Instead work toward cross state line insurance competition.

our schools don't focus on the basics. our children don't learn how to think but they do learn how to emote. most graduating seniors don't have a clue about basic civics but they have written an essay on what it would like to be LGBTQ

Will cause congestion in the area.

Crownsville should be open to drug and alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, and nonprofit groups that will preserve and care for the environment.

Demolish all of the buildings and use the recycled materials for future educational and recreational uses.
Don't know much about MagLev - but I see signs on people's property against it; The emphasis on politically correct social behavior over actual education is a problem everywhere in public schools
Open space, parks, walking and biking paths, museum related to the old Crownsville hospital.
Current usage is appropriate. Bayhawks' proposal would unfavorably affect surrounding residential areas.
ALL county public schools do not do a good job - depends on poverty level of students
It's hard to make an assessment about police officer salaries and teacher salaries without really knowing what they make and what benefits they receive. I often hear "teachers are not fairly compensated" but no actual figures are given, or only averages are given. Also, why is it that laws regarding sick -leave only apply to businesses with a certain number of employees? It should apply to all or none. It implies that this regulation would be too costly for certain employers, which means it is bad for all businesses.
more support for medical marijuana and study whether it is effective for treating opioid addiction, it would be great if Crownsville could attract a science/tech research center
Center for the arts, sciences and other educational opportunities that would provide internships and exposure to real job experiences for students (high school and college). Include focus on agriculture and sustainable energy development, implementation and usage.
Terrible question about police being "professional and "free" from corruption. There are problems in any police force. If you say disagree or agree, that is likely untrue. Saying "unsure, don't know" is a negative. Dislike the wording of this question.
I was part of the Odenton Small Area Planning Committee years ago that made many recommendations to the county. One major recommendation was to provide more sports fields as the population was growing yet very few facilities were added. Crownsville would be an ideal location for sports facility or even a High School facility rather than taking Papa John's farm land.
I remember when, what is now known as the Bowie Bay, wanted to move there and it was voted down. So, here we go again. I see no reason for hotels or commercial. I originally thought that Maryland State Government who owns most of the property should vacate downtown Annapolis as more office space is needed. What would be wrong to have a park in that area?
Too damn much development already! Stop it!
If someone cannot afford insurance, they probably can't pay a fine. Police have a hard job. I am sure there are some that are not so honest. But I don't personally know any bad officers. I live in Chesapeake school district and love OUR schools. they are very much supported by the community. It might not be the same elsewhere. What does the county need? We don't NEED a stadium, but probably need affordable housing, or a homeless shelter? domestic violence shelter?
consider uses that emphasize open space. maybe a medical office park . I don't see residential development of any level without horrible traffic and environmental issues
Affordable housing.
I'm open. Don't think we need another shopping center though.
The land should not be used for anything that will increase traffic or draw in people from outside of the community
Most of our high school graduates cannot even take college algebra without taking noncredit math courses. Our schools will do almost anything to pass children to get their federal funding. They don't care if they are actually educated. Can't spell, can't write.
Reasonable cost housing for teachers
Maglev is too costly and it's service too limited. Why is it being pushed here in Maryland??? We don't need any more stadiums in Maryland? Why not a nice community park and center in Crownsville instead? why not fields for lacrosse, soccer, etc. that can be shared for multiple sports?
Use for parks and recreation facilities for public use.

Of course, no police force is 100% corruption-free BUT I feel it is close enough for "Agree".

There must be plenty of nonprofits that could use that location, but it would cost a lot to upgrade those buildings that haven't been maintained.

Not sure but it needs to be dealt with. If the Bayhawks can prove the character of the area will not change, I am willing to consider their LAN.

Police need to be paid well. They are so disrespected and nobody follow laws a more.

The Crownsville hospital property poses one major issue for me. Our surrounding infrastructure would need substantial changes/upgrades to handle ANY idea that bring more people to and from this location. Generals Highway is already overwhelmed with traffic on a daily basis.

One of our major problems for citizens is the lack of good newspaper coverage in some detail of the state, county, and Annapolis government!! I am willing to bet very few people can explain the Crownsville hospital site and it options. The Capital, Sun and Post don't cover Annapolis government or local issues well at all.

Teachers are overworked and underpaid. We expect too much of them. We focus too much on testing. There is too much bullying in our schools. Crownsville should become a mental health and addiction center so we can deal with the epidemic of heroin overdoses and the mental health crisis

Use the funds for the MagLev to build/improve roads, bridges and infrastructure. Also use funds to keep our roadways clean and free from debris.

The Crownsville hospital location should be saved as park land and not commercialized.

Growth is exceeding capacity of public services, infrastructure and services

throwing money at problems doesn't fix them

The Crownsville location needs to be used for providing shelter for our homeless and mentally ill citizens of our County.

Is the medical marijuana free from a high. If it is then I am for legalization.

Bayhawks proposal is a crock and a scam. Unsure about term limits but I think it might be time. Very opposed to land developers exploitation of public space

The county and state need to spend the money to remove the old hospital buildings and then redevelop the location for current mental health needs.

To be considered only when the existing lease expires.

University of Maryland should use it to open a new campus and expand.

Reopen it for mentally disturbed patients, or as a drug rehabilitation center.

We need to develop programs for mental health and use Crownsville as the State run facility that it was. WE DO NOT NEED ANOTHER STADIUM!!!

Drug rehab or other medical uses

Crownsville should be a renewable energy park, along with drug treatment. Respect historical areas.

Appendix 9: Opioid Crisis – Open-Ended Comments

Catch a dealer --- make him/her take the stuff --- no NARCAN to help them out.

Community should be allowed to carry and to be trained on how to deliver suboxone.

Why are we wasting taxpayer dollars and police officers time by having them use Narcan on these people only to have the junkies shoot up again? Have you ever inquired about how many times officers have responded to an overdose on the same person only to have them revived?

