

Press Release: Oct. 31, 2019  
Anne Arundel Community College  
101 College Parkway, Arnold MD, 21012-1895  
Contact: Dan Nataf 410-777-2733 ddnataf@aacc.edu

## **County Survey Finds Transportation and Development are Most Serious Problems**

A survey of 580 Anne Arundel County residents conducted Oct. 18-25 by Anne Arundel Community College found that 17 percent of the respondents placed transportation as “the most important problem faced by residents at the current time.” This was followed by “growth/overpopulation” chosen by 15 percent.

In the recent past, surveys have shown drugs as the key problem, but this was third at 14 percent. Taxes (10 percent), crime, the environment (both 8 percent) and education (7 percent) were other leading issues.

Another section of the survey asked respondents to identify how serious various problems were in the county. Traffic congestion led the way, cited by 79 percent as “very serious.” Easy access to opioids was second (63 percent) with “the management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay” (56 percent) and the “high cost of housing” (54 percent) not far behind.

The survey asked respondents whether they supported or opposed a variety of proposals. A majority of respondents supported the following:

- **More state funding to improve water quality of the Chesapeake Bay (83 percent support).**
- **Strict limitations on the use of e-cigarettes or vaping (71 percent).**
- **State financial support for Planned Parenthood (60 percent); and.**
- **Strong efforts to limit climate change, with a \$10 monthly fee to fund renewable energy programs (52 percent).**

Other items received less than a majority in support:

- **A federal mandatory buyback program for assault-style weapons (49 percent).**
- **The impeachment of President Trump (45 percent); US military interventions in the Middle East (43 percent).**
- **A plan to provide adult US citizens with a basic income to cope with automation (31 percent support).**
- **The withdrawal of Joe Biden from the Democratic primary due to allegations about his son’s activities in Ukraine or China (29 percent).**

Other items involving the merit of recent tax increases, forest conservation proposals, higher fees for building an additional span on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the seriousness of problems including a special focus on the educational achievement gap as well as current choices for Democratic primary candidates in the race for president were also covered.

A section of the survey asked about town meetings held by County Executive Steuart Pittman and county officials regarding the General Development Plan. Last spring, the survey asked whether respondents had heard about similar meetings focused on the county budget. At that

time, about one third (34 percent) were aware of such meetings; this time slightly more (36 percent) claimed to be aware. Last time only three percent claimed to have attended – this grew to seven percent for the current set of public meetings. A nearly identical percentage (60 vs. 59 percent last time) agreed that such meetings helped to increase trust in local government.

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.

A detailed review of these issues as well as other results follows the summary of findings 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 1-10.

## Summary of Main Findings

**Most Important Problem Facing County Residents:** Additional details are available in the text (p. 4-7).

**Right Direction/Wrong Direction:** The percentage of those saying that the **county** was moving in the right direction was up slightly from 51 percent last spring to 54 percent this fall. Regarding the **state**, there was a decrease from 58 to 56 percent from last spring to this fall. The percentage applicable to the **country** stayed in the same general range for the last few surveys: 31 percent compared to 27 percent last spring and 31 percent fall 2018 (pp. 8-11).

**Rating Economic Conditions - County, State and Country:** For the county, the percentage saying “excellent” or “good” was essentially unchanged at 73. At the state level, this fall there was a small rise to a level similar to fall 2018 - 70 percent - compared to 66 percent last spring. The federal level was up from 49 to 53 percent (pp. 11-16).

**Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents:** There has been a steady reduction in concern about high taxes – while values remain over 50 percent, the recent results (53 percent) are the lowest in many years. There was some resurgence in concern that wages are not rising as fast as the cost of living, since the previous two surveys registered very low percentages by historical standards. In fall 2019, there was a seven-point increase to 47 percent citing this item, but this was similar to the percentage two years ago.

Other measures showed only small changes, most of them a little more unfavorable than in the recent past. There was a rise in those saying that it was hard to afford the cost of education (up five points to 42 percent); there was a four-point drop in those saying they had received a salary increase; there was a one-point increase among those saying that health care was too expensive; and, there was a two-point rise among those citing the possibility of unemployment. (pp. 17-21).

**National, State and Local Issues:** Some of these were mentioned above and will be reviewed in more detail later in the press release. National issues are found in pp. 21-25 and include a review of single payer insurance options (most (51 percent) were opposed). State and local issues start on p. 26 and include some review of issues related to transportation (Bay Bridge), raising

revenue/taxes (p. 27), schools (educational achievement gap – perceived causes) pp. 28-29, forest conservation (pp. 30-31) and the seriousness of various problems including some mentioned above but also crime, gender disparities in wages, access to mental health services, the presence of non-English languages spoken in public places and the ability of minorities to get ahead (pp. 32-33).

**Presidential Voting Choices in November 2020.** The survey asked respondents to indicate their choice for president in 2020. As was the case last spring, they were offered the choice of voting for President Trump, voting for a Democrat, voting for another candidate or “don’t know.” There was an increase in support for the generic Democratic candidate (to 41 vs. 37 percent last spring) with support for President Trump dropping somewhat (from 33 to 31 percent), with an additional 13 percent seeking “another candidate” (pp. 34-36). The survey also covers Trump vs. a generic Democrat, preferences among Democratic candidates, possible defection from a “disliked” Democratic candidate and whether the ability to win was more important than a candidate’s vision for the country (pp.36-40).

**Job Approval for County Executive, Governor and President.** The job approval question used the scale “strong, somewhat approve/disapprove.” Combining the strongly and somewhat approval scores, the governor continued his very high job approval (81 percent). County Executive Steuart Pittman was at 46 percent – suffering less from high disapproval than from lack of recognition – a problem that also affected his predecessor Steve Schuh. President Trump was at 40 percent approval. The text discusses job approval in greater detail (pp. 40-44).

**Which Party Do You Trust?** The fall 2019 figures showed a notable increase in support for Democrats – from 34 to 39 percent, while the score for Republicans dropped to a recent low of 33 percent (pp. 44-45).

**Methodology:** The survey polled a random sample of 580 county residents who were at least 18 years old, primarily using a database of listed and unlisted landline numbers. Telephone interviewing was conducted October 21-24 during evening hours. In addition, members of a web panel were also asked to participate in an online version of the survey during the period October 18 to October 25. The two data sources were merged for this analysis. There was about a four 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 as part of a general introduction to social science research methods and polling. Findings from the survey are used in classes to illustrate sociological principles and statistical testing of hypotheses.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 and [ddnataf@aacc.edu](mailto:ddnataf@aacc.edu). Check this website for results for information and press releases for this and previous surveys: [www2.aacc.edu/csli](http://www2.aacc.edu/csli).

## **Detailed Review of Survey Findings**

### **The Most Important Problem Facing Residents – Transportation and Development Top the List**

The fall 2019 AACC poll showed a rise in the percentages pointing to transportation and development as the most serious problems. The sharp decline in the percentage pointing to drugs (from 22 to 14 percent) was nearly matched by the increase in the percentages saying transportation (from 8 to 17 percent). Combining concern about development with that of transportation resulted in 32 percent – more than the combined total of drugs and crime that was just 22 percent. While the survey did not ask respondents to expand upon their answers, some open-ended comments in the online survey suggested that the problems with the resurfacing of a lane on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge might account for this surge in transportation concern.

Table 1 shows the overall spring and fall 2019 results for this question as well as by political party – a thematic focus of this fall’s press release. Differences between Democrats and Republicans tended to follow predictable partisan lines: Republicans were more concerned with taxes, government waste, and crime, while Democrats focused more on education and the environment. On key issues such as drugs, development and transportation, differences were muted.

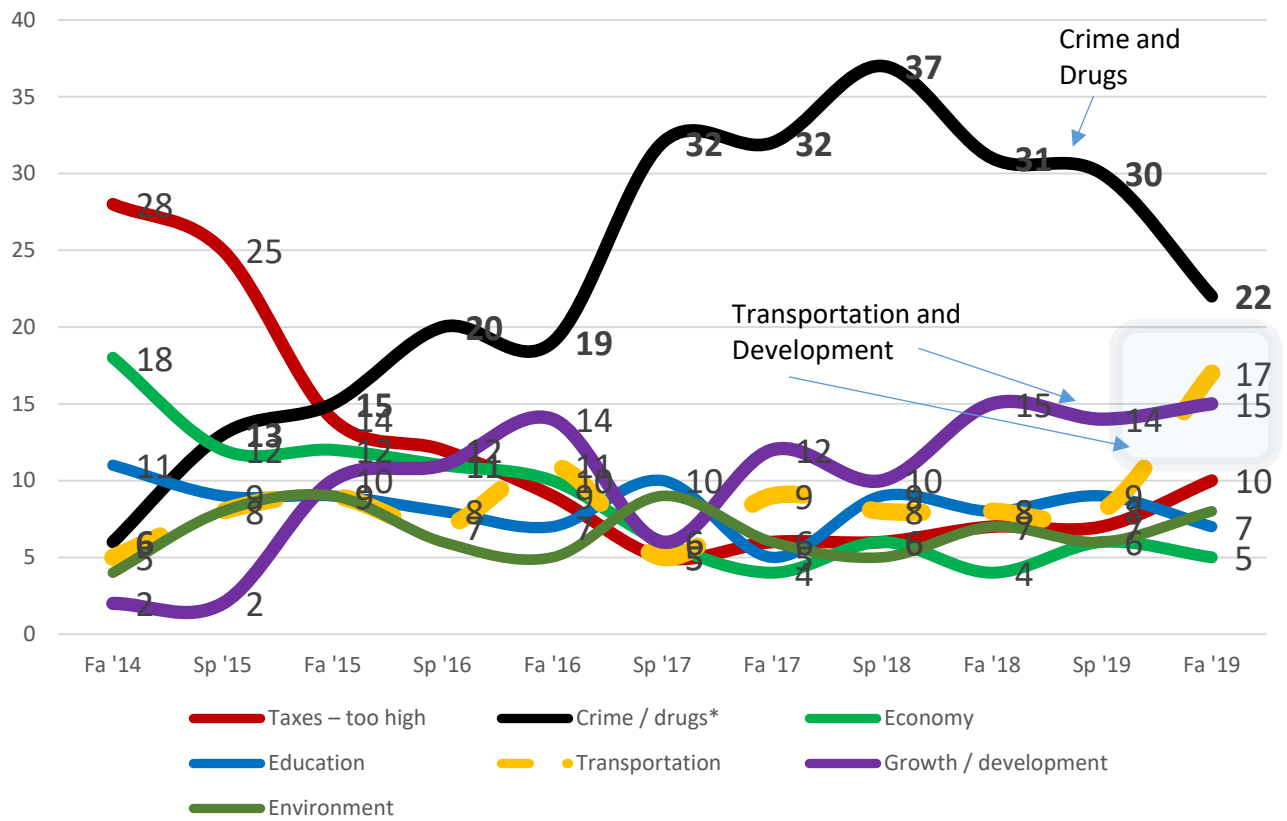
Table 1a (p. 7) and Graph 1 (p. 6) summarize recent results.

**Table 1: Most Important Problem Fall 2019 – Overall and by Gender**

Problem	Overall		Dem	Rep	D-R
	Sp '19	F '19	F '19	F '19	
<b>Crime</b>	8	<b>8</b>	7	12	-5
<b>Drugs</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	12	13	-1
<b>Economy</b> – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	6	<b>5</b>	5	4	1
<b>Education</b> , problems with schools, quality, facilities, staff, discipline	9	<b>7</b>	8	4	4
<b>Environment</b> (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	6	<b>8</b>	10	3	7
<b>Government ethics</b> – corrupt, immoral	3	<b>2</b>	1	3	-2
<b>Government waste</b> – inefficient, spends too much	2	<b>2</b>	1	5	-4
<b>Government lack resources</b> –for roads, schools, services	3	<b>2</b>	3	1	2
<b>Growth/overpopulation</b> - too much development, poorly planned	14	<b>15</b>	17	14	3
<b>Healthcare</b> (cost, access)	2	<b>3</b>	5	2	3
<b>Taxes</b> – too high	7	<b>10</b>	7	16	-9
<b>Transportation</b> problems/traffic congestion, lack of public transit	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	17	15	2
<b>Other</b> answer - write in:	7	<b>4</b>	3	5	-2
<b>Unsure/No Answer</b>	3	<b>3</b>	4	4	0

Note: Some of the issues mentioned under “Other answer” included immigration, aircraft noise, and the cost of housing.

**Graph 1: Most Important Problem Fall '14 to Fall '19**



**Table 1a: “Most Important Problem Facing Residents” – Fall 2009 to Fall 2019<sup>1</sup>**

	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	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19	Ave.
<b>Taxes</b>	12	11	13	11	9	17	17	19	19	22	28	25	14	12	9	5	6	6	7	7	<b>10</b>	13
<b>Crime / drugs*</b>	8	6	6	6	8	4	7	5	9	8	6	13	15	20	19	32	32	37	31	30	<b>22</b>	15
<b>Economy</b>	33	36	36	35	48	30	27	23	16	16	18	12	12	11	10	6	4	6	4	6	<b>5</b>	19
<b>Education / school problems</b>	7	8	9	10	5	7	8	8	6	12	11	9	9	8	7	10	5	9	8	9	<b>7</b>	8
<b>Traffic congestion/ problems</b>	5	6	6	3	5	5	6	5	4	4	5	8	9	7	11	6	9	8	8	8	<b>17</b>	7
<b>Growth / development</b>	5	5	2	4	4	4	3	2	4	4	2	2	10	11	14	6	12	10	15	14	<b>15</b>	7
<b>Unsure/no answer</b>	10	10	8	12	8	9	9	10	12	11	12	10	6	8	7	10	1	0	5	3	<b>4</b>	8
<b>Other answer</b>	21	17	21	19	13	24	23	29	30	23	19	21	25	24	24	24	21	24	22	23	<b>21</b>	22
<b>Total</b>	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	100	<b>100</b>	100

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.

<sup>1</sup> 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?

### Anne Arundel County

Each survey includes a variety of benchmark questions – the “most important problem” has existed since the start of CSLI/AACC community surveys.<sup>2</sup> 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 3-point increase in the right direction score from last fall, putting the results (54 percent) a bit higher than the 51-point average.

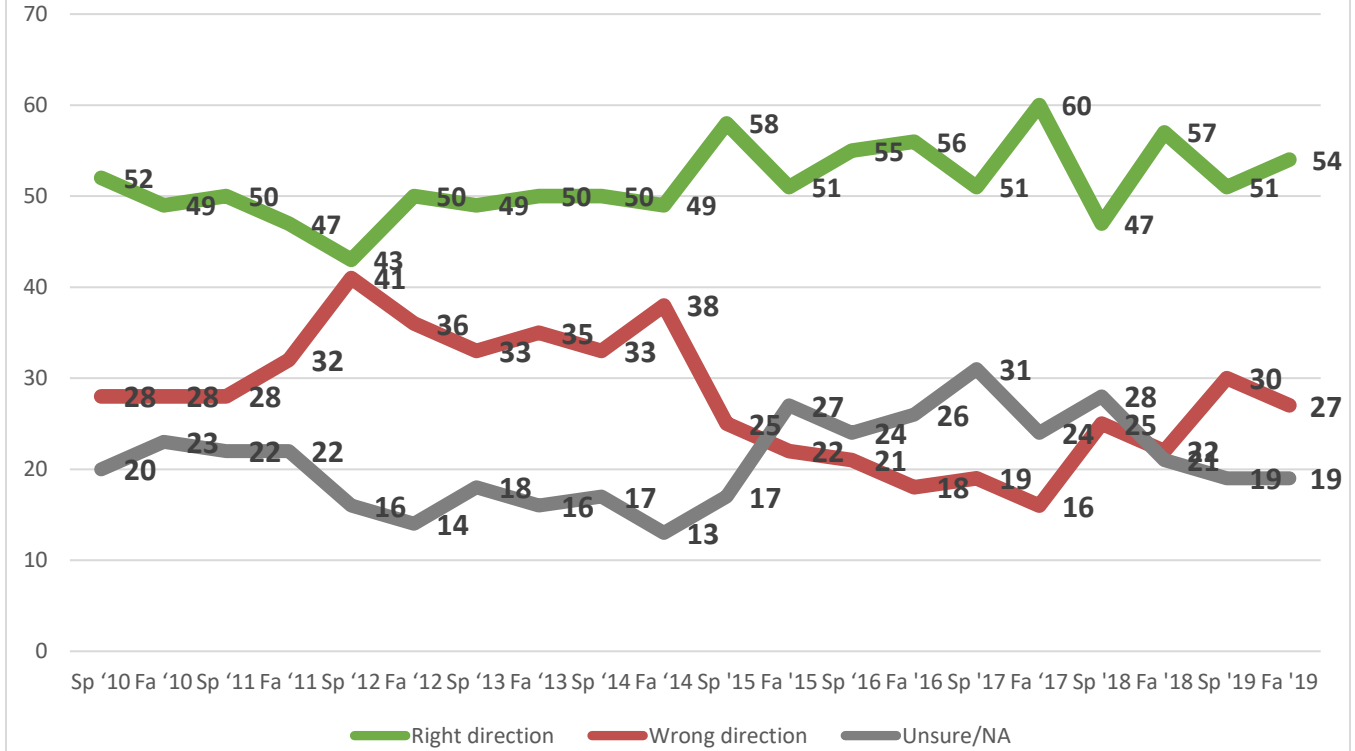
**Table 2: Anne Arundel County - Right vs. Wrong Direction Fall 2011 to Fall 2019**

	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	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19	Avg.
Right direction	47	43	50	49	50	50	49	58	51	55	56	51	60	47	57	51	<b>54</b>	51
Wrong direction	32	41	36	33	35	33	38	25	22	21	18	19	16	25	22	30	<b>27</b>	28
DK/NA	22	16	14	18	16	17	13	17	27	24	26	31	24	28	21	19	<b>19</b>	21
<b>Right-wrong</b>	15	2	14	16	15	17	11	33	29	34	38	32	44	23	36	21	<b>27</b>	23
Total	101	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	101	<b>100</b>	100

<sup>2</sup> The Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) conducted these surveys since 1980 – so all historical references to previous surveys refer to “CSLI surveys.”



**Graph 2: Right/Wrong Direction for Anne Arundel County, Spring 2010 to Fall 2019**



Party and right/wrong direction for the county is shown on Table 2a. Partisanship might be expected to the extent that the 2018 elections brought a Democratic county executive and a majority of the county council – both had been Republican previously. This result was observed since 64 percent of Democrats felt that the county was heading in the right direction compared to only 49 percent of Republicans.

**Table 2a: Party and County’s Direction**

Direction	Overall	Dem	Rep
Right direction	54	64	49
Wrong direction	27	18	38
Unsure	19	18	14
Total	100	100	100

Table 2b shows that last spring the change in the party holding sway at the Arundel Center had already produced a similar change in percentages as 62 percent of Democrats had become convinced of the “right direction” compared to the last poll prior to the elections when only 48 percent had agreed.

**Table 2b: Right/Wrong Direction for County by Party Registration, Fall 2018 vs. Spring 2019**

Party	Right Direction	
	F18	S19
Democrats	48	62
Republicans	67	40
Unaffiliated	65	51

### Maryland and United States

Focusing next on the state and nation as shown on Table 3 (which includes county just for comparison), the state received the highest “right” direction scores of any jurisdiction: 56 percent, down slightly from last spring and a full seven points from fall 2018 (63 percent).

By contrast, the nation trailed by a large margin as it has been hovering in the 30 percent range: up from 27 to 31 percent from spring to fall 2019, equaling its fall 2018 total.

**Table 3: Right/Wrong Direction for County, State and Nation, Spring/Fall 2019**

	Spring 2019	Fall 2019			
	Right	Right	Wrong	Unsure/Don't know	Total
<b>County</b>	51	54	27	19	100
<b>State</b>	58	56	27	17	100
<b>Nation</b>	27	31	58	11	100

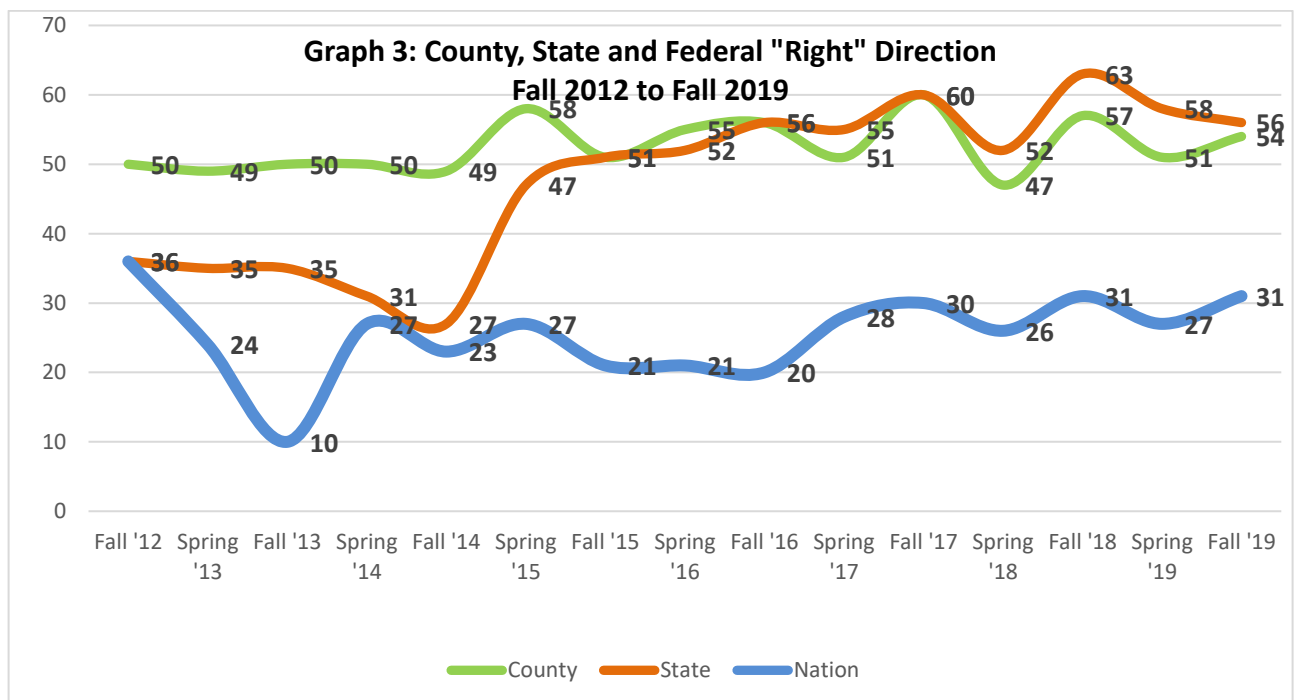


Table 3a shows that Democrats remain more positive about the direction of both the state and the county than do Republicans or unaffiliated voters. Conversely, Republicans are much more positive about the direction of national affairs than are either Democrats or unaffiliated voters, with the latter much closer to the Democrats than the Republicans in terms of “right direction” scores.

