

Press Release: October 20, 2021
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County Survey Offers Mixed Picture About Coronavirus

A survey of 489 Anne Arundel County residents conducted October 8-15 by Anne Arundel Community College found that compared to last spring, residents' views about the pandemic have improved in some respects, but not in others.

When asked to determine the most important problem facing county residents, only 35% cited COVID-19, down 18 points from last spring. By contrast, last spring 70% said that the COVID-19 situation was getting better; by fall only 49% agreed.

When asked, "When do you think that COVID-19 will be significantly overcome as a pandemic in Maryland," 32% said within six months or that it was already not much of a problem. However, 58% anticipated that it would take between six months and two years to overcome; another 9% said, "More than two years."

There was a small decrease in the percentage saying that they "were 'very concerned' about the possibility of someone in your family becoming seriously ill with the virus" (down from 35% last spring to just 27% in fall).

Among major concerns affecting Anne Arundel County and Maryland, the top item was "having unvaccinated people prolong the pandemic and overload health facilities" cited by 54%, equal to the percentage citing "the quality of public education" – always a top concern.

Regarding the reopening of Anne Arundel County Public Schools to in-person instruction, the public was about equally divided between the answer, "agree mostly or completely with this policy" of providing in-person instruction without a significant hybrid or online only option (42%) and "partly agree – would have preferred more options such as hybrid or online" (43%).

On vaccinations, most respondents planned to get a booster when available (56%) or had already obtained it (14%). Among the vaccinated, very few claimed to have had severe side-effects (3%); 73% said the side-effects were mild or none at all.

A higher percentage of residents claimed to have contracted the virus this fall (15%) compared to last spring (8%). A higher percentage said that a family member or close friend had come down with it (56% this fall, 47% last spring).

The poll found respondents to be accepting the pace of reopening, with majorities for the county (53%) and state (57%) saying that the pace was "about right." There was some growth in the percentages saying "too slow" (32% for the county; 26% for the state) than was true last fall (28 and 16%). For the federal government, 43% felt the pace was about right, while the largest proportion of all three jurisdictions said the pace was too slow (39%).

The survey found the public generally favored the retention of masks and/or requiring proofs of vaccination at indoor venues such as dining, gyms or entertainment sites, but a solid third refused to accept any such restrictions. As has been revealed in the past, sharp partisan divisions exist about the pace and scope of adjustment to restrictions. For example, 55% of

Republicans wanted no restrictions at entertainment venues; 56% of Democrats wanted to require both masks and proofs of vaccinations.

Similar deep polarization was found when considering President Joe Biden’s executive order that included requiring federal workers and contractors to get vaccinated without a testing option: overall, 59% supported that policy “mostly/completely” or “somewhat,” with Democrats at 88% and Republicans at 31%.

The idea of requiring vaccinations for all school employees received strong overall support (69%) but was also sharply divided between parties (Democrats, 95%; Republicans, 45%). Requiring vaccinations for all eligible students was about equally popular – and polarizing (65% overall, Democrats, 95%; Republicans, 39%).

The COVID-19 situation is covered more extensively later in the press release (starts on p. 30).

Focusing on other county issues, a new item was offered for consideration – “The slow process of getting rental relief funds to tenants and landlords” – 21% thought that this was a very serious problem.

Regarding the county budget, 42% said that they were very or somewhat familiar with it; 26% reported having researched the budget at the county’s website.

Respondents were mixed about the county’s decision to spend unexpected revenues to shore up the long-term financial picture by adding to the “Rainy Day” or prepayments to retirement funds – 38% agreed, with others had different priorities. When asked about the establishment of a “climate resiliency authority” to borrow money and apply for grants, a majority favored it (52%).

The survey asked about some national issues such as the bipartisan infrastructure bill (71% approved strongly or somewhat) and the Build Back Better “reconciliation” bill focused on social and climate spending (55% approved). Differences in approval levels were almost entirely a product of changes in Republican support: while 51% favored the bipartisan bill, only 21% approved the reconciliation bill. Democrats overwhelmingly supported both bills: 93 and 88%.

A majority (59%) approved of measures to improve voting rights by Congress, again mostly based on the approval of Democrats (76%) rather than Republicans (41%).

Asked about the Texas bill that virtually bans abortion after six weeks, 70% disapproved of it strongly (59%) or somewhat (11%). Only 8% of Democrats favored the abortion measure compared to 45% of Republicans.

Foreign terrorists were deemed to be a very serious threat by 45%; the threat from “domestic terrorists” was perceived as more severe – 54% said very serious. The threat from climate change (49% very serious) was equal to that of the threat from China, although the partisan breakdown was reversed: While 75% of Democrats felt that the threat from climate was very serious, only 17% of Republicans agreed; while 65% of Republicans felt the threat from China was very serious, only 35% of Democrats agreed.

Other benchmark questions included right vs. wrong direction for the county, state and country. Economic conditions ratings were included as well as questions about personal economic circumstances such as facing the possibility of unemployment, the cost of education and health care. The summary of main findings outlines the other survey specific issues and results found in this press release. A detailed review of these issues and results follows the summary. **The actual questionnaire and percentages can be found in Appendix A** (pp. 72-88). Open-ended comments offered by online respondents can be found in Appendices B-R.

Summary of Main Findings

Most Important Problem Facing County Residents: Additional details are available in the text (pp. 6-9).

Right Direction/Wrong Direction: The percentage of those saying that the **county** was moving in the right direction was essentially unchanged - dropping one point from 42% last spring to 41% in fall. Regarding the **state**, there was a small increase from 45% to 50%. The percentage applicable to the **country** dropped considerably from 35 to only 22% in fall. (pp. 10-15).

Rating Economic Conditions - County, State and Country: For the county, the percentage saying “excellent” or “good” stayed similar to what it has been for the last year – in the mid-50s – and rose a bit from 54 to 57% in fall. At the state level, there was rise from 50 to 57%. The federal level continued a downward swing, down from 44 in spring 2020 to 37% in fall 2020 and settling into a pattern in the low 20s starting last spring (23%) and continuing this fall (22%) (pp. 16-21).

Expectations for the National Economy: The percentage of those saying that the economy will get better in the future decreased from 46% in fall 2020 to 40% last spring and was only 22% – equal to the “right direction” score for the federal government. Another 49% expected the economy to get worse (pp. 22)

Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents: Concern about high taxes remained fairly stable at 54%; dropping a bit from 57% last spring. This was nearly equal to the percentage worried that “wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living - 55% up from 45% last spring. The percentage expressing a fear of unemployment was up a bit to 15% from 12%. An analysis shows the disproportionate impact of adverse economic situations upon lower income people (pp. 23-29).

Coronavirus Section: There is a detailed review of many COVID-19 issues on pages 30-49. These include whether the situation is getting better, the pace of reopening, when it will be overcome, policies associated with county schools, the possibility of people coming down with the virus and a range of other experiences with the virus. There is a review of vaccinations – vaccination status, which vaccine was received, the severity of any side effects, openness to getting a booster. General views about requiring masks and proof of vaccinations, Biden’s policies and general views of government mandates are discussed. In continuity with prior surveys, respondents were asked to discuss whether certain circumstances have impacted them related to lifestyles, work practices, health and emotional consequences. Respondents indicated which individuals and sources they trusted about COVID-19.

The reopening of schools is discussed by reviewing attitudes about in-person instruction as well as specific COVID protection policies implemented by the schools. (pp. 37-38).

County’s Most Serious Issues: This was a listing of issues asking respondents to indicate how serious each issue was – for example, 49% said the “high cost of housing” was a “very serious” issue; 39% said the same about easy access to opioids (pp. 50-52).

Familiarity and choices related to the County budget: 42% were very or somewhat familiar, 26% had researched the budget on the county’s website, and 26% felt that the budget was very important in guiding their overall approval of the county. The investment choices by the county of additional “Rainy Day” and retirement funding gained the support of 38%. Another 52% approved the establishment of a “climate resiliency authority.” Regarding improving the compensation of school bus drivers, 83% of the respondents agreed (pp. 52-55).

Marijuana legalization, drug decriminalization, tax increase for schools: 60% supported the legalization of recreational marijuana, but only 25% favored the decriminalization of other drugs like cocaine or heroin. The public was evenly divided on a tax increase for schools (pp. 55-56).

National and International Issues and Policies: National issues were focused on current legislation in Congress (infrastructure, reconciliation, “Freedom to Vote” act) and the Texas abortion bill. International issues asked respondents to assess the seriousness of the threat posed by various items ranging from China and Russia to illegal immigration, Afghanistan and gaining asylum (pp. 56-59).

“Stolen elections” “Inciting the mob on January 6”: There was a repetition of questions asked last spring about whether respondents felt the election had been “stolen” from Trump (23% agreed) or that Trump had incited the riot on January 6 - 62% agreed (pp. 60-61).

Job Approval for the President, Governor and County Executive: The survey has asked about job approval for major executive positions for many years. As president, Joe **Biden’s** approval was mostly unchanged from last spring (54 vs. 52%) although there was some movement from “strongly” to “somewhat support.” For Governor Larry **Hogan**, his job approval improved from 70% last spring to 76% this fall. County Executive Steuart **Pittman** dropped a few points from 49 to 45% approval (pp. 62-67)

Job Approval for County Council, Board of Education, Maryland General Assembly, Congress and the Supreme Court: The survey extended the job approval question to four legislative bodies: the Anne Arundel County Council (47% approve); the Maryland General Assembly (44% approve); the Board of Education (36% approve); and Congress which had a much lower score (22% approve – down six points since last spring). The Supreme Court was included for the first time – 42% approved. (p. 68-69).

Trust in Political Parties: Democrats were basically unchanged (39% last spring, 38% in fall) while Republicans rose one point from 27 to 28%. The “neither” score dropped from 30 to 28% (pp. 69-70).

Open-ended Comments and Questionnaire: Note that some questions had an opportunity for open-ended responses. Check the appendices at the end of the press release for verbatim citations (starts on page 89). **The questionnaire with frequency distributions starts on page 80.**

Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 489 county residents who were at least 18 years old. Interviewing was conducted primarily using a database of members of the CSLI/AACC web panel who have been recruited when conducting previous telephone interviews. The survey was in the field from October 8 to 15. There was about a 4.4% statistical margin of error; the error rate was higher for subgroups such as “Democrats” or “men.” The dataset was weighted by gender, political party, age, race, and education to better represent the general population. Students participated in the selection of topics and analysis of results.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 (office) or 443-906-0153 (cell) and ddnataf@aacc.edu. This press release can be obtained at [URL](#). Check this website for results for information and press releases for surveys prior to spring 2020: www2.aacc.edu/csl.

Detailed Review of Survey Findings

The Most Important Problem Facing Residents – Coronavirus and the Economy Top the List

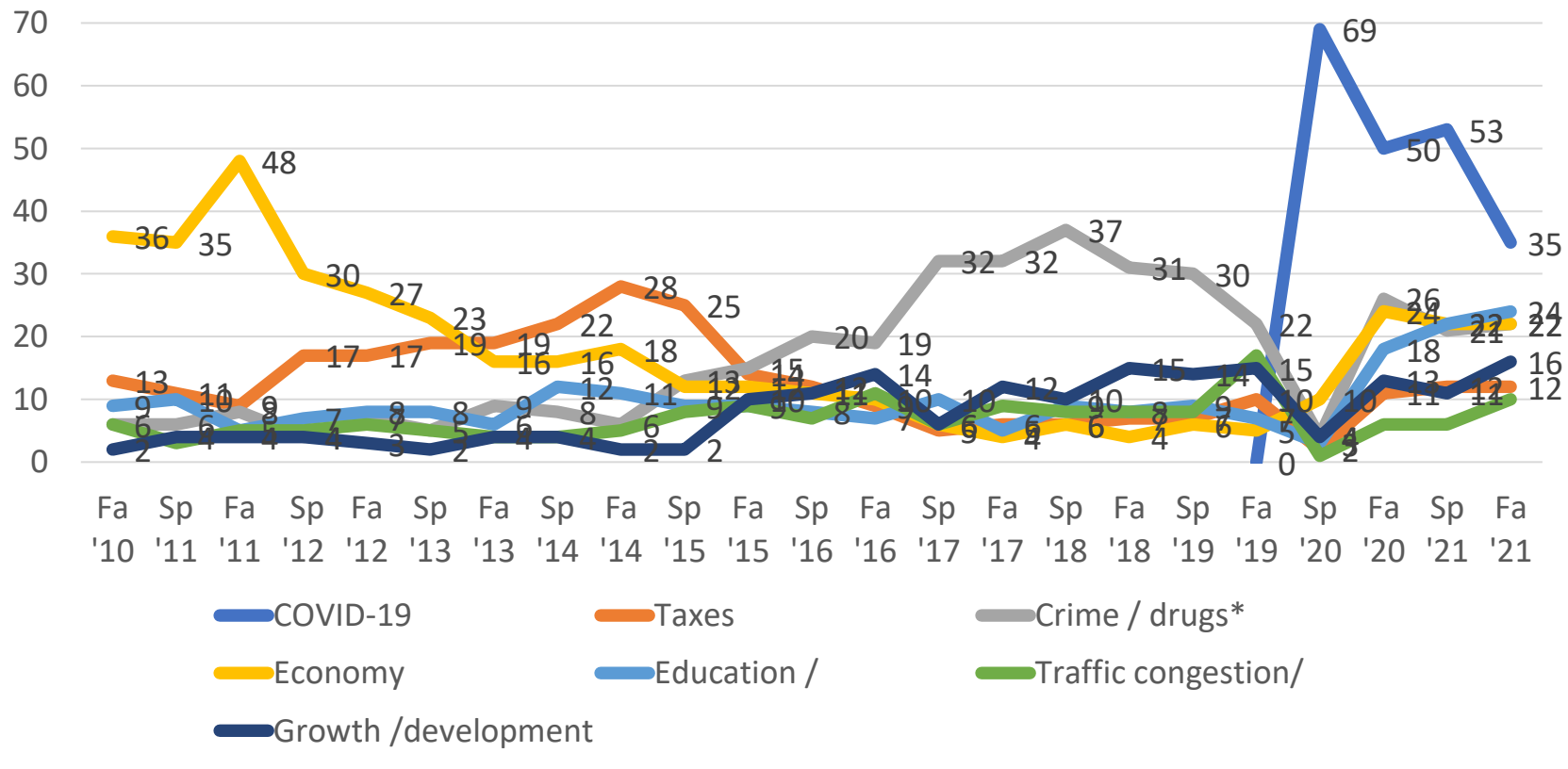
In the recent past, surveys have only asked respondents to identify a single “most important problem facing residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time.” Given the inevitable primacy of the coronavirus as a key concern, starting in fall 2020 the survey branched out and asked respondents to identify the top *two* most important problems. Table 1 shows how the spring and fall results differed since the start of this new format.

Table 1: Most Important Problems Facing County Residents

Problem	Spring '20	Fall '21	Fall-Spring
Coronavirus – spread, treatment, testing	53	35	-18
Crime (other than drug related)	10	13	+3
Drugs (use or sale of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or use of prescription painkillers for non-medical purposes.)	11	9	-2
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	22	22	0
Education , problems with schools, quality, facilities, staff, discipline	22	24	+2
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	11	13	+2
Government ethics – corrupt, immoral	9	5	-4
Government waste – inefficient, spends too much	12	7	-5
Government lacks resources –for roads, schools, services	3	4	+1
Growth/overpopulation - too much development, poorly planned	11	16	+5
Healthcare (cost, access)	4	7	+3
Housing cost	7	11	+4
Racism, hate crimes, discrimination	6	6	0
Taxes – too high	12	12	0
Transportation problems/traffic congestion, lack of public transit	6	10	+4
No answer, don't know	0	1	+1
Other answer - write in: (See Appendix B)	5	2	-3

There weren't many differences over the period between the two surveys. Clearly, the biggest difference was regarding the coronavirus – **a drop of 18 points since last spring**. The drop was reflected in a rise in various other measures such as housing costs, transportation and growth/overpopulation. Most other changes were below the survey's margin of error: 4.4%.

Graph 1 - Most Important Problem: Fall 2010 to Fall 2021



Graph 1 depicts the collapse of all concerns in spring 2020 to just the coronavirus when it obtained 69% of all citations. With the addition of the “second most important item” option in fall 2020, other underlying issues besides the virus resurfaced with “crime/drugs” regaining the prominence it previously had, but other issues such as the economy and education also rising. In fact, it is

useful to note that the current percentage for the economy – 22% – continues to be within the range for spring 2013 – when the country was still emerging from The Great Recession. Table 1a shows the time-series in tabular format.

Some respondents mentioned other problems as their most important. Open-ended comments about this can be found in Appendix B.

Table 1a: “Most Important Problem Facing Residents” – Spring 2011 to Fall 2021¹

	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	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Avg
																			69	50	53	35	52
Taxes	11	9	17	17	19	19	22	28	25	14	12	9	5	6	6	7	7	10	2	11	12	12	13
Crime / drugs*	6	8	4	7	5	9	8	6	13	15	20	19	32	32	37	31	30	22	4	26	21	22	17
Economy	35	48	30	27	23	16	16	18	12	12	11	10	6	4	6	4	6	5	10	24	22	22	18
Education / school problems	10	5	7	8	8	6	12	11	9	9	8	7	10	5	9	8	9	7	3	18	22	24	10
Traffic congestion/ problems	3	5	5	6	5	4	4	5	8	9	7	11	6	9	8	8	8	17	1	6	6	10	7
Growth / development	4	4	4	3	2	4	4	2	2	10	11	14	6	12	10	15	14	15	4	13	11	16	8
Total	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	--	--	--	100

Note: In this and other tables, totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. Unless otherwise noted, all numeric values included in tables and graphs are percentages. The total for fall 2020 does not equal 100 due to the option to select two items.

¹ From spring 2007 to spring 2010, surveys’ answer categories for “most important problem” included “lack of affordable housing” for interviewers to check off. Previously, that answer to the open-ended question would have been categorized under “economy” a practice which was resumed in fall 2010. By spring 2020, a separate break out of “housing cost” started – leading to the reduction of the value of “economy” insofar as housing would have been inserted within the economy percentage.

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.² 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?”

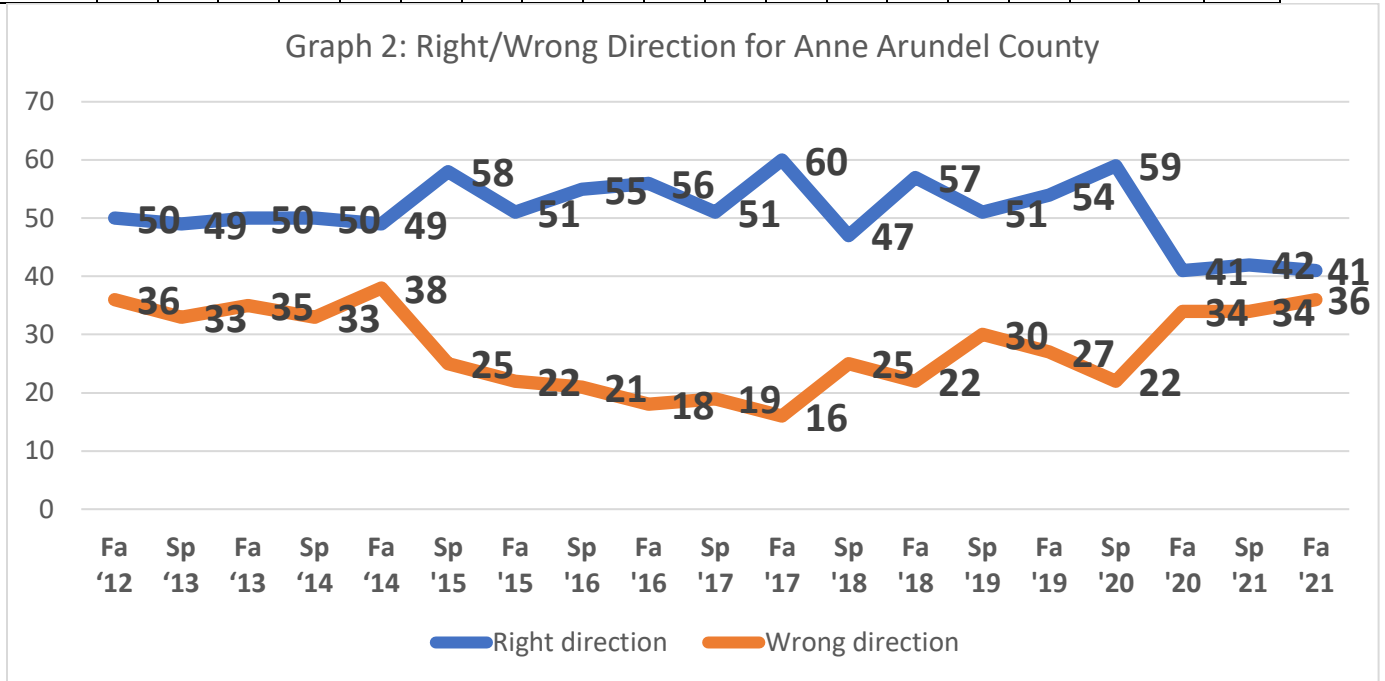
The impact of COVID-19 upon perceptions of government has been strongly negative. For the county, the onset of coronavirus had barely registered at the time of the spring 2020 survey – and the county basked in near record high “right direction” percentages. By fall 2020, the county was clearly in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, with government at all levels struggling to deal with its many ramifications.

The scores for the county’s right direction question dropped from 59 to 41% from spring 2020 to fall 2020. By fall 2021 there were still sufficient coronavirus concerns to keep the right direction score at just 41. Moreover, Graph 2 shows that scores have been getting increasingly polarized with a narrowing of differences between right and wrong direction scores – and high “don’t know” scores possibly indicating uncertainty about the future.

² The Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) conducted these surveys from 1980 to 2020 – so all historical references to previous surveys refer to “CSLI surveys.”

Table 2: Anne Arundel County - Right vs. Wrong Direction Spring 2013 to Fall 2021

	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	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Avg.
Right direction	49	50	50	49	58	51	55	56	51	60	47	57	51	54	59	41	42	41	52
Wrong direction	33	35	33	38	25	22	21	18	19	16	25	22	30	27	22	34	34	36	27
DK/NA	18	16	17	13	17	27	24	26	31	24	28	21	19	19	20	25	24	23	21
Right-wrong	16	15	17	11	33	29	34	38	32	44	22	35	21	27	37	7	8	5	23
Total	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	100



The search for relationships between the county right direction scores and expectations about the coronavirus yield a few interesting outcomes. Those who feel that the coronavirus problem has essentially been overcome were the most critical of the county’s direction: only 9% of those who said, “it is already not much of a problem” when asked when the pandemic will be significantly overcome in Maryland said “right direction.” Among those who thought that the county was moving “too slow” in reopening facilities, the percentage was just seven points. Among those who were “not very concerned” about getting the virus, the percentage was 31% compared to 54% among those who were “very concerned.” Clearly, perceptions of the severity of the pandemic and proper government reactions have strongly impacted the “right direction” score of the county. These relationships are shown on Table 2a.

Table 2a: “Right direction” Score for County by Other Variables

	Too fast	About right	Too slow
Pace of reopening (right direction score)	50	59	7
	Not much of a problem now	1-2 years	More than 2 years
When will pandemic be overcome	9	47	50
	Very concerned	Somewhat	Not very concerned
How concerned are you about becoming seriously ill	54	39	31
Are you vaccinated?	Fully	Partly	Not vaccinated
	43	7	25

Table 2b: Party and Ideology with Right Direction

	Right	Wrong	Difference
Registered political party			
Democrat	61	18	43
Republican	24	56	-32
Unaffiliated	26	40	-14
	“Right” Dems	“Right” Reps	
Strong Democrat / Strong Republican	71	16	55
Somewhat strong Democrat/ Somewhat strong Republican	56	26	30
Not strong Democrat / Not strong Republican	33	29	-4
Ideology	“Right” Liberals	“Right” Cons.	
Very liberal / Very conservative	65	9	56
Somewhat Liberal / Somewhat Conservative	52	33	19
Moderate (only a single “moderate” position)	41	41	

While some of these differences in perceptions of the severity of coronavirus and the pace of reopening were surely based on personal experiences and analytical conclusions, there were also clear partisan and ideological dimensions as well. Table 2b show how these are arrayed. Overall, between Democrats who say right direction (61%) and Republicans who agree (24%), there is a 43-point difference, which is up from a 31-point difference last spring. There was also a growing gap between Democrats and unaffiliated respondents (59 vs. 35% last spring; 61 vs. 26% this fall – growing from a 24-point to a 35-point gap). There was a 55-point gap between “strong Democrat” and “strong Republican, but almost no gap between “not strong” Democrats and Republicans – both well below the average for “right direction.”

Clearly, ideology plays a strong role in orientating people to the county’s direction since 65% of very liberal people felt that it was going in the right direction, compared to 9% of very conservative ones.

Table 2c and Graph 3 show the relationship between partisanship and the direction of the county for four surveys: fall 2019, fall 2020, spring 2021 and fall 2021. Looking just at the changes among partisans, the erosion of support among Democrats was much less acute (down three points from fall 2019) than it was among Republicans (down 25 points).

Table 2c: Party and County’s Direction – Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring/Fall 2021

Direction	Overall				Dem				Rep			
	F19	F20	S21	F21	F19	F20	S21	F21	F19	F20	S21	F21
Right direction	54	41	42	41	64	54	59	61	49	32	28	24
Wrong direction	27	34	34	36	18	18	16	18	38	46	53	56
Unsure	19	25	24	23	18	28	25	21	14	23	19	20

Right Direction: 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: 50%. While this was up a bit from spring 2021, it was still 20 points lower than in spring 2020 – exceeding the fall for the county (18 points).

While the right direction scores for the country/nation trailed those of the state in all four surveys, there has been variance in the size of the gap: for the county vs. state, the gap was 11 points in spring 2020 but narrowed to just three points in spring 2021 – then growing back to nine points in fall 2021. Regarding the state vs. country, the gap was 37 points in spring 2020 and narrowed to just ten points in spring 2021 – but increased by to 28 points in fall 2021 – as the right direction scores for the country reached a new recent low of just 22 points.

Table 3: Right/Wrong Direction for County, State and Nation, Spring/Fall 2020, Spring 2021

	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021			
	Right	Right	Right	Right	Wrong	Unsure/D.K.	Total
County	59	41	42	41	36	23	100
State	70	50	45	50	31	20	101
Nation	32	30	35	22	58	20	100

Graph 3a shows the longer-term trend for all three levels. The graph shows the small and temporary long-term improvement in right direction scores for the federal government while also depicting the falls in scores for both the county and state since the full weight of the pandemic struck by fall 2020.