Need to do more, crack down on improper prescribing.

Penalize the dealers

More treatment centers and prevention programs

Need to do much more !

County services have long underserved those living with a mental illness. I don't begrudge funds being thrown into opioid crisis but families have been suffering through mental health crises for years. Let's get the new Pathways AAMC facility open and running now.

Physicians are over prescribing these dangerous drugs, urged on by drug manufacturers. In my opinion, this is a medical ethics issue. Remediation of this situation should include addressing the source of the crisis.

Prevention of the addiction would be a wise first step.

Not sure if there had been positive impact our not. If there is it hasn't been advertised. I feel like it's worse, but that could be because of all the current publicity about the crisis itself.

opioid crisis is tied to the expansion of Medicaid across the country. without peeling back the Medicaid payments to healthy individuals, the opioid crisis strategies will have little effect.

Greatly increase the availability of inpatient and outpatient treatment. Partner with academic institutions in research to improve treatment approaches. Create opportunities for recovering addicts - education and job programs, housing. And keep working on cutting the supply.

I think that addicts want to need help to be helped.

Faith based assistance is most effective

make all drug use legal as long as you register with the government. then once the addicts learn to come to the government facilities to get their fixes in a safe environment, the government can run programs to wean folks off of the drugs

Too soon to tell. At least the curtain has been opened.

Treatment, treatment & more treatment. Inpatient treatment coverage

More treatment centers. Better detection for over prescribing pill mills and penalties for doctors.

It raised awareness for non-users but has not helped users of drugs.

Better education for prescribers; OD antidote readily available.

Did Trump say he wants to put dealers to death?

Until inmates of African-American and Latino descent are released from jails and prisons for their non-violent drug offenses, I cannot fully support the different and disparate support of opioid users just because more of them are white and/or middle class. Do both.

I am not familiar enough with the programs to offer an informed opinion.

Hold prescribing physicians responsible.

I am worried that we are off on another government overreaction power increase based on overblown "crisis" rhetoric. I have benefited from opioid medicine during an illness and am grateful they were available to me.

Sometimes I think, are we really serious! The State is ready to give them another drug to smoke legally!

TERMINATE WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE all dealers! Stop Breast Feeding them!

Now that education & awareness have replaced a lot of ignorance & the stigma associated with drug addiction, I'm VERY hopeful that more & more resources will become available to rid people of their addiction, once & for all. I'm proud of our governor for his support for these programs.

Laws have to be enforced and criminals dealt with. Go after the pill manufacturers and distributors. Doctors have to be held liable.

Emphasis must be on prevention and access; once a person is addicted it is very very hard to reverse

Sorry, I'm just not aware although I realize it's a complicated problem

Need more cohesive treatment and more options for affordable medication assisted treatment (methadone, suboxone, vivitrol) that they can begin immediately. No wait time for appointments. Wait time = death.

I am a nurse but am not sure what these programs are doing or what influence they have. I care for patients every single week with substance abuse issues. Mental health facilities and programs in general are inadequate here in Maryland and across the country.

More severe sentences for drug dealers. Better treatment for edicts.

I have little faith in bloated government programs.

we also need to pressure the medical community to not be so free in prescribing opioid medications or not to prescribe so many pills without seeing the patient. When I had my knee operated on I was given a prescription for pain pills, when I read the dangers in the literature I used only two of the 40 pills, taking half a pill a day and icing the knee often. I safely disposed of the rest of the pills. I have a close friend who took lots of pain pills from a doctor after a badly injured leg and who later died of an overdoses of those prescription pills. I fell more like I don't care for this answer. It's a choice to take drugs hence if you want to kill you self because of it. Why save them.

we need a comprehensive federal, state, and local government teamwork; without such a program, the drug dealers from suppliers to dealers will continue to be more mobile and reactive than our law enforcement entities.

Go after the sources with more resources, rehab users, education

Fully legalize and regulate opioids

Because the good that the programs can do cannot make those who use take part of the program.

Hope the effort continues

Legalization of marijuana is nothing more than a stepping stone to stronger drugs. It is simply the fox guarding the hen house. If it a vital need for medical use, provide it under strict medical supervision, similar to out patient surgery where a patient needs a driver to get home. This is a mind altering drug and the smoke is as harmful if not more than cigarette smoke. We have an opioid crisis now, I can hardly imagine the adverse and harmful impact legalization of marijuana will add to this existing problem.

True addicts will not seek the programs.

I am happy to hear that the county is addressing the opioid crisis.

Appendix 10: Schuh Job Approval – Open-Ended Comments

Building permit halt should have occurred at the beginning of his term.
Have not seen much come out of his office or the county council, plus no one listens when problems are identified.
His leadership and proposals, to date, seem reasonable, and that's all you can ask.
He only cares about himself and his business partners.
Pro-developer, pro-Peroutka, dog whistle racism.
He is out of touch with regular people.
If allowed, development will be out of control
I strongly disagree with his pursuit of the 287 immigration plan that allows county law enforcement to cooperate with ICE to detain illegal immigrants, and also oppose his support for new development despite the costs
Overall yes, however very concerned with how much development is being allowed without dealing with APF
I disagree with almost all of his decisions and proposals
Kept Taxes low
He's been okay.
He is in the hands of developers and has agree to assist ICE by participating in 287g.
Not sure what he has done for our county.
He is too pro development.
He knows what he is doing. Keeping taxes in AA county lower than the surrounding counties
I have always liked Mr. Schuh but I haven't heard a lot about what he's done since he took office.
He is a businessman in a public service job. Makes him too tight with business interests.
Some of Schuh's plans are disagreeable to me.
His refusal to adequately fund the new library in Annapolis is symptomatic of his lack of concern for the people of the Annapolis area.
Better than the predecessor
AA Co improving, but the development along Marley Neck is awful
close ties to developers, Seems to want his way/not willing to negotiate for citizens best interest
Overall OK, some things I disagree with. Glad he is against the Crownsville Bayhawks stadium.
he's doing a fair job helping seniors
Doing a good job.
He is overly-concerned w/ commercial interest to the detriment of local residents.
Too tied to development...also not thrilled he actually supported Roy Moore (Alabama)
Has improved environment
Govt services working well/
COUNTY EXEC IS UNRESPONSIVE TO MIDDLE-LOWER INCOME RESIDENTS
Does not have any idea of the lives and challenges of the elderly and poor. He is tied to developers. his idea of tearing down high schools and making smaller ones is a waste of money. He does not care for the environment or the Bay.
support of schools and bay clean-up but too much development and traffic
His treatment of teachers and his willingness to build build build.
I have a general negative opinion of him, but can't quite put my finger on why.
Basically doing a good job, am concerned that he has become too willing to allow more growth in the county.