**Table 3a: Right/Wrong Direction for State and Nation by Party Registration, Fall 2018 vs. Spring/Fall 2019**

	Right Direction County			Right Direction State			Right Direction Nation		
	F18	S19	F19	F18	S19	F19	F18	S19	F19
<b>Democrats</b>	48	62	<b>64</b>	58	63	<b>63</b>	10	13	<b>17</b>
<b>Republicans</b>	67	40	<b>49</b>	70	48	<b>50</b>	60	44	<b>51</b>
<b>Unaffiliated</b>	65	51	<b>43</b>	67	72	<b>56</b>	22	22	<b>23</b>

### 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 4a (p. 12) and Graph 4 (p. 13), high scores have continued over the last few surveys during which time the combined “excellent+good” scores have exceeded 70 percent. This fall, the score rose two points to 73 points.

Table 4 shows that there was relatively little partisan differentiation regarding the percentages saying that the county’s economy was excellent or good.

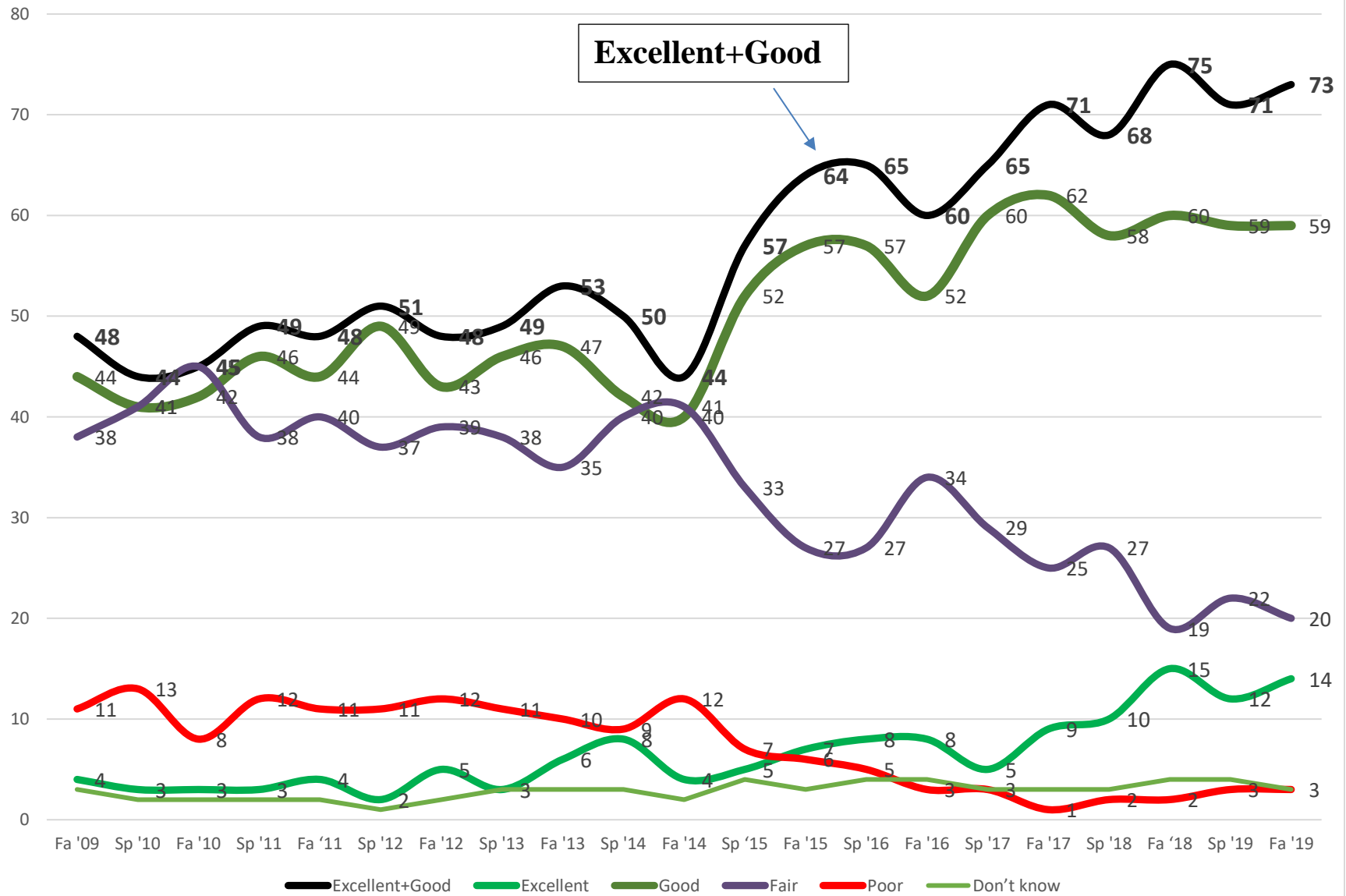
**Table 4: Economy as Excellent+Good by Party Registration – Anne Arundel County**

	Excellent+Good Fall ‘19
Democrats	71
Republicans	79
Unaffiliated	73

**Table 4a: Perceptions of County Economic Conditions – Fall 2009 to Fall 2019**

	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	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19	Avg.
<b>Excellent+ Good</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>65</b>	60	<b>65</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Excellent</b>	4	3	3	3	4	2	5	3	6	8	4	5	7	8	8	5	9	10	15	12	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Good</b>	44	41	42	46	44	49	43	46	47	42	40	52	57	57	52	60	62	58	60	59	<b>59</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Fair</b>	38	41	45	38	40	37	39	38	35	40	41	33	27	27	34	29	25	27	19	22	<b>20</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Poor</b>	11	13	8	12	11	11	12	11	10	9	12	7	6	5	3	3	1	2	2	3	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	101	101	100	101	101	101	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	<b>99</b>	100

**Graph 4: Economic Conditions in Anne Arundel County - Fall 2009 to Fall 2019**



## 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 fall 2019 was up 4 points to 70 percent – identical to one year ago. Recent scores illustrate the general recovery of the economy and are considerably higher than historical averages (see Table 5 and Graph 5).

**Table 5: Perceptions of State Economic Conditions – Spring 2012 to Fall 2019**

	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	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19	Av.
<b>Excellent+Good</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Excellent</b>	4	3	1	4	4	1	3	2	5	5	3	4	6	11	9	10	5
<b>Good</b>	34	30	29	36	36	27	38	43	48	44	53	59	57	59	57	60	44
<b>Fair</b>	40	42	41	36	40	40	39	41	36	39	34	29	29	24	25	22	35
<b>Poor</b>	21	23	24	21	18	30	16	11	9	9	7	4	5	4	5	5	13
<b>NA/DK</b>	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	4	3	3
<b>Total</b>	101	100	99	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	99	100	100	100	100	100

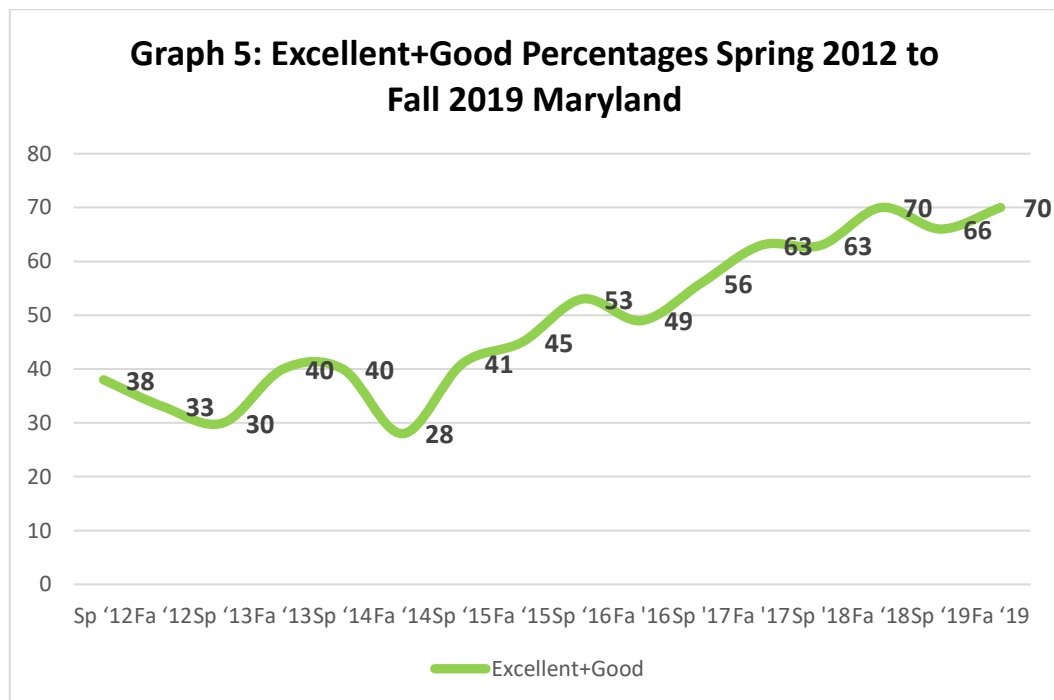


Table 5a shows that there were very few differences among partisans with all scores close to the overall average of 70 percent.

**Table 5a: Economy as Excellent+Good by Party Registration – Maryland**

	Excellent+Good Economy Fall '19
Democrats	69
Republicans	73
Unaffiliated	68

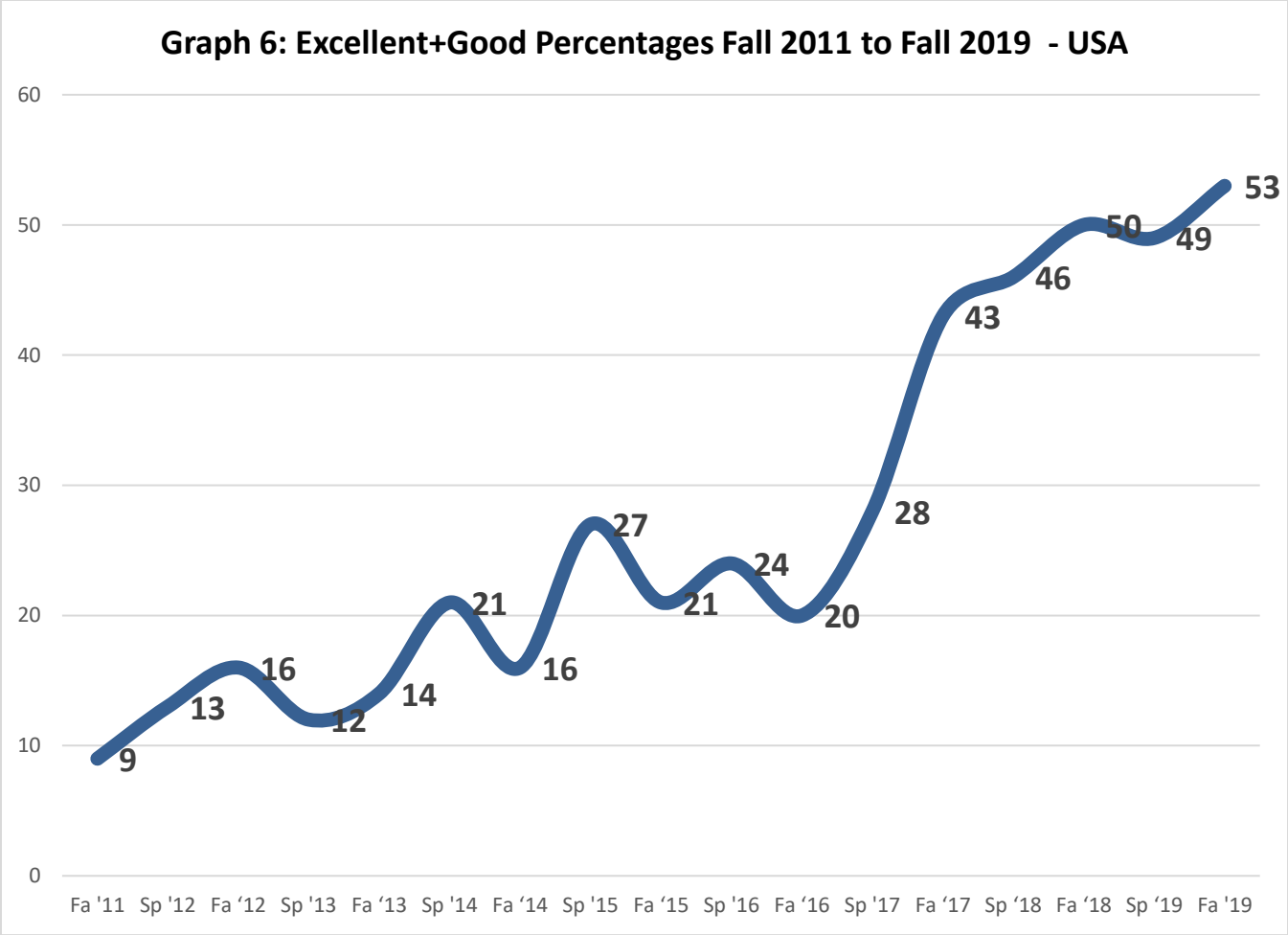
### Rating Economic Conditions –The National Economy

As shown on Graph 6, 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. After that point, the oscillations have been relatively muted. This fall, the national pattern followed the state and county ones with a small increase from 49 to 53 percent saying that the national economy was excellent or good.

Table 6 shows the actual survey percentages over time and the limited variation over the last four surveys.

**Table 6: Perceptions of National Economic Conditions– Spring 2012 to Fall 2019**

	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	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19	Avg.
Excellent+ Good	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>27</b>
Excellent	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	7	13	12	<b>16</b>	4
Good	12	14	10	13	20	15	24	20	23	19	27	40	39	37	37	<b>37</b>	23
Fair	47	37	38	31	41	42	32	40	40	38	46	40	36	33	33	<b>30</b>	37
Poor	39	46	47	55	37	40	37	36	34	40	23	17	17	13	16	<b>12</b>	34
NA/DK	2	1	3	1	1	2	4	3	2	3	4	1	2	3	3	<b>5</b>	2
Total	101	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	101	101	101	101	99	101	<b>100</b>	100



Partisan differences might be expected since the lens through which the economy is perceived is partly shaped by respondents' views of the party in power taking credit for any successes. As shown on Table 6a, Democrats were much less favorable to the economy than were Republicans, with unaffiliated voters closer to the Democratic position.

**Table 6a: Economy as Excellent+Good by Party Registration – USA**

	<b>Excellent+Good Economy Fall '19</b>
Democrats	40
Republicans	72
Unaffiliated	48



## 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/AACC 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.<sup>3</sup> Since fall 2018, the survey reverted to prior form to note whether there have been changes in the value of this measure over time.

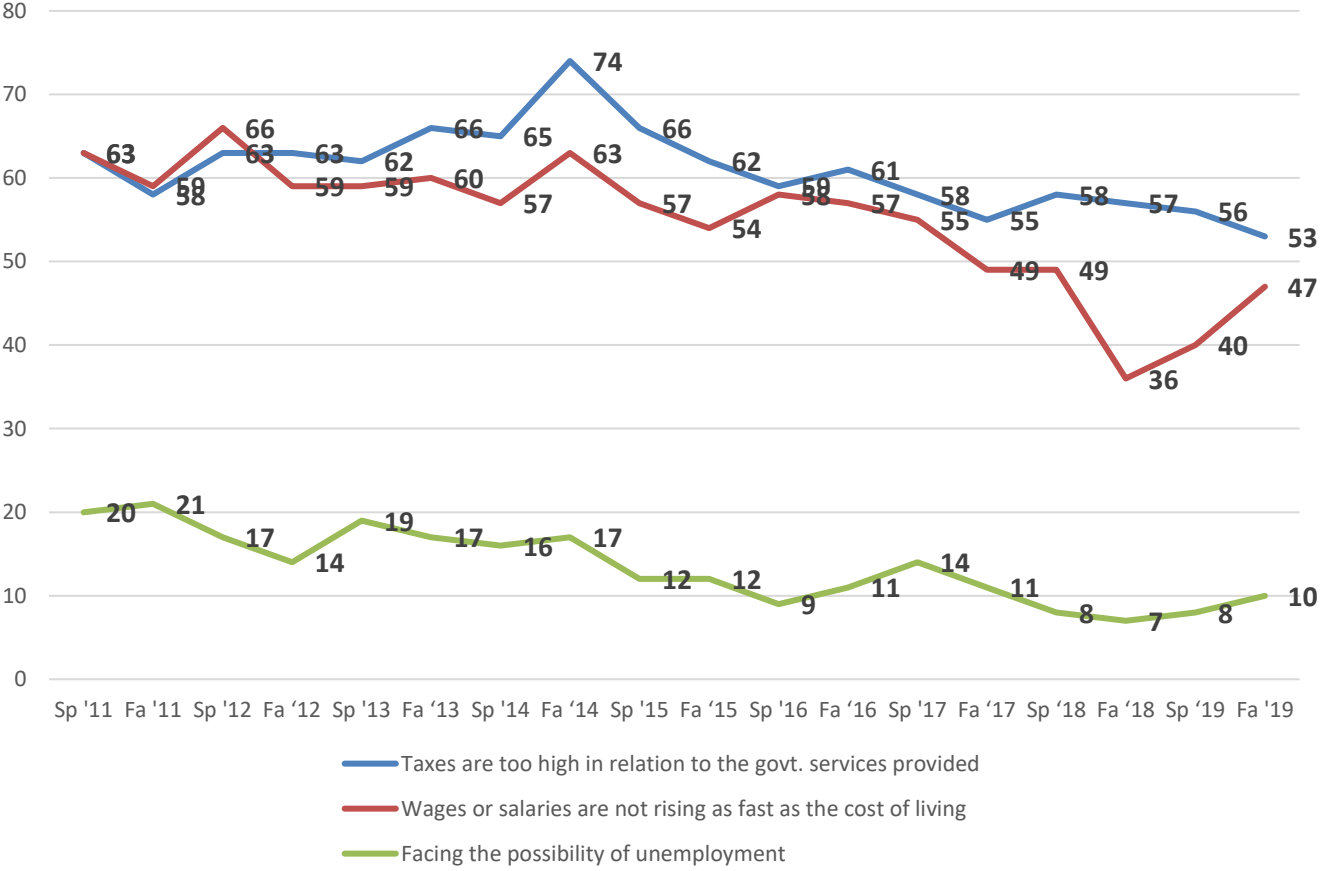
Table 7 and Graph 7 illustrate long-term trends. There has been a steady reduction in concern about high taxes – while values remain over 50 percent, the recent results (53 percent) are the lowest in many years. There was some resurgence in concern that wages are not rising as fast as the cost of living, since the previous two surveys registered very low percentages by historical standards. In fall 2019, there was a seven-point increase to 47 percent citing this item, but this was similar to the percentage two years ago.

Other measures showed only small changes, most of them a little more unfavorable than in the recent past. There was a rise in those saying that it was hard to afford the cost of education (up five points to 42 percent); there was a four-point drop in those saying they had received a salary increase; there was a one-point increase among those saying that health care was too expensive; and, there was a two-point rise among those citing the possibility of unemployment.

---

<sup>3</sup> 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/>

**Graph 7: Selected Economic Perceptions Spring 2011 to Fall 2019**



**Table 7: Economic Conditions Applying to Personal Circumstances – Spring 2011 to Fall 2019**

Condition	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	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19	Avg.
Taxes are too high in relation to the govt. services provided	63	58	63	63	62	66	65	74	66	62	59	61	58	55	58	57	56	<b>53</b>	61
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	63	59	66	59	59	60	57	63	57	54	58	57	55	49	49	36	40	<b>47</b>	55
Hard to afford the cost of education	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	45	41	39	39	40	38	33	32	32	37	<b>42</b>	38
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	n.a.	26	35	31	34	29	36	33	37	34	32	29	31	26	41	36	45	<b>41</b>	33
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	33	31	28	30	29	27	25	24	20	25	<b>24</b>	27
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate/ Unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year (starts fall 2016)	35	32	32	27	32	29	26	40	38	33	38	14	16	18	18	35	32	<b>33</b>	33/17
Facing the possibility of unemployment	20	21	17	14	19	17	16	17	12	12	9	11	14	11	8	7	8	<b>10</b>	14
Found a new or better job recently	n.a.	14	16	11	14	16	14	12	11	13	10	8	10	10	13	13	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	12
Significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts	52	60	44	38	32	32	26	n.a.	n.a.	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	47	51	45	38	42	38	43	n.a.	n.a.	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	46	39	39	32	31	29	37	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		40
Hard to afford cost of transportation	41	30	36	30	27	24	24	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		27
Unable to find affordable housing	14	11	15	9	12	14	10	n.a.	n.a.	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	9	8	8	4	7	7	4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		7

Party based differences were apparent among some of these measures (see Table 7a). The clearest partisan differences appeared on taxes, with Republicans much more likely to say that they were too high (63 vs. 45 percent). Health care insecurity was much higher among Democrats than Republicans. Smaller but still notable differences were found with Democrats generally citing higher costs (education, food and groceries), while saying that wages weren't going up as fast as the cost of living. They were also a bit more likely to express fears of unemployment. Again, it might be that these are reflections of trust in the party in control of the federal government as much as real differences among groups of respondents.

