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Clinton and Van Hollen Lead in Maryland

Baltimore—The Goucher Poll asked likely Maryland voters for their opinions regarding candidates for the US Senate race to replace retiring Senator Barbara Mikulski, and regarding candidates in the US Presidential race. Likely voters were also asked about their frequency of political conversation and how many of their close friends were Republicans or Democrats. The Goucher Poll was conducted from September 17-20, surveyed 514 likely Maryland voters and has a margin of error of +/-4.3.

If the election for United States President were held today, 58 percent of Maryland likely voters say they would vote for Hillary Clinton and 25 percent for Donald Trump. Collectively, Green Party candidate Jill Stein (2 percent) and Libertarian Gary Johnson (6 percent) earned 8 percent of the total vote. Eight percent are currently undecided.

Maryland likely voters are mixed on their views toward Clinton. Forty-six percent view her unfavorably and 51 percent view her favorably. Seventy-six percent of voters held an unfavorable view of Trump and 22 percent held a favorable view.

“The Democrat-to-Republican ratio, coupled with a large percentage of African American voters and populous progressive strongholds continue to give Democratic candidates a significant advantage in presidential election years,” said Dr. Mileah Kromer, Director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center. *“Barack Obama beat Mitt Romney by 25 points statewide in 2012, so it’s not surprising that Clinton holds a sizable advantage over Trump in Maryland.”*

When asked about the race to replace retiring United States Senator Barbara Mikulski, 54 percent of likely Maryland voters say they will vote for Chris Van Hollen and 24 percent for Republican Kathy Szeliga. Two percent indicate they are voting for Green Party candidate Margaret Flowers and 19 percent remain undecided.

Likely voters were also asked how they viewed the two major party senatorial candidates. Fifty percent of respondents held a favorable view of Democratic candidate Chris Van Hollen, 19 percent held an unfavorable view, and 30 percent indicated they didn’t know. Twenty-eight percent held a favorable view of Republican candidate Kathy Szeliga, 15 percent held an unfavorable view, and 57 percent indicated that they didn’t know.

Bipartisan Friends and Political Conversations

Eighty-two percent of Maryland likely voters indicate that politics comes up in their everyday conversations very or somewhat often. When asked how many of their close friends are Republicans or Democrats, the results were clear—individuals have more close friends that share their political affiliation than otherwise.

Among Republican voters

- 57 percent have some or a lot of Democratic friends
- 83 percent have some or a lot of Republican friends

Among Democratic voters

- 37 percent have some or a lot of Republican friends
- 87 percent have some or a lot of Democratic friends

We will be releasing the second part of this poll on Monday, September 26 at 12:01am.

About the Goucher Poll

The Goucher Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. Directed by Mileah Kromer, the Goucher Poll conducts surveys on public policy, economic, and social issues in Maryland.

Goucher College supports the Goucher Poll as part of its mission to instill in its students a sense of community where discourse is valued and practiced. The Goucher Poll is fully funded by the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center endowment and does not take additional funding from outside sources.

The Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center is a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations and the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative.



The Goucher Poll seeks to improve public discourse in the state by providing neutral, nonbiased, and independent information on citizen perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the Goucher Poll are used to support faculty and student research.

Survey Methodology

To ensure all Maryland residents are represented, the Goucher Poll is conducted using random digit dialing (RDD) of a county-level stratified random sample using landline and cellular telephone numbers. The sample of telephone numbers for the survey is obtained from Survey Sampling International, LLC (<http://www.surveysampling.com/>).

The survey was conducted Saturday, September 17, to Tuesday, September 20, 2016. During this time, interviews were conducted 12p.m-9p.m on Saturday and Sunday and 5-9 p.m. and 5-9 p.m Monday and Tuesday. The Goucher Poll uses Voxco Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) software to administer its surveys. Interviews are conducted by a staff of professionally trained, paid, student interviewers.

Interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers a maximum of four times. Only Maryland adults—residents aged 18 years or older—were eligible to participate. Interviews were not conducted with adults who were reached at business or work numbers. Sixty-four percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 36 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 668 Maryland residents, of these residents 514 were screened as likely voters. For a sample size of 668, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.8 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. For sample size of 514 likely voters, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 4.3 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. Margins of error are higher for subsamples.

Survey Question Design

The Goucher Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which they are administered to respondents.

BRACKETED ITEMS []: Items and statements in brackets are rotated to ensure respondents do not receive a set order of response options presented to them, which maintains question construction integrity by avoiding respondent agreement based on question composition.

Example: [agree or disagree] or [disagree or agree]

PROBE (p): Some questions contain a “probe” maneuver to determine a respondent’s intensity of opinion/perspective. Probe techniques used in this questionnaire mainly consist of asking a respondent if his or her response is more intense than initially provided.

Example: Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of President Obama?

PROBE: Would you say very favorable/unfavorable?

OPEN-ENDED: No response options are provided for an open-ended question, i.e., it is entirely up to the respondent to provide the response information. Any response options provided to the interviewer are not read to respondent; they are only used to help reduce interviewer error and time in coding the response.