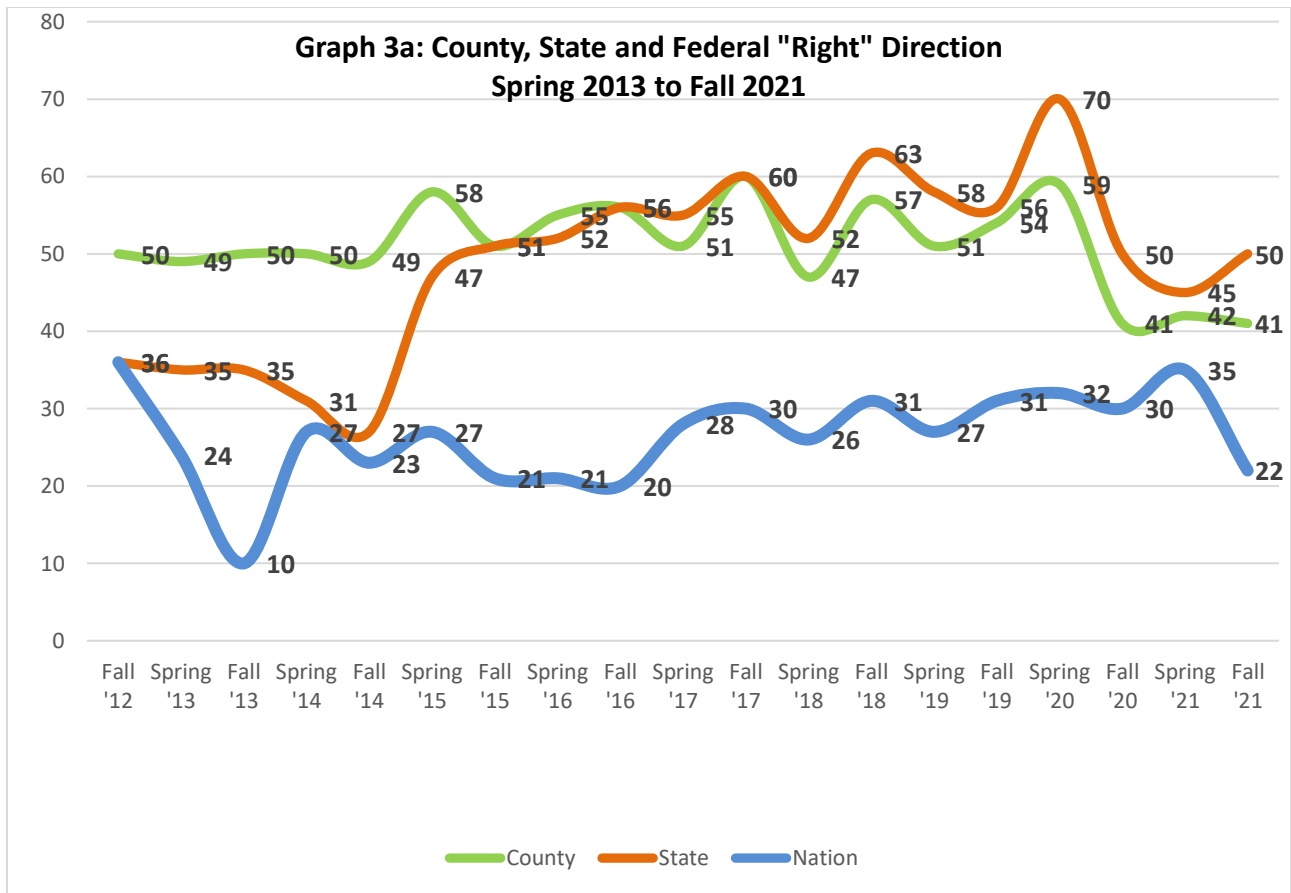


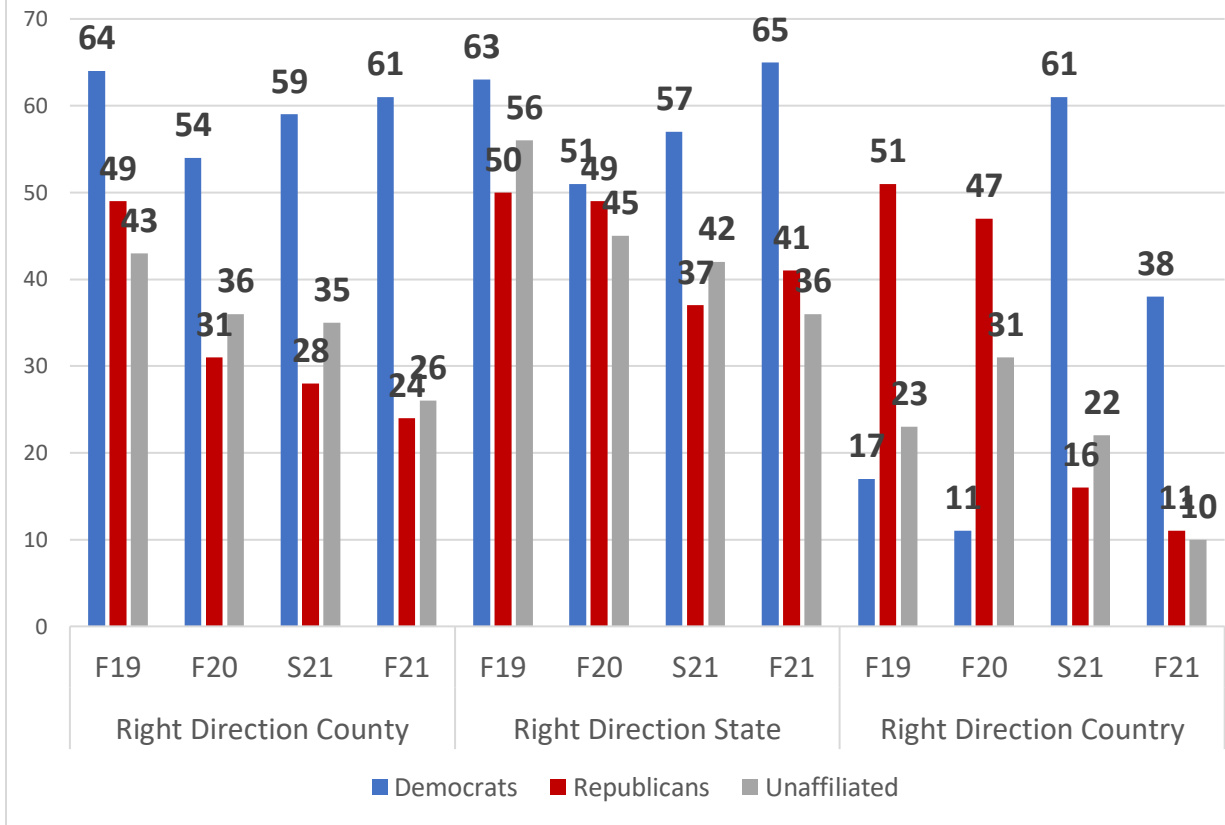
Table 3a and Graph 4 show that Democrats have remained more positive about the direction of both the state (65% right direction) and the county (61%) than Republicans or unaffiliated voters. The gap is particularly surprising for the state of Maryland, since the governor is Republican – albeit not a “Trump Republican.” Indeed, the Democrats score is 24 points higher than the Republican score for the state of Maryland.

The partisan slant becomes the most obvious at the national level, where the gap between Republicans and Democrats has been consistently favorable whenever a given party held the presidency. For example, the Republican gap over the Democrats during Trump’s presidency was 34 points in fall 2019 and 36 points in fall 2020; after Biden’s election, the Democratic gap over Republicans was 45 points in spring 2021, dropping to just 27 points in fall 2021. It is significant that Democrats are so dampened in their enthusiasm about the country’s direction – with a right direction score of just 38 points. Perhaps this reflects the challenges of governing with slim majorities – expectations are high, but challenges within the Democratic camp in coming to agreement on major legislation seems to be holding back Democratic support for the country’s direction.

**Table 3a: Right/Wrong Direction for County, State and Nation by Party Registration,
Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring/Fall 2021**

	Right Direction County				Right Direction State				Right Direction Nation			
	F19	F20	S21	F21	F19	F20	S21	F21	F19	F20	S21	F21
Democrats	64	54	59	61	63	51	57	65	17	11	61	38
Republicans	49	31	28	24	50	49	37	41	51	47	16	11
Unaffiliated	43	36	35	26	56	45	42	36	23	31	22	10

Graph 4: Right Direction by Party - County, State and Nation



Rating Economic Conditions – Anne Arundel County

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

As shown on Table 4 (p. 18) and Graph 5 (p. 19), it is now clear to see that the onset of the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in a 16-point decline in the combined “excellent+good” scores based on a fall 2019 starting percentage. However, the percentage has not varied much over the last three surveys – changing only three points (57 vs. 54% saying “excellent+good.”

Graph 5 shows the overall pattern for all three levels – county, state and country. The state’s score was a bit lower in spring 2020 than the county’s (62 vs. 68%) but both have ended up in a very similar range between 50 and 57%.

The situation for the country has been quite different. At 44%, the spring 2020 figure was 18 points lower than the state’s – and the recent performance, dropping to just 22% this fall, shows that the fall from spring 2020 has been more pronounced.

Table 4: Perceptions of County Economic Conditions – Fall 2010 to Fall 2021

	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	Sp' 20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Avg.
Excellent+ Good	45	49	48	51	48	49	53	50	44	57	64	65	60	65	71	68	75	71	73	68	57	54	57	58
Excellent	3	3	4	2	5	3	6	8	4	5	7	8	8	5	9	10	15	12	14	11	7	6	7	7
Good	42	46	44	49	43	46	47	42	40	52	57	57	52	60	62	58	60	59	59	57	50	48	50	51
Fair	45	38	40	37	39	38	35	40	41	33	27	27	34	29	25	27	19	22	20	24	29	38	31	33
Poor	8	12	11	11	12	11	10	9	12	7	6	5	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	4	9	7	9	7
Don't know	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	4	5	2	3	3
Total	100	101	101	100	101	101	101	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99	100	100	101	100	100

Graph 5: County, State and Nation - Excellent+Good Scores Fall 2009 to Fall 2021

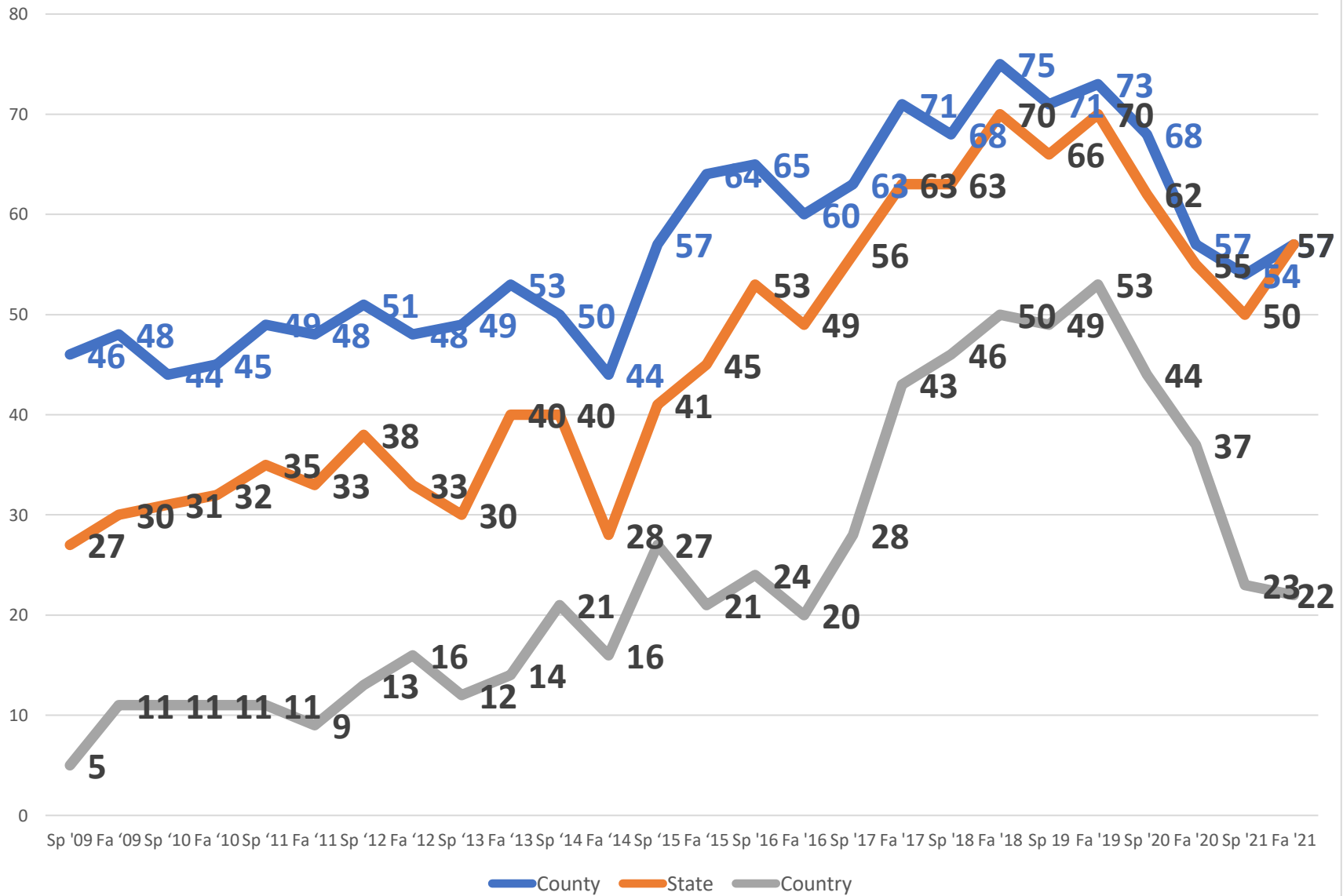


Table 4a shows that as in prior years, there were relatively few partisan differences regarding the percentages saying that the county’s economy was excellent or good. Since fall 2019 when all party groupings were clearly optimistic, there has been an eight point drop among Democrats, contrasted by a 27-point drop among Republicans and a bit smaller 20-point drop among unaffiliated voters. It seems that Democrats remain more optimistic about the state of the local economy.

Table 4a: Economy as Excellent+Good by Party Registration – Anne Arundel County, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring/Fall 2021

	Excellent+Good				
	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Fall 2021-Spring 2021
Democrats	71	55	59	63	4
Republicans	79	62	55	52	-3
Unaffiliated	73	56	46	53	7

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 2021 was up seven points to 57% from spring 2021 and down 13 points from fall 2019. As mentioned earlier, the state’s scores have been quite consistent over the last three surveys (see Table 5 and Graph 5).

Table 5: Perceptions of State Economic Conditions – Fall 2012 to Fall 2021

	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	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Avg.
Excellent+Good	33	30	40	40	28	41	45	53	49	56	63	63	70	66	70	62	55	50	57	51
Excellent	3	1	4	4	1	3	2	5	5	3	4	6	11	9	10	10	6	3	6	5
Good	30	29	36	36	27	38	43	48	44	53	59	57	59	57	60	52	49	47	51	46
Fair	42	41	36	40	40	39	41	36	39	34	29	29	24	25	22	28	32	40	31	34
Poor	23	24	21	18	30	16	11	9	9	7	4	5	4	5	5	6	9	7	9	12
Don't know	2	4	4	2	2	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	4	3	3	4	3	3	3
Total	101	101	101	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99	99	100	100	100	100

Table 5a shows that there remain notable differences in perceptions of the state economy along partisan grounds. Democrats continue to be relatively optimistic about the state’s economy – now only seven points below the pre-COVID figure. Republicans had been more optimistic about the state economy in fall 2019 – four points higher than Democrats – but have fallen quite steeply to a current perception that is 23 points lower – and almost unchanged between spring and fall 2021. By contrast with Republicans, unaffiliated respondents who had once dropped below Republicans at a mere 45 points in fall 2020 now have rebounded to 62% – equaling Democrats.

Table 5a: Economy as Excellent+Good by Party Registration – Maryland, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring/Fall 2021

	Excellent+Good				
	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Fall 2021-Spring 2021
Democrats	69	47	55	62	7
Republicans	73	67	49	50	1
Unaffiliated	68	45	48	62	14

Rating Economic Conditions –The National Economy

As shown on Graph 5, the appraisal of the *national* economy has always lagged significantly behind both the *county* and *state*.

As mentioned above and shown on Table 6a, the national level has reached an apparently consistent low threshold of expectations – hardly changing from 23 to 23% saying “excellent or good.”

As shown on Table 6, partisan differences have moved considerably since fall 2019. At that time, Republicans were especially optimistic as 72% said “excellent or good.” Democrats were the least optimistic at that time at just 40%. Unaffiliated respondents weren’t far from Democrats at 48%. Since the switch in administrations, it is not surprising to find Republicans to be the least optimistic by fall 2021 – having dropped 58 points since fall 2019. However, neither Democrats nor unaffiliated respondents have shown much optimism – with scores of 30 and 20 points – even when compared to Republicans.

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

	Excellent+Good				
	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Fall 2021-Spring 2021
Democrats	40	9	19	30	11
Republicans	72	59	24	14	-10
Unaffiliated	48	46	24	20	-4

Table 6a: Perceptions of National Economic Conditions– Fall 2012 to Fall 2021

	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	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Avg.
Excellent+Good	16	12	14	21	16	27	21	24	20	28	43	46	50	49	53	44	37	23	22	29
Excellent	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	7	13	12	16	9	8	2	2	4
Good	14	10	13	20	15	24	20	23	19	27	40	39	37	37	37	35	28	21	20	25
Fair	37	38	31	41	42	32	40	40	38	46	40	36	33	33	30	31	30	45	38	37
Poor	46	47	55	37	40	37	36	34	40	23	17	17	13	16	12	20	32	27	36	31
Don't know	1	3	1	1	2	4	3	2	3	4	1	2	3	3	5	6	3	4	3	3
	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	101	101	101	101	99	101	100	101	101	100	99	100

Expectations for the National Economy

The question for this section was: **“Thinking ahead for the next few years, do you expect the national economy to improve, stay the same or get worse?”**

For fall 2021, there was an 18-point drop in the “improve” category and a 15-point increase in the “worse” category. This was the biggest change since spring 2020. There had been some increasing pessimism already in spring 2021 as the “worse” score had increase 17-points from fall 2020. However, the current results show that nearly half of the sample felt pessimistic about the future of the national economy.

Table 7: Expectations for National Economy

	Scores				
	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Fall 2021-Spring 2021
Improve	41	46	40	22	-18
Stay the same	23	16	20	24	+4
Worse	27	17	34	49	+15
Unsure	9	21	6	6	-0
Total	100	100	100	101	

As was shown in the discussion about the direction of the national economy, no political category was optimistic. The same is true regarding this question:

- Among Democrats, only 35% thought that the economy would improve
- Among Republicans, the figure was just 8%
- Among unaffiliated, the percentage rose to 17%, but when combined with the score for “same” was 50% compared to 66% for Democrats and just 23% among Republicans.

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.”**

Two tables (7a and 7b) show the results for recent CSLI/AACC surveys.

Table 7a (as well as Graph 6) shows the results from recent surveys.

Table 7b shows a longer time period and includes the fall 2014 survey modifications in 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.³ Since fall 2018, the survey reverted to prior form to note whether there have been changes in the value of this measure over time. In addition, in spring 2020 the question about the cost of education was amended to say “beyond high school.”

Table 7a shows the results over the last five surveys. There were some clear changes in the most recent survey:

- There was a ten-point rise in the percentage of respondents saying that “wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living
- There was also a ten-point rise in the percentage saying “hard to afford the cost of food and groceries

Both of these are significant in that they point to a concern about inflation, a preoccupation that has found its way into the media and other polls.⁴

The other items did not show much change although there was a five-point drop in the percentage saying that they had “received a salary increase or other increase in income recently” – again reinforcing the idea that costs are rising faster than income.

³ 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%, similar to average CSLI value of 17%. 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 so we have reverted back to the original phrasing. See <http://www.well-beingindex.com/>

⁴ For example, see Heather Long’s article in the Oct. 15 edition of The Washington Post: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/10/15/us-economy-inflation-uncomfortable/>

**Table 7a: Economic Perceptions Fall 2019 to Fall 2021
(percent saying, “applies”)**

	Fa '19	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Fa '21-Sp '21
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	53	46	51	57	54	-3
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	47	37	38	45	55	10
Hard to afford the cost of education (from spring 2020 – “beyond high school”)	42	21	25	34	33	-1
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	41	40	30	37	32	-5
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	24	19	19	22	32	10
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate/	33	25	19	23	27	4
Facing the possibility of unemployment	10	15	11	12	15	3
Found a new or better job recently	15	15	9	7	11	4

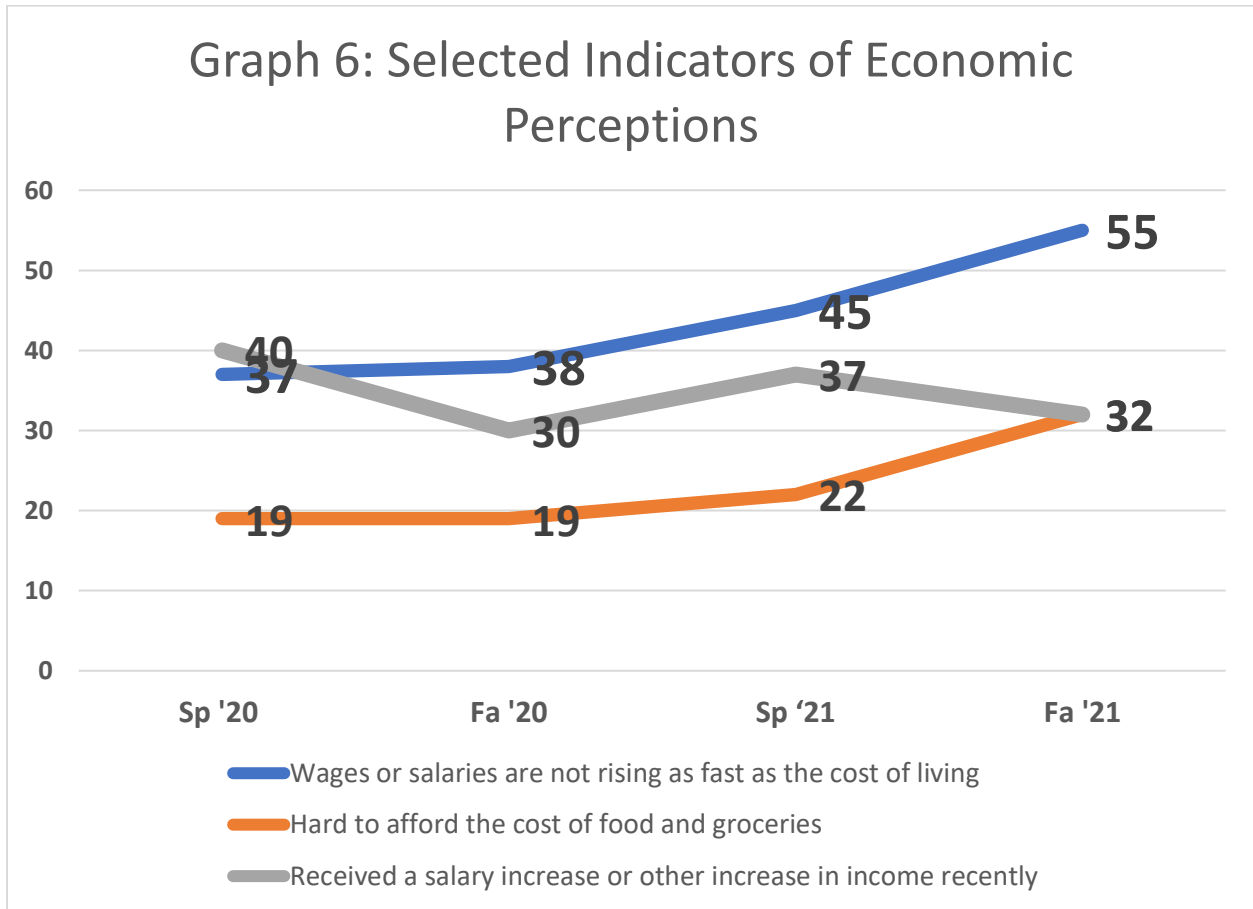


Table 7b: Economic Conditions Applying to Personal Circumstances – Spring 2013 to Fall 2021

Condition	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	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Avg.
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	62	66	65	74	66	62	59	61	58	55	58	57	56	53	46	51	57	54	59
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	59	60	57	63	57	54	58	57	55	49	49	36	40	47	37	38	45	55	51
Hard to afford the cost of education (from spring 2020 – “beyond high school”)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	45	41	39	39	40	38	33	32	32	37	42	21	25	34	33	35
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	34	29	36	33	37	34	32	29	31	26	41	36	45	41	40	30	37	32	35
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	33	31	28	30	29	27	25	24	20	25	24	19	19	22	32	26
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate/ Unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year (bolded starts fall 2016 ends spring 2018)	32	29	26	40	38	33	38	14	16	18	18	35	32	33	25	19	23	27	28
Facing the possibility of unemployment	19	17	16	17	12	12	9	11	14	11	8	7	8	10	15	11	12	15	12
Found a new or better job recently	14	16	14	12	11	13	10	8	10	10	13	13	12	15	15	9	7	11	12
Significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts	32	32	26	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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	42	38	43	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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	31	29	37	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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	27	24	24	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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	12	14	10	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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	7	7	4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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 7c). Since fall 2020 the clearest partisan differences appeared on taxes, with Republicans much more likely to say that they were too high – and the gaps exceeding 30 percentage points in each survey.

The fall 2021 survey showed large disparities between Democrats and Republicans regarding the inflation measure “Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries” – a substantial gap of 18 percentage points. While Democrats were more likely to cite higher costs, they were also more likely to say that they received a salary or other increase in income recently.

Table 7c: Party and Economic Conditions/Experiences Fall 2021

Condition	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaff.	Gap F21 D-R
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	55	38	71	56	-33
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	55	56	51	54	5
Hard to afford the cost of education beyond high school	33	32	28	37	4
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	32	35	26	37	-11
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	32	22	40	33	-18
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	27	25	24	27	1
Facing the possibility of unemployment	15	15	10	15	5
Found a new or better job recently	11	10	12	10	-2

Economic Conditions Applying to Individuals/Households – Influence of Income

Table 8 shows the impact of income on the indicators of economic conditions applying to personal circumstances both for the current survey as well as the gap between higher and lower income groups over time. 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. Graph 7 shows just the percentages obtained by each group for fall 2021.

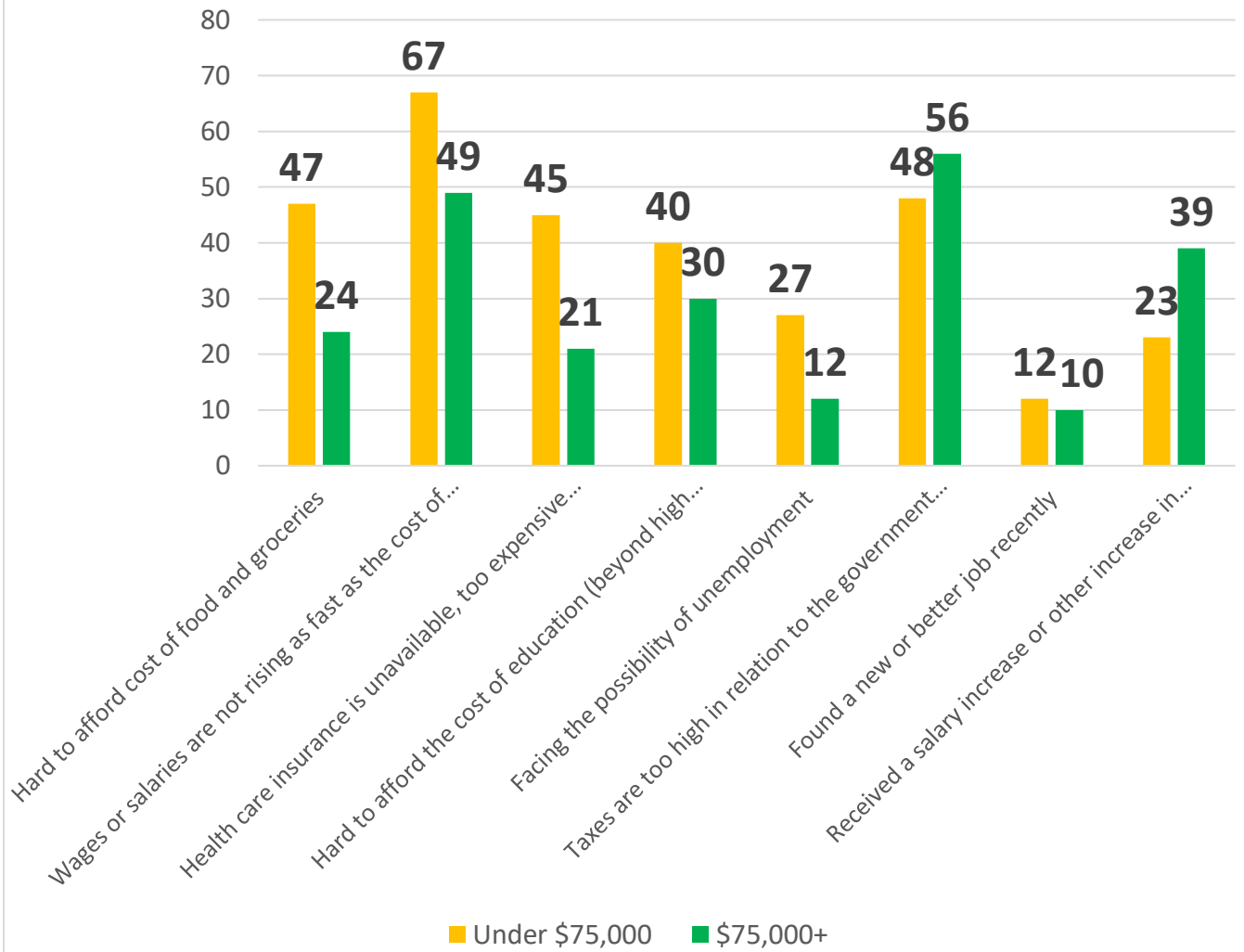
As in all previous analyses of this relationship, it is clear that the desirable outcomes – fewer problems affording goods and services, less concern with unemployment, receiving increases in income – tended to fall predominantly on the side of those with incomes over \$75,000. The item, “Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided” has generally not shown much difference or had inconsistent differences.