**Table 7a: Party and Economic Conditions/Experiences**

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Unaff.</b>	<b>Gap F19 D-R</b>
Taxes are too high in relation to the govt. services provided	53	45	63	49	-18
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	47	50	42	45	8
Hard to afford the cost of education	42	43	36	43	7
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	41	37	44	47	-7
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	24	26	19	25	7
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate/	33	39	27	31	12
Facing the possibility of unemployment	10	12	9	5	3
Found a new or better job recently	15	15	14	13	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 fall 2019 results are somewhat consistent with previous findings. It is still the case that the single largest difference concerns the costs of food/groceries, but unlike in the past healthcare is less prominent than wages keeping up with inflation as well as the cost of education. The lower income group clearly was more likely to struggle to pay for most expenses. As in the past, the main conclusion remains that lower income households are substantially more susceptible to negative economic conditions. Perhaps due to the increased vulnerability of those in this group, they were not much different in their attitudes about taxes.

**Table 8: Income Groups and Economic Indicators**

Condition	Fa '19 Under \$75,000	Fa '19 \$75,000+	Under \$75k- Over 75K						
			Fa '16	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19
Hard to afford cost of food and groceries	42	<b>16</b>	18	32	26	27	21	36	26
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	41	<b>29</b>	13	11	26	14	14	19	11
Hard to afford the cost of education	53	<b>37</b>	10	5	2	10	10	4	16
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	57	<b>51</b>	-8	8	-1	-8	2	3	6
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	64	<b>39</b>	9	8	19	11	8	9	25
Facing the possibility of unemployment	15	<b>8</b>	1	12	5	0	2	3	7
Found a new or better job recently	<b>20</b>	12	0	-6	-3	2	1	1	8
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	35	<b>45</b>	-12	-29	-18	-10	-23	-23	-10

Note: Desirable outcomes are bolded.

## Agreement with Statements About National, State and Local Issues

A section of the questionnaire focused on either specific proposals, statements or actions relevant to the country, state or county. In many cases, respondents were asked to express their support or opposition to each statement that was presented to them.

### National Issues – Support/Oppose

Table 9 presents six questions focused on the national level. In general, the public appeared evenly split on several issues, with several questions eliciting relatively large numbers of “unsure/no answer” responses.

The only item to gain a majority of support (52 percent) was “Strong efforts to limit climate change, with a \$10 monthly fee to fund renewable energy programs.” However, even this item was sharply polarizing with 73 percent of Democrats favoring it compared to only 26 percent of Republicans. Those percentages were identical regarding the proposal “a federal mandatory buyback program for assault-style weapons” with the difference between the two items being substantial shifts in support from unaffiliated voters who favored the Democratic position on climate change, but the Republican position on mandatory buybacks of assault-style weapons. The largest partisan difference was regarding the impeachment of President Trump: in that case, a majority (53 percent) of unaffiliated voters sided with most Democrats (74 percent) favoring his impeachment. By contrast, only 11 percent of Republicans favored impeachment. Regarding the withdrawal of Joe Biden from the Democratic race due to

allegations about his son’s activities in Ukraine and China, not even a majority of Republicans favored the former vice president’s withdrawal, while few Democrats and unaffiliated voters did.

One question tried to assess the public’s receptivity to a proposal such as Andrew Yang’s advocating universal basic income. It received the largest “unsure” response (27 percent), with much higher favorability among Democrats (43 percent) than Republicans (15 percent). The confusing scenario unfolding in the Middle East with President Trump’s removal of troops from northern Syria while decrying “endless wars” and others such as Senator Mitch McConnell condemning the move as a “grave mistake” made it unclear how usually more dovish Democrats would compare with typically hawkish Republicans about US military intervention in the region.<sup>4</sup> The results showed Republicans somewhat more inclined to favor intervention, but the gap was narrow (only seven points). The percentage of “unsure” was high (23 percent).

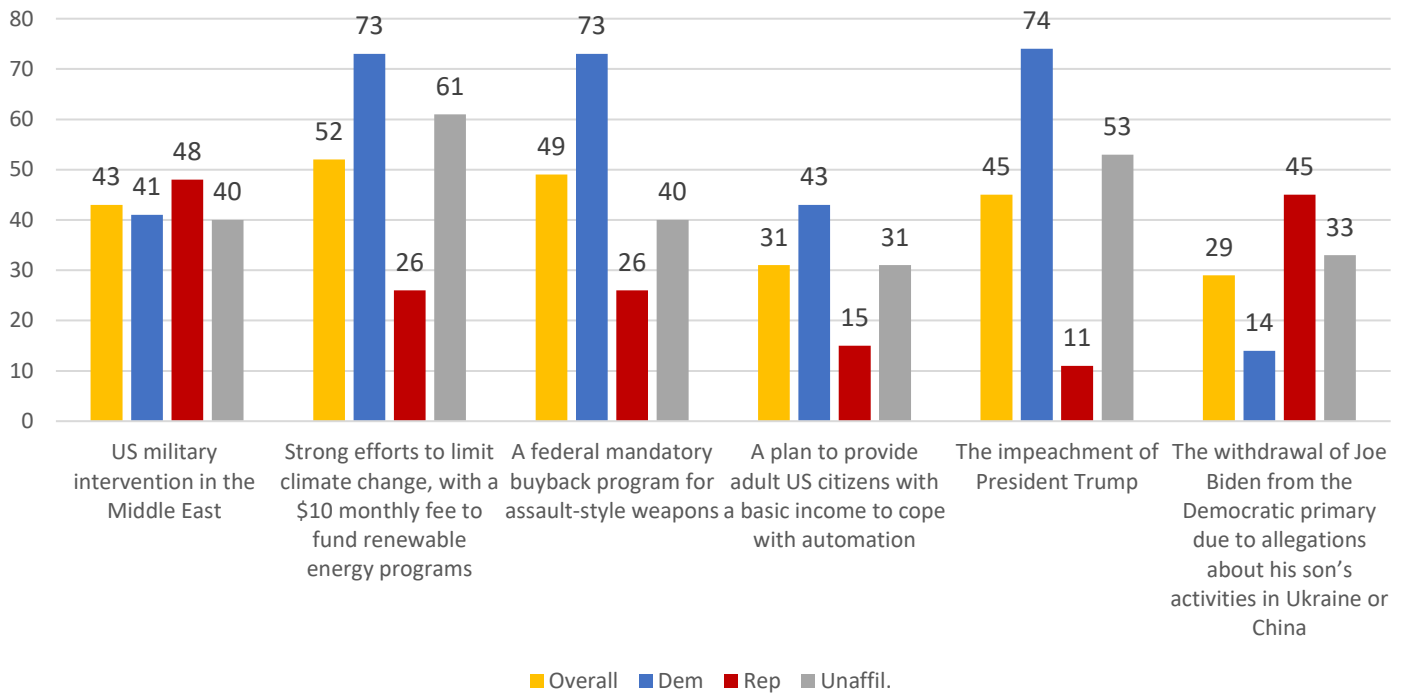
**Table 9: Support for National Statements or Proposals**

	Support	Oppose	Unsure/NA	Dem	Rep	Unaffil.
US military intervention in the Middle East	43	34	23	41	48	40
Strong efforts to limit climate change, with a \$10 monthly fee to fund renewable energy programs	52	37	11	73	26	61
A federal mandatory buyback program for assault-style weapons	49	42	10	73	26	40
A plan to provide adult US citizens with a basic income to cope with automation	31	42	27	43	15	31
The impeachment of President Trump	45	44	11	74	11	53
The withdrawal of Joe Biden from the Democratic primary due to allegations about his son’s activities in Ukraine or China	29	48	24	14	45	33

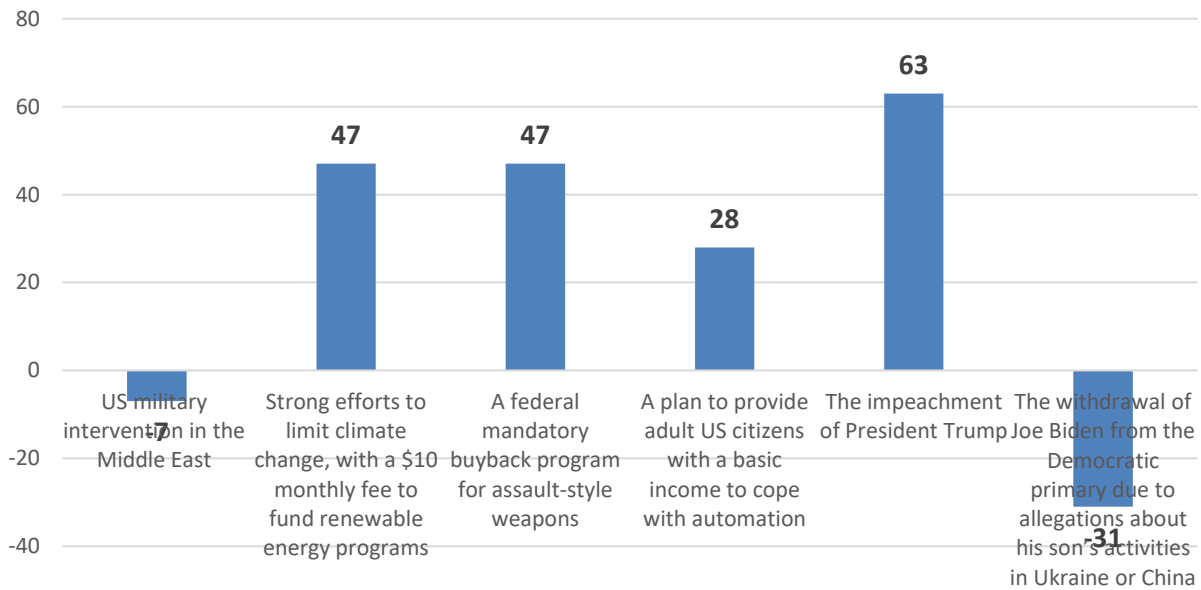
Graph 8 depicts partisan divisions mentioned on Table 9; Graph 9 shows the gap between Democrats and Republicans.

<sup>4</sup> See [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/mitch-mcconnell-withdrawing-from-syria-is-a-grave-mistake/2019/10/18/c0a811a8-f1cd-11e9-89eb-ec56cd414732\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/mitch-mcconnell-withdrawing-from-syria-is-a-grave-mistake/2019/10/18/c0a811a8-f1cd-11e9-89eb-ec56cd414732_story.html) for McConnell’s article.

**Graph 8: Democrat, Republican and Overall Support for National Issues**



**Graph 9: Gap Dem/Rep**



## National Issues: Single Payer Health Insurance

Another section of the survey focused on the national health care debate by asking respondents to indicate how their receptivity to “transitioning Americans into a government single payer system within a few years.” The exact question is below. It was only asked of the online panel (N=238).

**“Some proposals to change the health insurance market have proposed ending the link between employment and health coverage – and transitioning Americans into a government single payer system within a few years. Which of the following best describes your feelings about this idea?”**

Table 10 shows that only 31 percent favored the single payer option, with a very large gap between Democrats and Republicans (48 points). Last spring, the survey asked a similar question and obtained similar results: 29 percent favored a “Medicare for All” approach, with 47 percent of Democrats and 9 percent of Republicans supporting it, along with 26 percent of unaffiliated. Apparently, there is still a reluctance to embrace a wholesale change in the way in which health care insurance is presented.

**Table 10: Support for a Single Payer Health Care System**

Single Payer	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaffil.
Support	31	53	5	33
Oppose	51	28	81	48
Unsure/NA	18	19	13	17

The survey asked respondents to not only indicate their party registration but also the strength of party affiliation. Table 10a shows the results.

**Table 10a: Support for a Single Payer Health Care System**

Single Payer	Overall
Democrat - Strong	60
Democrat – somewhat	52
Democrat – not very	24
Republican – not very	12
Republican – somewhat	4
Republican – strong	0
Unaffil. Rep lean	6
Unaffil. No lean	32
Unaffil. Dem lean	60

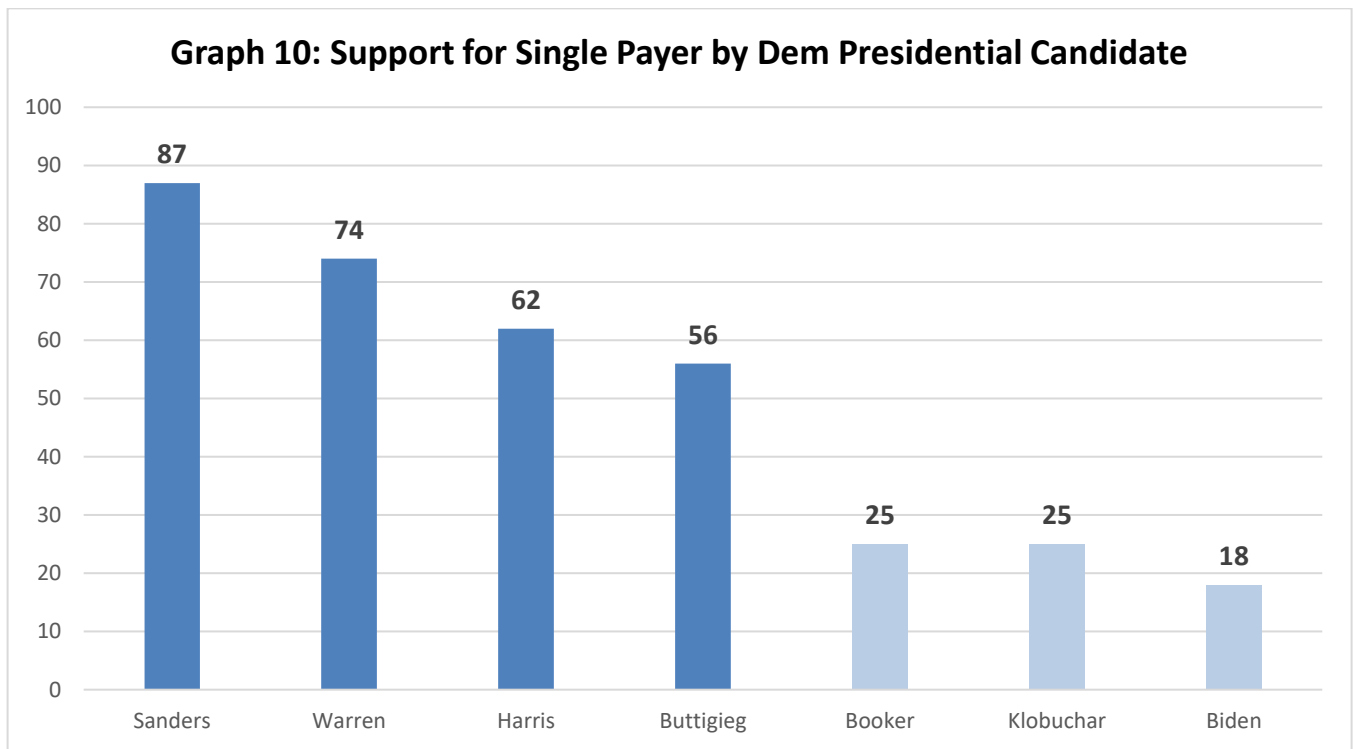
Table 10a shows the alignment of different groups behind this single payer proposal. There was very little difference among all the Republican groups, with “not very strong” Republicans a little less



disinclined to support it. There was also not much difference between “strong” and “somewhat strong” Democrats who favored it. What was surprising is that unaffiliated voters who claimed to lean Democrat were as favorable to the proposal as strong Democrats. In fact, unaffiliated voters with no party lean were more favorable to the idea than were “not very strong” Democrats – showing the difficulties of uniting the Democratic Party around this idea.

Graph 10 shows the level of support among Democrats divided by the candidate they were supporting in the Democratic presidential primary election. The divide by candidates is vivid as the least favorable were unsurprisingly Joe Biden and Amy Klobuchar – explicit “moderates” within the field. Cory Booker apparently backs “Medicare for All” with a “pragmatic approach” – so the low scores from his backers (a small sample) *are* surprising.<sup>5</sup>

The most avid backer of Medicare for All is Bernie Sanders and his followers apparently are strong supporters as well with 87 percent favoring it. Not far behind are supporters (74 percent) of Elizabeth Warren who is another Medicare for All backer. Kamala Harris (62 percent) has also been a supporter of Medicare for All – but with nuanced roles for private insurance.<sup>6</sup> Pete Buttigieg is a supporter of “Medicare for all who want it.” His slogan may be sufficiently confusing to his backers that 56 percent of them favored the more straightforward “Medicare for All.”<sup>7</sup> During debates he has clearly aligned with Biden and Klobuchar favoring the “public option” alongside private insurance.



<sup>5</sup> See <https://www.politico.com/story/2019/05/05/cory-booker-medicare-for-all-1302505>.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.npr.org/2019/07/29/746051105/kamala-harris-releases-medicare-for-all-plan-with-a-role-for-private-insurers> for more on Harris’ ideas.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/09/19/what-to-know-about-pete-buttigiegs-medicare-for-all-who-want-it-plan.html> for more about Buttigieg’s position on this issue.

## State and Local Proposals: Support/Oppose

The examination of “support/oppose” questions starts the consideration of state and local issues in this section. The results are listed in Table 11. Support for environmental proposals meant to help water quality of the Chesapeake Bay is illustrated by the fact that 83 percent of the sample favored “more state funding” for such purposes. Table 11a shows that support was somewhat higher among Democrats (91 percent) than Republicans (76 percent) but that strong majorities among both parties favored this.

**Table 11: Support for State and Local Proposals**

	Support	Oppose	Unsure/NA
More state funding to improve water quality of the Chesapeake Bay	83	12	5
Strict limitations on the use of e-cigarettes or vaping	71	21	8
State financial support for Planned Parenthood	60	30	10

**Table 11a: Support for State and Local Proposals by Party**

	Overall	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.	Men	Women
More state funding to improve water quality of the Chesapeake Bay	83	91	76	80	79	86
Strict limitations on the use of e-cigarettes or vaping	71	78	66	63	63	76
State financial support for Planned Parenthood	60	86	32	57	52	67

Also drawing support from all party registrants were “strict limitations on the use of e-cigarettes or vaping.” While Democrats were a bit more inclined to support this view, two-thirds of Republicans were as well. Many would be inclined to support Maryland’s recently enacted vaping law restricting purchase to only those 21 or older.<sup>8</sup>

State financial support for Planned Parenthood health clinics was likely to be more controversial since the organization has been swept up in the debate over abortion.<sup>9</sup> Given polarization between the parties on the abortion issue, it was not surprising to find a 54 point gap between Democrats and Republicans on this idea. It was also the item with the greatest gap (15 points) between men and women.

## State and Local: Transportation

The survey broached a single transportation issue that focused on the Bay Bridge specifically asking: **“Building a new span on the current Bay Bridge might cost up to \$6 billion. A higher toll might be needed to pay for it. How much more would you be willing to pay above the current \$4**

<sup>8</sup> See <https://wamu.org/story/19/09/30/maryland-teens-cant-buy-vapes-starting-tuesday/>.

<sup>9</sup> Planned Parenthood decided to forego federal funding that it perceived as associated with a “gag rule” regarding abortion. This motivated Maryland lawmakers to try and supplement for lost funds in the state. See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/08/24/patients-face-higher-fees-longer-waits-after-planned-parenthood-quits-federal-program/> According to the [Baltimore Sun](#), “Legislation ensuring that the state will cover the cost of the group's health care services in Maryland if Congress blocks it from receiving federal funding is among the more than 250 bills passed by the General Assembly that will become law July 1.”

**that non-EZ Pass holders must pay now?”** This was an open-ended question that included a wide range of responses. Converting all numeric responses into workable form, the average increase that the public was willing to consider was \$2.60. The median was \$2 while the range was from 0 to \$10.

**State and Local: Raising County Revenue**

In the spring 2019 survey, questions were asked about raising more county revenue by increasing income taxes as well as property taxes (the latter dedicated only to public schools). The first of these split respondents with 47 percent both supporting and opposing the proposal to increase income taxes. The other option received much less support (34 percent). Both the overall totals as well as the scores by party and gender are shown on Table 12.

Democrats were much more inclined to support a rise in income taxes (60 percent) than were Republicans (36 percent). Unaffiliated respondents were a bit closer to the Republican stance (46 percent). Women were not as enthusiastic about increasing income taxes as were Democrats, but a majority (51 percent) did support the measure, unlike men (42 percent).

According to The Capital, “a law tucked into the Maryland Code allows counties to bypass their tax caps as long as the money raised is strictly related to education spending.”<sup>10</sup> The public did not seem receptive to this idea as not even a majority of Democrats (47 percent) supported it.

**Table 12: Support for Revenue Proposals by Party and Gender (spring 2019)**

	Overall	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.	Men	Women
Raising revenue for schools and other priorities by increasing the local income tax less than one percentage point to levels found in Prince George’s, Howard and Montgomery counties	47	60	36	46	42	51
Legally bypassing limits imposed by the property revenue/tax cap to raise funds dedicated to public schools	34	47	22	30	30	38

This fall the survey asked whether tax increases – that were in fact implemented after the spring survey – “were needed to improve such services” as schools, fire, police and other services.<sup>11</sup> As shown on Table 13, a solid majority (70 percent) agreed at least “somewhat.” A larger percentage of Democrats (85 percent) agreed compared to Republicans (57 percent) or unaffiliated voters (70 percent), but majorities of all registrant categories agreed. Table 13 also shows that women (75 percent) were more likely to agree than men (65 percent) although the difference wasn’t large.