He has the emotional intelligence of a pea...

He is in cahoots with developers.

He seems to be listening to his constituents. He is definitely involved in community issues.

Erratic, too conservative.

too pro development

He doesn't believe in evolution. Enough said.

Mixed record on development limits

He is too big business, less supportive of environment and individuals

allows too much development--county is and will continue to decline in our quality of education--more of a commute to higher level jobs

don't know enough to say. Unfortunately these constituents don't send updates of what they do or don't do....

Socio/economic condition are fair at best in the county. Corruption is high. Education needs improvement.

Do not like his priorities or policies. He does not support more pay for teachers and he blames doctors for the opioid crisis.

He realizes the education budget must have limits! Shocking news!

I have little knowledge about his performance.

For the most part.

Schuh has done a good job as county executive.

county generally seems to function smoothly

Don't pay much attention.

He does not support our public school system, fire department and police.

He works hard, but not effectively. Every problem cannot be solved simply by economic analysis; the county is not an investment bank, any analysis is more complicated and requires a more humane and practical analysis.

He hasn't done anything bad so far.

He is orders of magnitude better than the democrats who have dominated the office

I approve of his performance, he has performed better than the one before him

Too much development; can be short or ill tempered

I haven't heard anything about him either positive or negative.

I don't feel I am up o the issues at this time.

He has every builder and developer in his back pocket. He is an asshole.

heard negative reports

He is not pro police/fire

He seems dishonest.

I think that things seem to be more transparent since he has taken the job.

Sadly, I don't hear much about Mr. Schuh.

Some don't like him because he is establishment and probably part of the development problem.

Inadequate funding for education, support of council chair Peroutka, participation in the 287g program with ICE while displaying ignorance about the immigration process and the struggles of immigrants.

Haven't heard anything negative about the job he is doing, which I take as a positive thing.

Pro-business, tries to communicate to public through newspapers & mailings

Appendix 11: Hogan Job Approval – Open-Ended Comments

He is trying, but has a real handicap with the House and Senate --- they are useless.
Although good in some areas, he still preaches a too GOP conservative approach on taxes, ifrastructure funding, etc.
No drama.
Seems to understand needs of the state
Transportation funding disadvantages minority areas.
He has promoted very little policy and is focused on politics instead.
He seems relatively moderate in his decisions
He isn't afraid of Baltimore leadership. He is angry and shows it and that's a welcomed sight to see after the pantywaists we have been used to dealing with.
Not enough concern for the Bay restoration
He seems reasonable, but it also held in check by the legislature being a Democratic party majority
In many areas where other governors are fighting back against imprudent federal policies, Hogan has largely remained mute.
He is an honest man who cares for the people
Despite being a republican I think he's doing a pretty good job.
Reduced Tolls
For a Republican in a Democratic state, he's done a good job on compromise and some resistance to Trump and his administration.
His performance is better than I expected but he is not facing up to major issues such as climate change.
Overall, I am pleased with the direction he is taking our state.
He has not stood up to President Trump.
He has done a good job reducing fees and taxes and spending less.
He provides coning sense solutions to problems and isn't afraid to step across party lines the interest of serving the people.
So long as he has to deal with a Democratic legislature, he will keep us on a bipartisan path.
Gov. Hogan has all Marylanders in mind with his decisions not just republicans
A moderate republican in Maryland - Maryland is too progressive
There are some good things and some not so good things
Moderate we'll thought out programs. Fiscally prudent
Frankly, he is too easily swayed by the legislature but we need term limits there for sure.
I wish he stood up to the Democrats a bit more but I guess he has no choice as they have a veto-proof majority
I often agree with governor even tho I'm not a Republican.
He has not jumped on Trump bandwagon. Did not approve fracking.
Admire his ability to make an independent decision
I think he is seeing the big picture and is able to focus on the details to work on what's best for Maryland
Believable and empathetic to all constituents.
Hogan has changed Maryland for the better
Moving economy forward, seems to have the best interests of citizens
Very partisan political reactions. I don't like that he won't come out against things like the current issues with DACA and gun control until he is almost forced into it.