Table 8: Income Groups and Economic Indicators Fall 2017 to Fall 2021

	Fall 2021		Under \$75k- Over 75K									Avg
	Under \$75,000	\$75,000+	Fa '17	Sp '18	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	
Hard to afford cost of food and groceries	47	24	26	27	21	36	26	28	29	14	23	28
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	67	49	19	11	8	9	25	29	18	21	18	16
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	45	21	26	14	14	19	11	16	10	10	24	15
Hard to afford the cost of education (beyond high school from Fa '19)	40	30	2	10	10	4	16	15	14	17	10	15
Facing the possibility of unemployment	27	12	5	0	2	3	7	6	10	14	15	6
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	48	56	-1	-8	2	3	6	4	-7	-18	-8	1
Found a new or better job recently	12	10	-3	2	1	1	8	-7	-3	0	2	-1
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	23	39	-18	-10	-23	-23	-10	-13	-15	-13	-16	-18

Note: Desirable outcomes are bolded.

Graph 7: Economic Conditions by Income, Fall 2021



Coronavirus Section

The first part of the press release covered many findings pertinent to the COVID-19 situation. This section will present a more detailed analysis with tables and graphs.

Within the survey questionnaire, the coronavirus issue was first raised when asking about the “most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County.” This is a benchmark question asked at the beginning of each survey. Table 8a highlights the continuing impact of the pandemic upon residents’ concerns as it remains the most cited problem. But other issues have apparently risen in importance as the percentage citing coronavirus dropped 18 points since last spring.

Table 8a: Most Important Problem Fall 2020 to Fall 2021

Problem	Fall '20	Spring '21	Fall '21
Coronavirus (spread, treatment, testing)	50	53	35
Crime (other than drug related)	11	10	13
Drugs (use or sale of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or use of prescription painkillers for non-medical purposes.)	15	11	9
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	24	22	22
Education (problems with schools, quality, facilities, staff, discipline)	18	22	24
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	8	11	13
Government ethics (corrupt, immoral)	7	9	5
Government waste (inefficient, spends too much)	7	12	7
Government lacks resources (for roads, schools, services)	4	3	4
Growth/overpopulation (too much development, poorly planned)	13	11	16
Healthcare (cost, access)	3	4	7
Housing cost	6	7	11
Racism, hate crimes, discrimination	6	6	6
Taxes – too high	11	12	12
Transportation (problems/traffic congestion, lack of public transit)	6	6	10
No answer, don't know	2	0	1
Other answer - write in: (See Appendix B)	9	5	2

The next question focusing on the pandemic asked respondents to judge whether the situation was “getting better, staying the same or getting worse.” Table 8b shows that compared to last spring, there was less optimism that the pandemic was getting better: in spring it was 70%, but this dropped to only 49% this fall. More people said that the situation was getting worse – and many more were unsure. Clearly the struggles with the Delta variant and conflicts over the value of vaccines had taken a toll.

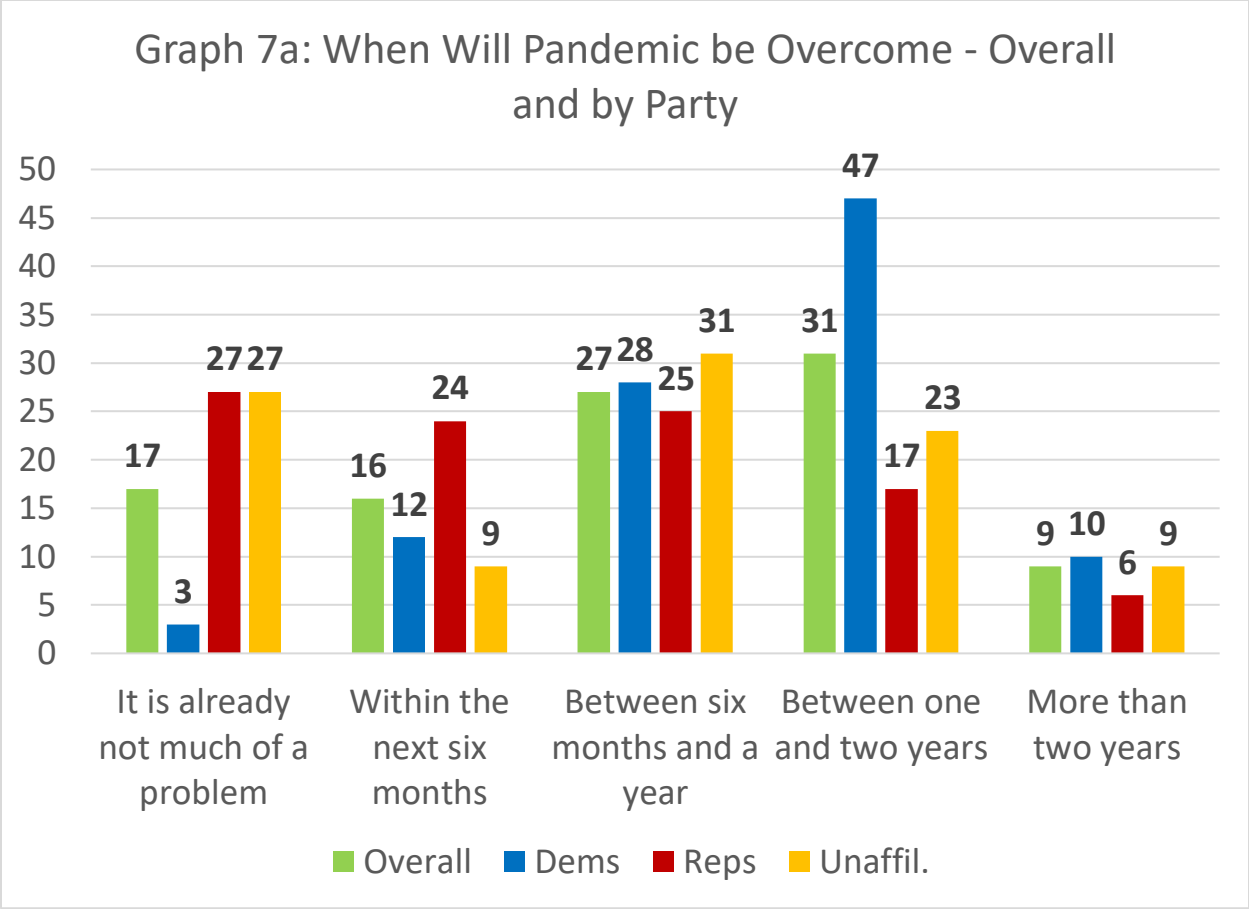
Table 8b: Is the Pandemic Getting Better, Staying the Same or Getting Worse?

	Spring '21	Fall '21
Getting better	70	49
Staying the same	24	34
Getting worse	5	13
Don't know, unsure	2	14
Total	101	100

This survey asked respondents to identify a time period “when you think that COVID-19 will be significantly overcome as a pandemic in Maryland” (see Table 8c). Graph 7a shows how Democrats have clustered especially in the longer time frames: 47% said between one and two years compared to just 17% of Republicans and 23% of unaffiliated respondents. While only 15% of Democrats felt that the pandemic would be overcome within six months, a majority of Republicans (51%) said that it would – and more than a third (36%) of unaffiliated respondents agreed.

Table 8c: When Will the Pandemic be Significantly Overcome?

	Overall	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
It is already not much of a problem	17	3	27	27
Within the next six months	16	12	24	9
Between six months and a year	27	28	25	31
Between one and two years	31	47	17	23
More than two years	9	10	6	9



County, State and Federal Measures about the Pandemic

Some questions in this section focused on Anne Arundel County and Maryland. One question asked, “**Would you say that Anne Arundel County and Maryland have gone too fast, too slow or about right in the pace of reopening businesses, schools and other facilities?**”

Table 7b shows that the mood of the public has not undergone as much change as might have been expected. In fall 2020, a majority said that the pace was “about right” (56%) and one year later that percentage was nearly identical (53%) after falling last spring – perhaps due to the enthusiasm that vaccines had brought.

For the state of Maryland, the pattern was very similar: a majority thought the pace was right in fall 2020 (62%) and in fall 2021 (57%), after falling to just 45% in spring 2021.

Regarding the federal government, there is no similar comparison as that level of government was only included for the first time in this survey. However, it is clear that the “about right” value was substantially lower than for the state (-14) or county (-10).

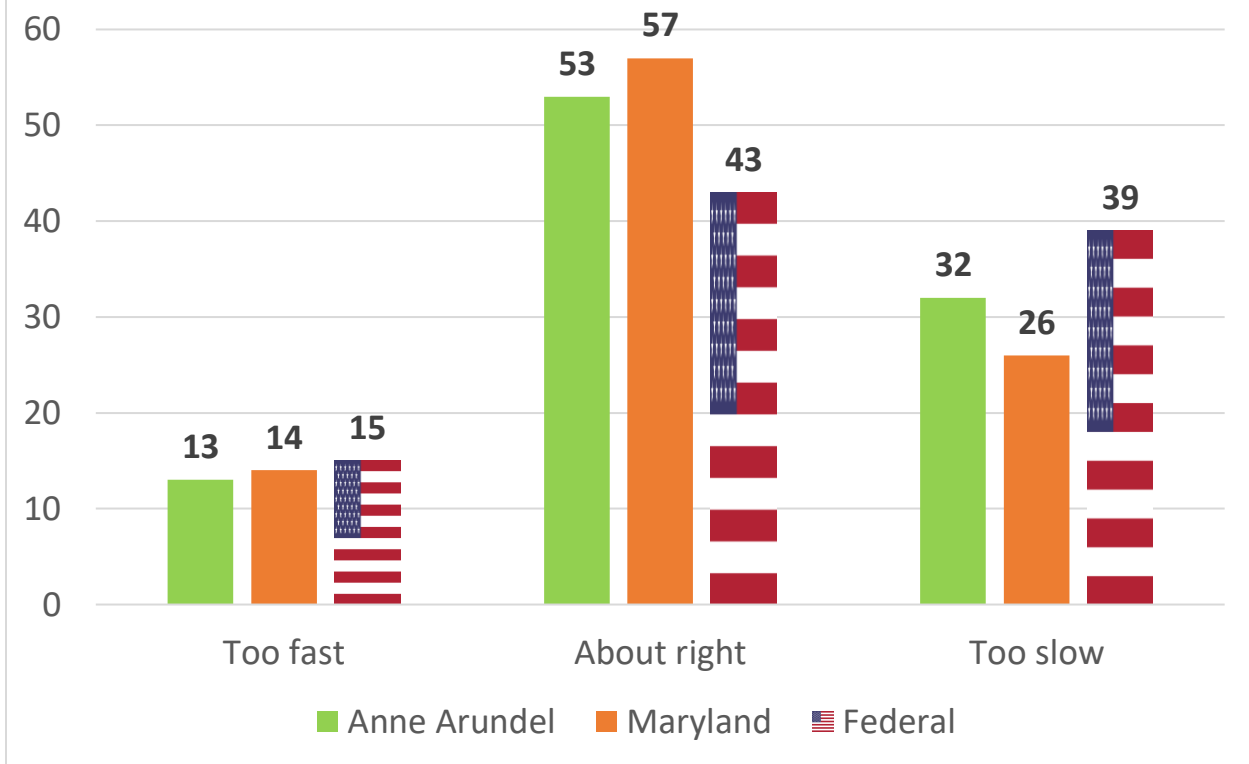
Table 9: Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Federal – Pace of Reopening

Anne Arundel County	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Fa '21- Sp'21
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Too fast	14	17	13	-4
About right	56	41	53	12
Too slow	28	38	32	-6
Unsure, D.K.	2	3	2	-1
Total	100	99	100	
Maryland	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Fa '21- Sp'21
Too fast	20	22	14	-8
About right	62	45	57	12
Too slow	16	28	26	-2
Unsure, D.K.	2	5	3	-2
Total	100	100	100	
Federal	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	
Too fast	n.a.	n.a.	15	
About right	n.a.	n.a.	43	
Too slow	n.a.	n.a.	39	
Unsure, D.K.	n.a.	n.a.	3	
Total	n.a.	n.a.	100	

Graph 7b shows the extent to which differences are most accentuated at the federal level. This is no surprise as partisan polarization is most acute at that level: While 62% of Democrats felt that the federal government was proceeding at the right pace, only 26% of Republicans agreed. While 67% of Republicans felt that progress was “too slow” only 12% of Democrats agreed.

Graph 7b: County, State and Federal Government
Pace of Reopening



Focusing a bit more on federal measures dealing with the pandemic, the survey asked respondents to consider measures that the Biden administration had taken dealing especially with vaccine mandates. Table 10 shows the measures included in the Biden plan – or suggested to governors to implement. Each of the measures received a majority in support with one – “requiring most health care workers to get vaccinated” receiving the most enthusiastic support: 61% supported it mostly or completely. Looking at the two “support” levels together – mostly/completely and somewhat – all five measures received between 59 and 69% of support. The opposition was largely polarized into the “oppose completely” category with the range extending from 24 to 29%.⁵

Table 10: Biden Administration Measures to Deal with the Pandemic

⁵ These questions were derived from a Politico/Morning Consult poll taken in September. Our poll obtained results generally similar – Politico’s poll had a range of support for the Biden plan from 57 to 62%; ours was 59-70. See https://assets.morningconsult.com/wp-uploads/2021/09/15071200/2109049_crosstabs_POLITICO_RVs_v1_SH.pdf

	Support mostly or completely	Support somewhat	Oppose somewhat	Oppose completely	Unsure/no answer
Requiring all employers with 100 or more employees to mandate vaccinations or weekly testing	54	10	5	28	3
Requiring federal workers and contractors to get vaccinated with no testing alternative	47	12	10	29	2
Requiring most health care workers to get vaccinated	61	8	5	24	2
Requiring vaccinations for all school employees (not in the plan)	58	11	3	27	2
Requiring vaccinations for all students who are eligible (not in the plan)	54	11	4	28	3

Looking at the partisan patterns in this data, it is not surprising to find that supporters of the measures are disproportionately Democrats and opponents mostly Republicans. This can be illustrated by examining how the partisans divide into the two most extreme categories – this can be seen on Table 10a. Nearly all Democrats support Biden’s plan, very few oppose them. What is surprising is that while Republicans have consistent majorities in opposition to Biden’s measures, the percentages are significantly below those of Democrats who support them. Thus, it might be that despite the partisanship of the administration, some measures still make at least a bit of sense to some Republicans.

Table 10a: Party and Support for Biden’s Measures

	Support mostly or completely		Oppose completely	
	Dems	Reps	Dems	Reps
Requiring all employers with 100 or more employees to mandate vaccinations or weekly testing	84	25	3	54
Requiring federal workers and contractors to get vaccinated with no testing alternative	78	21	5	55
Requiring most health care workers to get vaccinated	89	33	4	48
Requiring vaccinations for all school employees (not in the plan)	87	30	4	50
Requiring vaccinations for all students who are eligible (not in the plan)	86	25	5	51

While not a part of specific measures suggested by the Biden administration, the issue of whether the requirements to mask and vaccinate are part of a proper response to COVID-19 was investigated by asking whether certain measures – masking and “proof of vaccination” should be required to access certain venues. Table 10b shows the results.

Table 10b: Masking and Proof of Vaccination Requirements in Various Venues

	Requiring Masks	Requiring Proof of vaccination	Requiring Both	Requiring Neither	Unsure/no answer
Indoor dining	22	16	25	34	3
Gyms	17	15	31	34	4
Entertainment venues	17	12	38	31	2

Table 10b shows that there was a consistent one-third of the sample that resisted any efforts to use counter-pandemic measures such as masking or proof of vaccination in any of the three venues mentions. Entertainment venues seemed to draw the most support as 38% supported both masks and proofs of vaccination – compared to only 25% for indoor dining.

Adding up support for all three measures – masking, proof of vaccination or both – there were few real differences: indoor dining was 63% as were gyms. Entertainment venues were just a little higher at 67%. These percentages are very similar to the two “support” categories for the Biden measures and probably pull very similar profiles of respondents.

When asked about **government mandates** – whether they “protect the rights of the majority” or “violate the rights of individuals” there is again a predictable majority in favor of “rights of the majority” (57%) and a minority that favors the “rights of individuals” (39%). Looking at the partisan breakdown, nearly all Democrats line up on the “rights of the majority” side of this issue (91%), but at least a few Republicans (25%) and unaffiliated respondents (46%) agree. For the alternative “rights of the individual” Republicans disproportionate favor this stance (71%) but hardly any Democrats follow (8%). Unaffiliated respondents are split (48%).⁶

⁶ Our poll paralleled the results of the Politico/Morning Consult poll: 41% said “violate rights compared to our 39%

Anne Arundel Public Schools and Coronavirus Policies

With the reopening of county schools to face-to-face instruction, the survey asked about some of the policies followed by the Board of Education when determining the conditions that students and staff would face.

Table 10c shows the first question covered in the questionnaire which was phrased this way: **“The County’s Board of Education (BOE) has decided to reopen public schools with in-person instruction for all students except those with physical or emotional problems – those with a “specific, demonstrated need.” There is no general option for hybrid or online only instruction. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?”**

Table 10c is divided into three categories: overall results, results only for those with children in AACPS, and respondents under the age of 30. As that table shows, support is less for those with children in AACPS – with 20% saying that it was too early to return in-person instruction. Support was lowest for respondents under 30 -who were clearly much inclined to favor hybrid or online options. Partisan differences were again apparent: Democrats tended not to agree (only 27% agreed mostly or completely) while 62% of Republicans agreed as did 74% of those with children in *private* schools.

Table 10c: AACPS Reopening Policy

	Overall	Kids in AACPS	R’s under 30
Agree mostly or completely with this policy	42	37	17
Partly agree - would have preferred more options such as hybrid or online	43	40	65
Disagree mostly or completely with this policy – too early a return to in-person instruction	10	20	18
Unsure, no answer	5	3	0
Total	100	100	100

Asked whether AACPS had clearly communicated its policies about reopening, 31% said “very” or “extremely” clearly. About an additional third (32%) said “somewhat clearly,” and 14% said “not so clearly” or “not at all clearly.” A large group (24%) were unsure.

The survey asked about specific policies that AACPS had for dealing with COVID-19. Table 10d shows the policies and the answer choices: “about right,” “not doing enough,” and “doing too much.”

Table 10d: AACPS COVID-19 Policies

	About right	Not doing enough	Doing too much
Mandatory face coverings for anyone in any school building, regardless of age and vaccination status other than when eating.	67	5	28
Keeping the ventilation constantly cycling, bringing outside air in	83	15	3
A vaccination requirement or weekly testing for employees	63	11	26
A vaccination requirement or weekly testing for student athletes	57	13	30
Random testing of unvaccinated students only with parental approval	40	26	33

As seen on Table 10d, most of the measures received a majority saying “about right” – with ventilation policy doing best with 83% support. For all the other policies, between 26-33% said that the schools were doing too much; a smaller range – between 5 and 26% said that the schools weren’t doing enough. The largest “not doing enough” percentage (26%) was with regard to the idea of “Random testing of unvaccinated students only with parental approval.” Some open-ended statements offered the notion that more or all students should be subject to random testing.

The partisan distribution of responses showed what was seen previously: Republicans are split over how seriously to take measures meant to curb the spread of COVID-19 (see Table 10e). Between 31 and 46% said “about right” regarding some of the more controversial policies. Democrats were typically more inclined to favor more measures – for example, 40% said that AACPS wasn’t “doing enough” on the policy “random testing of unvaccinated students only with parental approval.” For many policies around half of Republicans said that the schools were “doing too much” on masking, vaccinations and testing.

Table 10e: AACPS COVID-19 Policies and Party Registration

	About right		Not doing enough		Doing too much	
	Dems	Reps	Dems	Reps	Dems	Reps
Mandatory face coverings for anyone in any school building, regardless of age and vaccination status other than when eating.	86	46	7	5	7	49
Keeping the ventilation constantly cycling, bringing outside air in	84	82	16	12	0	7
A vaccination requirement or weekly testing for employees	79	45	17	9	4	46
A vaccination requirement or weekly testing for student athletes	74	39	20	10	6	50
Random testing of unvaccinated students only with parental approval	50	31	40	17	7	53

Experience with COVID-19

The survey asked respondents about their specific experiences with COVID-19. Table 11 shows the choices and the percentages for each answer choice – respondents could pick more than one choice.

Table 11: Experience with COVID-19

Answers	Fall '20	Spring '21	Fall '21	Fa '21-Sp '21
Someone you know personally other than family/friend has contracted it	53	57	59	2
A family member or close friend has contracted it	28	47	56	9
Someone you know has died from effects of the virus	20	30	28	-2
Either you or a personal acquaintance had serious symptoms from the virus	n.a.	n.a.	22	--
You consider yourself at high risk should you come down with the virus	39	30	21	-9
You have contracted it yourself	2	8	15	7
None of these apply	16	10	14	4

As was the case since the survey started asking this question in fall 2020, a majority (59%) knew someone other than a family member or friend who had come down with the virus.

As in the past, there was a steady increase in the percentage who claimed that a family member or close friend had contracted the illness (from 28 to 47 to 56%).⁷ There was no real change from last spring in the percentage of those who knew someone who has died from the effects of the virus (20 to 30 to 28%). The percentage of respondents saying that they had contracted the virus themselves was twice as high as last spring, essentially doubling from 8 to 15%. There was some decrease (from 30 to 21%) in the percentage of those considering themselves to be at high risk – perhaps a product of vaccinations.

Finally, a new question was added in fall 2021: “Either you or a personal acquaintance had serious symptoms from the virus.” Nearly a quarter of those responding (22%) responded affirmatively.

In the analysis that follows, a host of variables that might be associated with these responses will be considered.

In Table 11a, the responses are considered first in terms of respondents’ ages. There was no real pattern to who contracted the virus – 28% of the youngest cohort contracted the virus, as did 24% of those 50-59. Very few of the oldest respondents said that they had contracted the virus – perhaps the early eligibility for the vaccine combined with a perception of vulnerability led to more cautious behaviors such as consistent masking and avoidance of crowded indoor venues. It seems quite clear that those over 60 provided high scores to the question “You consider yourself at high risk should you come down with the virus” – so there is some confirmation there.

⁷ When a version of this question was asked in spring 2020, the percentage was just 10%.

Table 11a: Experience with COVID-19 by Age

	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+
percent of sample	21	11	12	15	20	21
Contracted yourself	28	12	9	24	14	2
Family member contracted	62	76	64	59	46	40
Other person contracted	60	83	68	68	52	46
Serious symptoms	20	51	20	25	18	14
Died from it	12	45	38	28	32	28
High risk	6	30	16	15	30	32

Moreover, it is clear that those 70 or over were the most likely to have been vaccinated. As shown on Table 11b, that group was almost entirely fully vaccinated.

Table 11b: Vaccination – Overall and by Age

	Overall	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+
Vaccinated, fully	89	81	93	89	87	91	98
Vaccinated, partly	2	2	0	3	0	0	2
Not vaccinated	9	17	7	8	13	9	0

In addition, **the survey supports the finding that those who are not vaccinated are more likely to have contracted the virus.** Table 11c shows clear evidence for this. Those who were vaccinated were less than half as likely to have contracted the virus (14 vs. 33%). The survey does not ask whether the respondent was vaccinated *at the time they contracted COVID-19*, so it may be that some of those who are currently vaccinated had contracted the virus when they were not yet vaccinated.

Table 11c: Vaccination and Contracting COVID-19

	Contracted	Did not contract
Vaccinated, fully	14	86
Vaccinated, partly	7	93
Not vaccinated	33	68

While the percentage of those with “severe” symptoms after receiving a vaccination is very small (3%), it does seem that this has produced a resistance to a booster: 44% of those with severe side-effects had no plan to get a booster, compared to 30% of the overall sample (see Table 11d).

Table 11d: Vaccination Type, Side-effect Symptoms, Willingness to Get Booster

	Overall	Pfizer	Moderna	JJ	Percent - No plan to get booster by symptoms
Severe	3	3	3	4	44
Moderate	18	18	21	10	23
Mild	39	39	39	37	24
No side effects	34	35	29	42	24
No answer	7	5	8	8	25
Total	101	100	100	101	--

Those 70 years of age or older were most inclined to have received a booster or plan to get one when it becomes available: Only 9% had “no plan to receive it” compared to 30% for the overall sample (see Table 11e).

Table 11e: Receive Booster – Overall and by Age, Fall 2021

	Overall	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+
Have received it	14	4	9	5	8	17	32
Will get it when available	56	58	45	58	60	45	59
No plan to receive it	30	38	47	37	31	28	9

Those had received the Pfizer vaccine were the most likely to have obtained the booster – at the time of this writing, no other vaccine had obtained approval for a booster, so this is not surprising: 28% of Pfizer recipients had obtained it, and another 48% plan to get it. Another 24% did not expect to get the booster. Overall, **51% of the sample had received the Pfizer vaccine; 38% had obtained Moderna; another 9% said Johnson and Johnson.**

The percentage ultimately seeking a booster with the latter was the lowest of the three: 39% did not plan to obtain a booster, twice as high as the Moderna group’s 19%. This might be a reflection of the fact that the Johnson and Johnson vaccination was proposed as a single shot remedy – and as those who were the most “shot adverse” sought it out, they are now reluctant to obtain another shot for any reason.

Table 11f shows some sociological and political variables associated with the various COVID-19 experiences.

Table 11f: COVID Experiences and Other Variables

Answers	Fall '21	Party		Income		Race/Ethnicity			Gender		School Status for Kids			Education	
		Dem	Rep	Under \$75k	\$75K+	Whites	Af-Am	Latino	Women	Men	Kids in AACPS	Kids Private	No Kids	BA+	No BA
Someone you know personally other than family/friend has contracted it	59	69	51	63	60	58	72	95	66	52	67	77	56	61	57
A family member or close friend has contracted it	56	50	60	65	55	55	57	63	52	59	69	52	54	49	62
Someone you know has died from effects of the virus	28	32	24	25	29	27	34	42	29	26	40	32	25	31	25
Either you or a personal acquaintance had serious symptoms from the virus	22	29	12	25	25	20	35	43	24	20	26	23	20	23	20
You consider yourself at high risk should you come down with the virus	21	28	14	28	21	22	34	17	24	18	18	20	23	24	19
You have contracted it yourself	15	13	17	17	15	15	16	30	14	16	16	20	14	20	10
None of these apply	14	11	20	14	11	14	12	1	15	14	10	0	16	14	15

Summary of Findings: COVID Experiences with Other Variables

This section will highlight differences among the categories included on Table 11e that exceed the margin of error – thus a 5% difference among the variables within a category will be noted.

