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Anne Arundel Community College
Center for the Study of Local Issues
101 College Parkway, Arnold MD, 21012-1895
Contact: Dan Nataf 443-906-0153 ddnataf@aacc.edu

Crime and Economy are Top Issues for County Residents

A survey of 586 Anne Arundel County residents conducted October 20 to 30 by Anne Arundel Community College and the Center for the Study of Local Issues found a sharp increase in the number of respondents citing rising **crime** as a key problem facing the county.

The survey asked residents to identify the “two most important problems facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time.” The percentage saying crime increased from 24% last spring to 36% this fall, the highest score received for this item in recent polls. Together with another 19% who cited illegal drugs, over half of the respondents concentrated on these aspects of county life.

The economy was also at the top of people’s minds. Nearly one-quarter (23%) mentioned it as a top issue, barely changed from last spring (22%). When asked about their level of concern about various economic conditions, inflation was clearly the key driver of economic worries as 67% said that they were “very concerned” about it. Another 59% pointed to “federal government debt and deficits” as another key concern. A plurality (46%) of respondents thought that the economy would get worse over the next few years compared to only 23% saying that they expected it to improve. Negative feelings about the economy were especially prominent at the national level, since while 57% said that the Anne Arundel county economy was excellent or good, only 25% said the same about the national economy. Housing costs were cited by 17%, another element factoring into concern about the economy.

Other issues were also relatively significant as “most important problems.” Nearly a fifth cited taxes (19%), with another 18% saying education. Growth and overpopulation were also near the top, with 16% citing it. Transportation – often an element in heightening frustration with development due to crowded roadways or the lack of public transportation – was also in double-digits (14%).

The survey covered many other issues, several for the first time. These included:

- Perceptions of the economy.
- Public schools – extent of recovery from COVID, issues of concern, views about redistricting.
- Solar farms in Anne Arundel County – conditions applying to them.
- Housing – perceptions of reasons why housing costs are high, rent stabilization.
- COVID – when people have contracted it, extent of continuing of concern about it.
- Abortion – voting intentions about an amendment to the Maryland Constitution regarding reproductive rights.
- Guns – perceptions of where guns might be carried.
- Partially self-driving cars – driver training.
- Immigration – attitudes about restrictive vs. permissive policies

- Unions – support for unions, strikes.
- House of Representatives – best approach to governing.
- Trump – rationale for legal prosecution.
- Aid to Ukraine.
- Views regarding the Israel-Hamas conflict.
- Voting intentions for the 2024 presidential elections.
- Job approval – president, governor, county executive, other institutions.

The next section provides a quick summary of the main elements of the survey along with page numbers for the more detailed analysis which follows. The latter includes some analysis of results by party registration and ideology. Appendix A contains the entire questionnaire with percentages (p. 113). A list of all appendices can be found on page 13.

Summary of Main Findings

Most Important Problem Facing County Residents

The rise or persistence of concern among items such as the economy, crime and drugs, education, and the relative decline of concern about COVID-19 are key findings from this question. Partisan divisions included splits between Democrats – more likely to highlight housing as a key issue – and Republicans, who tended to underscore taxes and government waste. Additional details are available in the text (see pp. 14-19). Open-ended “other” answers are in Appendix B.

Right Direction/Wrong Direction

The percentage of those saying that the **county** was moving in the right direction saw a modest rise from 38% last spring to 40% this fall. Regarding the **state**, there was also a 2-point rise to 40%. The percentage applicable to the **country** continued a pattern of low optimism, dropping considerably from 35% in spring 2021 to 22% in fall 2021 before dropping to 15% in fall 2022, and ending up at 10% last spring. This value was essentially unchanged for this fall (11%). Democrats were more likely to say “right direction” for all three levels (see pp. 20-27).

Rating Economic Conditions - County, State and Country

For the county, the percentage saying “excellent” or “good” rose somewhat from 49% last spring to 57% this fall. At the state level, there was also an uptick – moving from 39% last spring to 50% this fall. The federal level did not show much change – it was 20% last spring and 22% this fall (see pp. 28-38).

Expectations for the National Economy

The percentage of those saying that the **economy will improve** in the future was up slightly from 20% last spring to 23% this fall. One year ago it was at 32%. The “get worse” percentage increased dropped from 55% to just 46%, still twice the percentage of those expecting the economy to improve. There were strong partisan effects, with 32% of Democrats compared to 14% of Republicans expecting the economy to improve (see p. 34).

National Economy Concerns

A new question was added in spring 2022 that asked respondents to express their level of concern about various economic conditions. At that time, concern over **inflation** topped the list (58% saying “very concerned”); this increased to 71% in fall 2022 and was essentially unchanged last spring (69%). This fall, the percentage dropped slightly to 67%.

This was followed by “**federal government debt and deficit**” which saw a jump from 47% to 59%. There was less overall concern about the rate of economic growth (unchanged at 34%) or the **business climate** which reached its lowest percentage in the last three surveys (31%, 29%, 26%) although concern for **unemployment** reached its highest level in the last three surveys (24%, 20%, 26%). A new item was added last spring - “**private debt, excessive**” which was

essentially unchanged from last spring (31%, 32%), placing it just below the rate of **economic growth** (34%). As was the case with general expectations for the national economy, Democrats were more optimistic than Republicans on these issues (see pp. 40-42).

Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents

These indicators did show some changes from last spring. Concern about high taxes dropped somewhat from 64% last spring to 58% this fall. This was consistent with the range for this issue since spring 2021 (57% to 64%). The percentage worried that “wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living” was down 6 points to 58% - its lowest value in two years.

The percentage expressing a fear of unemployment dropped from 12% to only 9% - its lowest level since spring 2020. The percentage saying that it was “hard to afford the cost of food and groceries” which had hovered between 32% and 53% dropped to the lower side of that range: 37%. An analysis shows the disproportionate impact of adverse economic situations upon lower income people (see pp. 43-50).

Coronavirus Section

There is a detailed review of many COVID-19 issues on pages 45-49. These include whether the situation is getting better, the possibility of people coming down with the virus and a range of other experiences with the virus. There is a review of vaccination status.

As a most important problem, **the percentage citing the coronavirus** was essentially unchanged at 3%. There was also a drop in the percentage of those saying that the situation was “getting better” from 77% last spring to just 64% this fall, the lowest score since fall 2021.

There was little change in the percentage of those saying that they were “**very concerned about the possibility of someone in your family becoming seriously ill with the virus**” (11% last spring vs. 12% fall 2023).

The percentage saying that they had **themselves contracted COVID** initially peaked at 59% in fall 2022 – since then it has stayed in that same range and was at 60% this fall.

About half (49%) of the respondents claimed to have had “**serious symptoms**” from the virus, with 35% saying that they personally knew someone who had died due to it. These scores haven’t changed much since spring 2022.

When asked about **vaccination intentions** or recent actions, only 57% affirmed a likelihood to get further vaccinated (or had already been), a drop from 73% last spring. When asked the year that respondents had contracted COVID-19, 2021 and 2022 were nearly identical (25%, 26%). This year the percentage was 15%, a bit higher than in 2020 (12%) – and the year isn’t over. See pp. 51-55. for details. Open-ended comments about COVID-19 are in Appendix C. These ranged from “it isn’t over yet” to “why are we even asking about this?”

Public Schools – Recovery from COVID, Key Issues, Redistricting

The first question asked respondents to choose from three choices (better, same, worse) regarding the **performance of public schools this year compared to last year**. Only 11% said better, while 36% said “same.” Another quarter said, “worse” while many (29%) said that they didn’t know. When asked only of those with children in public schools, the biggest jump was among those who said worse, going from 25% to 41%. Only 14% said better, with the remainder (45%) saying same.

The second question asked **“how successfully have students in public schools recovered from the adverse academic effects of the COVID pandemic?”** Few (6%) said “fully recovered” with a plurality (40%) saying “recovered somewhat.” About one-third (32%) said “recovered very little or not at all” and another 22% had no opinion. Among those with children in schools, only 1% said “fully recovered” with a majority (53%) saying “somewhat.” A large group (45%) said “very little or not at all.”

Another focus was on more general issues: **“How concerned are you about the following issues in public schools in your area?”** Respondents were offered a list of choices with answer choices from “not concerned at all” to “very concerned.” The largest “very concerned” scores were for “lack of parental involvement” (56%) and “students not meeting learning objectives” (60%). Other items gaining at least 50% were “teacher shortages” (52%), “depression and anxiety among students” (51%), and “banning of books dealing with the history of slavery” (50%). By contrast, “Banning of books dealing with gender identity or sexual orientation” obtained 40%, close to the score (44%) for “learning loss due to COVID-19.”

Democrats had generally higher scores than Republicans on such issues as banning of books, funding shortages, teacher shortages, or bullying. Republicans’ scores were higher on issues like “the lack of parental involvement” and “students not meeting learning objectives.” There was very little partisan difference regarding learning loss due to COVID-19. See pp. 56-62.

Redistricting was the final focus of this section on public schools. Respondents were asked to express support for one of three general views of the process. A plurality (48%) said “agree completely” with “Any redistricting should only move students to less crowded schools that are very close to their existing schools” while about a third (32%) agree completely with “The redistricting process should do all that is possible to move students from overcrowded schools to less crowded ones.” Only 8 percent favored “Redistricting is very disruptive; higher taxes are better than trying to maximize efficiency.” Partisan differences were relatively strong for the proposal saying that redistricting should “only move students to less crowded schools that are very close to their existing schools,” with 61% of Republicans agreeing completely with this compared to only 41% of Democrats. See pp. 63-64. Open-ended comments about these topics are in Appendix D for recovery from COVID, and Appendix E for comments about redistricting.

Housing and Community – Factors Driving Higher Costs, Rent Stabilization, Solar Farms

A section of the survey asked individuals about various questions dealing with housing. The first question asked them to reflect upon four different possible reasons to explain the increasing cost of housing and read, **“The cost of housing and rents have exceeded the general rise in inflation over the last few years. How important are each of the following as causes for this rise in housing costs?”**

Looking just at the percentage saying, “very important,” it is clear that two items were highly favored: “Higher interest rates” (67%) and “Private investors are buying properties as investments and driving up prices for regular people” (57%). The other two possible answers about restrictive zoning laws (27%) and citizen opposition to greater housing density (33%) were much less frequently cited (and had much higher percentages saying “unsure, no opinion”). Democrats were more likely to agree (63%) that private investors were causing rising prices compared to Republicans (49%). See pp. 65-66.

A second focus within this section was on using a policy adopted by Montgomery County on **“rent stabilization.”** The results for the overall sample leaned on the side of “support” but the strongest expression of support (support completely) only won the backing of 28%. The middle level of support (support somewhat) gained another 33 percent, for a total of 60% expressing some level of support. Democrats were more inclined to support this idea (40% completely, 35% somewhat, only 12% saying don’t support) than were Republicans (15%, 33%, 42%). The Republican respondents were nearly evenly divided between some degree of support (48%) and opposition (42%). Renters (72%) were more inclined to support the measure “completely” or “somewhat” compared to owners (62%). See pp. 66-67.

A final question within this section focused on solar farm projects in the county and asked, **“The county is seeking to better plan the emergence of solar energy farms in rural areas. To what extent do you agree with any of the following?”** The survey included four different choices; respondents could express their level of support for each of them. The survey showed a lot of uncertainty about each proposal, with three of the four suggestions evenly divided between each of the three levels of agreement. Only the option, “Ensure that there are best practices for managing the land underneath solar panels in rural areas” gained a clear majority (55% agree completely); other measures restricting or expanding density of solar farmed obtained much lower scores. See pp. 68-69. Open-ended comments about housing and community are in Appendix E rising costs of housing and rent stabilization. There is a separate question for comments just for solar farms – Appendix F.

State Issues: Reproductive Rights, Guns

The survey had three questions that involved state initiatives or regulatory approaches.

Reproductive Rights: The first of these focused on reproductive rights and read: **“In the 2024 elections in Maryland, voters will be asked to confirm a constitutional amendment dealing with reproductive rights passed by the Maryland General Assembly.”** Respondents were offered three choices: “I am pro-choice so I will support it”; “I am in the middle about abortion –

I tend to be against it but don't want the government to dictate women's choices so will probably support it"; and, "I am pro-life so I will oppose it." A majority (52%) agreed with the first choice. Another 17% agreed with the "probably support it" option. Only 24% said that they were pro-life and would oppose it. This shows that the potential support for this constitutional amendment is as high as 69% and that there is a group whose "small government" stance is a stronger motive than a philosophical "pro-choice" inclination. This idea was shown to be especially salient among those who were "somewhat conservative" (32% agreeing with this position), compared to "very conservative" (10%) or "moderate" (25%). See pp. 70-71.

Guns: The second focus was on guns and read, "**The Maryland Gun Safety Act of 2023 prevents gun owners from taking firearms into schools, hospitals, government buildings, businesses selling alcohol or cannabis, stadiums, museums, racetracks and video lottery facilities. Which best expresses your views about this law?**" Respondents were offered three choices – essentially ranging from the view that the Act was too restrictive, not restrictive enough or a good compromise.

The sample was clearly split on this piece of legislation since none of the choices obtained a majority in support. A plurality (36%) said that the restrictions on firearms were insufficient, another 23% said that the restrictions were unreasonably limiting. The middle stance was only supported by 31%. As the partisan views make clear, there is a vast gap between Democrats and Republicans on gun rights. Combining the two positions (about right and not sufficiently restrictive) results in an overall score of 67%, but that falls to only 40% for Republicans compared to 89% among Democrats. Strong ideological divisions on this issue were also apparent. See pp. 71-72.

Partially Self-Driving Cars: This section discussed the challenge of increasing capabilities of cars to be autonomous, and focused especially on "partially self-driving cars" asking: "Should there be a state law that requires special training for purchasers of partly self-driving cars so that they are clear about their responsibilities to maintain control over vehicles equipped with such advanced driver assistance systems?" The results suggested that depending upon how such training is set up, vast majorities supported this – both overall (82%) and among all party categories. Democrats were a bit more eager to say "Yes" (88%) than Republicans (78%). See p. 73.

Appendix G includes open-ended comments about all of the issues in this section.

National Issues: Immigration, Promise of “All are Created Equal,” House of Representatives, Unions, Trump’s Legal Situation

Immigration

The first question read: **“At various point during our history such as the 1920s, only a small number of immigrants were allowed into the country. Indicate those statements that best express your views about desirable immigration policy at this time.”**

The survey included several choices – “the most restrictive policy possible,” “a measured policy that combines economic needs of the country with humanitarian considerations for immigrants,” “a generous and open immigration policy that welcomes as many people as possible seeking political asylum,” and finally, “a generous and open immigration policy that welcomes as many people as possible escaping poverty and violence in Central and South America.” Only the “measured policy” option received a majority (63%) with the other three options receiving around 20% - respondents could choose more than one option. The “measured policy” stance showed very small differences by party or ideology. Other choices were more polarizing. See pp. 74-75.

Promise of “All Created Equal”

A question was proposed by a History faculty member: **“How well has the United States lived up to the promise it made in the Declaration of Independence that ‘all men (people) are created equal?’”**

Respondents were evenly divided: Quite a bit (33%), only somewhat (35%), not much (28%). Democrats (11%) were much less likely than Republicans (65%) to say, “quite a bit.” Those who were very conservative (73%) contrasted sharply with very liberals (2%). Moreover, whites (37%) were more than three times more likely to agree with this answer than African Americans (10%). Generally, this question exposed differences between those who felt that the American dream was mostly accomplished and those who felt that there was more to be accomplished. See p. 75.

House of Representatives

This question asked, **“The Congress nearly failed to pass a continuing resolution to extend funding for federal government operations recently: by reaching out to Democrats to pass the continuing resolution, the Speaker Kevin McCarthy lost his role as speaker. Which of the following best captures your views about this event?”** The choices were to hold out for spending cuts by closing government (18%), negotiating with Democrats (28%), or perceiving the event as instigated by extreme Republicans trying to score political points (38%) – another 17% were undecided. Republicans were divided between the first (38%) and second (43%) options, while Democrats were much more likely to favor the last one (63%). See p. 76.

Unions

This question mentioned the **prevalence of strikes in various industries and asked respondents about their views**. These ranged from saying that they were “totally justified and deserve the public’s support” (32%) to “more efforts should be shown by employers and unions to compromise and avoid strikes” (36%) and “union demands are extreme and may cause significant harm to the economy and employers” (20%). Another 12% were unsure. Democrats were more inclined to favor the “totally support” (48%) compared to Republicans (17%); the latter were more inclined to favor the “union demands are extreme” (34%) versus Democrats (9%). See p. 77.

Trump’s Legal Situation

The last question in this section asked, “**Do you think that efforts to prosecute former President Donald Trump are mainly...Meant to hold him accountable for various crimes, or meant to disrupt his campaign and prevent him from running effectively for president?**” Half of the respondents agreed with the “hold him accountable” stance, with 39% favoring “disrupt his campaign” position. Strong partisan polarization was found: 82% of Democrats favored “hold him accountable” while 82% of Republicans felt that it was “to disrupt his campaign.” See p. 78.

Open-ended reactions to these questions are found in Appendix H for immigration, and Appendix I for comments relevant to other questions discussed above.

International Issues: China, Russia, Military Strength, Climate Change, Ukraine, Israel

Benchmark International Questions

The spring 2023 survey included a battery of questions last asked in spring 2022 about the seriousness of certain foreign/global issues – these were repeated in the fall 2023 survey.

The **threat posed by China** has been steadily rising as a very serious problem, moving from 53% to 67% over the course of the three surveys. The **perception of Russia as a threat** was very high just after the invasion of Ukraine – captured by the 78% score in the spring 2022 survey. However, just six months later perceptions had changed such that scores fell into the mid-50 percent range, despite the ongoing war and the dependency of Ukraine on US military and humanitarian aid. The fall 2023 score was 55%. Partisan divisions on this issue were very small.

There was no change in the percentage saying “very serious” for **climate change** holding exactly constant over all three surveys (48%). Very sharp partisan differences were found – in fall 2023, 76% of Democrats said “very serious” while only 13% of Republicans did.

The percentage found for the question about “**focus more on domestic matters within the United States and less with foreign relations**” was 51% last spring and remained unchanged this fall. See pp. 79-83.

Aid to Ukraine

A question first asked last spring focused on **the amount of financial and military aid the Biden administration is providing to Ukraine**. There was virtually no difference between the results from six months ago and the current results: A plurality said “too much” (39% fall, 35% spring), with 30% saying “right amount” both times and another 16% (15% last spring) saying “too little.” A large percentage were unsure (16%, 19%). There was some partisanship at play, since 44% (45% last spring) of Democrats said “about right” compared to only 15% (both surveys) of Republicans. There was a decrease in the percentage of Democrats saying “too much” (from 30% to 21%) implying that the scope of support for Ukraine isn’t limited to partisan affiliations. See pp. 84-85.

Israel and Hamas

The first question in this section asked, “**How much do you blame the escalation of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict upon the following:** Israel, Hamas, Palestinians as a whole, Iran. The answer choices were “none or very little,” “some,” and “quite a bit.” Combining the “some” and “quite a bit” answers, Israel (62%) was close to the score obtained by “Palestinians as a whole” (71%). Hamas (95%) and Iran (87%) received very high “blame” scores. There were stark partisan divisions on this issue, with Democrats (74%) about twice as likely to at least partly blame Israel as Republicans (39%). By contrast, Republicans were somewhat more likely to blame “Palestinians as a whole” (83%) compared to Democrats (67%).

Another question focused on policy goals to be emphasized by the United States.

When asked “**Thinking about U.S. policy toward the Middle East, which of these should be the most important goal:** protect Israel, find a negotiated solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and avoid getting involved in any way in Middle East conflicts” there were clear partisan divisions. About one quarter (26%) favored the “protect Israel” option, but this only included 15% of Democrats compared to 41% of Republicans. The option of finding a negotiated solution reversed the percentages as 69% of Democrats favored this compared to only 35% of Republicans. Only a few (14%) favored the “avoid getting involved in any way” option, but Republicans (16%) were more numerous than were Democrats (9%).

There is an open-ended section for these questions (Appendix J). See pp. 86-89 for the main analysis.

Politics Section: Elections, Voting Preferences, Job Approval, Trust in Parties

“Stolen elections”

There was a repetition of a question asked the last few surveys about whether respondents felt the **2020 presidential elections had been “stolen” from Trump**. The range of those agreeing that the election had been stolen was between 26% in spring 2021 to only 15% in fall 2022. This fall, the percentage rose a bit (21%) from last spring (17%). See pp. 90-94.

2024 Presidential Elections: Biden or Trump in 2024?

The survey included a presidential “horserace” question **posing Joe Biden and Donald Trump as the two likely candidates for 2024**. Joe Biden had (42%) a 9-point lead over Donald Trump (33%). This was 7-points lower than the 16% who said that they voted for Biden in 2020 over Trump. This was partly explained by the large number of Democrats who said that they would vote for a third-party candidate (12%) or “probably wouldn’t vote” (4%).

See Appendix K for open-ended answers. See pp. 95-97 for the main analysis.

Job Approval for the President, Governor and County Executive

The survey has asked about job approval for major executive positions for many years.

President: Joe Biden’s approval had dropped last spring to just 41% from 50% in fall 2022 but climbed a bit to 43% this fall. (See p. 98-100.) See Appendix L for open-ended comments about Biden’s job approval.

Governor: This year we transitioned from former Governor Larry Hogan to Governor Wes Moore and now have had a second view at Moore’s job approval since taking office. It wasn’t surprising that his score for spring 2023 (49%) was considerably lower than Hogan’s last fall (75%) since Moore was still new to his position. His “no answer” percentage (27%) was much higher than Hogan’s last fall (10%). Moreover, Hogan could count on the automatic support of

most Republicans and many unaffiliated, something that would come harder to Democrat Moore. This fall his job approval rose to 56%. This seems mostly due to more respondents having an opinion (fewer undecideds) and to increases in approval scores from Democrats (71% spring, 83% fall) and unaffiliateds (29%/48%). See Appendix M for open-ended comments about Moore's job approval. See pp. 101-103 for the main analysis.

County Executive: Stuart Pittman's approval score has been limited to a very narrow band over the last two years, with a low of 42% and a high of 47%. For fall 2023, his score was on the higher end of the range – 46%. See Appendix N for open-ended comments and pp. 104-106 for the main analysis.

Job Approval for County Council, Board of Education, Maryland General Assembly, Congress and the Supreme Court: The survey included job approval questions for four legislative bodies: the Anne Arundel County Council (up from 46% to 48% “approve”); the Maryland General Assembly (up from 36% to 42%); the Board of Education (up to 38% from 27%); and Congress whose approve score was essentially unchanged at 14% from 15% last spring. For the Supreme Court, moved up a bit from 31% last spring to 36%. As in the past when there have been big partisan gaps on the court's job approval, this fall there was a 44-point gap between Democrats (19%) and Republicans (63%) pointing to strong partisan polarization regarding the Supreme Court. See Appendix O for open-ended comments about other institutions' job approval and pp. 107-111 for the main analysis.

Trust in Political Parties: There was a 10-point gap favoring the Democrats on “**which party do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems that nation faces over the next few years?**” Comparing the performance of the two parties over time, there have been some sharp oscillations on the Republican side with scores as low as 23% and as high as 39%. The current value – 30% - is near that party's typical score range over the last three years. Democrats have shown less variation in trust levels, ranging from 32% to 42%. The current score – 40% - is a 6-point improvement from last fall and is as wide a gap (10 percentage points) between itself and the Republicans in some time (see pp. 112).

Appendices for Questionnaire Open-ended and Comments: Note that some questions had an opportunity for open-ended responses – these are included in appendices whose page numbers are listed below.

The questionnaire with frequency distributions (Appendix A) starts on page 113.

Appendices	Pages
Appendix A: Questionnaire with frequency distributions	113-133
Appendix B: Comments about “Most Important Problem”	134
Appendix C: Comments about COVID	135-140
Appendix D: Comments about Public Schools Issues	141-148
Appendix E: Comments about Public Schools – Redistricting	149-152
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Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 586 county residents who were at least 18 years old. Interviewing was conducted online primarily using a database of members of the AACC/CSLI web panel who have been recruited when conducting previous telephone interviews. The survey was in the field from October 20 to 30. There was about a 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, council district and education to better represent the general population. Students participated in the selection of topics and analysis of results as well as respondents to the survey. There was also outreach to other residents through the assistance of the EyeOnAnnapolis.com.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 (office) or 443-906-0153 (cell - preferred) and ddnataf@aacc.edu.

This press release can be obtained at <https://www2.aacc.edu/csli/AACC-Community-Survey-Fall-2023-Press-Release.pdf>. For all other press releases see www2.aacc.edu/csli.

Detailed Review of Survey Findings

The Most Important Problem Facing Residents – Crime and Development Top the List

Before fall 2020, surveys 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 for several iterations of the survey, a change was made allowing respondents to offer the *two* most important problems. Table 1 shows the pattern of survey results over the last five periods since the start of this new format.

**Table 1: Most Important Problems Facing County Residents
(Ranked by Fall '23 Minus Spring '22)**

Problem	Fall '21	Spring '22	Fall '22	Spring '23	Fall '23	Fall '23 – Spring '23	Avg.
Crime (other than drug related)	13	26	27	24	36	12	25
Taxes – too high	12	17	16	13	19	6	15
Government ethics – corrupt, immoral	5	8	4	4	7	3	6
Government lacks resources –for roads, schools, services	4	6	6	3	5	2	5
Coronavirus – spread, treatment, testing	35	14	6	2	3	1	12
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	22	19	32	22	23	1	24
Government waste – inefficient, spends too much	7	9	9	8	9	1	8
Racism, hate crimes, discrimination	6	7	5	4	5	1	5
Education , problems with schools, quality, facilities, staff, discipline	24	20	23	19	18	-1	21
Transportation problems/traffic congestion, lack of public transit	10	15	10	16	14	-2	13
Drugs (use or sale of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or use of prescription painkillers for non-medical purposes.)	9	20	19	21	19	-2	18
Healthcare (cost, access)	7	6	7	10	8	-2	8
Housing cost	11	16	13	20	17	-3	15
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	13	10	7	13	9	-4	10
Childcare service – access, affordable	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	7	3	-4	5
Growth/overpopulation- too much development, poorly planned	16	17	18	22	16	-6	18
No answer, don't know	1	2	2	3	3	0	2
Other answer - write in: (See Appendix B)	2	3	3	2	2	0	2

Note: Unless otherwise stated, all numeric values in the tables are percentages.

Table 1 and Graph 1 show that concern about COVID-19 has diminished with it now being rated in the low single digits (3% this fall).

Given the combination of now asking about the *two* most important problems and the decline in concern with COVID-19, it is clear that many other issues have risen in importance.

Since spring 2022, crime has been near or at the top of the list. With the highest average score over the period (25%), it jumped in fall 2023 from 24% to 36% - a 12-point increase. A partner concern about illegal drugs did not show much change from spring to fall, a two-point decrease from 21% to 19% with a mean of 18%. Combined, the two items obtained about one-half of the total expressed concern: 54% this fall.

The economy continued to be a top-ranked issue with a mean score of 24% - shy of crime by just a single point. There was very little change from last spring. Other economy related items also showed limited change: housing cost remained a strong concern (15%) but dropped 3-points from spring. Concern over taxes rose 6-points from last spring and was among the overall leaders with a mean score of 15%. Finally, healthcare (which mentioned access and cost) was relatively low among the set of economy-related items at 8%, a 2-point drop (mean of 8%).

Another cluster of issues focused on growth and infrastructure. The concern with too much development and/or poor planning was a top item with an overall mean of 18%, although it dropped 6 points this fall from 22% to 16%. A related item was transportation – which also dropped a bit from last spring (16% to 14%), with a mean of 13%. Finally, the environment as a choice could be associated with the growth complex. It too dropped in importance this fall, from 13% to 9%. Its overall mean score of 10% places it in the mid-tier of concerns.

Finally, the last issue with a double-digit presence was education with a mean of 21%. It dropped a bit from last spring from 19% to 18%. All other issues were in the single digits.

Graph 1: Most Important Problems Fall 2021 to Fall 2023

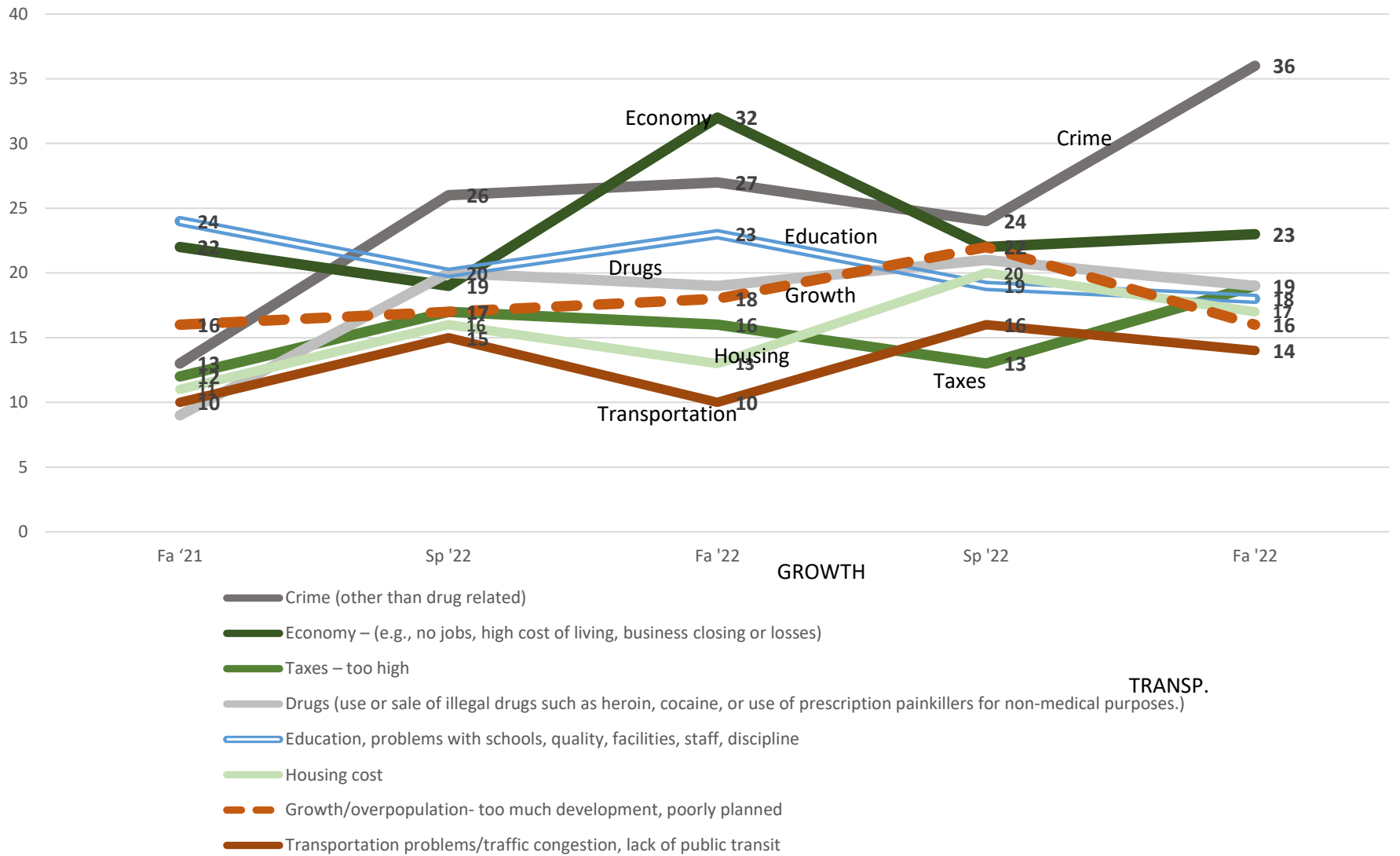


Table 2 lists all the items and ranks them by the percentage point difference between Democratic and Republican scores. For the most part, the largest differences varied along liberal/conservative lines, with Democrats much more likely to highlight issues like transportation, housing cost, the environment, racism, and healthcare. By contrast, Republicans were more likely to focus on the prevalence of government waste, illegal drugs, government ethnics and especially taxes – which had the greatest percentage point difference between Republicans and Democrats next to housing cost.

Table 2: Partisan Differences for “Most Important Problem” Fall 2023

Problem	Fall '23 Overall	Dem	Rep	Dem-Rep	Unaffil.
Housing cost	17	22	5	17	30
Transportation (problems/traffic congestion, lack of public transit)	14	18	4	12	15
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	9	14	4	10	5
Racism, hate crimes, discrimination	5	8	0	8	3
Healthcare (cost, access)	8	9	2	7	12
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	23	22	18	4	31
Childcare service – access, affordable	3	4	2	2	4
Coronavirus (spread, treatment, testing)	3	3	2	1	2
Government lacks resources (for roads, schools, services)	5	3	4	-1	9
Growth/overpopulation (too much development, poorly planned)	16	14	18	-4	16
Crime (other than drug related)	36	36	42	-6	32
Government ethics (corrupt, immoral)	7	3	12	-8	7
Education (problems with schools, quality, facilities, staff, discipline)	18	14	23	-10	15
Drugs (use or sale of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or use of prescription pain killers for non-medical purposes.)	19	16	26	-10	16
Government waste (inefficient, spends too much)	9	5	18	-13	6
Taxes – too high	19	14	27	-13	18

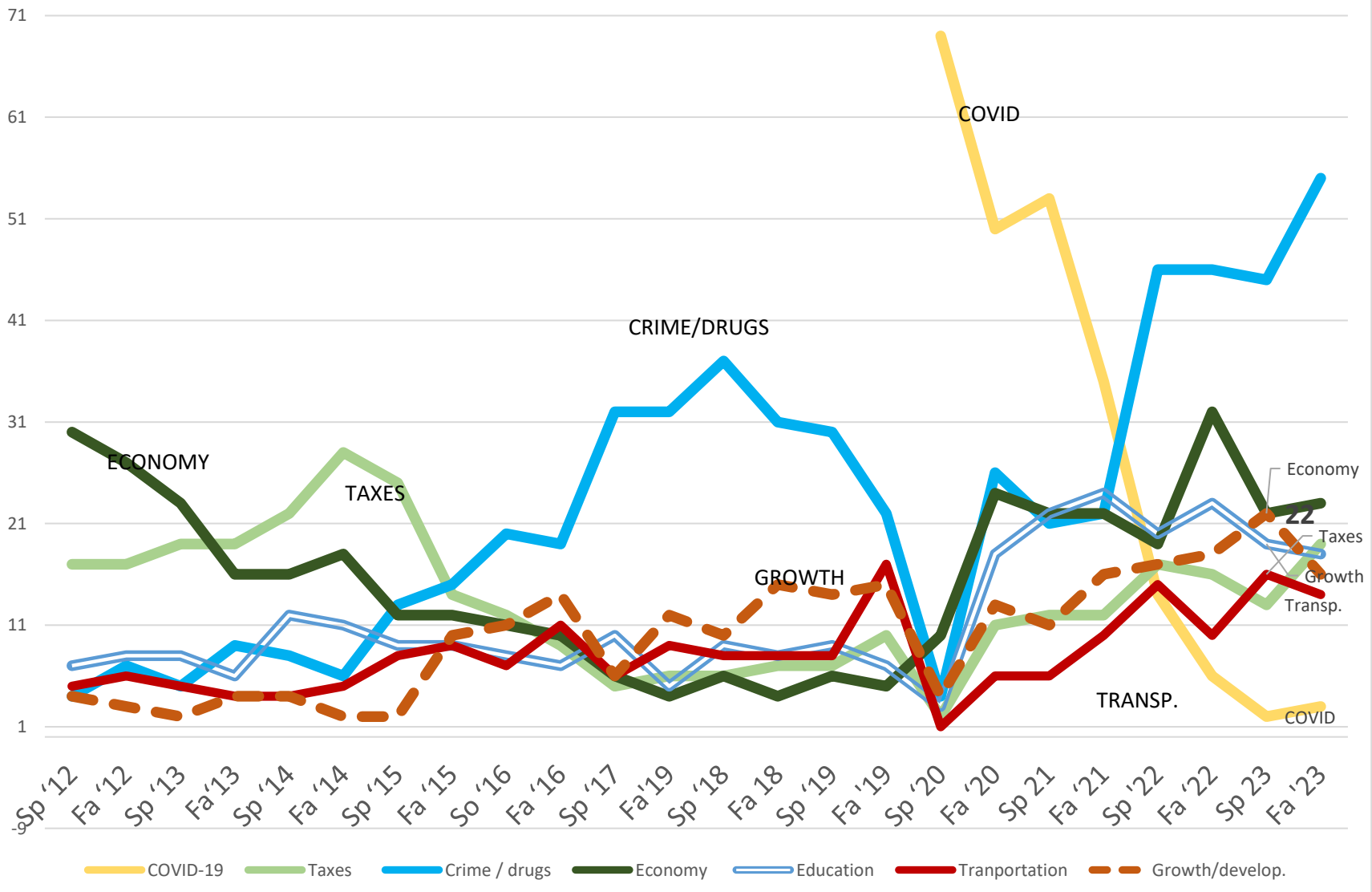
Table 3 shows the “most important problem” time-series in tabular format. Graph 2 highlights the same data visually. Some respondents mentioned other problems as their most important one - see Appendix B.

Table 3: “Most Important Problem Facing Residents” – Fall 2012 to Fall 2023¹

	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	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sap '23	Fa '23
COVID-19																69	50	53	35	14	6	2	3
Taxes	17	19	19	22	28	25	14	12	9	5	6	6	7	7	10	2	11	12	12	17	16	13	19
Crime / drugs*	7	5	9	8	6	13	15	20	19	32	32	37	31	30	22	4	26	21	22	46	46	45	55
Economy	27	23	16	16	18	12	12	11	10	6	4	6	4	6	5	10	24	22	22	19	32	22	23
Education	8	8	6	12	11	9	9	8	7	10	5	9	8	9	7	3	18	22	24	20	23	19	18
Transp.	6	5	4	4	5	8	9	7	11	6	9	8	8	8	17	1	6	6	10	15	10	16	14
Growth / development	3	2	4	4	2	2	10	11	14	6	12	10	15	14	15	4	13	11	16	17	18	22	16

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 a possible reduction of the value of “economy” insofar as housing would have been inserted within the economy percentage.

Graph 2: Selected Most Important Problems - Fall 2012 to Fall 2023



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 AACC/CSLI 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 4 and Graph 3 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?”

Judging by the results shown in Table 4, the negative impact on “right direction” scores that accompanied the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has been long-lasting, despite the erosion of concern about the disease and how it was handled by government.

While just as the pandemic was emerging in spring 2020, the right direction score was at a near all-time high of 59%; six months later it was 41%. Over the next three years, right direction scores have hovered around 40%; what used to be double digit differences between right and wrong direction scores have narrowed to only single digits since fall 2020.