<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.capitalgazette.com/news/government/ac-cn-education-spending-20190214-story.html>

<sup>11</sup> Here was the exact wording: “The county council passed increases on income and property taxes in order to better fund schools, police, fire and other services. Do you agree – strongly, somewhat or not at all - that the additional revenue was needed to improve such services?”

**Table 13: Agreement that Tax Increases Were Necessary**

	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Unaffil.</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Agree strongly	31	42	23	30	29	35
Agree somewhat	39	43	34	40	36	40
Agree not at all	25	13	37	28	31	19
No opinion/unsure	5	2	6	3	6	6
Total	100	100	100	101	101	100

### **State and Local: Schools**

The main school-related topic considered by the fall survey was the educational achievement gap between students of different races. This subject was recently focused upon by County Executive Stuart Pittman and the Anne Arundel County school board. According to an article in The Capital, “The term, achievement gap, reveals consistent disparities in academic performance between different groups of students by factors such as race or income. The cause for a difference in the classroom comes from a variety of factors like poverty, income inequality and nutrition. Students of color also can experience racism, prejudice and other institutionalized problems that can then cause a decline in educational achievement. These factors are not solely within the schools and Pittman considered the gap to be parallel to understanding health problems.”

The newspaper also stated, “The purpose of [a planned] meeting is to define the problem and hear from people on how they see the problem,” County Executive Stuart Pittman said.<sup>12</sup> Based on these concerns, the fall survey asked the public to evaluate a range of possible causes of the achievement gap.

First, the survey asked whether respondents considered the gap to be a “very, somewhat or not very” serious problem. As seen on Table 14, over two-thirds (69 percent) said that the problem was at least “somewhat serious.” However, there was a large difference along partisan lines, with 86 percent of Democrats saying that it was at least somewhat serious, compared to only 54 percent of Republicans and 63 percent of unaffiliated voters. Women were more likely to say “very serious” (47 vs. 36 percent) than men, although the combined scores weren’t far apart (72 vs. 68 percent).

**Table 14: How Serious is Educational Achievement Gap**

	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Unaffil.</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Very serious	41	60	25	30	36	47
Somewhat serious	28	26	29	33	32	25
Not very serious	21	7	35	24	26	17
No opinion/unsure	9	7	10	13	6	12

Second, the survey asked respondents to evaluate how important – very, somewhat, not very – were seven factors that might cause the gap. Table 14a shows the percentage saying “very important” for each factor by party and gender. Only “racism in our schools” and “problems with teaching” failed to get a majority saying “very important.”

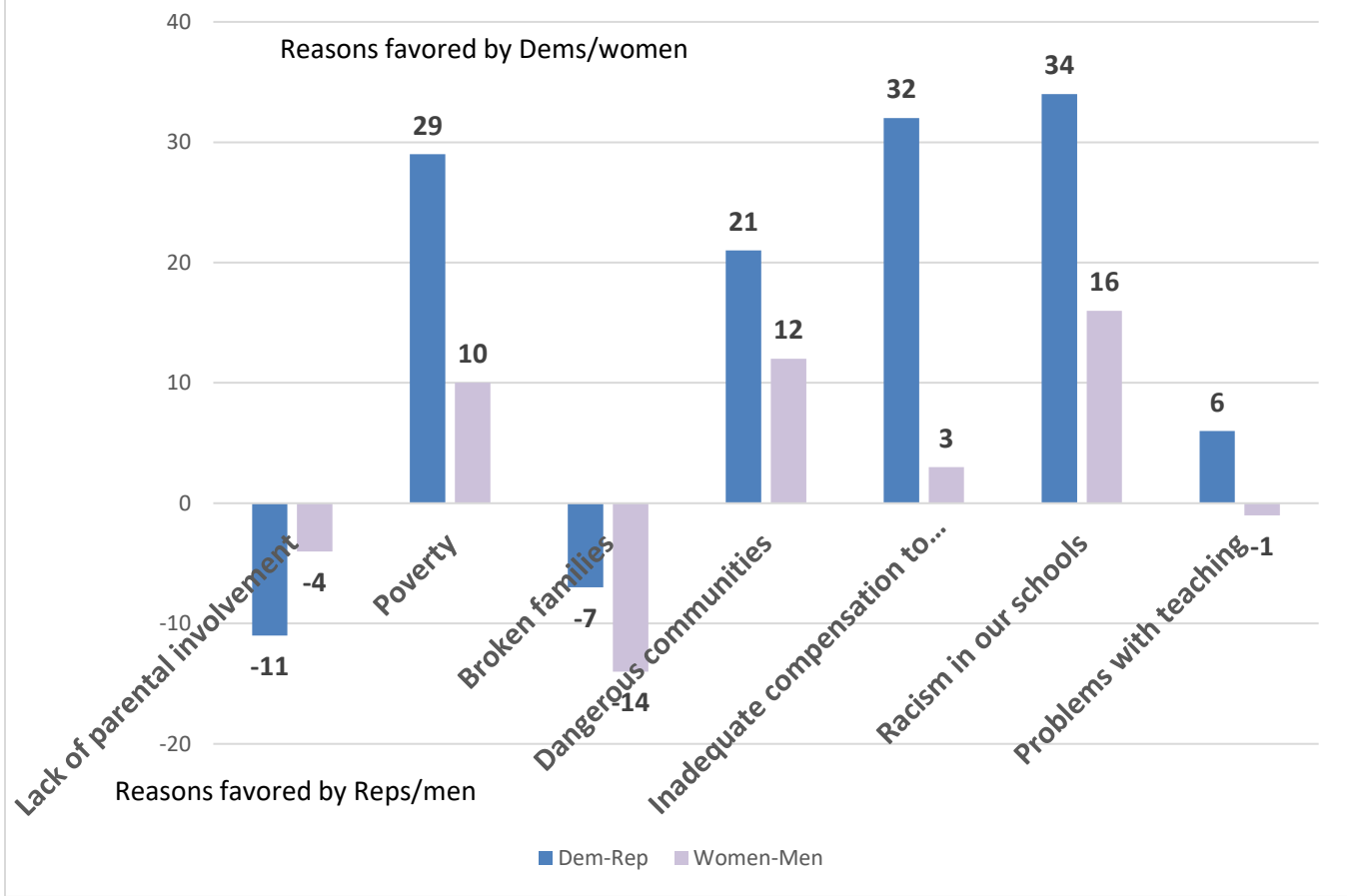
<sup>12</sup> See <https://www.capitalgazette.com/education/ac-cn-achievement-gap-20190923-bqpz44dsf5eg7cqpvhf4zvfei-story.html>

**Table 14a: How Important are Factors in Causing the Educational Achievement Gap  
("Very important" percent shown)**

	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Unaffil.</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Lack of parental involvement	75	70	81	83	77	73
Poverty	69	82	53	67	64	74
Broken families	68	64	71	72	75	61
Dangerous communities	66	76	55	68	60	72
Inadequate compensation to teachers in low performing schools	58	73	41	57	56	59
Racism in our schools	44	58	24	51	36	52
Problems with teaching	40	40	34	46	40	39

Graph 11 shows the differences between parties and women/men. Among parties, there is a degree of consensus about the impact of “problems with teaching” (6 point gap) as well as “broken families” (7 point gap) and “lack of parental involvement” (11 point gap). The last two elements showed that Republicans were more likely than Democrats to identify micro-level dynamics within families as the key problem. By contrast, Democrats were much more likely to focus on broader social and institutional factors such as inadequate compensation to teachers, racism in schools and poverty. Women typically perceived things similarly to Democrats, although with less intensity.

**Graph 11: Achievement Gap: Dems-Reps/Women-Men**



**Forest Conservation**

The survey attempted to understand the public’s views about forest/tree conservation in the context of pressure to develop the county. County Executive Pittman had proposed a forest conservation bill that would address excessive tree loss: “We’ve lost an average of 300 acres of forest annually in this county since 2010. We are less than 5 percent of the state’s land mass, but are responsible for 40 percent of its forest loss. We allowed more forest to be destroyed in the last decade than Calvert, Prince George’s, Howard, Baltimore County, and Baltimore City combined.” According to Pittman, “Our existing forest conservation law is flawed in three key ways. First, it allows a developer to remove 68 acres of a 100-acre forest without replacing a single tree. Second, when a developer cuts down more than the allotted free clearing, they are only required to replant a quarter of the trees removed beyond the allowed “conservation threshold.” Third, developers can pay a “fee-in-lieu” of tree replacement — a fee that is a small fraction of the forest’s true value, and doesn’t cover costs to acquire land and replant trees.”

His solution would be to introduce a “bill [that] will adjust all three numbers. We raise the conservation threshold, double the replacement rate, and increase the fee-in-lieu from forty cents per

square foot to \$2.50. If passed as introduced, it will move our county from the state leader in forest loss to the state leader in forest conservation.”<sup>13</sup>

The survey focused on the last element – the raising of fees. Specifically, the question was worded as follows: **“The development of county land includes a forest conservation fee. The county executive has said that the current fee is too low and doesn’t reflect the benefits of tree preservation. He has proposed a sharply higher fee to preserve more trees. Which of the following seems best to you?”**

Respondents were offered the three choices shown on Table 15.

**Table 15: Forest Conservation Options**

	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Unaffil.</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Keep fees unchanged to avoid rising development costs	24	16	36	13	30	17
Increase fees sharply to preserve more and better reflect the value of tree preservation	26	33	19	27	26	26
Increase fees and restrictions to prevent any net loss of trees	32	37	26	42	28	37
No opinion/unsure	18	14	19	18	16	20
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Both the “increase fees” options were supported over the “keep fees unchanged” alternative. Combined, 58 percent favored an increase in fees. Partisan differences were present: combined values for Democrats were 70 percent vs. only 45 percent for Republicans. Unaffiliated voters were almost identical to Democrats on this issue: 69 percent. The usual tendency for women to be closer to Democratic positions than men was apparent: 63 percent vs. 54 percent favoring an increase in fees. In the end, the county council weakened Pittman’s bill through amendments, lowering the fees below Pittman’s desired levels.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> See Pittman’s editorial in The Capital: <https://www.capitalgazette.com/opinion/columns/ac-ce-column-pittman-20190901-hhkjdbxafrf45axcn4okfrv43e-story.html>

<sup>14</sup> See <https://www.capitalgazette.com/news/ac-cn-amendments-20191022-20191022-dt4di25lobaqnfe6nkwqk2c5gu-story.html>

## Other Problems in Anne Arundel County

The survey also asked about a range of other “problems” facing the county. This section used a scale of “very, somewhat, not very” serious.

**Table 16: Seriousness of County Problems**

Issue	How serious=>	Very	Somewhat	Not very	N.A.
Traffic congestion		79	17	3	1
Having easy access to opioids		63	21	5	7
The management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay		56	28	9	8
High cost of housing		54	33	11	2
Access to mental health services		46	28	15	11
The educational achievement gap among students from different races		41	28	21	9
Ability of minorities to get ahead		31	32	27	11
Higher wages for men than women		29	28	30	13
Non-English languages spoken in public places		18	22	48	12
Crime in your neighborhood		11	31	57	1

Four problems gained a majority of respondents identifying it as “very serious”: traffic congestion (79 percent); easy access to opioids (63 percent); the management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay (56 percent) and the high cost of housing (54 percent).

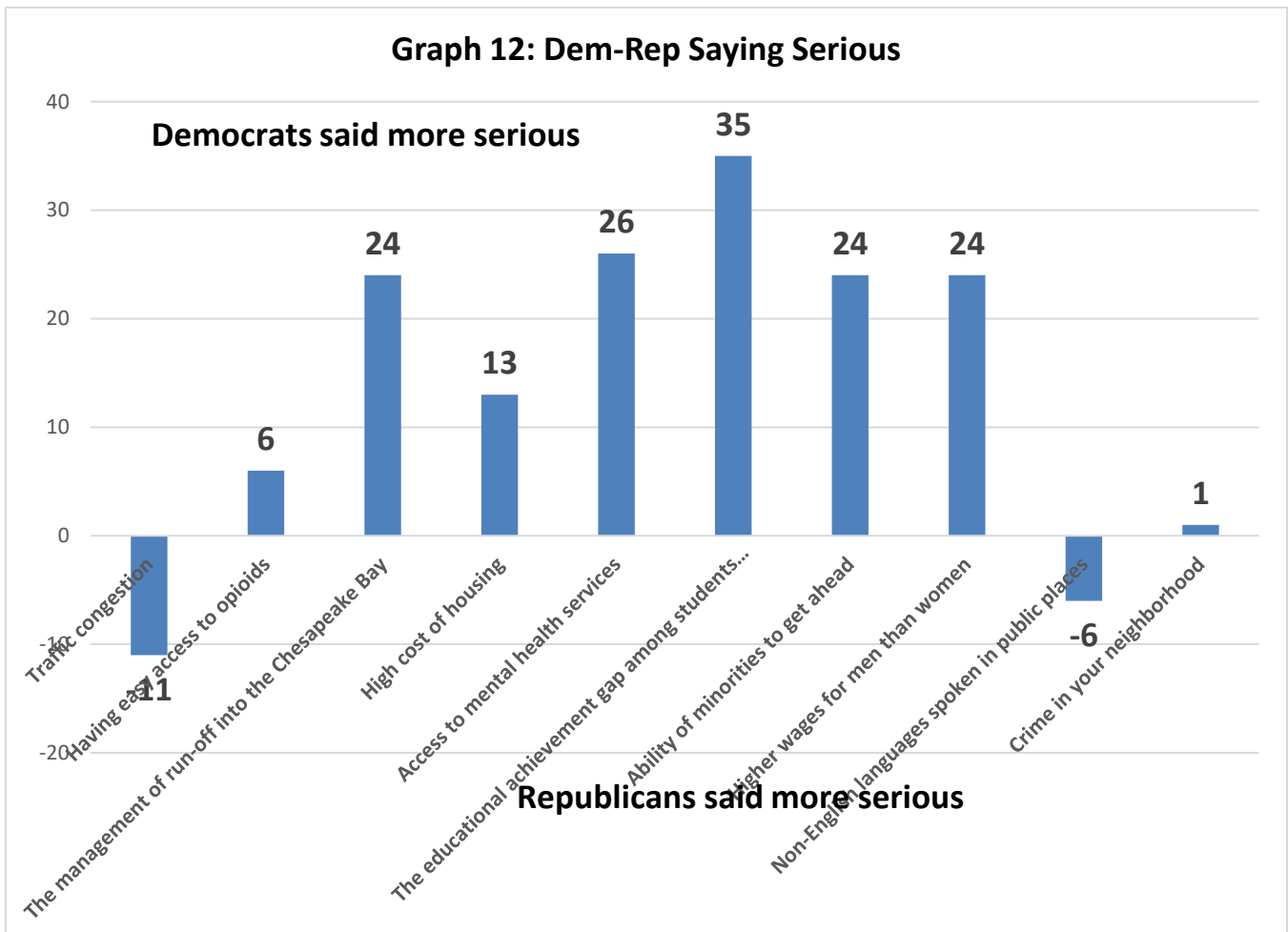
Table 16a shows the partisan divisions.

**Table 16a: Seriousness of County Problems by Party Registration**

	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaffil.	Men	Women
Traffic congestion	79	74	85	78	77	80
Having easy access to opioids	63	65	59	59	58	67
The management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay	56	67	43	58	51	60
High cost of housing <sup>15</sup>	54	59	46	56	53	55
Access to mental health services	46	60	34	37	38	52
The educational achievement gap among students from different races	41	60	25	30	36	47
Ability of minorities to get ahead	31	44	20	19	27	34
Higher wages for men than women	29	41	17	29	18	39
Non-English languages spoken in public places	18	17	23	13	18	19
Crime in your neighborhood	11	12	11	7	9	12

<sup>15</sup> Last spring, 42 percent cited “Lack of affordable housing” as a serious concern. Apparently, this was targeted too narrowly since 54 percent cited “high cost of housing” which seems to have had a broader interpretation and applicability.





There weren't big partisan gaps about three issues: neighborhood crime (1-point gap), "Non-English languages spoken in public places (6-point gap), and "easy access to opioids" (6-point gap). Republicans were more likely to cite traffic congestion as more serious (along with Non-English languages spoken in public places). Generally, Democrats were much more likely than Republicans to perceive problems in the county, highlighted by the achievement gap (35-point gap), access to mental health services (26-point gap), the ability of minorities to get ahead, higher wages for men than women and run-off into the Bay (all 24-point gaps). These differences seem in keeping with liberal/conservative perspectives associated with the two parties. As in the past, women leaned to the Democratic side, with the most profound difference with men being "higher wages for men than women" (21-point gap).

## National Politics: Presidential Voting Choices in 2016

Since fall 2016, CSLI/AACC surveys have asked about past voting with regards to the 2016 presidential elections. This has been both a way of comparing groups among the sample as well as a method for assuring the accuracy of the survey overall. Hillary Clinton obtained 47.5 percent of the vote while Donald Trump received 45.3 – a difference of about two percentage points. Weighting the sample should produce a vote estimate showing small, if any, point difference between the two candidates.

Tables 17, 17a, 17b and 17c show the historical percentages through spring 2019 in voting for Clinton, Trump, someone else, didn't vote or wouldn't give an answer over the last three surveys. These are listed for the entire sample as well as by party and ideology.

**Table 17: 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 17a: 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

**Table 17b: Presidential Vote by Party and Ideology, Fall 2018**

	Overall	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Clinton	39	79	46	9	76	6	30
Trump	38	4	25	77	9	72	33
Someone else	8	3	13	5	5	13	6
Didn't vote	11	14	10	6	9	6	19
NA/DK	3	0	5	4	1	3	13
Total	99	100	99	101	100	100	101

**Table 17c: Presidential Vote by Party and Ideology, Spring 2019**

	Overall	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Clinton	38	76	43	8	65	7	37
Trump	37	5	27	71	14	63	25
Someone else	8	7	12	3	5	9	12
Didn't vote	12	6	12	13	9	14	20
NA/DK	6	6	6	5	8	6	6
Total	101	100	100	100	101	99	100

**Table 17d: Presidential Vote by Party and Ideology, Fall 2019**

	Overall	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Clinton	35	71	37	5	70	7	26
Trump	35	5	27	73	14	67	28
Someone else	9	9	14	5	5	9	16
Didn't vote	21	15	22	17	11	17	30
NA/DK <sup>16</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	101	99	100

Table 17d shows that in fall 2019, patterns present in previous surveys continued. Ideological liberals and moderates voted more for Clinton than for Trump; conservatives voted in about the same percentage for Trump (73 percent) and as liberals voted for Clinton (71 percent). Unaffiliated voters nearly split their vote evenly although a much larger share said that they did not vote.

Since fall 2018 surveys have asked respondents to indicate their party registration but also to say whether they were “strong, somewhat strong, or not very strong” Democrats or Republicans. In addition, political beliefs were divided into very conservative/liberal, somewhat conservative/liberal and moderates. Table 17e shows the relationship between these nuanced questions and the 2016 presidential vote.

<sup>16</sup> Those not voting were excluded from the analysis.

**Table 17e: Party Strength by Presidential Vote and Ideology, Fall 2019**

	Strong Dem	Somewhat Strong Dem	Not Strong Dem	Strong Rep	Somewhat Strong Rep	Not Strong Rep	Unaffil Lean D	Unaffil Lean R	Neither
Clinton	90	65	31	1	3	24	34	4	34
Trump	5	6	51	83	62	44	10	60	28
Someone else	2	10	4	3	13	16	18	11	15
Didn't vote	4	19	14	12	23	17	39	25	23
Total	101	100	100	99	101	101	101	100	100
Very liberal	44	21	0	0	0	4	13	0	2
Somewhat liberal	38	43	20	2	3	4	27	0	16
Moderate	16	28	40	9	39	58	56	49	41
Somewhat conservative	3	7	20	24	41	24	0	42	19
Very conservative	0	1	5	67	18	7	0	5	12
Unsure/DK	0	0	16	0	0	3	3	5	11
Total	101	100	101	100	101	100	100	100	

Clearly, asking respondents to indicate the strength of party affiliation added more precise information about who would be more likely to defect from their party registration. Among Democrats, “not strong” respondents voted for Trump (51 percent) much more than Clinton (31 percent). Among Republicans, “not strong” respondents voted more for Trump than Clinton, but were still eight times more likely to defect to Clinton than “somewhat strong” Republicans. Unaffiliated voters who leaned Democrat were more than three times more likely to vote for Clinton than Trump; those who leaned Republican were 15 times more likely to vote for Trump than Clinton. Those with neither a Republican nor a Democratic lean were slightly more likely to vote for Clinton.

This information makes it clear that key swing groups include “not strong” members of each party along with unaffiliated voters without a lean. Those with the softest party affiliation were more likely to see themselves as “moderates” (40 percent of not strong Democrats; 58 percent of not strong Republicans and large percentages of all groups of unaffiliated voters).

## Voting Choices in 2020

### Trump vs. Generic Democrat

The spring 2019 survey contained two questions related to the 2020 presidential elections. The first asked, “**Thinking about the race for president in 2020, at this time, would you be inclined to vote to re-elect President Trump, vote for a Democratic candidate, or some other Republican or third party candidate instead?**” The results for this question are shown on Table 18 both for spring and fall 2019. The trend seems to be one of diminishing support for President Trump as more say that they are likely to vote for a Democrat rather than Trump or another candidate.