isn't doing enough to help seniors we can't afford to live in Maryland after you retire
Governor Hogan has been one of our best leaders.
He is concerned w/ the welfare of the citizens of Maryland.
He is not as strong on conservation issues as I would like & is for stupid Maglev but he does OK with wanting to stabilize health care in the State.
Is a moderate who will compromise
Compromising with Democratic Majority in GA
GOVERNOR UNRESPONSIVE TO MIDDLE-LOWER INCOME RESIDENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM
He has done some things that surprise me positively.
Tries to balance state's constituency--bad marks on the rain tax
focus on issues not politics, but worry about impact of his health
He really needs to speak and listen to people who have hands on experience with the problems being face.
Take the school calendar as an example. Had he spoken with neighboring states who start school; after Labor Day, he would not have made the mistakes he did with the schedules in Maryland.
Outstanding governor
It must be difficult to be a Democrat in the legislature forced to oppose perfectly reasonable proposals of the governor out of despicable partisanship.
He is trying but is limited as to what he can do by the Legislature! I still remember how the Legislature hated slots, etc. when Erlich was Governor and as soon as O'Mally was elected, they loved them!
I think he is trying hard in a state that the Democrats have cut up into difficult districts to manage.
Erratic, too conservative.
Has the best interests of state at heart always - doesn't seem to be motivated by other concerns, ambitions
his department head appointees show his true colors
He doesn't stand behind the President
I'm pleased that he hasn't gotten extreme
He's doing better than I had feared.
Amazon tax break-MagLev plan
He is trying to get rid of the dirty deals and waste and lower our taxes. The Dems are criminals and should be removed.
although I am not a Republican and might not agree on everything, I think Hogan is doing a good job
Too much corruption. County ills are reflected at state level.
Willing to compromise.
He is way too much like a Democrat but he's the best we can hope for in this very radical Leftist state. Larry seems like a good guy whether I agree with all his views or not.
Even Democrats like what's he's done so far.
I have mixed opinions on various things the governor has done; some I approve of and others I disapprove of.
Got rid of the rain tax.
I like that he is trying to work on some bipartisan solutions at the moment.
Except for his firing of Paul Wiedefeld, Hogan has done a good job as governor.
He is informed of issues Marylanders care about, is proactive in suggesting reasonable/practical solutions to problems
I'm in the middle. Some things I agree with and some things I don't disagree.
His pro business position has brought businesses into MD. Supports our public employees and works to be bipartisan. He repealed the Rain Tax, invested in schools and is working on repairing many of our highways.

Moderate. Not afraid to disagree with President Trump.

The Governor's program appears to be anti-O'Malley, not a bad program if there were any positive programs, but simple, none responsive programs aren't moving the State forward!!

Hogan is doing a great job even tho Busch and Miller do everything they can to thwart him

He seems fair and balanced. He is professional and is working hard to move this state forward.

He is better than the alternative.

Uncommon common sense approach

He is orders of magnitude better than the democrats who have dominated the office

He has been insightful about the needs of our State from Education to infrastructure

A nice version of Gov. Ehrlich; injects politics in everything

The man has had very little effect as Governor and his habit of jumping on the wing side of an issue after his own compromise positions fail is grating.

I don't feel I am up o the issues at this time.

Love Larry! He is doing the best he can given that MD is unfortunately overrun with Dems who even if he wants something good to pass, they fail it just because they are assholes.

he is biased against the city and doesn't understand it or its people

I like his non-partisan approach

Generally he has been progressive.

I approve because he is doing his best to improve the drug problem, increase employment and looking out for our citizens.

I applaud his efforts to lower MD. taxes and encourage business growth. Wish he would make it a state friendlier for retirees!!

Just love this man!

Elimination of the Baltimore red line. Did not speak out against Trump's immigration policies. Has implemented some Democrat policies, but usually only when politically advantageous.

Haven't heard anything terribly negative about the job he is doing, which I take as a positive thing.

tries to bring in more corporations to create more jobs.

Appendix 12: Trump Job Approval – Open-Ended Comments

He is trying --- but again --- the House, Senate, and the News Media is against everything.....

Making a laughing stock out of our country and democracy. Going to get us into war.

he is a disaster to the Presidency. He changes his mind on issues dependent on who he talked to last.

Not trustworthy, thinks his opinion is the only one that is right, no respect for women, liar

Where do I start? He's brash, lacks morals, and has no class.

Unfit to be president. Should be impeached for all if the Russian dealings, his abuse/disrespect of women

Corrupt, incompetent racist, attacking democracy and threatening world peace.

Today?? Threatening to veto omnibus budget agreement. Saying what a bad deal it was after he signed it. I'll have new ones tomorrow, and yesterday's were different too.

He is soul-less, vindictive, only cares about himself, doesn't educate himself regarding important matters that affect us all, erratic, loves chaos, contributes nothing positive to us or the world

Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.

He seems to be actively working against the wishes of the American public

Blustrious land developer. No interest in actual governing

It is impossible to list all of the failings, both domestically and internationally, of this irrational, narcissistic, pathologically lying, cruel, intellectually incurious, racist, sexist, impetuous, foolhardy, egotistical, chaotic man.

Totally disapprove, he is the worst in history. He is corrupt and cares more about his business than our country. IMPEACH

If he'd come in and did a Roosevelt by having re-education camps for these kids who have grown up or are growing up with no discipline or compassion or morals instead of trying to lock everyone up/death penalty so he can put money in his friends pockets, I might respect him and support him, but he lacks decency & sense & values.

Too many to list

I've never seen a president treated so disrespectful, it takes away from him to govern Hillary needs to realize she lost and move on

Putting the USA in danger and he is too erratic and ignorant of issues and their repercussions

He's inexperienced in government, moving too quickly on major legislative changes and is an idiot. I'm being nice.

Unpredictable

New Tax Cuts !

You don't have a big enough text box to list all my comments. Trump is a weekly reality show. He's a bully, unintelligent, has no respect for protocol and procedure. He's unethical and immoral and lies.

I cannot think of one thing I could approve of. The only positive thing about his performance is that it has activated people to come out and stand up for what they believe in.

Doesn't support the constitution

Trump has been a disaster for our country and needs to be removed from office.

What a disaster! He has damaged the foundational elements of our democracy.

I approve for the most part what he is trying to do but the democrats and their dirty tricks are obstructing his progress.

He is unfit for the office of the President.

He is pragmatic and not a politician.