Party: Democrats (60%) were more likely to know someone other than a family member or friend that has contracted the virus compared to Republicans (51%). They were more than twice as likely (29%) to have experienced or know a personal acquaintance who has experienced serious symptoms compared to Republicans (12%). They were also twice as likely (28%) compared to Republicans (14%) to consider themselves at high risk should they come down with the virus.

By contrast, Republicans were more likely to know a family member or close friend who has contracted it (60 vs. 50%). They were slightly more likely to have contracted it themselves (17 vs. 14% – inside the margin of error). They were more likely to say that “none of these COVID experiences applied” (20 vs. 11%).

Income: This uses the under \$75,000 vs. \$75,000 or over dichotomy introduced earlier. Differences were relatively few. Lower income people were more likely to know a family member or close friend who contracted COVID-19 (65 vs. 55%). They also considered themselves at higher risk (28 vs. 21%).

Education: The sample was divided into those with at least a bachelor’s degree and those without. Those without a bachelor’s degrees were more likely to know a family member or close friend who has contracted the virus (62 vs. 49%). Those with a degree were more likely to have known someone who has died of it (31 vs. 25%); consider themselves at high risk (24 vs. 19%) and were twice as likely to have contracted it (20 vs. 10%).

Race and Ethnicity: Whites (75%) and African-Americans (10%) were most represented in the sample compared to Latinos or other groups. The column for Latinos was included only because it had some relatively extreme values – but for statistical purposes, only comparisons between whites and African-Americans will be mentioned in this section. African-Americans were more likely to know someone other than a friend or family member who has contracted the virus (72 vs. 58%); known someone who has died from it (34 vs. 27%); have experienced serious symptoms (35 vs 20%); and consider themselves high risk (34 vs. 22%). They did **not** report significantly higher incidences of contracting the virus themselves (16 vs. 15%).

Gender: There were not many differences based on gender. Women were more likely to know someone other than a family member or friend who has contracted it (66 vs. 52%) and considered themselves a bit more at high risk (24 vs. 18%). Men were more likely to know a family member or close friend who has contracted it (59 vs. 52%).

Children in Schools: Most respondents (76%) did not have children in schools. Eighteen percent did have children in public schools; another 5% had them in private schools (1% had children in both). Unlike for the other categories, this meant that there were three variables to consider when thinking about what to highlight – and that at least for the “private school” variable, a very small sample size. Here the focus will only be on those with children in public schools and those who do not; the values for those with children in private schools can be seen on the table but will not be analyzed here.

Those with children in public schools were more likely to know someone other than a friend or family member who has contracted the virus (67 vs. 56%); they were more likely to have a family member or close friend who has contracted it (69 vs. 54%); they were much more likely to know someone who has died from COVID-19 (40 vs. 25); and they were a bit more likely to have experienced severe symptoms (26 vs. 20%). Those without children in school were somewhat more likely to consider themselves at high risk (23 vs. 18%).

Concern about Getting Seriously Ill with COVID

Since fall 2020, respondents were asked, “How concerned are you about the possibility of someone in your family becoming seriously ill with the virus?”

As seen on Table 12, there was a clear diminution of concern about someone in respondents’ families getting seriously ill – continuing a trend from spring 2021. The percentage saying “not very concerned” rose from 26 to 36% while the percentage “very concerned” dropped from 35 to just 27%.

Table 12: Experience with COVID-19

Answers	Fall ‘20	Spring ‘21	Fall ‘21	Fa ‘21- Sp ‘20
Very concerned	41	35	27	-8
Somewhat concerned	35	39	36	-3
Not very concerned	24	26	36	10
Unsure, D.K.	0	1	0	-1
Total	100	101	99	

Lifestyle Changes, Testing, Emotional/Health Consequences, Vaccinations

Another section of the survey repeated some questions asked in previous surveys that focused on experiences and impacts upon respondents’ lives due to COVID-19. Specifically, that section asked whether “you or any members of your household experienced any of the following because of coronavirus?”

The major categories were testing, lifestyle changes and health/emotion consequences. The results are shown on Table 13, which also includes results from some questions asked in previous surveys especially when they continued to be present in the fall 2021 survey.

Testing: There was no change in the percentage saying that they were getting tested and able to get quick results: that figure has hovered around 75 % in both spring and fall 2021 and up dramatically from fall 2020 when it was only 48%.

Travel plans: The percentage saying that COVID-19 had caused them to change their travel plans decreased somewhat from spring 2021 – from 77 to 65% – about the same value as when this question was first asked in spring 2020: 64%.

Impacts on work: Two questions focus on work impacts. The first asks whether there has been a change to work routines by working more online. The last three surveys have produced a relatively similar percentage saying that they are working more online: around 50%. The second question asked whether the respondent had seen a reduction of hours or been laid off – again the results were generally consistent with prior findings – the value for fall 2021 (24%) fit into the range of 20 to 29%.

Economic consequences of COVID-19, role of government payments: Three questions fell within this category. The first was asked in spring 2021 and asked whether the respondent had “faced serious economic consequences such as loss of housing or significant loss of income” (around a fifth of the sample both surveys said yes); the other two were only added to

the survey for fall 2021: “Averted serious economic consequences by receiving extra payments from the federal government” and “Impacted by delays in receiving rental assistance.”

Regarding the first of these new questions, 19% said that this applied; for the second, only 5% said that it applied. Clearly, the percentage of those receiving government assistance was nearly the same as the percentage claiming to have had serious economic consequences. **A cross-tabulation showed that about half (49%) of those who faced serious economic situations agreed that government payments had helped them avert more dire circumstances.** By comparison, only 10% of those who claimed not to be facing serious economic circumstances said that government payments helped them avert such circumstances. With regards to the final question in this section, 20% of those facing serious economic circumstances claimed to have been impacted by delays in receiving rental assistance.

Impact on day care or home schooling: The results for fall 2021 were slightly higher (31%) than in spring 2021 (29%) and considerably higher than in spring 2020 (14%). Women (35%) were more likely than men (27%) to have had to manage day care or home schooling.

Emotional and health consequences: Two questions have been asked since spring 2020 – “Are you suffering from unrelated health problems due to the closure of services” and “Unhappiness or emotional distress due to social isolation.” Fewer people (10%) said that they were hampered in dealing with health problems due to the closure of services than last spring (15%). Regarding the percentage claiming emotional distress, the fall 2021 percentage (42%) was the lowest since spring 2020 (34%). Apparently, the easing of conditions has improved the psychological well-being of respondents, although the percentage is still quite high.

Table 13: Testing, Lifestyle Changes, Emotion/Health Consequences

	Yes			No	Unsure/NA	
Testing						
Got tested (in Fall 2021, “Was easily able to get tested and obtain quick results:	73% Fa ‘21 75% Sp ‘21 48% Fa ‘20			13%	14%	
Lifestyle Changes				Yes	No	Unsure
	Sp ‘20	Fa ‘20	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21		
Are stocking up on goods or supplies more than normal	40	49	n.a.	n.a.		
Finding it difficult to obtain some key items like toilet paper, masks or gloves	70	39	n.a.	n.a.		
Changed travel plans	64	86	77	65	32	3
Changed work routines by working online	43	51	55	49	48	3
Seen a reduction of hours or been laid off	25	20	29	24	73	3
Had to manage day care or home schooling	14	22	29	31	64	5
Moved to more purchase of goods online	46	71	n.a.	n.a.		
Faced serious economic consequences such as loss of housing or significant loss of income	n.a.	n.a.	18	20	77	3
Averted serious economic consequences by receiving extra payments from the federal government	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	19	72	9
Impacted by delays in receiving rental assistance	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5	86	10
Emotion/Health Consequences						
Are suffering from unrelated health problems due to closure of services	9	12	15	10	84	6
Unhappiness or emotional distress due to social isolation (“social distancing”)	34	47	58	42	54	4

Lifestyle - Open-ended Comments

Respondents were given the option to describe any changes or improvements “in how you are coping with the pandemic compared to a year ago. Their answers are found in Appendix H.

How Much Do You Trust Information About the Coronavirus Pandemic Coming From...

The previous three surveys asked about “who do you trust” regarding information about the pandemic. For spring 2021, some of the categories were changed such as the removal of federal and state/local officials, the addition of social media, news sites, word of mouth, other sources, and there was obviously a change in the name put forward as president from Donald Trump to Joe Biden. The changes were carried through for fall 2021.

Table 14 combines just the two top categories – great and good deal – while other categories were included such as “only some,” “not very much,” and “not at all.”

Table 14: How Much Do You Trust Information About the Coronavirus From... (percentages are for “Great+Good” only)

	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21
President Donald Trump/Joe Biden Sp '21	34	30	50	52
Governor Larry Hogan	92	69	56	64
County Executive Steuart Pittman	51	45	38	42
County and state health officials	77	63	--	--
Federal health officials	72	51	--	--
Social media	--	--	8	5
Online or print news sites	--	--	32	32
Word of mouth	--	--	10	5
Other sources of information (See Appendix J1 for comments)	--	--	17	19

Regarding the trustworthiness of elected official – the first mentioned was the president. In spring and fall 2020, Donald Trump was the incumbent and ranked quite low in terms of trust – only around a third trusted him. Since spring 2021, Joe Biden has been president and has experienced around a majority saying that he is trusted.

In spring 2020, Governor Larry Hogan was trusted by nearly everyone – at 92%. However, while that celestial figure has dropped since then – he is still the most trusted public official in this survey at 64%

County Executive Steuart Pittman has been somewhat consistent – somewhere around 40% since fall 2020. Unlike the other two, he has a lot more people saying “unsure” – 12%

compared to Biden and Hogan (around 1%). As will be seen with the job approval percentages, the county executive does not receive the notoriety that executives at the state and national levels receive.

Regarding other sources of information, social media obtained very low scores as did word of mouth. Younger people were more likely to offer a higher assessment of social media – the score for those under 30 for “not at all” was 32% compared to the sample average of 49%. Age was less relevant for “word of mouth” and “online or print news sites” with the latter deemed more trustworthy than either of the other two options. In the category “other sources of information” - many of those who chose this category explained that they were referring to official agencies and spokespeople such as the CDC or Dr. Fauci.

County and Most Serious Problems

Table 15 lists a series of areas of concern – respondents were asked to evaluate how serious these were as issues for the county to confront. There were some additions to the fall 2021 survey – these are bolded in Table 15.

Last spring, the issue receiving the most concern was “the quality of public education” (63% “very serious”), but this dropped somewhat to 54%. It was now tied with the new item **“Having unvaccinated people prolong the pandemic and overload health facilities”** also at 54%. This concern about the impact of the unvaccinated contrasts sharply with the large drop in the percentage saying that “The possibility of coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading more widely into Maryland” was a serious concern: in spring 2021 it was cited as “very serious” by 41% but had fallen to just 28% by this fall.

Another top item was the condition of the Chesapeake Bay. The wording was changed a bit from “management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay” to the “continued deterioration” of the Bay. The wording change did not change the percentage which was at 52% compared to 51% last spring. It was coupled with a new option, **“the growing impact of climate change in Maryland.”** The question proved much more polarizing than did the one about the Bay, since for the former 26% “not very serious” while for the latter this value was just 8%. Partly this is explained by partisan differences: these are extreme on climate change (70% of Democrats cited this as “very serious” compared to only 16% of Republicans) but milder regarding the state of the Chesapeake Bay (69 vs. 32%).

Table 15: Public Perception of Seriousness of County Issues

	Very serious Sp '21	Very serious Fa '21	Somewhat serious	Not very serious	Don't know
The quality of public education	63	54	34	10	3
The management of run-off into (continuing deterioration of) the Chesapeake Bay	51	52	38	8	2
The growing impact of climate change in Maryland	n.a.	44	28	26	3
Having easy access to opioids in the county	45	39	30	13	18
The possibility of coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading more widely into Maryland	41	28	39	31	2
Having unvaccinated people prolong the pandemic and overload health facilities	n.a.	54	15	30	2
High cost of housing in the county	40	49	38	11	2
The slow process of getting rental relief funds to tenants and landlords	n.a.	21	30	31	19
The growth in income and wealth inequality in the county	36	32	30	32	6
Domestic violence	34	34	41	17	7
Hate crimes in the county	33	33	32	31	5

Some other items that changed since last spring included a six-point drop in the percentage citing “easy access to opioids” (from 45 to 39%) and a nine-point rise in the percentage saying the “high cost of housing in the county” (from 40 to 49%).

The survey included an item about the “**slow process of getting rental relief funds to tenants and landlords**” as a way of gauging how widely felt any delays in getting rental relief funds were: not surprisingly, it was deemed the least “very serious” problem. It did seem to be more relevant to younger people, however, since 36% said very serious – 15 percentage points higher than the sample average. It was also cited by 30% of those who said that the “high cost of housing in the county” was a very serious problem.

It might also be noted that “hate crimes in the county” was deemed very serious by far more African Americans (53%) than whites (31%). This difference in the perceptions of the severity of problems was consistent for some other questions:

- African Americans said that domestic violence was very serious (57%) much more than did whites (32%)
- African Americans said that inequality was much more serious (53 vs. 30%)
- African Americans also expressed greater concern for climate change (64 vs. 44%).

Partisan differences are identified in Table 15a.

Table 15a: Public Perception of Seriousness of County Issues by Party Registration

	Very serious Fa '21	Dems- Reps	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
Having unvaccinated people prolong the pandemic and overload health facilities	54	57	82	25	52
The growing impact of climate change in Maryland	44	54	70	16	46
The growth in income and wealth inequality in the county	32	39	51	12	28
Hate crimes in the county	33	38	50	12	32
The management of run-off into (continuing deterioration of) the Chesapeake Bay	52	37	69	32	52
The possibility of coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading more widely into Maryland	28	31	44	13	26
The slow process of getting rental relief funds to tenants and landlords	21	21	30	9	20
Domestic violence	34	18	41	23	35
High cost of housing in the county	49	8	51	43	53
Having easy access to opioids in the county	39	1	38	37	50
The quality of public education	54	-4	51	55	66

It is apparent that there are many issues that are differentiated by party registration. The most divisive issues are the perception of the severity of the COVID-19 situation as well as climate change. Inequalities and hate crimes along with environmental issues are also significant. Only with regard to the cost of housing, opioids and the quality of public education are differences between the parties rather muted.

Other County Issues: Familiarity with the Budget and Approval of Some Policy Choices

The survey asked respondents to identify **how familiar they were with the county's budget**. Only 6% said "very familiar" – about equal proportions were divided between "somewhat familiar" (40%) and "not so familiar" (38%). Another 17% said "not at all familiar." Those who claimed to be the most familiar (very+somewhat) were:

- **Higher income** (50% for those with incomes over \$75K, 37% for those with less income)
- **More educated** (51% for those with at least a B.A., 34% for those without)
- **Men** (49% vs. 35% for women)
- **Older people** (over 50% for those between 50 and 70, compared to only 16% for those under 30)

There were no differences by party or race.

The second budget related questions asked, "**Have you ever researched the budget by going to the county's website (www.aacounty.org/budget)?"**

About one quarter (27%) said that they had researched the budget at some point in time. Another 71% had not; 2% were unsure.

Those who claimed to have researched the budget aligned similarly to those who said that they were familiar:

- **Higher income** (31% for those with incomes over \$75K, 31% for those with less income – a smaller difference than for the familiarity question above)
- **More educated** (35% for those with at least a B.A., 18% for those without)
- **Men** (33% vs. 20% for women)
- **Older people** (only 10% of those under 30 had done such research compared to 27% for the overall sample)

There were no meaningful differences by race. Republicans claimed to research the budget a bit more (28%) than did Democrats (22%). Unaffiliated respondents had the highest score in this category: 31%.

The next question asked, "**How important are the priorities found in and the size of the county's budget in determining your approval of the job the county is doing overall?**" Respondents were given three choices: "very important" (27%); "somewhat important" (60%); and "not so important" (13%).

What was unexpected is that on this question, there was a reversal of the prior associations between demographics and position: the differences by income, education, gender and age were relatively small.

By contrast, while the previous questions showed no significant differences by race and party, this question was much more impacted by these variables.

- African Americans were much more likely to say that they were interested in the budget (42 vs. 23% for whites)
- Democrats were more likely to say the same (33 vs. 18% for Republicans).

A specific question about the county’s budget priorities was posed that asked, **“Last year, County government received unexpected revenues which were spent to improve long-term finances such as adding \$20 million to the county’s “Rainy Day” fund and making a \$20 million prepayment to the retirement funds. Do you approve of the use of these funds or would either of these other two choices seem better?”**

Table 16: Spending Preferences for the County

	Percentage	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
Approve of these choices	38	41	37	31
Would have preferred a small tax refund instead	22	14	36	16
Would have preferred more spending on other one-time expenses in some other area such as schools or emergency services.	23	25	15	32
Unsure, no opinion	17	19	13	21

This question was framed to indicate that the county had tried to plan ahead and use its unexpected revenues to improve its long-term fiscal picture rather than spend the money for either a tax refund or other spending priority.

Table 16 shows the overall results as well as the results by party registration. While a plurality of respondents approved of these fiscal choices, a larger group (45%) favored either a “small tax refund” - 22% overall, disproportionately chosen by Republicans (36%) compared to Democrats (14%) - or more spending on other priorities (23%, with 25% Democrats and just 15% Republicans). A fairly large number were undecided (17%).

Regarding the other demographics that have used in previous questions, the approval of the county’s actual choices was highest among:

- Older people (around 50%)
- Higher education levels (50% vs. 28%)
- Higher income (45% vs. 23%)
- Men (44% vs. 32%)
- Whites (41% vs. 21% for African Americans – which points to a cleavage between African Americans and Democrats as a whole that is unexpected)

The next question dealing with specific county initiatives was the following: **“Anne Arundel County collaborated with the City of Annapolis to create a “climate resiliency authority” that could borrow money and apply for special funds to cope with the effects of climate change. Do you approve or disapprove of this measure?”** Several answer choices were offered as seen on Table 17.

Table 17: County and Climate Resiliency Authority

	Percentage	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
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Strongly approve	28	48	11	19
Somewhat approve	24	29	20	23
Neither approve nor disapprove	13	10	10	18
Somewhat disapprove	12	5	20	13
Strongly disapprove	17	5	33	17
Unsure, no opinion	7	4	7	11
Total	101	101	100	101

A small majority (52%) said either strongly or somewhat approve. Only 29% were in the “disapprove” category, with 13% neither approving nor disapproving, while another 7% were unsure.

Table 17 shows the overall results as well as the results by party registration. Given the polarization mentioned earlier between Democrats and Republicans, it is no surprise that while 77% of Democrats approved this, only 31% of Republicans did so. Unaffiliated respondents were indecisive with 42 approving and 30 disapproving, with the remainder either unsure (11%) or saying “neither approve nor disapprove” (18%).

Regarding the other demographics, the approval of the county’s action was highest among:

- Higher education levels (58% vs. 46%)
- Higher income (56% vs. 51%)
- Women (55% vs. 48%)
- African Americans (57% vs. 51% for whites)

It is apparent that this was a unique combination of demographic affinities not found among the other questions.

The last question in this series dealing with county expenses points to the challenges of finding enough school bus drivers to make the reopening of public schools a transportation reality. The question read, “**Do you support or oppose increasing the compensation of county public school bus drivers?**”

Table 18 shows the overall results as well as by party registration.

Table 18: Increasing School Bus Drivers’ Compensation

	Percentage	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
Strongly approve	48	65	31	46
Somewhat approve	35	27	42	42
Neither approve nor disapprove	6	3	12	4
Somewhat disapprove	4	3	7	0
Strongly disapprove	7	4	9	7
Unsure, no opinion	0	0	0	0
Total	101	101	100	101

As shown on Table 18, a large majority (83%) said either strongly or somewhat approve. Only 17% were in the “disapprove” category, with 6% neither approving nor disapproving.

Table 18 also shows the results by party registration. On this issue, it seemed that all partisan categories were favorable to increasing the compensation of bus drivers.

Legalization or Decriminalization of Drugs; Tax Increase for Schools

The survey broached a couple of issues dealing with the legalization or decriminalization of drugs. The first question asked respondents to “strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove” of the legalization of recreational marijuana in Maryland as well as the decriminalization of “currently ‘illegal’ drugs such as cocaine and heroin.” The results are on Table 19 where both questions are included.

Table 19: Legalizing/Decriminalizing Marijuana/Drugs

	Percentage		Dems		Reps		Unaffil.	
	Legal	Decrim	Legal	Decrim	Legal	Decrim	Legal	Decrim
Strongly approve	34	10	51	18	14	4	30	2
Somewhat approve	26	15	26	20	25	11	29	6
Somewhat disapprove	15	16	10	19	19	13	20	15
Strongly disapprove	22	55	10	38	39	68	16	75
Unsure, no opinion	4	5	2	6	3	5	6	2
Total	101	101	99	101	100	101	101	100

Overall, 60% supported the legalization of recreational marijuana. By contrast, only 25% supported the decriminalization of harder drugs like cocaine and heroin. There were some specific partisan divides on the legalization issue: Democrats (77%) were much more favorable

than Republicans (39%), but were joined by a majority of unaffiliated respondents (59%). Regarding decriminalization, only 39% of Democrats were favorable to this idea – compared to only 15% of Republicans and just 8% of unaffiliated respondents.

Regarding the other demographics that have used in previous questions, the approval of **marijuana legalization** was highest among:

- Younger people (around 70% vs. around 50% of older people)
- Lower income (72% vs. 58%)
- African Americans (84% vs. 58% for whites)

Regarding the other demographics that have used in previous questions, the approval of **decriminalization of other drugs** was highest among:

- Younger people (around 35% vs. around 20% of older people)
- Lower income (31% vs. 22%)
- Men (30% vs. 19% for women)
- African Americans (30% vs. 24% for whites)

Regarding the idea that there should be a **“tax increase to better fund public schools”** the public was evenly divided: 48% approved and 49% disapproved (3% unsure).

National and International Issues

In this section, focus turns to some national issues such as bills in Congress as well as general concern for some international issues. Respondents were asked to declare their approval or disapproval for the issues found in Table 20.

Table 20: Approval for Various National Issues

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know
The \$1.2 trillion bill meant to improve the country's physical infrastructure	41	30	11	14	5
The \$3.5 trillion bill meant to deal with climate change, paid family leave, some free college tuition and new Medicare benefits paid largely by higher taxes on the wealthy and large corporations.	40	15	9	31	5
Texas' bill that prohibits most abortions after six weeks, makes no provision for rape or incest, and empowers citizens to sue those who assist with obtaining abortions	13	11	11	59	6
A voting rights bill in Congress that would reduce partisan redistricting and expand voting opportunities while reducing states' ability to independently shape elections	41	18	7	32	13

The first measure received the greatest support: 71% said approve. It was part of the “bipartisan infrastructure bill” that has been awaiting its final destination in Congress. The second measure was the “reconciliation bill” that includes much social spending (Build Back Better bill). Its support was less than the first bill – only 55%, but still a majority.

The third bill focused on the Texas abortion law that drastically limits the availability of abortion after just six weeks. A large majority disapproved of it. Finally, a fourth bill known in Congress as the “Freedom to Vote” act also received a majority in support: 59%.

Table 21 shows the partisan distribution of approval for the four measures. It lists the combined score for strongly and somewhat approve. Democrats were strongly in favor of the two budget bills as well as the voting rights bill. Republicans favored the “bipartisan” budget bill, but not the Build Back Better bill meant to pass just by reconciliation in the Senate. They were more divided about the Texas abortion bill and the voting rights bill.

Table 21: Support for Four Measures by Party Registration

	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
The \$1.2 trillion bill meant to improve the country’s physical infrastructure	95	55	64
The \$3.5 trillion bill meant to deal with climate change, paid family leave, some free college tuition and new Medicare benefits paid largely by higher taxes on the wealthy and large corporations.	90	22	54
Texas’ bill that prohibits most abortions after six weeks, makes no provision for rape or incest, and empowers citizens to sue those who assist with obtaining abortions	8	47	22
A voting rights bill in Congress that would reduce partisan redistricting and expand voting opportunities while reducing states’ ability to independently shape elections	83	47	72

The last area of policy focuses on international affairs and asked respondents to say how serious a threat a given item constituted.

Table 22: International Threats – How Serious?

	Very serious		Somewhat serious	Not very serious	Unsure
	Sp '21	Fa '21			
The threat from “domestic” terrorists	n.a.	54	25	16	5
The rising economic and military threat posed by China	56	49	38	7	6
The threat posed by climate change	51	49	21	26	4
The threat from foreign terrorists	n.a.	45	39	12	5
Reducing illegal immigration into the United States	49	42	27	26	5
Maintaining US military advantage over all other countries	48	39	39	16	6
An adverse impact on America’s image based on the withdrawal from Afghanistan	n.a.	37	28	28	7
The threat to America posed by Russia	38	32	48	14	6
The difficulties that those seeking asylum face gaining legal admission to the United States	n.a.	28	39	26	7

As can be seen on Table 22, the greatest concern was less from a topic intrinsic to international affairs and more one focused on the “homeland” – the threat of domestic terrorists. This received a higher “very serious” score (54%) than did “the threat from foreign terrorists” (45%). In fact, this threat was deemed more consequential than the threat from China – which in spring 2021 was the top threat cited. The latter dropped seven points from its top stance in spring – now its percentage was equal to that attributed to climate change (49%).

New issues were an “adverse impact on America’s image based on the withdrawal from Afghanistan” – this was near the bottom of the list of concerns, slightly above that of the threat posed by Russia. The lowest percentage was obtained by another new item, “The difficulties that those seeking asylum face gaining legal admission to the United States” (28%). This question was meant to provide a counterpoint to the immigration carried over from last time: “Reducing illegal immigration into the United States” (42%). At this point, it appears that fear of illegal immigrant remains more salient than sympathy towards those who seek to enter America.

Table 23 shows the breakdown of relevant views by party registration.

Table 23: International Threats – “Very Serious” by Party Registration

	Overall	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
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The threat from “domestic” terrorists	54	70	35	59
The rising economic and military threat posed by China	49	35	65	54
The threat posed by climate change	49	75	17	53
The threat from foreign terrorists	45	30	63	47
Reducing illegal immigration into the United States	42	19	68	54
Maintaining US military advantage over all other countries	39	21	56	53
An adverse impact on America’s image based on the withdrawal from Afghanistan	37	15	61	49
The threat to America posed by Russia	32	36	27	33
The difficulties that those seeking asylum face gaining legal admission to the United States	28	43	17	17

The partisan alignment on international issues as seen on Table 23 offers the ability to generalize:

Democrats: Focus on domestic terrorists such as those who rioted in Washington DC on January 6 2021. These are much more of an immediate threat than foreign terrorists. Along with domestic terrorists, climate change is the most significant international threat. Reducing illegal immigration into the United States is a lesser priority than dealing with the difficulties those seeking asylum into the country face in terms of gaining legal admission. The impact of the withdrawal from Afghanistan is unlikely to have a significant long-term impact on America’s image. Great power threats are about equal from China as with Russia. The United States should not depend on overwhelming military force to remain an important actor within the international arena.

Republicans: Foreign terrorists are a much larger threat than any domestic ones. The United States is best when feared rather than loved – it needs to maintain its military advantage over all other countries. Illegal immigration remains a topic of concern – much more important than worrying about those seeking asylum. The withdrawal from Afghanistan will have a negative impact on the future of America’s image. Regarding great power threats – the threat from China is far greater than that from Russia. Climate change is a very low priority and should not be a top focus of American policy.

