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**“Maryland’s leader in public opinion polling”**

## **Maryland Poll**

**Governor Larry Hogan Job Approval**

**Income Tax**

**Cigarette Tax**

**Mandatory Minimums**

**U.S. Senate Democratic Primary**

**March 2016**

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## Methodology

Patrick E. Gonzales graduated from the University of Baltimore in 1981 with a degree in political science. His career began in 1986, when, as an analyst with *Mason-Dixon Opinion Research*, he crafted and implemented a statewide exit poll for WMAR-TV Channel 2 involving Barbara Mikulski's first run for the United States Senate.

A year later, Mr. Gonzales and his organization conducted an exit poll for Channel 2 on the Kurt Schmoke - Clarence "Du" Burns Baltimore City mayoral election, forecasting the 52%-48% outcome for Schmoke...an election that ushered in new leadership for the City.

Mr. Gonzales has polled and analyzed hundreds of elections in Maryland since this time. Additionally, he and his associates have conducted numerous market research projects and crafted message development programs for businesses and organizations throughout the state.

This survey was conducted by *Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies* from February 29<sup>th</sup> through March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. A total of 809 registered voters in Maryland who vote regularly were interviewed by telephone, utilizing both landlines and cell phones. A cross-section of interviews was conducted in each jurisdiction within the state to reflect general election voting patterns.

The margin of error (MOE), according to customary statistical standards, is no more than plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. There is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figures would fall within this range if the entire survey universe were sampled. The margin of error is higher for any demographic subgroup, such as gender or race.

This survey also includes an over-sample of 411 April 2016 Democratic primary voters (MOE:  $\pm 5\%$ ).

**Maryland Statewide Poll Sample Demographics**

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
18 to 34	137	16.9 %
35 to 49	209	25.8 %
50 to 64	260	32.1 %
65 and older	203	25.1 %
Total	809	100.0 %

<u>GENDER</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	381	47.1 %
Female	428	52.9 %
Total	809	100.0 %

<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Democrat	445	55.0 %
Republican	250	30.9 %
Unaffiliated	114	14.1 %
Total	809	100.0 %

<u>RACE</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	589	72.8 %
African-American	186	23.0 %
Other/Refused	34	4.2 %
Total	809	100.0 %

<u>REGION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Eastern Shore/So MD	98	12.1 %
Baltimore City	68	8.4 %
Baltimore Suburbs	299	37.0 %
Washington Suburbs	257	31.8 %
Western MD	87	10.8 %
Total	809	100.0 %

**Regional Groupings are as follows:**

<b>Eastern Shore/ Southern Md</b>	<b>Baltimore City</b>	<b>Baltimore Suburbs</b>	<b>Washington Suburbs</b>	<b>Western Maryland</b>
Calvert Co.	Baltimore City	Anne Arundel Co.	Montgomery Co.	Allegany Co.
Caroline Co.		Baltimore Co.	Prince George's Co.	Carroll Co.
Cecil Co.		Harford Co.	Charles Co.	Frederick Co.
Dorchester Co.		Howard Co.		Garrett Co.
Kent Co.				Washington Co.
Queen Anne's Co.				
Somerset Co.				
St. Mary's Co.				
Talbot Co.				
Wicomico Co.				
Worcester Co.				

**Democratic Primary Poll Sample Demographics**

<u>GENDER</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	165	40.1 %
Female	246	59.9 %
Total	411	100.0 %

<u>RACE</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	207	50.4 %
African-American	177	43.1 %
Other/Refused	27	6.6 %
Total	411	100.0 %

<u>REGION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Baltimore Suburbs	141	34.3 %
Baltimore City	59	14.4 %
Prince George's County	81	19.7 %
Montgomery County	76	18.5 %
Eastern Shore/Southern MD/Western MD	54	13.1 %
Total	411	100.0 %

**Regional Groupings are as follows:**

<b>Baltimore Suburbs</b>	<b>Baltimore City</b>	<b>Prince George's County</b>	<b>Montgomery County</b>	<b>East Sh/So MD West MD</b>
Anne Arundel Co.	Baltimore City	Prince George's Co.	Montgomery Co.	Allegany Co.
Baltimore Co.				Calvert Co.
Harford Co.				Caroline Co.
Howard Co.				Carroll Co.
				Cecil Co.
				Dorchester Co.
				Frederick Co.
				Garrett Co.
				Kent Co.
				Queen Anne's Co.
				Somerset Co.
				St. Mary's Co.
				Talbot Co.
				Somerset Co.
				Washington Co.
				Wicomico Co.
				Worcester Co.