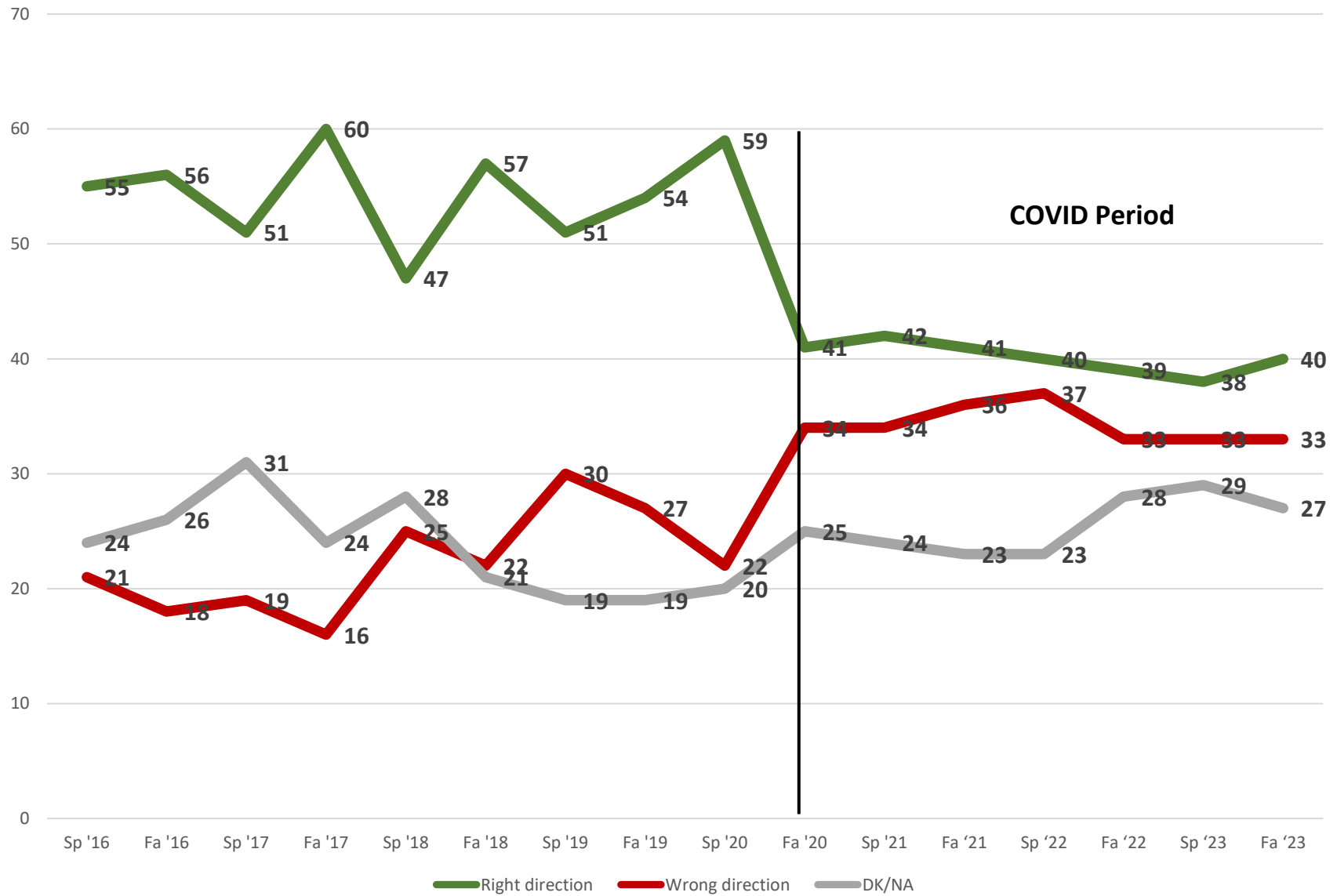
Graph 3 is especially vivid in depicting the dramatic fall in “right direction” perceptions that accompanied the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic.

² The Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) has conducted these surveys from 1980 to 2022 – the text might make references to previous surveys refer to “CSLI surveys” before the AACC/CSLI moniker was adopted.

Table 4: Anne Arundel County - Right vs. Wrong Direction Spring 2016 to Fall 2023

	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Fa '17	Sp '18	Fa '18	Sp '19	Fa '19	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Avg.
Right direction	55	56	51	60	47	57	51	54	59	41	42	41	40	39	38	40	48
Wrong direction	21	18	19	16	25	22	30	27	22	34	34	36	37	33	33	33	28
DK/NA	24	26	31	24	28	21	19	19	20	25	24	23	23	28	29	27	24
Right-wrong	34	38	32	44	22	35	21	27	37	7	8	5	3	6	5	7	21
Total	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Graph 3: County Right Direction - Spring 2016 to Fall 2023



Finally, looking at the relationship between party or ideology and the right direction scores for the county reveals what might be expected: Democrats (56%) – especially those who claimed to be “strong Democrats” (68%) – and very/somewhat liberals (57%, 67%) were much more inclined to say that the county was heading in the right direction than were Republicans (21%), with “strong Republicans (10%) and conservatives (very 10%, somewhat 21%) especially pessimistic about the county’s direction. The results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Party and Ideology with County Right Direction, Spring 2022 to Fall 2023

	Right %			
	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023
Registered political party				
Democrat	58	50	57	56
Republican	20	26	28	21
Unaffiliated	24	38	16	35
Democrats (Strength of affiliation)				
Strong Democrat	72	76	68	68
Somewhat strong Democrat	50	38	58	54
Not strong Democrat	30	15	20	24
Republicans (Strength of affiliation)				
Strong Republican	9	14	6	10
Somewhat strong Republican	17	27	16	21
Not strong Republican	47	42	60	51
Ideology				
Very liberal	62	62	75	57
Somewhat liberal	57	56	57	67
<i>Moderate</i> (only a single “moderate” position)	44	43	38	43
Somewhat conservative	23	16	13	21
Very conservative	2	15	2	10

Table 6 shows the relationship between partisanship and the direction of the county for eight surveys: fall 2019, fall 2020, spring/fall 2021, spring/fall 2022, and spring/fall 2023. Looking first at the Democrats, the highest right direction score was prior to the COVID pandemic – in fall 2019 (64%). Since then, support has gravitated in the mid to high 50 percent levels (55% in fall 2023). Among Republicans, the pattern is similar – the highest score was also in fall 2019 (49%) with most scores since dropping to the mid-20 percent levels, although only 14% said “right direction” in fall 2023.

The bottom line is that the pandemic diminished the population’s perception of “things going right” – with the partisan divide echoing the party in power: in the case of Anne Arundel County, since 2018 the Democrats have held the executive and have had a legislative majority in the county council, with Democratic voters thus believing the situation to be much better than Republicans (or unaffiliated) voters.

**Table 6: Party and County's Direction –
Fall 2019, Fall 2020 to Fall 2023**

Direction	Overall								Dem								Rep							
	F19	F20	S21	F21	S22	F22	S23	F23	F19	F20	S21	F21	S22	F22	S23	F23	F19	F20	S21	F21	S22	F22	S23	F23
Right direction	54	41	42	41	40	39	38	40	64	54	59	61	58	50	57	55	49	32	28	24	19	26	28	14
Wrong direction	27	34	34	36	37	33	33	33	18	18	16	18	19	19	19	8	38	46	53	56	64	55	47	59
Unsure	19	25	24	23	23	28	29	27	18	28	25	21	23	31	24	37	14	23	19	20	23	19	25	27

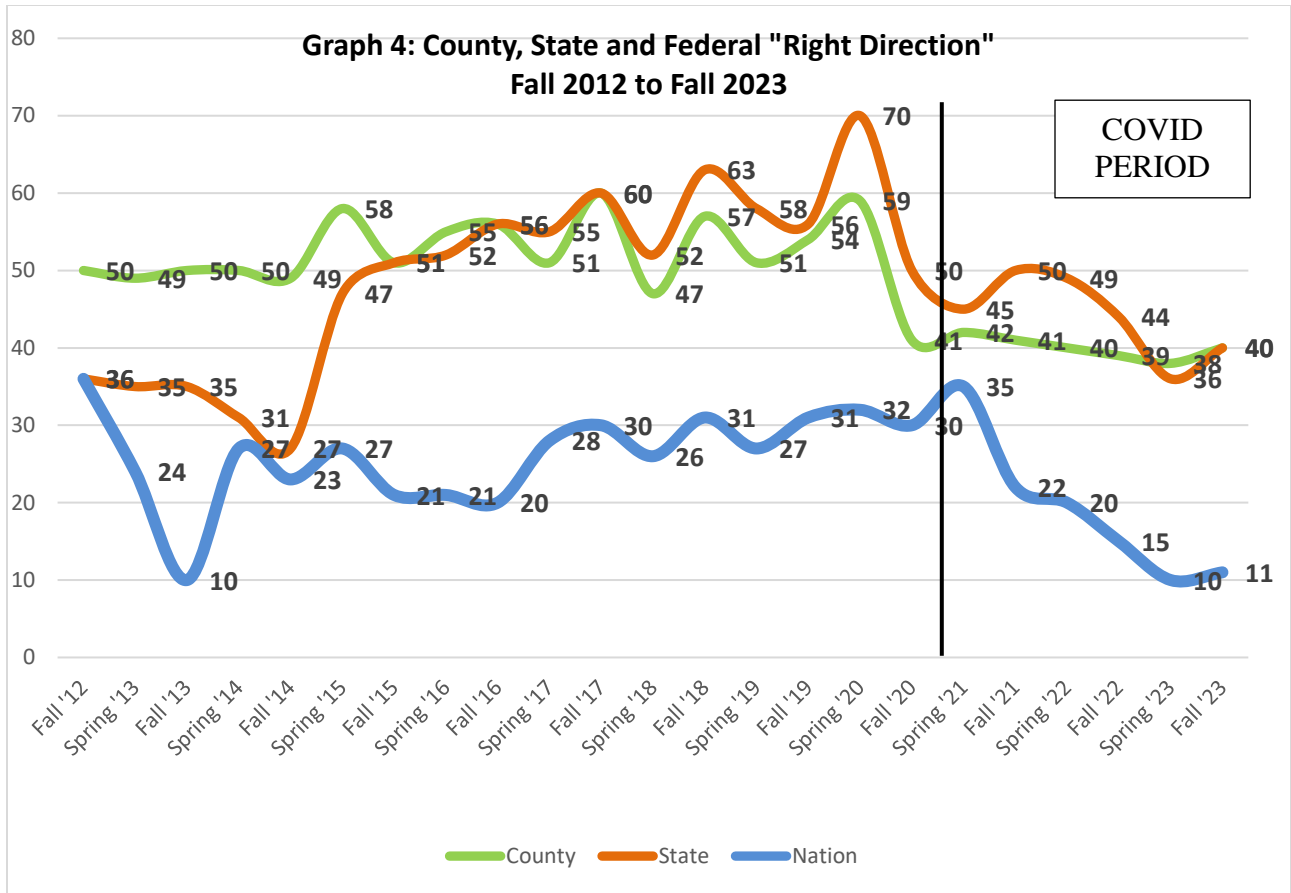
Right Direction: Maryland and United States

Focusing next on the state and nation as shown on Table 7 (which includes the county just for comparison), there was a continuation of the shift in previous patterns with the county now either leading or at parity with the state of Maryland in terms of right direction scores. This was mostly due to the drop in right direction scores for Maryland, coinciding with the replacement of Republican Governor Larry Hogan with Democrat Wes Moore.

The scores for the nation have consistently been much lower than for either the county or the state. In spring 2020, the national score was 27 points lower than for the county and 38 points lower than for the state. By this fall, those values had barely moved: 29 percentage points difference. As Table 7 and Graph 4 show, the fall score for the country (11%) nearly matched the low score from last spring (10%). With Democrats holding the executive, but Republicans taking the House of Representatives – partisans on neither side could claim full control – and thus both sides’ enthusiasm was tempered.

Table 7: Right/Wrong Direction for County, State and Nation, Spring 2020 to Fall 2023

	Right Direction %							Fall 2023			
	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Right	Wrong	Unsure/ D.K.	Total
County	59	41	42	41	40	39	38	40	33	27	100
State	70	50	45	50	49	44	36	40	37	23	100
Nation	32	30	35	22	20	15	10	11	75	13	99

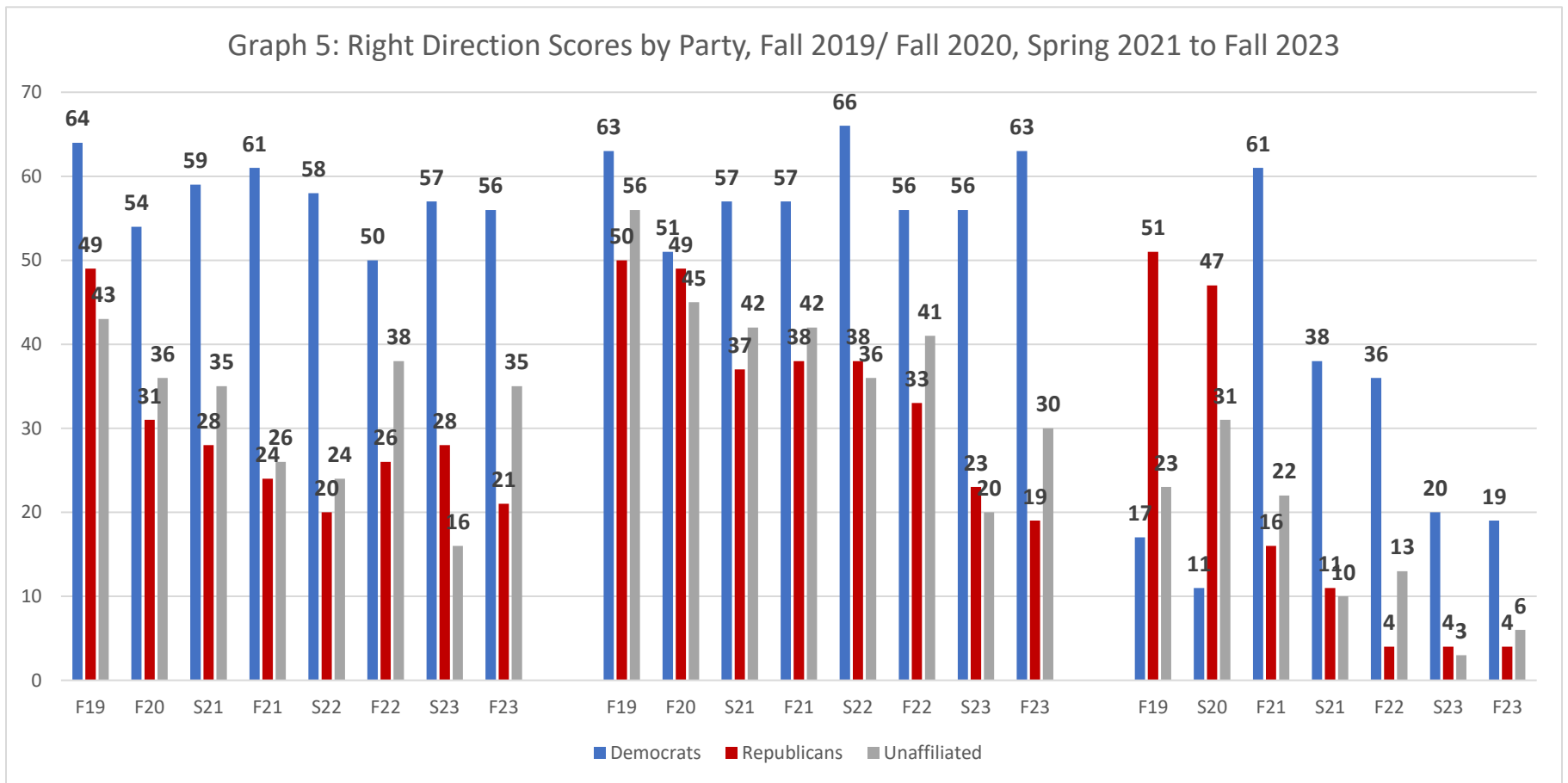


While divided national government may not please either side, Table 8 and Graph 5 show that Democrats have remained more positive about the direction of all levels of government: the state (63% right direction) and the county (56%) as well as the nation (19%) than Republicans (19%, 21%, 4%) or unaffiliated voters (30%, 35%, 6%). Unaffiliated voters seem to have rebounded a bit from their record low scores last spring.

Table 8: Right/Wrong Direction for County, State and Nation by Party Registration, Fall 2019/ Fall 2020, Spring 2021 to Fall 2023

Right direction %=>	County								State								Country						
	F19	F20	S21	F21	S22	F22	S23	F23	F19	F20	S21	F21	S22	F22	S23	F23	F19	F20	S21	F21	S22	F22	F23
Democrats	64	54	59	61	58	50	57	56	63	51	57	57	66	56	56	63	17	11	61	38	36	20	19
Republicans	49	31	28	24	20	26	28	21	50	49	37	38	38	33	23	19	51	47	16	11	4	4	4
Unaffiliated	43	36	35	26	24	38	16	35	56	45	42	42	36	41	20	30	23	31	22	10	13	3	6

Graph 5: Right Direction Scores by Party, Fall 2019/ Fall 2020, Spring 2021 to Fall 2023



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 in Table 8a and Graph 6, there was some positive change in perceptions of the county’s economic conditions: in spring 2023, 49% said either “excellent” or “good” compared to 57% this spring. Given the levels of concern expressed about the economy (such as for inflation), this seems like a surprising finding. Whether this uptick is sustained through next spring remains to be seen. In any case, the pattern holds consistent for all three levels – county, state, and country. After falling in the last three surveys, scores increased across the board, essentially regaining values similar to those in fall 2021.

Finally, when considering the scores for the county and state, the former maintained an advantage. After a period of convergence between county and state scores, a small but consistent advantage for the county has been apparent, this fall reaching 7 points.

National scores have been changing for the better over the last year, up ten points since fall 2022 to 25%, although the absolute value stays much lower than for the state or county.

Table 8a: Perceptions of Anne Arundel County’s Economic Conditions – Fall 2012 to Fall 2023

	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	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Avg
Excel+Good	48	49	53	50	44	57	64	65	60	65	71	68	75	71	73	68	57	54	57	51	51	49	57	59
Excellent	5	3	6	8	4	5	7	8	8	5	9	10	15	12	14	11	7	6	7	7	8	4	6	8
Good	43	46	47	42	40	52	57	57	52	60	62	58	60	59	59	57	50	48	50	44	43	45	51	51
Fair	39	38	35	40	41	33	27	27	34	29	25	27	19	22	20	24	29	38	31	36	36	35	27	31
Poor	12	11	10	9	12	7	6	5	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	4	9	7	9	10	12	15	13	7
Don’t know	2	3	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	4	5	2	3	3	2	2	3	3
Total	101	101	101	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99	100	100	101	100	100	101	101	100	100

Graph 6: County, State, Country - Rating of Economic Conditions, Excellent+Good Percentages, Spring 2009 to Fall 2023

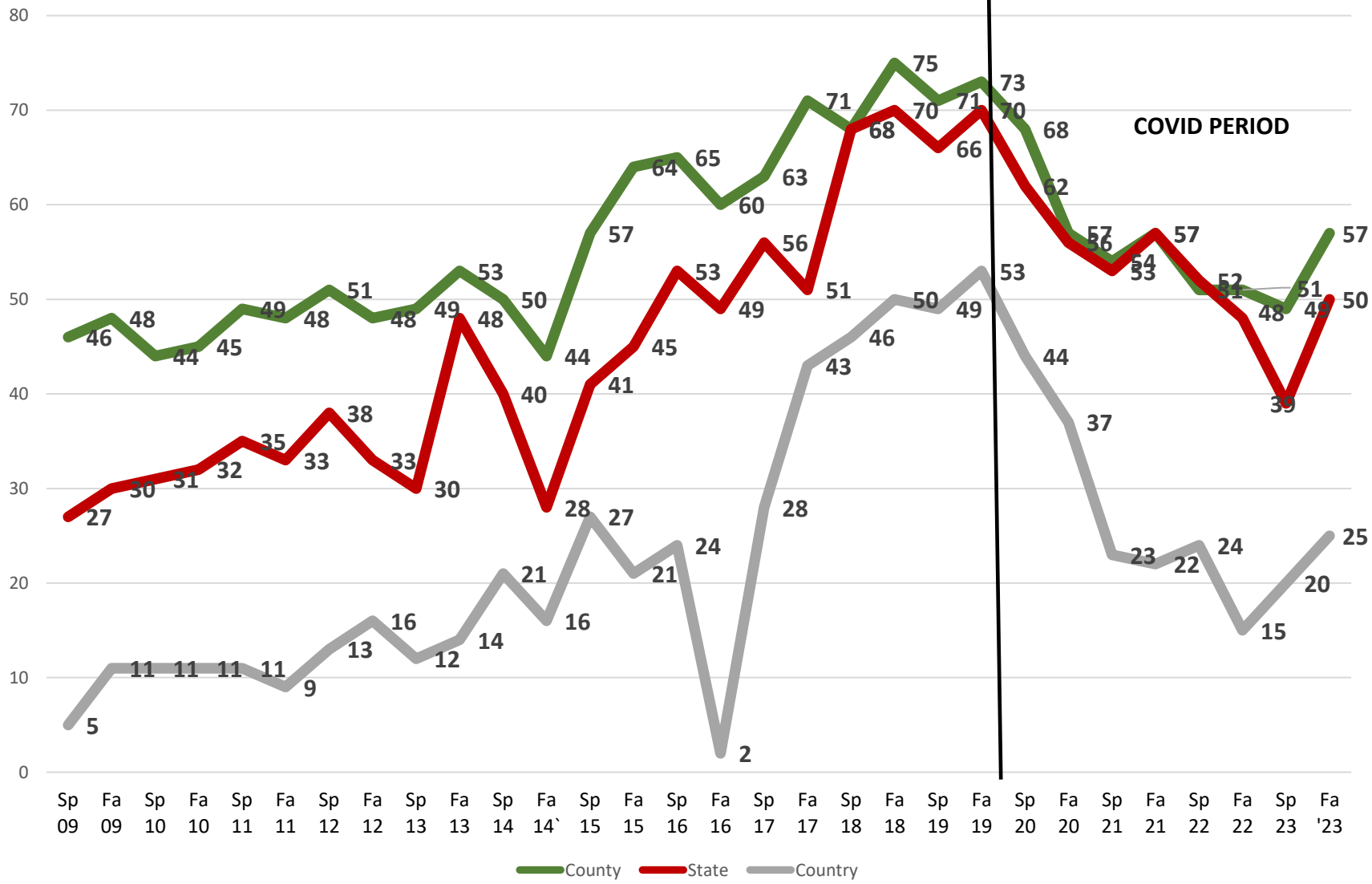


Table 9 shows that the fall 2023 results for the county were mixed among party categories. Democrats remained relatively bullish (70% excellent+good) about the local economy – the highest score since fall 2019. Results for Republicans were flat, remaining at 47%. There was another sign of extreme fluidity among unaffiliated voters, after falling to 31% in spring 2023, that figure rebounded to 51% in fall 2023. Judging by the scores among the last seven surveys for this category, high scores have been consistently in the 50 percent plus range, so this seems to be a reversion to that pattern.

**Table 9: Economy as Excellent+Good by Party Registration –
Anne Arundel County, Fall 2019, Fall 2020-Fall 2023**

	Excellent+Good								
	Fa '19	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fall 23 - Spring 2023
Democrats	71	55	59	63	60	59	62	70	8
Republicans	79	62	55	52	42	38	47	47	0
Unaffiliated	73	56	46	53	40	53	31	51	20

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.

As shown on Table 10, the combined “excellent+good” score for fall 2023 was up eleven points to 50% and was the best showing since spring 2022. It was still down ten points from spring 2020, before the start of the main COVID-19 period.

Table 11 shows that there remain notable differences in perceptions of the state economy along partisan grounds. Improvements were visible across all three partisan categories, with Democrats continuing to be relatively optimistic about the state’s economy at 70, up 13-points since last spring and reaching the highest level since spring 2022.

Republicans and unaffiliated were also both up, although with much greater variability among the latter group (up 18-points) than among the former (up six-points)

Table 10: Perceptions of State Economic Conditions –Fall 2013 to Fall 2023

	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	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Avg.
Excellent+good	40	40	28	41	45	53	49	56	63	63	70	66	70	62	55	50	57	52	48	39	50	52
Excellent	4	4	1	3	2	5	5	3	4	6	11	9	10	10	6	3	6	7	3	4	4	5
Good	36	36	27	38	43	48	44	53	59	57	59	57	60	52	49	47	51	45	45	35	46	47
Fair	36	40	40	39	41	36	39	34	29	29	24	25	22	28	32	40	31	34	37	37	29	33
Poor	21	18	30	16	11	9	9	7	4	5	4	5	5	6	9	7	9	11	12	20	17	11
Don't know	4	2	2	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	4	3
Total	101	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99	99	100	100	100	100	99	99	100	100

Table 11: Economy as Excellent+Good by Party Registration – Maryland, Fall 2019, Fall 2020 to Fall 2023

	Excellent+Good								
	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Fall 2023 - Spring 2023
Democrats	69	47	55	62	70	57	57	70	13
Republicans	73	67	49	50	41	32	28	34	6
Unaffiliated	68	45	48	42	36	50	25	43	18

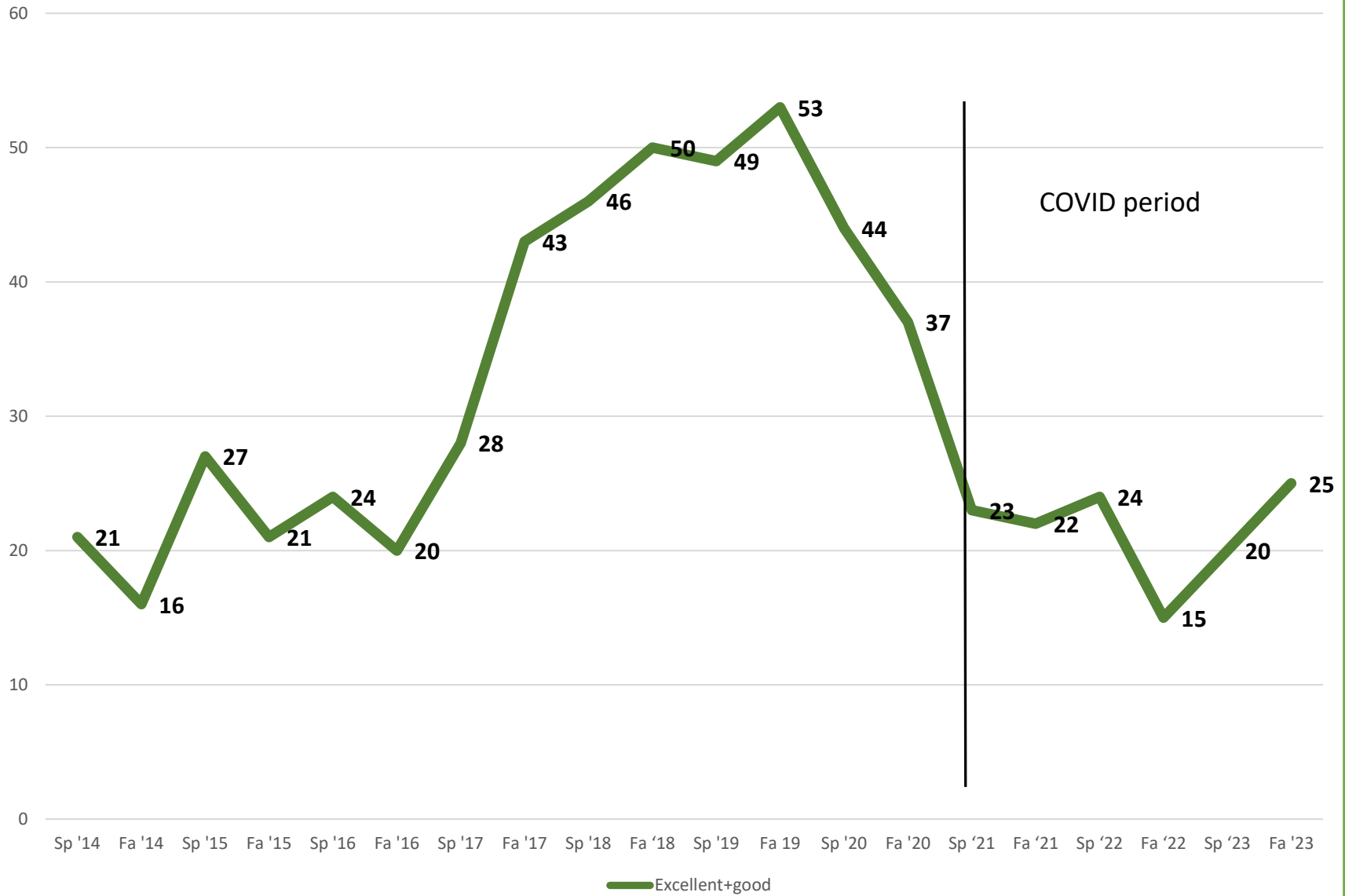
Rating Economic Conditions –The National Economy

As shown on Graph 6, the appraisal of the *national* economy has always lagged significantly behind both the *county* and *state*. For this spring, Graph 7 and Table 12 show that there was some positive change – a five-point increase in excellent+good scores from 20 to 25%. The COVID period has essentially paralleled the situation prior to 2017 when economic perceptions hovered in a similar range as during the recent past.

Looking at the results by party registration on Graph 8, it is clear that Republicans enjoyed the economy as it performed under then President Trump – with fall 2019 gaining a score of 72%. One year later, the decline in percentages was already apparent, as the Republican score dipped to 59%. The first poll after President Biden had taken over highlighted the darkened view of the economy held by Republicans as the score declined dramatically to only 24%. In fall 2023, Republicans offered their lowest score yet: 8%. This was only slightly worse than that for unaffiliateds at 13%.

Unsurprisingly, Democrats held consistently lower scores during the Trump period – 32 points lower than Republicans in fall 2019 and 37 points lower in fall 2020 prior to the 2020 presidential elections. Fall 2023 was the first time that Democrats' total (42%) was higher than it was in fall 2019 (40%) when Donald Trump was still in office.

Graph 7: National Economic Conditions - Excellent+Good, Spring 2014 to Fall 2023



Graph 8: National Economic "Excellent+Good" Score by Party - Fall 2019 to Fall 2023

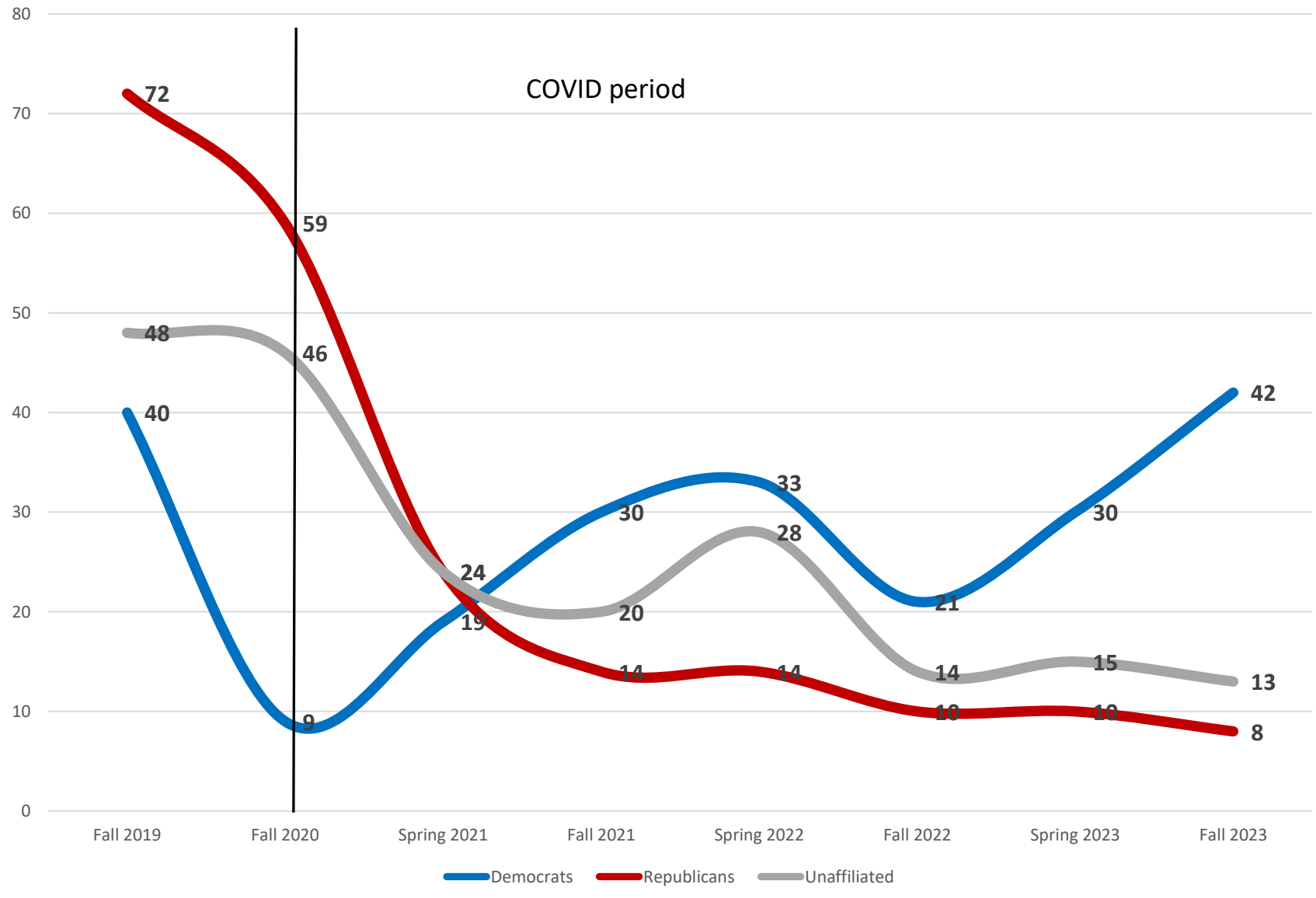


Table 12: Perceptions of National Economic Conditions– Fall 2014 to Fall 2023

	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	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Avg.
Excellent+ Good	16	27	21	24	20	28	43	46	50	49	53	44	37	23	22	24	15	20	25	31
Excellent	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	7	13	12	16	9	8	2	2	3	1	2	3	5
Good	15	24	20	23	19	27	40	39	37	37	37	35	28	21	20	21	14	18	22	26
Fair	42	32	40	40	38	46	40	36	33	33	30	31	30	45	38	37	39	35	32	37
Poor	40	37	36	34	40	23	17	17	13	16	12	20	32	27	36	36	45	41	40	30
Don't know	2	4	3	2	3	4	1	2	3	3	5	6	3	4	3	3	2	3	3	3
Total	100	100	100	100	101	101	101	101	99	101	100	101	101	100	99	100	101	99	100	100

Table 13: Economy as Excellent+Good by Party Registration – USA, Fall 2019 to Fall 2023

	Excellent+Good								
	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Fall '23-Spring '23
Democrats	40	9	19	30	33	21	30	42	12
Republicans	72	59	24	14	14	10	10	8	-2
Unaffiliated	48	46	24	20	28	14	15	13	-2

As mentioned above and shown on Table 12 and Graph 7, the national economy’s level seems to closely follow the recent decline in “right direction” scores, hovering at between 15-20% in “excellent+good” scores overall.

As shown on Table 13 and Graph 8, 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%. The latter’s current score has for the first time exceeded that score (42%) with Democrat Joe Biden as president.

Since the switch in administrations in 2021, it is not surprising to find Republicans to be the least optimistic so that by spring 2021, their score had dropped 48 points from fall 2019. That drop has continued to a point where the score is a full 64 points lower than the high point in fall 2019 – at just 8%. Among unaffiliated voters, the pattern is somewhere in between the Democratic and Republican scores, but leaning more closely to the lower Republican scores.

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?”

As displayed in Table 14, for the most part, there has not been much change since spring 2023. There was a modest rise in the “improve” (3%) and “stay the same” (3%) scores, but overall, the absolute values were near the bottom of the range starting in spring 2020. As in the past, much of the variance appears to emerge from the percentage of those saying “unsure.”

Table 14: Expectations for National Economy – Spring 2020 to Fall 2023

	Scores								
	Spring 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Fa '23-Sp '23
Improve	41	46	40	22	29	32	20	23	3
Stay the same	23	16	20	24	18	18	18	21	3
Worse	27	17	34	49	54	50	55	46	-9
Unsure	9	21	6	6	0	0	7	10	3
Total	100	100	100	101	101	100	100	100	

As was shown in the discussion about *perceptions* of the national economy, no political category was optimistic; regarding national economic *expectations* Table 15 shows the same to be true – the highest “improve” score was among Democrats at only 32% - largely unchanged from last spring (33%). Generally, changes were small among Republicans (up to 14% from 12%) and unaffiliated (down to 12% from 18%).

Table 15: National Economic Expectations by Party - Fall 2022 to Fall 2023

	Democrats			Republicans			Unaffiliated		
	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Improve	36	33	32	19	12	14	31	18	12
Stay the same	25	25	26	11	11	15	18	16	23
Worse	39	41	31	70	77	64	51	66	51
Unsure, DK	--	--	11	--	--	7	--	--	14
Total	100	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Concern for Specific Economic Conditions Related to the National Economy

One year ago, the spring 2022 survey included a new section relevant to the national economy focusing on respondents’ perceptions of factors such as inflation, unemployment, federal deficits and others when thinking about aspects of the national economy. Respondents were asked to say whether they were very, somewhat or not very concerned about the factors identified in Table 16. Graph 9 displays results for the last four surveys. Note that the spring 2023 survey added “excessive private debt” as a new category.

Table 16: Concern About Economic Factors – Spring 2022 to Fall 2023

	Very concerned				Somewhat concerned				Not very concerned				Unsure/don't know			
	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Inflation	58	71	69	67	36	25	28	28	4	2	3	4	2	1	1	0
Unemployment	22	24	20	26	36	40	45	37	41	36	34	35	1	1	1	2
Business climate	22	31	29	26	50	46	47	49	24	18	20	16	4	5	4	9
Federal government debt and deficit	49	56	47	59	30	25	33	28	18	18	18	10	3	1	2	3
Rate of economic growth	29	39	31	34	52	41	46	46	16	17	16	15	3	3	4	5
Excessive private debt	N.A.	N.A.	31	32	N.A.	N.A.	43	41	N.A.	N.A.	21	20	N.A.	N.A.	6	7

As Table 16 demonstrates, the concern for inflation was unabated, with 67% saying that they were “very concerned” – essentially unchanged from last fall (69%). Among the other items, federal debt/deficit was the second most cited item, with a very concerned score of 59%, up 12 points from last spring, but staying in the range of 50-60 percent over the course of the last four surveys.

Overall, there wasn’t much change in scores for other items, with only concern for unemployment showing some rise from 20% to 26%.