Unaffiliated: Domestic terrorists are a bit more of a concern than foreign terrorists. The country cannot neglect its military force, which remains a significant source of America’s ability to project power abroad. The impact of the withdrawal from Afghanistan is not fatal to the country’s image, but will take some time to recover. Dealing with illegal immigration is more important than the cause of those seeking asylum. Great power threats come more from China than Russia. However, climate change is an important priority and should not be neglected.

Elections – “Stolen?” Did Trump Incite Rioters on January 6?

The last analytical section of this press release focuses on the 2020 presidential election and the idea that the election was “stolen” from Trump – and whether he acted to incite the mob that overtook the Capitol on January 6. The press release also includes two sections with longitudinal questions about the job approval of officials and trust in political parties – these follow the sections on election results and accuracy of the vote count below.

The first of the last two questions in this section of the survey asked, “**Do you agree with the former President Trump that he actually won the last election and that it was “stolen” from him?**” This question was asked in spring 2021 as well; Table 24 compares the results for the two surveys.

Table 24: Election Stolen and Party Registration

	Overall		Dems		Reps		Unaffil.	
	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21
Stolen	26	23	4	6	43	47	32	16
Not stolen	74	77	96	94	57	53	68	84

Table 24 shows that there was great consistency of view between spring and fall 2021. In both cases a strong majority (around three quarters of all respondents) did not think that the election was stolen from Trump. Tiny numbers of Democrats felt that the election was stolen, but close to half of the Republicans participating in both polls were inclined to think that the election had been stolen. Unaffiliated voters were much closer to the Democratic view on this issue.

In trying to better understand the ideological underpinnings of this view, both the spring 2021 and the fall 2021 surveys included an assessment of the relationship between ideology and the stolen election idea. Table 24 shows that there was a general diminution of belief that Trump had won the election among most ideological categories – but especially among “somewhat conservatives” and “moderates.” This accounts for the three-point overall drop from spring to fall 2021. It would seem that at this point, only those who are “very conservative” would find Trump’s continuing focus on the 2020 election to be an emotional pillar for a possible 2024 campaign.

Table 24a: Ideology and Stolen Election Idea

	Very cons		SW cons		Mod		SW lib		Very lib	
	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21
Stolen	82	79	41	30	23	15	2	7	0	0
Not stolen	18	21	59	70	77	85	98	93	100	100

The second question that was repeated from spring 2021 was “**Do you agree that former President Trump incited the mob that overtook the Capitol on January 6?**”

The results for the two surveys are found on Table 24b. As with the tendency found on the issue of the stolen election, the idea of Trump having incited the mob that tried to take over the Capitol on January 6 moved a bit more into the “yes” camp than it had been in spring. This was especially apparent for the unaffiliated respondents whose “yes” percentage went from 49 to 60%.

Table 24b: Did Trump Incite Mob and Party Registration

	Overall		Dems		Reps		Unaffil.	
	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21
Yes	57	62	91	90	27	29	49	60
No	43	38	9	10	74	71	51	40

Job Approval for the President, Governor and County Executive

Each CSLI/AACC semi-annual survey asks respondents to indicate approval or disapproval of the job performed by an incumbent in office. Graph 11 shows the percentages saying, “approve” for the county executive, the governor and the president.⁸ There are open-ended comments associated with each office – see **Appendices N through S**.

Presidential Job Approval: The first job approval focus will be on the president. This was the first time the AACC Community Survey was able to poll for Joe Biden’s job approval. Last fall, the poll found that Trump’s job approval was 43%, just slightly higher than the previous spring when it was 42%. This spring, Joe Biden’s job approval registered 52% – combining “strong” with “somewhat approve (see Table 25). The latest national results from realclearpolitics.com had Biden’s job approval at 52.8% – virtually identical to the Anne Arundel survey results.

Table 25: Presidential Job Approval – Overall and by Party Registration, Spring and Fall 2021

	Overall		Dems		Reps		Unaffiliated	
	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21
Strongly+somewhat	52	54	86	85	26	19	38	
Strongly approve	33	22	63	46	8	4	22	8
Somewhat approve	19	32	23	39	18	15	16	43
Somewhat disapprove	10	7	5	5	10	10	20	5
Strongly disapprove	32	37	6	7	58	70	36	42
Unsure, don’t know	5	3	3	3	6	1	7	1
Total	99		100		100		101	

Table 25 shows that the major change regarding Joe Biden’s approval numbers was a decline of enthusiasm. This was seen in the growth of the “somewhat approve” category – both overall and especially for Democrats and unaffiliated voters. For Republicans, there was a movement into the “strongly disapprove” category – indicating a growing polarization away from Biden. It is also the case that his job approval has been steady, even if the strongly approve has gone down while the somewhat approve has risen.

⁸ A coding error in combining the online with the telephone samples made the results problematic for Fall 2018. Those results are excluded from Graph 11. 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 in some places such as graphs: approve, disapprove.

Presidential job approval – CSLI and Gallup/RealClearPolitics

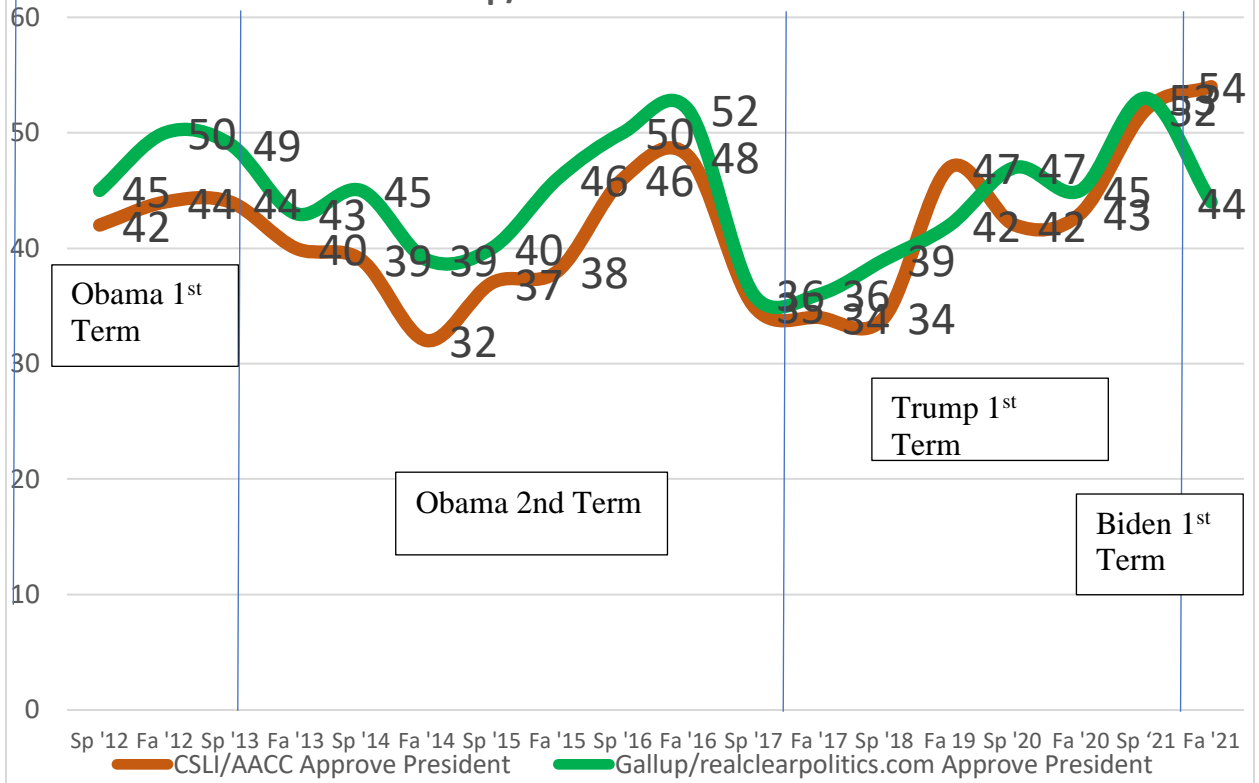
Since fall 2007, CSLI/AACC polls of county residents have generally tracked national presidential job approval trends as indicated by Gallup surveys.⁹ Unfortunately, the Gallup organization now only tracks presidential job approval on a monthly basis, making it less relevant to the periods when the CSLI/AACC poll is in the field. As a result, our polls now 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. Results prior to fall 2020 listed in Table 25a are based on the Gallup findings. Graph 8 shows the pattern for both poll sources – CSLI/AACC as well as Gallup/RCP. It marks a moment in which there has been a disjuncture between the movement of the country and that of Anne Arundel County. With all the caveats about the softening of Biden’s approval numbers expressed above, it is still the case that there is about a ten-point disparity between RCP’s job approval average and that which was found in the county. While this disparity might generate some concern about methodology, an easier answer is that Joe Biden was more popular in Anne Arundel County than he was nationally when he won the 2020 presidential elections. He was elected by a margin of 14.5% over Donald Trump. His national margin was 4.4%. Thus, his support was ten points greater in the county than in the country. If his popularity has remained ten points greater than his national popularity – that would put him at 54% – exactly what our poll shows.

Table 25a: CSLI/AACC Presidential Job Approval Fall 2012 to Fall 2021

	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	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21
Approve	44	44	40	39	32	37	38	46	48	35	34	34	40	47	42	43	52	54
Disapprove	50	51	53	52	58	56	52	47	46	54	55	56	56	56	58	56	42	44
No answer	6	4	7	9	9	7	10	7	6	11	11	11	4	3	0	1	5	3
Total	100	99	100	100	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	101	99	100	100	99	101

⁹ See http://www.gallup.com/poll/201617/gallup-daily-trump-job-approval.aspx?g_source=trump+job+approval&g_medium=search&g_campaign=tiles for Trump’s job approval findings cited here prior to spring 2018. Gallup switched to a weekly job approval collection process in 2018, so the new site during the Trump period was <http://news.gallup.com/poll/203207/trump-job-approval-weekly.aspx>. The fall 2020 benchmark can be found at https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/other/president_trump_job_approval-6179.html. The spring 2021 benchmark can be found at <https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/other/president-biden-job-approval-7320.html>

Graph 8: Presidential Job Approval - AACC/CSLI and Gallup/RealClearPolitics.com



Job approval for Governor Larry Hogan has historically been quite high: By fall 2017, Governor Hogan was 48 points higher than Governor Martin O’Malley had been in fall 2014. In fall 2019, his job approval was at 81%; by fall 2020 it was still at 79%, about evenly divided between strongly (38%) and somewhat (41%) approve.

The latest survey shows continued high levels of support. Overall approval remains high at 78% up eight points from last spring. Moreover, the rise in his approval percentages is across the board – common to Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters.

Table 25b: Gubernatorial Job Approval – Overall and by Party Registration, Spring and Fall 2021

	Overall		Dems		Reps		Unaffiliated	
	Sp '21	Fa 21	Sp '21	Fa 21	Sp '21	Fa 21	Sp '21	Fa 21
Strongly+somewhat	70	78	74	79	72	78	62	81
Strongly approve	35	36	38	34	36	41	25	39
Somewhat approve	35	42	36	45	36	37	37	43
Somewhat disapprove	16	13	18	16	18	14	16	9
Strongly disapprove	12	4	8	2	8	5	18	4
Unsure, don't know	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	5
Total	101	100	100	101	100	101	101	99

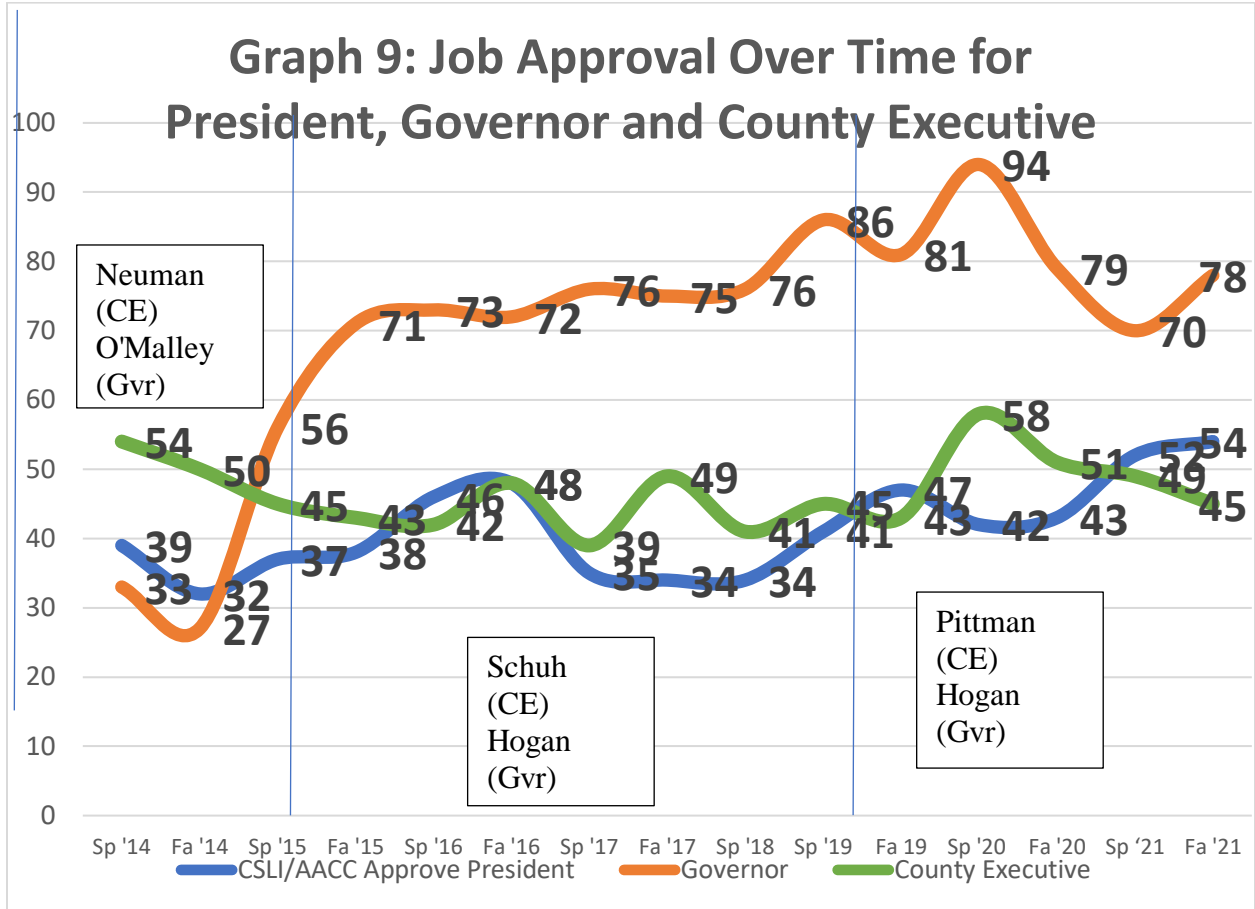
Job Approval for County Executive Stuart Pittman: Moving next to the county executive’s job approval, historically a sizable segment of survey participants could not give an answer – in fall 2020, 15% were in this camp (compared to 3% for Hogan and a single percent for Trump). In spring 2021, that figure was only 10%. However, it grew significantly for fall 2021 to 21%.

As more people become unsure about the county executive’s performance, the percentages in the affirmative “approval” categories inevitably go down – and that is what is seen as his approval dropped from 49 to 45% from spring to fall. Again, based on the growth in the “unsure” category – there was erosion of approval values across the board – from Democrats to unaffiliated voters.

Table 25c: County Executive Job Approval – Overall and by Party Registration, Spring/Fall 2021

	Overall		Dems		Reps		Unaffiliated	
	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21	Sp ‘21	Fa ‘21
Strongly+somewhat	49	45	76	72	26	24	40	32
Strongly approve	17	15	33	32	4	3	9	8
Somewhat approve	32	30	43	40	22	21	31	24
Somewhat disapprove	14	13	9	5	19	22	13	12
Strongly disapprove	28	21	7	6	48	39	29	22
Unsure, don’t know	10	21	9	18	8	15	19	35
Total	99	100	100	101	100	100	101	101

Graph 9 shows the job approval curves for president, governor and county executive.



Legislatures and Supreme Court – Job Approval

The spring 2021 survey included a first look at legislatures and job approval. The institutions included were the Anne Arundel County Council, the Maryland General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. The fall 2021 survey added the Anne Arundel Board of Education. The results are shown on Table 25d. In addition, the fall 2021 survey also added the US Supreme Court.

Table 25d: Legislatures and Supreme Court – Job Approval

	Strongly+ somewhat approve		Strongly approve		Somewhat approve		Somewhat disapprove		Strongly disapprove		Unsure, no opinion	
	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21
Anne Arundel County Council	48	47	5	6	43	41	18	18	12	8	23	27
Board of Education	n.a.	36	n.a.	6	n.a.	30	n.a.	26	n.a.	17		21
Maryland General Assembly	49	44	8	9	41	35	13	15	21	16	17	25
U.S. Congress	28	24	3	2	25	22	25	29	43	38	5	9
US Supreme Court	n.a.	42	n.a.	9	n.a.	33	n.a.	38	n.a.	17		13

Both the county council and the Maryland General Assembly had similar overall scores: 47 and 44% approval. This percentage far exceeded the approval score (24%) of the Congress. The Board of Education was somewhat lower than any other local institution – only 36% due especially to a relatively high “somewhat disapprove” score of 26%. None of the institutions listed have a particularly impressive “strongly approve” percentage; all of the local institutions had very high “unsure” scores.

On Table 25e are the scores for each institution by party registration. As in the past, those institutions in which a party has a majority are found with higher approved scores than those in which the other party appears to predominate. Thus, it is no surprise that Democrats more strongly approve the county council (65% vs. 35% for Republicans) given the 4-3 majority the party has there. The same is true for the Maryland General Assembly (69 vs. 28%) where the Democrats have veto-proof majorities. The nonpartisan Board of Education is a greater mystery for partisans: it is somewhat more favored by Democrats (46%) compared to Republicans (29%) or unaffiliated voters (32%), but its numbers don’t come close to matching those for the county council or Maryland General Assembly.

While Congress is not winning awards for its job approval numbers (24% approve), it is still the case that it seen as more of a captured institution by Democrats, whose approval score (35%) is more than double that of Republicans (14%). For the latter, their captured institution is clearly the Supreme Court whose so-so approval score (42%) masks strong party polarization: Republicans are nearly twice as eager to approve it: 57 to 31% for Democrats. Overall, the middling scores and underlying party polarization offer long-term challenges to the legitimacy of each of these institutions.

Table 25e: Legislatures and Supreme Court – Job Approval by Party

	Overall		Democrats		Republicans		Unaffiliated	
	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '21	Fa '21
Anne Arundel County Council	48	47	69	65	36	36	34	36
Board of Education	n.a.	36	n.a.	46	n.a.	29	n.a.	32
Maryland General Assembly	49	44	73	69	29	28	41	26
U.S. Congress	28	24	49	35	13	14	12	14
US Supreme Court	n.a.	42	n.a.	31	n.a.	57	n.a.	36

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 10 shows that there have been some sharp oscillations on the Republican side, scores as low as 23% and as high as 39%. Democrats have shown less variation in trust levels, ranging from 32 to 42%. Those saying “neither” have varied the most, from a low of 17 to a high of 37%.

The fall 2020 figures showed a small rise for Democrats from 39 to 41%, but the figure reverted to 39% spring 2021 and dropped one more point to 38% in fall 2021.

For Republicans, they had shown a four-point rise from 34 to 38% in fall 2020, but fell 11 points to just 27 in spring 2021 – the lowest point since spring 2013. Their situation did not change much in fall 2021 as their trust score went up one point to 28%.

The percentage saying “neither” had dropped from 24 in spring 2020 to only 18% in fall 2020 but rose to a recent high of 30% in spring 2021. This fall (2021), the percentage dropped two points to 28%. As a general rule, the “neither” score tends to go up outside of election periods. After the 2020 election, the score went from 18 to 30% – and has hovered in a relatively high zone for fall 2021.

Graph 10: Percentage Saying Trust a Party

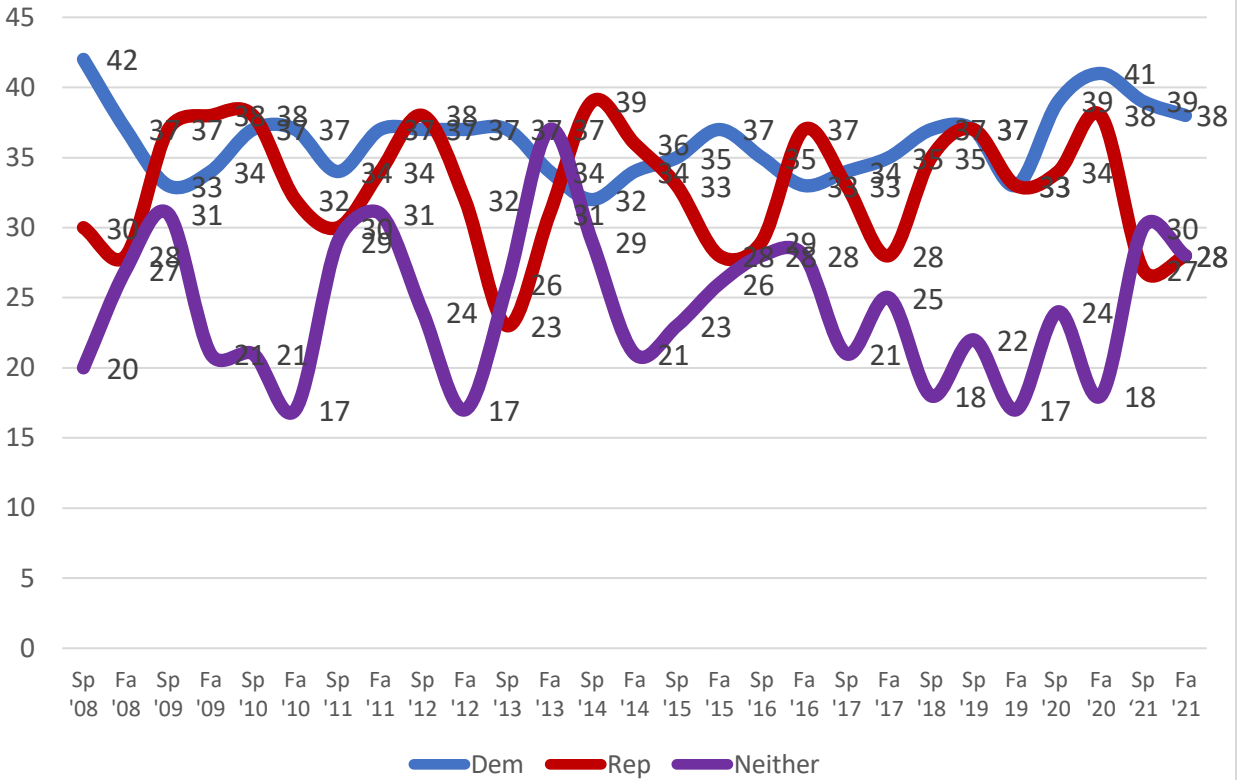


Table 26 includes information about party registration and trust in parties. For Democrats, there was little change from last spring – 76% of Democrats trust their party above the alternatives. Only 15% say “neither.” By contrast, Republicans do not seem as secure in their party as only 62% trust their own party, and 29 trust neither party – a pattern that continues from last spring.

Table 26: Trust Political Parties by Registration

	Democrat						Republican						Unaffiliated					
	Sp '19	Fa '19	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '19	Fa '19	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '19	Fa '19	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21
Trust Democrats	66	73	77	81	77	76	4	8	8	11	8	4	22	34	24	26	22	26
Trust Republicans	13	10	5	8	7	5	67	69	63	67	51	62	28	21	30	35	31	19
Trust neither	16	8	14	8	15	14	21	15	27	20	36	29	38	33	43	34	39	50
NA/DK/Other party	5	9	4	3	2	6	8	9	3	1	5	5	12	12	3	5	9	5
Total	100	100	100	100	101	101	100	101	101	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	100

Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 489 county residents who were at least 18 years old. Interviewing was conducted primarily using a database of members of the CSLI/AACC web panel who have been recruited when conducting previous telephone interviews. The survey was in the field from October 8 to 15. There was about a 4.4% statistical margin of error; the error rate was higher for subgroups such as “Democrats” or “men.” The dataset was weighted by gender, political party, age, race and education to better represent the general population. Students participated in the selection of topics and analysis of results.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 (office) or 443-906-0153 (cell) and ddnataf@aacc.edu. This press release can be obtained at [URL](#). For press releases prior to spring 2020 check: www2.aacc.edu/csli.

Appendix A

AACC Semi-Annual Survey – Fall, 2021

1. What are the top two most important problems facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time? (Pick your top TWO concerns by checking off two boxes - please no more than just two)

Problem	Spring '20	Fall '20	Spring '21	Fall '21
Coronavirus (spread, treatment, testing)	69	50	53	35
Crime (other than drug related)	1	11	10	13
Drugs (use or sale of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or use of prescription pain killers for non-medical purposes.)	3	15	11	9
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	10	24	22	22
Education (problems with schools, quality, facilities, staff, discipline)	3	18	22	24
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	0	8	11	13
Government ethics (corrupt, immoral)	1	7	9	5
Government waste (inefficient, spends too much)	2	7	12	7
Government lack resources (for roads, schools, services)	1	4	3	4
Growth/overpopulation (too much development, poorly planned)	4	13	11	16
Healthcare (cost, access)	1	3	4	7
Housing cost	1	6	7	11
Racism, hate crimes, discrimination	0	6	6	6
Taxes – too high	2	11	12	12
Transportation (problems/traffic congestion, lack of public transit)	1	6	6	10
No answer, don't know	0	2	0	1
Other answer - write in: (See Appendix B)	1	9	5	0

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

	Right	Wrong	Unsure/Don't know
2.1 Anne Arundel County	41	36	23
2.2 Maryland	50	31	20
2.3 US	22	58	20

3. Next, how do you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County, in Maryland, and in the United States generally -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	Unsure/Don't know
3.1 Anne Arundel County	7	50	31	9	3
3.2 Maryland	6	51	31	9	3
3.3 US	2	20	38	36	3

4 Thinking ahead for the next few years, do you expect the national economy to improve, stay the same or get worse?

(1) Improve 22% (2) stay same 24% (3) get worse 49% (0) no answer/unsure 5%

5. 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
5.1 Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	55	40	5
5.2 Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	32	62	6
5.3 Facing the possibility of unemployment	15	77	8
5.4 Found a new or better job recently	11	85	4
5.5 Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	32	66	2
5.6 Hard to afford the cost of education beyond high school	33	62	5
5.7 Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	27	71	3
5.8 Taxes are too high in relation to government services provided	54	37	10

6. In this section, we will be asking questions about the COVID-19 situation. Overall, would you say that the COVID-19 situation is getting better, staying the same or getting worse?

(1) Getting better 49% (2) Staying about the same 34%
 (3) getting worse 13% (0) Unsure, don't know 4%

7. Would you say that Anne Arundel County and Maryland have gone too fast, too slow or about right in the pace of reopening businesses, schools and other facilities?

	Too fast	About right	Too slow	Unsure/Don't know
7.1 Anne Arundel County	13	53	32	2
7.2 Maryland	14	57	26	3
7.3 Federal government	15	43	39	3

7.4 Option to explain: _____ **See Appendix C** _____

7.5. About when do you think that COVID-19 will be significantly overcome as a pandemic in Maryland?

- 1. It is already not much of a problem 17%
- 2. Within the next six months 16%
- 3. Between six months and a year 27%
- 4. Between one and two years 31%
- 5. More than two years 9%

8.0 This section focuses on county schools and policies implemented to deal with COVID-19.

The County’s Board of Education (BOE) has decided to reopen public schools with in-person instruction for all students except those with physical or emotional problems – those with a “specific, demonstrated need.” There is no general option for hybrid or online only instruction.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?