## Summary

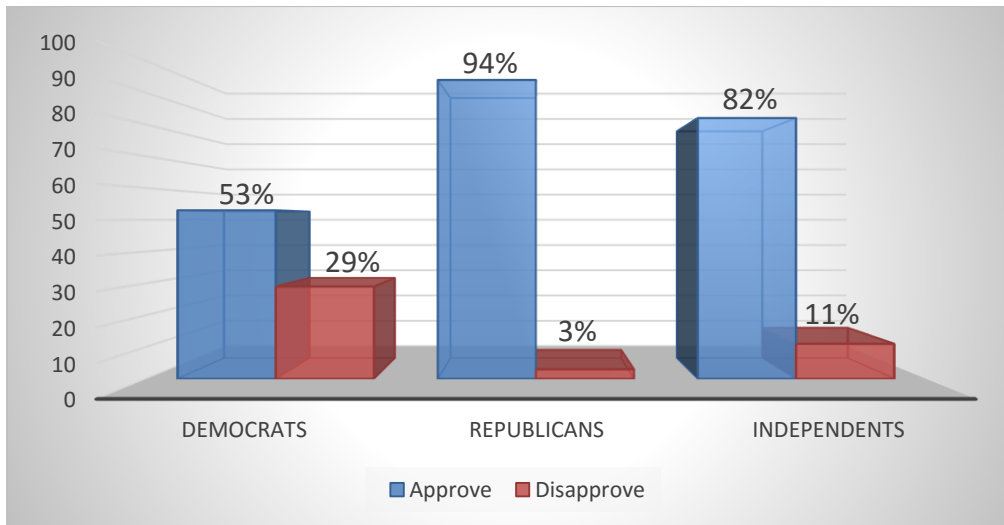
### Governor Larry Hogan Job Approval

Governor Larry Hogan’s imposing job approval numbers among Maryland’s electorate continue, with his support increasing three points since January.

Today, 70% of Maryland voters approve of the job Hogan is doing as governor (45% “strongly” approve and 25% “somewhat” approve), while 18% disapprove of the job he is doing (9% “strongly” disapprove and 9% “somewhat” disapprove), with 12% having no response.

The results by party registration:

**Figure 1 Governor Larry Hogan Job Approval by Party**



By gender and race:

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Men	71%	15%
Women	69%	21%
White	77%	13%
African-American	46%	36%

Two-thirds of the way through his 2<sup>nd</sup> legislative session, Hogan has so far managed to avoid Newton’s Third Law, which states that, “For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.” What’s most striking about Hogan’s approval rating is not so much his lofty numbers among Republicans and unaffiliated voters; rather – given our penchant for highly charged partisan politics in this country – it’s that Maryland Democrats have not reached an equal and opposite negative mindset toward the GOP governor.

## Income Tax

Sixty-four percent of Maryland voters favor reducing the state's personal income tax rate by 10 percent over the next 3 years (47% "strongly favor" and 17% "somewhat favor"), while 29% oppose reducing the personal income tax rate (19% "strongly oppose" and 10% "somewhat oppose"), with 7% giving no answer.

The results by party and race:

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Democrats	55%	35%
Republicans	76%	22%
Unaffiliated	74%	20%
White	69%	24%
African-American	51%	45%

## Cigarette Tax

Sixty-seven percent favor increasing the state tax on cigarettes from the current 2 dollars per pack to 3 dollars per pack (58% "strongly favor" and 9% "somewhat favor"), while 30% oppose a fifty percent increase in Maryland's cigarette tax (21% "strongly oppose" and 9% "somewhat oppose"), with 3% having no opinion.

The results by party and race:

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Democrats	71%	25%
Republicans	57%	40%
Unaffiliated	73%	26%
White	69%	28%
African-American	61%	37%

## **Mandatory Minimum Jail Sentences**

Fifty-four percent of Marylanders favor eliminating mandatory minimum jail sentences for non-violent drug offenders (32% “strongly favor” and 22% “somewhat favor”), while 41% oppose eliminating mandatory minimum jail sentences (27% “strongly oppose” and 14% “somewhat oppose”), with 5% providing no response.

The results by party, gender and race:

	<b><u>Favor</u></b>	<b><u>Oppose</u></b>
Democrats	62%	33%
Republicans	34%	61%
Unaffiliated	65%	30%
Men	50%	46%
Women	58%	36%
White	52%	43%
African-American	61%	35%

Newton’s Third Law applies here: Democrats clearly support eliminating mandatory minimum jail sentences for non-violent drug offenders, while Republicans unambiguously oppose ditching mandatory minimums.