A danger and a disgrace. This guy is going to get us into a war, and we will have no friends with whom to fight it. And domestically he is screwing the very people who voted for him.

He is trying to drain the swamp so it is not business as usual which isn't working i.e. the current spending bill before congress.

while I may not like him personally he is shaking the status quo up - about darn time

He has no respect for others and no morals.

He is not representing the country only his and his family's best interests

He is out of control not suited for job. A disgrace.

In general, I feel safer and I am happy he supports our military. He is fighting an uphill battle to drive down cost but if he had the support of Congress, things would improve dramatically. His policies have helped the economy greatly.

while his style is not in the presidential mode we have seen in the past, he does love America and does speak for the common man - something that most every other elected official really does not do. he is working to improve the economy for both short and one term. wish that Ryan & McConnell would be more cooperative with him to achieve his agenda.

The President is a man who thinks only of himself. He is a liar and I don't trust him.

This man lies. He is not worthy to be president. He is an incurious, ignorant, narcissistic bully.

His personal problems are affecting our country's advancement.

I am scared of him. I know narcissism when I see it. He MUST feed his ego at any expense

DISAPPROVE!!! IN EVERY WAY!!!

This chaotic presidency is a huge threat to our country.

Narcissistic incompetent

Approve more than disapprove, but the instability makes me nervous

odd fellow

Complete failure. Sad.

doing a great job if they would allow him to do what he was elected to do

This man deserves to be Impeached.

He is divisive, arrogant and reckless. I'm embarrassed to have him representing the U. S.

Even if I did not disagree with nearly all of his policies I would be concerned about the chaos that surrounds his presidency. He is dangerously soft on Russia and does not have the temperament, knowledge, or intellect to be the president.

Says what he wants to say without being politically correct without any real solutions

Arrogant, pompous, unstable, misogynistic

HE IS A LYING, RACIST, MISOGYNIST, UNQUALIFIED, MENTALLY UNSTABLE CRIMINAL AND IMMORAL MAN

The man is a narcissistic, unknowledgeable egomaniac only concerned with what's good for him, not the country.

Plainly he thinks he can run the whole government on his own without advice from anyone. He is used to hiring and firing at whim in a small company. He does not read. He does not know how a government worked - Justice Dept., Congress. He wants to do it his own way. It is hateful that he is destroying America. Maybe we need a wall at the beginning of the Chesapeake Bay.

You've got to be kidding!

trade war, rising tension with North Korea, rising debt, no steps to prevent Russian meddling

He doesn't appear to know what he is doing and cares more about his ego than his country.

If I could find a vomit emoji, I would enter it here. I have been marching, protesting, writing letters and signing petitions. This buffoon has to go before he completely destroys our country. Pence, Sessions, Ryan, McConnell et al need to go as well. This is where term limits are REALLY needed.

These out-of-touch white men have no idea of the realities of most people, especially people of color.

Making great progress in correcting the corruption from the Obama years in office.

He appointed a promising Supreme Court justice and got a tax cut passed. He seems intent on improving our military, long overdue. I wish he would ditch his twitter account. I am also worried about his venture into protectionism. For the moment, though, since that hurts China the most dangerous dictatorship on earth, it's probably a good thing.

He's an idiot who is undermining all our wonderful government institutions and making the rich richer...

I approve of his policies. I disapprove of his style and personal behavior.

He is using the office to enrich himself, his family and his friends. His only agenda is to undo all the good Obama tried to do for the world and its people.

Trump is a disgrace. Hogan principled. Schubert is arrogant over impressed by self.

I love that he stands up for the forgotten Americans and there are many. I've heard many elected officials, praise the people that cross our borders, they are given many monies to live and our own people are the forgotten ones. Also, people brought to our Country and our States and our people are not even told of them or where they were located, too! Our President want Americans to be helped first!

I agree with SOME of the issues he's taken a stand on, but there's a lot of things about him I DON'T like. But we must remember, he was NOT a politician going into this election- he was a businessman. And they can be VERY gruff & headstrong, as he has proven he IS.

I approve of his trying to do good. I think that his opposition is going after him harder than anyone has ever went after a President before. If a previous president would have passed the tax bill that he passed, he would have been a hero. He does what politicians are scared to do. He does what things or tries to do things that I would like to see done. Immigration, the illegal immigrants came here illegally and are therefore criminals. PERIOD. I am second generation of my family born in USA. I am proud to say that they came through Ellis Island, LEGALLY. Why won't they come legally?? It is a law.

Totally insane.

Don't think he has any concept of the complexity of what he's asked to do, and doesn't want to know he is a disgrace to our nation

He is not a successful businessman. Never was. He lies every time he speaks. He has absolutely no idea how our democracy works. He & his cronies (AKA the Cabinet) think the government is their cash cow. His deregulation is pushing back all environmental progress. He is venal & crass. He & Bolton will "lead" us into war if Congress doesn't check them.

Getting the economy moving

He doesn't know what he's doing, doesn't care, is corrupt and downright disgusting!

Total wacko!

He is inept, unqualified and mentally unstable

said he wasn't like the politicians but seems to be like them in siding with big corporations

He is making America Great Again. Bringing back manufacturing lowering taxes. He is going to Lock her up along with 44.

He is not afraid to put America and Americans first.

Trump is a disgrace. So far his promises are two edged swords and hypocritical. Again, average citizens are left dealing with issues affecting our infrastructures and public services r]to our country. He chose Betsy DeVos to head our Dept. of Education. A terrible person to be heading our educational system in the USA

Too much corruption at the federal level.

Not enough room to list all my complaints about him! I oppose things he wants (the Wall, lower taxes for businesses) and support things he doesn't want (DACA, the Affordable Care Act), and I do not like his treatment of women or his general bullying behavior. I could go on.