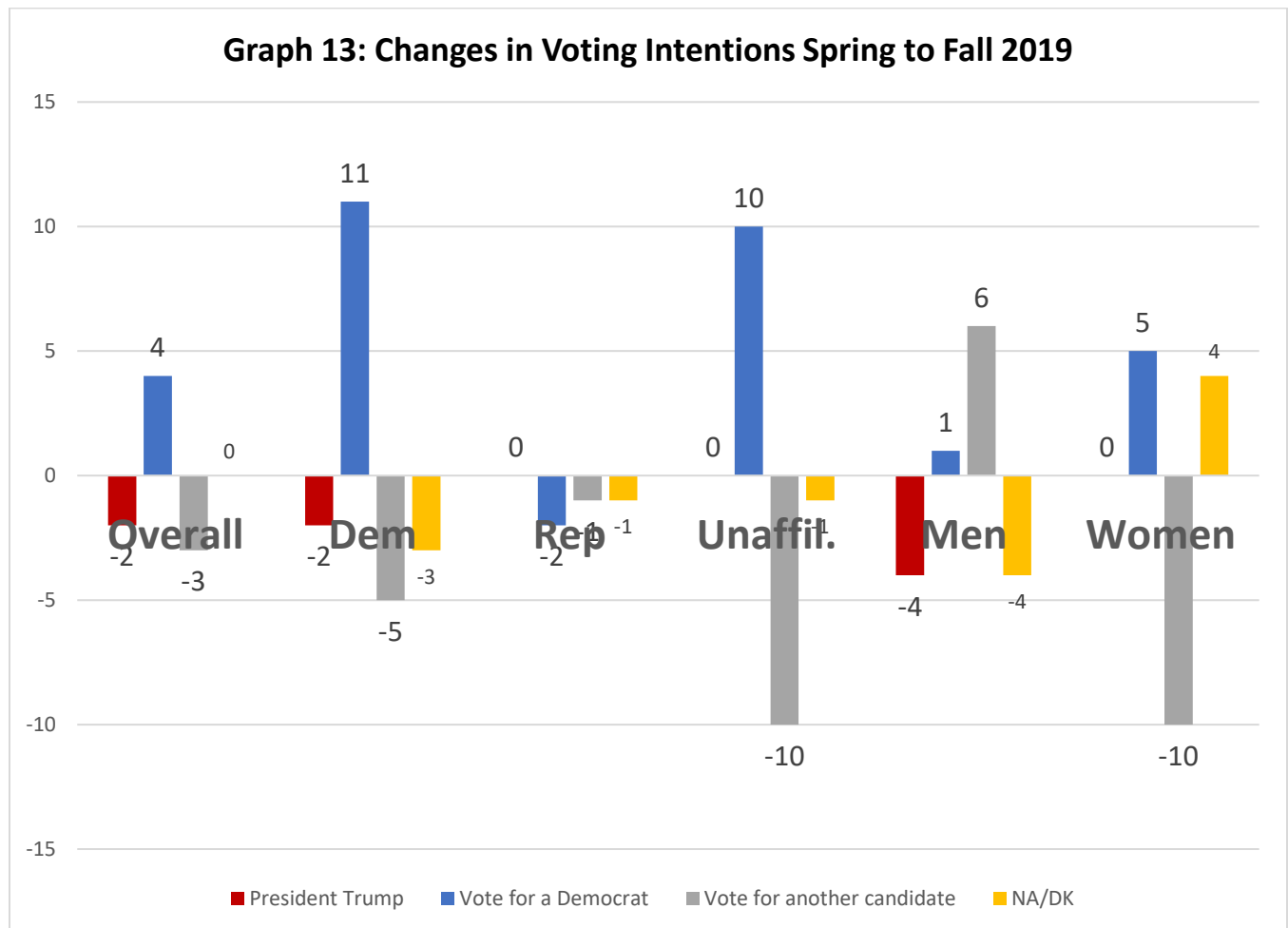
**Table 18: Presidential Choices – President Trump or Someone Else**

	S19	F19
President Trump	33	31
Vote for a Democrat	37	41
Vote for another candidate	16	13
NA/DK	15	15

At this point, the generic Democrat has a 10-point lead – a 6-point gain since spring. As seen on Table 18a and illustrated on Graph 13, the expanded Democratic lead is due to a propensity for Democrats to favor a candidate from their own party and the tendency for unaffiliated voters to favor the Democratic candidate. Men were less likely to vote for Trump while some women moved from “vote for another candidate” to the Democratic column.

**Table 18a: Presidential Choices – President Trump or Someone Else by Party /Gender**

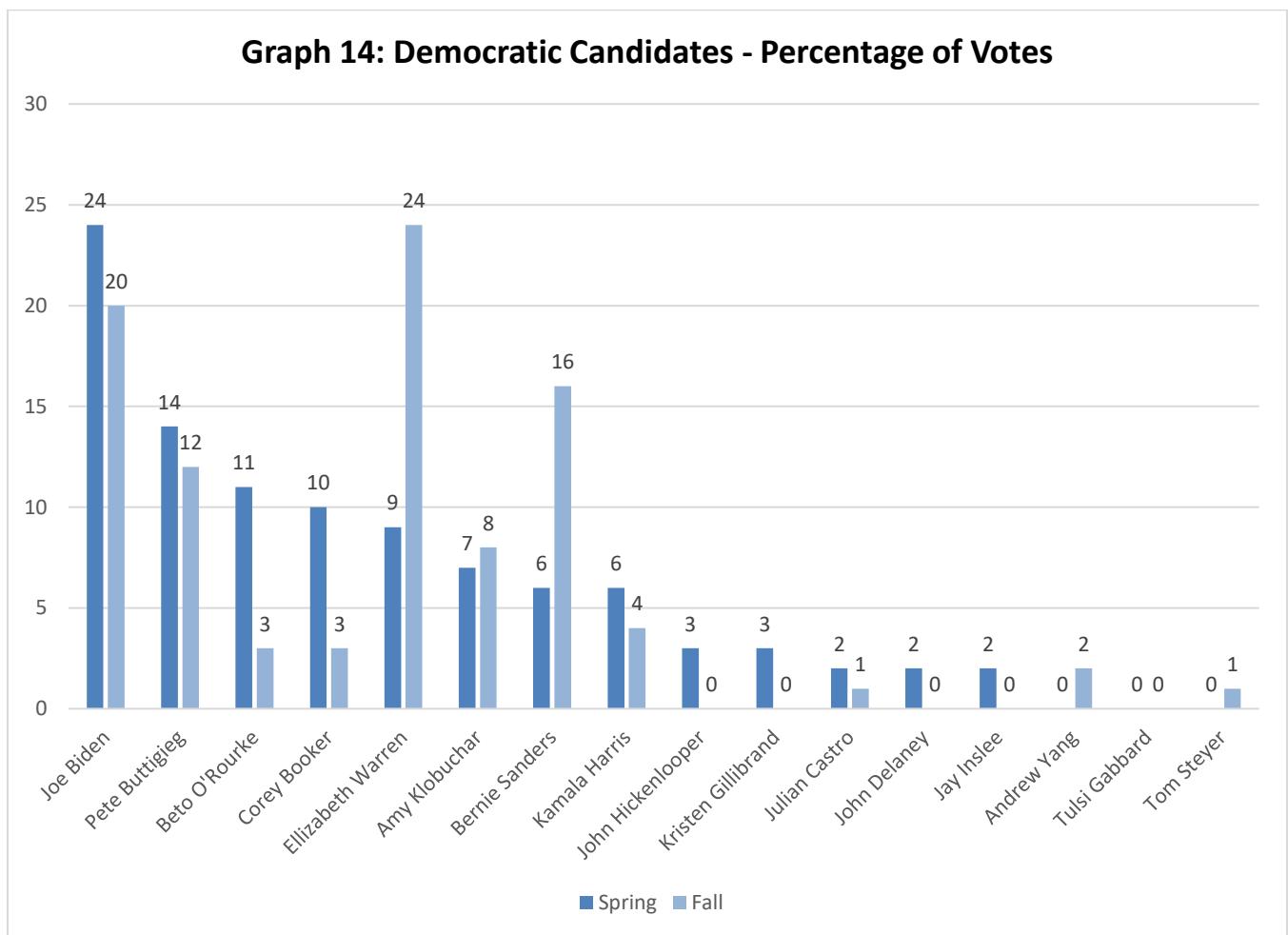
	Overall		Dem		Rep		Unaffiliated		Men		Women	
	S19	F19	S19	F19	S19	F19	S19	F19	S19	F19	S19	F19
President Trump	33	31	10	8	63	63	24	24	43	39	24	24
Vote for a Democrat	37	41	64	75	9	7	32	42	33	34	41	46
Vote for another candidate	16	13	12	7	16	15	25	15	11	17	20	10
NA/DK	15	15	13	10	13	12	19	18	14	10	16	20



## Voters' Presidential Preferences among Democratic Candidates

As in spring, fall respondents were asked to express a preference among Democratic candidates – they were provided a list of Democratic candidates appearing in the October debate, but also offered the option of indicating yet another candidate. Graph 14 provides the percentage of top three citations for each candidate from spring as well as those having a preference in fall. These different methodologies may account for some of the differences between the two surveys.

Both surveys showed Joe Biden with strong support – but experiencing a 4-point drop. Pete Buttigieg was holding steady despite a small 2-point drop. However, what the fall clearly shows is the ascendance of the leftwing within the Democratic camp: Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. Together they claimed 40 percent of the likely vote, with Warren alone claiming 24 percent. As with some other national polls showing Warren at the top but yet others showing Biden still ahead, it seems that the race pits these two candidates at least for now.<sup>17</sup>



<sup>17</sup> At this time, polls are widely divergent. A Quinnipiac poll culminating Oct 22 had Warren up by 7 points; a CNN poll had Biden up by 15 points. Yet another Economist/YouGov poll had the race virtually even. On realclearpolitics.com, the average on Oct. 27 was to put Biden up by 5 points over Warren.

## Would Democrats Vote for Trump?

The survey included a question meant to test the willingness of Democrats to defect in the event the nomination process produced a disliked candidate. Specifically, respondents were asked, **“If Democrats nominated a candidate who you didn’t like, would you vote for the Democrat, vote for Donald Trump, vote for a third-party candidate, or not vote for president?”** Table 19 shows the results.

Very few Democrats were willing to vote for President Trump in the event that a disliked Democrat was nominated to be the candidate for president. Not surprisingly, the “not strong” Democrats were the most likely to defect to Trump, although others claimed that they would “vote for a third-party candidate” instead.

**Table 19: Would Democrats Stick with a Disliked Democratic Nominee**

Choices	Overall	Dem Affiliation			Ideology		
		Strong	Somewhat	Not strong	Lib.	Mod.	Cons.
Vote for Democrat	92	95	88	89	90	82	100
Vote for Donald Trump	1	0	0	11	0	3	0
Vote for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party candidate	6	6	8	0	7	10	0
Not vote for president	2	0	4	0	2	5	0

Among Democratic voters aligned with a specific candidate, *none* said that they would vote for Trump. Some did say that they would vote for an unspecified third-party candidate instead. Table 19a shows the percentages defecting to a choice other than Trump should a “disliked” nominee be chosen by Democrats. Sanders and Biden were tied at 12 percent of their voters defecting. Buttigieg was more likely to have his voters stay within the Democratic Party – Elizabeth Warren’s were unlikely to defect. The defection leader was Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota – with about one-fifth of her voters appearing apprehensive about the Democrats’ eventual nominee.

**Table 19a: Defections from Candidates’ Voters**

Choices	Overall
Joe Biden	12
Pete Buttigieg	8
Amy Klobuchar	19
Bernie Sanders	12
Elizabeth Warren	2

## Ability to Win or Vision for the Country

The last question focusing on the presidential race asked, “**What is more important when thinking about whom to vote for president – the candidate’s ability to win, or the candidate’s vision for America? Or are they equally important?**” Table 20 shows the overall results as well as those by ideology and party registration.

**Table 20: Presidential Candidate – Ability to Win vs. Vision**

	Overall	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Ability to win	5	10	3	5	8	4	4
Vision for country	55	39	60	63	44	61	64
Equally important	40	52	38	33	48	35	33
Total	100	100	100	100	101	99	100

The ability to win was not chosen by many respondents (5 percent). Liberals and Democrats were the most likely to cite this factor. Vision was especially appealing to moderates, conservatives, Republicans and unaffiliated voters. Perhaps showing the trepidation of Democrats anticipating the reelection of President Trump, Democrats and liberals were also the most likely to say that winning and vision were equally important.

## Job Approval: County Executive, Governor, President

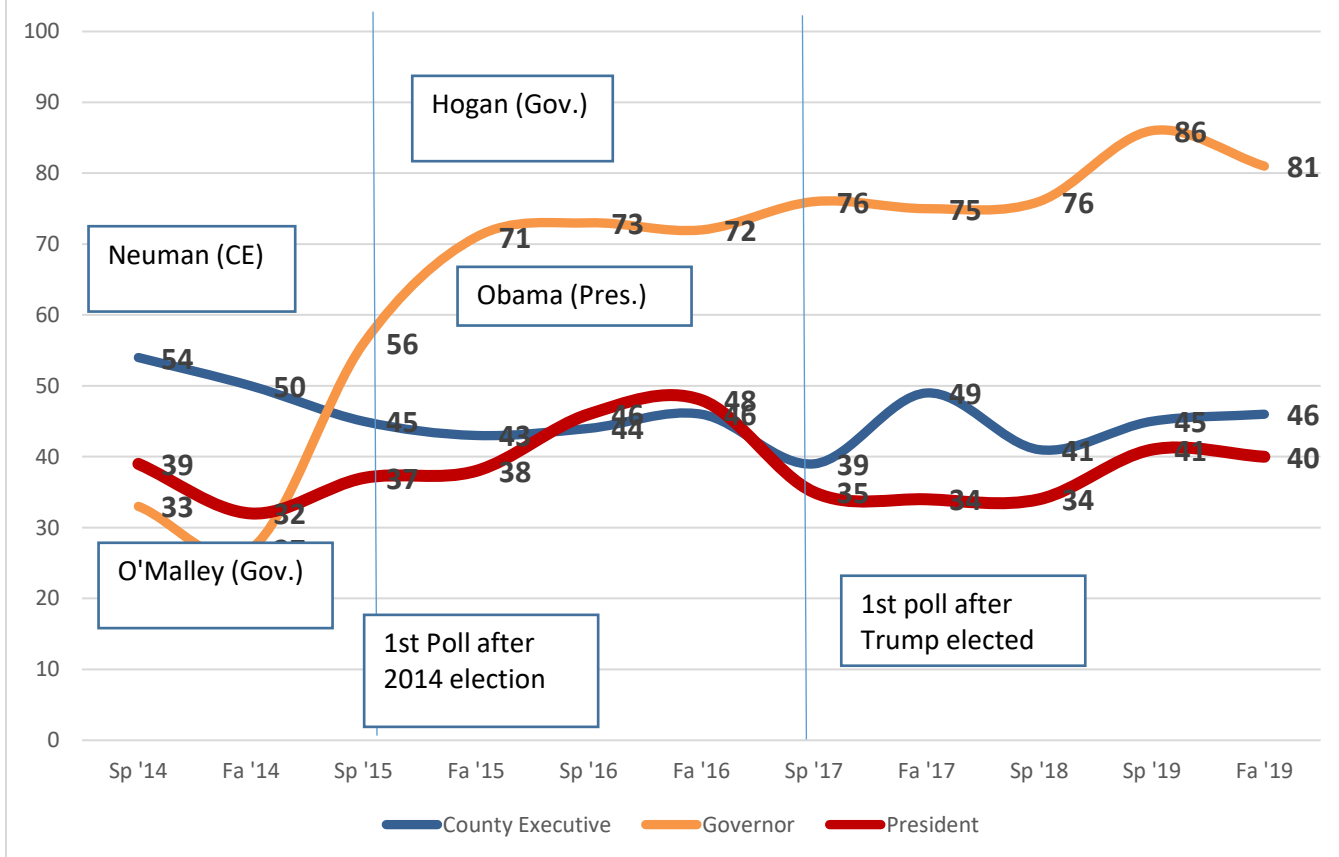
Each CSLI/AACC semi-annual survey asks respondents to indicate approval or disapproval of the job performed by an incumbent in office. Graph 15 shows the percentages saying “approve” for the county executive, the governor and the president.

For the fall 2018 survey, a change was made in how the question was asked: rather than simply asking the respondent to choose between “approve” and “disapprove,” more choices were offered: strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove and strongly disapprove. To make the results consistent with prior results, the four categories were collapsed into just two: approve, disapprove.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> A coding error in combining the online with the telephone samples made the results problematic for Fall 2018. Those results are excluded from Graph 15.



**Graph 15: Job Approval for County Executive, Governor and 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 fall 2019, Hogan’s approval has remained very high at 81 percent.

Regarding the county executive’s office, there was a small increase in approval scores from 45 to 46 percent.

President Trump’s job approval percentage was little changed at 40 percent – down one point from spring. The pattern of partisan and gender alignment on the presidential job approval question is shown on Table 21 and Graph 16 (party only).

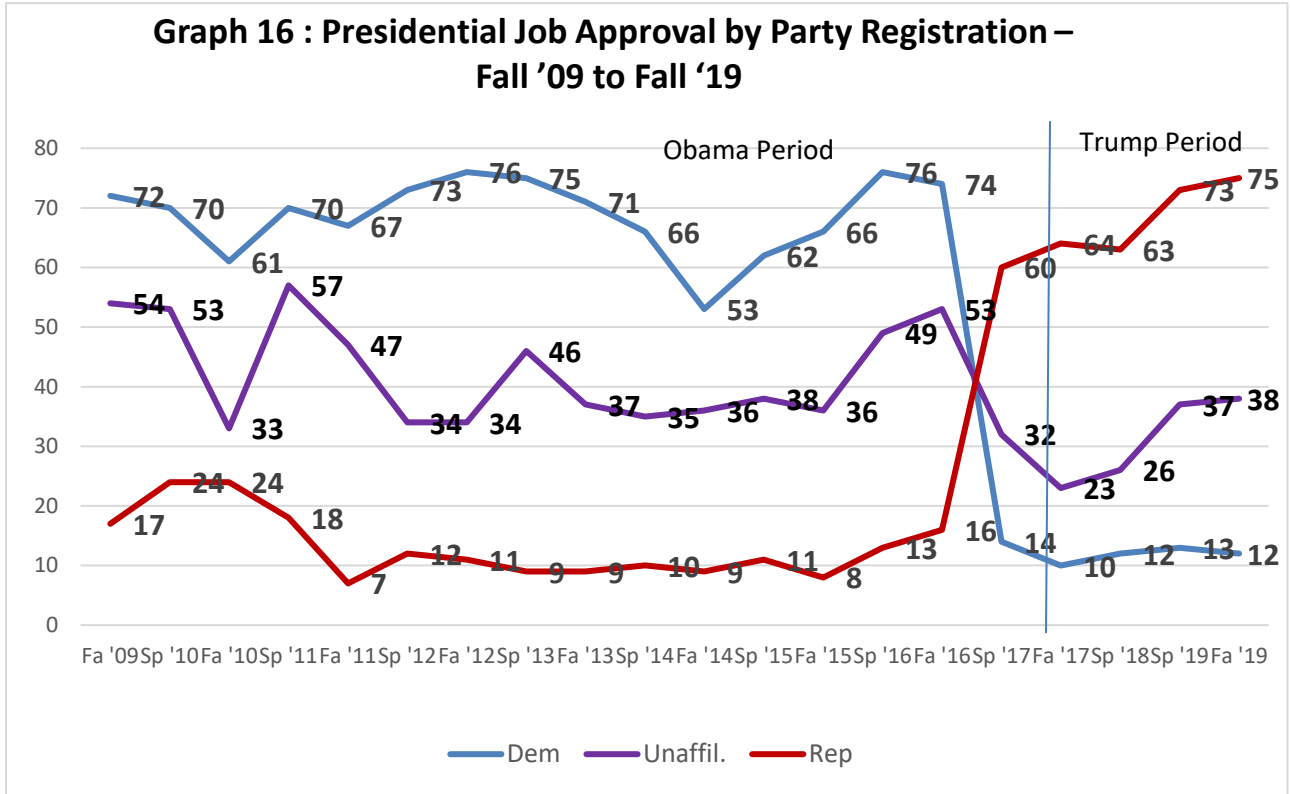
Looking at the results presented in Table 21, it is notable that there is very little variance across categories for Governor Hogan. He seems to have essentially surmounted partisan and gender differences.

By contrast, County Executive Pittman’s scores show a wide gap across party lines, with 59 percent of Democrats approving but only 36 percent of Republicans. One of the key differences between the job approval scores received by the county executive incumbent – well before Pittman – has been the very high percentage of respondents saying “don’t know” – in this case 32 percent (down from 39 percent last spring). Among unaffiliated respondents, that percentage rises to 41 (down from 53 percent last spring). The public was much more conclusive in its approval of Hogan (only 8 percent unsure) and especially in its view of Trump (3 percent unsure). While Hogan and Pittman had small gender gaps, Trump had a 16-point difference, with men much more likely to approve than women.