Graph 9: "Very Concerned" About Various Economic Conditions - Spring 2022 to Spring 2023

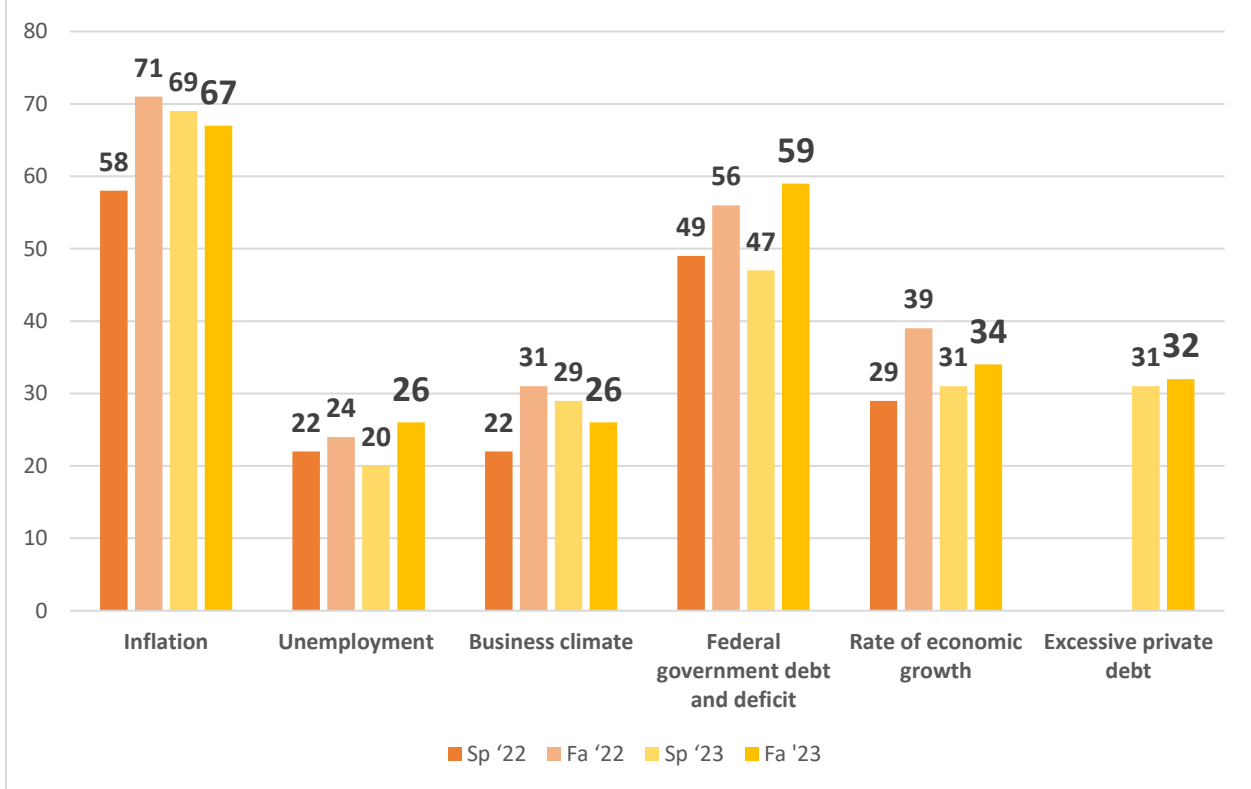


Table 17: Economic Expectations by Party "Very Concerned" Percentage Spring '22 to Fall '23

	Democrats				Republicans				Unaffiliated			
	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Inflation	40	53	54	53	79	83	83	86	69	71	82	70
Unemployment	17	23	21	24	25	18	16	26	24	21	21	33
Business climate	14	24	22	15	32	30	29	39	26	29	40	29
Federal debt/deficit	29	36	26	41	76	76	65	82	62	51	64	66
Rate of economic growth	14	31	15	17	42	45	50	52	44	30	52	45
Excessive private debt	N.A.	N.A.	25	28	N.A.	N.A.	32	31	N.A.	N.A.	40	43

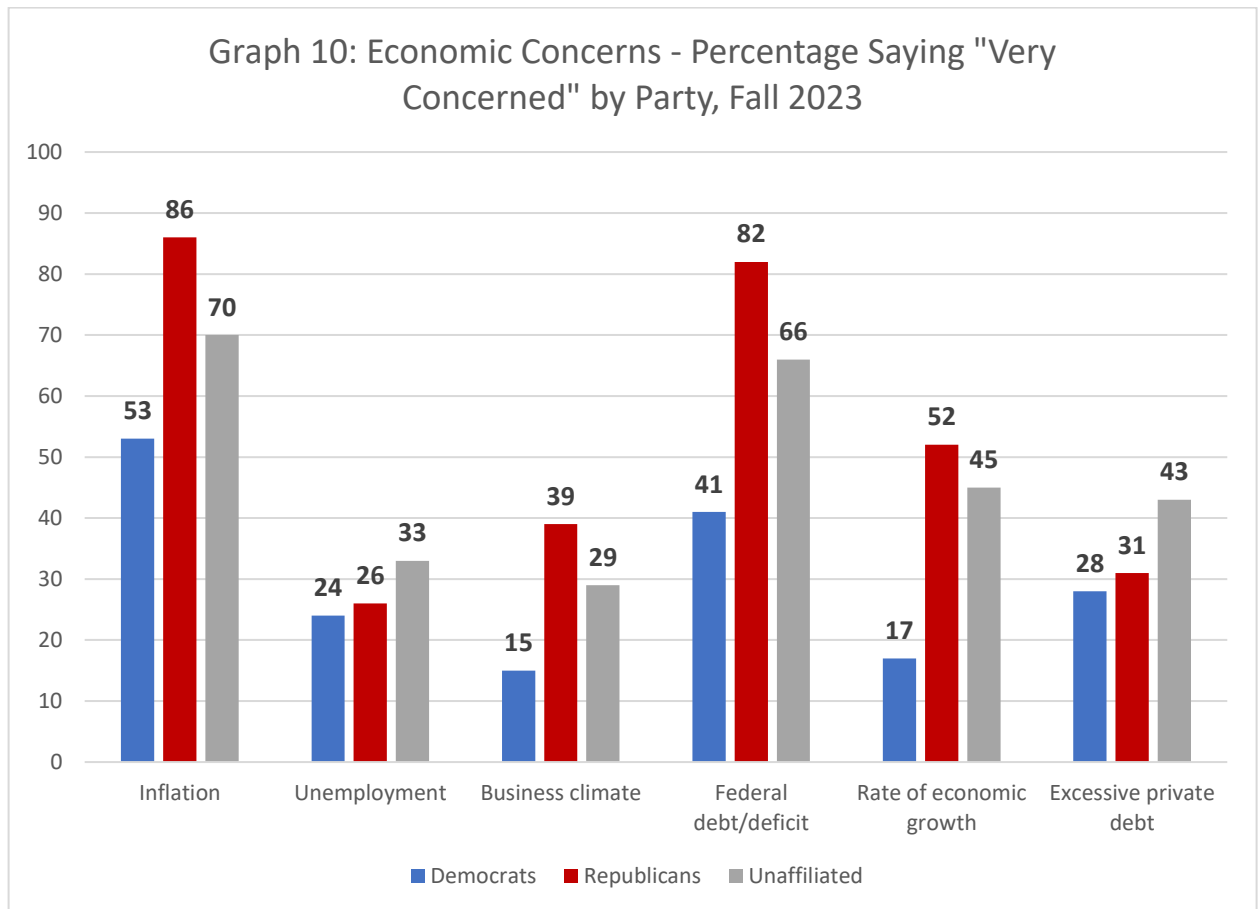
Looking at partisan divides on Table 17, among Democrats there was no real change in percentages saying "very concerned" about inflation and unemployment. There was a sizable increase in concern about federal debt (from 26% last spring to 41% this fall). Other than

inflation and federal debt/deficit, the range of scores among Democrats was very small: 15 to 28 percent saying “very concerned.”

As shown in Table 17, for Republicans, levels of concern were higher for several items such as unemployment (from 16% last spring to 26% in fall), business climate (29%, 39%) and federal debt/deficit (65%, 82%). Pronounced differences with Democrats continued to be mostly about the federal debt/deficit, rate of economic growth and inflation.

Among unaffiliated respondents, their percentages were more like those held by Republicans, with very high concern for inflation (70%) as well as federal debt (66%).

Party differences are depicted on Graph 10 for fall 2023 and clearly show that Democrats have generally less concern about these economic issues than either Republicans or unaffiliated respondents.



Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents

This next section has been included for several years – originating in the Great Recession and being retained and modified somewhat along the way. Throughout the period, 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 show the results for recent AACC/CSLI surveys: Table 18 (as well as Graph 11) shows the results from recent surveys while Table 19 shows a longer time frame.³

Table 18 has been sorted by the size of the difference between the spring 2023 and fall 2023 surveys. Several changes suggest some easing of inflationary pressures as concern over taxes, wages/salaries not rising as fast as the cost of living, the cost of food and groceries, the cost of education, and the cost of childcare were all lower. Only the healthcare item was higher.

Table 18: Economic Perceptions Spring 2020 to Fall 2023
(percent saying, “applies”)

	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '23-Sp '22
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive, or inadequate/	25	19	23	27	31	34	26	34	8
Facing the possibility of unemployment	15	11	12	15	11	13	12	9	-3
Found a new or better job recently	15	9	7	11	13	11	12	7	-5
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	37	38	45	55	66	64	63	58	-5
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	46	51	57	54	64	58	64	58	-6
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	40	30	37	32	49	33	49	41	-8
Hard to afford the cost of education (from spring 2020 – “beyond high school”)	21	25	34	33	38	40	40	30	-10
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	19	19	22	32	48	52	53	37	-16
Hard to afford the cost of childcare	Not asked						10	6	-4

³ 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.” For spring 2023, the item “Hard to afford the cost of childcare” was added.

Table 19: Economic Conditions Applying to Personal Circumstances –Spring 2015 to Fall 2023

Condition	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	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Avg
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	66	62	59	61	58	55	58	57	56	53	46	51	57	54	64	58	64	58	58
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	57	54	58	57	55	49	49	36	40	47	37	38	45	55	66	64	63	58	52
Hard to afford the cost of education (from spring 2020 – “beyond high school”)	41	39	39	40	38	33	32	32	37	42	21	25	34	33	38	40	40	30	35
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	37	34	32	29	31	26	41	36	45	41	40	30	37	32	49	33	49	41	37
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	31	28	30	29	27	25	24	20	25	24	19	19	22	32	48	52	53	37	30
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive, or inadequate (Unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year asked fall 2016 to spring 2018)	38	33	38	14	16	18	18	35	32	33	25	19	23	27	31	34	26	34	27
Facing the possibility of unemployment	12	12	9	11	14	11	8	7	8	10	15	11	12	15	11	13	12	9	11
Found a new or better job recently	11	13	10	8	10	10	13	13	12	15	15	9	7	11	13	11	12	7	11

Party based differences were apparent among some of these measures (see Table 20). 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 typically exceeding 30 percentage points in each survey – and reaching 46 points in spring 2022 but dropping to just 24 points in spring 2023. In fall 2023, there was a 30-point gap. Republicans were more likely to say that wages or salaries weren't rising as fast as the cost of live (14-points) and that it was “hard to afford the cost of food or groceries (14-point).

None of the other items showed as large a difference although Democrats were more likely to cite the fear of unemployment this spring (+6 points) and were much more likely to say that they had found a new or better job recently – Democrats 9%; Republicans 1%.

Graph 11: Personal Circumstances - Percentage Saying "Applies" - Spring 2020 to Fall 2023

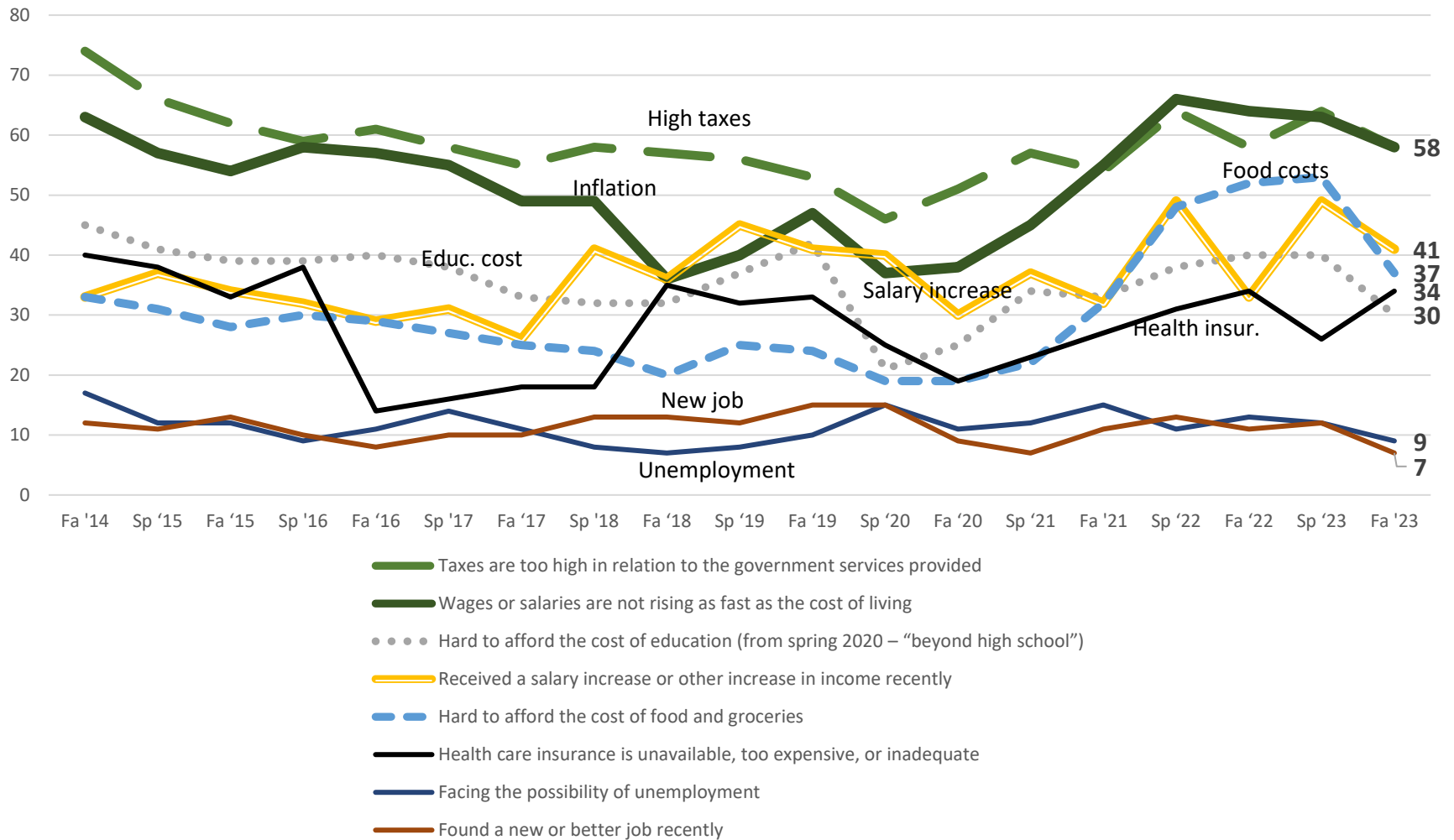


Table 20: Party and Economic Conditions/Experiences – Spring 2022 to Fall 2023

	Overall				Democrats				Republicans				Unaffiliated				Gap			
	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	64	58	64	58	40	44	53	44	40	44	77	74	77	56	75	62	-46	-29	-24	-30
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	66	64	63	58	56	68	56	49	56	68	60	63	74	65	74	68	-14	5	-4	-14
Hard to afford the cost of education beyond high school	38	40	40	30	39	41	34	28	39	41	35	28	52	42	53	34	15	8	-1	0
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	49	33	49	41	59	35	54	45	59	35	43	49	41	42	52	25	11	2	11	-4
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	48	52	53	37	34	49	54	29	34	49	55	43	59	42	46	39	-22	-3	-1	-14
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive, or inadequate	31	34	26	34	24	34	28	34	24	34	26	33	40	35	19	39	-5	2	2	1
Facing the possibility of unemployment	11	13	12	9	8	15	18	11	8	15	6	5	20	7	9	9	1	3	12	6
Found a new or better job recently	14	11	12	7	14	11	15	9	14	11	9	1	11	14	10	10	4	2	6	8
Cost of childcare	--	--	10	6	--	--	8	5	--	--	1	5	--	--	21	6	--	--	7	0

Economic Conditions Applying to Individuals/Households – Influence of Income

Table 21 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 up to \$75,000 into one group and those earning at over \$75,000 into a second group, the pattern over the years has been consistent: most desirable outcomes favor the higher income group. For fall 2023, three indicators showed the largest difference: “Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries” (20-point gap); “Hard to afford the cost of education beyond high school (25-point gap) “Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently” (30-point gap). There were also some sizable gaps regarding “Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living” (11-point gap), “Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate” (8-point gap) and facing the possibility of unemployment (13-point gap).

An item new included since spring 2023 “childcare services access and affordability” displayed an 11-point gap, rising from a 6-point gap last spring. There is a sustained trend showing that the wealthier group is much less likely to cite a high-cost burden from childcare.

Overall, these findings generally show that the wealthier group experiences more desirable outcomes – it experiences more increases in income, has fewer worries about costs of basics like food, is less prone to say that wages aren’t keeping up with the cost of living and exhibits less concern about health care costs or availability. There was essentially no difference among the two groups regarding the idea that “taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided.”

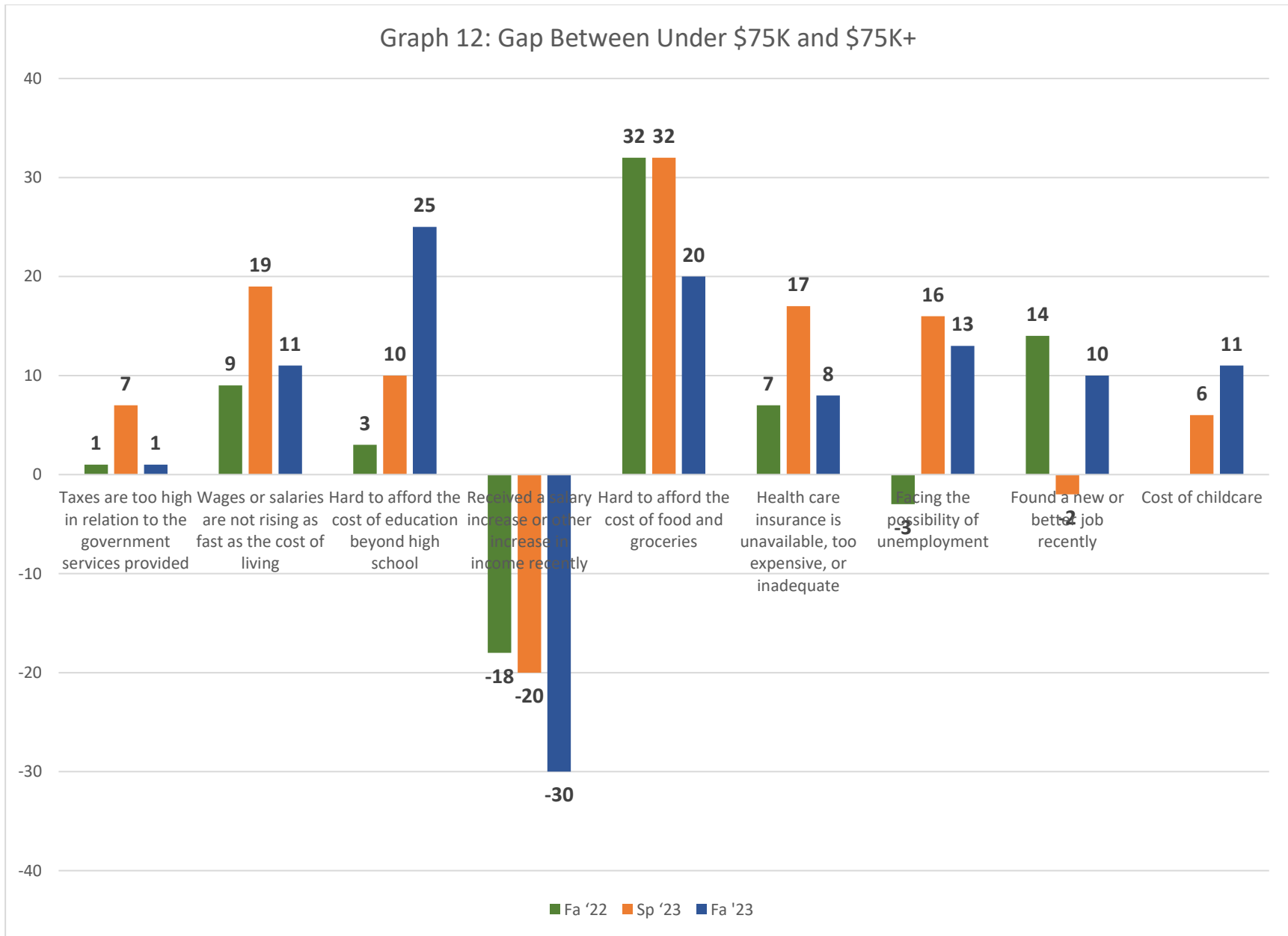
Graph 12 shows just the percentage point gaps between the lower and higher income groups for fall 2022, spring 2023 and fall 2023.

Table 21: Income Groups and Economic Indicators Spring 2019 to Spring 2023

	Fall 2023		Gap: Under \$75k-Over 75K									Avg
	Under \$75,000	\$75,000+	Fa '19	Sp '20	Fa '20	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	
Hard to afford cost of food and groceries	50	30	26	28	29	14	23	21	32	32	20	27
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	64	53	25	29	18	21	18	18	9	19	11	18
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive, or inadequate	44	36	11	16	10	10	24	29	7	17	8	16
Hard to afford the cost of education (beyond high school from Fa '19)	48	23	16	15	14	17	10	19	3	10	25	12
Facing the possibility of unemployment	20	7	7	6	10	14	15	16	-3	16	13	9
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided	60	59	6	4	-7	-18	-8	2	1	7	1	-1
Found a new or better job recently	15	5	8	-7	-3	0	2	14	14	-2	10	3
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	24	54	-10	-13	-15	-13	-16	-19	-18	-35	-30	-10
Childcare services – access, affordability	15	4								6	11	8

Note: Desirable outcomes are bolded under income categories.

Graph 12: Gap Between Under \$75K and \$75K+



Coronavirus Section

The initial summary section of the press release covered some findings pertinent to the COVID-19 situation. This section will present a more detailed analysis with tables and graphs. This section includes questions that have been asked in the past as a way of keeping track of the evolution of the pandemic’s impact – but some sections were removed for the sake of brevity. There was an open-ended question providing the option to comment about the COVID-19 situation – it is found in Appendix C.

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 22 highlights the impressive and continued drop in salience of the coronavirus issue – at this point only registering three percent – down from 69% in spring 2020. As the emphasis on coronavirus has dropped, other issues have naturally risen in prominence.

Table 22: Most Important Problem Spring 2020 to Fall 2023

Problem	Spring '20	Fall '20	Spring '21	Fall '21	Spring '22	Fall '22	Spring '23	Fall '23
Coronavirus (spread, treatment, testing)	69	50	53	35	14	6	2	3
Childcare services access/affordability							8	3
Crime (other than drug related)	1	11	10	13	26	27	24	36
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	20	19	21	19
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	10	24	22	22	19	32	22	23
Education (problems with schools, quality, facilities, staff, discipline)	3	18	22	24	20	23	18	18
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	0	8	11	13	10	7	13	9
Government ethics (corrupt, immoral)	1	7	9	5	8	4	4	7
Government waste (inefficient, spends too much)	2	7	12	7	9	9	8	9
Government lacks resources (for roads, schools, services)	1	4	3	4	6	6	3	5
Growth/overpopulation (too much development, poorly planned)	4	13	11	16	17	18	22	16
Healthcare (cost, access)	1	3	4	7	6	7	10	8
Housing cost	1	6	7	11	16	13	20	17
Racism, hate crimes, discrimination	0	6	6	6	7	5	4	5
Taxes – too high	2	11	12	12	17	19	13	19
Transportation (problems/traffic congestion, lack of public transit)	1	6	6	10	15	10	14	14
No answer, don't know	0	2	0	1	2	2	3	3
Other answer - write in: (See Appendix B)	1	9	5	0	3	3	2	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 23 shows that for fall 2023, there was a decrease in the percentage saying “getting better” (64%, down from 77% in spring) and a rise in the score for “staying the same” (26%, up from 17%). This might be indicative of the COVID situation having reached a threshold, with people estimating that the pandemic is mostly over and now is “staying the same” in the sense of “not much of a problem.”

Table 23: Is the Pandemic Getting Better, Staying the Same or Getting Worse?

	Spring '21	Fall '21	Spring '22	Fall '22	Spring '23	Fall '23
Getting better	70	49	78	77	77	64
Staying the same	24	34	19	20	17	26
Getting worse	5	13	2	3	3	5
Don't know, unsure	2	14	1	1	3	4
Total	101	100	100	101	100	99

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 24, the percentage saying very concerned remained essentially unchanged, giving further backing to the interpretation that a threshold of “not much of a problem” has been reached. However, about one-half of the sample (46%) was at least “somewhat concerned” with the possibility of serious illness.

Table 24: Experience with COVID-19 -Possibility of Serious Illness

Answers	Fall '20	Spring '21	Fall '21	Spring '22	Fall '22	Spring '23	Fall '23	Fa '23-Sp '23
Very concerned	41	35	27	25	18	11	12	1
Somewhat concerned	35	39	36	35	29	32	34	2
Not very concerned	24	26	36	39	53	57	54	-3
Unsure, D.K.	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0
Total	100	101	99	101	100	101	100	

Experience with COVID-19

Since fall 2020, the survey asked respondents about their specific experiences with COVID-19. Table 25 shows the choices and the percentages for each answer choice. Some questions were modified and/or eliminated. The percentage having contracted the virus mounted steadily from fall 2021 when it was just 15% and seemed to have reached a threshold of around 60% in fall 2022. There was a slight rise last spring, but in fall 2023, the score was about the same as one year ago. The same could be said for the item “a family member or close friend has contracted it” – that score has remained around 90% since fall 2022. Clearly, nearly everyone knows someone who has had the virus. There has also been stability in the percentages saying that they “know personally [someone] who has died from the effects of the virus” – since spring 2022, the score has hovered between 33 and 41 percent. Over that same period, there was little change in the percentage highlighting “serious symptoms” – around half. Lastly, the phrasing of “vaccination question” changed this fall to “I have obtained or plan to get a vaccination this fall” from “fully vaccinated and boosted.” With the emergence of modified vaccines, it was felt that this phrasing would better capture people’s experiences and expectations. In any case, either the phrasing or the diminished concern led to a lower number (57%) from last spring (73%).

Table 25: Experience with COVID-19

Answers	Fall '20	Spring '21	Fall '21	Spring '22	Fall '22	Spring '23	Fall '23	Fa '23-Sp '22
You have contracted it yourself	2	8	15	37	59	67	60	-7
A family member or close friend has contracted it	28	47	56	79	93	91	89	-2
Fully Vaccinated and boosted	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	70	79	73	57	-16
Someone you know personally other than family/friend has contracted it	53	57	59	91	98	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Someone you know personally has died from effects of the virus	20	30	28	40	41	33	35	2
Either you or a personal acquaintance had serious symptoms from the virus	n.a.	n.a.	22	51	n.a.	47	49	2
You consider yourself at high risk should you come down with the virus	39	30	21	32	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
None of these apply	16	10	14	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	--

Note: Since fall 2022, the survey stopped asking a multi-part question about vaccination and inserted just the single choice into the section/table above.

Finally, the survey asked respondents to indicate the years in which they had contracted the virus, if at all (see Table 36). The most serious year for contracting the virus was apparently last year, although there was a drop of 9-points between spring 2023 (37%) and fall 2023 (26%) in the percentage claiming to have come down with the virus in 2022. The current year saw a rise of 11 percentage points between spring and fall. The estimated percentage by the end of 2023 will be around 18% - less serious than either 2021 or 2022, but more serious than 2020.

Table 26: Years When COVID Contracted (check all that apply)

Years	Spring 2023	Fall 2023
2020	13	12
2021	26	25
2022	37	26
2023	4	15

Public Schools – Performance, Recovery from COVID, Key Concerns

As the COVID pandemic abates, there is concern about the lasting impact of the public health reaction in public schools. According to a paper by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, “The evidence suggests that the pandemic led to lower enrollment at public schools and negatively impacted student learning.” The paper claims, “there was sustained disruption to education across the country as schools cancelled in-person classes and shifted to online instruction. Although life in the United States has since returned to a relative normal and schools have returned to in-person instruction, some of the changes that occurred during the pandemic may leave a lasting impact on students and the educational system even after this period of crisis has subsided.” Given these concerns, the survey asked various related questions.

The first question asked, “**Overall, to what extent do you believe that Anne Arundel County public schools are performing better in most respects this year compared to last year?**” The assumption in asking this question was that the schools would be perceived as performing better as the impact of the COVID period declines.

Table 27 shows that a plurality of respondents said, “performing about the same” (36%). More said that the performance was worse this year (25%) compared to those who said it was better (11%) – a gap of 11 percentage points. Many people (29%) had no opinion.

Table 27 shows the results just for those who said that they had children in public schools. There were nearly no undecided respondents. Sixty percent said that the schools were performing the same (46%) or better (14%) than last year. However, 40 percent said that the schools were performing worse – a 26-point gap between those saying “performing better” and those saying “performing worse.” Apparently, there are a lot of parents who are dissatisfied with the performance of the county’s public schools.

There was a partisan dimension for the overall sample since only 17% of Democrats felt that the schools were performing worse, compared to 37% of Republicans, although for Democrats the scores were affected by an especially large percentage of “unsure/don’t know.” Among those with children in schools, the partisan difference evaporated: Democrats (43%) were exactly equal to Republicans in saying that the schools were performing worse.

Table 27: How are Schools Performing Compared to Last Year

	Overall	With kids in public schools	Democrats (overall/with kids in schools)	Republicans (overall/with kids in schools)	Unaffiliated (overall/with kids in schools)
Performing better	11	14	14/9	10/6	6/19
Performing about the same	36	45	37/48	33/51	37/34
Performing worse	25	41	17/43	37/43	24/44
Unsure, no opinion	29	1	32/0	20/0	33/3
Total	101	101	100/100	100/100	100/100

The next question on the survey asking, “**Based on your impressions, how successfully have students in public schools recovered from the adverse academic effects of the COVID pandemic?**” There were many “unsure, no opinion” responses among the general public, but virtually none among those with children in the public schools. For both the overall sample as well as the just for the group with children in schools, the dominant category was “recovered somewhat.” However, there was a very large difference between Democrats and Republicans who had children in the schools: Among Democrats 74% said recovered somewhat, 22% said recovered very little or not at all. For Republicans, only 21% said recovered somewhat, with 79% saying recovered very little or not at all. Clearly, perceptions of the schools are strongly affected by partisanship.

Table 28: How Successfully Have Schools Students Recovered from COVID

	Overall	With kids in public schools	Democrats (overall/with kids in schools)	Republicans (overall/with kids in schools)	Unaffiliated (overall/with kids in schools)
Recovered completely	6	1	5/0	3/0	11/0
Recovered somewhat	40	53	49/74	34/21	31/53
Recovered very little or not at all	32	45	22/27	49/79	27/44
Unsure, no opinion	22	1	32/0	20/0	31/3
Total	101	100	100/100	100/100	100/100

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide open-ended comments about these issues whose results are found in Appendix C. Below are some examples of comments made by Democrats and Republicans.

Democrats:

- Add days to the school year, add staff. Make free tutoring successful. Provide more opportunities for food to disadvantaged students.
- Be patient. They will fully recover if teachers are permitted to do what they do best. Students are much more resilient than we give them credit for, but I do not believe it is realistic to measure achievements of post covid stands to pre-COVID standards. Just keep progressing.
- Hire more teachers and specialists to assist children who may struggle to reintegrate into the schools.

Republicans:

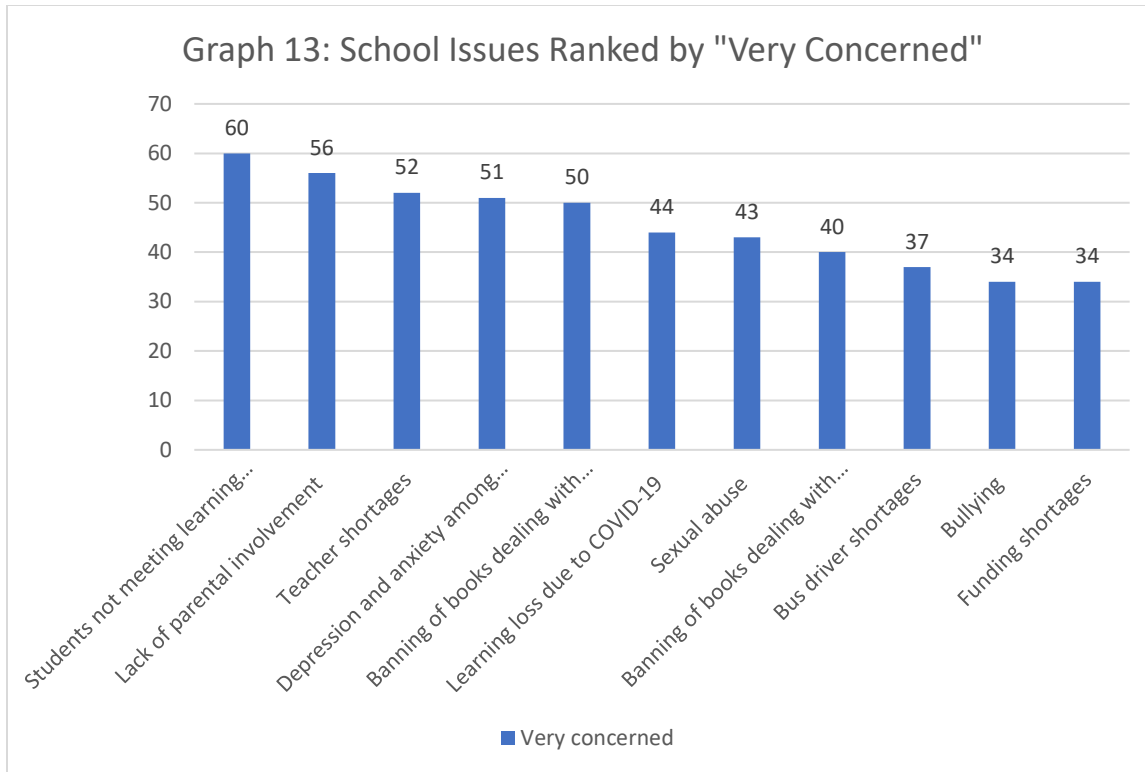
- Allow students to join religious groups to help with anxiety.
- COVID is not the core issues with AACPS...my experience as a volunteer is that the schools fail to set and support high expectations of their students.
- Go to school everyday and ask for homework. Fight for school choice and vouchers to follow the student. Break the monopoly of union control of government schools.

Public Schools in Anne Arundel County – Key Concern?

The focus on schools continued with a general question that asked, “**How concerned are you about the following issues in public schools in your area?**” The respondents were given a four-point scale (not concerned at all, not very concerned, somewhat concerned, very concerned) to note their levels of concern. Table 29 presents the listing of issues and the percentages falling within the various concern categories. Graph 13 shows the items listed ranked by the score for “very concerned.”

Table 29: Public Schools – Concern About Certain Issues

Item	Not concerned at all	Not very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very Concerned	No opinion	Total
Students not meeting learning objectives	2	5	26	60	7	100
Lack of parental involvement	2	9	23	56	10	100
Teacher shortages	3	7	30	52	7	99
Depression and anxiety among students	3	11	27	51	9	101
Banning of books dealing with the history of slavery	12	11	20	50	7	100
Learning loss due to COVID-19	5	12	30	44	10	101
Sexual abuse	4	13	27	43	13	100
Banning of books dealing with gender identity or sexual orientation	25	12	17	40	7	101
Bus driver shortages	4	9	37	37	13	100
Bullying	4	13	39	34	10	100
Funding shortages	8	17	30	34	12	101



Students not meeting learning objectives (60% very concerned) and lack of parental involvement (56%) were the top two areas of concern. Three other issues garnered at least 50 percent: teacher shortages (52%), depression and anxiety among students (51%), and banning of books dealing with the history of slavery (50%).

Graph 14 shows the partisan element in the ranking of these issues by listing the very concerned score for each party position. Graph 15 makes it a bit easier to visualize the key differences between Democrats and Republicans as it subtracts the former’s very concerned score from that of the latter. The blue lines on Graph 15 are those items for which the Democratic score was larger than the Republican one. Clearly, the two items that stand out are those phrased in terms of “banning of books” dealing with gender identity or sexual orientation, or with the history of slavery. The partisan gap was identical: 36 points. Other items that might seem to fit the ideological predispositions of Democrats vs. Republicans deal with funding (30-point gap), teacher shortages (18 point gap) and bullying (11 point gap).

There were significant differences for several items such as depression and anxiety among students (5 points), bus driver shortages (1 point), learning loss due to COVID-19 (2 points) and sexual abuse (4 points). The sharpest differences which rated highest among Republicans were “students not meeting learning objectives (15-point gap) and “lack of parental involvement (25-point gap). According to a Pew survey from 2022, “Republican parents are more likely than Democrats to say that parents have too little influence on what kids learn in school and school boards have too much.”⁴ The 25-point difference found in this poll was very similar to the gap found among the general public by Pew when asked whether parents had “not enough influence”

⁴ See <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2022/10/26/parents-differ-sharply-by-party-over-what-their-k-12-children-should-learn-in-school/>

– 44% of Republicans agreed with this compared to just 19% of Democrats – a 25-point difference.

Pew also asked about what students should learn about certain topics in school. When comparing the percentage of Democratic and Republican parents who felt that they would prefer their children learn in school that “someone can be a boy or a girl even if that’s different from sex at birth” only 9% of Republicans agreed with this compared to 49% of Democrats – a 40-point difference. This was nearly identical to the 36-point difference obtained in our fall 2023 survey of county residents.

Finally, Pew asked in a similar vein whether children should learn that “The legacy of slavery still affects the position of Black people in American society today.” Among Democratic parents, 70% accepted this; among Republicans only 24% - 46-point gap, 10 points more than the 36-point gap found regarding the “banning of books dealing with the history of slavery.”

In a YouGov survey conducted in 2022, they found a 29-point gap regarding the banning of books (vs. 36-point gap in our survey), funding shortages (26, 30), teacher shortages (27,18), bullying (19, 11) and sexual abuse (6, 4).⁵ Naturally, specific issues in different areas could cause variances in the priority placed on specific items. Overall, there was quite a bit of symmetry between the AACC/CSLI fall 2023 survey and the results of other surveys.

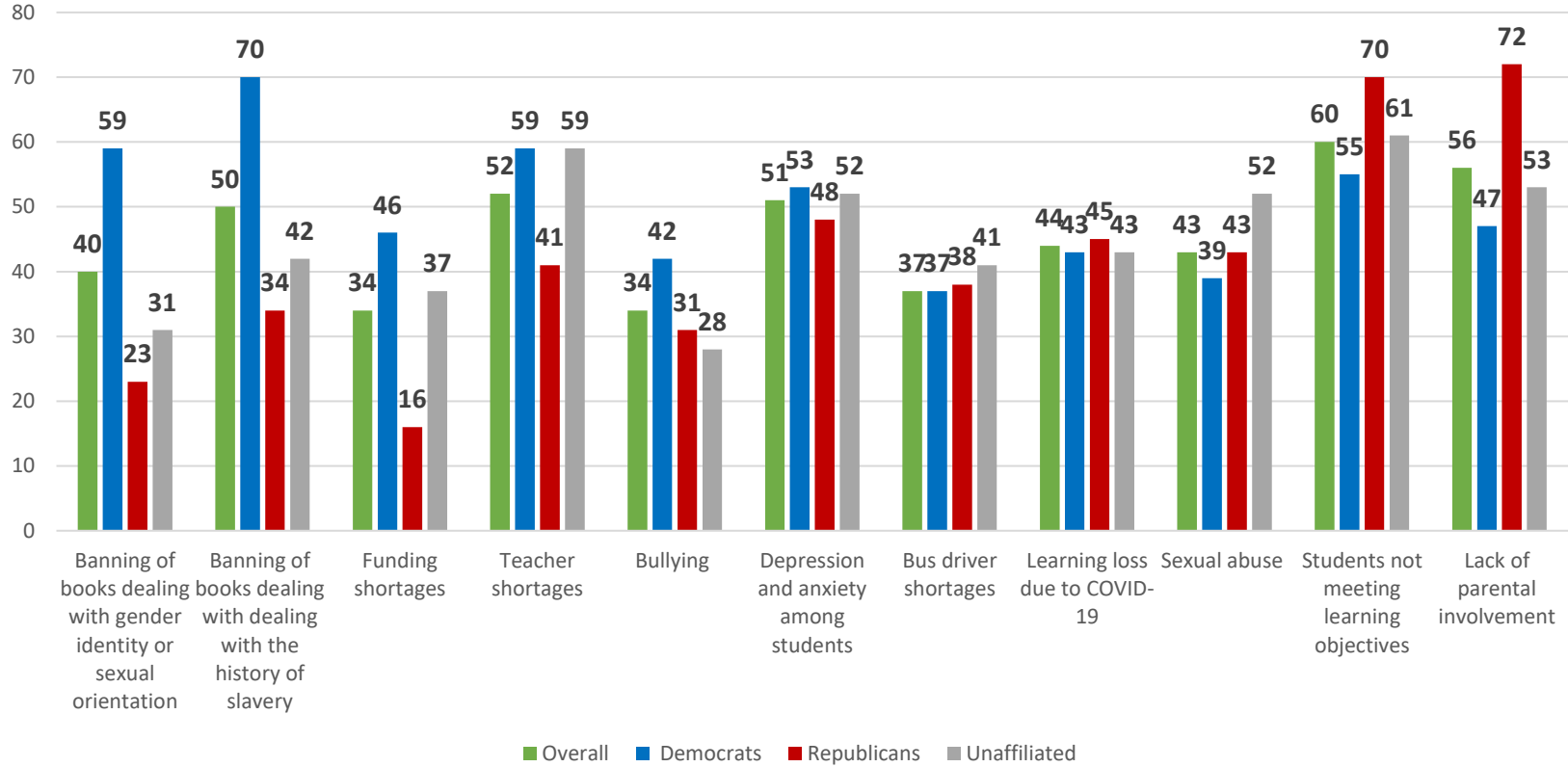
Finally, Table 30 shows scores for the school items based on ideology: very conservative, somewhat conservative, moderate, somewhat liberal, very liberal. The results are ranked by the difference between the scores “very concerned” for very liberal minus those for very conservative. The pattern generally echoes that found for Democratic/Republican differences.