Although far from perfect, he is a President that LOVES HIS COUNTRY FIRST. It's refreshing after suffering through the last guy who I believe was the first President in history to NOT love his country. Yes, I am speaking of that traitor socialist Obama.

Clearly incompetent, never listens to anyone who doesn't agree with him, and his whole Cabinet is unqualified for their positions.

He is trying to fulfill the promises that he ran on. He is trying to secure the border, strengthen the military and not make every issue in the national a cause for more federal spending.

Trump is a corrupt, inarticulate, nepotistic, ineffectual, narcissistic buffoon who can't keep a single idea in his head longer than it takes for someone with a competing one to talk to him. His cabinet appointees seem to be selected on the basis of their ability to dismantle the departments they are chosen to lead, and he seems to be convinced that government exist to enrich and uphold him, and that government employee's deepest loyalties should be to him, personally, rather than the Constitution they and he swore to uphold. He seems mostly determined to completely overturn everything President Obama enacted, to the detriment of the economy and national security. He has encouraged the very worst of us to spread their racism and hate, and has diminished our standing as a world leader.

Any one of Trump's dishonesty, incompetence, racism, and narcissism should have disqualified him from holding any office, let alone the Presidency.

He has provided tax relief, and economic growth.

He is taking us backward and setting a bad example for young people.

Trump is a complete disaster as president and needs to be impeached and convicted.

Divisive, uninformed, childish

Honesty, he trying to have America have balls again.

He is put America first. Taxes, immigration and boosting confidence in the business sector are already benefiting average Americans.

Where to start. Just terrible...and I'm a moderate independent.

Ego and ignorance is not a combination that produces thoughtful and effective programs.

He may be a loud mouth blowhard who needs to stay off twitter but he is fulfilling his campaign promises and trying to bring jobs back to America. and I really don't care what he did with some porn star years ago.

He seems to lack the professionalism, compassion, vision or intelligence needed for this position.

He is addressing the nation's problems.

He's trying, although, unorthodox. Very few will give him a chance. Too much BS with Russia meddling and other issues before he was president. Let him do his job

Ignorant of constitution and USA values. (Is this a test?)

He is orders of magnitude better than the democrats who have dominated the office

Needs to stay off twitter

There is not enough room for me to explain how unhappy I am with this President. However I will say that citizens should use their power to vote by truly researching the candidate and it should be mandated that a candidate has served at least two terms in either the House or the Senate.

Inept, rude and reactionary. Very damaging to the United States

His violations of the emoluments clause, the string of sexual assaults, nepotism, racism, authoritarian tendencies, business ties to Russian oligarchs

Created an atmosphere of hate and distrust for the country.

Because he is working hard to get the US back to the powerhouse we were.

megalomaniac lying narcissist, unspeakably stupid fascist bringing corruption and nepotism to job he doesn't understand

Stop tweeting and do your job

He's a putz - unqualified and ill equipped for the job.

He is willfully ignorant, has not appointed competent staff, and is hurting the presidency by his boorish behavior.

I feel that he is doing a good job and would do a better job if he were left to do it.

Though this is not a Yes/No issue, overall I approve of his decisions to grown the economy, to promote jobs.

Would love to see less welfare and less spending waste.

I can't stand his PR tactics but he is getting things stirred up and making positive impacts. Truly do not like the man.

Good grief! His ignorance and constant lying. His disastrous cabinet choices. Withdrawing from TPP and Paris climate agreement. His cruel anti-immigrant policies. Anti-public education, deregulation of consumer and environmental protections. Frightening potential foreign policy adventures. Isolationism and of course the Russia problem.

He embarrasses the U.S., his economic policies could ruin the country, his moral depravity is epic, and he can't keep a cabinet or employ qualified people.

Works hard, tax cuts

Appendix 13: Explain Vote for Governor – Open-Ended Comments

Democrats exercise complete control of the legislature so it is extremely important to have a republican governor.

Maryland economy

Location of the 3rd bay bridge. Willingness to raise some taxes to fund essential programs.

Vote for business man not politician

Making sure they will make correct choices for the state

Hogan is too pro business at the expense of ordinary Marylanders.

Larry Hogan is bad for the state, bad for education.

I vote the man, not the party.

Done with democrats

control overspending democrats

We need more Democratic governors across the country to counterbalance the GOP control at the federal level.

Fair and balanced and surrounded by good people

When incumbent is doing well, hard to put out of office, even if I love what rushern baker is doing for of county.

Position on MAGLEV train, DACA, and crime

He has been good for Maryland

I think he is reasonable, hardworking and committed to the good of his state and country

stay honest

Hogan seems to be a moderate with common sense

Tax & Toll Policies are great

The governor neglects Baltimore and its most needy citizens.

No. Hogan is doing a good job

We will see how things work out.

his record

Doing a great job. Deserves to continue.

Although I am strongly opposed to President Trump, I have been impressed with Governor Hogan's willingness to go against Trump when it better serves the citizens of Maryland. Therefore, I do not believe a vote for Hogan represents support for Trump.

Democrats have been in charge of the Maryland legislature since 1907. It's time for a change and rid ourselves of a "speaker of the house" for life as well as the president of the state senate

The state of the state.

None that I can think of.

Common sense

he is doing a good job, regardless of what is occurring in Washington

No decent Democrat candidate

performance

taxes, development, environment, traffic

Democrats tend to be off the deep end.

Hogan is good only for wealthy Marylanders

We need the best governor for the state.

I will vote for the candidate who has a platform as close to my ideals as possible

He is doing a great job.

Fiscal leadership and program

I would like someone more conservative since Larry Hogan is really a Rhino

democrats burn money and put non-citizens first above those who are citizens and pay the bills. Republicans at least try to make the right choices for the citizens of the state.

Although I don't tend to support the Republican ticket we need a viable Democratic candidate.