- 1. Agree mostly or completely with this policy 42%
- 2. Partly agree - would have preferred more options such as hybrid or online 43%
- 3. Disagree mostly or completely with this policy – too early a return to in-person instruction 10%
- 0. Unsure, no answer 5%

8.1 Option to explain: _____ **See Appendix D**

8.2 How clearly have the Anne Arundel County public schools communicated policies about reopening?

- 1. Extremely clearly 6%
- 2. Very clearly 25%
- 3. Somewhat clearly 32%
- 4. Not so clearly 9%
- 5. Not at all clearly 5%
- 6. Unsure, no opinion 24%

8.3 The county schools have a set of policies for dealing with COVID. Indicate whether you think that these policies are “about right” “not doing enough” or “doing too much.”

	About right	Not doing enough	Doing too much
8.4 Mandatory face coverings for anyone in any school building, regardless of age and vaccination status other than when eating.	67	5	28
8.5 Keeping the ventilation constantly cycling, bringing outside air in	83	15	3
8.6 A vaccination requirement or weekly testing for employees	63	11	26
8.7 A vaccination requirement or weekly testing for student athletes	57	13	30
8.8 Random testing of unvaccinated students only with parental approval	49	26	33

8.9 Option to comment on AACPS COVID policies. See Appendix D

8.10. If there was one thing that you would want to see improved about Anne Arundel County public schools, what would that be (any issue, not just COVID related)?

See Appendix E

9. How concerned are you about the possibility of someone in your family becoming seriously ill with the virus?

- (1) Very concerned 27%
- (2) Somewhat concerned 36%
- (3) Not very concerned 36%
- (0) Unsure, don't know 1%

(No #11)

11. Which of these apply regarding your experience with COVID-19 (check all that apply)

Answers	%age
11.1 You have come down with it yourself	15
11.2 A family member or close friend has come down with it	56
11.3 Someone you know personally other than family/friend has come down with it	59
11.4 Either you or a personal acquaintance had serious symptoms from the virus	22
11.5 Someone you know personally has died from effects of the virus	28
11.6 You consider yourself at high risk should you come down with the virus	21
11.7 None of these apply	14

12.1 Have you been vaccinated for COVID at this time?

(1) Yes, fully vaccinated 89% (2) Yes, partly vaccinated 2% (3) No, not vaccinated 9%

12.2 Which vaccination have you received?

1. Pfizer 51% 2. Moderna 38% 3. Johnson and Johnson 9% Other 2%

12.3 Did the vaccination(s) produce severe, moderate, mild or no side effects?

1. Severe 3% 2. Moderate 18% 3. Mild 39% 4. No side effects 34% N.A. 7%

12. 4 Option to comment about side effects/vaccine: _____See Appendix F

12.5 Regarding boosters, have you received, or do you plan to get one when they are available?

1. Have received 14% 2. Plan to receive when available 56% 3. No plan to get a booster 30%

13. Indicate whether you support the following COVID related policies in the following venues:

	Requiring Masks	Requiring Proof of vaccination	Requiring Both	Requiring Neither	Unsure/no answer
13.1 Indoor dining	22	16	25	34	3
13.2 Gyms	17	15	31	34	4
13.3 Entertainment venues	17	12	38	31	2

14. The Biden administration recently issued an executive order dealing with vaccinations and COVID-19 testing. Indicate how much you support the following policies using the answer options provided:

	Support mostly or completely	Support somewhat	Oppose somewhat	Oppose completely	Unsure/no answer
14.1 Requiring all employers with 100 or more employees to mandate vaccinations or weekly testing	54	10	5	28	3
14.2 Requiring federal workers and contractors to get vaccinated with no testing alternative	47	12	10	29	2
14.3 Requiring most health care workers to get vaccinated	61	8	5	24	2
14.4 Requiring vaccinations for all school employees (not in the plan)	58	11	3	27	2
14.5 Requiring vaccinations for all students who are eligible (not in the plan)	54	11	4	28	3

15. Even if neither is exactly correct, which of the following comes closest to your opinion:

1. Government mandates protect the rights of the majority 57%
2. Government mandates violate the rights of individuals 39%
3. No answer, unsure 4%

15.1 Option to comment about federal government COVID-19 policies_____See Appendix G

16. Continuing our focus on the coronavirus (COVID-19), have you or any members of your household experienced any of the following because of coronavirus?

	Yes	No	Unsure/NA
16.1 Was easily able to get tested and obtain quick results	73	13	14
16.2 Changed travel plans	65	32	3
16.3 Faced serious economic consequences such as loss of housing or significant loss of income	20	77	3
16.4 Averted serious economic consequences by receiving extra payments from the federal government	19	72	9
16.5 Impacted by delays in receiving rental assistance	5	86	10
16.6 Seen a reduction of hours or been laid off	24	73	3
16.7 Had to work in what you considered unsafe or unhealthy conditions	17	78	5
16.8 Changed work routines by working online	49	48	3
16.9 Had to manage day care or home schooling	31	64	5
16.10 Are suffering from unrelated health problems due to fear of going in for health services	10	84	6
16.11 Unhappiness or emotional distress due to social isolation (“social distancing”)	42	54	4

17. Describe any changes or improvements in how you are coping with the pandemic compared to a year ago: _____ See Appendix H

18. How much do you trust information about the coronavirus pandemic and how to cope with it coming from...

	Great deal	Good deal	Only some	Not very much	Not at all	N.A.
18.1 President Joe Biden	30	22	8	9	31	1
18.2 Governor Larry Hogan	27	37	18	9	8	1
18.3 County Executive Steuart Pittman	16	26	15	13	20	12
18.4 Social media	1	4	16	28	48	3
18.5 Online or print news sites	7	25	33	16	16	1
18.6 Word of mouth	1	4	23	38	33	2
18.7 Other sources of information	8	11	25	17	16	22
18.8 Indicate preferred source of information about COVID-19	See Appendix I for comments					

**19. How serious – very, somewhat or not very – do you believe the following issues to be?
Focusing first on the situation in Anne Arundel County and Maryland...**

	S21 Very serious	F21 Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not very serious	Don't know
19.1 Having easy access to opioids in the county	52	39	30	13	18
19.2 The possibility of COVID-19 spreading more widely into Maryland	46	28	39	31	2
19.3 Having unvaccinated people prolong the pandemic and overload health facilities	n.a.	54	15	30	2
19.4 The continued deterioration of the Chesapeake Bay	49	52	38	8	2
19.5 The growing impact of climate change in Maryland	n.a.	45	27	26	3
19.6 High cost of housing in the county	40	49	38	11	2
19.7 The slow process of getting rental relief funds to tenants and landlords	n.a.	21	30	31	19
19.8 The growth in income and wealth inequality in the county	36	32	30	32	6
19.9 Hate crimes in the county	33	33	32	31	5
19.10 Domestic violence	34	34	41	17	7
19.11 The quality of public education	63	54	34	10	3

20. Do you approve or disapprove the following regarding Maryland or Anne Arundel County?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Unsure/N.A.
20.1 The legalization of recreational marijuana in Maryland	34	26	15	22	4
20.2 The decriminalization of currently “illegal” drugs such as cocaine, heroin	10	15	16	55	5
20.3 A tax increase to better fund public schools	17	31	16	33	3

21. How familiar are you with the County’s overall budget?

- 1. Very familiar 4%
- 2. Somewhat familiar 38%
- 3. Not so familiar 40%
- 4. Not at all familiar 18%

21.1 Have you ever researched the budget by going to the County’s website (aacounty.org/budget)?

- 1. Yes 26%
- 2. No 71%
- 3. Unsure, no answer 3%

21.2 How important are the priorities found and the size of the County’s budget in determining your approval of the job the County is doing overall?

- 1. Very important 26%
- 2. Somewhat important 61%
- 3. Not so important 13%

21.3 Last year, County government received unexpected revenues which were spent to improve long-term finances such as adding \$20 million to the county’s “Rainy Day” fund and making a \$20 million prepayment to the retirement funds. Do you approve of the use of these funds or would either of these other two choices seem better?

- 1. Approve of these choices 38%
- 2. Would have preferred a small tax refund instead 22%
- 3. Would have preferred more spending on other one-time expenses in some other area such as schools or emergency services 24%
- 4. Unsure, no opinion 17%

21.4 Anne Arundel County collaborated with the City of Annapolis to create a “climate resiliency authority” that could borrow money and apply for special funds to cope with the effects of climate change. Do you approve or disapprove of this measure?

- 1. Strongly approve 28%
- 2. Somewhat approve 24%
- 3. Neither approve nor disapprove 13%
- 4. Somewhat disapprove 12%
- 5. Strongly disapprove 17%
- 6. Unsure, no opinion 7%

21.5 Do you support or oppose increasing the compensation of county public school bus drivers?

- 1. Strongly approve 48%
- 2. Somewhat approve 35%
- 3. Neither approve nor disapprove 6%
- 4. Somewhat disapprove 4%
- 5. Strongly disapprove 7%

Turning now to national questions, do you approve of the following policies?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know
22.1. The \$1.2 bill meant to improve the country's physical infrastructure	41	30	11	14	5
22.2 The \$3.5 trillion bill meant to deal with climate change, paid family leave, some free college tuition and new Medicare benefits paid largely by higher taxes on the wealthy and large corporations.	40	15	9	31	5
22.3 Texas' bill that prohibits most abortions after six weeks, makes no provision for rape or incest, and empowers citizens to sue those who assist with obtaining abortions	13	11	11	59	6
22.4 A voting rights bill in Congress that would reduce partisan redistricting and expand voting opportunities while reducing states' ability to independently shape elections	41	18	7	21	13

23. On international issues indicate how serious you consider the following:

	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not very serious	Don't know
23.1. The rising economic and military threat posed by China	49	38	7	6
23.2 The threat to America posed by Russia	32	48	14	6
23.3 The threat posed by climate change	49	21	26	4
23.4 Maintaining US military advantage over all other countries	39	39	16	6
23.5 Reducing illegal immigration into the United States	42	27	26	5
23.6 The difficulties that those seeking asylum face gaining legal admission to the United States	28	39	26	7
23.7 An adverse impact on America's image based on the withdrawal from Afghanistan	37	28	28	7
23.8 The threat from foreign terrorists	45	39	12	5
23.9 The threat from "domestic" terrorists	54	25	16	5

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

- (1) 40% Democratic => ASK: **Do you consider yourself a**
 - (1.1) Strong 55%
 - (1.2) Somewhat strong 34%
 - (1.3) Not a strong Democrat? 11%
- (2) 36% Republican => ASK: **Do you consider yourself a**
 - (2.1) Strong 30%
 - (2.2) Somewhat strong 44%
 - (2.3) Not a strong Republican 26%
- (3) 19% Unaffiliated (or "independent")=> ASK: **Do you consider yourself to be leaning more towards the**
 - (3.1) Democratic 31%
 - (3.2) Republican 30%
 - (3.3) Neither party most of the time? 39%
- (4) 2% Other
- (5) 3% None (not registered to vote =====>

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

- (1) Hillary Clinton 37% (2) Donald Trump 33% (3) Someone else 11% (4) Didn't vote 20%

26. If you voted for a presidential candidate in 2020, for whom did you vote?

- (1) Joe Biden 54% (2) Donald Trump 34% (3) Someone else 4% (4) Didn't vote 8%

27. Do you agree with the former President Trump that he actually won the last election and that it "was stolen" from him?

- 1. Yes 23%
- 2. No 77%

27.1 Do you agree or disagree that former President Trump incited the mob that overtook the Capitol on January 6?

- 1. Agree 67%
- 2. Disagree 38%

28. 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 38%
- (2) Republicans 28%
- (3) Neither (volunteered) 28%
- (4) Other (volunteered) 1%
- (0) Unsure, don't know 5%

29. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the following officials or institutions are handling their jobs: "Would that be strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove?"

Official or institution	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	No answer/ DK
29.1 County Executive Steuart Pittman	15	30	13	21	21
29.2 Governor Larry Hogan	36	42	13	4	5
29.3 President Joe Biden	22	32	7	37	3
29.4 The Anne Arundel County Council	6	41	18	8	27
29.5 The Board of Education	6	30	26	17	21
29.6 Maryland General Assembly	9	35	15	16	25
29.7 US Congress	2	22	29	38	9
29.8 <u>US</u> Supreme Court	9	33	28	17	13

Each of these has a comments sections: **See Appendices J through Q**

30. Which of the following best describes your political beliefs?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Very conservative | 12% |
| 2. Somewhat conservative | 20% |
| 3. Moderate | 30% |
| 4. Somewhat liberal | 16% |
| 5. Very liberal (or “progressive”) | 18% |
| 6. Unsure/don’t know | 4% |

31. What is your age? _____ (weighted)_____

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 18-29 | 21% |
| 30-39 | 11% |
| 40-49 | 12% |
| 50-59 | 15% |
| 60-69 | 20% |
| 70+ | 21% |

32. Regarding race or ethnicity, how would you describe yourself? (weighted)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| (1) White or Caucasian | 75% |
| (2) Black or African American | 10% |
| (3) Hispanic or Latino | 3% |
| (4) Asian or Asian American | 3% |
| (5) Mixed | 2% |
| (6) Other _____ | 2% |
| (0) No answer | 5% |

33. Regarding religion, how would you describe yourself?

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| (1) None | 15% | |
| (2) Non-practicing | 13% | |
| (3) Evangelical or born again Christian (possibly Baptist, Pentecostal) | | 14% |
| (4) Catholic | 19% | |
| (5) Protestant (possibly Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopalian) | | 17% |
| (6) Some other Christian (e.g., possibly Mormon) | 1% | |
| (7) Jewish | 3% | |
| (8) A ‘spiritual person’ not associated with an organized religion | | 13% |
| (9) Something else (e.g., Muslim, Hindu) | 1% | |
| (0) No Answer | 5% | |

34. What is your current marital status?

- (1) Single 27%
- (2) Married 59%
- (3) Separated/divorced 5%
- (4) Widowed 5%
- (5) Living together 3%
- (6) Other 2%

35. Do you currently have any children in public or private schools (K-12) or both? (Did R go to private, public or both)

- 1. No children in either public or private schools 76%
- 2. Children in public schools 18%
- 3. Children in private schools 5%
- 4. Children in both public and private schools 1%

36. Which of the following best describes your highest level of formal education? (weighted)

(1) less than a high school diploma 1%	(5) completed a 4 year bachelor's degree 22%
(2) a high school diploma 10%	(6) post graduate work 24%
(3) some college 23%	(7) something else? 0%
(4) completed a 2-year associate college degree 20%	(0) No Answer 0%

37. Which of the following best describes your gross annual household income before taxes.

- (1) Less than \$30,000 7%
- (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000 5%
- (3) \$50,001 to \$75,000 9%
- (4) \$75,001-\$100,000 13%
- (5) \$100,001-\$150,000 21%
- (6) \$150,001-\$250,000 17%
- (7) Over \$250,000 10%
- (8) No Answer 18%

38. Which of following best describes your employment situation?

Category	Percentage
Fully or semi retired	31
Self employed or consultant	6
Employed part-time	13
Employed in a defense related activity	4
Employed in the private sector	14
Federal government (non-defense)	5
State or local government	7
Non-profit organization	3
Student (mostly or full-time)	9
Unemployed and seeking a job	2
Caregiver/parent	2
Unsure due to recent workplace changes caused by coronavirus	2
Other	0
No answer	0

39. Are you a military veteran? 1. Yes 16% 2. No 84%

39.1 ONLY for vets: “How would you rate the quality of services available to veterans in Anne Arundel County?

1. Excellent 6% 2. Good 13% 3. Only fair 10% 4. Poor 3% 0 DK 68%

39.2 Option for comment about quality of services for veterans: ___ See Appendix R

39. Gender (weighted)

(1) Male 49% (2) Female 50% (3) Other 1%

40. Zip code

20711	0.3
20715	0.1
20723	0.3
20724	1.8
20733	0.8
20748	0.1
20755	0.5
20764	1.4
20765	0.2
20772	0.3
20774	0.6
20776	1.2
20778	0.3
20779	0.2
21012	8.1
21032	1.5
21035	1.6
21037	2.4
21054	1.1
21060	4.1
21061	6.5
21076	0.6
21077	0.2
21090	1.5
21106	0.2
21108	4.1
21113	2.6
21114	2.9
21122	12.6
21140	1.2
21144	4.9

21146	10.0
21225	0.7
21227	0.6
21230	0.2
21401	8.7
21403	7.2
21409	4.8
21617	0.4
21619	0.3

Appendix B: “Most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at this time” – Comments/Other items
 (All comments in these appendices are unedited and verbatim.)

A living wage for School Bus Drivers so to attract more.
Bay Bridge expansion plans -- I don't like them
Bus transportation for students in AAC, meaning the lack of drivers that aren't driving and causes m
Climate change
County Executive overreach
Creating a sense of countywide community to address common challenges, needs.
Donald Trump's attack on our democracy.
Failure of many to get vaccine or cooperate with mandates.
Food insecurity
Government expansion of power
Government interferes with business and economy with unnecessary rules and mandates. Just an example
Government is focused on the wrong things
Government over reach
Government overreach
H
illegal immigrants
Individual belief in false information contributing to decay in governmental trust.
Mental Health Issues
Misdemeanour offenses including speeding and other vehicle offenses.
n/a
partisan politics
People not working and collecting unemployment
Polarization
Racial equity
Repaving. Highway 32 on/off ramps are going to pieces
roads
Stop incentives for people not to go back to work. I.e giving supplemental income for unemployment
The increase of "porch pirates"...theft of delivered items and trespassing of "homeless".
This problem is not bound by Anne Arundel County, but I feel results in a lot of the problems listed
too many illegal people
unconstitutional and illegal "mandates" regarding proposed "vaccine" passports, mask wearing, etc..
Vaccine mandates
Women's issues

Appendix C: Comments about the pace of reopening

All counties should have stayed at the lowest phase all together, following Prince George's County's All have done about right in 2021. Federal response before that was abysmal.

Based on available scientific information, the county and state seem to be progressing at a reasonable pace. Difficult to say with just "federal government." Under Trump, reaction to covid was terrible. Now, Double edge sword. Need to open businesses for economic survival. Should have continued with mask mandates

Federal performance under current Administration is abysmal. Credibility is shot because they have Government has made it a political instead of a personal health issue. Mandates are unconstitutional Govt is giving away too much money. People need to work and get economy and businesses rolling. I believe Governor Hogan has done a good job at providing accessible testing and vaccination service I think Gov. Hogan has done a good job of offering flexibility to local jurisdictions.

I think schools are a mess and I work in them. Everyone is completely stressed and I'm not sure what I work in the schools. I have been working with over a thousand unvaccinated and vaccinated teenagers. It appears that fault lies with members of the population who wrongly believe the abundant incorrect information. It depends on the State. Florida, for example made a real mess.

Looking at other countries and other states reveals that shut downs do not work and keeping people in Maryland did a great job with covid, unlike other places such as Texas or Florida.

Maryland was slightly too fast to lift state of emergency, and should have implemented an indoor mask mandate. Maybe we should try like New Zealand and shut the country down pay the citizens to stay home so that

Need abundant testing, mask rules for ALL employers (not just 100+) to make protections uniform/staff

Nothing is perfect but I'm so happy to live in a state and county that takes covid seriously.

Once we got rid of Trump, all started to improve!

Open everything. If people want to wear a mask, or not go out, their choice.

Reopened was okay but masks should have stayed mandated

Restrictions are lifted because people are tired of confinement and businesses are struggling. But, Safety is essential. Many jobs can be done effectively remotely.

Seems whatever Hogan does Pittman arbitrarily restrict Anne Arundel Cnty more. I'm a life long dem Should have never closed businesses. Face mask requirements are a sham.

So when there is a pandemic, your solution is to open everything up. The rest of the world hasn't an State has done a good job of responding and creating environment where people understood need for vaccination

State Rights issue with Government controls, mandates and funding parameters

The federal government made sure that things were a little bit under control before they decided to The pandemic is over, let people who have common sense live freely.

The statistics are rigged. The threat is over-blown. This is an attempt to over-load the system and There are still too many unvaccinated and the Delta variant is causing more deaths.

There has been inconsistent national leadership in dealing with the pace of reopening businesses and There is no way to gain Herd immunity if everyone is stuck at home, and this is also a strain on the They just want that steady flow of money, As Covid was getting under control, America opened back up

Too many people listen to the voices of the ignorant when they should be listening to those who have
Total overreaction and overreach by all levels of government.

UNMASK, OPEN UP, IT'S PAST TIME. KIDS SHOULD NOT BE MASKED IN SCHOOLS.

Vaccination and mask mandates are totalitarian. Let the economy open up without all of the restricti
Vaccine mandates are not constitutional!

Very pleased with the local response and Maryland response to COVID

We are going to have so many profoundly disabled people as a result of this pandemic and our
healthcare system

We paid attention to politics and not public health.

We should have provided more mitigation supplies, like masks and fast testing because so many
people

With a virus that changes and strengthens, the only fight is total stoppage through vaccination. We

Appendix D: Comments about School Reopening

All need to be vaccinated
All school staff, teachers etc should be required to be vaccinated. People are around kids who can't get vaccinated. I
All students should be tested regularly to exclude asymptomatic spreaders
BOE seems a little lost and seems to go with radical desires of teachers. too much emphasis on politics rather than co
BOE was literally debating the merits of masks in the weeks before schools opened-- absurd, distressing for parents who
Children are in least vulnerable category and face masks are ineffective and will prove to be an endless distraction.
COVID policies are not in step with science regarding the impact on children.
Deathly allergy should be the ONLY reason any unvaccinated person should be allowed at school. Anti-vaxxer "freedom" sho
Dropped the ball completely on the impact of COVID on the bus transportation system.
Given that children without other serious health problems are only marginally effected by COVID-19 and seem minimally re
Highlight the science, emphasize scientific method, and use the last year and a half as a learning opportunity for our k
I do not agree with the whole mask mandate if one; the student is vaccinated. Two; if the student has some type of respi
I feel if parents/students don't care about their fellow classmates and their home lives they should be tested regularly
I think their ideas are hypocritical. They want students to wear masks yet, they get to a sports event and everyone is c
If only the policies set by AACPS were followed in regards to wearing masks.
It is NOT right to discriminate against those NOT wanting the vaccine because it is a KNOWN FACT that the vaccinated can
It is the parents who decided if the child should be vaccinated not the BOE.
Let the parents make mask decisions for their kids
Let the parents make medical decisions for their own individual children.
Make a vaccine mandatory. Eliminate masks.
Masks should become part of our routines in the future. They reduce the spread of colds, the flu and other sicknesses.
Need more ENSOL teachers because of the influx of immigrants. No. # 12 ans.
Need to offer more creative options for activities such as dances and other milestones that occur throughout the year fo
Need to require testing for any student showing symptoms; don't just require it for student athletes
No government should force their employees to get vaccinated.
Random testing of unvaccinated students only with parental approval- I have not heard of this, but why would you test ra
See previous comments.
Students should be tested weekly if they are unvaccinated.
Testing of all unvaccinated student wknd should occur
Testing should be for unvaccinated only, or those who are symptomatic.
Testing should only be for confirmed 1st degree contact with a positive covid case. Vaccine status should be irrelevant
The "potential exposure" threshold is small and causes great disruption to instructional time. We need to monitor for sy
The choice should be to either get vaccinated or submit to REGULAR Covid testing - for everyone's sake.

The contact traced quarantined students are NOT converting to covid cases. They are missing out on their education and b

The schools are not doing random testing of students.

The vaccination policy/close contact polices are constantly changing and are hard to understand

The whole Covid issue is way too political. No longer following the science. No need to mask everyone. That's just nut

there are NO studies that show masks are effective. More kids 18 an under have died from both pneumonia and flu. 421 out

There is no "not sure" option on this one...

There should be no masks and no vaccination requirement for students in the county schools. Period. "It's the science!!

They just announced changes today in their policy. 10.12.21

This is no different than polio, measles, mumps, etc., mandates and controls. Comply or attendance not allowed.

Alternat

UNMASK THE STUDENTS

Vaccination is the best way to move beyond this pandemic. I hope eventually the covid vaccine will be required for stude

Vaccination requirements doesn't make sense as the vaccine doesn't make you immune and kids are the least affected by th

Vaccine doesn't prevent obtaining or transmitting the virus. Why are we considering mandatory testing for only unvacci

Vaccine requirements for all that are eligible. Testing twice a week for those that still refuse to get vaccinated.

Vaccines should be mandatory for all except CDC exemptions

weekly testing is does not go far enough. This is not foolproof. All students and staff should have been completely vac

What a miserable situation for school employees and parents. I hope teachers are getting additional support in cleaning

Why can;t vaccines be mandated for all school kids and personnel?

Appendix E: AACPS How to Improve

A better quality education: Pay teachers significantly more, then demand more from them (quality of hours over quantity here). SMALLER class sizes would greatly help too - for both t

A new superintendent.

A one size fits all education is in my opinion not a good idea

Ability for homeschooled students to participate in extra curricular activities.

Access for all - whether wealthy, middle class or poor.

Actually teach the students meaningful content.

adding detention or suspension after several failures of wearing mask properly

Addressing systemic racism and poverty in its 1) districting of schools, 2) hiring of administrators, teachers/staff, and 3) curriculum

All schools being treated equally, schools like Severna Park high and Chesapeake are treated better and have better resources than schools like North County and Glen Burnie

Allow homeschooled children to have access to county school facilities/activities as in some other states.

Allow sport participation for home school students.

Attention to social issues like racism among students

Audit the schools

avoiding non classroom education

Behavior and life skills training.

Better access to quick response Covid testing

Better bus transportation

Better bussing situation/public school transportation

Better communication around school bus issue.

Better curriculum, more focus on 3 R's

Better gifted student programming

Better online instructions from teachers

Better security at the public schools.

better security enabling better education

Better tech planning

Better transportation.

Bus issues

Bus service

bus transportation and safety

Busing

Busing issues

Busses

Catch-up for the lost year of real learning in 2020

Clearer communication

Communication

Compensate the staff better... that includes all levels...bus drivers to custodians to support staff and teachers in the SCHOOLS ...

Contact tracing is too time consuming for school administrators

Continued hybrid learning option.

Control violence

County encourages too much housing development. Infrastructure , especially schools, never catch up.

Crackdown on violence within schools

Curriculum

Dealing with school bullying better, always felt that schools never took it seriously enough.

Discipline.

DISCIPLINE. REAL DISCIPLINE LIKE SUSPENSIONS, ETC. NOT DIARY, THINKING, ROOMS OR WHATEVER THEY ARE CALLED. AND OH MY GOODNESS PLEASE IMPROVE THE SCHOOL LUNCHES. THEY ARE UNEDIBLE

distance 6 feet away from students and make sure no sick around other student.

Distancing and use of sanitizer

Don't dumb down curriculum in the name of "equality "

Dress codes

Education equality.

Eliminate crt indoctrination. Keep politics out of the schools except for politically oriented classes

Elimination of any CRT type of teaching.....and place emphasis on living by the Golden Rule.

Enforce the necessary rules more strictly and clearly, and make sure not to be lenient with some rather than others

Equal access to technology resources - computers, wi-fi.

Equal opportunities for all students not just those from wealthier communities

Equity is ALL schools and better handling of race related incidents

Expand charter school and other nontraditional options.

Finding bus drivers so kids don't have to walk or find a ride.

Get a handle on gang violence and bullyiner job keepng knives and guns out of schools If a high school is simmering bring in more plainclothes cops.

Get new people in charge of Anne Arundel County

Get rid of common core.

Get rid of the school board

geting students fully backontrack

Getting the bus problem fixed.

Have all children in a classroom with at least one adult

Have equal facilities for all schools. For instance, Davidsonville Elem. has fantastic outdoor facilities and Mills-Parole, even though newly renovated, has awful outdoor play areas

Higher pay.

Hold teachers and administrators accountable for their actions. When you are rated in the top 13 most radical school boards in the country, that is a PROBLEM!!!!

honesty in teaching.