Table 30: School Items Ranked by “Very Liberal” Score (Very Concerned) Minus Very Conservative Score

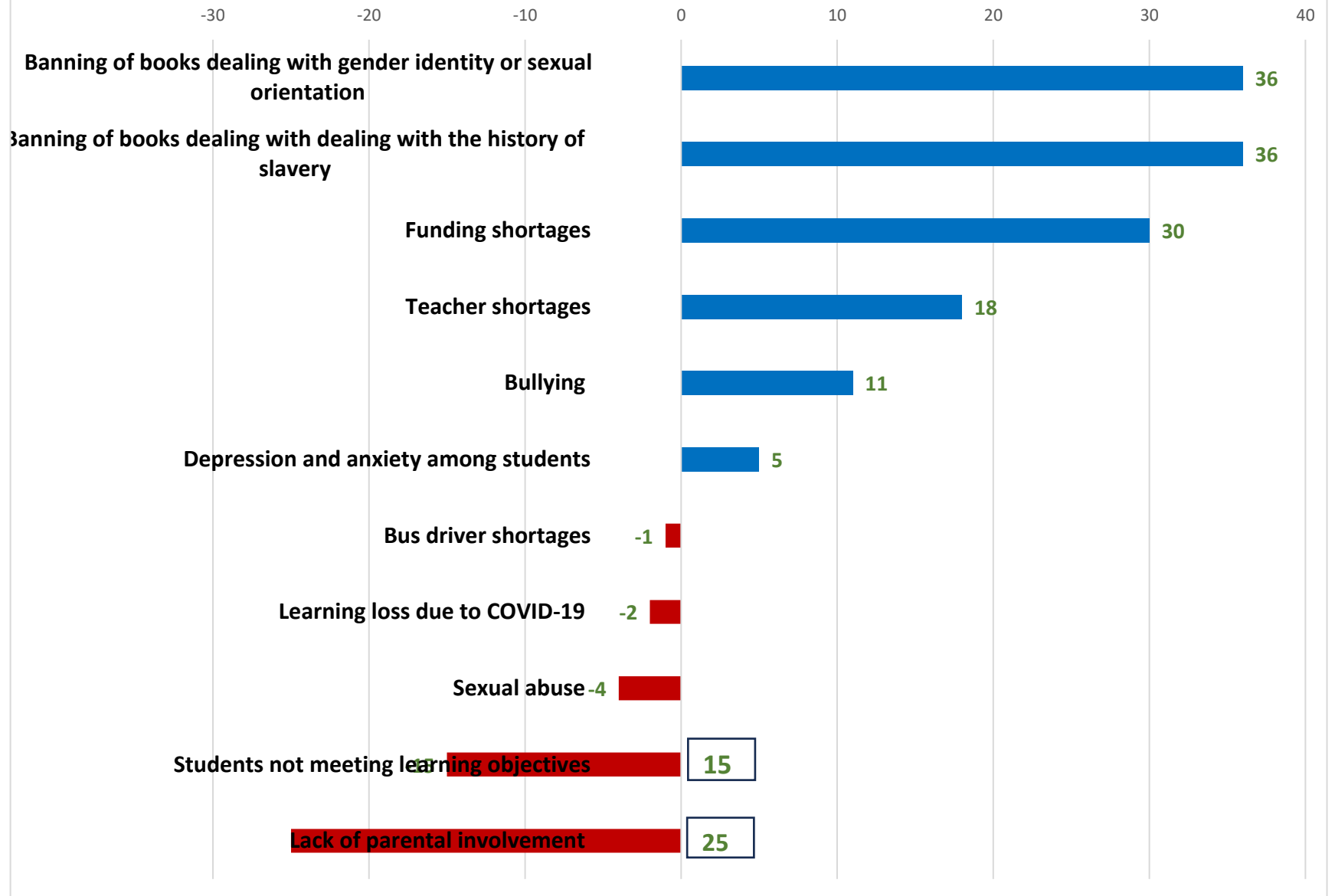
	Very cons.	Somewhat cons.	Mod.	Somewhat lib.	Very lib.	Very lib.- Very cons.
Banning of books dealing with gender identity or sexual orientation	24	19	40	57	74	50
Banning of books dealing with dealing with the history of slavery	32	27	50	73	80	48
Funding shortages	18	17	35	47	51	33
Teacher shortages	37	34	58	62	69	32
Depression and anxiety among students	49	43	45	59	69	20
Bullying	27	26	45	34	39	12
Bus driver shortages	33	32	37	41	39	6
Sexual abuse	53	36	39	42	45	-8
Learning loss due to COVID-19	58	39	39	52	39	-19
Lack of parental involvement	79	60	53	48	47	-32
Students not meeting learning objectives	76	62	56	66	40	-36

⁵ See <https://today.yougov.com/politics/articles/43515-republicans-democrats-disagree-school-problems>

Graph 14: School Issues by Party - "Very Concerned"



Graph 15: Democratic "Very Concerned" Score Minus Republican Score



Public Schools – Redistricting

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education periodically deals with the need to reshape the school district to utilize its facilities more efficiently. In this light, the survey asked the question, “The Anne Arundel County Board of Education is considering county-wide school redistricting to better utilize vacant classroom space and limit costly expansions of school facilities.” Respondents were able to express their support for each of the three options listed in Table 31.

Table 31: Agreement with School Redistricting Options

Item	Don't agree	Somewhat agree	Agree completely	No opinion	Total
The redistricting process should do all that is possible to move students from overcrowded schools to less crowded ones	13	43	32	12	100
Any redistricting should only move students to less crowded schools that are very close to their existing schools	6	34	48	12	100
Redistricting is very disruptive; higher taxes are better than trying to maximize efficiency	56	19	8	17	100

Respondents clearly favored option three the least – only 8% said “agree completely” to higher taxes to avoid redistricting. The other two options were rather similar as 48% agreed completely with moving students to schools that were very close to their existing schools, while 32% agreed completely with the idea of having the process do “all that is possible” to move students from overcrowded to less crowded schools.

Table 32: Agreement with School Redistricting Options by Party (Agree Completely)

Item	Overall	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated	Dem-Rep
The redistricting process should do all that is possible to move students from overcrowded schools to less crowded ones	32	37	31	29	6
Any redistricting should only move students to less crowded schools that are very close to their existing schools	48	41	61	47	-20
Redistricting is very disruptive; higher taxes are better than trying to maximize efficiency	8	7	9	6	1

Table 32 shows that the only item showing any significant partisan difference was in reference to the idea that redistricting should seek to keep students as close as possible to their existing schools. Democrats, who might be more concerned that such redistricting would harm diversity goals, were 20-points less likely than Republicans to favor this option.

Appendix D includes open-ended responses to the redistricting issues. Examples of comments made by Democrats and Republicans include:

Democrats:

- I think that redistricting is to keep blacks from good schools.
- If a student is moved from a school that scores an A to a lesser designation, I would disagree.
- It is always preferable that students attend schools near their homes, but overcrowding is not good and this is why I support bussing, so students get a good education.
- Overcrowded schools are an issue as well as outdated facilities that need repairs...

Republicans:

- Another option is to allow parents to choose the school that their children attend. This would give a clearer picture of why any given school is empty.
- I agree that redistricting is very disruptive. I disagree that higher taxes are better for any reason. Redistricting is being forced on us to some degree to bypass the restriction of development. By moving kids from an overcrowded district to a less crowded district, then the restriction on building new subdivisions is removed.
- I'd be angry if I purposely moved into a community with good schools and like-minded neighbors only to have riffraff move in and cause chaos.

Housing – Causes for the High Cost of Housing

According to Pew Research, “A rising share of Americans say the availability of affordable housing is a major problem in their local community.” Pew cites various reasons including lower home inventory, resulting in higher prices for what is left on the market; lower vacancy rates for rental units, and increases in the number of homeowners.⁶ The Pew study did not specifically mention other factors that might affect the market for housing such as higher interest rates and other factors that inhibit the construction of new housing lowering home inventory. Some studies have highlighted factors that prevent new construction, such as restrictive zoning laws or local citizen opposition to higher housing densities.⁷

Last spring, the AACC/CSLI Community Survey asked about desirable qualities for housing and communities as well as housing costs.⁸ This fall, a section of the survey asked individuals to reflect upon four different possible reasons to explain the increasing cost of housing. The question read, “The cost of housing and rents have exceeded the general rise in inflation over the last few years. How important are each of the following as causes for this rise in housing costs?”

Table 33 organizes the results using three measures of perceived importance: not very, somewhat and very important. Looking just at the percentage saying “very important,” it is clear that two items were highly favored: “Higher interest rates” (67%) and “Private investors are buying properties as investments and driving up prices for regular people” (57%). The other two possible answers about restrictive zoning laws (27%) and citizen opposition to greater housing density (33%) were much less frequently cited (and had much higher percentages saying “unsure, no opinion”).

Table 33: Importance of Various Factors for Driving Up Housing Costs

Item	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very important	No opinion	Total
Rising interest rates	5	23	67	6	100
Restrictive zoning laws preventing the construction of new housing	21	34	27	17	101
Local citizen opposition to greater housing density in neighborhoods	16	36	33	15	100
Private investors are buying properties as investments and driving up prices for regular people	11	23	57	9	100

⁶ See <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/03/23/key-facts-about-housing-affordability-in-the-u-s/>

⁷ For example, see Jenny Schuetz’s book *Fixer Upper: How to Repair America’s Broken Housing Systems*, Brookings Institution Press, 2022. <https://www.brookings.edu/books/fixer-upper/>

⁸ See <https://www2.aacc.edu/csli/AACC-Community-Survey-Spring-2023-Press-Release.pdf>

Table 34 looks at the impact of party registration upon the perceptions of causes of rising housing costs by focusing just on the “very important” answers. There weren’t major differences regarding restrictive zoning laws or local citizen opposition to greater housing densities. However, Republicans were much more likely (83%) than Democrats (57%) to highlight rising interest rates. Perhaps this is due to the general tendency for Republicans to be more inclined to perceive macro-economic problems as more severe than Democrats – a finding offered earlier in the press release.⁹

Table 34: Factors for Driving Up Housing Costs by Party (% Very Important)

Item	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Rising interest rates	57	83	69
Restrictive zoning laws preventing the construction of new housing	28	26	32
Local citizen opposition to greater housing density in neighborhoods	34	37	31
Private investors are buying properties as investments and driving up prices for regular people	63	49	55

The other factor showing partisan differences highlighted the role of private investors distorting local housing markets by purchasing residences as investments, thereby driving up the prices and making housing less affordable. Democrats were more likely (63%) to accept this idea than were Republicans (49%), although that nearly one-half of Republicans found virtue in this answer indicates some willingness to break with free market orthodoxy. Even those who claimed to be “very conservative” (48%) were attracted by this answer, although those who were “very liberal” (74%) were much more inclined to say that this factor was very important.¹⁰

Housing – Rent Stabilization as a Policy Approach

Recently, Montgomery County enacted a new law meant to keep a ceiling on increases in the cost of rental housing.¹¹ In this survey, the question asked was “Another county in Maryland has passed a rent stabilization program meant to limit rent increases to 3% plus inflation, with a hard cap of 6%. There are some exemptions for newly constructed or substantially renovated units or property owners who rent two or fewer units. Do you support or oppose this approach to curtailing sharp rises in rental costs?” Respondents were given the options “support completely,” “support somewhat” and “don’t support.” Table 35 shows the results.

⁹ See page 31 in the press release.

¹⁰ There were very minor differences between those who owned versus those who rented their housing.

¹¹ See <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dhca/Tenants/RentStabilization.html>

Table 35: Support for Rent Stabilization Policy and by Party Registration

Item	Overall	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Support completely	28	40	15	23
Support somewhat	33	35	33	32
Don't support	22	12	42	19
Unsure, no opinion	17	14	10	27
Total	100	101	100	101

The results for the overall sample leaned on the side of “support” but the strongest expression of support (support completely) only won the backing of 28%. The middle level of support (support somewhat) gained another 33 percent, for a total of 60% expressing some level of support. Democrats were more inclined to support this idea (40% completely, 35% somewhat, only 12% saying don’t support) than were Republicans (15%, 33%, 42%). The Republican respondents were nearly evenly divided between some degree of support (48%) and opposition (42%). Unaffiliateds were in-between (23%, 32%, 19%, 55%). Overall, this approach seemed generally supported, but with some caveats in the minds of respondents given the pluralities for “somewhat support” expressed by all other than Republicans.

Owners vs. Renters: Differences between those currently **owning** as opposed to **renting** their residences were relevant. Among owners, 28% said “support completely” with another 33% saying “support somewhat.” By comparison, among renters, 43% would support the measure completely, with another 29% supporting it somewhat. This resulted in a 10-point difference in overall support between owners (62%) and renters (72%), although there was a 15-point difference in the scores for “support completely.”

Open-ended comments are available in Appendix E. Below are samples of Democratic and Republican comments:

Democrats:

- Cost of housing near Annapolis is a crisis. Where do we expect “essential workers” to live?
- Gen Z is not going to be able to afford to live in AA County. We will lose a generation if something is not done to provide more affordable housing...
- Most people renting are in the lower income brackets, single parents, etc. We need to take that into account.

Republicans:

- Better for the government to stay out of attempting to manage the dynamics of a free marketplace.
- Government needs to leave us alone and let the economy return to its equilibrium.
- I am afraid this path will cause the landlord to slack on upkeep of the property.

Solar Farms – Best Approach

Solar farms which use rural land to place solar panels to generate energy for communities are often heralded as positive approaches for lowering energy costs and helping the transition to renewable energy to combat climate change.¹² However, concerns remain about how the placement of solar farms affects the scenery, may lead to problems with run-off, and may displace the economics of preserving rural land for farming rather than for producing electricity.

With these considerations in mind, the survey included the following question: “The county is seeking to better plan the emergence of solar energy farms in rural areas. To what extent do you agree with any of the following?” Table 36 shows the specific proposals as well as the answer choices (agree completely, agree somewhat, don’t agree).

Table 36: Agreement with Various Solar Farm Options

Item	Agree (completely+ Somewhat)	Agree completely	Somewhat agree	Don’t agree	No opinion	Total
Sharply restrict the number of solar projects in rural areas to preserve farms	56	28	27	28	16	99
Ensure that a solar project is no closer than 10 miles from any other project	45	22	23	28	28	101
Ensure that there are best practices for managing the land underneath solar panels in rural areas	79	55	24	8	14	101
Maximize the number of solar projects to ensure the transition to renewable energy	59	24	35	25	16	100

The results on Table 36 show that only the answer focusing on best practices for land management received a majority (55%) from the sample, about twice as much as any other option. All answer choices had relatively high “no opinion” scores (16-28%), which would naturally reduce the likelihood that any other answer would gain a majority of support. Combining the two “agree” choices, those options for restricting solar farms (56% 45%) were a bit less likely to gain as much support as the choice to maximize the number of solar projects (59%).

¹² See the discussion in Bay Weekly about one such solar farm in Tracy’s Landing: <https://bayweekly.com/anne-arundel-countys-first-community-solar-project-set-to-start-in-july/>

Table 37 looks again at the results from the perspective of party registration and uses just the “agree completely” scores. The results suggest that there are left-right splits on the desirability of solar farms and the renewable energy transition generally. Among Democrats, they were much less likely to agree with restrictive choices such as restrictions to preserve farms or limiting the distance between solar farms. They were three times more likely (35%, 12%) to favor maximizing the number of solar projects to ensure the transition to renewable energy. However, the relatively low score on the latter choice indicates that even Democrats find competing goals – favoring a transition to renewable energy, but also favoring rural preservation and green spaces.

Table 37: Agreement with Various Solar Farm Options by Party (% Agree Completely)

Item	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Sharply restrict the number of solar projects in rural areas to preserve farms	13	51	30
Ensure that a solar project is no closer than 10 miles from any other project	14	32	23
Ensure that there are best practices for managing the land underneath solar panels in rural areas	59	48	60
Maximize the number of solar projects to ensure the transition to renewable energy	35	12	19

Open-ended answers were available for this question and can be seen in Appendix F. Below are samples of Democratic and Republican answers:

Democrats:

- I believe we should push for more solar roofs, not solar farms. I worry about unintended environmental consequences...
- I think I would prefer a mixed use concept with some farming and some solar. An entire farm of solar panels seems like it could be problematic...do we know enough about run-off, drainage and water/soil issues...
- I have solar and think it is the future. Not sure about solar farms taking land away from farming...

Republicans:

- I don't believe in solar energy. Waste of taxpayers' money.
- Just build more nuclear power plants and the problem is solved, as wind and solar are not reliable enough and long-term costs and environmental impact is too high
- No solar farms! No wind farms! Let's keep traditional agricultural farms.

State Policies – Constitutional Amendment About Abortion/Reproductive Rights

The next section of the survey focused on issues related to the state of Maryland. The first one focused on an upcoming referendum in 2024 on reproductive rights/abortion.¹³ The question in the survey offered the following to respondents: **“In the 2024 elections in Maryland, voters will be asked to confirm a constitutional amendment dealing with reproductive rights passed by the Maryland General Assembly. The measure would amend the Declaration of Rights in the Maryland Constitution to add a new section that guarantees a right to reproductive freedom, including the ability to prevent, continue or end one’s own pregnancy.”**

The survey offered three choices, seen on Table 38 which includes the overall results as well as by political party.

Table 38: Stance on Constitutional Amendment – Reproductive Rights

Item	Overall	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
I am pro-choice so I will support it	52	84	19	43
I am in the middle about abortion – I tend to be against it, but don’t want the government to dictate women’s choices so will probably support it	17	6	26	29
I am pro-life so I will oppose it	24	8	50	15
Unsure, no opinion	7	3	5	14
Total	100	101	100	101

The results on Table 38 show that this constitutional amendment will probably pass by a significant majority. Combining the strictly “pro-choice” percentage (52%) with the middle position which supports the amendment even while opposing abortion (17%), the total is 69% in favor. Only one quarter of the sample opposed it (24%). Looking at the party results, it is clear that Democrats will overwhelmingly support the amendment (90%) as will unaffiliateds (72%). Republicans are much more evenly divided since about one fifth (19%) say that they are pro-choice, but one quarter agree with the “small government” stance (26%) for a total of 46% in favor.

On Table 39, this question is further probed by using the survey’s measure of ideology. The results show that only “very conservatives” are strongly aligned against the amendment (75%) although even among them, over one-fifth (22%) would favor it. The “small government” position was especially attractive to “somewhat conservatives” who combined with the fifth that claims to be pro-choice offers a majority (52%) in support of the measure. The table also highlights the importance of the “moderate” ideological identification since 80% of that category supported the amendment, including 55% saying that they were pro-choice. Somewhat and very

¹³ See this article in *Maryland Matters* for details: <https://www.marylandmatters.org/2023/03/30/maryland-voters-to-see-reproductive-rights-on-2024-ballot/>

liberals were overwhelming supportive (96%, 100%). The most useful takeaway would appear to be the appeal of the “small government” stance to an important segment of conservatives.

Table 39: Agreement with Various Abortion Options by Ideology

Item	Overall	Very cons.	Somewhat cons.	Moderate	Somewhat lib	Very lib
I am pro-choice so I will support it	52	12	20	55	86	99
I am in the middle about abortion – I tend to be against it, but don’t want the government to dictate women’s choices so will probably support it	17	10	32	25	10	1
Supporters	69	22	52	80	96	100
I am pro-life so I will oppose it	24	75	39	14	3	0
Unsure, no opinion	7	3	9	7	1	0
Total	100	101	100	100	99	

State Policies – Maryland Gun Safety Act of 2023

Earlier this year, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Maryland Gun Safety Act meant to identify where individuals could legally take firearms. The act was controversial and experienced some legal contestation ultimately limiting its applicability.¹⁴ The question in the survey probed respondents’ views about the legislation and whether it was “just right” or had gone too far, or not far enough. The question was, “**The Maryland Gun Safety Act of 2023 prevents gun owners from taking firearms into schools, hospitals, government buildings, businesses selling alcohol or cannabis, stadiums, museums, racetracks and video lottery facilities. Which best expresses your views about this law?**” Table 40 shows the choices offered by the survey.

Table 40: Stance on Maryland Gun Safety Act, Overall and by Party

Item	Overall	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
It is too limited insofar as it allows firearms in such places as bars and restaurants	36	58	15	30
It seems like a good middle ground regarding gun rights	31	31	25	40
It is an unreasonable limit on the rights of individuals to carry their firearms	23	6	50	20
Unsure, no opinion	10	4	10	11
Total	100	101	100	101

¹⁴ *Maryland Matters* had a relevant article about this, see <https://www.marylandmatters.org/2023/09/29/judge-blocks-part-of-new-md-gun-law-that-was-about-to-take-effect/>

The sample was clearly split on this piece of legislation since none of the choices obtained a majority in support. A plurality (36%) said that the restrictions on firearms were insufficient, another 23% said that the restrictions were unreasonably limiting. The middle stance was only supported by 31%. As the partisan views make clear, there is a vast gap between Democrats and Republicans on gun rights. Combining the two positions (about right and not sufficiently restrictive) results in an overall score of 67%, but that falls to only 40% for Republicans compared to 89% among Democrats. Unaffiliateds leaned closer to the Democratic position (70%).

Table 41: Stance on Maryland Gun Safety Act, Overall and by Ideology

Item	Overall	Very cons.	Somewhat cons.	Moderate	Somewhat lib	Very lib
It is too limited insofar as it allows firearms in such places as bars and restaurants	36	0	12	38	64	79
It seems like a good middle ground regarding gun rights	31	8	45	39	31	18
Supporters of Restrictions	69	8	57	77	95	97
It is an unreasonable limit on the rights of individuals to carry their firearms	10	81	30	15	3	1
Unsure, no opinion	100	11	13	9	2	2
Total	100	100	100	101	100	100

Table 41 shows the impact of ideological self-identification upon support levels for each answer option. The results again highlight the relative isolation of the “very conservative” stance compared to all others. In this case, 81% favored the “unreasonable limit” position. However, looking at the ideological position closest to it – “somewhat conservatives” – only 30% agreed with that stance. While only 8% of very conservatives agreed with either the “too limited” or “good middle ground” stances, 57% of somewhat conservatives agreed with these two answer choices combined. Moderates were even likely to agree (77%) while somewhat and very liberals were essentially indistinguishable with nearly identical and very high support levels (95%, 97%), even if there were some differences in how each category apportioned its support levels between the two choices.

State Policies – Partially Self-Driving Cars

The idea that fully self-driving cars will soon be upon us has been fostered by the appearance of such vehicles in some form in cities like San Francisco. Every accident involving a fully self-driving car highlights the challenges of accepting them as entities with which we must share the road.¹⁵ However, lower levels of self-driving (officially designated “level 2”) are much more common in contemporary vehicles. Many cars have adaptive cruise control or lane centering, with variable levels of independence from drivers. Teslas have a feature dubbed “Full Self Driving” which provides more advanced features; the media often highlights situations in which a Tesla has been involved in an accident, although often not enough is known about the exact circumstances to understand the role of the autonomous driving features in causing the accidents.¹⁶ Tesla has always insisted that its system is strictly “level 2” and requires constant human monitoring. Ultimately, the responsibility for accidents would fall on the human driver, no matter how otherwise comprehensive the self-driving features might be.

The question in the survey touched on this situation by asking: **“There have been reports and court cases focusing upon the responsibility of drivers and carmakers for accidents involving the use of partial self-driving systems. Drivers blame the systems; carmakers blame the drivers. Should there be a state law that requires special training for purchasers of partly self-driving cars so that they are clear about their responsibilities to maintain control over vehicles equipped with such advanced driver assistance systems?”** Table 42 shows the answer choices and the results.

Table 42: Stance on Driver Training for Partial Self Driving Cars, Overall and by Party

Item	Overall	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Yes	51	60	44	41
Maybe, depends on how it’s done	31	28	34	37
No	10	6	12	15
Unsure, no opinion	9	7	9	7
Total	101	101	100	101

The results on Table 42 suggest that depending upon how such training is set up, vast majorities overall and among all party categories would support such a measure. Democrats were a bit more eager to say “Yes” (60%) than Republicans (44%) or unaffiliateds (41%), but ultimately, there seemed to be considerable openness to including such training by state law.

Appendix G shows open-ended comments for this section.

¹⁵ See for example, this article highlighting the involvement of a Cruise vehicle in an accident in San Francisco: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/woman-run-autonomous-vehicle-san-francisco-18403044.php>

¹⁶ The Washington Post wrote about one such incident: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/interactive/2023/tesla-autopilot-crash-analysis/>

National Issues: Immigration

This section of the survey transitioned to national and international issues. The first two questions were submitted by faculty members in the history and philosophy disciplines.

The first of these dealt with immigration: **“At various point during our history such as the 1920s, only a small number of immigrants were allowed into the country. Indicate those statements that best express your views about desirable immigration policy at this time.”** Respondents were offered the choices shown in Table 43.

Table 43: Immigration – Overall and by Party and Ideology

	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaffl.	Very cons.	Somewhat cons.	Mod.	Somewhat liberal	Very liberal
We should have the most restrictive policy possible	22	8	43	23	47	38	22	3	1
We should have a measured policy that combines economic needs of the country with humanitarian considerations for immigrants	63	64	60	67	57	61	71	72	56
We should have a generous and open immigration policy that welcomes as many people as possible seeking political asylum	19	28	6	20	7	6	9	29	56
We should have a generous and open immigration policy that welcomes as many people as possible escaping poverty and violence in Central and South America	20	28	7	24	4	7	14	33	51

The results on Table 43 are impressive in that one of the offered answers gained a majority of support overall, by party and across all the ideological categories: **“We should have a measured policy that combines economic needs of the country with humanitarian considerations for immigrants.”**

Nearly two-thirds of the sample agreed with this answer choice (63%); there were tiny differences for Democrats (64%), Republicans (60%) and unaffiliateds (67%); “very conservatives” favored it (57%) as much as “very liberals” (56%).

By contrast, neither of the “generous and open” options garnered more than a fifth overall, with Democrats (28% for both) much more likely to favor that policy than Republicans (6%, 7%). Even very liberals only mustered about one-third in support (29%, 33%). At the other extreme, the idea of having the “most restrictive policy possible” only obtained the support of 22%, with very conservatives at 47% and somewhat conservatives at 38%. By contrast, liberals were at 3% (somewhat liberal) and 1% (very liberal). Moderates were at 22% - clearly between the conservative and liberal extremes. In any case, the survey shows that neither a highly restrictive nor an open border approach is supported by the residents of the county.

National Issues: Country Lived Up to Promise of Equality?

The other question submitted by faculty members was as follows: **“How well has the United States lived up to the promise it made in the Declaration of Independence that ‘all men (people) are created equal?’”**

Table 44: Lived Up to Promise – Overall and by Party, Ideology, Race

	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaffil	Very cons.	Somewhat cons.	Mod.	Somewhat liberal	Very liberal	Afr. Am	Whites
Quite a bit	33	11	65	32	73	52	34	10	2	10	37
Only somewhat	35	47	19	36	5	34	42	47	38	32	39
Not much	28	41	13	27	20	11	22	43	60	54	23
Unsure	3	2	3	4	3	4	2	0	0	4	2
Total	99	101	100	99	101	101	100	100	100	100	100

As shown on Table 44, political and ideological elements deeply affected people’s perceptions of this idea. Democrats (11%) were much less likely than Republicans (65%) to say “quite a bit.” Those who were very conservative (73%) contrasted sharply with very liberals (2%). Moreover, whites (37%) were more than three times more likely to agree with this answer than African Americans (10%). Generally, this question exposed differences between those who felt that the American dream was mostly accomplished and those who felt that there was more to be accomplished.

Open-ended responses to questions in this section are available in Appendix G.

National Issues – House of Representatives, Unions, Trump’s Legal Situation

In our focus on national issues, three new questions were added.

House of Representatives: The first of these focused on events in the House of Representatives and specifically asked: “The Congress nearly failed to pass a continuing resolution to extend funding for federal government operations recently: by reaching out to Democrats to pass the continuing resolution, the Speaker Kevin McCarthy lost his role as speaker. Which of the following best captures your views about this event?”

Table 45 shows that there was little consensus on the best course of action. The government shutdown answer received the least support (18%) overall but did receive 51% of very conservatives’ support. But for Republicans as a whole (43%) as well as for somewhat conservatives (43%), the “negotiate with Democrats” option was most favored. Among Democrats (63%) there was much less hesitation to land on a single choice featuring extreme Republicans scoring political points. Very liberals and somewhat liberals were similar (62%, 79%). Moderates were torn a bit like Republicans with the “negotiate with Democrats” answer gaining the plurality of choices (40%), but the percentages choosing “scoring points” (36%) rather than shutdown (12%) were almost exactly the opposite of Republicans.

Table 45: House of Representatives – Overall and by Party and Ideology

	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaffil	Very cons.	Somewhat cons.	Mod.	Somewhat liberal	Very liberal
Republicans/McCarthy should have held out and caused the government to shut down as a way of highlighting out-of-control federal spending and debt	18	5	38	16	51	33	12	0	0
Republicans were right to highlight federal spending and deficits, but they should negotiate with Democrats and avoid govt. shutdowns	28	17	43	30	31	43	40	13	8
Some extreme Republicans were acting mostly to score political points rather than trying to curb federal spending	38	63	14	28	12	16	36	62	79
Unsure	17	15	5	26	7	9	13	25	13
Total	101	100	100	100	101	101	100	100	100

Unions: The second question focused on labor actions by unions, with the most visible of these during the time the survey was in the field being the UAW strike against three large domestic auto manufacturers. The question was: “**There have been strikes in some major industries lately – from screen writers and actors to auto and healthcare workers. Which of the following best expresses your general attitude about these labor actions?**” Table 46 shows the results.

Table 46: Unions and Stikes – Overall and by Party and Ideology

	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaffil	Very cons.	Somewhat cons.	Mod.	Somewhat liberal	Very liberal
These are totally justified and deserve the public’s support	32	48	17	23	22	9	20	55	67
More efforts should be shown be employers and unions to compromise and avoid strikes	36	37	36	38	31	39	49	36	26
Union demands are extreme and may cause significant harm to the economy and employers	20	9	34	21	37	37	22	3	1
Unsure	12	6	13	18	10	15	10	7	4
Total	101	100	100	100	101	101	100	100	100

Overall, the option for employers and unions to compromise obtained a plurality of support: 36% compared to 32% for “totally justified” and only 20% for “demands are extreme.” Looking at parties, Republicans were about equally divided between the “compromise” (36%) and “demands are extreme” choices (34%). Democrats were divided differently since 48% said union demands were totally justified compared to 37% who favored more compromises. Unaffiliateds were about equally divided by the two extreme positions (23%, 21%) and a plurality found themselves in the compromise answer (38%).

Among the ideological categories, the one surprising result was very conservatives – 22 percent of whom favored the “totally justified” stance, much more than the 9% for somewhat conservatives or even 20% for moderates. There were relatively small differences on the liberal side with 55% of somewhat liberals and 67% of very liberals favoring the “totally justified” stance. Moderates were like unaffiliateds torn between the two extreme positions (20%, 22%) with most found in the compromise position (49%).

Trump’s Legal Situation: The final new question for this section of the survey involved offering two different views about Trump’s legal situation. The question read, “Do you think that efforts to prosecute former President Donald Trump are mainly...Meant to hold him accountable for various crimes, or meant to disrupt his campaign and prevent him from running effectively for president?”

Table 47: Trump’s Legal Situation – Overall and by Party and Ideology

	Overall	Dem	Rep	Unaffil	Very cons.	Somewhat cons.	Mod.	Somewhat liberal	Very liberal
Meant to hold him accountable for various crimes	50	82	12	46	4	9	58	93	92
Meant to disrupt his campaign and prevent him from running effectively for president?”	39	12	82	33	88	75	31	4	3
Unsure	11	6	6	21	8	15	11	4	5
Total	101	100	100	100	101	101	100	100	100

Table 47 shows predictable extremes among partisans in terms of how they viewed Trump’s legal situation, with equal numbers from each party falling on their respective sides: 82% of Democrats favored “hold him accountable” while 82% of Republicans felt that it was “to disrupt his campaign.” Unlike for some other questions, there were few differences between very and somewhat conservatives (88%, 77%) with large majorities favoring the “disrupt his campaign” stance. Among unaffiliateds and moderates, the largest scores were for “hold him accountable” (46%, 58%), but a lot of unaffiliateds were unsure (21%) compared to moderates (only 11%). There were no differences among very and somewhat liberals (93%, 92% “hold him accountable”).

Appendix H includes open-ended statements relevant to this section.

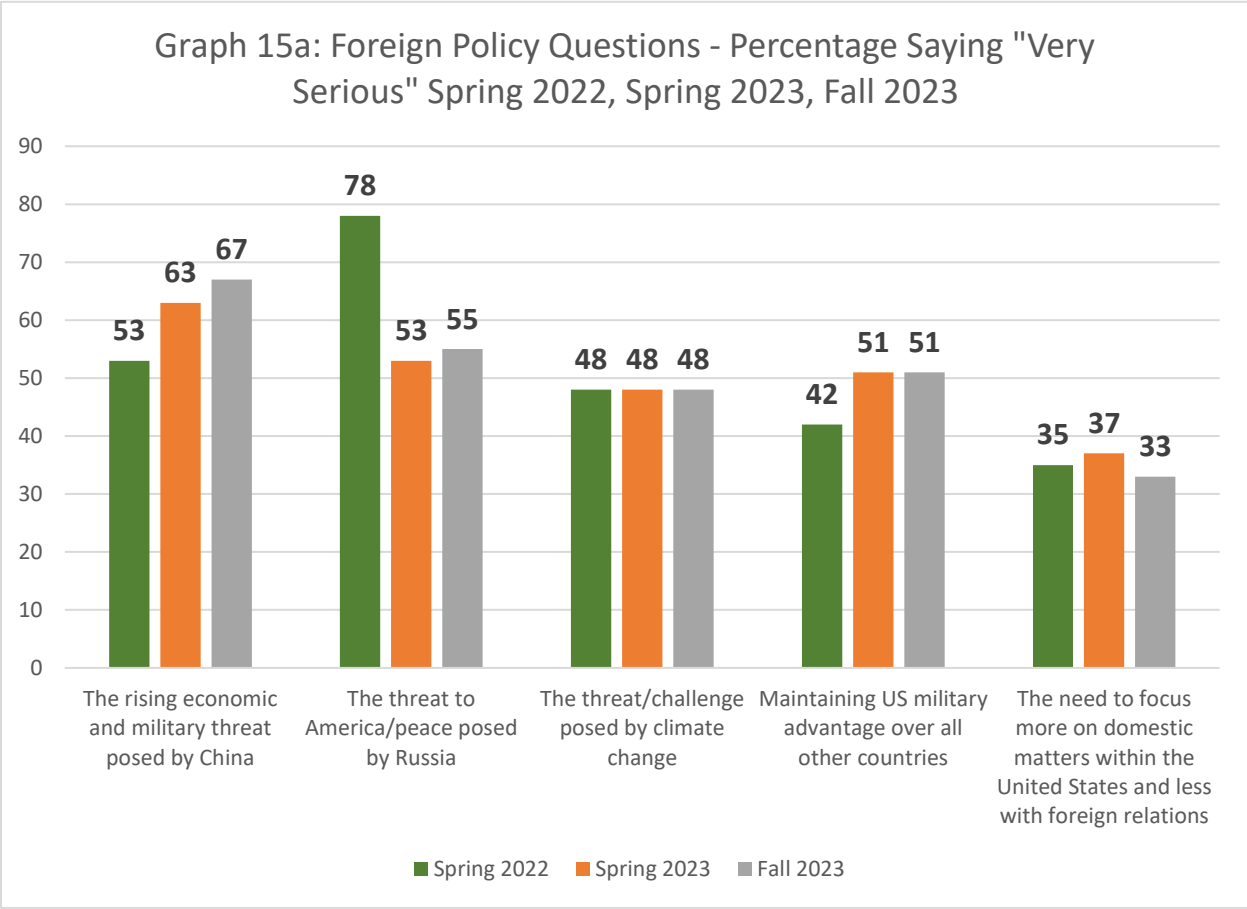
International Issues

The two previous surveys have asked how serious respondents believe some specific situations are – very, somewhat, or not very serious. Table 48 shows the five questions that relate to foreign affairs and climate change. Two other questions not part of that table deal with U.S. support/aid to Ukraine. Finally, there are two questions dealing with the situation in the Middle East involving Israel and Hamas.

Table 48 and Graph 15a show the results for the first five questions for fall 2023, spring 2023 and spring 2022.

Table 48: International Issues – Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023

	Spring 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023			
	Very serious	Very serious	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not very serious	Unsure, no opinion
The rising economic and military threat posed by China	53	63	67	25	3	5
The threat to America/peace posed by Russia	78	53	55	34	6	5
The threat/challenge posed by climate change	48	48	48	22	28	3
Maintaining US military advantage over all other countries	42	51	51	33	10	6
The need to focus more on domestic matters within the United States and less with foreign relations	35	37	33	43	6	8



The threat posed by China has been steadily rising as a very serious problem, moving from 53% to 67% over the course of the three surveys. The perception of Russia as a threat was very high just after the invasion of Ukraine – captured by the 78% score in the spring 2022 survey. However, just six months later perceptions had changed such that scores now fell in the mid-50 percent range, despite the ongoing war and the dependency of Ukraine on US military and humanitarian aid.

There was no change in the percentage saying “very serious” for climate change holding exactly constant over all three surveys. The percentage found for the question about “focus more on domestic matters within the United States and less with foreign relations” rose last spring to 51% but has remained unchanged this fall.

Table 49 shows differences in perceptions by political party; Table 50 shows it by ideology.

Table 49: “Very Serious” Percentages for Various International Issues by Party

	Overall Very serious			Dems			Reps			Unaffil.		
	Sp '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
The rising economic and military threat posed by China	53	63	67	37	51	61	73	84	82	58	62	59
The threat to America/peace posed by Russia	78	53	55	78	55	59	90	62	55	70	37	52
The threat/challenge posed by climate change	48	48	48	81	75	76	12	25	13	34	28	47
Maintaining US military advantage over all other countries	42	51	51	23	40	41	68	75	70	45	43	48
The need to focus more on domestic affairs within the United States and less with foreign relations	35	37	33	24	30	25	47	51	36	36	33	46

Table 49 shows some patterns. First, the threat perception regarding China has risen quite a bit among Democrats, from 37% in spring 2022 to 61% in fall 2023. Neither Republicans nor unaffiliateds showed nearly as much change.

Second, the fall in the threat perception regarding Russia was across the board, but most steeply felt among Republicans as it dropped from 90% to 55% over a year and a half.