Environment

He is working for Maryland

Democracy

HOGAN'S OVERALL GOVERNING PHILOSOPHY.

Party affiliation

Competency

Depends if any republican runs against him

He has done a good job so far.

Stood up to Board of Education

I would wait to see further what Gov. Hogan has in mind and whether I like another candidate or party.

yes, many--rain tax for one, gambling, for another

No

I'd just like someone to lower my taxes and govern with common sense.

He is honest and I trust him.

Don't like Democratic Party

I would like Hogan to further distance himself from Trump

If they support tighter gun legislation

Worked as a state employee under democratic party and was given days off without pay and no raise for 3 years to pay for their agenda.

Hogan's executive action mandating the school calendar. His decision not to use funds earmarked for school infrastructure.

the overall economy in Maryland as influenced by population, education and sustainable energy

Governor Hogan talks a good game sometimes, but he's just another Republican stooge.

Governor Hogan has proven he cares about all the people in this state.

Hogan is doing a great job, what else is there?

2020 census and voting districts

I vote for platform. Republicans are mean spirited in everything they do or more accurately do not do.

He's a good man! He beat cancer so he can damn sure beat any freakin' liberal who goes against him!

I am a registered Democrat, but will vote to re-elect Gov. Hogan. I LIKE him, & he's been an excellent governor for MD.

I think he is doing a good job

Education funding and policies.

No - reward for a job well done - keep it up

quality government services must be paid for necessitating a realistic level of taxation

Overdevelopment & the environment. Safety net programs.

Hogan is doing a good job, BUT I swore I'd never vote for another Republican after the way Obama was boycotted by the Republicans. It was pathetic.

Pick based what is best for Maryland

Hogan is smart and fair

Their history of acting (following through) to better our state

Need to learn more about the democrat candidate.

I mostly like the Gov. He seems to be bipartisan sometimes. However lately I have not agreed with him on issues.

He is trying to be fiscally responsible. Democrats are not.

Really, since when do dems fix anything. They have only made things worse.

Hogan is doing a good job

I vote for whom I think will do the best job, republican or democrat but, I will not vote for anyone who supports Trump.

Candidate competence

Hogan has distanced himself from Trump and has other qualities that I like.

I'm tired of the one party state and the politicians that have been in power too long...WAY too long. They need to get private sector jobs and do real work.

Proven track record

Doing as well as he can in a heavily Democratic state

Hogan is a good man doing the best job he can with our delegates.

I haven't heard enough about the candidates who are running.

The Republican Party, as a whole, has operated to the detriment of the country over the last 38 years.

Hogan is a very effective Governor. Works very hard. Not just Tax and spend. We see results.

Governor Hogan is doing a great job for the citizens of Maryland, not just his Party or the Democrat's.

Facts and background of candidate

Thoughts on building houses and taxes.

Business centric policies.

Seems to be doing a good job. Moderate.

Nice, decent politician

The country and the world is changing regardless of what Hogan believes, we need a thoughtful program to address issues like Baltimore crime, economic development, inequality, and the divisions within the State.

He is doing a great job, he is fulfilling his campaign promises and he has been effective if with Busch and Miller trying to thwart him by passing legislation to take transportation decision from him

Respect and support for public employees

taxes

He has done more for our economical well-being than any other governor

Best qualified

Has been fair to state employees

Democrats are running this state as an oligarchy. Hogan is the only stop of their reign

Conservative. Hogan has done and cared more than the Democrats.

Gov. Hogan is a reasonable man who brings balance and integrity to the office.

Need to be rid of the republican

Hogan willing to work both sides of issue of benefit of all Marylanders

I do not feel that Hogan views are correct and he has not impressed me with his leadership, particularly during the Baltimore riots

Baltimore City transportation issues and employment and crime

Governor Hogan works with everyone who is willing to cooperate

My choice is based on candidate qualification, position on other factors such as environmental, development of sensitive areas, etc.

Hogan's health

Ability to do their jobs in a way that is best for Maryland as a whole, not for an individual group/party

Their position on gun violence

Just that Hogan is doing a great job.

Mr. Hogan isn't as conservative as I am, but he does work in that direction and at least makes an effort to counteract the extreme liberal position of many Maryland legislators. Bravo!

He is the best candidate for the job.

Larry Hogan is another Chris Christie.

There are several excellent Democrat candidates, all of whom would be preferable to Hogan.

In tune with voters

I am happy with the way things are currently.

no he is doing a great job

Appendix 14: Explain Vote for County Executive – Open-Ended Comments

The Democrat party needs to go away --- they have raped this county for too many years.
Shuh is too pro-business and dog whistle racist.
See how Schuh does with fixing APF for schools over the next few months.
Would vote for him if he's person responsible for moreresidents and developments and malls (Waugh chapple)
Republican
I need to do more research on both candidates.
Democrats are mean spirited, vindictive, and hate losing elections. Why not hit them again with a loss?
I just don't know enough about Mr. Schuh's record since taking office to make an informed decision. I'll have to research it.
know nothing about Pittman at this time
Steve Schuh is terrible for the environment, public schools and community relations with police department.
If it's the same Pittman I know, he really should stick with horses.
Don't know enough about their positions
Since I personally know Steuart Pittman, I would not vote for him. He is a wealthy aristocrat
His stand on development is closer to mine.
Look at issues such as development and lifestyle
Not especially impressed by either one.
Don't know anything about Pittman
HE CARES ABOUT ALL RESIDENTS, LOWER-MIDDLE CLASS AND TEACHERS
I would not vote for Shuh if you gave me a million\$\$
prefer Democrats
haven't paid much attention yet, will decide closer to election
Depends on his view of gun legislation
I would vote for a 5th grader if they ran against Schuh.
Definitely not vote for schuh as I did in last election. Don't know anything Mr. Pittman.
But he's gotta' listen to the constitutionsy about the "Scenic/Historic Mountain Road Peninsula & put an end to the continual development there!
Steve's policies are closer to my way of thinking.
I don't really have any idea what Schuh has done or not done (don't get daily paper)
Schuh is a know nothing idiot who would develop every inch of the county if he could.
I need to learn more about Pittman
Not Schuh
Steve Schuh has gone development crazy, time for another person to be county executive.
don't know enough. If Schuh supports trump he won't have my vote
Clearly the more qualified choice.
Haven't heard much about/investigated Steuart Pittman yet.
While I know little about either at this time (a lack which I hope to remedy before the election), my negative opinion of the Republican Party gives any other party's candidate an advantage toward winning my vote.
Really do not like either choice but I will stick with Shuh.
Steve Schuh's record is terrible. I would vote for anyone but Schuh.