How about focusing on real-life skills instead of trying to make everyone feel good about themselves?

I believe our BOE superintendent should have to be a resident of Anne Arundel County. They definitely need to figure out how to keep plenty of bus drivers employed and available... e

I can't understand why educational opportunities and quality seem to vary so much between schools. Some people say, "Well, you know South County doesn't generate the taxes Severna Pa

I do not know what I want to see improved specifically. I would like to see improvement in general because that would always be a good thing.

I have no questions.

I question the use of redo's on tests. You do not get redo's in life. Give extra homework to improve grades.

I think that on-line instruction is an excellent option for many children, regardless of Covid, in order to address different learning styles and behavioral issues.

I think there should be TWO teachers per classroom, especially in the primary grades. There would be no need for additional infrastructure, perhaps extra lockers for the teachers.

I think they are handling the bus driver issue very poorly.

I would like AACPS to acknowledge that there is a huge monetary gap in schools that are predominately white than those that are predominately black/brown.

I would like to see an RSO at EVERY school (not just high schools).

I would like to see the quality of the public high schools improved and be more consistent across the county.

I would love to see different curriculum, teaching the children more important life skills needed after graduating high school.

Improve bussing for all students

Improve drinking water access by allowing more bottle refilling stations

Improved pay for teachers

Improved resources for students

Improved ventilation in older schools, less crowded hallways between classes, more virtual opportunities.

Improving quality of education and overall ratings of all schools

Inclusion

Increase in consequential discipline to improve safety

Increase in critical thinking exercises, debate courses from a younger grade level, and less standardized testing.

Increased emphasis on the education basics.

Increased pay for teachers.

increased security of students

Keep the students active!

Later start time

Later start times for the high school.

Less covid restrictions since students aren't as susceptible

Less days off during school year

less glory on sports figures; more help with academics

Less strict dress codes applied among female students. It's sexist.

Less students in a class

Let the parents have more of a say in what is being advanced to the students.

Let there be hybrid for those children that have to self quarantine do to exposure

Let these students hold proms and graduation ceremonies but wear a mask. We have to get the kids back to normal life.

Lower population density

Make sure no CRT instructions, go back to basics no common core, stop or never start being WOKE.

Make the parents be responsible for their kids. Pumping money into the system isn't helping them. It's the parents who need to take ownership of their children's downfalls.

Mandatory vaccination

Mental health help

More academic rigor

More books and lessons, about relatable children. During this time of wokeness I feel that some children are being left out. We need lessons and books that are relatable to white, br

More careful use of funding and focus on education less on sports and other expensive stuff.

More collaboration with the community

More coordinated on-line instruction.

more discipline for unruly students.

more discussion about teen drug use
more equally distributed resources
More funds allocated to learning, less to administration/DEI/etc...
more hybrid/online options
More inclusion of special needs students into the general education setting
more mandatory vaccinations
More people getting the vaccine
More police detail
More research on the vaccine
More resources for mental health
More safe routes for biking and walking to school.
More teacher autonomy with curriculum. Less testing!
More teachers
More teachers being able to help students
More transparency with curriculum and policies and greater willingness to allow parental involvement in curriculum and policies.
More willingness to listen and respond to parental input.
My boys fell behind significantly during hybrid school. I'd like to see additional time to make up lost ground - extended days, summer school, etc. They will not make up lost ground
N/A
N/A (I don't have children in the AACPS at this time)
Need to address transportation issues.
Need to fix bus situation.
New buildings with proper classrooms for Chesapeake Middle and High Schools
New leadership
No CRT should be taught.
No issue.
No masks for the vaccinated.
No masks, no vaccine mandates, access to school choice, do not teach my children that they hate people with other skin, do not teach my children that they can't be proud of being t
NO MASKS. Children are suffering from lack of air
Not enough bus drivers!!
Not have mandatory vaccination
not sure
Not sure. No kids in the system.
Nothing I can think of that needs improvement
Of course has a lot to do with how school is right now but I wish we could go back to in person school. It seems that everyone does better when they are in school.
Only teach the basics. Let PARENTS teach about morality, sex, racism, etc.. It's not the school's job to be the kid's parent.
Open door policy for parents, support of teacher's discipline of students, less liberal acceptance of misbehavior, rudeness, & lack of decorum from students; more conservative approa
Open up the schools to all children with no exceptions.
Outcomes
Pay the teachers more...
Physical conditions (HVAC)

Please provide all schools in the county with the same materials in the classroom, the same number of textbooks (for EACH student), the same staff levels, in EVERY school in the County with proper school equipment

Public school transportation

Quality of learning could be improved, but that's just public school in general. There needs to be an emphasis on learning rather than repeating from the book. That will be more effective

Quality of schools

Raises for teachers who have kept everyone afloat during this pandemic!!

READING, WRITING(Computer language and communication skills) and ARITHMETIC. in addition, would like to see unvarnished HISTORY.

Real Social distancing in classrooms AND hallways

Recognize that the schools in AA should explore more diverse methods of instruction. Not just the traditional current methods.

Reduce violence in the schools

Refund a portion of taxes to homeowners who pay in-county private school tuition.

Regulate and monitor the traffic safety performance of the school bus fleet - speeds and other on-road behaviors, with real time data same as companies like State Farm do for their cars

Remove critical race theory viewpoint from all aspects of thought in AACPS.

Required emphasis on US history and government at the high school level.

resources equitably allocated

Return to basic skills: reading, writing and mathematics. Skill sets for the future.

safer classrooms

safety

Safety

School bus issue

school bus transportation

School choice

School hours are backwards for elementary kids and older ones, Teenagers need more sleep so should start later. They start classes earlier than most office workers. They get home on

shorter terms for board members - too much politics - labor union too strong

Smaller classes

Solar panels on school roofs, and Biodiesel fueling school buses.

Spend a lot of time and money trying to keep emotional and severely autistic children in neighborhood schools.

Starting of the school year prior to Labor Day.

Stay away from CRT.

Stop CRT

Stop masking children who are not likely to get Covid or spread it. Masking damages their ability to communicate and interact with others properly

Stop standardized testing . Education curriculum should be universal regardless of where someone lives. There should be requirements of what students should know at the end of each year

STOP THE BULLYING

Stop the push to keep the kids in fear with Covid and stop CRT

Stop the violence in schools

Strengthening STEM classes

Stronger curriculum

Student discipline

Summer School lunches for Title One Children

Support classical education. Strict standards for promotion of students.

Taking the \$14,000.00+ per student that the school system gets and spend more of it on the students not administration

teach more financial appreciation/how to manage personal finances

teach the kids subjects that will help them with college and everyday life. Too many courses that are a complete waste.

Teacher compensation tied to student performance. Kirwan legislation will give huge boost in pay to the same teachers who aren't producing results now. Everything is controlled by

Teacher salaries to keep good teachers teaching

Teachers being more aware or more educated in epilepsy.

Teachers need a lot more money. Like a lot.

Teachers need a lot more support and appreciation for all they are expected to do in support of their students. Expectations from central office, admin and parents have become i

Teaching those from homes in poverty how to break out of that poverty in their life time.

Technology and more partnerships with local businesses for vocational training

that there would make the kids put there mask on and they would do something about the fight at annapolis high

The BOE should not make the decisions in all instances. They should survey the parents and allow the parents to decide.

The bus driver shortage that is going on. Some parents are not able to take their child into school because of their work schedule.

The school bus situation. Kids need busses but bus drivers need a better wage!

The teacher and bus driver shortages are ridiculous.

They need to think serious about what they are doing, before enacting policies. They have a history of putting policies/procedures in place then changing the frequently. This creat

to be honest this is very hard to determine because everyone wants things to be back to normal but this is the new normal. I think it's just sad that we are subject to staying away f

Traffic

Transportation

Vaccinate all.

Vaccinated people can get and spread covid too. Have the same regulations and testing for vaccinated as unvaccinated

Vaccination and excessive tests NOT being required

Vaccine Mandate for kids (by age) that have been fully approved to get the vaccine.

We need permanent hybrid options for students who would benefit. Whether it be illness, neurodivergency, lack of transport, etc. This option helps so many students. It's 2021, it's a

When someone tests positive a letter is just sent home and i feel as though it should be taken more seriously, it's almost not talked about

Appendix F: Comments about Vaccine Side-effects

2nd dose - just total exhaustion

A severe case of the chills at night.

Arm soreness

between moderate and mild, different and worse with each shot, including recent booster

Booster (third) shot produced a slight headache.

First shot was mild, then i caught covid after the first unfortunately, making the 2nd shot extremely tough on my body

I had a slight headache afterwards, but I was still able to go to work afterwards.

I had swollen lymph nodes in my breast. Was on antibiotics for 2wks and nothing happened with my 2nd dose.

My head hurt and my arm was really stiff later in the day after my 2nd shot. Took some ibuprofen and it went away.

Nausea

None except sore arm for one day after third shot.

On my second and booster shot I got short lived side effects (less than 12 hours)

raging migraine mixed with being seriously nauseous

Rash on arm. Did not itch.

Really bad but not deadly

Shot #1- mild. Shot #2- severe

sick for less than 24 hours, cold and tired

Sore arm and a little fatigue

sore shoulder

Strongest side effects (arm soreness and swelling; weak limbs) I've ever experienced from a vaccine

Very minimal side effects of short duration

Worse side effects than I expected.

Appendix G: Mandates Comments

A government mandate protects all by requiring everyone be vaccinated

Abortion - your body your right Vaccines - must do what federal says

Biden has no idea what he has done.

Biden is on the right track.

Biden plans and policies are common sense and based on expert science. Opponents are either ignorant or Trump dupes or both.

Covid -19 is a very serious threat to human safety. Just cause you can't see it, doesn't mean you are not carrying it. Do they let guns in the same places.

Covid Vaccines don't prevent the vaccinated from contracting or transmitting the virus. So why is our government mandating vaccinations in the name of public safety and protecting others?

Dictatorial and violation of individual rights. Not American policy or constitutional

During a pandemic, mandates are showing that it can get vaccine hesitant to get vaccinated.

Education and incentives to get vaccine are fine. Forcing someone to quit a job if they are not vaccinated is WAY overboard and concerning.

Everyone should have the choice of what they put in their bodies. They have had the choice for every other vaccine. Putting someones livelihood on the line for a vaccine is not right in my opinion.

Federal govt has no coherent plan.. If we hadn't had Trump the pandemic would have run rampant.

Ideological idiocy is now the principal worry over COVID.

Forcing vaccination via recent employment-related mandates was a step too far. A dangerous precedent to set.

Fully support mask and vaccination mandates

Government interaction comes with mandates to protect all citizens. Choosing to work for the Government is an option.

Government mandates protect my life!

Government mandates protect us even from ourselves by relying on the educated and informed to make decisions that we might not be qualified to make. The Covid 19 policies need to call out the misinformation and track those who push it

Had full set of vaccines

I abhor the GOP for making the pandemic political as a cynical power move. It costs lives.

I agree with the federal government's COVID-19 policies.

I believe the government is doing their best but it is hard to deal with multiple different opinions all throughout the country

I believe they should mandate vaccines for all school age children and employed with government, private and general.

I do not feel the government has any right to put mandates on a vaccine that should be called an immunization. A vaccine protects one from getting it, an immunization reduces symptoms. The cover vaccine does not stop one from getting

I think that when it comes to our rights as an American citizen with our Constitution and Bill of Rights, why are we being forced to get vaccinated or not allowed to do certain activities without proof of vaccination?

I think the federal gov't is doing what they can to help end the pandemic, but certain states are standing in the way or causing the problem to continue

I would have hoped by now there would be better testing options and definitely better treatments available. HIV has not vaccine, but the treatments have become so successful that HIV is no longer a death sentence as it once was. Wh

If people do not want the vaccine that is their choice. The family of the unvaccinated people who die should not get on the news and cry that their death was so un-fair because by now everyone 12 and up has had the opportunity to rec
if someone has had covid, they have better immunity than the vaccine. It's insane to require them to get vaccinated

In order to defeat this virus, we must have vaccine mandates.

Inconsistent

It is in the interest of the public at large for the government to mandate certain behaviors during disasters such as a pandemic like Covid.

It is too early to fully mandate it, there needs to be a testing option as well.

It is tyrannical for a government to force a vaccine on the public by holding their jobs over their heads. It's a very thin line. I understand both the Libertarian argument (no government interference, no matter what) and the other side, which would protect the largest number of people possible, hopefully give us herd immunity, etc. I al

Keep the government out of my healthcare. It is not there business and it is private no one should even be able to ask

Make mandatory

mandates are a terrible option; but there is no other as fighting COVID-19 is fighting a relentless enemy

More people who get vaccinated the better

N/a

N/A

Neither the president or OSHA has formulated any policy regarding the Mandate. It seems to only be a scare tactic to get companies like the one I work for to force me to get Vaccinated or be fired. I'm working from home why should

Non vaccinated people should pay addition surcharge on insurance. Also, they should pay more for services render, unless under a government program (medicare, medicaid, VA, etc). Different and harder service/admission criteria should

People who are unwilling to contribute to a society should not be able to reap the rewards of said society. Get vaccinated or lose access to every public service, IMO.

Personal freedoms and rights are being infringed upon by a government that is drunk on power and control.

Politics and public health should not be mixed. The fact that people cannot be counted on to do their own research and learn is very sad. We've dumbed down the population to sound bytes and bizarre political views.

Promote early onset treatment that has been proven to work. Third world countries are getting better care than we are. Then we wouldn't need a vaccine and natural immunity would solve the problem. Government is not transparent about

Require COVID Vaccinations for everyone just as we do for other communicable diseases.

Requiring individuals who have had Covid & have antibodies to still get vaccinated is NOT following the Science !

School children and military personnel have come under various vaccination mandates for many decades. Covid is just another contagious disease to add to the list.

Science trumps politics ALWAYS!! Let's stop the falacies being spread by nay sayers.

Should NOT allow states ANY wiggle room for mandates. COVID-19 is a NATIONAL SECURITY MATTER PERIOD.

So wrong...over regulations...to much control
stupid, politically driven

The "executive order" referenced #20 has not been issued; it was a grandstanding press release, not an EO or a mandate.

The authoritarian left are using the "never let a crisis to go to waste" principle to ram through preposterous spending and taxes, to intimidate dissenters, to intrude into the doctor patient relationship, violate individual liberty

The Biden administration is attempting to impose Marxism in America using covid as a cover.

The Biden Administration's recent mask and vaccine mandates violate citizen's freedoms. It has become very hypocritical of the federal government to allow "freedom of your own body" in only select issues like abortion, althou

The current government mandates are illegal and are causing job loss and income to hard working employees who would prefer to be able to work and provide financial for their families.

The federal government has seriously overstepped the Constitutional boundaries and is behaving more like pre war Germany

The government is trying to control the people.

The government should not have to mandate vaccines however because the government FORCES hospitals to treat all those that present themselves for treatment and I end up paying for it then all should be required to vaccinate. INCLUDIN

The ignorance on citizens don't want to get vaccinated.

The precedent has been set with MUMPs, measles, etc.. Requiring Vaccines for people to participate in public activities is an American precedent most have already accepted.

The sooner everyone gets a vaccine the sooner things will resume

The vaccines should be mandated

There should be NO DISCRIMINATION against the unvaccinated because it is a known fact that the vaccinated can get Covid and transmit it to others as well.

They are in accordance with the "promote the general welfare" part of the Constitution

This is a public health crisis and should be treated as such

This is another way to "break the system". What they're doing is illegal anyway. The government is totally out-of-control and they are spending ridiculous amounts of money. You think I'm crazy but, unfortunately, I'm not. I wish I wa

This isn't new. There vaccination requirements to go to school. And we have even seen this in history. Massachusetts required everyone to get a small pox inoculation. The Supreme Court upheld it. I believe I have the right to walk do

This virus was at least in part created by the Center for Disease Control's evading statutory bans on gain of function research by subsidizing a Chinese bio-weapon research lab to conduct it instead. The subsequent pandemic has been

Too far overreaching.

Too many mixed messages! I firmly believe in States Rights and this mandate should not be Federal mandated!

Too much governmental interference in our private lives and reduction of freedoms. Federal leaders, ib particular, have rules for the people that they do not seem to feel applies to them. It demonstrates a total lack of real Ameri

Too weak. If former president had asked his base to get the vaccine immediately, the sheep would have followed and the rate of dying would have gone down significantly. Alaso if he quits those big rallies. Trump's lies early 2020 caused this Covid-19 debacle. This is the first time in my life that I have experienced such resistance to a simple vaccination. This didn't happen with Polio, or chickenpox, or measles vaccination activities.

Unconstitutional.

Vaccination and testing should be required of ALL employers, not just 100+. I don't want smaller businesses to spread disease or have unfair competition for staff by marketing themselves as "no Vax required to work here."

Vaccines have been required for school attendance for a very long time. The Covid vaccine is now different.

We have freedom of choice in this country.

We should use all of the tools available to us to end the pandemic as soon as possible.

Whatever happened to my body, my choice

Appendix H: Describe any changes or improvements in how you are coping with the pandemic

A little less concerned, but still cautious (wearing masks, eating outdoors, avoiding crowds, etc) since being fully vaccinated.
A year ago I was a lot more depressed and anxious because I didn't see an end in sight for the pandemic, now with vaccines and more stable leadership I have hope things will improve over time
A year ago, I had hope that people were actually going to vaccinate themselves and this pandemic was going to end. Now, I am facing a potential life where I cannot go anywhere or be around people outs
A year ago, when the pandemic first started I felt isolated from my family. I wasn't able to visit them in person. But, now I am able to visit them.
Am keeping distance and wearing a mask
Annoyed by those opposing vaccinations and mask wearing which would end the pandemic.
Attempting to get back into my office and bring employees back.
Availability of the vaccine has significantly increased my optimism when coping with the pandemic
Becoming more educated with science and it's impact from the pandemic.
Being able to work remotely has been great and I am fortunate to have that option.
Being vaccinated I feel more free and safe to do the things I need to do like shop and go to doctor appointments. I started therapy since the pandemic to deal with the emotional distress.
Better now with business better and salaries returned to 100%
Better, We are now homeschooling our children. That has been much easier than trying to navigate virtual school.
Biggest problem is coping with crazy republican governors blocking scientific common sense policies. Credit Trump and his moronic followers exacerbating delays in vaccinating and blocking rational poli
Can actually see vaccinated friends.
Carefully going out more with trusted friends only. I am not participating in large gatherings
Coping with the pandemic has been easier compared to a year ago. Most of my stress was around schooling, but has been solved with online school. My fear of the virus has also gone down now that I have
Covid has always been a high risk for my family and will continue to be. The only improvements so far have been that they are vaccinated
Day by day
Decreased my expectations about how much emotional support I can receive from friends/family.
Disregarding the virus and getting on with our lives.
doing much better financially
Emotional distress is due to the unwillingness of others to mask/vaccinate, not social isolation
Everyone has a therapist now.
Feel fine. No problem
Feel free to move about more due to vaccinations.
For one of us, working online is over. THANK GOD. What a joke.
Fully vaccinated inculcated third dose
Getting out and about is great. Can't wait to travel internationally!
Getting out more now that a majority of people are vaccinated
Going out more, seeing friends, constant awareness of risk.
Going to the gym, eating out in restaurants and visiting stores more comfortably.
Got vaccinated in March
have enjoyed taking care of my children and made the best of it
Have now been able to travel and visit family members. Crazy associated with Canadian border has precluded the visit with family member for more than 18 months. Unsatisfactory. I am also concer

Have spent a lot of time bingeing on Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, PBS Video

I am disabled and don't get out much anyway, but being officially confined makes me keenly aware of my isolation. Over time I have been able to adjust somewhat to this situation. One huge improvement

I am happy to have been fully vaccinated, but still not comfortable being around people, not knowing who is and who is not vaccinated.

i am less concerned about getting sick because i have the vaccine

I am now back at work, but struggling with the stress of filling in for coworkers who have child care issues. I am the guardian of my adult sister and had to find a new daycare program for her which

I am taking more time to exercise and relax.

I am vaccinated now

I avoid places that require a mask.

I don't think we are doing anything differently.

I drive less than before Covid-19. I have more alcohol in my home. I have started and completed more arts and crafts projects

I feel secure in traveling, shopping and living now that I have had both vaccines and the booster.

I have chose a hobby like getting into plants and planners because it helps me from staying inside and doing absolutely nothing and getting depressed

I have seen a few friends in person. Friends that I am not afraid to hug. I have some friends who are unvaccinated. I don't see them.

I never have a covid 19 positive myself but and this is not easy for people who been struggling with out no payment for rent, food or car and bills too.

I really just spend as much time as I can outside. I go fishing like I always have but I've also started jogging/running so in a weird way, the pandemic has been beneficial for my health.

I still remain the same from a year ago

I still wear a mask in public and attend mostly outdoor social events.

I want my life back. I retired a year ago and am totally frustrated that I am still obliged to mostly stay home and wait for the world to open again.

I was more outgoing even though we just had had a baby, we always love going out to the park, games and other family functions but since then it's extremely hard to get out a funk, I can't bring myself

I will continue to wear a mask in public venues because it also protects from the flu and other contagious diseases.

I worked thoruhg the entire pandemic from March 2020-now. I have not gotten Covid-19. My mother and sister did and I was tested negative twice, while being isolated with them for two weeks. I am not s

I would personally love to work from home with the option of coming in occasionally to work.

I would say I've gotten used to it

I'm careful but not obsessed.

I'm fine don't plan to go back to office and plan to retire in 2-3 years. The rest of my family is have a much harder time with the government controlling their lives.

I'm fully vaccinated I wear a mask. I feel safe going out on occasion and doing things which helps alot with not going crazy from all this. Even just going outside for a little bit is good for you.

I'm tired of seeing people still getting government paychecks when all I did was work during the pandemic. I had to pick up their slack and still nobody wants to return to work.

I've grown accustomed to working from home, not feeling the stress that I did a year ago.

I've grown custom to keeping myself occupied without having other people around. Found new ways to connect to people online.

If I can work in a hospital with Covid patients I can handle myself in the rest of the world.

In office full time for over a year.

Isolation issues

It doesn't affect me as much anxiety wise. I just take it day by day. I take the precautions and make sure I wear a mask to keep myself and others safe.

It is easier (possilble) to visit museums, restaurants, church and other public venues now. Also, having had all three shots, I feel pretty generally safer than before.

Just keep rolling with the constant upheaval.

Last year I was more depressed and anxious, but now I feel more more relaxed mostly because I am fully vaccinated.

Less masks, can see people more. Happier

Limited somewhat unnecessary trips to stores. Much more online shopping

Limiting outdoor travels to a "required" status and not "just trying to get out".

Making safe decisions to go out and quarantine every other week

More 'out' in the community. Less fear.

More comfortable being a lot less social

more hopeful

More interaction with people because of vaccine.

More online meetings than before. I try to minimize my 'public exposure'.

more resilient

More used to virtual learning.

More walking exercises and more family meals

My coping has improved because now I get to see friends and family in person thanks to the vaccine.

My fear was that I was getting out of the Army and while I had a job lined up there was not a set start date because of COVID. We took our son out of daycare because of the fear of him catching COVID.

My mental health has certainly decreased throughout the past year and it's hard to improve it

N/A

no change

No change...going out to work instead of virtual but still wearing a mask

No changes.

No longer wfh

No significant changes

None

none but travel plans disrupted

Not wearing a mask all the time, although my mask wearing has increased in the past month.

Nothing really.

Now going shopping in stores, visiting friends, attended various functions. no longer isolated.

now going to restaurants and music events, even indoors with masks and vax

Once I was able to drive my mood got better. I am handicapped and still wary of different places like dollar store where no one wears a mask and I have no idea if they are vaccinated. Zoom classes f

People who are fully vaccinated should be free to return to their normal lives !

Pretty much ignore it. I've been vaccinated and have done what I can do. The rest is out of my control.

Reach out to people via text/email

Received extra inoculations

Retired at the end of 2020. Not necessarily connected to the pandemic.

Same no changes

Since being around people again my mental health has improved.

Since it's apparent that this virus is being allowed to continue spreading and mutating without any real attempts to stop it anymore, I'm resigned to the fact that eventually COVID will become similar

So far the vaccinations have worked and family has supported me during lockdowns.

Spending more time outside

still choose to wear masks even if not required

Still masking in & outdoors. Curbside pickup.

still the same way

Still too much doom and gloom on the news

Stopped listening to main stream media. I get my COVID information from independent, reliable sources.

Stopped watching the news because they constantly lie and cannot be trusted. Stopped listening to government officials because they constantly lie and cannot be trusted.

Sure miss the contact with family and friends!

Taking one day at a time.

Talking to more people

talking to sisters more frequently; going to a park during non-peak times

Thankful the state-wide mask mandate is lifted.

The situation seems much better . I and my friends are vaccinated so we are able to socialize carefully.

Travel plans were changed by rules of European countries

TV is on 24/7

Unable to see my grandsons

using curbside or online deliveries. going out a little bit more to eat n socializing

Using technology to offset negative impacts of social isolation.

Vaccination has made us feel much safer altho we realize we are still in a pandemic. We have traveled (in the U.S.) much more than last year.

Vaccinations help us to get out a little.

Vaccine has helped but still believe in masks and social distancing.

Very little personal effects in my life. Therefore, have not really needed to cope.

video games

We can go and do things now.

We have spent most of our spring and summer outdoors. I dread cold weather forcing us inside.

We want to travel but testing and vaccine mandates have made that difficult.

With changes, you adapt, sacrifice, give up things that are not necessary, be thankful for the things you still have, and never give up the love we have for each other.

With the adults in the household vaccinated, the adults feel comfortable running into restaurants and stores to pick up things we need or want and to spend time outdoors with fully-vaccinated friends,

Workplace has physically shut down and am now completely remotely working. Had to travel into an office in a state with high covid transmission. All this while caring for three children, managing home

Worry about breakthrough infections for vaccinated people, coping with grief over sibling's death from COVID

worse due to mandates.

Appendix I: Trust Comments

"Mainstream media" ie NYT, Washington Post, major networks, CDC
a doctor
A variety of online sites.
Aggregated new sources like yahoo.com
Anyone but health officials
Broadcast TV news
By other people
Cable & TV news
Candice Owens podcast; Daily Wire; Dan Bongino radio/Podcasts: Chris Plante; ClayTravis and Buck Sexton;
CBS news
cdc
CDC
CDC and FDA, Dr.Fauci
CDC and Johns Hopkins health
CDC and medical personnel from community health backgrounds.
CDC and the science
CDC and the Science Community
CDC announcements
CDC bulletins/statistics
CDC Guidelines
CDC or professionals that are working with the Virus. If they choose to keep information from the public about the virus, then there is no telling what is right from wrong.
Cdc website
CDC website
CDC Website
CDC- yes.
CDC, JHU, Mayo
CDC, MDH, and local health dept websites
CDC, my doctor, dr. Oz
CDC, NIAID, FDA
CDC, NIH
CDC, President Biden, Reliable Doctors like Fauci.
CDC, primary medical sources
CDC, Public Health officials, my doctors
CDC, Scientists
CDC, WHO
CDC. Medical journals.
CDC. Dr. Fauci,. My GP
CNN or FOX news
CNN, health department, peer reviewed literature.

Conservative websites such as Fox

Definitely NOT Steuart Pittman. I prefer to speak directly with health professionals that I trust to obtain as much information about COVID-19 as possible.

Doctor

Doctors and Nurses

Dr fauci

Dr Fauci/CDC

Dr. Fauchi

Dr. Fauci

Dr. Fauci, CNN

Dr. Faucie. By other sources I mean such as Fox News or AWW

Drs, Pharmacists, CDC, Hopkins website

Emails from the AA Depart of Health

Fact checked journalism

family

Fauci and Gupta of CNN

Fauci, CDC, WHO, Maryland's COVID website, medical journals. I didn't really know what to say for other sources, so I skipped it.