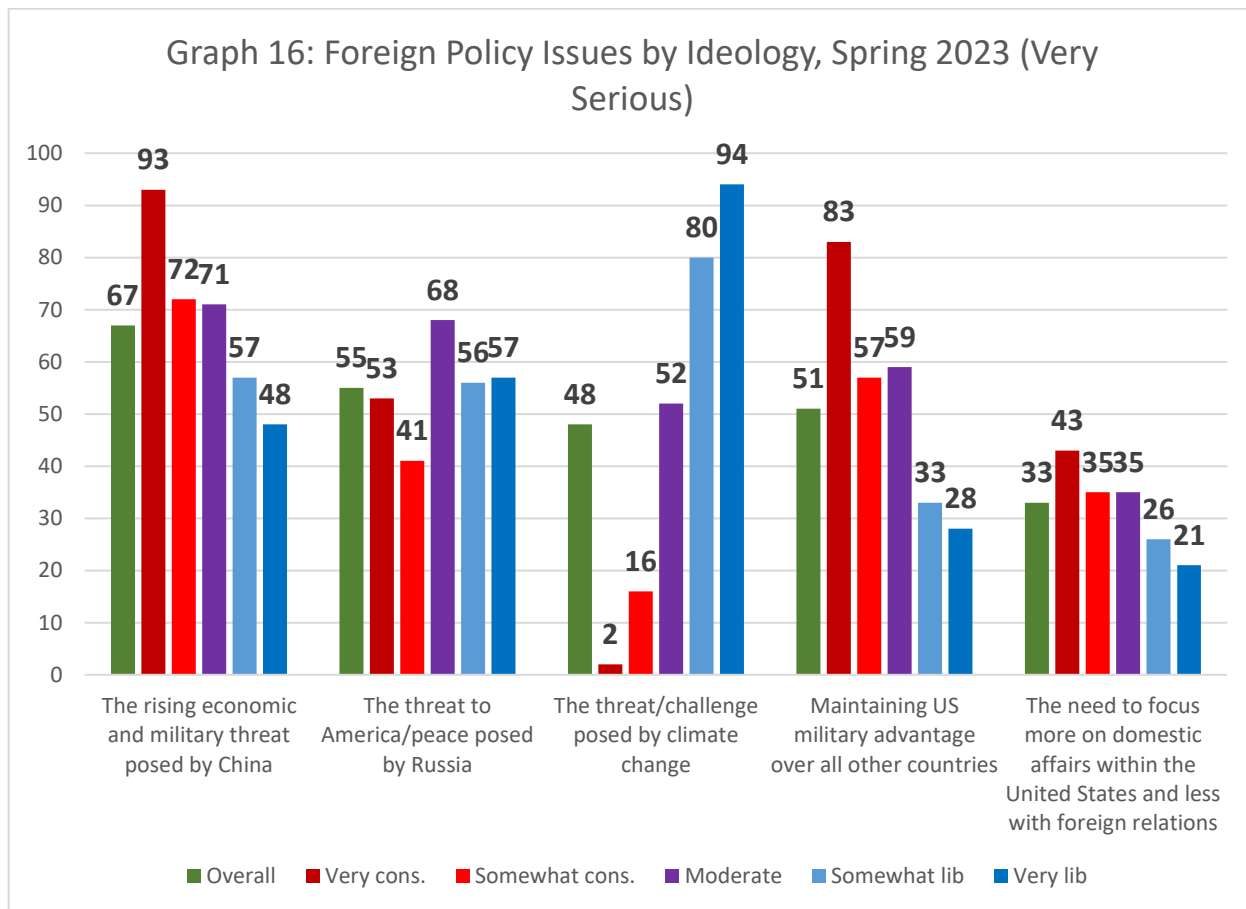
Third, there was strong consistency in views about climate change with Democrats continuing to express high concern (81%, 75%, 76%) and Republicans generally having opposite views (12%, 25%, 13%).

Fourth, the rise in concern about having the U.S. maintain a military advantage over all other countries was especially seen among Democrats (23%, 41%, 41%) in spring 2023.

Fifth, the idea that there is a need to focus more on domestic rather than foreign affairs has been relatively constant with scores from 33% to 37%. There was more movement among Republicans and unaffiliateds than for Democrats.

Table 50: Very Serious Percentages for Various International Issues by Ideology

	Overall	Very cons.	Somewhat cons.	Moderate	Somewhat lib	Very lib
The rising economic and military threat posed by China	67	93	72	71	57	48
The threat to America/peace posed by Russia	55	53	41	68	56	57
The threat/challenge posed by climate change	48	2	16	52	80	94
Maintaining US military advantage over all other countries	51	83	57	59	33	28
The need to focus more on domestic affairs within the United States and less with foreign relations	33	43	35	35	26	21
Total	100	100	100	101	100	100



Graph 16 illustrates the impact of ideology on foreign policy stances. Taking each issue individually, the first deals with China. The conservative zeal for this threat perception is dramatically shown by the 93% “very serious” score among very conservatives. Conversely, among very liberals, not even one half (48%) consider this threat to be very serious – a 45-point spread between the two extremes.

The second point focuses on Russia and yields no consistent pattern. Among very conservatives, 53% said that the threat was very serious; among very liberals, the percentage was hardly higher – 57%. The lowest score was among somewhat conservatives (41%); the highest among moderates (68%). Clearly, this is a very hard issue to process ideologically.

Third, the greatest scope of ideological disagreement concerns climate change. Among very conservatives, it hardly exists as an issue (2%) and even somewhat conservatives dismiss it (16%). Conversely, among very liberals it is the most highly rated foreign policy issue listed (94%) – thus a 92-point gap between very conservatives and very liberals.

Fourth, the idea of maintaining U.S. military advantage over all other countries also features left-right polarization, but in this case, it is a bit less extreme as very conservatives prioritize it (83%) while very liberals don’t (28%) – a 55-point difference. One difference that can be seen from Graph 15 for this issue is the swing of the moderates – who on climate change were closer to the liberals; here they are closer to the conservatives. Indeed, only 2 points separate somewhat

conservatives from moderates (57%, 59%) compared to the 26 points that separate moderates from somewhat liberals.

Finally, there was something of a rightward tilt to the issue of focusing more on domestic as opposed to foreign affairs. This might seem natural, given Trump's "America First" stance. In this case, there was a 22-point difference between very conservatives (43%) and very liberals (21%). Moderates were again closest to the somewhat conservatives on this issue.

Aid to Ukraine

Considering the somewhat diminished importance of Russia as a threat identified in the previous question, the issue of respondents’ receptivity to aid to the embattled country becomes especially salient.

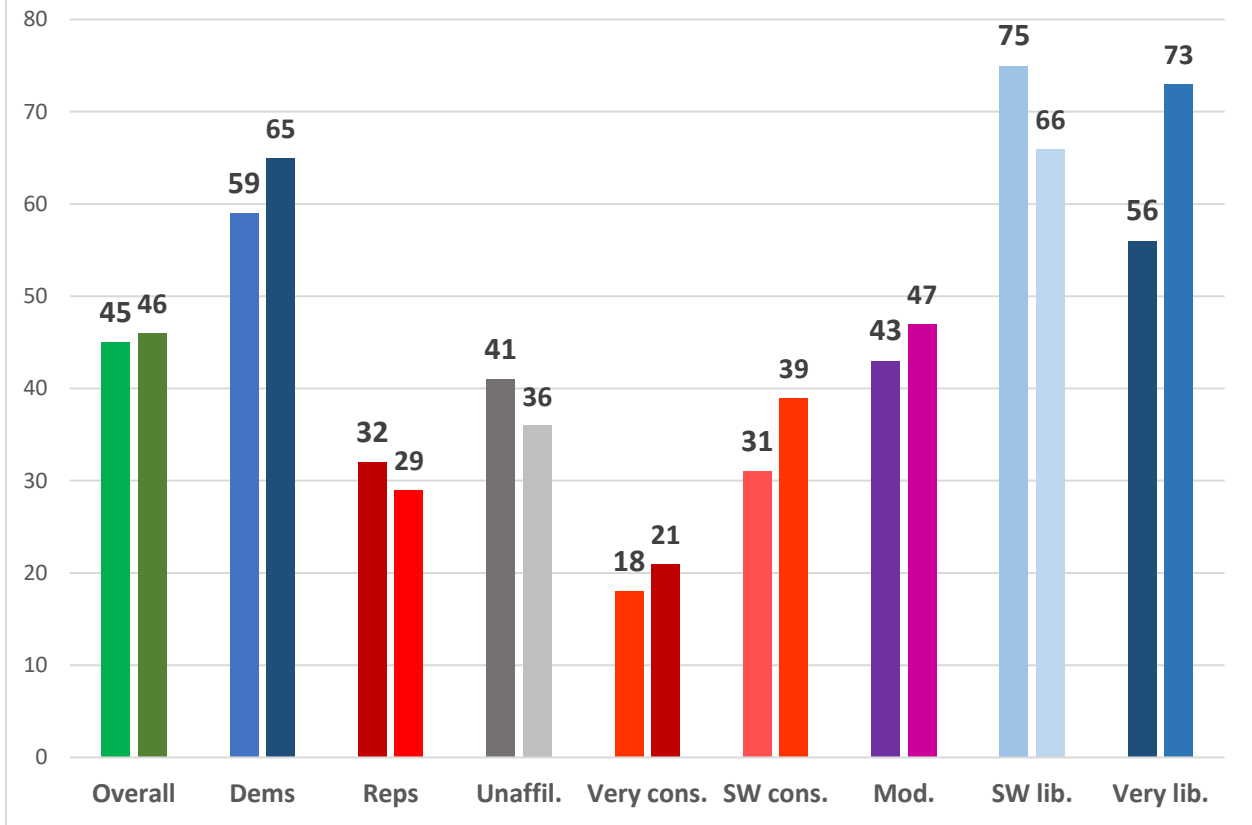
The survey included the question, “**Regarding the response of the Biden administration to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, would you say that it is providing about the right amount of financial and military support, too much or too little?**”

Table 51 shows the results for spring 2023 as well as fall 2023 both for the overall samples as well as by party and ideology. The overall level of support has remained unchanged – around 45% saying right amount or too little. That remains higher than those saying “too much” – between 35 and 39%. There is an obvious left-right aspect to this issue, with those on the left about twice as likely to support funding the Ukrainians. The very conservatives (18%) were very reluctant to provide aid; the very liberals were about equally enthusiastic (73%) for a 55-point gap. Graph 17 illustrates the levels of support by party and ideology across the two surveys.

Table 51: Support for U.S. Providing Aid to Ukraine

	Overall		Dems		Reps		Unaffil.		Very cons.		SW cons.		Mod.		SW lib.		Very lib.	
	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23
Right amount	30	30	45	44	15	15	25	26	1	5	16	19	29	36	56	45	40	45
Too little	15	16	14	21	17	14	16	10	17	16	15	13	14	11	19	21	16	27
Right+too little	45	46	59	65	32	29	41	36	18	21	31	39	43	47	75	66	56	73
Too much	39	35	30	21	59	55	30	40	81	64	46	49	47	37	4	14	29	12
Unsure, no opinion	16	19	11	14	9	16	29	25	2	15	23	20	10	17	21	20	16	15
Total	100	100	100		100		100		101		100		100		100		101	

Graph 17: Support for Aid to Ukraine by Party and Ideology



Israel and Hamas: Blame for Escalation of Violence, US Policy Priorities

The last two questions in this section focused on the war between Israel and Hamas. The first question asked, “**How much do you blame the escalation of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict upon the following: Israel, Hamas, Palestinians as a whole, Iran.**” The answer choices were “none or very little,” “some,” and “quite a bit.” Table 52 shows the results. Hamas received the highest percentage of “quite a bit” scores (75%), followed by Iran (53%). While Palestinians as a whole (71%) received more of the perceived blame than Israel (62%), the difference for the combined “some+quite a bit” category was only 9 percentage points.

Table 52: Blame for Escalation of Violence, Israel-Palestine Conflict

Item	None or very little	Some	Quite a bit	Some+Quite a bit
Israel	38	39	23	62
Hamas	5	20	75	95
Palestinians as a whole	29	52	19	71
Iran	10	34	53	87

Table 53 looks at the combined scores by party and ideology. Several points seem relevant:

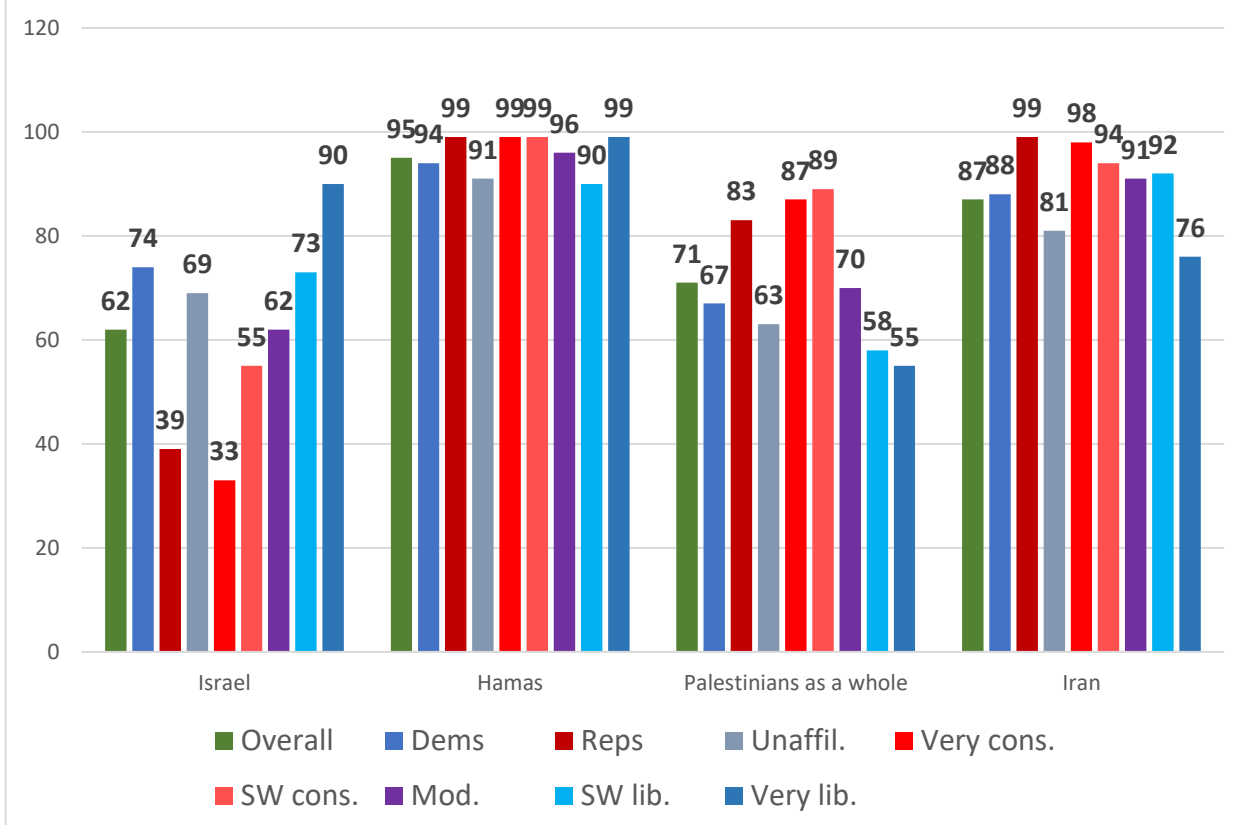
- (1) There is very little difference regarding Hamas – it was universally blamed.
- (2) Iran was similarly universally blamed.
- (3) “Palestinians as a whole” was subject to more partisan and ideological variance, with Democrats (67%) and liberals (58%, 55%) less likely to blame this source than Republicans (83%) or conservatives (very 87%, somewhat 89%).
- (4) Israel was subject to the greatest partisan and ideological variation, with Democrats (74%) about twice as likely as Republicans (39%) to offer blame. The same was clearly evident among ideological groups, with very liberals (90%) nearly three times more likely than very conservatives (33%) to place some blame on Israel.

Table 53: Blame for Escalation of Violence, Israel-Palestine Conflict by Party and Ideology (Combined “Some”+“Quite-a-bit”)

Item	Overall	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.	Very cons.	SW cons.	Mod.	SW lib.	Very lib.
Israel	62	74	39	69	33	55	62	73	90
Hamas	95	94	99	91	99	99	96	90	99
Palestinians as a whole	71	67	83	63	87	89	70	58	55
Iran	87	88	99	81	98	94	91	92	76

The differences on Israel and Palestinians as a whole can be seen in Graph 18. It shows the relative unanimity on Hamas and Iran, but the shaper differences on Israel and Hamas.

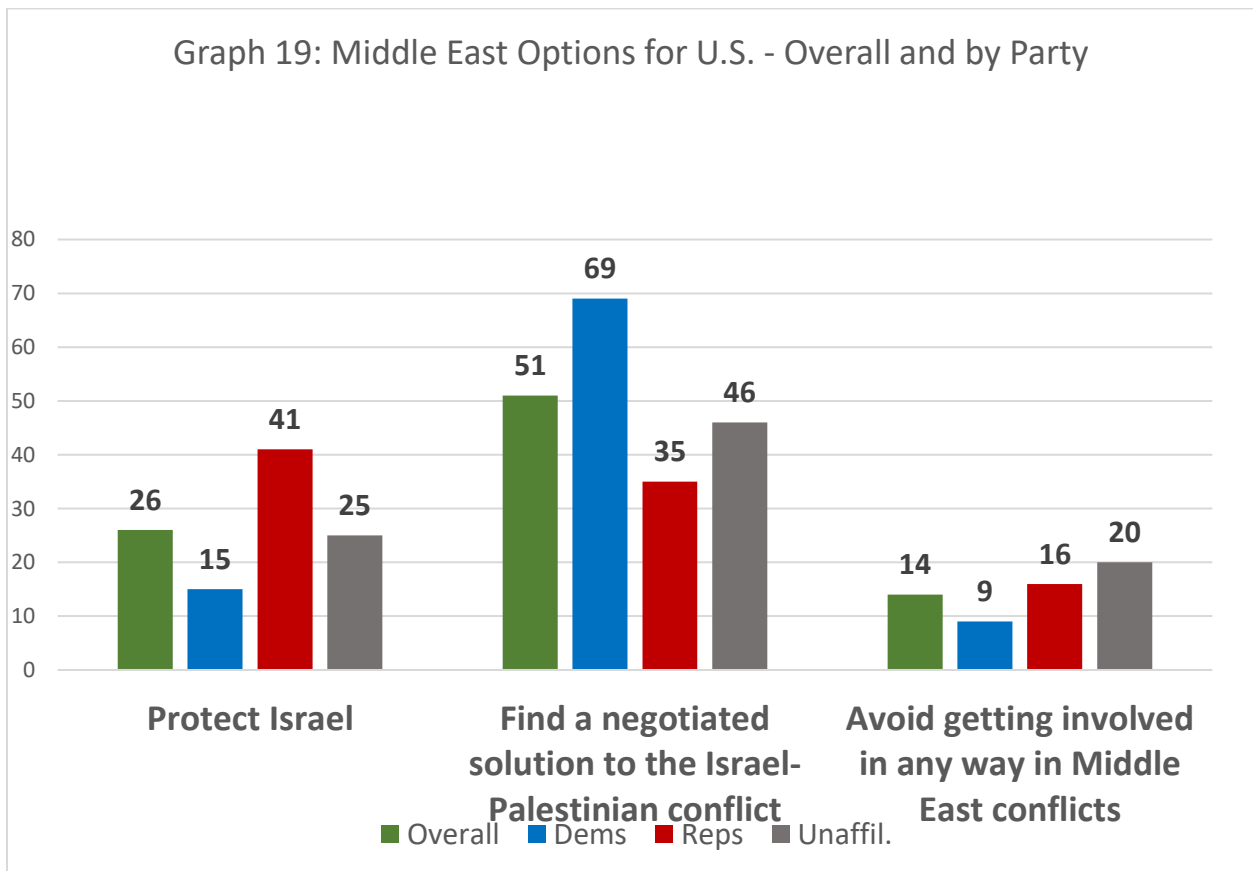
Graph 18: Blame for Escalation by Party and Ideology



The last question dealing with this conflict asked, “**Thinking about U.S. policy toward the Middle East, which of these should be the most important goal: protect Israel, find a negotiated solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and avoid getting involved in any way in Middle East conflicts.**” Table 54 and Graph19 show the overall and party-based results. The same partisan divides were evident, as Republicans were nearly three times more likely to say, “Protect Israel” (41%) than were Democrats (15%). By contrast, Democrats (69%) were twice as likely to say “Find a negotiated solution...” than were Republicans (35%). The latter (16%), along with unaffiliateds (20%), were the most likely to agree with the stance “Avoid getting involved in any way...”

Table 54: Blame for Escalation of Violence, Israel-Palestine Conflict, Overall and by Party

Item	Overall	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
Protect Israel	26	15	41	25
Find a negotiated solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict	51	69	35	46
avoid getting involved in any way in Middle East conflicts	14	9	16	20
Unsure	9	6	8	9
Total	100	99	100	100



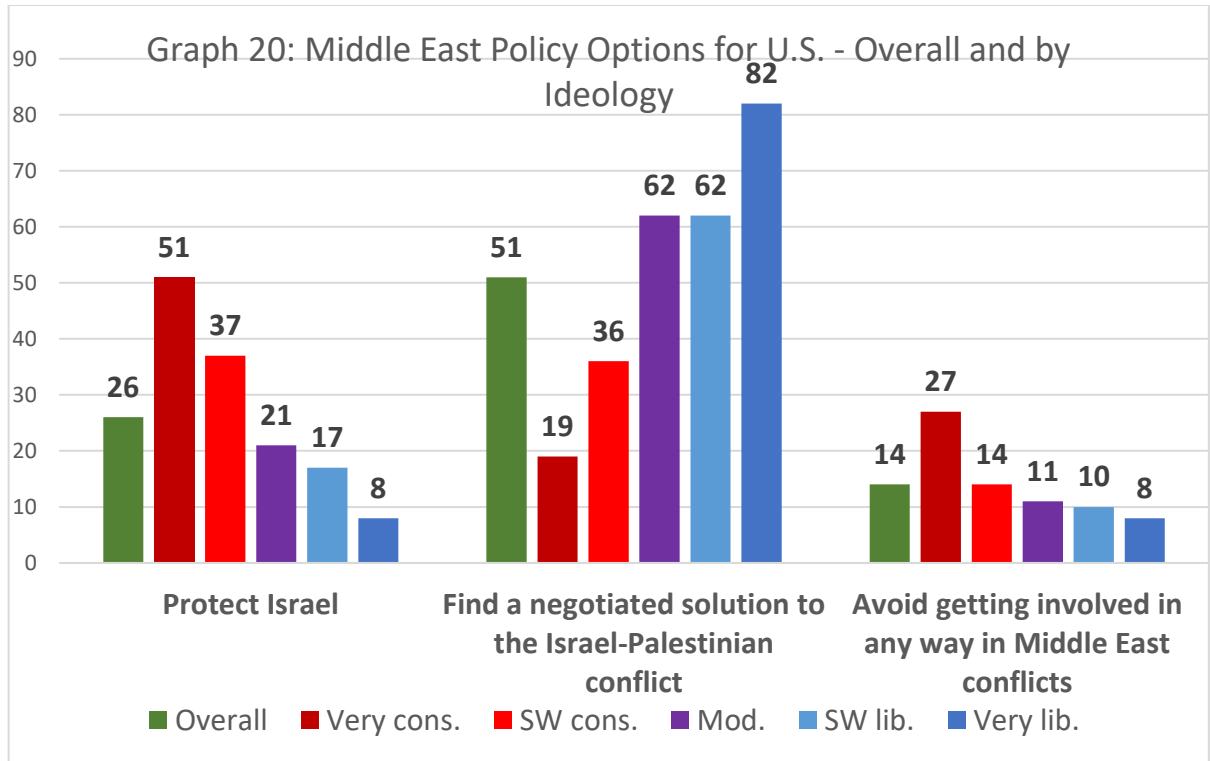


Table 55 and Graph 20 show the array of responses for this question by ideology. Generally, the left-right division mentioned above is replicated, but with greater intensity. While 51% of very conservatives believe that protecting Israel is the most important goal, only 8% of very liberals agree – a 43-point difference. Finding a negotiated solution reveals a 63-point gap in reverse, with very liberals (82%) favoring this approach much more than very conservatives (19%). The “America First” isolationist stance is more than three times as likely to be favored by very conservatives (27%) than very liberals (8%).

Table 55: Middle East Policy for U.S., Overall and by Party

Item	Overall	Very cons.	SW cons.	Mod.	SW lib.	Very lib.
Protect Israel	26	51	37	21	17	8
Find a negotiated solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict	51	19	36	62	62	82
Avoid getting involved in any way in Middle East conflicts	14	27	14	11	10	8
Unsure	9	4	13	6	11	3
Total	100	101	100	100	100	101

Appendix I includes open-ended comments for this section.

Politics Section: Elections, Voting Preferences, Job Approval, Trust in Parties

2020 Elections – “Stolen?”

The politics part of the press release starts with the 2020 presidential election and the idea that the election was “stolen” from former President Trump. Specifically, the question asked was: **“Do you agree with the former President Trump that he actually won the last election and that it was “stolen” from him?”** This question has been asked since spring 2021. Table 56 shows the results over time, listing only the “stolen” and “not stolen” categories. Table 57 shows the actual choices faced by respondents for the last three surveys. The “Yes, fully agree” and “Yes, somewhat agree” categories were combined in Table 56 as well as in Graph 21 that visualizes the results shown in Table 56.

Table 60 shows that there hasn’t been much change in respondents’ views about the 2020 election in these terms:

- (1) Around 20% of the overall sample accepts the stolen election claim at least somewhat.
- (2) Around half of the Republican respondents accept the claim.
- (3) Around 20% of unaffiliated voters accept the claim.
- (4) Around 5% of Democrats accepts the claim.

While the range of responses has varied by party category – especially for Republicans and unaffiliateds, there is no clear pattern showing that the stolen election claim is less accepted now than it was three years ago.

Graph 21: Beliefs About Trump's Stolen Election Claim, Overall and by Party

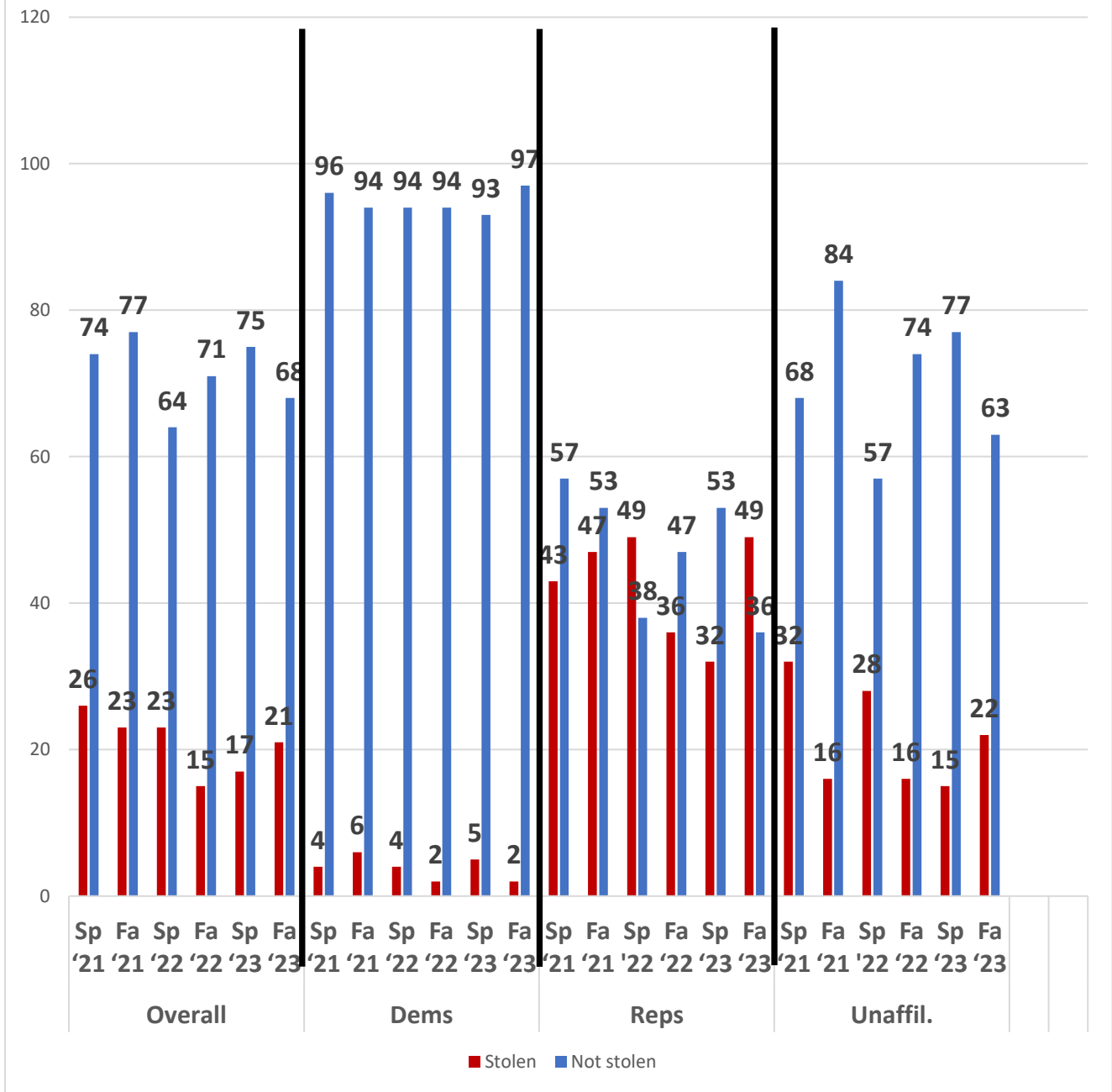


Table 56: Election Stolen, Overall and by Party

	Overall						Dems						Reps						Unaffil.					
	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Stolen	26	23	23	15	17	21	4	6	4	2	5	2	43	47	49	36	32	49	32	16	28	16	15	22
Not stolen	74	77	64	71	75	68	96	94	94	94	93	97	57	53	38	47	53	36	68	84	57	74	77	63

Note: Results prior to spring 2022 are only roughly comparable since the question was modified somewhat to include two possible “yes” answers (yes fully agree, and yes somewhat agree), as well as a “Unsure, don’t know” answer. The two affirmative answers have been combined in Table 23. The “Not stolen” percentage excludes respondents who said “Unsure, no opinion” and therefore the columns do not equal 100 percent.

Table 57: Overall Results for Stolen Election Claim – Fall 2022, Spring 2023

	Overall Fall 2022	Overall Spring 2023	Overall Fall 2023
Yes, fully agree	9	8	13
Yes, somewhat agree	7	9	9
No, don’t agree	71	75	68
Unsure/don’t know	14	9	11
Total	100	101	101

It remains evident that ideology and party identification continue to structure people's perceptions of the "stolen election" claim. Table 58 shows that very conservative respondents are strongly inclined to support the stolen election claim (69%); very liberal respondents are strongly inclined to reject it (0%). As mentioned earlier, there is no clear pattern of diminution in acceptance of the stolen election claim – the most enduring feature is the strength with which party and especially ideology structure people's perception of the truth value of the claim.

Table 58: Ideology and Stolen Election Claim

	Very cons						SW cons						Mod					
	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Stolen	82	79	78	74	77	69	41	30	38	31	31	29	23	15	21	5	9	13
Not stolen	18	21	19	14	15	15	59	70	43	50	59	56	77	85	67	73	80	76

Table 58: Ideology and Stolen Election Claim (continued)

	SW lib						Very lib					
	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '21	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Stolen	2	7	7	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not stolen	98	93	88	96	94	93	100	100	100	100	100	100

2024 Elections – Biden, Trump or Someone Else

This section also asked about the 2024 presidential elections. The survey asked, “If the presidential elections were today, for whom would you vote?” The only specific candidates offered were Joe Biden and Donald Trump, but the question offered the choice of “3rd party candidate” and “probably wouldn’t vote.”¹⁷

Table 59: Candidates for 2024 Presidential Elections

	Overall	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
Joe Biden	42	78	7	32
Donald Trump	33	6	72	26
A 3 rd Party candidate	17	12	17	25
Probably wouldn’t vote	8	4	5	17

Table 59 shows Joe Biden with a 9-point lead over Donald Trump. This was 7-points lower than the 16% who said that they voted for Biden in 2020 over Trump.¹⁸ More Democrats (78%) were likely to vote for Biden than Republicans (72%) were to vote for Trump. However, the defection rate of Democrats to Trump and Republicans to Biden was almost identical (6%, 7%). What seems glaring is the willingness of each of the party categories to favor “a 3rd party candidate” rather than one of the two likely nominees. This was true of Democrats (12%), Republicans (17%) and especially for unaffiliateds (25%), where Biden’s lead is only 6-points.

Table 60: Candidates for 2024 Presidential Elections

	Dem	Strong Dem	Somewhat strong Dem	Not strong Dem	Rep	Strong Rep	Somewhat strong Rep	Not strong Rep
Joe Biden	78	97	70	43	7	0	4	29
Donald Trump	6	1	5	24	72	93	65	33
A 3 rd Party candidate	12	1	16	31	17	2	28	28
Probably wouldn’t vote	4	1	9	2	5	5	3	10

Table 60 shows how including the strength of party affiliation affects the outcome. Clearly the problem for both sides is that as the strength of party affiliation decreases, defections away from the likely nominees increase. Among Democrats, nearly all “strong” (97%) Democrats are ready to vote for Biden. (The pattern is nearly the same for strong Republicans voting for Trump - 93%). However, among “somewhat strong” Democrats, the percentage decreases to just 70%; for somewhat strong Republicans, the percentage is 65%. For those with the weakest partisan affiliation (“not very strong”), among Democrats only 43% would commit to voting for Biden –

¹⁷ The survey tried to evaluate the appeal of other Republican candidates, but the Qualtrics ranking tool did not produce reliable results so these were omitted in this analysis.

¹⁸ The exact results were Biden 45%, Trump 29%, someone else 7% and didn’t vote 18%. As reported by the Maryland Board of elections, the actual 2020 results were Biden 56%, Trump 41% - a 15-point gap.

and 24% would favor Trump. Among Republicans, only 33% would vote for Trump and 29% for Biden.

Table 60a shows that the strength of party affiliation isn't very different for Democrats and Republicans.

Table 60a: Strength of Party Affiliation

	Dems	Reps
Strong	46	44
Somewhat strong	41	36
Not very strong	13	19

Among unaffiliateds, a follow-up was asked:

“During elections, do you find yourself leaning more toward Republican, Democratic, third-party candidates or are you mostly voting for specific candidates without concern for party affiliation?”

Most (56%) claimed to vote for the candidate, with slightly more of the others saying Democrat (26%) than Republican (17%).

Table 60b shows how these subdivisions among unaffiliateds affected the anticipated vote. Party leaners anticipated voting for their party's candidates in equal percentages: 62%. Many more Democratic leaners said that they wouldn't vote at all (21%) compared to Republican leaners (6%). However, the latter was twice as likely to vote for a 3rd party candidate (33%) than were Democratic leaners (17%). Among those who claimed to just vote for the candidate, nearly equal percentages said that they would vote for Biden (26%), Trump (29%), or a 3rd party candidate (26%). Another 19% said that they wouldn't vote at all.

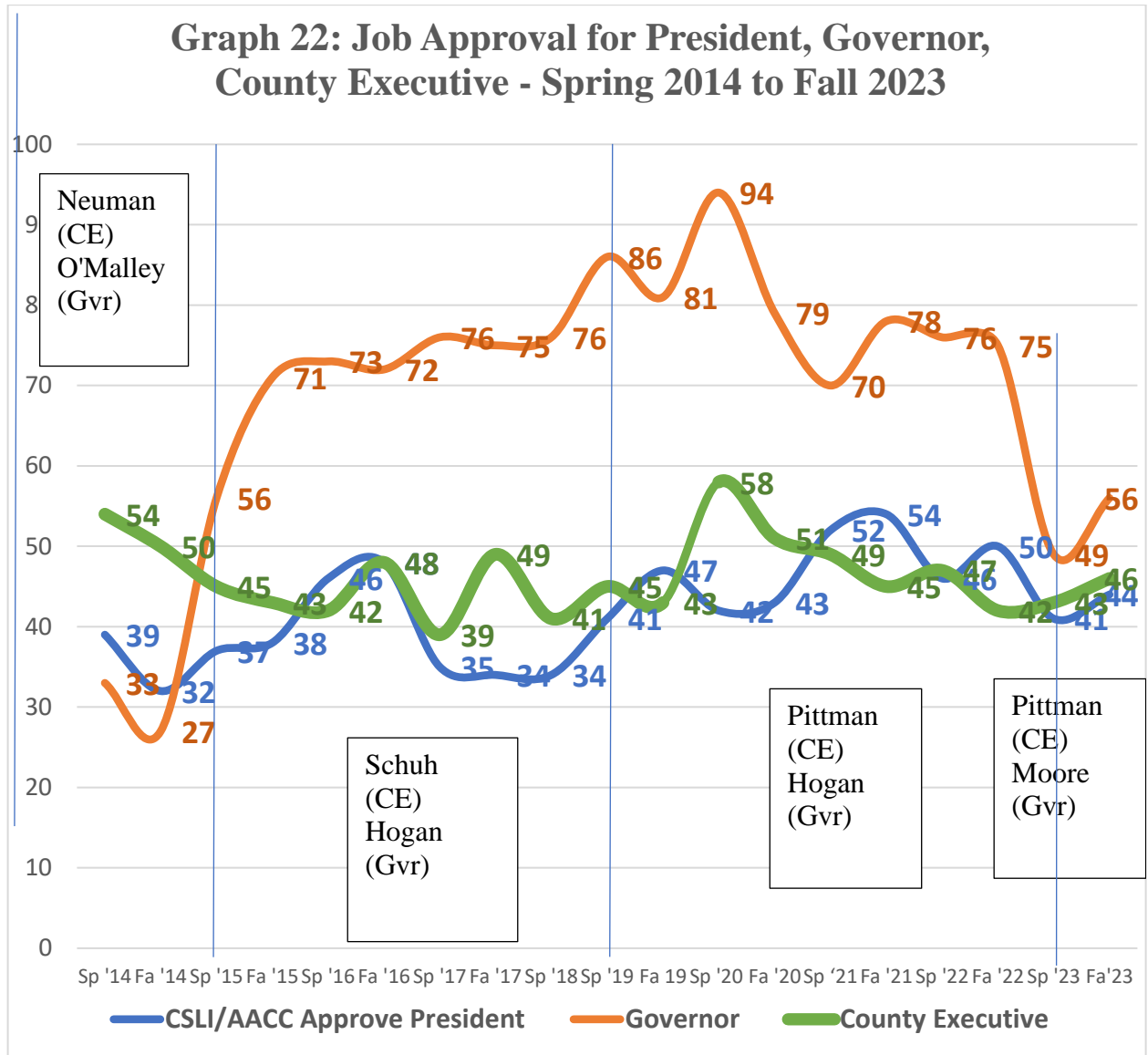
Table 60b: Unaffiliated Voters – Party Lean

	Dem	Rep	Vote for Candidate
Biden	62	0	26
Trump	0	62	29
3rd Party	17	33	26
Wouldn't vote	21	6	19

Appendix J includes open ended comments about presidential selections

Job Approval for the President, Governor, and County Executive

Each AACC/CSLI community survey asks respondents to indicate approval or disapproval of the job performed by an incumbent in office. Graph 22 shows the percentages saying, “approve” for the county executive, the governor and the president.¹⁹ There are open-ended comments associated with each office – see **Appendices K through N** (see pp. 163-180).



¹⁹ A coding error in combining the online with the telephone samples made the results problematic for Fall 2018. Those results are excluded from Graph 20. 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: The first job approval focus will be on the president. Historically, prior to the 2020 elections for president, our poll found that the former President Trump’s job approval was 43%, just slightly higher than the previous spring when it was 42%.

One year later, in fall 2021, Joe Biden’s job approval registered 54% – combining “strong” with “somewhat approve” (see Table 61). By spring 2022, Biden’s job approval had dropped to 46% echoing a generally declining job approval score in national polls which reached 41% according to [realclearpolitics.com](https://www.realclearpolitics.com) (RCP) in the same period as the spring 2022 poll (see Graph 23). The spring 2023 survey showed Biden as having reached a new low in job approval; the fall 2023 survey found a slight rise in Biden’s job approval numbers from 41% to 44%. This was slightly higher than the average of polls shown on [realclearpolitics.com](https://www.realclearpolitics.com) – 41%.²⁰ Given that the margin of Biden’s election win in 2020 was much higher than Trump’s that year, it isn’t surprising that Biden remains a bit more popular in the county than nationally.²¹

Graph 23 shows the pattern for both poll sources –AACC/CSLI as well as Gallup/RCP. Table 61 shows the overall job approval score over the period spring 2015 to fall 2023. Table 62 shows a more detailed set of presidential job approval percentages over a more limited time period by party.

²⁰ For the job approval score on November 5, 2023, see <https://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/other/president-biden-job-approval-7320.html>

²¹ Since fall 2007 and prior to Biden’s victory in 2020, AACC/CSLI polls of county residents generally tracked national presidential job approval trends as indicated by Gallup surveys.²¹ Unfortunately, the Gallup organization now only tracks presidential job approval monthly, making it less relevant to the periods when the AACC/CSLI poll is in the field.

As alluded to above, comparisons of local results with national results now rely on the [realclearpolitics.com](https://www.realclearpolitics.com) site, where recent polls can be compared to AACC/CSLI poll results. The “RCP average” will be used in this and future reports. Results prior to fall 2020 listed in Table 23 are based on the Gallup findings.