Schuh is smart and one hopes he will learn how to be an effective leader in his second term! Yes, that hope has a 50/50 chance of success, but perhaps in a second term, Schuh will reach out to others and become more effective

Schuh is doing a good job. I don't agree with everything he has done but I see no reason not to vote for him.

And I never heard of Pittman until he announced he was running

Steve Schuh is too influenced by big money and his inner posse

I'm conservative.

Very balanced approach to getting things done for county

Only because I will NEVER vote for a democrat.

just word of mouth

Can't vote for Schuh, he has scammed us all with BS

The democratic party is a socialist party with an open agenda to lessen the rights of Americans and increase government control over personal choice.

Have met both personally, Schuh seems more honest

I am happy with the way things are currently.

Appendix 15: Explain Trust in Party

Both parties have failed us. However, with the influx of funds and PACS, it is going to be hard to remove such conflicts from our process.

No matter what party is in office, nothing gets done except back stabbing.

Dems too soft, republics too restrictive. Like Hogan (1st repub ive liked in a long time) not afraid to say no.

Pragmatic,

We need to remove career politicians

But having a third party would be a wonderful counterbalance to both parties.

we need to trim the budgets and specially entitlements.

They both are not doing a realistic good job

Please work to better the country, not to favor or discount a political party

Voted for Trump, because I did not think he was either. If he does not win in 2020 he exposed both sides.

Both parties are corrupted by elite and the game is rigged in the favor of the elite / power brokers

Neither party has answers. They seem to be all the same. They love the media and attention. They don't have answers or proactive action. It is always blame game and digging up dirt on the opposite party. We need term limits!

Both have been inept

I only like about 30% of the Republicans so I don't consider myself one. The Democrats however have completely radicalized and gone anti-American. I don't identify with any of them...except a few token individuals.

Too partisan, we need a middle ground.

All they do is fight, be extreme on either side and it is getting worse

We have a systemic problem with both parties. I no longer believe or support political parties.

You can't fix problems when all you care about is keeping your party in power and winning your next election.

We need term limits on Congress.

Too polarized to just do what is best for general public vs political activists and financial supporters

there isn't a lot of difference. They are spending like drunken democrats

Sick of both parties.

Neither have proven they are willing to put the interests of the nation above the interests of their own party

Both parties have been a disaster.

The democrats take after Hillary and her friends --- totally unlawful activities abound.

They seem to be less money hungry, willing to compromise and are more honest.

democrats have run the big cities into the ground financially, educationally, and there needs to be a more fiscally sound approach to fixing the problems of our society.

Taxes, environment, healthcare positions of Dems more like mine

There are too many games being played by both sides right now. There are a few Democrats I may be able to support (senator Booker good possibility if he decides to run)

Democrats have no interest in fixing the problems of the citizens of the country. Some Republicans do, but don't try hard enough or are unable to get others in their party to work with them. America will become a socialist paradise if the republicans don't get their act together

In the absence of a viable third party who will rebuild labor unions, work for universal healthcare, work on preserving digital privacy and improving public education through Undergraduate studies, I have to support the Democrats.

Particularly Progressive Democrats.

They believe in climate change...

The democrats today are a danger to this nation & her Good, Decent Legal, Law Abiding, (to a point) True, Traditional, Patriotic American Citizens!

I like Bernie Sanders. That's who I wrote-in for president in 2016, & that's who I hope will be the Democratic Candidate in the next election. It should've been him in the last election, & you see how THAT turned out!

Democrats care about people. Republicans care about money.

Democrats try to look to the future and improve our standard of living. Republicans are full of fear, live in the dark ages and only seem to care about lower taxes.

Democrats want to do away with the American way of government

Democrats have proven themselves to be liars, self-serving, and socialists.

Republicans are in power and they are setting the whole outhouse on fire.

Financial we are better with republican

Republicans keep silent in the face of all Trump has said and done to bring down this country. So many legislators are throwing in the towel and leaving public service. And Democrats can't seem to get together on a platform or message.

I have an MBA from an ivy league school. My understanding of economics is that real economic strength comes from the demand side and a large middle class. The Republicans still believe the failed supply side economics work. They are wrong.

If the swamp can be drained then possibly new Republicans can do a good job. I like the Freedom caucus since they seem to be the least corrupted

The Republican party has become strictly obstructionist and the "leadership" of Trump is appalling. Normally I would say the Republicans, but this recent Omnibus spending bill is just one more example of business as usual. Spineless.

I have been a life long member of the Republican Party and after the presidential election switched to independent because I was so disheartened with both parties.

Trust? Naive word choice. Parties are dysfunctional. Ryan is major disappointment. Cowardice and ignoring Trumps incompetence and McConnell is from another planet. Dems are Dunnossutsvb

Republicans at all levels harp on "lower taxes" as the main governing principle

Overall I'll choose Republicans. But that doesn't mean I'm satisfied with the direction the Republican party is going.