FDA, CDC, WHO

Federal government

Federal or State Government

Fox news

Fox news and governor Hogan

From a medical professional

From doctors. That's it. Period. If they are not a doctor or a trusted reporter (not fox News) who is giving information from a doctor. Then their opinion isn't valid. Ask a credible doctor.

Governor Hogan, The Annapolis Capital and FOX News- local/national

Health care professionals, respected print news eg Washington Post, NY Times, etc.

health department

I do not listen to the media or anyone about COVID-19.

I don;t trust anything from Main Stream Media, I mostly trust: Newsmax, The Judicial Watch, Epoch Times, Breitbart, WND and the Washington Beacon

I follow federal and CDC guidelines, and think everyone else needs to as well. It has become too politicized, too religious.

i have relatives throughout us, canada, and s. korea. we talk.

I listen to different news channels (to get info from all)

I prefer information from agencies like the CDC or doctor groups like the American Pediatrics to provide information, particularly when the information is consistent.

I prefer to listen directly to healthcare professionals and scientists about COVID as well as actual data instead of conspiracies on social media

I read national science news and do research.

I read World magazine, and trust their reporting.

I think the Health Dept. is the best source for information.

I trust information I can verify with multiple sources.

I trust most of what I hear on NPR, and from doctors I have seen and heard on PBS and NPR. I do my own research.

I trust reputable medical online sites. Some web news sites if news is repeated among a few of them.

I use several health data websites to get my info, not a state or county website

I would prefer to hear information through people in the medical field.

important, true topics regarding the vaccine NOT covered by the CDC, president, or news enough

In the Bubble podcast- Andy Slavitt

Independent sources that I have cultivated and grown to trust over the last 5 years.

JHU, NY Times, STAT

Lawmakers, law enforcers, and the CDC

leading news broadcasts n CDC

Legitimate news outlets and medical professionals

Listening to Progressive Talk Radio and MSNBC

Listening to the news on the radio and the print media.

mainstream journalistic sources, county, state, or federal health officials, personal physicians

Mainstream media or any source that actually does fact-checking

Major newspaper websites. Other sources would be right-wing sites

Media, personal physician, personal friends

Medical experts

medical journals

Medical professionals who have no political agenda.

military health facilities

Most preferred source is the national networks.

My best friend is an immunologist. I take her advice. She says we aren't being careful enough and I think her doctorate suggests she could be a viable source.

My doctor

My most preferred source of information about COVID-19 would be information coming from experts and doctors. I do not know what "other sources" would include.

My own research.

My personal doctor.

my physician & the CDC

My preferred source was other sources of information and I took that by looking at CDC guidance and updates.

My primary care doc regularly publishes the latest info on Covid via email.

My son is far better up to date on local conditions.

National News

NBC news. NY Times. Washington Post.

Need podcasts with specialists in the field.

News and interviews with medical professionals

News channels such ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, CNN

News Media

News Media reporting studies - Community Resources

News sources such as NY Times & Washington Post.

Newsmax and Fox News tend to tell more factual information than other media

Newsmax, Fox News, and OAN are primary sources.

Newspaper and vetted broadcast news channels

Newspaper, NPR, CDC

newspapers, msnbc, cnn

NIH

NIH and CDC websites

Nongovernment related medical sources. Certainly no government agency.

Npr

NPR

NPR BBC

NPR, MSNBC, CDC website, friendly endocrinologist

NY Times, The Economist, Washington Post. Other sources: Fox News, OAN

online news sources that I trust

other sources is better stated as a diversity of sources

our doctors because they are accountable.

PBS News Hour, NPR, BBC, NY Times

Personal analysis of the data posted to the CDC's website and John Hopkins University.

personal medical care

Personal research

Physicians

Prefer CDC guidance and info from my doctor ("other source"

Prefer Dr. Wen, Dr. Fauci, news network MD (dr.) comments.

President, or CDC

print news

Private health care entities like Johns Hopkins. Unfortunately, I cannot forgive Dr. Fauci for lying about the effectiveness of masks at the onset of the pandemic because he was concerned about mask

Private healthcare website; overseas countries who are being honest about the numbers and how many vaccinated are hospitalized with Covid. The cdc stopped counting breakthroughs in May and are skewin

Public news

Public Radio

Raw data, primarily from JHU. Experiences of close associates.

Reputable news sources

Reputable news sources that don't spew fear & propaganda

Reputable print journalists.

Respected scientific sources like CDC

Reuters

scientific and medical bodies such as CDC, American Nurses Association, American Medical Association

Self-research of source data

Senior wisdom

Several Friends are Doctors at JHU, specializing in infections diseases.

Specific newsletters - e.g. Global Health; New America et. al.

Television, national stations; reading newspapers

The actual real scientist that work for the FDA, CDC, etc.

The AP and my sister who works at the National Institute of Health

The Epoch Times and many online sources

The Johns Hopkins Covid Website

The news

Trust CDC now but not before Biden

Trusted individuals working in healthcare or science-based research articles

Trusted news organizations.

tv news

Vetted news organizations reporting directly on what scientists are presenting and finding.

Wall Street Journal

Washington Post, CDC, NIH, NPR

Washington Post, Johns Hopkins, CDC

Washington Post, NY Times, MSNBC

WEBMD, CDC, Veterans Admin. CMMS

WHO and CDC

WHO, CDC, AA COUNTY HEALTH

Appendix J: Pittman Job Approval - Comments

Absentee leadership, disconnected, unfocused, too liberal.
Absolutely genuine, caring human being
Absolutely horrible leader.
believe that he
Best county executive!
Clearly an amatuer
County is expanding population without proper planning and without sufficient space.
Crumbling infrastructure and increased elitism in some areas of the county are items he never acknowledges or tries to fix.
He has not fully followed the tax cap agreement from several years ago!
He might be a nice guy, but he had no idea what he is doing so far as being Co. Exec.
He needs to keep taxes in control.
He specifically played partisan politics with Covid-19 policies
He's a moron who puts emotions before intelligence.
He's trying to pave over the County (I wouldn't call it Paradise). Zoning seems to mean nothing here.
I don't hear anything that makes me have a strong opinion either way
I so not know enough about pitman to be honest with you.
I think he is a one term executive. He has not done enough for the conservatives of this county. Good support to fire department and other s
I think he's doing a good job but it those who don't like him are very vocal.
I think that Mr. Pittman is a good man who's trying his best. However, there are serious problems with racial justice and police misconduct
I think that Pittman tries to have a popularity contest with Hogan, its embarrassing
Lost my subscription to the Baltimore Sun. What I read I believe that he is doing well for the County.
Much too "woke"
Not entirely sure who the man is or what he up to.
Oppose his restructuring of county housing and zoning. Oppose his trashing of the tax cap.
Smart and managing the county well.
Started out good with addressing racism and wealth inequality in housing and education. Coronavirus disrupted his agenda and he handled it p
Taxes size and applications
Tell him to keep politics out of the property tax literature! There are MANY reasons besides that obnoxiousness. :@)
tends to like his position of dictator
The best thing to appear in this county for decades
The day he took office he said he need more taxes without any justification.
The guy handed out crack pipes. He's a jackass and our taxes shouldn't be spent on crack pipes and syringes.
They don't live like us
To radical- progressive
Too liberal.,Big spender. Very disappointed
Too much frivolous expenditure of taxes
Too progressive for Anne Arundel County . I had to go to Baltimore to get my 2 vaccination shots !
Wasteful spending

We elected you for less development; we still have way too much

What has he done????

Appendix K: Hogan Job Approval - Comments

Although we have different political views, he handled covid amazingly
Appreciate the moderate view he takes on issues (in particular, not going overboard with COVID-19 restrictions) and willingness to disagree
Balanced policies/ Tries to lower taxes !
Best possible with democratic legislature.
But that could change if he starts focusing on far right to get elected to whatever office he is interested in next.
Closet democratic
Communicates clearly; moderate; fairly bipartisan
Concerned about identity of corporate donors; don't want him running for president in 2024
Conservative and has led well during the pandemic
Consistently displays sensible leadership.
Do not like his stand on many things! He "may" be R, but doubtful!
Does generally a good job; don't like his of adding lanes to the Beltway and I275
Doesn't do enough to protect our rights and is too weak to stand up for what the people want him to.
Doing a great jon
Failing our teachers/education and he needs to address housing disparities
For a moderate Republican, Hogan has done a good job, but he needs to do better with the Bay and other environmental issues.
Good manager. Reduce taxes.
Gov. Hogan did not support paid sick leave for workers before the pandemic. He has managed the pandemic well.
He doesn't pay enough attention to education in Baltimore City for me.
He hasn't done a bad job for Maryland. I do not agree with some of his policies and I hate his constant bragging on himself
He is a racist real estate developer who hates Baltimore and has done his level best to maintain the image of a colonial governor over the I
He is only concerned with running for President. He is posturing all of his actions for his next step.
He shouldn't have dismissed Paul Wiedefeld as BWI Airport director. His replacement, Ricky Smith. is an unqualified political hack.
He was taking the pandemic seriously at first and now he doesn't care.
He's a sell-out. Larry is still better than a Democrat though.
He's more a RINO than Republican and thinks being "bipartisan" means siding with whatever the Dems want.
He's okay except for hiring that disgraced CDC director and other show boating opportunities that he puts himself in.
He's not a jerk.
His commitment to science leading the way, working in a bipartisan manner, and doing what it takes to protect Marylanders is admirable.
His COVID response was good.
Hogan is a uniter
Hogan started out great at the beginning of the pandemic but caved to the Trump base and their "rights."
I think he does what is best for Maryland but does not always make Marylanders happy/satisfied.
I think he is positioning himself to run for president. Reality he had good economics to deal with and this allowed for good budget ability.
I think he's got a great press office but mostly cares about rich people.
I voted for him only because he was the "best" option in my eyes. We have no plan for a new bay bridge no matter how much smoke he blows. He

I'm pretty happy with how he has led this state in the past year. He shows that a moderate Republican can appeal to a variety of people.

In general Hogan has been an even handed administrator and solid leader

In most cases I see him as a fair minded Republican.

Most everything he has done in office I have agreed with

Proactive during Wuhan virus crisis, held as much as possible spending down, fair redistricting

Promises unkept.

some things he does are ok, others not so much

Sound fiscal policies, but challenged working with a legislature that is veto-proof.

The Feds give us pandemic money. He keeps it and pretends he got it by saving it.

There are politicians and there are leaders. I believe Gov. Larry Hogan is a leader first.

They don't live like us

Too left of center

Went to fast in relaxing Covid restrictions

While he is doing some things right he is still not approve progressive ideas that will help this state. But I do applaud him for speaking o

wishy washy and complies with tax and spend Dems

Wishy washy, competent but not enough outreach to minorities and the City

Appendix L: Biden Job Approval - Comments

A complete disaster. He is a traitor to this nation. A political hack and corrupt individual.
A weak Sister who is mentally constrained. Over his head. Too liberal
Accomplishments
Afghanistan debacle, and lack of control at the border are top of the list
As in 2016, when I held my nose to vote for Hillary, I did the same in 2020 for Biden. Neither was a great choice, imo. Biden is far too ol asleep at the wheel
Biden had good start but needs to be more forceful in dealing the many issues confronting the country.
Biden is a 1000 times better than Trump
Biden is a divider. He wants to lead us down the "Road to Serfdom" that is, socialism
Biden is doing the best he can to clean up after the last four years.
Clearly mentally failing. Canceled US pipeline while approving Russia's. Afghanistan shame!
Does not actually seem to be "in charge" and is following a partisan progressive/communist agenda that does not reflect his pre election pro
Good vision and strategy but must be for forceful in getting rid if the senate fillerbuster
has chance to have tto address climate change and long term social welfare concerns effectively
He can't complete a sentence. He's not fit for the job.
He caused the problem on the border. Afgan(sp) Military disaster. We are in trouble.
He does not know what bills and laws he is signing
He had made our country energy dependent on the Middle East while putting Americans out of work; he is destroying our economy with his polic
He has created a disaster and has put our Country and all citizens in grave danger with his weakness.
He inherited terrible problems; fall of Afghanistan botched by him, further left too demanding, still he's all we got, so pray for his succe
he is ok, just better then Trump
He is totally destroying our country.
He's advocating for a lot of things I want him to. Congress just can't get it done. And I do very much like that he is not trying to overste
he's an doddering fool, lifetime failed politician and an unmitigated disaster going from one dumpster fire to the next. He is trying to spe
His heart is in the right place. Not sure his mind is.
His support staff which he delegates key issues to (he can't do everything, he's one person) are not strong about putting those objectives i
I am an independent who voted for Biden but I have become disillussioned after the humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan, excessive COVID-1
I dislike his gifting free everything to some.
I don't know who is leading the country but it's definitely not him
I feel like there were other better candidates and he is to middle of the road for balance. The republicans need to take care of bombastic l
I feel that he has early onset dementia and I feel bad for him because I don't think he knows what he is saying or doing sometimes.
I like what hes doing about climate change
I love how he's handled the 1T/3.5T debate so far and is working for compromise between the conservative and progressive Democrats.
I loved how aggressive he was towards the beginning of his administration in terms of tackling systemic racism. However, he has still made s
In no way, he is running the government! Listen to him talk, please; and what has he done right!

Incompetent

Incompetent & 100% Senile

Incompetent, he's only hindered our recovery from COVID and is generally a national embarrassment

Inflation high, Afghan debacle, stopped our pipeline, vaccine mandates, in the pocket of China and possibly Russia.

Intelligent, clearly voiced policies

Joe Biden is senile. He is a puppet of the radical Left. He blows with the wind and has NO integrity.

Letting extreme liberal views control his decisions.

Lunatic, destructive, corrupt, no integrity, liar, ; has sold country out for bribes received by family members

Needs to be more aggressive

Not fit for public office. Chinese corruption issues.

Nothing is being done! No infrastructure bill, no voting rights act, no arrests for no-shows of subpoenas, etc.

Nothing more than a puppet. We're still wondering who is pulling the strings. But #2 is probably worse.

Recent international and local issues have tarnished his image. He's too old and looks his age.

Regret that he is unable to bring Trump loyalists back from the edge of catastrophe

Senile puppet

So disappointing

So much better than Trump. It's good to have a 'normal' person in the White House.

Somewhat predictable; out of touch

The 13 soldiers that died in Afghanistan are his responsibility and it is a shame what has happened. Also every time I watch clips of him on

The Democratic majority has the interest of the people of the United States at heart. He's only hamstrung by Krysten Sinema

The man is senile and a charlatan.

They don't live like us

To weak

Was doing great until the pullout from Afghanistan -

Appendix M: County Council Job Approval – Comments

Allowing the county population to expand without proper planning.

Do more, work bi-partisanly. Don't be afraid to be strong when standing with science and do not allow the vocal minority to prevent you from

Do not support my personal views.

Don't pay much attention to them. They usually don't listen their constituents very well, unless those constituents come from SP or Arnold (

Has become much more partisan. But at least approved Pittman's budget

I like that there is a Democratic majority.

I would like them to do what the county needs and be bipartisan.

I would like to see lower taxes. It is hard to be on a fixed income

Little to no meaningful improvements to taxes and laws in 20 years.

Not much accomplished.

Not really in tune with the needs of the county - more interested in following "orders" from national Democrat party leadership.

Not sure what they are up to.

Programs

Republicans on Council are simply knee-jerk opposing proposals by Dems, no matter the value.

Rubber stamp for Pittman.

same as pittman

Since Democrats have taken the council, urbanization of county is increasing along with taxes.

sorry, not well informed, but ours are all Republicans, so not in favor

Taxes too high

The Dems are mostly doing well

They don't live like us

too liberal, wasteful spending

We need new blood on the Council to stop the bickering.

What have they done?

Appendix N: Board of Education Job Approval – Comments

A good job in some ways but have to get a handle on gangs
Ability to take care of all students
Anti-Masker Corine Frank is an embarrassment
Could do better with covid, all vaccines should be mandatory for everyone, testing is not equal, get back to real classrooms, that brightview or whatever it's cal
Critical race theory is WRONG to promote
CRT, covid, and sex Ed policies are way too progressive.
Decision making has been okay but communications terrible. How did they not know about the bus driver issue before school started. Stop listening to parents who v
Don't know how much real influence the BOE has over policy, taxes, Covid measure, etc.
Don't pay much attention to them. They usually don't listen their constituents very well, unless those constituents come from SP or Arnold (I live in SP).
Dude. PAY YOUR TEACHER MORE. For Christ's sake it isn't that hard. Also brightside is horrible. And fund more arts and music, come on theybare more important than
Expect for Corine Frank - she needs to go
Failing to find and fix real life problems with school services.
I am horrified that there was even a debate about masks 15 months into the pandemic.
I disagree with the politicization by some members of the Board; and also think they should be vaccinated if meeting in person & with the public present.
LGBTQ+ views should be left for the parents to teach at home and at their discretion. Kids should never be stranded because lack of school bus drivers. Every scho
Mask and vaccination mandates for student are NOT supported by science and facts.
need vaccine mandates for eligible students in Second Semester in order to stay in person.
Needs to get focus back on academic basics.
Public education is a failure. Look at the reading and math scores!
Remote schooling needs to be an option
same as pittman
School Covid policies are too restrictive /Let parents decide !
Seem confused. Not much accomplished. Over spends.
Students should have an online option during pandemic.
teachers need to be accountable to parents. We need to eliminate many of the administrative jobs that drain our funds and need to provide better salaries to the t
Terrible managing of students during the pandemic. Injured all of them.
They are trying the best they can with the information they have.
They don't seem to have enough voice, nor exposure. Too many benefits have been carved out like supplies, labs, after school events, funding for music, art and th
They don't live like us
They have some issues with equity and inclusion that need to be solved.
They only listen to themselves. They need to listen to the parents in the AACPS system. They will never let go of covid and covid restrictions. Arletto is not
They waste too much money on administration. Way overpaid.
Too much focus on COVID - they are missing the disenfranchised
Transportation is a big issue
Two members of the BOE have plans to run for office. They are pandering to their base during meetings and are not looking out for the best interest of the student
We should have provided a tax refund instead of more spending

Appendix O: Maryland General Assembly– Comments

Bipartisan politics needs to happen!

Failing to pass laws that give citizens more freedom.

High taxes. Radical Leftist, unAmerican views on everything. CHEATING WITH GERRYMANDERING.

I am tired of partisan politics

I do not know enough to say strongly approve. But the fact that they passed a \$15 minimum without hogan is great.

it's a supreme soviet politboro that also tramples on rights and spends like drunken democrats

Its being run by Balto.City, Balto.County, PG, Montg. The could care less about the rest of Maryland!

Much too liberal

Needs to end gerrymandering, but it won't!

Pass ridiculous gun legislation that only hurts legal gun owners. Does nothing to stop crime.

Removed Law Enforcement protection without a replacement nor a plan

Special interest group still have too much say

Strikes a good balance with Hogan

tax and spend liberals

Taxes in MD are the worth for retirees

The Democrats are so used to one party rule, they are shameless in spending and gerrymandering

They don't live like us

they tend to vote for every new tax

Too Democratic =overly Progressive policies

Too liberal and to willing to tax, which is destroying MD.

Too liberal Big spenders.

too partisan but should receive credit for working with Governor Hogan to address problems head on rather than scoring political points.

Too progressive and only focus on more spending as the solution to societal issues.

We do pass really good things (Fight for \$15, paid sick leave), but corporations have way too much influence in the shaping of these bills a

Appendix P: Congress Job Approval – Comments

A Disaster in Democratic Control
Absurd divisions, skewed to the right, why are senators still sitting who refused to certify the election?
Bipartisan politics needs to happen! There needs to be term limits now!
Can't wait for the red wave to sweep Nancy and Chuck out. Spent years on now totally debunked "Russia Collusion," have caused third world level inflation, have a
Care more about the rich than everyone else. Keep blocking important bills for Americans.
Corrupt, there needs to be term limits and age limits.
Cowards on all fronts and extreme leftists pushing socialism and communism
Democrats are destroying the republic and destroying our constitutional rights while lying to us constantly.
Democrats are doing the best they can, but irresponsible, recalcitrant Republicans are blocking timely passage of important legislation.
Democrats who have majorities in both houses are more interested in creating a one party situation and limiting individual freedoms than the needs of the people
Democrats won't be able to keep power because they try to actually pass legislation that helps the majority of the people. This leaves them open to attacks. Ju
depends on whether it passes both Build Back Better initiatives and conducts an effective investigation of Jan 6th insurrection
Disappointed in members supporting ideas detrimental to the nation and society.
Due to the polarized political climate congress gets very little done due to a 50/50 senate
Feel mixed. Would like the Democrats to come together and make some compromises to attain unity and accomplish something
Get rid of the reconciliation feature, let Democrats vote alone and get things done!
Gridlock is good for the US, we do not need more laws, need to enforce what we have.
Gridlock. No attempts on either side to achieve bipartisanship on important legislation.
GROW UP and do what your constituents believed you would do in campaign promises not just your opinion.
High taxes. Radical Leftist, unAmerican views on everything. CHEATING WITH GERRYMANDERING
I am tired of partisan politics
I think the republicans have totally abdicated their responsibility to the public and the Constitution, and have become spineless minions to Trump.
I wish everyone would compromise and get more done (and not always at the last minute).
If only they would do their jobs - just do something! I'd like to lock them in the Capitol until they do!
Let's stop the fighting! I was a republican but I burned my card and became independent.
MD component is effective, but Senate rules are not matched for contemporary situations. Also, must be term limited.
Never get anything done.
No backbone on most of them. Only out to get reelected. They do not put the good of the country ahead of their personal gain.
No leadership
Not acting effectively or rapidly enough on our HUGE problems; too "political" instead of statesmanlike
Not talking about the Senate! The question let's "Mitch" off the hook.
Nothing getting accomplished. Too liberal.
Only one party seems interested in doing the work of Congress. The other party seems interested in perpetuating myths and lies and riling folks with "culture war
Partisanship means more than ethics or governance; corrupt money
Patients running the asylum. Treason incarnate. No concern for the public good. Selfish clowns
Pelosi is trying, but it's ugly. The Republicans have become ridiculous!!!

Political parties are so divisive that important legislation doesn't get done in a timely fashion. Best example is the matter of infrastructure. Republicans screw

Republican leaders are not willing to govern. They want only to inhibit the other party.

Republican obstructionism

Republicans are awful, and Dems for the most part are so bought off at this level (sometimes by the same corporations and donors who fund Republicans), they're b

Republicans are horrible, only one or two had the courage to tell the truth about Trump's criminality. Issues don't mean anything any more. They are a cult of

Republicans refuse to participate

Seem to have little concern for the country but only concern for their party whichever it is

Stop prioritizing companies and economies and keep people alive.

Term limits. We need term limits. They're all mostly out of touch.

The Congress is run by the "swamp" made up of overripe politicians who need to be replaced. The agenda has gone off the rails towards full blown socialism. They

The Democratic majority has the interest of the people of the United States at heart.

The Democrats either need to increase their majority in both houses or the Republicans need to put country before party and Trump

The Democrats running the House are trying to take us into socialism.

The house is doing its job. The senate can't do anything with the filibuster. And McConnell is literally holding the country's economy hostage to make President

The Republican Party does not contribute anything positive.

They do not care about the working man

They don't live like us

they have ceded power to the executive branch, are trying to turn us into a socialist country and also spend like drunken democrats

They only care about themselves not the tax payers.

Too little to address problems

Too much partisanship, not enough representation of constituents

Too much spending, stop allowing illegal immigration, don't allow illegals from getting jobs, businesses should be fined for hiring them should

Too partisan to address issues effectively. A two-headed swamp creature.

Too partisan to make progress

Total dysfunction. Frightening number believing in Trump's lies and treasonous actions.

Totally dysfunctional

Where does one start? OMFG.

working for the party rather the country

Appendix Q: Supreme Court Job Approval - Comments

Again, blame this on Mitch McConnell who is an obstructionist.
Although time will tell
Becoming to political
Big tests are coming up soon. We'll see if they support the Constitution or are cult followers.
Concerned about the influence of public opinion on their rulings rather than strict adherence to the Constitution.
Concerned. Too conservative. Of 9 judges, 6 are Roman Catholic & 1 was raised as one. Not right!! We need more diversity of religious thought.
Court-packing; refusing to hear the pleas from those opposed to the new Texas law, even though it is Federal Law that abortions are legal; failure to enforce that Federal law under Due Pro
Cowards Not addressing problems that they should have addressed Appalling
Doing a good job so far.
Glad to have a Conservative Majority
Hard to understand how the constitution is being upheld when you get some of the rulings without any basic explanation
Highly political unfortunately.
I believe they are getting ready to take on several large issues; we'll see what they do with them
I respect the fact that this court seems so be more concerned about following the constitution and that is demonstrated in criticism by both political parties.
I think they are going in the wrong direction concerning abortion rights. I stand by a women's right to choose.
I would like to see Brett "I like beer" Kavanaugh impeached for lying under oath during his hearings.
I'm still upset that Garland was never brought up for approval. I feel Republicans are truly changing rules that will make our country less democratic.
If any Judge would look into Voting Fraud, illegal law changes prior to election and money funneled into mostly democratic areas by Mark Zuckerberg to control voting, many people should be
Lats line of defense for our constitutional rights!!
Liberal block votes politically ignores common reading of Constitution.
Merrick garland is the legitimate holder of that seat.
Need either term limits or some other way to rid politics from this court perhaps by not allowing justices to be appointed by the President.
Need to be more constitutional and less socially liberal
new session just begun with new judge n new serious issues on how they will vkte
Recent opinions rendered by the Supreme Court concern me that the 6-3 conservative majority will limit or impact previously accepted rights such as abortion and voting.
Roberts is a bit of a disappointment, but over all the balance is in favor of liberty at the moment.
Seated members unworthy of the position
Seems like their decisions are based on personal opinion.
Stacked in the conservative's favor. Can't wait to lose MORE rights to.my.own reproductive organs.
Term limits for them all1
The conservative members of the Court are imposing their political views on many issues, regardless of the facts.
The conservative wing dominates SCOTUS and will cause it too loose objectivity, standing and citizen support.
Need Term limited tenure.
The court is leaning into politics.
The Court is not representative of the American people, only a narrow slice of us.
The Court is now politized. Realize that and add middle or left-leaning candidates.
The courts need to do more to protect our rights, otherwise they're pointless

The current conservative majority is insensitive to the abortion needs of women. Overturning abortion rights laws is putting our nation in a retrogressive stance. It saddens me to witness

The fact that women's rights are in danger is mind blowing. 3 far right judges from a unjust, unfit for office domestic terrorist are still allowed to sit when 2 of them were by definition

The Supreme Court has become overtly political and ignoring the norms and practices from over its history.

The Supreme Court lost my ideas of what a judge does. H/She does not inflict his beliefs on others. They are supposed to see all side and be impartial.

They don't live like us

they get some things right these days. The Chief Justice gets a lower rating. He's a political tool

They have become increasingly partisan with the last several appointees being selected by the Federalist Society.

Too conservative

Too early to render solid opinion. Will become clearer soon with major issues on the docket.

Too many shadow docket concessions. Seem biased with religion. Too little separation of church and state.

Too partisan,

Too partisan; how can they possibly argue they aren't when appointed as they were?

Too political

Too politicized

Way too conservative

We need more justices on the Court to reduce the current one-sided decision-making

Whether appointed by "left or right" they judge cases by merit and precedence

Worried about balance between conservatives and liberals.

Appendix Veterans Services – Comments

Based on my husband's experience as a veteran
Have been fortunate to not need services.
Have never required any services and unsure what is available.
Health care here is outstanding as are the facilities and benefits provided by our local military bases.
I have never known of, or used, any veteran services in AA.
It is disgraceful how we treat our veterans
Maryland in general have good VA services available
N/A
Never used
Not a veteran
Veterans Commission is political and are not representative of vets under 40