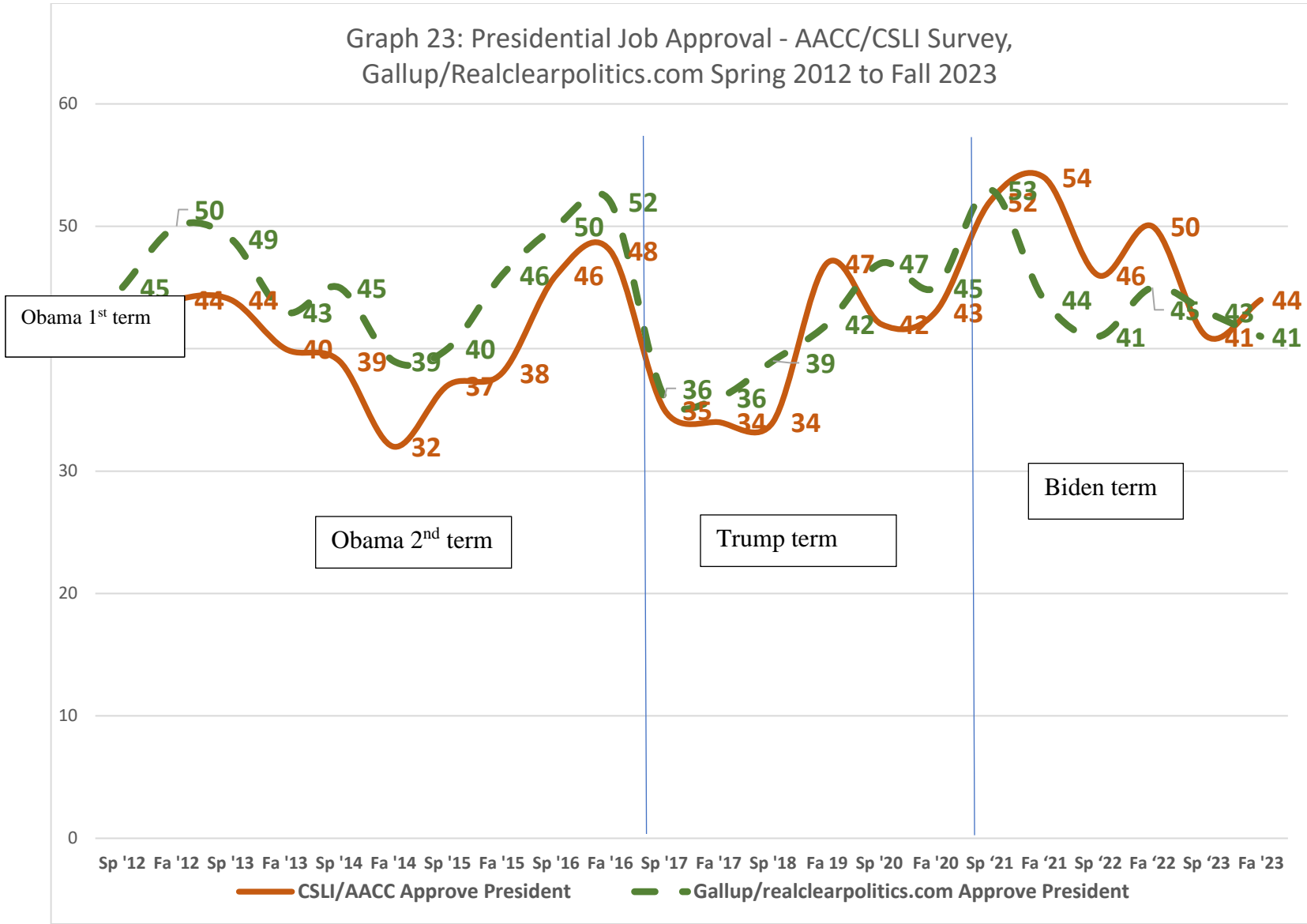
Table 61: AACC/CSLI Presidential Job Approval Spring 2015 to Fall 2023

	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	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Approve	37	38	46	48	35	34	34	40	47	42	43	52	54	46	50	41	44
Disapprove	56	52	47	46	54	55	56	56	56	58	56	42	44	50	42	54	49
No answer	7	10	7	6	11	11	11	4	3	0	1	5	3	5	7	6	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	101	99	100	100	99	101	101	99	101	100

Table 62: Presidential Job Approval – Overall and by Party Registration, Fall 2021 through Fall 2023

	Overall					Dems					Reps					Unaffiliated				
	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Strongly+somewhat	54	46	50	41	44	85	79	71	72	79	19	11	18	9	8	51	32	51	27	30
Strongly approve	22	17	18	15	21	46	34	34	31	42	4	3	4	2	4	8	7	18	3	6
Somewhat approve	32	29	32	26	23	39	45	39	41	37	15	8	14	7	4	43	25	33	24	24
Somewhat disapprove	7	10	8	13	9	5	10	8	9	8	10	6	7	9	7	5	19	15	26	18
Strongly disapprove	37	40	34	41	43	7	7	10	16	11	70	83	73	80	85	42	43	25	41	45
Unsure, don't know	3	5	7	6	4	3	5	9	4	3	1	0	2	3	0	1	6	9	6	8
Total	101	101	99	101	101	100	101	101	101	101	100	100	100	101	100	99	100	100	100	101

Graph 23: Presidential Job Approval - AACC/CSLI Survey, Gallup/Realclearpolitics.com Spring 2012 to Fall 2023



Gubernatorial Job Approval

As former Governor Larry Hogan set a high bar for job approval, Wes Moore would seem to have a difficult time creating the broad coalition of Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliateds to sustain job approvals that were regularly above 70 percent. Moore is very unlikely to hold on to most of the Republican Party, implying that his job approval will ultimately depend mostly on Democrats as well as liberal or moderate unaffiliateds. The results are shown on Tables 63 and 64, as well as Graph 24.

We now have two results for Moore's job approval – spring and fall 2023. The following observations seem warranted:

- (1) There has been at least a 20-point drop in gubernatorial job approval since Hogan left office.
- (2) Moore's job approval went up between spring and fall 2023, with fewer "unsure/don't know" respondents.
- (3) Improvements in Moore's scores were mostly due to increases in approval scores from Democrats (71%, 83%) and unaffiliateds (29%/48%)
- (4) Republicans decreased their support from 37% to 25%, showing the difficulty of keeping the Hogan coalition together.
- (5) There was some improvement in Moore's scores across all categories except very conservatives.

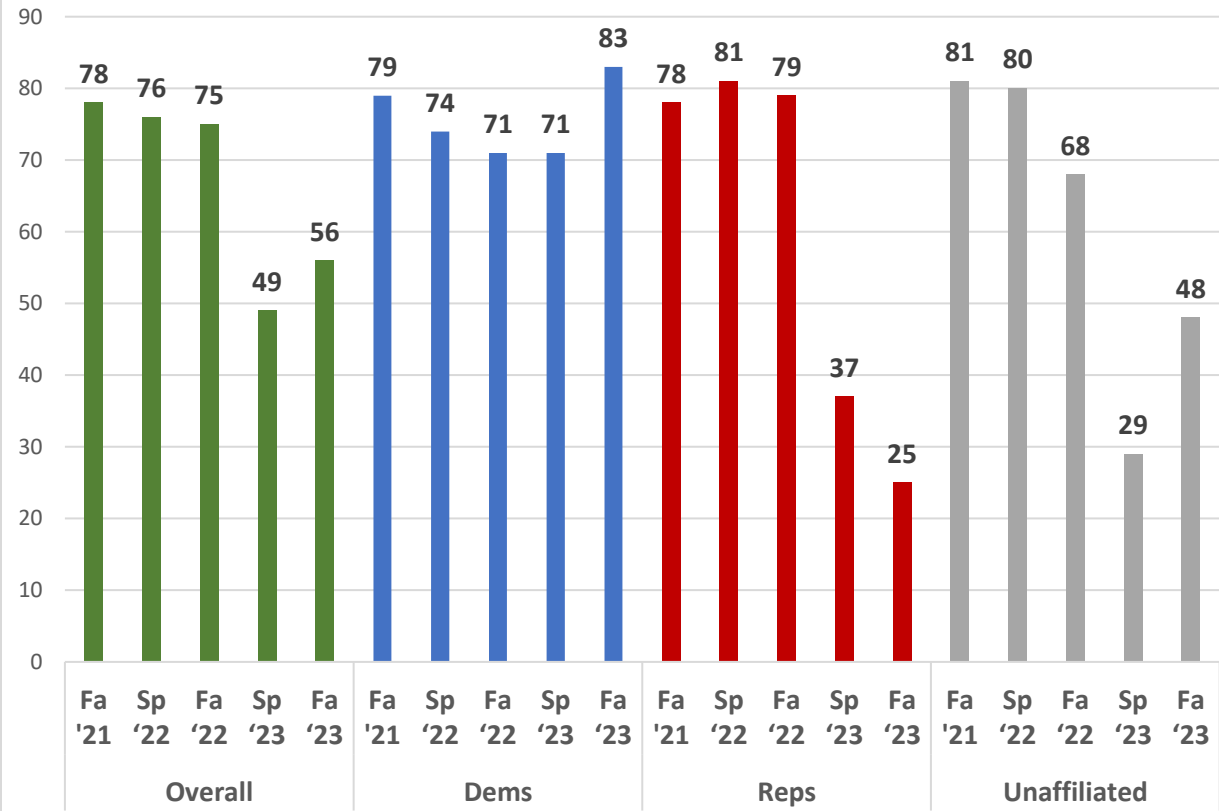
**Table 63: Gubernatorial Job Approval – Overall and by Party Registration,
Fall 2021 through Fall 2023**

	Overall					Dems					Reps					Unaffiliated				
	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Strongly+somewhat	78	76	75	49	56	79	74	71	71	83	78	81	79	37	25	81	80	68	29	48
Strongly approve	36	36	36	23	27	34	31	35	35	48	41	51	48	18	7	39	35	28	11	15
Somewhat approve	42	40	39	26	29	45	43	36	36	35	37	30	31	19	18	43	45	40	19	33
Somewhat disapprove	13	13	13	14	13	16	15	17	9	5	14	15	15	20	24	9	9	8	20	11
Strongly disapprove	4	5	3	10	18	2	6	1	2	4	5	5	4	25	40	4	7	8	6	15
Unsure, don't know	5	6	10	27	14	4	5	11	19	7	4	0	2	19	11	5	4	17	44	27
Total	100	100	101	100	101	101	100	100	101	99	101	101	100	101	100	99	100	99	100	101

Table 64: Gubernatorial Job Approval by Ideology, Spring/Fall 2023

	Overall		Very cons.		SW cons.		Mod.		SW lib.		Very lib.	
	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23
Strongly+Somewhat approve	49	57	17	17	16	31	48	66	88	83	78	88
Strongly approve	23	27	0	0	3	8	25	29	46	52	36	49
Somewhat approve	26	29	17	17	13	23	23	37	42	31	42	39
Somewhat disapprove	14	13	15	23	40	27	8	9	2	2	9	2
Strongly disapprove	10	18	50	53	14	31	8	12	0	1	0	0
Unsure, no opinion	27	14	18	7	31	12	37	12	10	14	14	10
Total	100	101	101	100	100	101	100	99	100	100	101	100

Graph 24: Gubernatorial Job Approval Fall 2021 to Fall 2023



County Executive Job Approval

Anne Arundel county executives have had a difficult time knowing exactly where they stand with the public due to the relatively large percentages of respondents who don't know enough to offer an evaluation. On average, between a fifth and a fourth of respondents say "don't know" when asked about the county executive's job approval. This tends to create the impression of relatively low job approval, looking only at the absolute values of the percentages in the "strongly+somewhat" approve line in Table 65 – for this fall 46%.

With County Executive Steuart Pittman in his second term, it might seem that there would be growing recognition of his performance while in office, but this hasn't been seen in the survey results. One way to circumvent this issue is to note the net approval score – this means adding strongly and somewhat approve together and then subtracting the somewhat and strongly disapprove scores.

Table 65: County Executive Job Approval – Overall

	Overall				
	Fa 21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Net approval	11	15	8	8	15
Strongly+somewhat	45	47	42	43	46
Strongly approve	15	20	18	16	19
Somewhat approve	30	27	24	27	27
Somewhat disapprove	13	11	15	13	12
Strongly disapprove	21	21	19	22	19
Unsure, don't know	21	21	24	22	22
Total	100	100	100	100	100

According to the scores in Table 65, Pittman has matched his highest previous net approval score (+15) last attained in spring 2022. Based on the information in Table 65a, his fall 2023 improvement (from 43% to 46%) was based entirely on higher approval among Democrats (62%, 70%) rather than any increases among Republicans or unaffiliateds. Table 66 does show some improvements in several ideological categories, perhaps not well converted into party results.

**Table 65a: County Executive Job Approval – Overall and
by Party Registration, Fall 2021 to Fall 2023**

	Overall					Dems					Reps					Unaffiliated				
	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Strongly+somewhat	45	47	42	43	46	72	68	64	62	70	24	24	22	31	28	32	48	34	31	31
Strongly approve	15	20	18	16	19	32	41	34	32	37	3	4	5	3	5	8	8	9	6	6
Somewhat approve	30	27	24	27	27	40	28	30	30	33	21	20	16	29	23	24	40	25	25	25
Somewhat disapprove	13	11	15	13	12	5	5	4	7	6	22	20	25	20	23	12	8	22	21	13
Strongly disapprove	21	21	19	22	19	6	6	6	8	5	39	43	38	31	41	22	23	13	38	16
Unsure, don't know	21	21	24	22	22	18	20	27	24	19	15	13	16	17	9	35	20	32	11	40
Total	100	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	101	101	101	99	99	101	100

Table 66: County Executive Job Approval by Ideology, Spring/Fall 2023

	Overall		Very cons.		SW cons.		Mod.		SW lib.		Very lib.	
	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23
Strongly+somewhat	43	46	6	20	21	33	50	56	73	60	52	68
Strongly approve	16	19	0	4	3	3	13	19	31	33	36	43
Somewhat approve	27	27	6	16	18	30	37	37	42	27	16	25
Somewhat disapprove	13	12	13	15	27	26	12	13	6	2	10	7
Strongly disapprove	22	19	61	57	40	29	20	15	5	2	0	1
Unsure, no opinion	22	22	21	8	12	12	19	17	17	36	38	23
Total	100	100	101	100	100	100	101	101	101	100	100	99

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 as well as the US Supreme Court. The updated results are shown on Tables 67 and 67a well as Graph 25.

The results are summarized below:

- (1) Anne Arundel County Council – up 4 points from 44% in spring 2023 to 48% in fall 2023. It has a net positive job approval score of 20 points.
- (2) Board of Education – up 11 points from spring 2023 (27%) to fall 2023 (38%). Its net approval was just +1.
- (3) Maryland General Assembly – up 6 points, with a net approval score of +8.
- (4) U.S. Congress – down one point to 14% from 15%. Its net job approval is -62.
- (5) Supreme Court (US) – up 5 points from 31% to 36%. Its net job approval is -20.

As in the past, none of the institutions listed have had particularly impressive “strongly approve” percentages (from 1 to 9 percent); all the local institutions had very high “unsure” scores (from 24 to 25 percent).

In Table 68 (and Graph 26) are the scores for each institution by party registration from fall 2021 to fall 2023. As in the past, those institutions in which a party has a majority are usually more highly rated than in institutions in which the party is in a minority. It is not a surprise that Democrats think more highly of the Anne Arundel County Council or the Maryland General Assembly than do Republicans. Conversely, it might be expected that Republicans would have a high job approval score for the Supreme Court (63%) compared to Democrats (19%).

Congress was distinct in that neither party (nor unaffiliateds) was inclined to give it high marks – it registered the lowest scores of the series both overall as well as among partisans.

Lastly, the Supreme Court seems headed to being regarded as another partisan institution rather than something “above politics” since there is a 44-point gap between Democrats (19%) and Republicans (63%) in job approval scores. Overall, the middling or very low scores with underlying party polarization offer long-term challenges to the legitimacy of each of these national institutions.

Table 67: Legislatures and Supreme Court – Job Approval Overall

	Strongly+somewhat approve				
	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Anne Arundel County Council	47	49	46	44	48
Board of Education	36	36	32	27	38
Maryland General Assembly	44	42	39	36	42
U.S. Congress	24	19	24	15	14
US Supreme Court	42	42	39	31	36

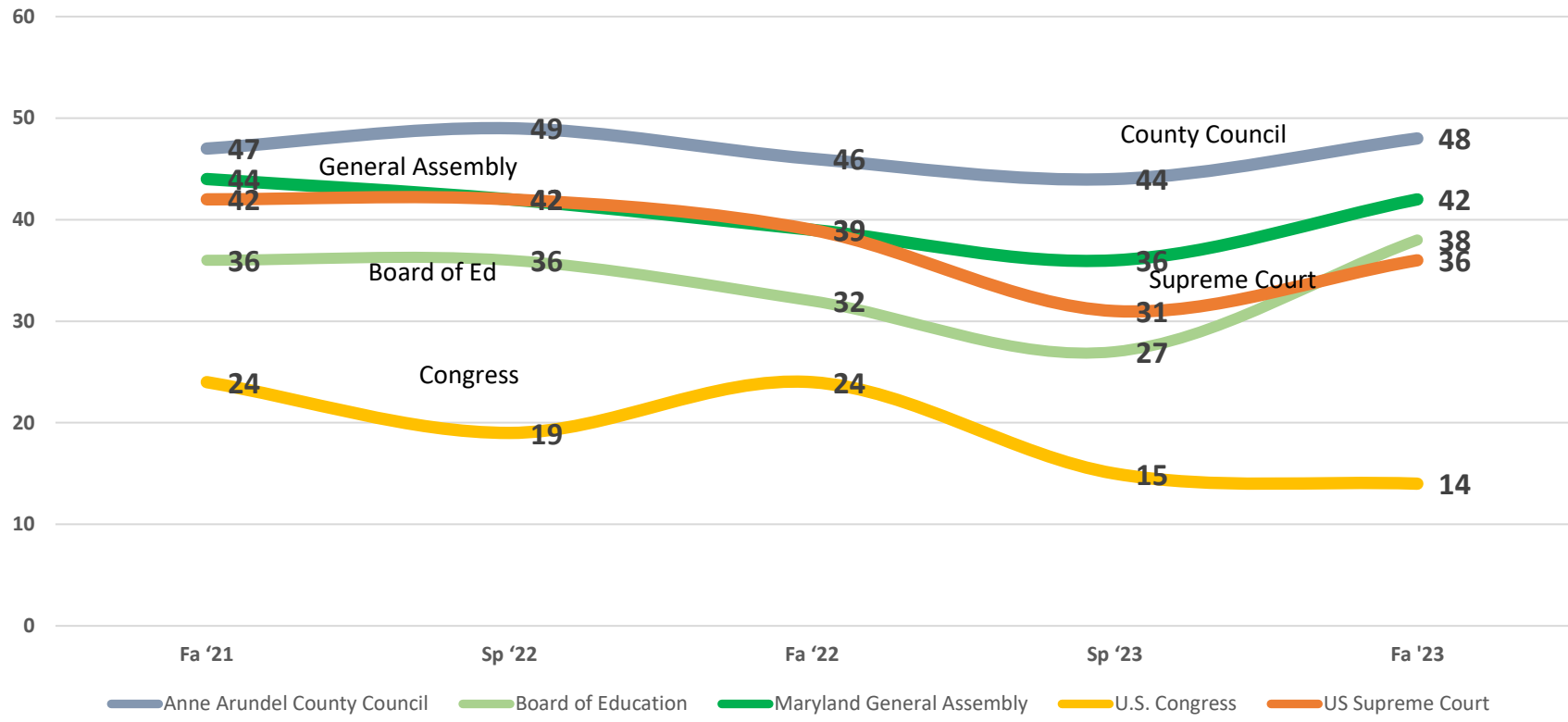
Table 67a: Legislatures and Supreme Court – Job Approval Detailed

	Strongly approve					Somewhat approve					Somewhat disapprove					Strongly disapprove					Unsure, no opinion				
	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Anne Arundel County Council	6	6	9	6	7	41	43	37	38	41	18	20	21	17	13	8	5	6	7	15	27	25	27	31	24
Board of Education	6	5	3	2	4	30	31	29	25	34	26	22	25	18	19	17	20	21	23	18	21	23	22	32	25
Maryland General Assembly	9	6	9	7	9	35	36	30	29	33	15	20	13	14	13	16	18	17	18	21	25	21	32	33	25
U.S. Congress	2	2	3	1	1	22	17	21	14	13	29	31	28	41	30	38	41	34	33	46	9	9	14	11	9
US Supreme Court	9	4	12	7	9	33	38	27	26	27	38	30	15	21	20	17	16	36	36	35	13	13	10	9	9

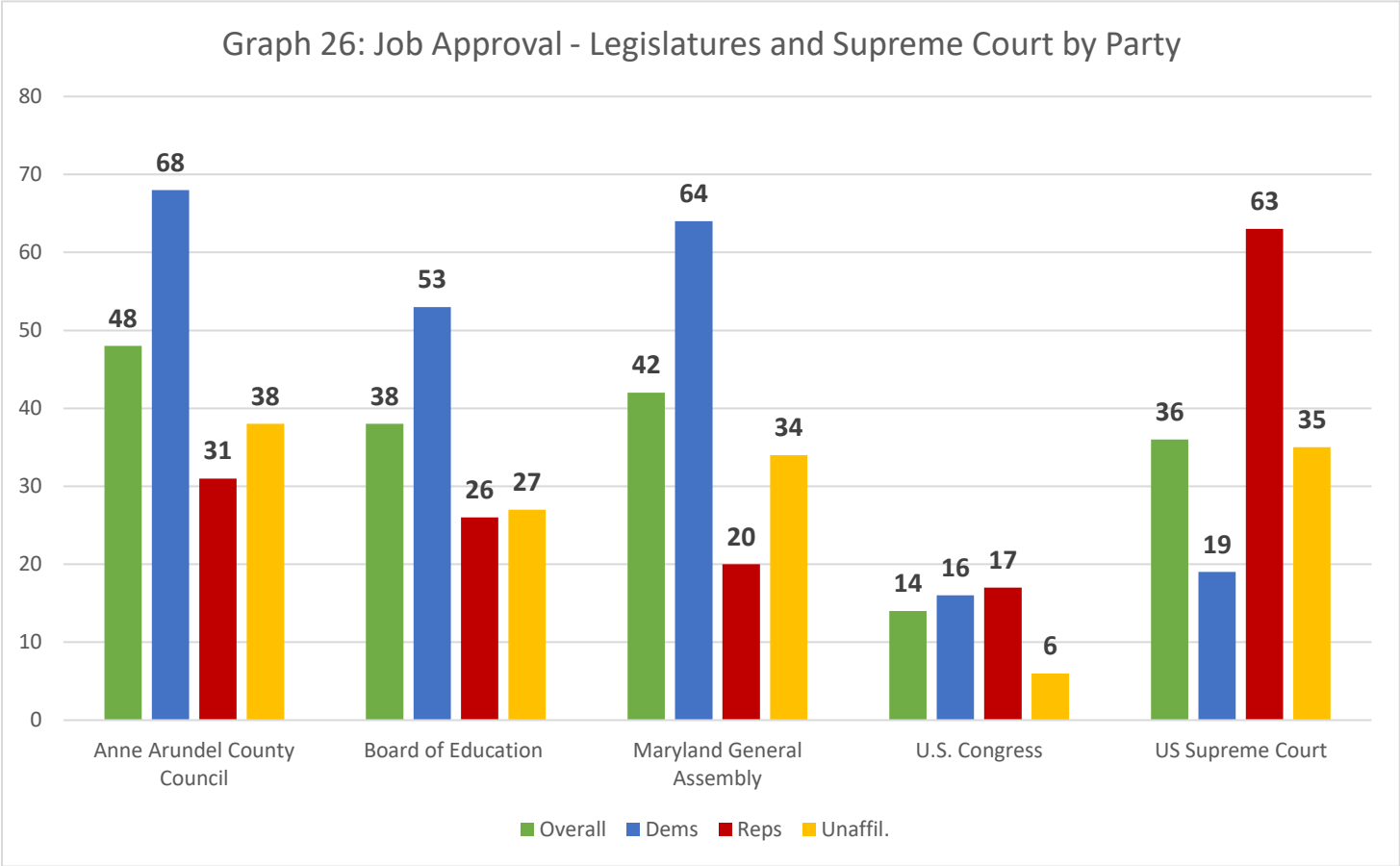
Table 68: Legislatures and Supreme Court – Job Approval by Party (Strongly+Somewhat)

	Overall					Dems					Reps					Unaffil.				
	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23	Fa '21	Sp '22	Fa '22	Sp '23	Fa '23
Anne Arundel County Council	47	49	46	44	48	65	61	55	59	68	36	41	31	32	31	36	33	34	50	38
Board of Education	36	36	32	27	38	46	41	40	39	53	29	26	21	17	26	32	28	40	26	27
Maryland General Assembly	44	42	39	36	42	69	62	49	57	64	28	23	25	19	20	26	35	40	23	34
U.S. Congress	24	19	24	15	14	35	24	31	18	16	14	5	12	20	17	14	26	24	10	6
US Supreme Court	42	42	39	31	36	31	29	16	13	19	57	58	61	58	63	36	49	28	45	35

Graph 25: Job Approval: Other Legislative Units + Supreme Court



Graph 26: Job Approval - Legislatures and Supreme Court by Party

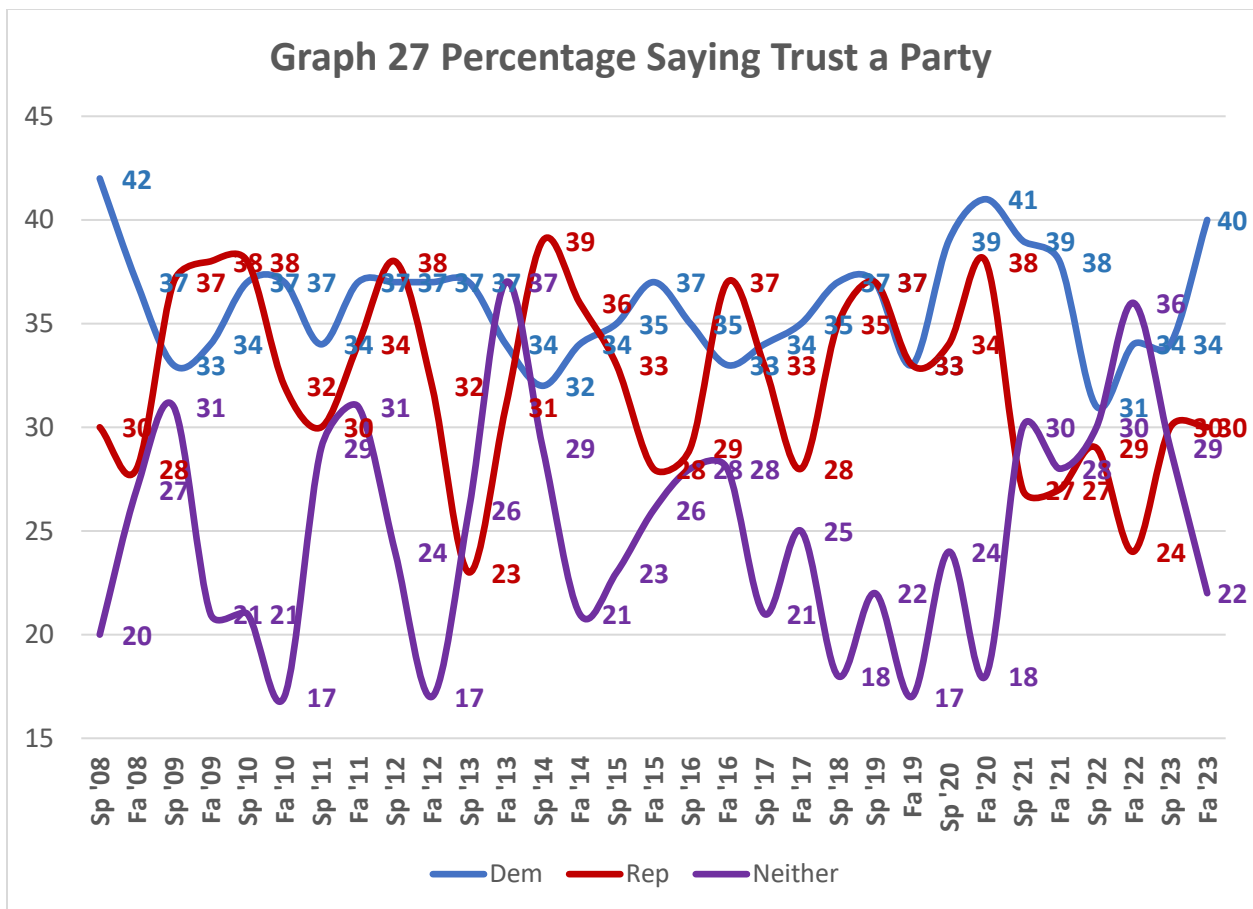


Trust in Political Parties

Since 2008, AACC/CSLI 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 27 shows that there have been some sharp oscillations on the Republican side, scores as low as 23% and as high as 39%. The current value – 30% - is near that party’s typical score range over the last three years.

Democrats have shown less variation in trust levels, ranging from 32 to 42%. The current score – 40% - is a 6-point improvement from last fall and is as wide a gap between itself and the Republicans in some time.

Those saying “neither” have varied the most, from a low of 17% to a high of 37%. The rebound in the Democrats’ score diminished the value of the “neither” score, dropping from 29% to only 22%. Neither of the major parties apparently inspires a very high level of trust – and seems consistent with a general low or highly partisan view of governing institutions generally.



Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 586 county residents who were at least 18 years old. Interviewing was conducted online primarily using a database of members of the AACC/CSLI web panel who have been recruited when conducting previous telephone interviews. The survey was in the field from October 20 to 30. There was about a 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, council district and education to better represent the general population. Students participated in the selection of topics and analysis of results as well as respondents to the survey. There was also outreach to other residents through the assistance of the EyeOnAnnapolis.com.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 (office) or 443-906-0153 (cell - preferred) and ddnataf@aacc.edu.

This press release can be obtained at <https://www2.aacc.edu/csli/AACC-Community-Survey-Fall-2023-Press-Release.pdf>. For all other press releases see www2.aacc.edu/csli.

Appendix A

AACC Semi-Annual Survey – Fall, 2023

(with selected percentages from previous surveys and all from fall 2023)

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	Spring '22	Fall '22	Spring '23	Fall '23
Childcare services (access, affordable)							8	3
Coronavirus (spread, treatment, testing)	69	50	53	35	14	6	2	3
Crime (other than drug related)	1	11	10	13	26	27	24	36
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	20	19	21	19
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	10	24	22	22	19	32	22	23
Education (problems with schools, quality, facilities, staff, discipline)	3	18	22	24	20	23	18	18
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay, climate change)	0	8	11	13	10	7	13	9
Government ethics (corrupt, immoral)	1	7	9	5	8	4	4	7
Government waste (inefficient, spends too much)	2	7	12	7	9	9	8	9
Government lacks resources (for roads, schools, services)	1	4	3	4	6	6	3	5
Growth/overpopulation (too much development, poorly planned)	4	13	11	16	17	18	22	16
Healthcare (cost, access)	1	3	4	7	6	7	10	8
Housing cost	1	6	7	11	16	13	20	17
Racism (hate crimes, discrimination)	0	6	6	6	7	5	4	5
Taxes – too high	2	11	12	12	17	16	13	19
Transportation (problems/traffic congestion, lack of public transit)	1	6	6	10	15	10	16	14
No answer, don't know	0	2	0	1	2	2	2	3
Other answer - write in: (See Appendix B)	1	9	5	0	3	3	2	2

Note: Bolded percentages are for the fall 2023 results, unbolded percentages are for prior surveys.

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	
	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23
2.1 Anne Arundel County	38	40	33	33	29	27
2.2 Maryland	36	40	42	37	22	23
2.3 US	10	11	70	76	20	13

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	
	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23
3.1 Anne Arundel County	4	6	45	51	35	27	15	13	2	3
3.2 Maryland	4	4	35	46	37	29	20	17	3	4
3.3 US	2	3	18	22	36	32	41	40	3	3

4 Thinking ahead for the next few years, do you expect the national economy to improve, stay the same or get worse? (spring 2023, fall 2023 is bolded)

(1) Improve 20% **23%** (2) stay same 18% **21%** (3) get worse 55% **46%**
 (0) no answer/unsure 7% **10%**

5. Thinking again about the national economy, indicate whether you are very, somewhat, or not very concerned with each condition at the present time.

	Very concerned		Somewhat concerned		Not very concerned		Unsure/don't know	
	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23
5.1 Rate of economic growth	34	34	46	46	16	15	4	5
5.1 Inflation	69	67	28	28	3	4	1	0
5.2 Unemployment	20	26	45	37	34	35	1	2
5.3 Business climate	29	26	47	49	20	16	4	9
5.4 Federal government debt and deficit	47	59	33	28	18	10	2	3
5.6 Private debt (excessive)	31	32	43	41	21	20	6	7

6. 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
	Sp. '23	Fall 2023		
6.1 Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	63	58	39	5
6.2 Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	49	41	54	6
6.3 Facing the possibility of unemployment	12	9	85	6
6.4 Found a new or better job recently	12	7	90	4
6.5 Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	53	37	61	3
6.6 Hard to afford the cost of childcare	10	6	89	6
6.6 Hard to afford the cost of education beyond high school	40	30	65	5
6.7 Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	26	34	61	6
6.8 Taxes are too high in relation to government services provided	64	58	33	10

COVID QUESTIONS

7. 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? (Fall 2023 is bolded, unbolded is spring 2023)

(1) Getting better	77%	64%
(2) Staying about the same	17%	26%
(3) Getting worse	3%	5%
(4) Unsure, don't know	3%	4%

8. How concerned are you about the possibility of someone in your family becoming seriously ill with the virus? (Fall 2023 is bolded, unbolded is spring 2023)

Very concerned	11%	12%
Somewhat concerned	32%	34%
Not very concerned	57%	54%
Unsure, don't know	3%	1%

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

Answers	Fall '21	Spring '22	Fall '22	Spring '23	Fall '23
9.1 You have come down with it yourself	15	37	59	67	60
9.2 A family member or close friend has come down with it	56	79	93	91	89
9.3 Either you or a personal acquaintance had serious symptoms from the virus	22	51	55	33	49
9.4 Someone you know personally has died from effects of the virus	28	40	41	73	35
9.5 You are fully vaccinated and boosted	n.a.	n.a.	79	73	57

9.6 If you have contracted COVID-19, indicate when using the choices below (choose all years that apply).

Year	Spring 2023	Fall 2023
2020	13	12
2021	26	25
2022	37	26
2023	4	15
Never	31	36

11. Changing our focus, the next two questions apply to schools.

Overall, to what extent do you believe that Anne Arundel County public schools are performing better in most respects this year compared to last year?

- 1. Performing better 11%
- 2. Performing about the same 36%
- 3. Performing worse 25%
- 4. Unsure, no opinion 29%

12. Based on your impressions, how successfully have students in public schools recovered from the adverse academic effects of the COVID pandemic?

- 1. Recovered completely 6%
- 2. Recovered somewhat 40%
- 3. Recovered very little or not at all 32%
- 4. Unsure, no opinion 22%

13. Option to explain your answers for any of the items above. See Appendix C

14. How concerned are you about the following issues in public schools in your area?

Item	Not concerned at all	Not very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very Concerned	No opinion	Total
Bullying	4	13	39	34	10	100
Banning of books dealing with gender identity or sexual orientation	25	12	17	40	7	101
Banning of books dealing with the history of slavery	12	11	20	50	7	100
Bus driver shortages	4	9	37	37	13	100
Depression and anxiety among students	3	11	27	51	9	101
Funding shortages	8	17	30	34	12	101
Lack of parental involvement	2	9	23	56	10	100
Learning loss due to COVID-19	5	12	30	44	10	101
Sexual abuse	4	13	27	43	13	100
Students not meeting learning objectives	2	5	26	60	7	100
Teacher shortages	3	7	30	52	7	99

15. The Anne Arundel County Board of Education is considering county-wide school redistricting to better utilize vacant classroom space and limit costly expansions of school facilities. To what extent do you agree with the following?

	Don't agree	Agree somewhat	Agree completely	Don't know, no answer
The redistricting process should do all that is possible to move students from overcrowded schools to less crowded ones	13	43	32	12
Any redistricting should only move students to less crowded schools that are very close to their existing schools	6	34	48	12
Redistricting is very disruptive; higher taxes are better than trying to maximize efficiency	56	17	8	17

15.1 Option to comment about the school issues or redistricting: See Appendix D

16. Do you currently own or rent your residence:

- 1. Own 64%
- 2. Rent 10%
- 3. Other 24%
- 4. NA 3%

17. The cost of housing and rents have exceeded the general rise in inflation over the last few years. How important are each of the following as causes for this rise in housing costs?

	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very important	Don't know, no answer
Rising interest rates	5	23	67	6
Restrictive zoning laws preventing construction of new housing	21	34	27	17
Local citizen opposition to greater housing density in neighborhoods	16	36	33	15
Private investors are buying properties as investments and driving up prices for regular people	11	23	57	9

18. Option to explain or comment on the housing/community questions: See Appendix E.

19. The county is seeking to better plan the emergence of solar energy farms in rural areas. To what extent do you agree with any of the following?

	Don't agree	Agree somewhat	Agree completely	Don't know, no answer
Sharply restrict the number of solar projects in rural areas to preserve farms	28	27	28	16
Ensure that a solar project is no closer than 10 miles from any other project	22	23	28	28
Ensure that there are best practices for managing the land underneath solar panels in rural areas	55	24	8	14
Maximize the number of solar projects to ensure the transition to renewable energy	24	35	25	16

19.1 Option to comment about solar farms in Anne Arundel County. See Appendix F.

State Issues

Here the focus changes to Maryland state issues.

20. In the 2024 elections in Maryland, voters will be asked to confirm a constitutional amendment dealing with reproductive rights passed by the Maryland General Assembly.

The measure would amend the Declaration of Rights in the Maryland Constitution to add a new section that guarantees a right to reproductive freedom, including the ability to prevent, continue, or end one's own pregnancy.

Which of the following best expresses your views about this amendment?

1. I am pro-choice so I will support it 52%
2. I am in the middle about abortion – I tend to be against it, but don't want the government to dictate women's choices so will probably support it 17%
3. I am pro-life so I will oppose it. 24%
4. Unsure, no opinion 7%

21. The Maryland Gun Safety Act of 2023 prevents gun owners from taking firearms into schools, hospitals, government buildings, businesses selling alcohol or cannabis, stadiums, museums, racetracks and video lottery facilities. Which best expresses your views about this law?

1. It is too limited insofar as it allows firearms in such places as bars and restaurants. 36%
2. It seems like a good middle ground regarding gun rights 31%
3. It is an unreasonable limit on the rights of individuals to carry their firearms 23%
4. Don't know, unsure 10%

22. There have been reports and court cases focusing upon the responsibility of drivers and car-makers for accidents involving the use of partial self-driving systems.

Drivers blame the systems, car-makers blame the drivers.

Should there be a state law that requires special training for purchasers of partially self-driving cars so that they are clear about their responsibilities to maintain control over vehicles equipped with such advanced driver assistance systems?