**Table 21: Job Approval by Party and Gender**

Percent Approving	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaffil.	Men	Women
Governor Larry Hogan	81	78	89	81	85	78
County Executive Stuart Pittman	46	59	36	39	46	46
President Trump	40	12	75	38	48	32

**Graph 16 : Presidential Job Approval by Party Registration – Fall '09 to Fall '19**



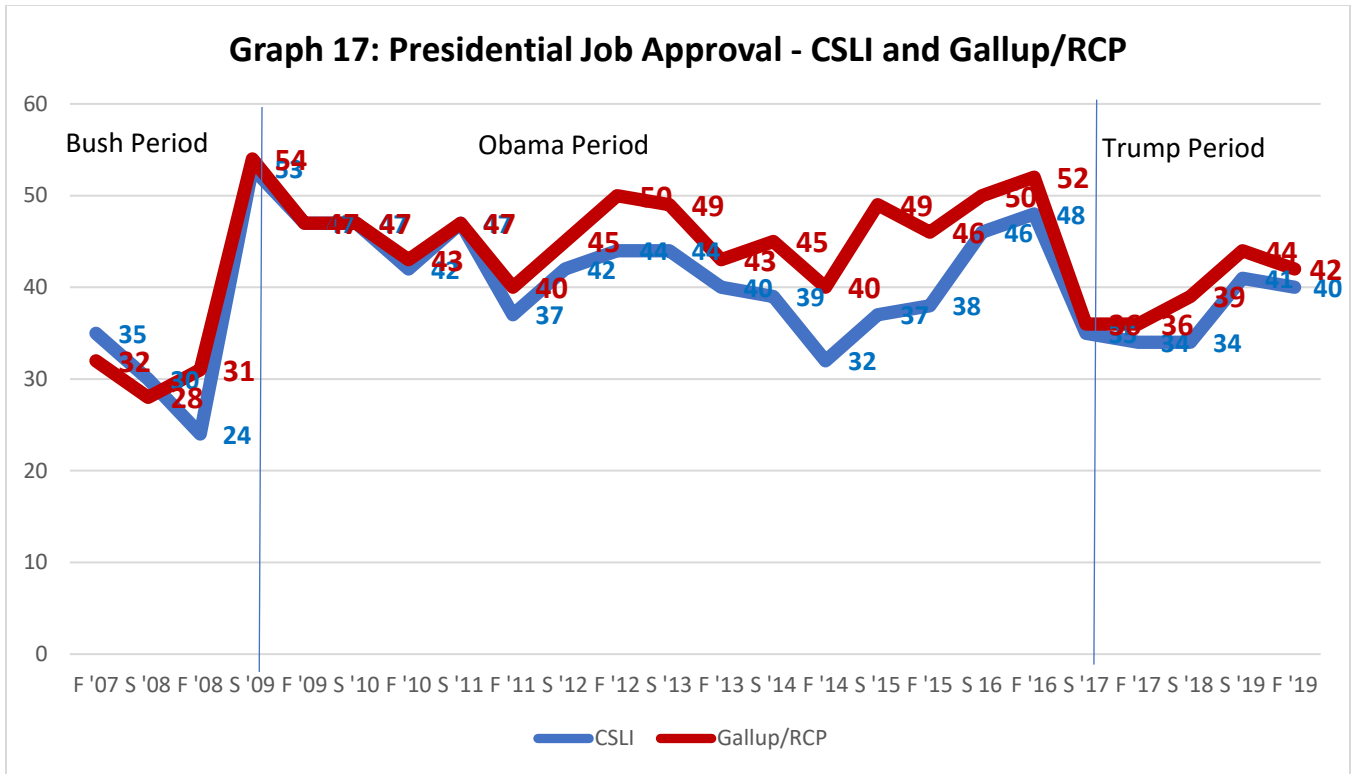
## Presidential job approval – CSLI and Gallup/RealClearPolitics

Since fall 2007, CSLI/AACC polls of county residents have generally tracked national presidential job approval trends as indicated by Gallup surveys.<sup>19</sup> Unfortunately, the Gallup organization now only tracks presidential job approval on a monthly basis, making it less relevant to the periods when the CSLI/AACC poll is in the field. As a result, from this point our polls will compare results to those listed on RealClearPolitics.com which is a survey aggregation service. The “RCP average” will be used in this and future reports. Prior results listed in Table 22 are based on the Gallup findings. Graph 17 shows the pattern for both poll sources – CSLI/AACC as well as Gallup/RCP.

**Table 22: CSLI Presidential Job Approval Fall 2011 to Fall 2019**

	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	Sp '19	Fa '19
Approve	37	42	44	44	40	39	32	37	38	46	48	35	34	34	41	<b>40</b>
Disapprove	56	49	50	51	53	52	58	56	52	47	46	54	55	56	56	<b>56</b>
No answer	7	8	6	4	7	9	9	7	10	7	6	11	11	11	4	<b>3</b>
Total	100	99	100	99	100	100	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	101	<b>99</b>

<sup>19</sup> See [http://www.gallup.com/poll/201617/gallup-daily-trump-job-approval.aspx?g\\_source=trump+job+approval&g\\_medium=search&g\\_campaign=tiles](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>. The fall 2019 benchmark can be found at [https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/other/president\\_trump\\_job\\_approval-6179.html?utm\\_campaign=distroscale&utm\\_medium=video-player&utm\\_source=polls](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/other/president_trump_job_approval-6179.html?utm_campaign=distroscale&utm_medium=video-player&utm_source=polls)



### Trust in Political Parties

Since 2008, CSLI/AACC surveys have 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 18 shows that there have been some sharp oscillations on the Republican side, scores as low as 23 percent and as high as 39 percent. Democrats have shown 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 fall 2019 figures showed a notable rise for Democrats from 34 to 39 percent for Democrats, which is the highest figure since spring 2008. Republicans showed a four-point decline from 37 to 33 percent. The percentage saying “neither” dropped from 22 to only 17 percent – a level usually associated with an election year. 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 score for fall 2019 seems unusually low perhaps indicating early polarization along party lines in anticipation of the 2020 elections.

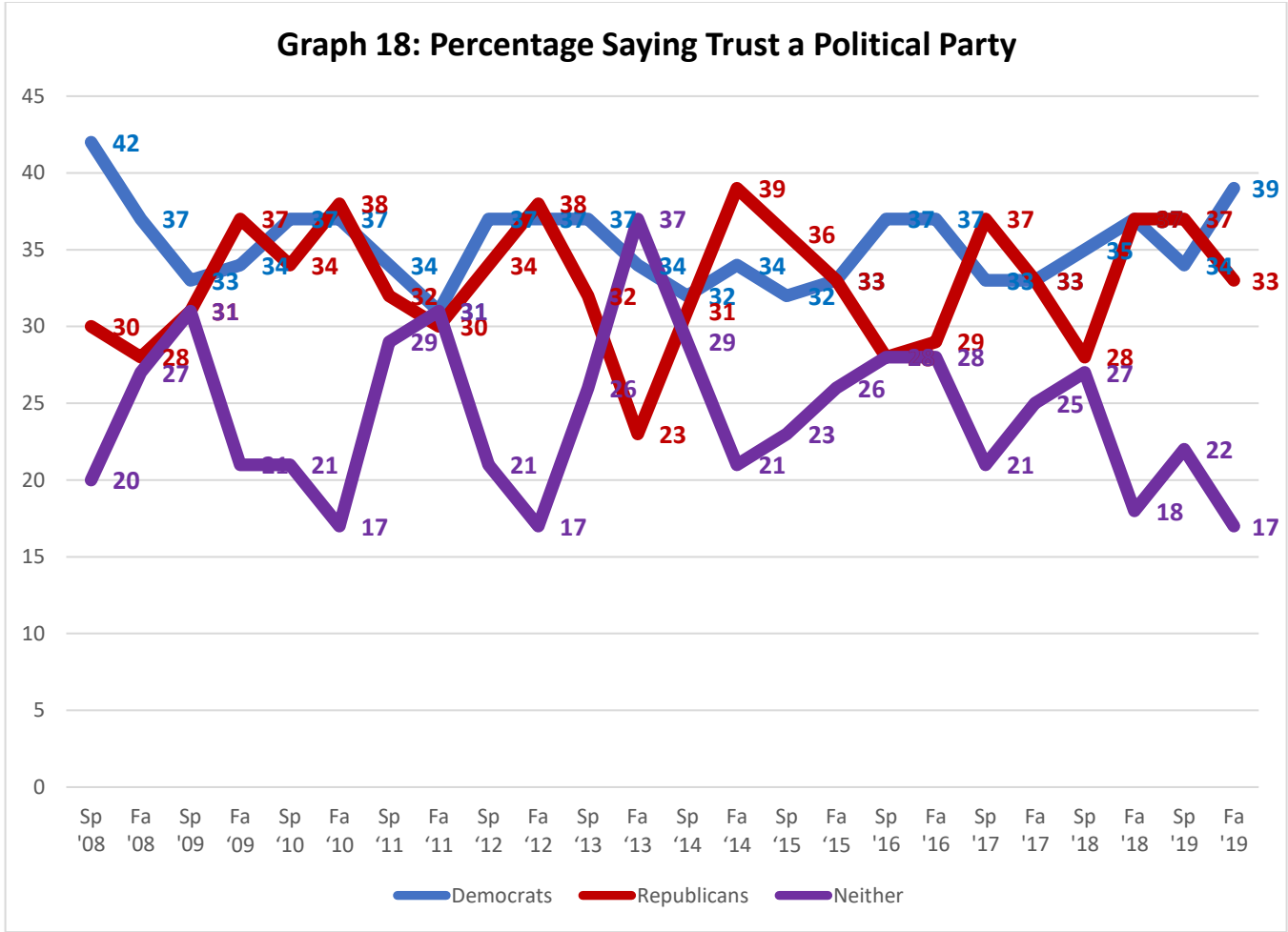


Table 23 includes information about party registration and trust in parties. For Democrats, a seven-point rise brought trust to its highest level since fall 2017. For Republicans, swings have generally been more acute than for Democrats but the period from spring to fall 2019 saw a small two-point increase in trust for their own party. However, that was accompanied by a six-point drop in “neither” score and a four-point rise in the Democrat score. Unaffiliated voters showed a twelve-point rise in trust for Democrats along with a seven-point decline in trust for Republicans.

**Table 23: Trust Political Parties by Registration**

	Democrat					Republican					Unaffiliated				
	Fa '17	Sp '18	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19	Fa '17	Sp '18	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19	Fa '17	Sp '18	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19
Trust Democrats	63	65	71	66	<b>73</b>	4	7	3	4	<b>8</b>	24	30	31	22	<b>34</b>
Trust Republicans	11	9	6	13	<b>10</b>	64	55	78	67	<b>69</b>	20	23	34	28	<b>21</b>
Trust neither	18	18	19	16	<b>8</b>	26	29	12	21	<b>15</b>	42	37	26	38	<b>33</b>
NA/DK/Other party	8	8	4	5	<b>9</b>	6	9	7	8	<b>9</b>	15	10	9	12	<b>12</b>
Total	100	100	100	100	<b>100</b>	100	100	100	100	<b>101</b>	100	101	100	100	<b>100</b>

## Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 580 county residents who were at least 18 years old. Telephone interviewing was conducted primarily using a database of listed and unlisted landline numbers during the period October 21-24 during evening hours. In addition, members of a CSLI/AACC web panel were also asked to participate in an online version of the survey during the period October 18 through October 25. The two data sources were merged for this analysis. There was about a 4 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., for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 and [ddnataf@aacc.edu](mailto:ddnataf@aacc.edu). Check this website for results for information and press releases for this and previous surveys: [www2.aacc.edu/csli](http://www2.aacc.edu/csli).

## Appendix A: Questionnaire with Frequencies

### Appendix A: CSLI Semi-Annual Survey – Fall, 2019

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	Percentage
<b>Crime</b> (other than drug related)	8
<b>Drugs</b> (use or sale of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or use of prescription pain killers for non-medical purposes.)	14
<b>Economy</b> – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	5
<b>Education</b> , problems with schools, quality, facilities, staff, discipline	7
<b>Environment</b> (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	8
<b>Government ethics</b> – corrupt, immoral	2
<b>Government waste</b> – inefficient, spends too much	2
<b>Government lack resources</b> –for roads, schools, services	2
<b>Growth/overpopulation</b> - too much development, poorly planned	15
<b>Healthcare</b> (cost, access)	3
<b>Taxes</b> – too high	10
<b>Transportation</b> problems/traffic congestion, lack of public transit	17
<b>No answer, don't know</b>	4
<b>Other</b> answer - write in:	3
<b>Total</b>	100

2. Are things headed in the right or wrong direction for the county, the state of Maryland and the country as a whole? (Start with county)

	Right	Wrong	Unsure/Don't know
2.1 <b>Anne Arundel County</b>	54	27	19
2.2 <b>Maryland</b>	56	27	17
2.3 <b>US</b>	31	58	11

3. How do you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County, in Maryland, and in the United States generally -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor? (Start with county)

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	Unsure/Don't know
3.1 <b>Anne Arundel County</b>	14	59	20	3	3
3.2 <b>Maryland</b>	10	60	22	5	3
3.3 <b>US</b>	16	37	30	12	5

**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	Unsure, no answer
4.1 Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	47	48	5
4.2 Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	41	56	3
4.3 Facing the possibility of unemployment	10	85	5
4.4 Found a new or better job recently	15	82	3
4.5 Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	24	72	4
4.6 Hard to afford the cost of education	42	54	4
4.7 Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	33	64	4
4.8 Taxes are too high in relation to government services provided	53	38	9

**(Skip in question numbering is intention)**

**9. Do you support or oppose the following items with a state or local focus?**

	Support	Oppose	Unsure/NA
9.1 More state funding to improve water quality of the Chesapeake Bay	83	12	5
9.2 Strict limitations on the use of e-cigarettes or vaping	71	21	8
9.3 State financial support for Planned Parenthood	60	30	10

**9.4 Building a new span on the current Bay Bridge might cost up to \$6 billion. A higher toll might be needed to pay for it. How much more would you be willing to pay above the current \$4 that non-EZ Pass holders must pay now?**

Write in:\_\_\_\_\_ Average: \$2.60

**10. The county council passed increases on income and property taxes in order to better fund schools, police, fire and other services. Do you agree – strongly, somewhat or not at all - that the additional revenue was needed to improve such services?**

- Agree strongly 31%
- Agree somewhat 39%
- Agree not at all 25%
- No opinion/unsure 5%

**11. The development of county land includes a forest conservation fee. The county executive has said that the current fee is too low and doesn't reflect the benefits of tree preservation. He has proposed a sharply higher fee to preserve more trees. Which of the following seems best to you?**

- (1) Keep fees unchanged to avoid rising development costs 24%
- (2) Increase fees sharply to preserve more and better reflect the value of tree preservation 26%
- (3) Increase fees and restrictions to prevent any net loss of trees 32%
- (4) No opinion/unsure 18%



<b>Town Meetings about General Development Plan</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Unsure/ no answer</b>
12.1 County officials have held town hall meetings to ask residents their views about the General Development Plan and its impact upon their communities. Were you aware of such meetings?	36	58	5
12.2 Did you attend any of these meetings?	7	92	1
12.3 Do you think that holding such meetings helps to increase trust in local government?	60	26	15

**13. How serious – very, somewhat or not very – do you believe the following problems to be in Anne Arundel County**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>How serious=&gt;</b>	<b>Very</b>	<b>Somewhat</b>	<b>Not very</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
13.1 Having easy access to opioids		63	21	5	7
13.3 Crime in your neighborhood		11	31	57	1
13.4 High cost of housing		54	33	11	2
13.5 The management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay		56	28	9	8
13.6 Traffic congestion		79	17	3	1
13.7 Higher wages for men than women		29	28	30	13
13.8 Access to mental health services		46	28	15	11
13.9 Non-English languages spoken in public places		18	22	48	12
13.10 Ability of minorities to get ahead		31	32	27	11
13.11 The educational achievement gap among students from different races		41	28	21	9

**14. Thinking about the factors that might cause an educational achievement gap and students from different races, how important is each of the following – very, somewhat or not very important.**

	<b>Very</b>	<b>Somewhat</b>	<b>Not very important</b>	<b>Unsure/ no opinion</b>
14,1 Poverty	69	24	7	0
14.2 Broken families	68	27	5	0
14.3 Dangerous communities	66	27	7	0
14.4 Racism in our schools	44	33	24	0
14.5 Problems with teaching	40	38	22	0
14.6 Inadequate compensation to teachers in low performing schools	58	28	15	0
14.7 Lack of parental engagement	75	21	4	0

**15. Do you support or oppose the following items with a national focus**

	Support	Oppose	Unsure/NA
15.1 US military intervention in the Middle East	43	34	23
15.2 Strong efforts to limit climate change, with a \$10 monthly fee to fund renewable energy programs	52	37	11
15.3 A federal mandatory buyback program for assault-style weapons	49	42	10
15.4 A plan to provide adult US citizens with a basic income to cope with automation	31	42	27
15.5 The impeachment of President Trump	45	44	11
15.6 The withdrawal of Joe Biden from the Democratic primary due to allegations about his son’s activities in Ukraine or China	29	48	24

**16. Some proposals to change the health insurance market have proposed ending the link between employment and health coverage – and transitioning Americans into a government single payer system within a few years. Which of the following best describes your feelings about this idea? [ONLINE ONLY]**

- (1) Support 31%
- (2) Oppose 51%
- (3) Unsure/None/no answer 18%

**17. With which political party, if any, are you registered (weighted)?**

- (1) Democratic 41% => **ASK: Do you consider yourself a**
  - (1.1) strong 42%
  - (1.2) somewhat strong 37%
  - (1.3) not a strong Democrat? 20%
- (2) Republican => **ASK: Do you consider yourself a**
  - (2.1) strong 38%
  - (2.2) somewhat strong 42%
  - (2.3) not a strong Republican 20%
- (3) Unaffiliated (or “independent”)=> **ASK: Do you consider yourself to be leaning more towards the**
  - (3.1) Democratic 35%
  - (3.2) Republican 27%
  - (3.3) neither party most of the time? 41%
- (4) Other 2%
- (5) None (not registered to vote 6% =====>
- (0) No Answer =====>

Go to question 23 next page =>

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

- (1) Hillary Clinton 35%
- (2) Donald Trump 35%
- (3) Someone else 9%
- (4) Didn’t vote 21%

**19. Thinking about the race for president in 2020, at this time, would you be inclined to vote to reelect President Trump, vote for a Democratic candidate, or some other Republican or third party candidate instead?**

- (1) Reelect President Trump 31%
- (2) Vote for Democrat 41%
- (3) Vote for another Republican/3rd party 13%
- (0) Unsure, no answer 15%

=> If “Vote for Democrat” ask: (otherwise skip to question 23 below)

**20. You said that you were inclined to vote for a Democratic candidate. If you know the name of your favorite candidate, let me know. Otherwise I will read the list of candidates who appeared in the October debate.**

- Joe Biden (former VP under President Obama) 20%
- Corey Booker (US senator from New Jersey) 3%
- Pete Buttigieg (mayor of South Bend, Indiana) 12%
- Julian Castro (former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under Obama) 1%
- Tulsi Gabbard (congressperson from Hawaii) 0%
- Kamala Harris (US senator from California) 4%
- Amy Klobuchar (US senator from Minnesota) 8%
- Beto O'Rourke (former congressman from Texas and former candidate for Senate from that state) 3%
- Bernie Sanders (US senator from Vermont) 16%
- Tom Steyer (businessman) 1%
- Elizabeth Warren (US senator from Massachusetts) 24%
- Andrew Yang (Entrepreneur) 2%
- Other candidate (write in): 6%

**21. If Democrats nominated a candidate who you didn't like, would you vote for the Democrat, vote for Donald Trump, vote for a third party candidate, or not vote for president?**

- (1) Vote for Democrat 92%
- (2) Vote for Donald Trump 1%
- (3) Vote for 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidate 6%
- (4) Not vote for president 2%

**22. What is more important when thinking about whom to vote for president – the candidate’s ability to win, or the candidate’s vision for America. Or are they equally important?**

- 1. Ability to win 5%
- 2. Vision for America 55%
- 3. Equally important 40%

**23. 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 39%
- (2) Republicans 33%
- (3) Neither (volunteered) 17%
- (4) Other (volunteered) 1%
- (0) No answer 10%

**19. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the following elected officials are handling their jobs:**

*If the respondent provides an answer, ask “Would that be strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove?”*

Elected official	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	No answer/ DK
19.1 Governor Larry Hogan	47	34	8	3	8
19.2 County Executive Steuart Pittman	18	28	10	12	32
19.3 President Donald Trump	25	16	7	49	3

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

**20. Which of the following best describes your political beliefs?**

- 1. Very conservative 14%
- 2. Somewhat conservative 19%
- 3. Moderate 31%
- 4. Somewhat liberal 19%
- 5. Very liberal (progressive or democratic socialist) 12%
- 6. Unsure/don’t know 5%

**22. What is your age?** \_\_\_\_\_

- 18-29: 21%
- 30-49: 12%
- 50-59: 24%
- 60-69: 21%
- 70+: 22%

**23. Regarding race, how would you describe yourself?** (read list if respondent hesitates)

- (1) White or Caucasian 80%
- (2) Black or African American 7%
- (3) Hispanic or Latino 4%
- (4) Asian or Asian American 2%
- (5) Mixed 3%
- (5) Other \_\_\_\_\_ 1%
- (0) No answer 4%

**24. Regarding religion, how would you describe yourself?** (read list if respondent hesitates)

- (1) None 12%
- (2) Non-practicing 10%
- (3) Evangelical or born again Christian (possibly Baptist, Pentecostal) 13%
- (4) Catholic 27%
- (5) Jewish 2%
- (6) Protestant (possibly Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopalian) 19%
- (7) Some other Christian 2%
- (8) A ‘spiritual person’ not associated with an organized religion 8%
- (9) Something else (e.g., Muslim, Hindu) 3%
- (0) No Answer 3%

**25. What is your current marital status?** (Read list if respondent hesitates)

- (1) Single 25%
- (2) Married 63%
- (3) Separated/divorced 4%
- (4) Widowed 6%
- (5) Living together 2%
- (5) Other 1%

**26. Which of the following best describes your highest level of formal education?** (Read from top until respondent picks a choice). **(Weighted)**

(1) less than a high school diploma	(5) completed a 4 year bachelor’s degree
(2) a high school diploma	(6) post graduate work
(3) some college	(7) something else?
(4) completed a 2 year associate college degree	(0) No Answer

**27. Which of the following best describes your gross annual household income before taxes.** (Read from top until respondent picks a choice).