## **Divorce – Same-Sex Married Couples**

Adultery has been a long standing legal ground for divorce among heterosexual married couples. In the Free State, an overwhelming 75% agree that adultery should also be legal grounds for divorce among same-sex married couples (58% “strongly agree” and 17% “somewhat agree”), while 11% disagree with this (8% “strongly disagree” and 3% “somewhat disagree”), with 13% offering no judgment.

The results by party and race:

	<b><u>Favor</u></b>	<b><u>Oppose</u></b>
Democrats	79%	9%
Republicans	68%	15%
Unaffiliated	76%	11%
White	75%	12%
African-American	77%	9%

## Democratic Primary - U.S. Senate

A little over a month before early voting begins in Maryland, the Democratic primary election to succeed 30-year incumbent Barbara Mikulski is a dead heat, confirming it as one of the most gripping Senate primaries in the country this year.

Statewide, 42% of likely Democratic primary voters say they'll vote for Chris Van Hollen, 41% say they support Donna Edwards, 2% declare they'll vote for someone else, with a decisive 15% still undecided.

This contest continues to break sharply along racial, gender and geographic lines:

	<u>Van Hollen</u>	<u>Edwards</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
White	64%	17%	16%
African-American	16%	70%	14%
Male	52%	32%	14%
Female	36%	47%	15%
Baltimore Suburbs	50%	33%	15%
Baltimore City	27%	54%	15%
Prince George's Co.	12%	69%	19%
Montgomery Co.	65%	22%	9%
East Sh/So MD/West MD	50%	30%	17%

Eighth District Congressman Chris Van Hollen leads by twenty points among males, 52% to 32%, but Fourth District Congresswoman Donna Edwards is up with females, 47% to 36% - and women comprise 6-out-of-10 voters in a Democratic primary.

Van Hollen has commanding leads in Montgomery County, the Baltimore Suburbs and rural Maryland, while Edwards enjoys considerable margins in Prince George's County and Baltimore City.

Van Hollen's path to victory lies in winning his regions of supremacy with about two-thirds of the vote to offset Edwards's depth with African-American voters.

Edwards will need to come out of the Washington suburbs (Prince George's and Montgomery Counties combined) with an ample lead, and win Baltimore City by two-to-one, to compensate for Van Hollen's geographical strength.

As with any close contest, this election will be determined by which campaign is better able to turn out its voters.



## **Democratic Primary - President**

Former Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has a broad lead over Senator Bernie Sanders in Maryland, ahead by over thirty points.

Statewide, 57% of Democrats back Clinton, 26% support Sanders, and 17% are undecided.

Among African-Americans, Clinton beats Sanders, 71% to 10%.

**QUESTION:** *Do you approve or disapprove of the job Larry Hogan is doing as governor?*

<u>JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Approve	565	69.8 %
Disapprove	147	18.2 %
No Response	97	12.0 %
Total	809	100.0 %

<u>JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly Approve	361	44.6 %
Somewhat Approve	204	25.2 %
Somewhat Disapprove	76	9.4 %
Strongly Disapprove	71	8.8 %
No Response	97	12.0 %
Total	809	100.0 %

N=809

<u>JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN</u>				
<u>Strongly Approve</u>	<u>Somewhat Approve</u>	<u>Somewhat Disapprove</u>	<u>Strongly Disapprove</u>	<u>No Response</u>

PARTY REGISTRATION

Democrat	117 26.3%	120 27.0%	61 13.7%	66 14.8%	81 18.2%
Republican	197 78.8%	38 15.2%	5 2.0%	2 0.8%	8 3.2%
Unaffiliated	47 41.2%	46 40.4%	10 8.8%	3 2.6%	8 7.0%

N=809

<u>JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN</u>				
<u>Strongly Approve</u>	<u>Somewhat Approve</u>	<u>Somewhat Disapprove</u>	<u>Strongly Disapprove</u>	<u>No Response</u>

GENDER

Male	180 47.2%	92 24.1%	35 9.2%	21 5.5%	53 13.9%
Female	181 42.3%	112 26.2%	41 9.6%	50 11.7%	44 10.3%

**Hogan Job Approval (con't)**

N=809

JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN				
Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	No Response

RACE

White	315 53.5%	137 23.3%	46 7.8%	30 5.1%	61 10.4%
African-American	28 15.1%	58 31.2%	30 16.1%	37 19.9%	33 17.7%

N=809

JOB APPROVAL: GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN				
Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	No Response