1. Yes 51%
2. Maybe, depends on how it's done 31%
3. No 10%
4. Unsure, no opinion 9%

23. Option to explain your views on any of the Maryland state questions above. See Appendix G.

National and International Issues

Our history and philosophy faculty members have offered these two questions:

24. Has the United States lived up to the promise it made in the Declaration of Independence "that all men (people) are created equal"?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Quite a bit | 33% |
| 2. Only somewhat | 35% |
| 3. Not much | 28% |
| 4. Unsure, no opinion | 3% |

25. During the 1920s, only a small number of immigrants were allowed into the country. Which statement best expresses your views about desirable immigration policy at this time?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. We should have the most restrictive policy possible. | 22% |
| 2. We should have a measured policy that combines the economic needs of the country with humanitarian considerations for immigrants. | 63% |
| 3. We should have a generous and open immigration policy that welcomes as many people as possible seeking political asylum. | 19% |
| 4. We should have a generous and open immigration policy that welcomes as many people as possible escaping poverty and violence in Central and South America. | 20% |

27. Option to comment on these questions: See Appendix H.

28. The Congress nearly failed to pass a continuing resolution to extend funding for federal government operations recently; by reaching out to Democrats to pass the continuing resolution, then Speaker Kevin McCarthy lost his role as speaker. Which of the following best captures your views about this event?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Republicans should have held out and caused the government to shut down as a way of highlighting out-of-control federal spending and growing deficits. | 18% |
| 2. Republicans were right to highlight federal spending and deficits, but they should negotiate with Democrats and avoid government shutdowns. | 28% |
| 3. Some extreme Republicans were acting mostly to score political points rather than trying to curb federal spending. | 38% |
| 4. Unsure, no opinion | 12% |

29. There have been strikes in some major industries recently – from screen writers and actors to auto and health workers. Which of the following best expresses your general attitude about these labor actions?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. These are totally justified and deserve the public’s support. | 32% |
| 2. More efforts should be shown by employers and unions to compromise and avoid strikes. | 36% |
| 3. Union demands are extreme and may cause significant harm to the economy and employers. | 20% |
| 4. Unsure, no opinion. | 12% |

30. Do you think that the efforts to prosecute former President Donald Trump are mainly...

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Meant to hold him accountable for various crimes | 51% |
| 2. Meant to disrupt his campaign and prevent him from running effectively for president | 39% |
| 3. Unsure, no opinion | 11% |

31. Option to comment about national questions above: See Appendix I.

32. On national and international issues indicate how serious you consider the following:

(Bolded percentages are from fall 2023; others are from spring 2023)	Very serious		Somewhat serious		Not very serious		Don't know	
	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23
32.1. The rising economic and military threat posed by China	63	67	32	25	3	3	3	5
32.2 The threat to America/peace posed by Russia	53	55	34	34	11	6	3	5
32.3 The threat/challenge posed by climate change	48	48	25	22	25	28	2	3
32.4 Maintaining US military advantage over all other countries	51	51	34	33	13	10	2	6
32.5 The need to focus more on domestic affairs within the United States and less with foreign relations	37	33	45	43	13	16	4	8

33. Regarding the response of the Biden administration to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, would you say that it is providing about the right amount of financial and military support, too much or too little? (Bolded is fall 2023, unbolded is spring 2023)

- 1. Right amount 30% **30%**
- 2. Too much 39% **35%**
- 3. Too little 15% **16%**
- 4. Unsure, no opinion 16% **19%**

34. How much do you blame the escalation of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict upon the following?

	None or very little	Some	Quite a bit
Israel	38	39	23
Hamas	5	20	75
Palestinians as a whole	29	52	19
Iran	10	34	53

35. "Thinking about U.S. policy toward the Middle East, which of these should be the most important goal?"

Item	Overall
Protect Israel	26
Find a negotiated solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict	51
avoid getting involved in any way in Middle East conflicts	14
Unsure	9
Total	100

31. Option to comment about questions in this section: See Appendix J.

Parties and Elections

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

1. 44% **Democratic** => ASK: **32.1. Do you consider yourself a**

1. Strong 46%
2. Somewhat strong 41%
3. Not a strong Democrat 13%

2. 32% **Republican** => ASK: **32.2. Do you consider yourself a**

- a. Strong 44%
- b. Somewhat strong 37%
- c. Not a strong Republican 19%

3. 19% **Unaffiliated** (or “independent”)=> ASK: **32.3. During elections, do you find yourself leaning more toward Republican, Democratic, third-party candidates or are you mostly voting for specific candidates without concern for party affiliation?**

1. Democratic 26%
2. Republican 17%
3. Third party n.a.
4. Vote for candidate regardless of party 56%

32.4 Other registration options:

1. Other/Third party 2%
2. None (not registered to vote) 4%

33. 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 40%
2. Republicans 30%
3. Neither 22%
4. Other party 0%
5. Unsure, don't know 8%

34. If you voted for a presidential candidate in 2020, for whom did you vote? (Bold is fall 2023, unbolded is spring 2023)

- (1) Joe Biden 46% **45%**
- (2) Donald Trump 30% **29%**
- (3) Someone else 10% **7%**
- (4) Didn't vote 15% **18%**

35. Do you agree with the former President Trump that he actually won the last election and that it was "stolen" from him? (Bold is fall 2023, unbolded is spring 2023)

- 1. Yes, fully agree 8% **13%**
- 2. Yes, somewhat agree 9% **9%**
- 3. No, don't agree 75 **68%**
- 4. Unsure, don't know 9 **11%**

36. If the presidential elections were today, for whom would you vote?

	Agree Fully
Joe Biden	42
Donald Trump	33
A third-party candidate	17
Probably wouldn't vote	8

37. Option to comment about presidential voting choices? See Appendix K.

38. How strongly do you approve or disapprove of the way the following officials or institutions are handling their jobs?

Official or institution	Strongly Approve		Somewhat Approve		Somewhat disapprove		Strongly disapprove		No answer/DK	
	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23	Sp '23	Fa '23
38.1 County Executive Steuart Pittman	16	19	27	27	13	12	22	19	22	22
38.2 Governor Wes Moore	23	27	26	29	14	13	10	18	27	14
38.3 President Joe Biden	15	21	26	23	13	9	41	43	6	4
38.4 The Anne Arundel County Council	6	7	40	41	17	13	7	15	31	24
38.5 The Board of Education	2	4	25	34	18	19	23	18	32	25
38.6 Maryland General Assembly	7	9	29	33	14	13	18	21	33	25
38.7 US Congress	1	1	14	13	41	30	33	46	11	9
38.8 <u>US</u> Supreme Court	7	9	26	27	21	20	36	35	9	9

39.1. Option to explain your approval score for County Executive Steuart Pittman.

_____Appendix L_____

39.2. Option to explain your approval score for Governor Larry Hogan.

_____Appendix M_____

39.3 Option to explain your approval score for President Joe Biden.

_____Appendix N_____

39.4 Option to explain your approval score for any other office or institution.

_____Appendix O_____

Demographics

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

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Very conservative | 15% |
| 2. | Somewhat conservative | 20% |
| 3. | Moderate | 28% |
| 4. | Somewhat liberal | 20% |
| 5. | Very liberal (or “progressive”) | 13% |
| 6. | Unsure/don’t know | 5% |

41. Which, if any, of the following characterizations of political beliefs seem to apply to you best?

- | | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 1. | Social conservative, fiscal conservative | 25% |
| 2. | Social conservative, fiscal liberal | 1% |
| 3. | Social liberal, fiscal conservative | 26% |
| 4. | Social liberal, fiscal liberal | 20% |
| 5. | None of these | 14% |
| 6. | Unsure, no opinion | 15% |

42. What is your current age in years? _____ (weighted)_____

- | | |
|-------|-----|
| 18-39 | 31% |
| 40-49 | 9% |
| 50-59 | 15% |
| 60-69 | 23% |
| 70+ | 22% |

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

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| (1) | White or Caucasian | 71% |
| (2) | Black or African American | 11% |
| (3) | Hispanic or Latino | 4% |
| (4) | Asian or Asian American | 6% |
| (5) | Mixed | 1% |
| (6) | Other | 1% |
| (7) | No answer/decline | 6% |

44. Regarding religion, how would you describe yourself?

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. None or “nothing in particular” | 16% |
| 2. Non-practicing | 11% |
| 3. Evangelical or born-again Christian (possibly Baptist, Pentecostal) | 9% |
| 4. Catholic | 19% |
| 5. Protestant (possibly Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopalian) | 16% |
| 6. Some other Christian (e.g., possibly Mormon) | 5% |
| 7. Jewish | 2% |
| 8. A ‘spiritual person’ not associated with an organized religion | 14% |
| 9. Something else (e.g., Muslim, Hindu) | 3% |
| 10. No Answer | 6% |

45. What is your current marital status?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Single | 31% |
| 2. Married | 48% |
| 3. Separated/divorced | 8% |
| 4. Widowed | 5% |
| 5. Living together | 4% |
| 6. Other | 2% |
| 7. Decline to say | 4% |

46. Do you currently have any children in public or private schools (K-12) or both?

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. No children in either public or private schools | 86% |
| 2. Children in public schools | 9% |
| 3. Children in private schools | 3% |
| 4. Children in both public and private schools | 1% |

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

(1) less than a high school diploma	2%	(5) completed a 4-year bachelor’s degree	22%
(2) a high school diploma	11%	(6) post graduate work	21%
(3) some college	21%	(7) No Answer, decline	5%
(4) completed a 2-year associate college degree	18%		

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

- 1. Less than \$30,000 5
- 2. \$30,000 to \$50,000 5
- 3. \$50,001 to \$75,000 8
- 4. \$75,001-\$100,000 11
- 5. \$100,001-\$150,000 15
- 6. \$150,001-\$250,000 15
- 7. Over \$250,000 9
- 8. No Answer 31

49. Which of the following best describes your employment situation?

(choose all that apply)?

1. Student (mostly or full-time)	24
2. Fully or semi-retired	34
3. Self-employed or consultant	7
4. Employed part-time	17
5. Employed full-time	25
7. Unemployed and seeking a job	2
8. Caregiver/parent	2
10. Employed in the private sector	7
11. Federal government (non-defense)	1
12. Federal, State, local government	4
13. Non-profit organization	2
14. No answer/decline to say	5

50. Are you a military veteran? 1. Yes 12 2. No 88

51. Which, if any, of the following categories apply to you?

- 1. Gay or lesbian 1%
- 2. Bisexual 2%
- 3. Transgender 0%
- 4. Queer 1%
- 5. I am not LGBTQ+ but I consider myself an ally of that community 4%

52. Gender (weighted)

- (1) Male 47%
- (2) Female 49%
- (3) Non-binary 1%
- (4) Prefer not to say 2%

53. Zip code

none	3.1
20601	0.2
20711	0.4
20723	1.4
20724	0.6
20733	0.0
20755	0.3
20764	0.3
20765	0.1
20770	0.1
20776	0.7
20778	0.5
20779	0.1
21012	3.9
21032	0.9
21035	2.8
21037	2.7
21046	0.3
21054	3.5
21060	5.6
21061	6.9
21075	1.2
21076	1.8
21090	4.1
21106	0.0
21108	4.5
21113	4.6
21114	3.6
21122	11.6
21128	0.0
21133	0.1
21140	1.5
21144	6.2
21146	4.3
21225	0.9
21401	10.0
21403	7.7
21404	0.0
21405	0.2
21409	3.2
Total	100.0

54. Finally, if you know your **district/representative in the county council**, please choose it...

District 1, Pete Smith	15%
District 2, Allison Pickard	11%
District 3, Nathan Volke	17%
District 4, Julie Hummer	10%
District 5, Amanda Fiedler	16%
District 6, Lisa Rodvien	19%
District 7, Shannon Leadbetter	12%

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.)

Affordable Sr. Housing
crime
Eroding family values
guns
Guns.
illegal immigration
Invasive plants taking over our parks and roadways
It is to hard to pick two
Lack of diversity. Not enough Muslims works in government. So much hate towards Muslims Arabs communities
Lack of enforcement on violations of traffic laws, e.g., speed, stopping, passing, aggressive driving, etc.
lack of history and patriotism, restriction of gun rights on law abiding citizens, and poorly run immigration policies
Public Transit
Reaching workers for services
shootings in Annapolis
Some of The Candidates running for the for the Anne Arundel County School Board are currently running on a anti-books platform, which is worrying.
The overall cost of living is too high when taking college classes for most adults without parental support or loans.
the sexual cult that has landed in our schools is very scary
too many options to just choose two!
Undocumented population
violence, guns, need for public safety approach

Appendix C: Comments about COVID

Covid was same as flu. The government manipulated the country to be subservient and ruin our country inciting fear

No more concerned about Covid as I would about the flu.

1.Need more public info about incidence and surveillance. 2.Need more info re prevention in hospitals and other medical practices.

actually got it in late 2019

Allow people to make their own decisions on getting the vaccines. It should never be mandatory.

Allowing states to deal with it individual especially in the beginning was a horrible idea and cause it to be a much more major of issue for a longer period of time.

Anne Arundel County Chief Exec & Health Dept botched our handling of Covid very badly- - particularly related to schools & business closures & masking decisions

Biden did a great job helping with the COVID crisis.

Big government and big Pharm Boondoggle

Can we just be done with this man made virus already?

Complete over reaction by the government that did nothing to stop it and was used to take away personal freedoms.

Concerned about the greedy drug companies supplying us with safe and effective vaccines. That was a little too fast! Now that everyone has been scared, they are making the vaccines totally unaffordable.....what good is that?

Concerning that masks are not mandated in health care settings

Confused how vaccines are available to be received seemingly a day after they are approved?

Contracted COVID in Scotland or Ireland on a bus tour.

Covid is nothing more than a cold now. No concerns.

Covid - 19 is not an issue, please stop.

Covid had less than 1% mortality and the current variant even less. Time to move on

COVID-19 did not effect my family in the U.S. but I found that my relatives in Guatemala suffered more from COVID because of the lack of resources.

Don't trust government, CDC, NIH, FDA. Wash your hands often. Stay home when you have a cold or the flu, keep a safe distance from others with sneezing, coughing, or other symptoms.

Effectively over due to herd immunity. Main damage was economic and personal through government overreach and outright lying.

ER understaffed and hospital rooms minimally available

Everyone assumes everyone has gotten it. Not true. I just got it for the first time and got it from sick people at work. Our company ended any policy on covid at work and so there are no health protections at work.

everyone eligible should get the shots.

Family member that got covid it was very milded - I believe because she had all the shots.

Get the shot.

Get the vaccine!

Get vaccinated and test

Get Vaccinated! Be Smart!

Get vaccinated.

Had a bad headchhe and very sleepy

Had it in December and got over it in January of 2022

have always gotten all available shots when they became available

I am fully vaccinated as of October 2023

I am fully vaxxed. I've had it. COVID is here to stay.

I am grateful that Maryland dealt logically and reasonably with the virus. I especially admire former Gov. Hogan's stance (he had the courage to stand up for scientific knowledge, instead of kowtowing to Trump), as well as his wife (she brokered a deal with her South Korean contacts to supply masks).

I am immunocompromised so still mask everywhere inside & am not back to pre-covid activities and likely never will be.

I am not overly concerned that my family will get seriously ill from COVID-19 because we have all been vaccinated and received (or will receive) the latest booster shots.

I believe that Covid-19 has transitioned to the point that it is mostly a nuisance for those with no underlying health issues.

I believe that the government blew this virus way out of proportion

I do not trust the Covid vaccines. My mother became very ill after receiving her first Covid shot in 2021. The Vaers report had many adverse reactions listed.

I don't think COVID-19 is going away, but vaccines and treatments are making it more manageable for most people. There is a group of vulnerable people for whom it remains a concern, but for people who are up to date with vaccines, it doesn't seem to be as lethal of a disease.

I fear that people are becoming complacent about COVID, but it has not gone away.

I feel that the situation has improved substantially. That said, it feels important to keep some level of vigilance, albeit minor.

I had it before they were talking about it

I have long-haul COVID-19 and am unable to access medical care for the symptoms despite having two insurances and being fully disabled.

I have not had Covid

I have received all COVID shots and boosters including this fall's new vaccine. I have had COVID 3X, each one less severe in nature.

I mask whenever I leave the house. Certain guests are asked to mask. Cases are rising but people choose to be blind to it, go to crowded places & then are surprised when they are infected. We really need to change the last name of our species.

I may have had it for a few days while in New Zealand in the fall of 2022, but it seemed more like a cold, so I didn't test myself.

I personally knew two people who succumbed from the effects of Covid. The Covid era benefits for Medicaid ended. Now my 56 year brother on disability with rare disease was kicked off Medicaid because his SS disability payout hit over income limits.

I think Covid is an issue in certain demographic areas and not nationwide anymore

I think for a poll question saying the "Covid Situation" is very poor wording and makes it difficult to respond

I think its not that too big of a deal if anyone wants to get the vaccine that is their choice and right but if any do not want to take it because personal, medical, or religious reasons and have not come down with COVID-19 then they should be excused.

i think people need to take covid more seriously than they do

I think people overreacted a little and the vaccine push was a bit much.

I will not have another COVID shot. NO vaccines were approved this fast. Studies show there have been a lot side effects and death from COVID vaccine.

I wish the government and the news would stop pressing vaccines. We must learn to live with covid. Sick, stay home and take aspirin, tea and orange juice. No mask mandates!! Stop that! I work in healthcare even though I am fully vaccinated and take all the safety measures I still have caught COVID twice

I'm concerned that we will see a surge this fall and winter because people aren't taking precautions anymore.

If everyone follows doctors recommendations they will probably do okay.

If more people would get vaccinated & wear masks in certain settings, we could really minimize cases, serious illnesses etc. You don't mention long Covid, but I know people very seriously ill with that too. Re Covid, lost my cousin & my former boss.

If the Broadneck population accepts annual vaccinations like Flu, we should be able to keep severity under control

If the willfully ignorant idiots would get vaccinated and wear masks in crowded public places, that would be nice.

Important for government to acknowledge the true origin of the virus — a leak from a Chinese lab program subsidized by the US government through a third party

In my opinion I think that if everyone takes the necessary precautions and sanitize as well as wash their hands regularly every day and often as well as cover their sneezes, coughs, wears a mask if feeling ill will continue to help regulate the spread of COVID-19.

It is curious why noone got the flu during the covid 19 scare. It is pathetic that hospitals had the financial incentive to mark a patient dying from covid.

It is no longer a situation. Ridiculous that anyone is asking about it

It is still here. We need to be careful.

It used to be bad before but in my humble opinions things are a lot better. When I did contract covid it was a bit intense but nothing too out of the ordinary, it just felt like a very bad cold. When I contracted it the second time it wasn't so bad. I was able to lose both times in just a week.

It was just the flu

It was wrong to take away people's freedom and livelihood. It was wrong for the county to push dangerous and useless Covid injections on people, especially children.

It's still here, I'm taking renewed precautions such as masking indoors at places with lots of strangers such as a concert

It's still with us — and always surprising when someone you know gets it.

Its still here. Many people do not take this seriously. When you lose or almost lose someone to Covid or family members have long Covid, then you are more careful.

Know your facts and use common sense

Let's just call it the flu.

Let's move on from this already. It's just something that goes around like colds and flu.

Lockdowns were excessive and destroyed the economy.

Masks are of minimal benefit...

More effort should be put into getting everyone vaccinated

More people are dying from your so-called vaccine that was an experimental use only.

My adult son had it in 2022

My family and I have, thankfully, stayed safe and not contracted the disease.

My family was deeply affected by covid 19. I lost a cousin who was young and healthy. My family's business was affected. A few of my elderly family members were in the hospital because they were seriously ill when it first came out.

My husband and I have gotten our COVID,flu and RSV vaccinations

My husband and I have had all of the COVID-19 boosters

My sister didn't die of COVID, but died of an accidental overdose of alcohol and her prescribed codeine medication after becoming isolated and depressed. The mental health of young people especially after COVID is in really bad shape.

My whole extended family got it before the vaccines. We lost 2 family members. I stay updated on vaccines because I work with children.

Need better communication with health providers regarding status

Need more Publicity on Benefits of Shots.

Need to continue public announcements so that the public is aware of it.

Never mandates, again.

No mandates.

Non-issue at this point. Sufficient vaccination/previous infection density and risk is minimal.

Not enough information about availability to the vaccines and the rate in which certain age groups should be getting them is being put out by primary care doctors. Especially, when it comes to the under 16 age group. Their pushing the flu, but because they don't offer the covid vaccine they don't talk about the rate at which the kids should be receiving vaccines. That only the health department is issuing them to under 16.

Not sure if I will get a covid shot or not this year. Have all the other ones.

not sure life will ever return to the way things were before COVID. An example was I ran an Adult Basketball league, we had 14 teams currently we have not signed up enough for a league for 3 years

Nothing to do with Covid 19 is the governments business or right to know. That's between me and my doctor

Now having long term covid issues.

Now that a good chunk of the working population has either gotten vaccinated, gotten infected and survived, or gotten infected and died, the response seems to be "oh well, the only people that are going to be seriously impacted by this are the old and those already suffering from compromised immune systems and disabilities. Since they don't work as much its fine if they all get sick and/or die".

People and establishments are still too careless about cleanliness, not rushing to become vaccinated, and are spreading the virus without care or unknowingly.

People opposed to vaccine are a threat to all.

Protect public workers.

Push more for getting more people vaccinated.

Seems to be increasing lately. I have resumed wearing a mask

Seems to be like a flu now

Seems vaccinated does not appear to have been a factor for helping.

Spreads easily; know several people recently affected

State and local governments used COVID as an excuse to unconstitutionally deny freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of worship in the name of safety, when most of us were not likely to die from the disease. The government also lied to us about the effectiveness of the vaccines and withheld information about the side effects of the vaccine

while denying us access to other therapeutic drugs such as Ivermectin. I will not wear a mask or take the vaccine this time even if required by the government.

Still too much deliberate disinformation being spread out there by right-wing media/social media.

Stop spending taxpayers money on this non issue. It is not and never was a Vaccine. It was a treatment that didnt work.

t is a big pharma/NID scam. Follow the money.

The American public was misled by the US government..

The distribution centers (pharmacy's, grocery stores, etc.) for obtaining vaccines is very good. Believe the distribution of Covid-19 Tests should continue to be free and ordered online either by Federal and/or State government.

The family had covid before the vaccine and felt natural antibodies are a better remedy than an experimental treatment.

The pandemic had taken a toll on mental health worldwide. The isolation, uncertainty, and economic impact had led to increased stress and mental health challenges. It's crucial for individuals to seek support and for governments to invest in mental health services.

the problem is that people aren't getting vaccinated due to lack of education and misinformation, as well as laziness

The RFK Jr group and the GOP right will get plenty of people killed with their lies and anti vaccine rhetoric and propaganda

The State and Federal Government overreacted due to fears of the unknown. I have witnessed permanent damage to society over irrational fears. So many people continue to misunderstand the purpose of masking.

The vaccination has harmed more friends than covid has. Life alternating and one died.

There should be more information concerning the rate of Covid-19 infections and better education concerning the need to keep Covid-19 vaccination current and the importance of being treated with the antiviral drug Paxlovid right away if symptoms are serious. Effective masks should be worn in health treatment offices when there is a significant rate of COVID infections.

there's a segment of govt and industry that does not want to let it die (treat it like any other illness). At this point, there's nothing special about covid that separates it from all of the other respiratory and health concerns in the world.

They said if you got the vaccine you wouldn't get Covid. LIE! Everyone who's had the vaccine still got Covid! Why did people lose their jobs if they didn't comply and get the vaccine. Even military members were released if they didn't get it. Why protect Pfizer & Moderna from lawsuits if it was truly a good vaccine?!

This C 19 is here for the foreseeable future. Let everyone get the first 3 vaccinations and learn to adapt . Just like the flu, we all must live knowing it's here . Get your initial vaccinations, people!!!!

Those w serious co-morbidities need extra caution but the rest of us should go about our business. I do not support closing schools! Too much damage to our children .

Though not required anywhere, I do wear a mask when I am singing with a choir, in a crowded indoor setting, or if I feel ill; and I test when symptomatic and test a few days later, especially if symptoms remain.

Too much is now coming out about the unknowns. While the initial vaccine might have prevented a more harmful response, the side effects from what is in the vaccine can be harmful. I had vaccines and boosters, but no more.

Totally mishandled. That's all.

Totally over blown by government. It was a scam that shut down the economy. An attempt by government to use fear to control the masses.

Truly believe COVID19 is evolving into the "new" flu. Many people will continue to get it, but typically only those with underlying health issues will be seriously affected.

Vaccinated every time one was available.

Vaccine effectiveness is very limited as per numerous officials personally known within Pfizer. We still don't have a wide spectrum vaccine capable of thwarting any future strains of the virus.

vaccine mandates no longer make sense

Very concerned due to my age of 77.

very thankful that myself and family ALL got vaccinated

We have been lied to about the shots. We were told that if we got the shot, we would not get the virus = FALSE; We were told we could not spread it= FALSE. We were told that we had to mask up but in fact, the masks cause more damage than they prevent.

We have moved from pandemic to endemic behavior. This is where we should be.

We have passed the severe concerns regarding COVID-19, and it's time to stop asking questions about COVID-19!

We learned a little from our mistakes which were fueled by Donald Trump and his followers.

We need to continue to be vigilant, and not slow down in our education of the public on how important vaccines are for protecting the public.

We need to test this as just any other virus out there. Time to move on.

While the pandemic has subsided, the spread of COVID-19 is still significant and needs to be addressed to help reduce continued infections. There are still an alarming number of people who do not believe in the existence of the virus or the viability of the vaccine, these perspectives only jeopardize more people as behaviors are not in line with the goal of reducing the spread of infection.

Why are we even talking about this anymore?

Will get the vaccine 3 months after having Covid

Appendix D: Comments about Public Schools Issues

A family member has endured bullying in a public grade school.

A new approach is needed before this generation is lost.

A small group of small minded people should not be able to dictate what materials are available to students in public schools. Let them keep their own children ignorant, leave ours alone.

All of these factors are detrimental to the student's future and our country.

Although I am not a parent and am retired all of this concerns me as a member of our community. Young people are our future and need the very best support and excellent education.

Although my area is very progressive, kids have been getting exponentially more bigoted, with each freshman class being worse than the previous one (e.g. directly saying to a Jewish teacher that Jews control the world), which is concerning. Also, parents seem to be less invested in their kids' academic success, at least on the elementary level.

As a former teacher, I believe the demands on teachers today & low salaries make it an undesirable profession.

As a person pursuing an education career, I worry about what my future may entail if these problems continue and worsen over time.

As a resource teacher I am in several HS all over the county, with very different demographics; but the issues, more or less, are the same. We are passing and graduating students who have met few learning objectives and are not ready for college, career, or life in general.

As noted above, the intrusive role of social media and cell phones disrupting class

Banning books is a tactic used by scared and hateful people.

Banning books is NEVER the answer.

because idk .

Before retiring, my wife was the elementary school librarian in Crofton. Over the years she was involved in reviewing book complaints by parents. Now there is a push to ban more books by parents for "woke" reasons.

Behavior problems among students seem to be the major reason for bus drivers and teachers leaving these fields. It's hard to comment on sexual abuse since the AACPS does a stellar job of keeping this kind of stuff under wraps.

Books that deal with gender identity or sexual orientation should be banned.

Books were NOT banned about slavery. That's a LIE. Books that they wanted banned were sexually explicit about how a boy could do oral sex on another boy! Why are teachers pushing gender crap on students?! A boy is a boy and a girl is a girl! Don't allow boys into girls' locker rooms or bathrooms!!

Bullying is continuing. Restorative justice practices only cause the bullied more trauma.

Bus driver shortage is huge. My Freshman year of high school, before the pandemic there were too few bus drivers. Luckily I did not have to commute to school until I could drive but it must be a horror post-pandemic.

BUS DRIVERS ! My son has missed so many days of schools due to the lack of bus drivers. Oftentimes, the bus will not come in the morning or I will receive a phone call at work informing me I need to pick my child up from school. I have seen children walking on busy

roads (quarterfield road) due to this. It is unsafe in so many ways and it is placing the child in danger of being harmed by others.

Change the incentives. If you struggle to find bus drivers or teachers, either improve wages, decrease hours, or otherwise solve the problem.

Education is important. Those who fail to learn (or are not exposed) to history are destined to repeat it. Rewriting history to meet a political narrative is IMO dangerous. Children are being purposely being manipulated to meet a narrative of the few. In the real world, there are winners and losers and we learn from those experiences. We learn what we are good at and move toward that. There is a incongruence in a society that says someone should not be criminally responsible for their actions until age 25 but says that children should be supported to make "decisions" about their gender identity in elementary school without parental participation. There is a dichotomy of convenience and as a society will not be able to survive.

For this option of the banning of books dealing with gender identity or sexual orientation I chose that I was not concerned at all because I was raised and brought up the old fashioned way where as the gender you were born with is how you identify yourself by. How God created you is exactly how he created you a woman should identify as a woman and a man identify as man. I don't believe any other way. However, I know gender identity and sexual orientation is a thing now a days and it can confuse people at times. With that last statement I just made I don't judge or put anyone down or try to force my beliefs off on them I treat all people the same regardless of their race, gender, sex ect.

Funding isn't a problem, it's the management of funds that is the problem. Too many executives, too many external programs, the schools take on too many responsibilities that are not their wheelhouse.

Gender identity age sexual orientation should not be taught in school, especially elementary and middle school. Therefore books about this topic should not be in school.

Government and citizens need to respect and value teachers much more than they currently do. Teacher morale is low and few students are planning to study education because they know the salaries are low when you consider the amount of education teachers must have. But more importantly all the kids know that teachers are not valued nor respected by many people. A teacher shortage is on the horizon!! Perhaps it is already here! And that is a crisis with catastrophic consequences for our country.

Has MD banned any books? Have not heard that.

Have no students in AA County schools. Concerned about the issues noted as societal ills to address at our schools.

hire teachers that enjoy and are competent to do the job not just for the benefits and paycheck

I am a AAC public school teacher.

I am an education major, so I am very concerned about the direction pur public schools are headed.

I am from the Boomer era. In my opinion we need to invest more in the education of our youth. They are our future assets.

I am going to be a teacher and yes I am very concerned about it because I don't know what I will be going into and how stressful it will be if I have a lot of students in one class. I think they need to raise there pay to try to get more people wanting to teach because it isn't easy and it's a lot of work on one person.

I believe there are several serious issues within the public school ecosystem and the most pressing focuses on the social system of our youth and the issues resulting from bullying and social media abuse allowed by parents and institutions. Additionally, banning books due to their content or failing to acknowledge historical events puts our students at a significant disadvantage. Add to this the failure to enforce acceptable learning standards and we are creating a serious issue that will not be realized for another 20 - 25 years.

I do Not believe in banning of books At All! Increase funding for teachers!

I do not believe that there is any banning of books that discuss the history of slavery. The objection is about books that state all whites are racists and that all people of color are being held back by racist whites. This all a political issue to discredit the Governor of Florida. Regarding books of a sexual nature, I believe books discussing these subjects that are not age appropriate should not be included in school libraries. They can be included in public libraries, so the issue is not a full book banning as the liberals try to spin the issue. If a parent cannot read a passage from some of these books at a school board meeting because the Board considers the passage offensive, then these books should not be in school libraries.

I don't believe book banning is an issue in Anne Arundel Co. Public Schools, as I don't believe our community would support book banning.

I don't have kids in the public school system so I don't think about it much.

I have no answer to the above items.

I have no kids. My opinion doesn't matter.

I haven't heard of efforts to ban any books in schools. I know this is a concern nationally and it would be a serious concern to be if efforts were made to do so. I think kids are still behind from COVID but I am not sure how to improve the situation. I am hopeful it continues to improve with time. It seems at the high school level we are losing really good teachers. Even if staying in schools system in admin roles, we are losing that great classroom teaching experience.

I mainly worry about the bullying of students, sexual abuse and the lack of funding from the government to allow students to pursue higher education (especially students who don't come from privileged or military households). Many students are bullied and cyber bullied (I myself was a victim), the high school I attended (Meade High School) didn't do anything at all to help me when it came to my bullies and ex girlfriend spreading rumors about me and posting my full name and picture online encouraing people to actively harm and harrass me, and the school that I transferred to (Arundel High School) had many people who were in abusive relationships or were involved with an abusive partner where they didn't or couldn't do much to help them. For example, I had a girlfriend who's ex would constantly harrass them, and the school couldn't and didn't do much to punish or prevent their ex from approaching them or contacting them. I believe the county should take much more strict action when it comes to bullying and do more for people who are victims from abusive relationships. I also believe the the county should offer money to students to want to pursue higher education and I'm not talking about scholarships, i'm talking about grants. There are many people that deserve and who should earn grants to pursue higher education, it is my strong and humble opinion that the county should try and reach out and look for these students and give them the resources they need to become a successful and productive member to society.

I often sub during my planning period. So more work is going home and I'm not as available for my students.

I think our children are living in a world that we cannot understand from their perspective and it's frightening and I am very concerned for their mental wellbeing. School is only a small part of this problem and could/should be a bigger part of the solution by helping them better

navigate the wider world around them accessible via social media. Unfortunately, even the adults have difficulty with this but that doesn't mean we shouldn't work on this.

I think the US as a whole can do better for education across the board. Why are teachers paid so little when they spend more time with kids than their parents do? They need to bring back basic life skills to education - home economics, how to manage money, sex and drug education, etc.

I'd be more concerned about teacher shortages if I thought the curriculum was going to actually benefit the students, but they're spending way too much time on things that don't matter and that has nothing to do with teacher shortages.

I'm a retired teacher. Banning books that deal with anything pertaining to history or issues involving gender is ridiculous. You can't rewrite it, you can't change it, you need to understand it. Unless parents want to be teachers, they need to stay out of these issues. It's no wonder we have teacher shortages. Some of these parents just don't get it. I'm a parent too! These parents see their children less time than teachers do. They do not know how to teach or the importance of knowledge.

I'm very concerned that books get banned. Restricting access to literature is ridiculous

I'm concerned that students are not being taught how to read, write and how to do math. Instead teachers are given "learning objectives" to teach and they don't apply to basic foundations. The department of education has made it impossible for good teachers to teach all students. Another problem is that our colleges are not producing good teachers. Many of these graduates don't have basic skills, yet are expected to teach them.

I'm shocked to hear so many mothers openly discussing which medications their children are on to control a variety of emotions. I wonder if there have been long range followup on dependency on these medications into adulthood. Might be interesting to followup to find out how adult emotions compare to those of years ago. Has the rate of Suicide, emotional distress or crime increased or decreased with the increased use of medications?

If your teachers were allowed to teach you probably wouldn't have a shortage. You're too pushing your miserable agenda on these teachers who don't have the same values as the progressive left.

Just concerned in general that the state seems to not be concerned

Lack of good parenting/support is a big concern.

Lack of parental involvement is a MAJOR concern as this is definitely an OVERREACH of our schools and invasion and infringement of parental rights!!

lack of strict adherence to fair rules creates chaos in the classroom, and discourages teachers from continuing their careers

Learning objectives need to be based on current situations, not based on pre-covid by grade level. There has to be an adjustment, not expectations that they will meet the same objectives that were obtainable prior to COVID.

Leave sexual teaching to parents

Let parents have more say re their student's teachings, not woke school boards

Maryland Schools administration is top heavy..too many people not actively involved in teaching and making rules. Put everyone in the classroom.

My grandchild is in Baltimore city school public schools that should explain it all

My son was bullied in private went to public and he decided to defend the bullied kid boxing helped I went to principals often he never got suspended and kids he defended are still his friend my aunts a driver they are over working her and not paying her right and I'm pulling my god daughter out of public to homeschool due to the decision to include the sexual orientation into classes she has a sister who is bi and goes by a boy name she understands it but her grasp is Shane wants to be Shane she doesn't need or understand 8 or whatever amount of gender roles there is

No book banning here. Why are you asking questions based on media induced Hysteria?

No children in school but the backbone of our country

Not enough funding is going to education and teacher are burning out cause of lack of pay and mistreatment causing teacher to leave and discourage those who want to enter the field from working in public schools at the very least.

Not sure what you meant by banning slavery history? History should never be banned. I think what is controversial is teaching it in a propogandized manner. Also not allowing books w sexually explicit material is not book banning! It's just common sense decency.

Now that I am working in the school system I am appalled at the lack of parental support that the teachers receive. The student's disrespect for the education system is evident in their academics.

On top of depression and anxiety, I feel most students are less motivated to do school work all year round.

Our public school system is failing.

Our schools, Chesapeake group, have a lot of parent involvement. Good schools but the gender things are getting out of control. It is causing issues.

Parent support is VERY important to student and school success. Greater effort and perhaps innovation is needed, especially for students or schools with lower success levels, to increase and improve parent support.

Parents having too many opinions and are not educated like teachers

Parents and schools should play a more active in role in enduring success.

People should feel free to learn anything they want. Banning books only encourages more interest in the books. Parents need to know what is happening in their child's education and the school system should not hide information from them. We are the PARENTS not the education board.

Personal experience

Political influence should not have been injected into curriculum.

Public schools are in general very lacking.

Say no to CRT and common core. Support teachers and toss out violent students.

Schools need to focus on reading, mathematics, and science. The schools are deficient in teaching those subjects. They don't need to be involved with liberal ideologies (gender identify and critical race theory) They don't need to stand in the place of a parent.

Sexual abuse is not regulated enough. Depression and anxiety is at an all-time high for students and there is not help.

So far Anne Arundel doesn't seem to have a problem with books in their libraries but Carroll County certainly does and it's so depressing that there are a group of people who don't trust our teachers and librarians to select books appropriate for students.

Some parents are over-involved and dictating to educators, and then complain when things don't work out.

Stop sexualizing children. Enough is enough with the groomer agenda.

Survey refers to 'banning' books. The issue with the gender books is not banning, but restricting access where not age appropriate. The issue with books on slavery is not banning them, but ensuring that they are not simply ideological tropes like those written by Kendi. Slavery is an important part of our history and it must be understood, but it also ended more than 150 years ago. The claim that things are worse now than, say, 50 years ago, is false.

Take gender studies out of the curriculum.

Teach kids earlier about making the right choices.

Teacher burn out must become a priority. Our teachers are dealing with far too many issues that really ought to be addressed at home

Teachers are the least appreciated workers in the county and state and country.

Teachers should teach the curriculum and not force gay behavior or radical anti American ideas on students.

Teachers were aging out before the pandemic. Covid motivated many teachers to leave the profession. It's underpaid, underfunded & unsupported. The brouhaha over banned books & bowdlerized curriculum crowds out the application of basic learning techniques. Teaching to a test is not it. Inspiring curiosity, teaching kids how to think (not what to think) could instill a lifelong love of learning.

Teachers... Pay them more and give them the respect they earned.

Teaching the history of slavery is fine if it is accurately portrayed. For example Roots a wonderful story but leaves out the fact that Africans sold off prisoners. Spaniards in armor were not chasing and capturing Africans e.g. scenes of OJ Simpson.

The fact that we are banning books is so dumb to me since it's 2023.

The growing lack of freedom of thought, the acceptance of terrorism, and fear for being persecuted for your beliefs by peers, teachers, the heads of school, and even the student government.

the questions on banning books- I am against banning books based on the topics mentioned. But couldn't ascertain for the question was asking pro or con on banning books on the topics

The school hours change is absolutely ridiculous!

The standards in schools have been lowered so much that students are not getting a decent education

The story of slavery in this country is the perfect example of how society makes wrong decisions sometimes. I feel society is making the same mistake about gender identity when disregarding biology.

the teacher shortage is most acute for trained, experienced teachers

The teachers union has misdirected the parent involvement. Kids do not need to be reading books about what kind of sex to have. Some of those books can't even be put on tv because they are considered Porn. The depression and anxiety is part of the Covid lock downs and keeping kids from each other. Then if they are feeling sad, they are sent to the LGBTQ group to fix it, maybe. If the kids don't like what they say to them, then the LGBTQ group bullies them. Yes, not a good thing in school. Go back to the old way of letting parents deal with the sex part. Not a teachers job. Their job is to teach, guide and be an ear if a kid needs it.

There will be no shortage of teachers when they are better supported in their efforts to teach. School choice will improve all aspects of education.

These are all very serious issues

These issues are poorly framed as they "beg the question" that they are issues to be concerned about. According to who? And why? How did these issues become matters for concern in the first place?

These questions are obtuse and contradictory for what the possible answer implies.

These unity days aren't helping enough. Wearing orange just makes moms have to run out and buy a shirt. Also, those days the kids aren't spending the half day focusing on what unites them, or understanding their differences. At least not at Arnold Elementary. Parents have to find an orange shirt for what?

This is our future. We need to be concerned even if we do not have school aged children

Too much money is wasted on administration of public schools. Private and charter schools focus on spending for teachers and students, not administration.

understaffing contributes to teacher shortages especially in special education

Use materials that teach children reading, writing, math, science & history, etc. Each class should reinforce HOW CHANGE IS POSSIBLE instead of singly out and reinforcing the negative all of the time!!! Each class should reinforce the subject being taught

We continue to fail our students. Instead of AP classes, they should have college level courses at the community college and graduate with real college credits and not that stupid AP BS where they have to take a test that they can't afford and then get some number that some college accept and others don't. Why are IEP's only for special needs? EVERY child should have an Individual Education Plan as each child is unique. We need TWO full time teachers in EVERY primary classroom. That is something that can be done immediately without building any extra infrastructure. Teachers love what they do but their stressed out over students with excessive needs, parents' demands, and administrators' unrealistic expectations.

We need to go back to the basics of teaching which does NOT include all the sexual education being talked about these days. Especially the trans gender issues while children are young and impressionable.