- (1) Less than \$30,000      11%
- (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000    10%
- (3) \$50,001 to \$75,000    10%
- (4) \$75,001-\$100,000      16%
- (5) \$100,001-\$150,000    22%
- (6) \$150,001-\$250,000    18%
- (7) Over \$250,000          6%    (0) No Answer 7%

**28. Which of following best describes your the employment situation?.**

Category	Percentage
Fully or semi retired	34
Self employed or consultant	7
Employed part-time	16
Employed in a defense related activity	2
Employed in the private sector	12
Federal government (non-defense)	4
State or local government	6
Non-profit organization	2
Student (mostly or full-time)	7
Unemployed and seeking a job	2
Caregiver/parent	2
No answer	6

**29. I have one last request: In an attempt to provide us with more opportunities to survey the public, the Center is asking respondents to participate in these surveys online surveys. Can we count on your help? (If “yes” write in the respondent’s email address.**

---

**SAY: Thank you for participating in our survey.**

-----

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

**30. Gender of respondent to whom you were speaking: (weighted)**

(1) Male 48% (2) Female 51% (3) Other/Unknown 1%

**31. Zip code**

None	.4
20711	.5
20715	.7
20716	.2
20720	.2
20724	.6
20733	.8
20751	.6
20755	.2
20764	1.1
20765	.4
20776	1.1
20778	.2
20779	.6
21012	6.4
21032	1.6
21035	2.2
21037	3.8
21045	.3
21054	2.5
21060	4.3
21061	4.8
21076	.7
21090	1.4
21108	4.3
21113	3.5
21114	5.8
21122	14.7
21140	.8
21144	6.4
21146	9.5
21225	1.1
21226	.2
21401	8.1
21403	5.5
21409	4.4
Total	100.0

**Appendix 1: Most Important Problem – Open-Ended Comments** (only suggested alternatives to list presented)

**Note: These comments in these appendices have been copied verbatim and only reflect comments made by the online panel who were provided opportunities to clarify their selections.**

**The comments in the section below were only other suggestions for the “most important problem” not clarifying comments.**

Affordable Housing

All of above Too difficult to pick one versus another

Housing for middle-class individuals or families. People are being pushed out of the County.

Too many of the above to pick just one.

Drugs (narrowly opioids) When I was a child, I remember driving past the AA County police station and seeing the sign surrounded by two disapproving policemen depicting a small number of assaults and a two digit number of drunk driving incidents. Nowadays the same sign reflects a much higher number of overdoses and deaths due to these drugs and their proliferation

Trump.

Taxes, Government waste, Drugs, Crime, and growth with poor transportation plans!

Over crowding too much development roads can't handle

Bay Bridge fiasco.

airplane noise in Anne Arundel County due to Next Gen change in patterns and the constant streaming of arrivals and take offs in limited locations. Where I live we can get arrivals every two minutes screaming through the sky . It did not used to be this way.

Not only high taxes but the hidden cost of illegals attending schools, requiring healthcare and committing crimes needs to be addressed. There are MS-13 gangs here!

Trump - he affects everything!

Climate Change

Eroding family values

Over-development based upon zoning over-concentration on housing without regard to stress imposed upon infrastructure, roads, and educational facilities, artificially lowering the effective tax base,

Money from casino not going to the stated purpose.



## Appendix 2: Right/Wrong Direction for All Levels – Open-Ended Comments

Down in my end of the county, South County, the opioid crisis is out of control.  
USA is heading in the right direction in the impeachment inquiry, and digging out political corruption.  
But US is heading in wrong direction with the foreign policies/plans of the administration  
In MD, we are over taxing the middle class, creating sanctuary enclaves, spending money on education in the wrong areas, and have no solution for near and far term transportation issues - like the bay bridge. We continue to take taxes from those just getting by and distribute to those who refuse to work.

Congress not working together. Too busy trying to get the president.

The Governor is heading in the right direction but the Democratic legislature is slowing his progress.

We have Trump! Rising tide raises all boats

Country as a whole in turmoil with current leadership and perpetuation of hate and intolerance of differing ideologies.

Trump needs to go!

The county exec and council seem to be listening to the community. Hogan doing a non partisan job.

The United States is in disarray, discord and descending.. The statue of Liberty is crying..

Trump is toxic.

I trust democracy to self correct as necessary, as the quagmire of questioning the veracity of established facts will fade into history as an idiotic section of Russian-influenced American history.

Trump is destroying our country.

President puts his economic well being before the needs of the Country

Maryland could be a very forward looking state, but more needs to be spent on education (Kirwin report) and the environment.

Trump.

This state is going to the dogs, much like Baltimore.

Trump is destroying our constitutional system of government

corruption

Should be pretty clear that for the "country as a whole" things have never been worse. The totally immoral, incompetent, egomaniac heading this country has ruined it in so many ways. It may never recover. The state of Maryland has much going for it; however even a nice Republican governor had made serious mistakes in controlling the environmental damage done by his supporters, and the county follows in the crazy idea that over development is a good thing. Reminds me of our first house in AA Co. We had a septic system that never worked. Came to learn we were sitting on an underground spring. Water often poured into the street from the spring. On the driest day of the decade that lot wouldn't have perked, but someone saw to it that a building permit was issued. What's changed? That was 1973.

Trump=wrong

Professional politicians have created the Bay Bridge fiasco. A new bridge should have been built by now. No real leadership has been applied within our state and county government to create a solution to the bridge problem.

With county and state officials telling the law enforcement to NOT call ICE --- and making the area a "sanctuary" for illegal non-citizens --- we are in a world of hurt and it gets very expensive.

Corrupt and dishonest president is destroying our democracy.

Our President is creating chaos, attacking the environment, alienating our Allies, behaving like a boorish bully.

Politicians in DC fail to get anything done and keep looking backwards at the last election or forward to the next. Instead of trying to win me over to another point of view and what a particular party might have to offer. It concerns me that my hard work over the years will be "rewarded" by requiring me to fund other people's excesses. America is the land of opportunity and while there are people who need support I would prefer to be able to choose how I do that.

Government at the federal level is in complete chaos. Our democracy is in great danger.

Locally we're okay, getting some control on growth and environmental problems. The state seems to be working reasonably well. The federal government is a mess, and our Constitution form of government is severely threatened by the present administration.

not Baltimore, but the state in general

Making illegal immigrants comparable to legal immigrants who did everything correct to be in this county and state is very WRONG.

The state and county governments are allowing illegal immigrants and supporting violation of the established laws. The county exec is destroying the county and making it unsafe and uncomfortable for lawful residents. The governor has failed to address Baltimore specifically and allowing Baltimore problems to permeate the county.

The recent rapid increase in taxes for AA county is the most significant wrong direction in years. For Maryland, by remaining a high tax state particularly unfavorable to retirement the state continues to go in the wrong directions. The US direction is unclear it's a 50 / 50 crazy vs. crazier.

Trump is destroying our foreign relations as well as causing more racial tension within the USA

Given the role that both the National and State play, it is hard to tell/blame the County for the decline in addressing problems that have an impact on the County. While the Federal government is clearing heading into the wrong direction, the State has NO direction!!!!

Politics must be taken out of the picture so that we can focus on our many problems and develop solutions.

The governor needs to be willing to raise taxes if needed to pay for inflation and infrastructure; and, keep future deficits and interest down. Instead, he wants to be able to say in future elections, "I didn't raise taxes."

Trump has us going in the right direction but Congress is trying to thwart him at every turn.

Anne Arundel county - too much government financial waste. Maryland-Gov Hogan is trying to stop the run a way wasteful spending, Annapolis won't cooperate. US - Too much in fighting and insufficient effort to govern and not addressing the real issues.

I feel like the county/state is only worried about money and it's leading to overpopulation with zero thought for infrastructure. We do not have roads that will accommodate all the people that they let build. My kids go to elementary school with 650 other children, while the elementary school down the street has 300 kids.

I do think that there is a LOT of housing and other building going on in Anne Arundel Co — housing that was supposed to be 55+ (so no school impact) has become for any age and does impact the schools. Until Trump is out of the White House this country will continue to be headed in the wrong direction.

Trump is the only elected official doing a great job!

Our quality of life here in Anne Arundel County and in Maryland keeps getting worse as development continues to proceed at an increasing rate. Traffic congestion gets worse by the week, bridges and roads are constantly breaking down and the air and water keeps getting dirtier because more dwellings keep getting built. This is the wrong direction.

The Trump administration is destroying everything.

Trump stinks

corruption

Anne Arundel Count and the State of Maryland appear to have functioning governments addressing the needs of the residents and respecting the will of the voters. The federal government in Washington is a complete and total dumpster fire, taking both the country and the world in the wrong direction.

Too much violence in our country. Also immigration problems.

As a country We've lost our role as the moral world leader, betrayed our allies and coddled despots I believe in the county and state leadership... The person leading the county, however, is not fit to lead and is sending us in the wrong direction

We elected a Democrat County executive who instantly demanded more taxes and began the usual misguided social engineering ploys.

### Appendix 3: Economic Condition Ratings (All Levels) - Open-Ended Comments

Great stock market & unemployment numbers. Still need to rein in China over unfair trade policies.  
In general good. Clearly some states or regions are doing better than others.  
The rich get richer, money for walls but not falling down bridges or education.  
The national debt is out of control.  
Widespread de facto segregation exists across this state and nation, AA County seeming relatively full of opportunity, if rather expensive  
Md taxes too high. Don't know that I can retire and stay in MD  
Our economy is in trouble due to Inconsistency in the Executive Branch/ President and the exploding National Debt. I am fearful!  
The instability of our federal government is a threat to at all levels.  
The statistics look good but there are still a lot of people who are struggling.  
Affordable housing is nearly nonexistent in Annapolis for those on a fixed income. Nationally, the rich are getting richer, and low-to-medium income residents are paying the price.  
In all cases, good conditions but only fair or poor for those at the bottom of the economic ladder.  
If it weren't for federal government jobs Maryland would be lagging.  
The country has the lowest unemployment in 50 years for ALL people, but you would not know from the crazed media who just hate every step forward taken by the Trump administration. If it is good for the country, it should be applauded, no matter who gets the credit.  
The national economy has continued to grow and support AAC and MD. We have benefited by the national economy.  
Racism and economic disadvantage are keeping the economy fair or poor.  
since the relationship with the Federal government is so strong in this area, it is hard to blame the State and County for the economy, but it is clear no strong steps have been taken by the County!  
Trillion dollars deficits.  
The economy continues to improve however I realize that this opinion is based on my personal feeling of economic security.  
Taxes in Maryland are making it impossible for retirees to live here. Governor Hogan should eliminate state income taxes on all pensions and social security income.  
The economy is apparently good but loads of people do not share in it the bounty.  
income inequality  
Income disparity and the growing gap; reduction of middle class opportunity  
Needless tariff wars and attempts to set monetary policy based on political considerations are negatively impacting the national economy and have the potential to do serious damage.  
Despite improvements in the US economy since the recession, serious underlying deficiencies remain, including stagnant income for all except the wealthy, rising inequality and high poverty rates in the US, particularly for children.  
Income inequality still a huge problem. I've lost thousands in wages and hence retirement after the recession and will never make that up!

**Appendix 4: “The county council passed increases on income and property taxes in order to better fund schools, police, fire and other services. Do you agree – strongly, somewhat or not at all - that the additional revenue was needed to improve such services?”**

**Open-Ended Comments**

The community should put forth a combined effort to increase availability and quality of education for the up and coming generation.

Agree but question where and how applied

Education is not the problem, but rather the disintegration of the family and increased secularism. So throwing more \$\$ after it is a waste.

The funding a school receives should not be based on the amount of property taxes paid by the nearest residents. All schools should receive equal funding. Police should not get funding if it's going to further their militarization, increase their presence in schools, in Black neighborhoods, or if it increases surveillance in vulnerable communities.

But I don't see the improvement

casino income was to NOT increase taxes for schools. BUT we need better education, school bldg, teacher pay

I don't see the money going to fire or police and the money spent on education does not go for the basics - 3r's - both for social indoctrination and staff whos job it has become to replace the basic teaching and support of the family unit. Schools are for education not to implement social experiments and raise family's.

if it really goes to education

Costs rise for government just as they rise for households and businesses. Too many taxpayers are not realistic about this.

Adjust budget priorities instead of raising taxes. Adopt Hogan's approach !

I am suspicious as to how much of that money will go to providing for the essentials instead of community programs that may only benefit a few select group of citizens.

They waste all the money they get now! I don't want to pay any more! They need to do more with less! Bunch of thieves.

Every time the government needs money, they always say it's for the schools but it never seems to go towards education. I think the politicians pockets get fatter.

If it goes toward more staff police, fire & teachers; professional training for those employees and school infrastructure money well spent.

All these services are important to the lives of citizens.

I don't live in that county so im unsure

gambling money was supposed to augment the school budget. What happened?

The appropriated money must be released by Governor Hogan

Only if they reduce the wasted spending first.

Should we raise taxes or look at how efficiently tax dollars are already being used? Are we even getting our money's worth in terms of what we are putting into schools?

There is a big teacher shortage

There is a no follow-up to the public on what programs or new cirriculums implemented by the school work or don't work, no accountibility for poor teachers or poor student behavior and a bloated mamagement/ curriculum staff.

There is too much waste in spending.

Seniors should be given a discount on property taxes.

I'm a retired Associate Professor from AACC, so I know that the college is underfunded by the county. The AACPS are also underfunded, but I don't know about the police or fire departments. Small increase in taxes is needed, but there is also waste. This should be more closely monitored at a lower unit type level and funds can be better spent for benefits and salaries. The waste of perfectly good buildings at the college is an example.

Would not pay for more money for schools, fire and police would probably support.

The funding is being wasted by indoctrination not education of the students.

Need to find out where the money is going first before raising taxes. Look at cutting spending like all businesses.

Don't think I will be able to stay in AA county when I retire

There needs to be more transparency regarding per pupil spending, number of administrators, educators' pay & . Too often we hear, "we need more education funding," but are not given enough information to make an informed decision. Instead, emotional appeals are used. Let the county residents see where the money goes right now and let us decide if more money is needed.

Taxes too high.

We continue to fund more and more things. I do not have children in school and rarely use services. I strongly agree that the funds are needed, but I wonder why those areas are in need when we already pay such high state and local taxes.

Money is there already from high taxes on a large population per square mile. Use our taxes more efficiently

more funding for schools has not translated to any better performance. Police, fire and other services (libraries) may need additional funding. Schools should move to a voucher system to best serve all the children of the community. Home schooled families are not being served adequately by the education system.

If government waste was addressed first, that would help greatly. The school unions keep the schools performing poorly due to retaining unqualified teachers and over paying administrators & too many administrators

NOT for education. Already over funded and misdirected. Yes, for police and fire services which are underfunded and underpaid when compared with adjacent jurisdictions.

Still concerned that tax money is spent appropriately and not wasted. All departments should be audited, processes improved and current spending evaluated for effectiveness to reduce expenditures.

if there were checks on fraud and waste tax increase would not be necessary.

although I no longer have children in school, I believe we must improve them. Also losing great teachers to other counties is not acceptable. We must keep the great teachers we have in our county! (note - no family members are teachers!)

You get what you pay for...

With some of the best schools in the state, much public construction, and similar spending, why did we need more funds, appears that what we had was perfect inflow of reasonable taxes.

Education is a MONEY PIT. They will NEVER have enough. The system is corrupt and top-heavy and most of the money goes to top officials and never makes it to the classroom. There is no bigger scam in the USA than "Big Education".

Schools over funded and money misappropriated

Most of funding should go to fund schools

I think the other services is sketchy. I don't mind police, fire and teachers getting money. I do not like them to give it to some other services without accountability.

lottery, casinos, etc., were to cover these specific issues. Too much democratic spending, too much being provided for illegal immigrants instead of long time and existing legal U.S. resident residing in the State of Maryland and in Anne Anne Arundel County

I don't mind the increase; I do mind the perceived inability of the county to actually appropriately apply the increases revenue rationally and accurately.

It's ridiculous since approving the gambling in Maryland that money should go towards our schools fire and other services.

First thing Pittman did.

Where does it end? Already too high.

Throwing money at the problem instead of eliminating waste and prioritizing the spending of the available resources.

I think there is a lot of waste in the budget now. You all should use that to fund more salary increases.

Or - builders to help fund salaries/infrastructure.

Very important to fund salary increases for these important professions. Worth the tax increase.

We live in a MD county which has held the line on taxes. Nevertheless county services cost money and the price goes up and as a county resident I am willing to pay extra in my taxes to support this.

Why haven't the emergency services found ways to cut their costs?

Agree but what are the "other services"?

long overdue

Board of Education is top heavy. Need to cut expenses at the board so that there are more teachers and staff in the schools.

Taxes are the price we pay for high quality.

Have not seen improved services

Quit funding support for illegal aliens and start better supporting citizens, then talk about increased funding.

I was under the impression that money from the casinos were going to fund education so I am wondering why income and property taxes needed to be raised to fund schools.

If you don't put money into schools you'll have to put money into prisons.

Need to get more efficient and insist on competence and adequate training of teachers/firemen and police, and all other public servants as well.

Too much waste- especially with schools

I support more income taxes but not more property taxes.

Some better controls are needed for schools staffing. We do not need as many administrators at Riva Road .

My comment on zoning applies. State and county waste their budgets on non-essentials and political vote buying, then need more money to accomplish what they should be doing instead. A pox on them all. I'd leave, and shake the dust of this miserable state of my feet if I could afford it.

There needs to be a more accountable use of the current funding, esp. in schools, not more money.

Isn't it amazing how when democrats are elected we suddenly need more money for schools and police? AACo was a well run county, but thanks to the Dems it will cost us more to live here and be a less livable place.

CASINO MONEY STATED GOAL WAS FOR SCHOOLS!!! WHITE POLICIANS AND WORD SMITHING. GO FIGURE.

They have so much wasted money. The government needs to be like us learn to live within you means and not bleed the citizens dry. Services are never improved don't be fooled

I'm a teacher!

## Appendix 5: Forest Conservation Bill - Open-Ended Comments

Preserving resources for the community and up and coming generations.

Stop developing!!

Find the money elsewhere in the budget

No loss of trees means no development, right?

I do not know enough about the program to make a judgement

Stop development in the county all together. Marley Neck Blvd is a prime example, a thousand new families with children and they will go to two overcrowded high schools (Glen Burnie and Northeast)

Several communities in the county area at capacity for their schools and roads.

We cannot afford to lose more trees

No trees, no people.

Increased fees may help slow over development in the county but way also increase land cost and drive up inflation.

Better prosecution of violations

I doubt if increasing fees would cause developers to save anymore trees. I do think our local politicians and cronies would wind up pocketing anything obtained.

More restrictions on development. No fee increases.

Shut down development. Smaller is better.

Trees being cut is ok, we had an annoying small leaf tree in our front yard we got rid of. Smarter idea is stop giving building permits out for new housing.

The current county exec has not seen a dollar that he can't spend 4 times. The current building boom is a right royal pain in the traffic area, and the county "inspection" system sucks.

Stuart Pittman only thinks about raising taxes. Audit to find out where ALL tax money goes and cut spending.

Taxes too high.

Climate change is the greatest threat facing us.

Stop developing in crowded areas

Our forested land contributes to health of residents and the environment. We need forests. We did not need more development. This question is unclear. I want to make my answer clearly reflect my support of trees. No net loss is the least loss I would allow, but I want more.

As a senior on a fixed income, and working part time to supplement that, to make ends meet, more taxes are not a good fit

AAC does not have a deforestation problem....it is an over development problem. Land is striped of all trees and vegetation for housing. example: Shipley's development on RT 175 and Ridge Rd.

would like to see less development in the county for a while. roads are too congested.

I need to research

Cannot trust that fees go to reforestation, in fact, they don't, it makes no sense to think that developing land can be offset with fees to pay for trees; trees come on their own if land is undeveloped, it's the taking of land for development that is the problem.

All Democrats want to do is steal more and more money. ENOUGH!

by making tree destruction costly, builders will find ways to design around and protect trees and to make their buildings more attractive



Quit building and save the trees

This is very important.

Development has got to slow down. Infrastructure can't handle it.

I live in the head waters of Rock Creek. Our wildlife corridor has been devastated by County Capital Projects and private subdivision development.. Tall mature oaks now rest in the navigational channel upstream of the Ft. Smallwood Road Bridge. The County after numerous requests for help and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources have turned a blind eye as they consider the headwaters of Rock Creek and Rock Creek not to be a scenic watershed. Sedimentation has destroyed our bottom allowing excessive nutrients together with sewage spills to close Rock Creeks headwaters since May 19, 1982. What was once the womb of the creek spawning many varieties of fish and shell fish is now a mud hole and the recipient of lawn chemicals, oil changes, and development trash and pollution. Gone are the sunfish, sandy bottom, sea grasses, shrimp, mussels, oysters, crabs, yellow perch etc. I have been fighting for restoration since 1978, when I was in my 30's. I am 77 years of age and am still fighting for restoration.

Again. Where does it end? All the Democrats can think of is to raise taxes, never cut anything.

Put them up higher. We can't afford to only have houses and no trees!!

I think it is important to control development and preserve trees. I am not familiar with the restrictions which may be used, which is why I did not select that option.

The loss of trees and other environmental concerns are being felt all over Anne Arundel Co. As a county that adjoins the Chesapeake Bay we should be especially aware of what development can do to the Bay and to our remaining undeveloped land and work to make conservation a priority.

critical and important to preserve our forests

Stop all the building, we are building too much in the county!

The balance of power has been with the development segment and it's good that this is changing with the Pittman administration.

No campaign for voluntarily planting

Just how exactly are county funds being expended and what do we get for our dollars?

Fees should be raised for developers and then those fees could be used for tree preservation.

The trees are not the issue. The farmland turning into houses are the problem. Increased run-off, increased traffic, increased services, all because the short sighted idiots don't want industry in their backyard.