REGION

Eastern Shore/So MD	57 58.2%	23 23.5%	3 3.1%	3 3.1%	12 12.2%
Baltimore City	18 26.5%	14 20.6%	11 16.2%	15 22.1%	10 14.7%
Baltimore Suburbs	149 49.8%	69 23.1%	25 8.4%	21 7.0%	35 11.7%
Washington Suburbs	90 35.0%	71 27.6%	34 13.2%	29 11.3%	33 12.8%
Western MD	47 54.0%	27 31.0%	3 3.4%	3 3.4%	7 8.0%

Over eighty percent of voters in rural Maryland approve of the job Hogan is doing as governor (82% among Eastern Shore/Southern Maryland voters and 85% in Western Maryland)

**QUESTION:** *Do you favor or oppose reducing Maryland's personal income tax rate by 10 percent over the next 3 years?*

<u>10 PERCENT INCOME TAX REDUCTION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	520	64.3 %
Oppose	234	28.9 %
No Answer	55	6.8 %
Total	809	100.0 %

<u>10 PERCENT INCOME TAX REDUCTION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly Favor	383	47.3 %
Somewhat Favor	137	16.9 %
Somewhat Oppose	80	9.9 %
Strongly Oppose	154	19.0 %
No Answer	55	6.8 %
Total	809	100.0 %

N=809

<u>10 PERCENT INCOME TAX REDUCTION</u>				
<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>No Answer</u>

PARTY REGISTRATION

Democrat	157 35.3%	89 20.0%	41 9.2%	113 25.4%	45 10.1%
Republican	153 61.2%	37 14.8%	26 10.4%	31 12.4%	3 1.2%
Unaffiliated	73 64.0%	11 9.6%	13 11.4%	10 8.8%	7 6.1%

N=809

<u>10 PERCENT INCOME TAX REDUCTION</u>				
<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>No Answer</u>

RACE

White	310 52.6%	96 16.3%	55 9.3%	86 14.6%	42 7.1%
African-American	59 31.7%	35 18.8%	20 10.8%	63 33.9%	9 4.8%

**QUESTION:** *Currently, the state tax on cigarettes in Maryland is 2 dollars per pack. Would you favor or oppose increasing this to 3 dollars per pack?*

<u>CIGARETTE TAX</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	543	67.1 %
Oppose	243	30.1 %
No Answer	23	2.8 %
Total	809	100.0 %

<u>CIGARETTE TAX</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly Favor	468	57.8 %
Somewhat Favor	75	9.3 %
Somewhat Oppose	71	8.8 %
Strongly Oppose	172	21.3 %
No Answer	23	2.8 %
Total	809	100.0 %

N=809

<u>CIGARETTE TAX</u>				
<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>No Answer</u>

PARTY REGISTRATION

Democrat	268 60.2%	49 11.0%	26 5.8%	86 19.3%	16 3.6%
Republican	126 50.4%	17 6.8%	38 15.2%	63 25.2%	6 2.4%
Unaffiliated	74 64.9%	9 7.9%	7 6.1%	23 20.2%	1 0.9%

N=809

<u>CIGARETTE TAX</u>				
<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>No Answer</u>

RACE

White	362 61.5%	45 7.6%	57 9.7%	105 17.8%	20 3.4%
African-American	90 48.4%	25 13.4%	12 6.5%	56 30.1%	3 1.6%

**QUESTION:** *Currently, Maryland law requires jail time for some non-violent drug offenses. Do you favor or oppose eliminating mandatory minimum jail sentences for non-violent drug offenders?*

<u>ELIMINATE MANDATORY MINIMUMS</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	437	54.0 %
Oppose	333	41.2 %
No Answer	39	4.8 %
Total	809	100.0 %

<u>ELIMINATE MANDATORY MINIMUMS</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Strongly Favor	258	31.9 %
Somewhat Favor	179	22.1 %
Somewhat Oppose	115	14.2 %
Strongly Oppose	218	26.9 %
No Answer	39	4.8 %
Total	809	100.0 %

N=809

<u>ELIMINATE MANDATORY MINIMUMS</u>				
<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>No Answer</u>

PARTY REGISTRATION

Democrat	169 38.0%	108 24.3%	51 11.5%	95 21.3%	22 4.9%
Republican	41 16.4%	45 18.0%	52 20.8%	101 40.4%	11 4.4%
Unaffiliated	48 42.1%	26 22.8%	12 10.5%	22 19.3%	6 5.3%

Democrats (62% favor) and unaffiliated voters (65% favor) clearly support eliminating mandatory minimum jail sentences for non-violent drug offenders, while Republicans (61% oppose) plainly resist this