VOLUNTEER (v): Volunteer responses means the interviewer did not offer that response option in the question as read to the interviewer. Interviewers are instructed not to offer “don’t know” or “refused” or “some other opinion” to the respondent, but the respondent is free to volunteer that information for the interviewer to record.

Sample Demographics (in percent)

	Maryland Adult Population Parameter (Census Estimates)	Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Adults (n=668)	Maryland Likely Voters (n=514)
Gender			
Male	48	48	47
Female	52	52	53
Age			
18 to 24	13	13	10
25 to 34	18	17	13
35 to 44	17	17	17
45 to 54	20	21	22
55 to 64	17	17	19
65+	16	16	19
Race			
White	63	59	62
Black	29	32	31
Other	8	9	7
Region			
Capitol	36	36	37
Central	46	46	47
Eastern	8	7	7
Southern	6	6	6
Western	4	5	4

Population parameters are based on Census estimates as of July 2011.

Sample is weighted by age, region, and race.

Distribution of Regions

Capitol–Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George’s

Central–Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard

Eastern–Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester

Southern–Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s

Western–Allegany, Garrett, Washington

Registered Voters

Registered voter screen question:

Q: REGVOTE

Are you registered to vote at your current address?

If “Yes” follow up: Are you registered as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, unaffiliated or something else?

Of the **668** Maryland residents surveyed, **585** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e. independent).

Maryland Voter Registration/Likely Voters (in percent)

	Maryland Board of Elections Registration (August 2016)	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters (N=585)	Weighted Sample Estimate Likely Voters (N=514)
Democratic Party	55	57	58
Republican Party	26	24	25
Unaffiliated (Independent)	17	15	14
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	1	4	3
Total=	100	100 +/-4.0	100 +/-4.3

Information on voter registration in Maryland from the Board of Elections can be found at <http://www.elections.state.md.us>.

The **83** respondents who indicated they were “**not registered**” or “**refused**” were skipped to **IMPISSUE**.

Survey Results—Registered Maryland Voters

- **585** Maryland residents indicated they were registered to vote; results below are of **registered voters only**.
- For a sample size of **585** registered voters, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 4.0 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question.
- Results in percent. Percent totals may not add up to 100 due to weighting and/or rounding.

Q: GENINT

As you know, elections for US President and Congress will be held this November.

How interested would you say you are in these elections: **extremely interested, very interested, somewhat interested, or not interested?**

	SEPT 16
Not very interested	7
Somewhat interested	15
Very interested	30
Extremely interested	48
Don't Know (v)	1
Total=	585 (+/-4.0)

The 44 respondents who indicated they were “**not very interested**,” “**don't know**,” or “**refused**” were skipped to **IMPISSUE**.

Q: GEN12

In the 2012 presidential election between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, **did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you vote?**

Q: GOV14

Okay, thinking back to the 2014 Maryland statewide election for governor between Larry Hogan and Anthony Brown, **did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you vote?**

	GEN 12	GOV 14
Yes, I voted	89	78
No, I did not vote	11	20
Don't know / Can't remember (v)	0	2
Total=	541 (+/- 4.2)	541 (+/- 4.2)

Q: LV

Which of the following statements best describes you. . .(response options read to respondent)

1. I will probably **NOT** vote in the 2016 general election.
2. I **MAY** vote in the 2016 general election,
3. Unless some emergency comes up, I **WILL** vote in the 2016 general election,
4. I will **DEFINITELY** vote in the 2016 general election, or
5. I just don't know at this time
9. Refused (v)

	SEPT 16
Will NOT vote	2
MAY vote	2
WILL vote	10
Will DEFINITELY vote	83
Just don't know at this time	3
Refused (v)	0
Total=	541 (+/- 4.2)

The 27 respondents who indicated they “will not vote,” “just don’t know at this time,” or “refused,” were skipped to **IMPISSUE**.

To receive the **likely voter questions** the respondent must have indicated the following:

- **Registered to vote**
- **Somewhat, very, or extremely interested in the election**
- **May, will, or will definitely vote in the 2016 general election**

Maryland Likely Voters

- Of the **585** Maryland registered voters, **514** were screened as likely voters; results below are of these **Maryland likely voters only**.
- For a sample size of **514** likely voters, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 4.3 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question.
- Results in percent. Percent totals may not add up to 100 due to weighting and/or rounding.

Q: SEN

First, thinking about Maryland’s open US Senate seat. If the election for the US Senate were held today, would you vote for [**Republican Kathy Szeliga, Democrat Chris Van Hollen, or Margaret Flowers of the Green Party**]?

	FEB 16
Chris Van Hollen	54
Kathy Szeliga	24
Margaret Flowers	2
Not sure/undecided (v)	19
Refused (v)	1
Total=	514 (+/-4.3)

Q: SENFAVINT

Regardless of who you plan to vote for in the US Senate race. . . next I'd like to know how you view [**Chris Van Hollen and Kathy Szeliga**]. . .

[VANHOLLEN and SZELIGA rotated]

Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of US Senate candidate Chris Van Hollen?

PROBE

Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of US Senate candidate Kathy Szeliga?