Waiting for The Last March of the Ents.

Sadly I believe the forest conservation bill will have NO impact. After watching more than 20 amendments proposed last night it us clear the bill will be watered down. When the enforcement of existing laws for environmental protection are inconsistently implemented, I feel there is little hope the new bill will have an impact on saving trees or improving the environment. Developers are only afraid of the impact to their products not on the quality of life that brought so many residents initially. developers have been getting a free or at least cheap ride.

No more taxes or fees. Fine developers that destroy trees.

More political bs to increase revenues for vote buying.

Fee increases are just more taxes for the Democrats to abuse, they won't save a single tree. Here's an idea do not approve any more apartments or condominiums. Single family home freeholders will preserve their own environments and neighborhoods, roads, etc. will be less crowded and crime free. We'll also plant trees and green space to our liking on our own dime.

CREATE A INTERGRATED FOREST PLAN AND MAKE IT PUBLIC.

## Appendix 6: How Serious Are Problems - Open-Ended Comments

during WWI and WWII persons speaking German in public places in USA were frowned on. And Asian citizens were incarcerated We never learn!

Everyone gets an equal chance for opportunity. if they don't apply themselves that can not be blamed on those that do apply themselves and achieve high goals. This is not a racial or a diversity thing, this is a basic issue of societal values and parenting.

You get ahead in life by working hard There are no race boundaries to a good work ethic.

If you are minority you get to go to school for free. It's all about want to.

Over building and traffic gridlock on Rte 2,3 etc.

Non-English languages spoken in public places - This is an inappropriate comment to put in this survey.

No law should enumerate higher pay for men, moreover no legislation should regulate peoples' use of language in public spaces (except where public safety is concerned)

Non-English speaking should not be spoken in public places. The question is confusing.

I don't understand the question about non-English languages

Children learn the same curriculum in schools, but the achievement gap will not be changed when children go home and school is not the priority

An educational gap is mainly due to lack of family structure and missing parents.

The question on languages spoken in public places is not only racist, but doesn't that conflict with the First Amendment. Anybody can speak any language they want as long as they aren't too loud. Let's get rid of noise pollution and encourage multilinguality.

For opioids, it's a problem but not the county problem. It's the person choice to be an addict.

What profession can a woman without a college degree go into and make \$50,000+ within a few years? The answer is none. While a man can go into a trade and make that and more. Most women without a degree go become a secretary and it takes a lifetime for them to make what a tradesman makes. I believe a secretary is the female version of a tradesman as businesses cannot run without us, but we are one of the lowest paid occupations and I believe it is because we are females and not males.

At the current cost of \$18,000 per student per year --- all of the non-US persons are the problem.

I'd like to see a comprehensive study of the achievement gap among students of different races: white, African American, asian, Latino, etc. in each county school at every level.

Immigrants should be legal and assimilate including speaking English; a race can succeed if effort is put forth; look at the Asian immigrants

The USA offers the most opportunity of any nation in the world so anyone who works hard can get ahead

Arundel Mills is an example of over congestion, over development, and crime problems in AAC.

Let's forget the liberal nonsense please. We are not victims!

There are opportunities for people. No matter what race and many do not try to better themselves.

They want hand outs. I am tired of working and paying taxes for people that do not work by their own choice.

educational achievement gap is reflective of PARENTAL involvement and economic disadvantages the economic inequality in the County exacerbates these issues.

Problems with the achievement gap starts at home. No father around mainly due to dem social programs

Congestion is probably #1

The education achievement gap has been discussed for years (if not decades). We need to make some progress on this.

Special interest groups such as developers create infrastructure and environmental problems; backward politicians in Anne Arundel

not sure what you mean by "ability of minorities to get ahead" -- too vague and unclear if it's a problem for them or for others

Seriously, people talking their own language in public is not a problem. The only thing keeping minorities down and educational opportunities is suppression by liberal progressives.

From what I can see with education, I don't think that our standards are high enough and that school systems do not do enough to make people want or have to do better. We can't keep lowering standards and letting kids pass through school without a good education. The whole system is broken. For example, I don't feel like there is enough emphasis on courses that are important to get a job in this country. The children who are more gifted and talented are focused on to get the scholarships and the others are not directed in any way as to what classes are important for all careers. There should be diploma's issued for specific things, like Academic Program or Business Education programs or Basic or Technical and the courses that are taken for those 4 years of high school should reflect what is needed for those diplomas. I think the education system is totally broken.

Intractable problem on education for minorities--must get them very young, hold parents responsible.

None of the above are legitimate concerns of government, except perhaps crime and traffic.

## Appendix 7: Educational Achievement Gap – Open-Ended Comments

I teach in theSTAIR program after school to help at risk second graders

I don't like the term broken families. It implies only divorce as a factor. maybe "negative family issues" or some such term would be better

Children of all backgrounds are subjected to the same teachers in a given classroom. Those that fall behind - creating the "gap" - generally fall behind because they don't take advantage of what is offered or apply themselves to the tasks. This is caused by lack of parental support and cultural issues. The school system can not reverse cultural academic failures - only can be impacted by changing the values of the family unit. For example, poor Asians will surpass economically better off blacks, because their culture enforces hardwork and achievement. 2 generations ago, the black community formed families with traditional values and strove to excel. Since the war on poverty, the social experimentation by the democrat's has systematically robbed the black culture of the desire to form family groups and apply themselves. Unless this is reversed - which will be hard to do nationally and almost impossible in MD - government will continue to avoid fixing the problem by declaring these false "gaps" and increasing the redistribution of wealth from those who work to those who don't.

Have you been inside a public school classroom lately? It is pure chaos. No wonder teachers snap. Who should put up with what they do?

You are making this crap up! If you want to you can do anything.

Lack of parental engagement is the most important factor.

the inherent racism of de facto segregation negatively impacts many black Marylanders.

Universal pre-k is imperative. Early intervention is needed—small class size, research based reading instruction, arts instruction—visual, music, dramatic.

We need to pay teachers wages that reflect the importance of their jobs.

The largest problem I personally experienced was unfit staff in schools. Counselors who did not know how to handle student issues, administrators and general staff behaving dishonestly with parents and unfairly harsh or cold with students, inherently problematic student conduct policies being put in place, and teachers who were blatantly unfit and or incapable of fulfilling their duties as educators and at times even behaving in borderline abusive manors towards students. Should we be raising tax funding to these schools before we have even handled the issues already present? Perhaps use increased funding to replace problematic teachers and staff by conducting internal reviews and audits of schools.

Education in the US in general and in Maryland specifically is criminally poor. Schools provide poor quality child care and barely any useful education.

Lack of parental engagement is the big one. Especially when only one parent is there in the home. In today's world, bullying is the most important negative factor in public schools. Somehow the school system needs to change it's value system and needs to do more to prevent this occurrence. Quit lionizing athletics, raise the perceived value of the arts and humanities, and give individual tutoring to the less academically able.

It is up students to perform well. Schools have enough resources to teach, it's the students that need to lose the can't do attitude. Parent also need to step up and teach their children the importants of education.

Suggest that we REMOVE the "social engineers" from the system, Teach the kids how to learn without using a computer, calculator, or video system. Treating the kids like 'snowflakes' instead of

demanding and getting respect causes them to complain more and we get less results for our time and money.

Have family members that work in education in the county.. They face many obstacles in trying to teach students!!!

Again, let us see the data on the achievement gap in different schools to see what factors actually influence it. Let's compare African Americans in Severna Park with those in Brooklyn Park, etc. We need to be able to see what the data shows instead of just guessing.

All of these factors need to be addressed to close the Educational Achievement gap

The schools cannot possibly compensate for the huge problems of poverty and family disintegration that are the root cause of the achievement gap. Schools are not to blame.

I no longer have children in the county schools, and I no longer teach in county schools, so I have little direct knowledge of the problems.

The basic studies need to be pursued, especially the STEM program so that our students can compete in the global market. Bring back recess for children and stop trying to force boys to act like girls. Stop interference in sex education which belongs at home not in school.

Public education has regressed from teaching practical programs and developed into social issues that do not prepare a student for the job market or practical tasks. The teachers have become dictators of their social perspectives. Personal experience is with many teachers at AACCC!

It really is about families and GOVERNMENT CAN'T FIX THAT. Get the Feds out of local education A.S.A.P..

Again, many successful people come from lower income or broken families. But it takes effort to get ahead. I have never been without a job, sometimes 2 at a time. Single mother raised me. I am very successful.

the analysis of the impact of these factors speak for themselves and sadly point out the gulf between wealth and the benefit of marriages to keep a family together.

The fix is simple. Fix the attitude problem and the gap will close.

More money thrown at education has not worked in DC or Baltimore.

I truly believe the majority of teachers are doing their best to address these areas. My children are at Annapolis High School and I think teachers are working hard to support all children. The issues children are dealing with outside of the school day are much more important factors.

Parental involvement definitely an issue, Teachers can't do it all. Constantly disruptive students need to be removed from the classroom. Administration needs to be allowed to give appropriate consequences to students that are causing problems.

such a huge problem, clearly multiply determined. Kids entering Kindergarden are already at very different levels, and it only gets worse through the school years. It's a symptom of national level inequality

I worked in a public school for almost twenty years. Children are coming to school without basic skills, often not properly cared for. Teachers are expected to teach and care for children. Guidance Counselors are not given the proper amount of time the children need because they are buried in paperwork (often doing the work of principals).

The biggest problems in the education system is messed up families and dangerous communities. All the result of liberal progressive suppression of their captive voting block.

First off let me say that poverty is a problem in this country but if a child wants to better themselves this will not be a huge factor. Broken families is a big problem because there are more and more grandparents raising grandchildren today. The dangerous communities play a big factor because of fear and the violence that sometimes is at the schools as well. Racism is something that is learned and taught by parents, children don't start out disliking someone because of race unless they have

been brought up that way. Of course that is a lot of racism but it is not only one race that is accountable for this. Racism is in every race, too others and even to those in the same race. It does need to be addressed but not by singling out one specific race. It is across the board. Not really aware of teachers compensation but if you are a good teacher you aren't really in it for the money, you are there because you won't to see children excel and the low performing schools is probably the best place to get that satisfaction. I think classes are too large and that teachers are overwhelmed, plus they are dealing with a lousy curriculum and I don't think they have much say in what is taught or how. It is like schools are a "chain" and everything has to be taught this way. That rule cannot apply to all students. The biggest problem is our society and the lack of parental engagement.

Grandparents don't even understand the way things are taught now, but they are taking the time and effort to help their grandkids get better. Some parents are all about their careers, material things, going out whenever. The biggest problem is that parents want their kids to be responsible but they do not take the time to show them how they accomplish that. Technology is a large part of the problem. People don't talk to each other except on their phones, Facebook, instagram. They don't know how to have a face to face conversation with anyone. Texting can be taken totally out of context when you can't hear a person's tone or see their expression. Technology is ruining our family units and our society.

Racism in the Schools- it is the opposite of what politicians think. The lack of minorities to put an emphasis on education is the issue. Lack of early reading and the mentality of "someone else needs to do it for me" is the biggest problem.

I believe that generational poverty is a contributor to lack of parental engagement and also negatively impacts parents' ability to help their children, leaving them behind other students from day one.

All these problems are interrelated. Single or no parent families seems to be endemic and can only be compensated for by the schools/social services. Again, we must address these issues at the root as well as by compensating with services.

Education is the only industry that cannot send the raw materials back to the providers.

If parents don't care about education then neither will their children. It all starts with parents and a safe living environment.

More "Throw money at the problem" assessments for issues that aren't solvable by increases in government waste. The real problems are over-politization of issues, government expansion--which increases government failure rates, entitlement atmosphere, and whining that someone else has to solve it. Society going to hell in handbasket.

Teachers are being asked to quite a bit of paperwork and non-instructional book keeping.

Administration spends quite a bit of time laying out their additional requirements. Seems that the teachers have enough to do, instructing students. Why can't administration spend more time on assessments etc, and leave the teachers to do what is most needed!

I'm a teacher in a title one school. Disengaged parents are the chief impediment to children's success. A teacher is only a teacher, a school is only a school. Neither can replace the family. Also I do not believe there is a single teacher or school in this area that can be in any way construed as racist except by the most tortured of logic or slavish adherence to belief in the malign patriarchy that wishes to forever enslave.

## Appendix 8: Single Payer Health Insurance – Open-Ended Comments

equal availability to health care for all citizens, without healthy citizens no health country  
Would have to be a system that works for the American market, not a copy, and paste, or even a single tax-payer system, just a system that addresses the high cost of healthcare.  
Current proposals are economically unrealistic  
I as well as many others didn't always have health insurance provide by employers, including AA CO govt  
Strongly oppose this movement. Government does most things badly. Administering and managing healthcare will be their greatest shortcoming. Everyone n this country has health care - not to be confused with health insurance. If you work, you get some form of health insurance assistance from your employer. if you don't work, you get government paid health insurance - Medicaid.  
Not sure exactly what single payer means  
How can lawmakers propose such an idea when they have their own health care system and wouldn't be a part of what they would be pushing on the citizens?  
They are insane! There is to much government in Health care now!  
The less governmet involvement in my life the better. Health care is not a right.  
Private insurance should be an option for those who want it  
My husband was in Union and I want to keep my medical plan through them. I so not want to be forced out of that company against my will.  
Health insurers have been allowed to inflate the prices of medical services to ridiculous levels, excessively billing people with literally no other option.  
The United States is, to my knowledge, the only country with an employer based healthcare system and that it was only put in place due to the lobbying of doctors hoping to make more money post WWII. Most countries with government based healthcare tend to have stronger economies and healthier people with a greater focus on national health.  
Will lead to long waits and inadequate care and add enormous tax burden  
Everything government does it usually does badly and more expensively. Health care is no exception. Government single payer system would result in move people getting bad health coverage. This is shown in all the Canadian citizens coming into the USA to receive health care that they can't receive in Canada. It also results in long waits for health care in both Canada and the United Kingdom.  
Plenty of people have full time jobs, but get no health care coverage through their employer. End this practice. Make fast food corporations, etc include health care, insurance, and paid time off. The idea of letting people work 38 or 39 hours a week so that they can continue to be "part time" and get nothing should be illegal.  
Basic coverage from single payer (broken bones, heart attacks, diabetes, etc) with buy ups from private insurance (upgraded rooms, joint replacement, etc)  
I work for my health care and always buy the best plans. It's not fair that I have to work while other will get the same.care for free.  
Strongly oppose single payer system.  
I am not a SOCIALIST!!!!  
My health insurance part of my benefit pkg. do not want it messed with.  
Ludicrous idea. Cost prohibitive with reduced benefits / coverage.  
The option of private insurance should be there.  
But - I want to see the details of the plan before I say I support it.

The services currently provided under medicaid and the VA hospitals (generally single to limited source of care) has challenges and limitations. My husband became disabled in 2001 and I educated myself and went to work in a location where benefits have supported us both. I understand that everyone circumstances are different. We need to give a hand up not a hand out  
The costs for universal health care are enormous because current medical practices do not promote prevention and healthy living, promote extremely costly end of life treatments, and do not control the costs of prescription drugs!

Transition is the key word. I do not support Medicare for All.

The idea has value, but needs careful study to be sure it works. I support a gradual transition for those who want it.

the move to a socialist, medicare for all is one of the worst ideas I have ever heard. 30-40 trillion is probably a conservative price tag. Just a terrible idea.

The cost proposed is as big as the whole national budget. It would destroy our economy. Congress needs to allow health savings account and insurance across state lines.

This is an outrageous proposal. Government single payer system will destroy the health care opportunities for most citizens and cost much more.

Government programs do NOT work. I want choice. Bring down insurance costs. allow small businesses to become a larger group for better rates. let the people cross state lines to find cheaper premiums. Let the market flow like it should.

want options, not total government

Get government out of education and healthcare. They screw up everything they touch. I want FREEDOM.

I do not believe a single payer system would be the most efficient. However, I do believe that a government health program available by choice could cause competition in the health care system.

And I also firmly believe that everyone must -- either by choice or fiat -- have health insurance.

hugely bad idea... britain is a perfect example.

I would have to see the single payer systems parameters to make an educated decision.

Do not want the government dictating my personal health issues or needs. Example, the Obama death committee determining whether life saving action will be considered or take two aspirins and deal with your illness.

But if and only if the government plan is sufficient funded and well run - do we have the fortitude and ability to do that?

Terrible idea

This proposal is a farce, toward government control of the healthcare system, which leads to Socialism. More government control does not benefit anyone. Look at Cuba and the former Soviet Union countries. also North Korea. People are starving. Capitalism and the free market is what makes us great.

This would put millions of people out of jobs.

Very complicated issue. Everyone should have some sort of coverage with some commitment, including requirement for annual checkup and sliding scale fee for services

I am not convinced our government can sufficiently manage a single payer system and provide quality health care.

I would probably support a public option rather than a government single payer system.

I like my insurance. Insurance is not a right.

I support free market because I believe it results in higher quality at a better cost

I support every American having health insurance. I am not sure I support people giving up insurance they already have to do so.



Need to improve/restructure Affordable Care Act

support ending link between employment and health insurance

What the heck are you thinking. This will raise the cost of healthcare while lowering the quality. This has been the result everywhere it has happened.

Present government trends are heading toward less coverage rather than better health care. Can't fairly judge in the absence of a trend toward improvement

Dramatically lowers cost and improves access, ends profiteering off of sickness and human suffering. Like the other civilized countries do.

Medicare is wasteful due to lack of oversight. A single payer system will need extensive checks and balances and oversight to keep the crooks at bay. Current estimates of cost are out of sight. Current medical approaches are also extremely wasteful, eg, disposable everything including unused stuff, prolonging life well beyond any possible recovery. Need to make some hard choices and get religion out of the equation.

I have Medicare right now and don't want to lose it.

Socialism is no answer. Socialized medicine has been a giant failure virtually everywhere it has been implemented. I lived in Germany for 20 years, and saw how unresponsive and slow it was, and how expensive it was to get treatment quickly. Health treatment here would drive doctors out of practice and end with a system about as responsive as the VA. Even though I have chronic health issues, Obamacare drove me completely away from getting any medical care at all. No thanks!

There have to be better options. Perhaps a government single-payer option is it, or an insurance plan(s) provided by the government that creates more competition and in turn could lower cost and must be accepted by doctors

Have you been to the DMV? Is that where you want to go for health care? Do you welcome death committees? Do you like rationing of your medicines and treatments? Government should have NO say over my health care.

**BUILD ON ACA COMPLETELY.**

Government is not efficient and I don't want them in my healthcare

I admit that it makes me nervous because my insurance coverage is really good. But I'm trying to think of the millions of others who don't have insurance at all. I worry though about the logistics - what happens to insurance company employees for example. How does it actually get done?

## Appendix 9: Democrats – Open-Ended Comments

Current democratic part has good off the rails to the left. I am a capitalist, not a socialist. So I am a conservative democate, which makes me a weak decorate in todays world.

I am socially an extremely strong Democrat, but my views on gun control are my own, as I am a gun owner.

I do not always agree with how the Democratic party conducts themselves and sometimes (though not often) agree with a more conservative issue to a problem, usually in terms of economics.

However, I do feel that the Democratic party still conducts themselves more honestly than the Republican party. Lastly I cannot stand by the moral reasoning of the Republican party on most social issues.

That's a sort of meaningless question. In what sense do you mean Strong. We are Centrist Democrats, but are confident in our choices of issues and public servants.

I would like to see more cooperation between the two parties - more moderation.

I register as a Democrat but consider myself to be an independent.

Not really sure what these labels mean anymore.

I have always considered myself a moderate democrat, but the recent political climate has forced me to move a little further left.

Trump and the spineless Republicans who do not defend the Constitution have helped me decide I will never, ever vote for a Republican again.

I switch parties consistently to vote in primaries of interest

I'm more middle of the road, not quite as far left as the Progressive part of the party.

very strong, but not extremely liberal. I consider myself a pragmatist. But the R party is now a Russian tool and has long been hostage to racism and xenophobia

My dog is a Democrat.

## Appendix 10: Republicans – Open-Ended Comments

I would say a little less than strong but definitely no where near being a liberal.

I'm in the middle, but swing more towards republican values.

Not anymore. The Republican Party is a disgrace in DC

If a "RINO" holds a office --- he/she won't get my vote!!!!

More a conservative libertarian

I identify more with conservatives rather than the Republican party as a whole.

I used to consider myself a conservative democrat or a liberal republican. Unfortunately there is little middle ground any more

lean libertarian on most issues outside of abortion.

I vote for the person and the policies, not straight party line. I support the Constitution

I am a strong conservative versus a strong Republican. Not all Republicans support conservative tenets.

I am more of a libertarian/conservative or even a classic liberal. I am aligned with the republican party because the alternative of the democrat party is so horrible.

I vote issues not people or parties.

Actually, I am a strong supporter of the Constitution of the United States. I oppose socialistic ideas and forms of government, the consideration of Sharia Law in any state, and strongly oppose the continued payouts to illegals for food, health, housing, education, etc. I used to take Sign Language Classes at the Senior Center. When I went to Arundel Center North to register, my class fees had doubled. Having been a resident of this county for 90% of my life. Yet there was a sign, "Free English Classes" for illegals. I pay taxes, never drew a dime of unemployment, worked three jobs at one time, put my child through private school and donated to my local fire and police and my church. Perhaps I should have taken Spanish and said I could not speak English or afford a home, food, hospitalization, etc. What then? Freebies?

Totally due to the Tea Party and later Donald Trump & Co.

I think republicans do t support environmental conservation and they have become fiscal irresponsible

Trends in Washington are headed in the wrong direction, at the expense of middle class and lower middle class people. A new "Gilded Age".

I have been extremely disappointed with the last 2 incompetent republican presidents. I did not vote for both

I am too libertarian for mainstream Republicanism.