**Eliminate Mandatory Minimums (con't)**

N=809

ELIMINATE MANDATORY MINIMUMS

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No Answer
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GENDER

Male	109 28.6%	82 21.5%	50 13.1%	127 33.3%	13 3.4%
Female	149 34.8%	97 22.7%	65 15.2%	91 21.3%	26 6.1%

N=809

ELIMINATE MANDATORY MINIMUMS

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No Answer
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RACE

White	180 30.6%	126 21.4%	86 14.6%	168 28.5%	29 4.9%
African-American	70 37.6%	44 23.7%	23 12.4%	42 22.6%	7 3.8%

**QUESTION:** *Adultery is a long standing legal ground for divorce among heterosexual married couples in Maryland. Do you agree or disagree that adultery should be legal grounds for divorce among same-sex married couples, as well?*

<u>ADULTERY - LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE</u>	Number	Percent
Agree	608	75.2 %
Disagree	93	11.5 %
No Answer	108	13.3 %
Total	809	100.0 %

<u>ADULTERY - LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE</u>	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	471	58.2 %
Somewhat Agree	137	16.9 %
Somewhat Disagree	27	3.3 %
Strongly Disagree	66	8.2 %
No Answer	108	13.3 %
Total	809	100.0 %

N=809

<u>ADULTERY - LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE</u>				
Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Answer

PARTY REGISTRATION

Democrat	281 63.1%	71 16.0%	10 2.2%	32 7.2%	51 11.5%
Republican	111 44.4%	58 23.2%	11 4.4%	27 10.8%	43 17.2%
Unaffiliated	79 69.3%	8 7.0%	6 5.3%	7 6.1%	14 12.3%

N=809

<u>ADULTERY - LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE</u>				
Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Answer

RACE

White	342 58.1%	100 17.0%	20 3.4%	51 8.7%	76 12.9%
African-American	112 60.2%	32 17.2%	6 3.2%	11 5.9%	25 13.4%



**411 Likely April 2016 Democratic Primary Voters**

**QUESTION:** *If the April 2016 Democratic primary election were held today, for whom would you vote for the United States Senate: Donna Edwards or Chris Van Hollen?*

U.S. SENATE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY	Number	Percent
Edwards	169	41.1 %
Van Hollen	173	42.1 %
Other	8	1.9 %
Undecided	61	14.8 %
Total	411	100.0 %

N=411

U.S. SENATE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Edwards	Van Hollen	Other	Undecided
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RACE

White	36 17.4%	132 63.8%	6 2.9%	33 15.9%
African-American	124 70.1%	29 16.4%	0 0.0%	24 13.6%

N=411

U.S. SENATE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Edwards	Van Hollen	Other	Undecided
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GENDER

Male	53 32.1%	85 51.5%	4 2.4%	23 13.9%
Female	116 47.2%	88 35.8%	4 1.6%	38 15.4%

Van Hollen leads Edwards among men by 20 points, 52% to 32%

**Democratic Senate Primary (con't)**

N=411

U.S. SENATE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

	Edwards	Van Hollen	Other	Undecided
<u>REGION</u>				
Baltimore Suburbs	47 33.3%	71 50.4%	2 1.4%	21 14.9%
Baltimore City	33 55.9%	16 27.1%	1 1.7%	9 15.3%
Prince George's County	56 69.1%	10 12.3%	0 0.0%	15 18.5%
Montgomery County	17 22.4%	49 64.5%	3 3.9%	7 9.2%
East Sh/So MD/ West MD	16 29.6%	27 50.0%	2 3.7%	9 16.7%

This election will be decided by Prince George's County and Baltimore City - where Edwards enjoys substantial margins - versus Montgomery County, the Baltimore Suburbs and rural Maryland, where Van Hollen leads by a near equally significant scope

**QUESTION:** *If the April 2016 Democratic primary election were held today, for whom would you vote for President: Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders?*

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY	Number	Percent
Clinton	234	56.9 %
Sanders	108	26.3 %
Undecided	69	16.8 %
Total	411	100.0 %

N=411

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY		
Clinton	Sanders	Undecided

RACE

White	90 43.5%	85 41.1%	32 15.5%
African-American	126 71.2%	17 9.6%	34 19.2%

Clinton has an almost 8-to-1 advantage in the African-American community

N=411

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY		
Clinton	Sanders	Undecided

GENDER

Male	81 49.1%	50 30.3%	34 20.6%
Female	153 62.2%	58 23.6%	35 14.2%