PROBE

	Van Hollen	Szeliga
Very Unfavorable (p)	7	4
Unfavorable	12	11
Favorable	31	20
Very Favorable (p)	19	8
Don't Know (v)	30	57
Refused (v)	1	1
Total=	514 (+/-4.3)	514 (+/-4.3)

Q: PREZ

Next, if the election for President of the United States was held today, would you vote for [**Republican Donald Trump, Democrat Hillary Clinton, Libertarian Gary Johnson, or Jill Stein of the Green Party**]?

	SEPT 16
Hillary Clinton	58
Donald Trump	25
Gary Johnson	6
Jill Stein	2
Not sure/undecided (v)	8
Refused (v)	1
Total=	514 (+/-4.3)

Q: PREZINT

Regardless of who you plan to vote for in the presidential race, next I'd like to know how you view [**Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton**]. . .

[**CLINTON and TRUMP rotated**]

Q: CLINTON

Do you have a [**favorable or unfavorable**] opinion of presidential candidate Hillary Clinton? **PROBE**

Q: TRUMP

Do you have a [**favorable or unfavorable**] opinion of presidential candidate Donald Trump? **PROBE**

	Clinton	Trump
Very Unfavorable (p)	29	54
Unfavorable	17	22
Favorable	27	11
Very Favorable (p)	24	11
Don't Know (v)	3	2
Refused (v)	0	1
Total=	514 (+/-4.3)	514 (+/-4.3)

Q: CONVO

How often does politics come up in the everyday conversations you have, either in person, over the phone or online—[**very often, somewhat often, not too often, or not at all**]?

	SEPT 16
Not at all	4
Not too often	14
Somewhat often	36
Very often	46
Don't Know/Refused (v)	0
Total=	514 (+/-4.3)

Q: FRIENDDEM

Okay, now thinking about your close friends, how many—[**a lot, some, just a few, none**]—would you say are Democrats?

	SEPT 16
None	2
Just a few	16
Some	26
A lot	51
Don't Know (v)	5
Total=	514 (+/-4.3)

Q: FRIENDREP

Thinking again about your close friends, how many—[a lot, some, just a few, none]—would you say are Republicans?

	SEPT 16
None	11
Just a few	34
Some	31
A lot	20
Don't Know (v)	4
Total=	514 (+/-4.3)

We will be releasing the second part of this poll on Monday, September 26 at 12:01am.

Results by Demographics (in percent)

- Column percentages
- Unless specified, “Don’t Know,” “Refused,” and other volunteered responses are not included below
- Margin of error is higher for subsamples
- Refer to tables above for questions as worded

	LV	Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=514)	Dem (n=298)	Ind (n=74)	Rep (n=127)	Male (n=243)	Female (n=271)	18-34 (n=118)	35-54 (n=201)	55+ (n=195)	White (n=317)	Black (n=157)	Other (n=40)
Sen Race												
Chris Van Hollen	54	79	38	8	48	59	49	56	54	45	69	58
Kathy Szeliga	24	6	18	69	28	20	10	27	29	35	3	13
Margaret Flowers	2	1	7	2	3	1	3	2	2	3	1	3
Van Hollen Fav												
Unfavorable	19	10	18	43	23	15	12	20	23	25	10	5
Favorable	50	66	38	21	47	52	45	49	54	45	58	49
Don't Know	30	23	42	35	29	31	42	31	22	28	31	41
Szeliga Fav												
Unfavorable	15	18	15	7	14	16	21	10	16	14	15	23
Favorable	28	18	21	56	30	25	18	31	30	34	18	18
Don't Know	57	63	63	37	55	58	61	59	52	51	67	59

	LV	Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=514)	Dem (n=298)	Ind (n=74)	Rep (n=127)	Male (n=243)	Female (n=271)	18-34 (n=118)	35-54 (n=201)	55+ (n=195)	White (n=317)	Black (n=157)	Other (n=40)
Pres Race												
Hillary Clinton	58	83	49	9	53	62	61	55	58	45	82	64
Donald Trump	25	7	25	71	28	22	20	22	31	37	4	15
Gary Johnson	6	2	14	10	10	4	8	8	3	8	3	3
Jill Stein	2	2	1	0	2	3	7	1	1	1	5	5
Clinton Fav												
Unfavorable	46	22	57	90	52	40	48	47	43	60	20	31
Favorable	51	74	39	9	45	56	48	50	54	37	73	69
Trump Fav												
Unfavorable	76	91	74	41	77	76	88	82	62	68	92	82
Favorable	21	8	21	54	20	23	10	16	33	29	6	15
Freq Pol Convos												
Not at all/Not often	18	16	26	17	22	15	18	24	12	16	20	31
Somewhat/Very often	82	84	74	83	78	85	82	76	88	84	80	69
Dem Friends												
None/Few	18	8	23	35	18	18	17	18	18	22	10	18
Some/A lot	77	87	70	57	77	76	81	77	73	71	87	82
Rep Friends												
None/Few	45	59	44	13	43	46	53	38	47	30	74	55
Some/A lot	51	37	51	83	52	50	46	59	46	65	23	45