We sent our kids to private schools. One of our sons had a learning disability, and it became clear he would not thrive in public school. The prek at Rolling Knolls was supposed to be for children with LD but was not then. Despite the high taxes, we didn't consider the public schools a good option here, so we paid extra for private.

What makes a good school? Parents who care about education. If the parents don't think education is important or if they denigrate it, then you have a bad school. I volunteer at Tyler Heights, and I am very impressed with the teachers. It's obvious, though, that schools are now acting as a social band-aid - they provide free child care, and often proper meals and even clothing and food for the children and their families! Some parents can't spend much time with their kids because they are working two low level jobs to make ends meet. This is a result of a larger social problem - jobs need to pay a proper wage, so if you work you're not poor. Companies should turn some of their profits back to their employees!

While sexual abuse is a serious concern, I have not seen evidence to suggest that sexual abuse is a pervasive issue faced by public schools in my area.

Who is banning books dealing with the history of slavery? By "banning" of books dealing with gender ideology or sexual orientation, do you mean restricting access to them for elementary students? It's hard to answer these questions without more information. These seem like leading questions without giving background information.

Why do colleges graduate thousands with degrees in education every year and we have a teacher shortage?

With regard to parental involvement, I believe there are 2 distinct parental camps: Those that aren't involved enough and those who are involved to the point where they expect the schools (and the world) to revolve around their kids.

Your first two questions have an incorrect premise. The people who do not want sexual content and pornographic content are not book banning, they are protecting the innocence of children. The people who have banned classics like "Tom Sawyer" should be ousted from making decisions. The Teachers union does not have the children's best interest at heart.

Your political affiliation is showing again. There are books on slavery, called history books. And lack of parental involvement might be a result of withholding information from parents about significant decisions their children are facing.

Your questions should have addressed age-appropriate restrictions. No books have been banned in AACo.

Your questions were very generic, I would asked like school county administrators pay vs school administrators pay. Teacher salaries based on student performance and advancement. Classes dealing with civic responsibility or government responsibilities etc.

Appendix E: Public School Redistricting

1. I don't like changing justifications for rezoning-from wanting to have neighborhood schools for more parental involvement to Re zoning strictly for numbers reflects poorly on school system values. 2. Ppl lease look at fuel, time costs as well as other forms of scheduling before rezoningas well as future uses for emptier buildings.3. Enforce (or change) facilities laws so overcrowding does not occur.

Advocate for a redistricting plan that minimizes the disruption to students and their families. Changing schools can be stressful, so the plan should aim to keep students in their communities and minimize transportation challenges.

Another option is to allow parents to choose the school that their children attend first. That would give a clearer picture of WHY any given school is empty.

Appropriate resource allocation and use is critical however, redistricting will have significant impacts to families regarding schedule and overall household economics. Additionally, school and instruction quality is not consistent across all county facilities and must be taken into consideration prior to forcing a relocation of students.

As long as all kids in one neighborhood attend the same school for their age group, i.e. that way the peer comradery within the neighborhood your growing up in remains intact.

children need to go to schools close to the communities where they live. Travel times on a bus shouldn't be long. And children need a sense of community both in school and at home. Exception to this is to attend a specialized school(Votech, college prep etc)

district homes to near by schools

Districting for schools needs to take effect for the upcoming class of kids and not current ones. It is immoral to take some of these kids away from their friends to justify the means of "over crowded schools"

Exercise care!

Has needed to be done for a very long time

Higher taxes are never the answer

I agree that redistricting is very disruptive. I disagree that higher taxes are better for any reason. Redistricting is being forced on us to some degree to bypass the restriction on development. By moving kids from an over crowded district to a less crowded district, then the restriction on building new subdivisions is removed.

I also feel schools that don't have strong parental advocacy be improved - Annapolis HS and Glen Burnie both need new blds or serious upgrades! Annapolis HS was an open school years ago, so now with the overcrowding at AHS, there are many classrooms with no windows. Compare this to Severna Park HS!

I believe good students belong in schools that care about the. Students who are very engaging with school staff and who have good grades and reputation.

I bought a house partly due to the schools that my children would attend. I don't want the County to unexpectedly send my children to a different school where I don't live and chose not to live.

I do think redistricting is very disruptive. And while I do agree that schools that are overcrowded should consider redistricting to a closer school, there is much more to it than location. The big problem in this area is traffic congestion. Some schools that are not at max capacity are already dealing with traffic congestion. Adding more students will only cause greater issues with this. This is a major safety concern. More traffic equals more accidents. And it is much harder for emergency vehicles to get through with heavier traffic.

I don't have a child in AACPS systems so I am not familiar with redistricting.

I don't have a comment about that.

I have no problem with redistricting unless it means more travel time for students.

I live close to the construction site of where the new Old Mill High School will be. I am hoping the redistricting allows my son to attend this school, instead of Glen Burnie High.

I taught in PG county when busing was introduced & saw first hand the impact of redistributing.

I think that the redistricting is to keep blacks from the good schools

I think that if a school needs to be redistricted that they should move students from overcrowded schools to less crowded ones that are close to their existing schools so that they can stay within the same district. However, I do agree that redistricting can be very disruptive to all involved from the staff, students, and the parents so redistricting is a hard topic to discuss and choose upon.

I think we the county should do what is best for students and family that would not cost too much and is efficient.

I'd be angry if I purposely moved to a community with good schools and like-minded neighbors only to have riffraff move in and cause chaos..

If a student is moved from a school scoring an A to a lesser designation I would disagree. Same as a family buying a house in a specific neighborhood for the schools and then redistricting them.

if redistricting produces better outcomes, then it is OK. Before redistricting would take would want to see some empirical evidence that shows benefit to the children before redistricting would take place

Implement school choice and allow the private sector to absorb the costs of infrastructure

In order for the redistricting process to be successful, there are going to be neighborhoods of students that will have to increase their travel time. We can't physically move the schools, we can only move the students.

It is always preferable for students to attend schools near their homes. But overcrowding is not good and that is why I support bussing so students get a good education. As for taxes, if they go up any higher it will be hard. We are retired and live in city of Annapolis. Property taxes out to wazoo!

It will only make things worse.

It's not about that and everyone knows it. Just add on to existing school or stop over building in the area.

It's political they are trying to send students from less economic households to school districts that of higher income neighborhoods! This very wrong!

Let the money follow the student.

Makes sense but could be very socially damaging

My concern is that redistricting will take students from good or mediocre schools and place them in worse situations.

Needs to be done carefully and thoughtfully with the least disruption possible.

No children, but our neighborhood has higher property values due to being in the Old Mill school district. This will change if the redistricting goes through and it is changed to Meade.

Obvious contradiction in these questions. That points to how hard these decisions are

Older, established homes should not be redistricted because new developments were permitted closer to the schools. I hate to see established communities screwed from their zoned school because of rampant infill homes on 1/4 acre lots. Like in Severna park where they have shoved homes on every spot possible - especially along streets closer to SPHS and then neighborhoods like Chartwell, Shipley's, Crain West, Ben Oaks are further distance from the high school and in more danger of redistricting. Lots of new families being raised in homes where they grew up and they came for the family legacy.

Overcrowded schools are an issue as well as outdated facilities that need repairs. No one has also talked about the cost of Chromebooks including the cost of replacing the Chromebooks that will be expiring.

Pay for this by reducing, eliminating extraneous classes, activities.

People choose to live in an area because of the school districts. Get more teachers in those schools and stop busing them would be best.

Redistribute students and change boundaries, Education dollars should be spent on quality instruction not all sorts of new and fancy buildings.

Redistributing to more efficiently use existing facilities great but we should also have school choice options.

Redistrict as a last resort. as is disruptive !

Redistricting can be phased in, but should be done to improve efficiency and effectiveness for teachers and students

Redistricting can have a negative impact on social structure in communities. However, equality of educational opportunities is also important, I would prefer smaller schools nearby than the large institutions we have migrated toward. And yet I'm sure the financial folk would laugh me out of the room with that comment

Redistricting is not going to solve the problem when the population is growing everyday. Build more schools. This will help.

Redistricting is very disruptive but not sure I agree that it is better to pay higher taxes. Maybe phasing in redistricting in a way that isn't so disruptive. Such as if a student starts in one school, they should be allowed to finish in the same school.

redistricting should take into account traffic patterns

Regarding the taxes question, higher taxes is fine as long as it's bringing up the rate for lower income taxpayers. Higher incomes are already taxed too high.

Remove the racist gerrymandering. Why do white kids in Shipleys get to attend Severna Park schools while black kids who are closer get bussed to Chesapeake?

School realignment based on population numbers always makes sense.

Schools have been used to slow development approvals. Development needs to be restrained. My concern is rebalancing the school attendance will open us up to more development.

Schools should consider incentives to hire more drivers to increase bus routes to less crowded schools.

Slanted options: "Higher Taxes are better..." Neighborhood schools are always a better option for the kids.

Smaller class size is best for teachers and students, but students shouldn't be bussed too far.

Socialization is very important to growth and development of all students. Removing students from their local school districts creates a barrier to that development. Transportation is difficult now - redistricting will only make it worse!

Stop increasing taxes, reduce administrative positions, stop adding non-public schools which deplete the number of teachers teaching in public schools.

Stop overbuilding and developing when the current infrastructure can't meet the demand. Stop being a sanctuary state for non citizens to dump their kids for free into our school systems

Students should always be in schools as close to their home as possible.

Students should be able to remain with peers from their community. The redistricting done in HCPSS was a disservice to many students.

Taxes are high enough!

The BIE needs to manage their money better and use common sense, instead of wasting the taxpayers money and not providing students with the best education possible.

The first goal of redistricting should be to maximize the learning outcomes for students.

The last question in the sequence should be thrown out in my opinion or two separate questions.

There always has been redistricting, often politically motivated.

There are negatives & positives no matter what is done...

There are too many illegal students in our schools and the taxpayers are footing the bill. Those children need to return to their native countries if they have arrived in the last two years of the invasion at the border!

They have enough money. Utilize it better.

We don't support the current public school system.

We haven't done it in a while we're overcrowded in every building good luck

We lived in SP. While kids from Severna Park, Arnold, Pasadena (Light St Ave.) and Millersville went to SPHS, ours were supposed to go to Chesapeake. Makes zero sense.

We need better balance racially in school districts and need to address overcrowding in a way that is equitable.

Well the previous question is misleading

What is meant by "very close" in the second question on this page. That information would be helpful in evaluating this question.

What is our dollar spent per student compared to the rest of the country?

While I am unsure on the specifics of this policy, I do not feel as though simply raising taxes will sufficiently address the issues of overcrowding.

Will redistricting SOLVE the PROBLEM of our substandard academic programs that are now being taught in our schools?!?!?!?!?

You have two statements in the last question. Redistricting is disruptive. Period.

Your questions/statements are very misleading and oversimplification of the issue at hand and possible solutions. Why even poll on a subject that is already settled?

Appendix F: Comments about Housing Policies

Agenda 2040 will be a disaster for Annapolis and Takoma Park and the rest of the state.

Better for the government to stay out of attempting manage the dynamics of a free marketplace.

Cost of housing near Annapolis is a crisis. Where do we expect "essential workers" to live?

Gen Z is not going to be able to afford to live in Anne Arundel county, we will lose a generation if something is not done to provide more affordable housing. I am talking college educated even.

Government can limit the increase, but then the owners can requires more deposit to move in.

Government involvement in determining housing is fraught with challenges and missteps. Bureaucrats are the least capable of determining our future and what it should look like.

Government needs to lease us alone and let the economy return to its equilibrium

Government needs to stay out of free-market enterprises

Housing is a major concern for me. In AAC, MD and across the country. Not enough housing stock and too expensive for many people. Also, in AAC, why are housing projects falling apart within years of construction?? Disruptive to residents! Is there fraud? No inspection? Graft?

Housing shortages are causing rent increases. This is basic economics 101 with supply and demand. Government control of supply prices does not address the problem of supply shortage. I may even exacerbate the problem by discouraging the desire to meet the demand.

However damage is already being felt.

I am a nurse and worked hard for my home, I came from a poor family, saved money for education and housing without government help.

I am afraid this path will cause the landlord to slack on upkeep of property

I am not sure what to comment here or what to explain upon as I have no opinion and am unsure of this.

I believe economic studies have shown that rental caps lead to less rental housing not more!

I do not believe I have enough knowledge to answer this

I do not know thr pros and cons of this law so I cannot have an opinion.

I do not support the government interfering in anything

I don't agree with the exemptions.

I don't know enough about it to make an informed comment.

I don't have a comment on that.

I hate traffic I work in property management more rental's more money I make

I live in the Annapolis/Riva area. Homeowners here are very concerned with the high volume of rental apartments, office and shopping center building that are currently being constructed. Will the current infrastructure be able to handle the rate of influx?The traffic on Riva road, that was rebuilt in the past 2 years, is once again overcrowded between 2:30 ~ 5:30. Emergency vehicles are racing on the sides of the roads, darting in and out of traffic and the new apartment buildings have not been completed. The addition of yet another grocery store and shopping center across from the current Town Center shipping center and Giant shopping center drawing more traffic from other parts of the Annapolis area will surly bring more congestion. Now I hear apartment buildings are going up behind the high school!

I own my home, but I am concerned for those who do not & are unable to find affordable housing in AACo.

I think rent control plays a role in addressing the housing crisis, but to truly solve this issue, we need zoning laws that promote construction and limit NIMBY folks from limiting housing projects.

I think the intentions for this bill are good, but it is not enough. More needs to be done to support the lower income middle class families.

I used to own a house in PG county and rent it out and had to sell it because of the headaches. Rents are probably twice as high than they need to be to cover normal costs. It's the abnormal costs of people not paying rent and destroying the property that make it necessary to get the money that you can when you can get it.

If I were the owner of a rental, I'd want to earn the maximum I could for that rental property.

If property owners want to raise rent, then they should lobby for employment wage increases! Instead, by jacking up rent as high as they can, they are gouging renters for extra money that renters should spend on food, clothing, and reserve cash. I see a lot of new apartments going up in Annapolis - I hope this will encourage competition among landlords and result in lower rent.

If property taxes are greater than the percentage it isn't fair to the landlord

If you want to control housing rental rates then let the government own all the housing rather than a free market condition.

In every jurisdiction where rent control has been tried, it has resulted in higher costs and less availability of overall housing. (It disincentivizes landlords to maintain the property and disincentivizes tenants to leave)

In the long-term, rent controls cause adverse economic dislocations by driving investors out of the market. Unless government programs fill the void, they are not a solution.

Inflation is the primary cause of the housing crisis. When government gets involved in rent control the outcome resulted in abandoned buildings and the government assuming responsibility for the tenants. Property owners and tenants suffer by misguided regulations.

is this even legal?

It is out of control and almost unattainable for most.

It needs to be across every type of housing. What about mobile home parks? The lot rent costs are astronomical but there seems to be no end to cost rising every year. What ever happened to affordable? Also they Management companies that own Mobile Home parks sure do not take the payments and put back into the parks. Or its very much favoritism within the parks. Need better regulations on Mobile Home parks.

Let the market find the correct price.

Let the private market work.

Limited population growth could improve housing shortages and school overcrowding

Low income, and middle income can't afford the housing

Make living here more affordable by creating places where you can live, work and play without fewer or no cars - access to walkable, bikeable and transit routes

Most people renting are in the lower income brackets, single parents, ect. We need to also take that into account.

need for information.

New constructions and "renovated units" shouldn't be exempt from such a program. Too many new developments are built by private equity firms and the same applies to rental properties purchased and owned by the same companies who "renovate" by slopping on a coat of paint and changing the name of the property or just shuffling ownership around their subsidiaries every year or two. All this in an effort to avoid regulation from programs like these meant to help struggling people not be taken advantage of and squeezed dry.

Not enough affordable senior housing. Not everyone can live in a highrise. Social Security alone is not enough to pay rent or property taxes.

not fair to landlords

Our service providers such as teachers, police, fire, etc cannot find affordable housing in the county

Overall inflation needs to cool before calculating living expenses more deeply.

part of the solution but main solution is to increase supply of housing ; build more higher density near transit

People aren't entitled to low increases. The market sets the price. When people stop signing leases for high rents, the price will go down.

People who rent have it the hardest. A lot of it depends on locations, economy, crime, etc. The worst places are the toughest for both tenants and landlords. Higher up the ladder, much better. We need to do better to help poorer folks to be proud of their neighborhoods.

People who work in this county (teachers, police, firefighters) should be able to afford to live here.

Price controls do more harm in the long term

Putting a cap on rent isn't going to improve the situation. The builder has to make money so he'll cut corners. Quality goes down. Fix the economy, fix inflation, and let the market settle.

Rates are too low. I'd support a hard cap of 10%

Rent "stabilization" is rent control. Look at Berkeley or SF or Oakland and see how that worked out.

Rent control has been proven time after time to be a failed policy with disastrous consequences.

Rent control has never improved living standards, anywhere.

rent control is a horrible idea. it just makes housing shortages worse. the govt shouldn't dictate rent prices

Rent control should not be used in capitalist economy

Rent control works in the short term, not good for the long term.

Rent increases should track the inflation rate.

Rent stabilization will do nothing if you don't address inflation. Cost of living increases need to be more inline true inflation. That is why we are in this current situation.

Rents escalating from 8%-16% within a 18 month period.

Riva road new condominium construction and business is totally out of control and I am seeing every day the consequences of it and two of the larger buildings are not even open this is totally the responsibility of county government.

Should be a statewide approach

Some form of rent stabilization is important. I would suggest that increases be tied to improved services or amenities and documented cost increases to the landlord, with room for a reasonable profit. I lived in an apartment in AAC for 10 years. The rent increased annually despite reduced amenities and the savings incurred from not having turnover costs. The quality of the apartment was static, and the quality of the community declined, but the rent kept rising. That's not okay.

Some rent stabilization programs expire with 1-2 years so they do not really help.

Stop over-building of everything!

Stop trying to pass idiotic smart city plans in Annapolis. Why should residents that have long invested here have their zoning upended to dump mixed use development into our neighborhoods we worked our ass off to afford. All you will get is the working middle selling and moving the hell out of AACO as a result. It's government thievery and bait and switch

The building of new communities in AA county is out of control. The trend of packing in townhouse and condo communities on small parcels in already established areas is causing more traffic and leaving no areas for wild animals. We have seen an increase in wildlife (deer, coyotes) in our residential area because a lot of the wooded areas are being developed. The housing that is built is not affordable.

The concept of "affordable housing" and/or "workforce housing" is quite complicated. Not enough space here to address, but one huge missing factor is the cost of government regulations. To supposedly reduce costs, current Administration is promoting exempting lower cost housing from educational and environmental requirements. Shouldn't lower income residents have uncrowded schools and more green and blue as well as the better off folks. There are other ways to reduce housing costs.

The cost of housing rose in the past several years as it was a sellers' market. I suspect the cost will drop somewhat as the market levels out.

The county must be very careful when interfering with free market forces. It is one thing to stop artificially inflated rents (e.g. forced low housing utilization to drive up rates), but capping rents may drive landlords out of business thereby destroying a viable rental market.

The market should dictate this and any governmental interference ultimately makes things worse.

The market should drive the rates.

The more government interferes in economic situations, the worse things tend to become. Instead, government needs to pull back some of the regulations.

The rising cost of rent is making it difficult for individuals to provide stability for their families. These increases in costs (not just rent, but all living expenses) are creating a new class of working poor who are not financially capable of providing for their families. All in all, the middle class is slipping deeper into debt as their buying power continues to be reduced across the market.

There is too much construction in this county building new and large homes. Building must be restricted because traffic is unbearable.

There needs to be rentals caps due to housing shortage in combination with high mortgage rates.

This approach hasn't worked in other cities. New York has rent control but is still extremely expensive.

This has been tried previously and does not work. I believe this is part of what led to the high inflation of the late 1970's and early 1980's.

This is one very small component to the larger housing issues, which aren't been addressed and need to be. The cost of land and construction to build affordable housing and the NIMBY folks are the glut of the problems.

This rent stabilization policy must be adhered to and followed by landlords (who I doubt will do so and will likely fall under the radar) and those who do not should receive jail time or penalties.

Units will fall into disrepair. Compliance costs are massive. Workarounds will be found.

Use the annual COLA as the basis- - not arbitrary %'s

We don't need more housing developments. Quite the opposite. We need more affordable and maintained properly housing. There needs to be more access in a financial means. Environmentally, we are over developed.

We live in the USA. I do not want Anne Arundel County to become a totally socialist county.

Whenever I go out, I always notice how much space there is between everything. There is a near-complete lack of density in my area, and it likely is contributing to rising rent, as fewer houses per neighborhood means higher demand, which in turn leads to higher prices.

Why are property owners penalized because some people can't afford the rent they ask for? If you can't pay the rent, live somewhere else. Renters are not entitled to live at my property. If I don't like an increase in grocery prices, can I force the market to limit their price increases?

why are we making things more expensive for people

Why interfere with free markets? Supply and demand will smooth out price increases. There's already an enormous number of rental apartments being built.

Would support if taxes and fees were held to caps as well

Appendix G: Comments About Solar Farm Projects

A balanced approach inclusive of energy security is critical.

Again, over simplification of a very complex problem. You are not doing the survey participant justice with broad generalizations of hot button topics (which are hot button topics because most don't understand the full scope of the issues).

Agricultural farmers and energy produces must learn to co-exist and manage the land jointly. Food prices must not go up because land is otherwise utilized.

Alternative energy has not been well thought out. They don't take into consideration the making and disposal of solar panels.

Am concerned about the recycling of solar panels and the destruction of farmland.

Anne Arundel County still has rural areas??

Another complicated subject. You don't address costs and the efficacy of solar panels. For example, what damage is done to the environment to produce/refine the materials to make solar panels.

Believe we should push for more solar roofs, not solar farms, Worry about unintended environmental consequences, more trees not more impermeable surfaces. we have major water quality issues that could be harmed by more impermeable surfaces.

Create more incentives for construction on brownfield, industrial and commercial sites before ag land

Do not interfere with free enterprise

Doesn't it make sense to install Solar farms in areas where land is less expensive? that isn't generally the case in AACO.

Don't chop down trees, to add solar panels.

Every day we aren't converting wind and solar energy is a day wasted.

Farms need to be protected at all cost.

Government should avoid trying to plan what private owners do on their land, especially by subsidizing what the government thinks it wants.

I am connected to a solar farm. But I really don't have all the details that these questions ask. I cannot afford solar panels on my roof. I have to worry about a new roof!

I am not an expert on solar farms but I think the market should dictate construction and maintenance. I don't see the value of government intervention. I also think that present structures can be encouraged to add solar panels. Especially government buildings and facilities.

I am not deeply versed in the efforts to transition to a more renewable solar plan and cannot elaborate extensively on this matter.

I am not sure how I would feel about solar farms in Anne Arundel County let alone in any other county. I think the projects should be restricted in rural areas to help preserve the farms.

I am not very informed about solar projects but I do believe it is important to have a balance of renewable energies and to preserve farms and other businesses that have/can create jobs.

I do not believe solar panels are a good idea

I don't believe in Solar energy. Waste of tax payers money.

I don't believe in solar farming. Not a good use of money.

I don't know much about what these projects would look like. I think I would prefer a mixed use concept with some farming and some solar. An entire farm of solar panels seems like it could be problematic and I wonder if we know enough about run off, drainage and water/soil issues with solar farms.

I don't see solar farms as a solution to solve our energy needs.

I have solar & think it is the future. Not sure about solar farms taking land away from farming

I haven't heard anything about solar farms.

I think it would make sense to have satellites above livestock farms to provide shade for them. Or another idea is to have them above all parking lots.

If choosing between solar farm and subdivision, go solar. Between subdivision and agriculture or forest, go agriculture/forestry/native planting. If between subdivision and multi family housing, go multi family.

it's proven to be a somewhat inefficient technology.

Just build more Nuclear Power Plants and the problem is solved, wind and solar are not reliable enough and long term costs and environmental impact is too high

Large scale energy projects are contraindicated in some places. How about every building, private, public or commercial, having a solar roof?

Let the local residents weigh in for their area on the location.

Look at what other countries have done, such as putting solar panels on top of parking garages, bus stops, etc

No solar farms. No wind farms. Let's keep traditional agricultural farms.

Nome

not educated enough on solar to have an opinion

NOT in favor of solar farms in Maryland at all!!

Not sure if we are ready for a transition to solar energy yet

Not sure solar farms and food production cannot co-exist. If Maryland had year-round crops, maybe. But we have seasonal farming so much food waste that I wonder how much our food supply would suffer if we take steps to use alternative energy to keep the crops from burning up in the first place

Nuclear Power is a good source as well, anything over fossil fuels is good.

On a trip to the Eastern Shore, I saw a solar farm where it used to be a corn crop. SAD!

Private land is PRIVATE, Do not regulate over owners' right of ownership.

Roof top solar and parking lots are the only option that makes environmental sense. Rural solar farms are using areas that could be left environmentally friendly

Seriously people?

Should be little or no restrictions, government does not need to be regulating this.

Solar & wind are our electrical future. The county policies should encourage solar and wind power generation growth.

Solar energy although very efficient, is also taking its toll on our natural world.

Solar energy is surely an effective way to break into renewable energy, but putting all of our chips into it alone seems ineffective and a waste of our money. Investing in wind, hydro, and nuclear as well sounds like a better move to me.

Solar energy produces very little energy and the panels are made in China and are not biodegradable. Fifty years from now the folly of our current policies will be a major problem.

Solar farms are cost effective, and do no harm to the land they sit on. Some people think they are ugly, but cheaper more efficient energy is worth it.

Solar farms at this latitude will always have problems and when you figure in making and getting rid of them they are not very green.

Solar farms can be in urban areas too.

Solar farms destroy the environment, causing drainage issues and run off into waterways. It also means less land to produce much needed crops. A much better option is nuclear power

Solar farms need to be on roof tops and over parking areas more than using farm land.

Solar farms will save us in the future, but have to be build judiciously

Solar is a ruse . We need multiple sources of energy

Solar is likely to play a huge role in our energy in the not too distant future. Any property owners whose farms are sought for solar energy, must be supported; the same must be done for agricultural farmers can be.

Solar is not efficient, they need to improve before we invest in them. And the climate change they create because of added heat or cold is not even considered.

Solar or wind farms! Help dirt farming succeed!

Solar panels and, importantly, the batteries that make them functional at scale require the use of rare earth minerals and other components for which we are dependent on China. And the more farmland we convert to this use, the higher to cost of food, including additional shipping costs that require fossil fuels. This is a false economy.

Solar power is one of the most important pieces to the answer to the current problems.

Solar power is unreliable and inefficient. Nuclear is a much less space-intensive, consistent, and reliable power source

Solar projects remain a very expensive source of energy with many unknowns about scalability, efficiency, long term operation, and recycling at the end of their lifespan.

Solar will never replace other energy sources in this climate. Nuclear should be considered as a reliable and sustainable source of energy which does not require large swaths of land to be viable.

The cheapest way to generate electricity is to point a piece of glass at the sun. Let's do that instead of setting the planet on fire.

The Marxist green agenda is costly and destructive.

The pollution made from making them and transporting makes up for the pollution of fossil fuels and farms are more important

the successful emergence of solar energy farms in rural areas depends on careful planning, community involvement, and a holistic approach that balances environmental, social, and economic considerations. It's essential to tailor these principles to the specific needs and circumstances of Anne Arundel County or any other region.

There are lots of ways to move towards solar without making solar farms.

There shouldn't be any tax benefits for buying/installing solar panels.

These solar farms should be considerate of farmers as that is how they live.

This is very important; solar should be on parking lots and rooftops - not in prime agricultural land. We cannot produce more land!

travesty

U need a balanced approach.

Utter waste of time and money.

wake up and get with the program. Be a leader,

We can't afford this Green New Deal BS

We need our agricultural farms also. Not sure we need to sharply restrict the solar projects - there needs to be a balance.

Why would we support not growing food for inefficient solar panels?

Without government subsidies, these projects would fail. We are supporting China at the expense to our own economy as that country supplies most of the raw materials for the panels. Also, the risk of pollution is high from the run-off under these panels.

Appendix H: Comments about Maryland State Issues, Self-Driving Cars

the responsibility for accidents involving partial self-driving systems is a nuanced issue, and it can vary depending on the specific circumstances and the jurisdiction. As the technology and the legal landscape continue to evolve, it's important for laws and regulations to keep pace and for drivers to be well-informed about their responsibilities when using such systems.

1-2 hrs. If they can't get it into their heads by then, it won't stick. Could be online with quizzing to pass.

1, Abortion should be safe and legal up to a point, but not without limits when a viable infant would be aborted, perhaps up to 12-15 weeks. 2. Making gun free zones, just lets criminals know where they have vulnerable victims. There should always be exceptions, so that trained and competent gun owners can protect the public because law enforcement cannot always arrive quickly. 3. Self-driving cars should not be approved until they are "fool-proof". They are not road safe until they are "idiot proof" because there are a lot of idiots on the road!

Abortion has not been "banned" by the Supreme Court ruling. The rhetoric is misleading. It returns to issue to the states. Maryland will always support it so I find a constitutional amendment as unnecessary. That option was not offered.

Although specificity is important in legislation, I would urge lawmakers to frame it so that bodily autonomy is protected for everyone regardless of race, creed, religion, sex, gender identity, etc.

Car manufacturers need to pull off the market anything that takes control of vehicle's steering. Other than emergency braking to avoid a crash, "driver assistance" system do nothing other than to fool a driver into thinking that something else can control a vehicle.

Does the State seriously need to train people that they are responsible for operating their vehicle regardless if self-driving or not?

Don't think we need a state law for car owners to understand their responsibility.

Drivers need to be held accountable for the safety of themselves and pedestrians, as self-driving cars are known to sometimes make mistakes. Therefore it should be made clear to them in some way that they still hold responsibility when driving.

Drivers should not rely solely on driver assisted systems.

Every driver is responsible for the way his or her car is driven.

Experienced an accident myself in 2022. I favor more regulation of drivers and manufacturers

Give people some responsibility on their own. Let's not over regulate things.

I am more inclined to side with the car-makers, if you were to get into an accident caused by self-driving mode of your, it's your fault, but I do not agree with the government telling people who going to purchase cars with that setting to attend some kind of training. I believe it should be optional.

I am pro choice, believe in restriction of guns, and don't like the driverless cars.

I believe we need more rigorous inspections of the self-driving mechanism that will ensure no problems are in the system but at the same time there should be more pressure on drivers on how to drive on the road responsibly and safely.

I do not believe in late term abortions. That is why I said unsure. You do not elaborate on the question.

I don't believe that there needs to be training. Maybe just a consent form that takes responsibility off of the company and instead on the driver.

I don't know enough about the subject and how far we have come in development ~ are these vehicles on the road now?

I don't like abortion but allowing it for the entire pregnancy is abhorrent.

I don't like self-driving vehicles. Needs more study off road.

I feel the driver is ultimately responsible.

I think self-driving cars are a bad idea and serve no useful purpose.

I think the law needs to adapt to these new self-driving cars to maintain safety

I think there should be a requirement for purchasers to acknowledge they are still the one in control of the vehicle it seems like overkill to require them to go through specific training

I think this technology needs to mature and the responsibility lies between the auto manufacturer and the purchaser. get a Federal standard rather than a state law...

I would not support this unless automobile manufacturers were required to register self-driving cars as a separate class of vehicle that requires distinct licensing requirements.

I would prefer not to end up in the hospital or die because some idiot bought a self driving car and doesn't know how to use it.

I'm just wondering how the concept of personal responsibility plays into each of your questions. Does anyone take responsibility for the process of conception? Does anyone take responsibility for legally possessing a firearm? Does anyone take responsibility for getting behind the wheel of a vehicle?

If it's really a big problem, then I would expect the federal government to provide guidance for industry and consumers.

In my opinion, if drivers were required to learn the appropriate parking skills, this would be less of an issue. I know most people do not like to parallel park, but that dislike is probably the result of finding the skills too hard. The lack of willingness to learn and enforce this skill has resulted in an "easy way" to accomplish this task while simultaneously absolving the driver from the personal accountability required to safely operate a vehicle.

It is already understood that the user of a self driving car is responsible for ultimate control of the car. Any law is unnecessary.

It is extreme to allow abortion providers to irresponsibly take the innocent lives of unborn babies who can feel excruciating pain. It also causes great emotional pain in the lives of those possible mothers and families. The abortion lobby is strong due to the monetary gain of ending lives. Why not include the requirement to allow pregnant women to see their ultrasound? NO child under 18 should be allowed to get an abortion outside the knowledge of the parent. There needs to be a middle ground: maybe 36-48 weeks?

It seems like all this would do is provide even more protection for car-makers that market their systems as "self driving super AI of the future" despite the fine print saying "but not really though lol". A better response would be to restrict what car-makers can market the systems as/call them and requiring them to foot the bill of informing and educating people on it's proper use.

It seems to me that both the carmakers and the drivers need to be held accountable until self-driving cars are more the norm. Not sure if state laws would work.

It should be treated as drivers ed. They need to know how their system works and how to handle a situation in case something were to go wrong.

Make sure the self driving vehicles can pass the driving test without human intervention

No machine is ever perfect.

No open carry for guns under any circumstances. No guns in churches or schools

People are busy and I don't believe every owner will read the materials provided to them by car makers when purchasing these vehicles. It is a life and death issue that should be more proactive than trusting buyers to read a manual about this new technology.

People who don't have those safe features wreck more frequently than those who do

Personally, I am oppose to self-driving cars unless a person with disabilities can benefit from it. However, as it is likely to become more popular, I hope the option for self-driving vehicles will remain!

Punishment for accidents should be the same whether or not the car is self-driving. I have one and it's been made very clear to me that I am responsible even when self-driving is being used.

Re self-driving cars: obtain info from insurance companies impact of te regs...

Re: Q26. Most mass shootings occur in "Gun Free Zones." Murderers, gangs, other criminals and the insane DON'T FOLLOW GUN LAWS.

Restrict the use of self-driving cars. ASAP

Safety concerns

Self driven cars will most likely lead to more accidents, should not be allow.

self driving cars should be outlawed

self driving classes sound like a great idea - done properly.

Self-driving features are not yet proven safe. It is technology driving the decision ...not common sense.

Should be required

The abuse of these new technologies can and have resulted in the increase in dangerous behaviors, and therefore accidents and deaths.

The best way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. Stop trying to restrict law abiding citizens on concealed carry.

The Current-Level of Autonomy in so-called "Self-Driving" cars is to my knowledge, underwhelming. As a result, precautions must be put in place to avoid unnecessary harm and danger to the public good.

The main focusing should be on regulating autonomous driving technology that is truly safe for all, especially people walking, biking and outside of vehicles.

The systems should be easy enough for any driver to use safely before it is allowed to be sold.

The technology is changing. I am afraid a law will be too restrictive on future innovations. So a sunset clause would be a good idea

There is no need for self driving cars and it encourages distraction and inattention.

There should be more training for every driver and higher fines for speeding, running red light and stop signs, texting too

There should be no self driving cars.What happens if there is a clutch and the car runs into a crowd and harm or kill people? What if there is a hack of the system?

There should be NO self driving vehicles, particularly all large trucks, dump trucks, any oversize truck, or tractor trailers.

There should be no self-driving cars period!!

Think we have more important problems

Too many unknowns in this area. They've got a long way to go!

Totally understand but disagree on self driving vehicles

We already have seriously bad drivers in Maryland - focus on fixing that problem along with creating smart decisions for driverless and other emerging technologies.

What would the special training be? Just telling them that they are an idiot if they don't understand that they are always responsible for their vehicle.

When purchasing any device that you have no prior knowledge of, or training on, then of course there should be mandatory training prior to purchase...and that goes for any weapon as well.

You are always responsible for your vehicle.

Appendix I: Immigration and Promise of Equality Idea

And, find a way to citizenship for the "dreamers" and current illegals!

Anyone coming to this country: Come in legally Not have a criminal record Be able to work and support themselves and family. Learn to speak "ENGLISH"

Asylum seekers need to be vetted extensively. We need only look at France, Belgium, Germany to see the cost of no or little vetting.

Biden has allowed so much fentanyl into this country that 300 people a day are dying. Not to mention human trafficking and terrorists. A Hamas assault could happen any day.

Biden has implemented OPEN BORDERS and we have no idea how many terrorists are here. We have people crossing our border from something like 150-some countries. They're here for free everything Biden is giving them. Putting them up in hotels in NYC! Geez where does it stop. They have ALL broken the law by crossing illegally. COME THE LEGAL WAY OR DON'T COME AT ALL!!!!

Borders need to be secure.

Congress needs to consider and pass immigration legislation.

Don't love any of the descriptions. I embrace immigration for all legally entering the United States & do not have a criminal history.

Due to the total invasion of working age men into our country at the southern border at this time, the border needs to be closed until these people are sorted out. Then the legal immigration policy needs to be easier for those applying.

Environment, bay quality, congestion, etc all point to the need to keep growth down.

Everyone should get in line and come here legally. And no free handouts to immigrants. If you can't support yourself you don't come here.

Having a completely open border, especially with the tumultuous conditions within our allies south of the border, doesn't seem efficient. It should certainly be more streamlined, however, as our current system is needlessly cruel and inefficient in regards to bringing in immigrants and enabling them to thrive in this country.

Highly restrictive borders are not only cruel and frankly evil when considering the root causes of the poverty and violence in Central and South America, but have also historically been a bane to growing an economy.

How about a choice that says " I support legal immigration but oppose illegal immigration ?That would be the winner !

I am in favor of bringing people in this country to enjoy the freedoms that all citizens enjoy, However we need serious reforms in our immigration policy to better prepare ourselves in bringing in these immigrants. We need to assimilate them into our culture, language, and its constitution also I am in favor of taking them to historic places in America so they can have a better understanding of the country they are going to live and serve. If there are any who are at the border of needing medical assistance I believe we should provide it but still get their registration order if they plan to come into the United States or if not they must be sent back. Also, we have to make sure if we are accepting immigrants from war torn countries or countries that hate us, there must be a rigorous background check of the country they are in and find out if any other countries that did bring in immigrants of that particular country started any kind of trouble.

I believe that we should have a strong border but should be allowed to open our doors for those without a criminal record and just want a better chance at life.

I cannot blame anyone for wanting to be part of the greatest nation ever. I would like there to be laws that are followed and enforced so that there is an orderly, lawful entry that facilitates assimilation.

I don't think the options fairly represent the policy choices.

I don't like Biden or Trump but I think we do need to build a wall because I think most of the Hispanic immigrants could be cartel members

I have no comments about these questions at this time.

I support the idea of offering asylums and helping them escape from poverty and violence. However, there needs to be more support for those who are already in this country suffering from the same issues.

I tend toward open borders, however, we could be doing more to help impoverished/corrupt countries keep their citizens safe and healthy. We are not unlimited in our resources and we are already facing humanitarian crises here. We need to keep an open policy within reason given our increasingly limited resources

I wish we could take on everyone that wants to come, but the recourse on our economic system needs to be heavily considered.

If they are here and working and can prove they pay taxes give them citizenship

Illegal Immigration is the most important issue facing the country

Immigrants are needed in the US, in Anne Arundel County, there are so many low wage jobs which go unfilled

Immigrants need to be properly vetted to ensure that they are law abiding and will not become a burden on society. My relatives were immigrants who were "sponsored" so they could enter and not become a burden. The "legal immigration" system needs reform to accomplish these goals, which a vast majority of the public agrees with.

Immigration is good. Illegal immigration is where the problem occurs.

Immigration policies should reflect what is best for the country and not what is best for the immigrant or a political party.

Increase legal immigration. Decrease illegal immigration.

It is galling that some founders of our country supported enlightenment ideals and the formation of a new government, but preserved institutions such as slavery for their own economic benefit. However, in America, we do have the capability to change things and try to live up to our original ideals. We freed slaves, we granted the vote to women, we worked to provide civil rights for every one. At least we have the ability to fix things, although it's a long, contentious and sometimes violent fight. Every time I get tired of the wrangling between the Democrats and Republicans, I realize it could be worse - we could have a one-party system, like China and Russia. Then how do you fix things? As far as immigration goes - my son, who is a member of a union, pointed out to me that unrestricted immigration will allow employers to lower wages for American employees. My own work has also highlighted this - as well as causing security problems. When I worked at CMS in Baltimore, at least half of the employees were Indian and Chinese immigrants. I think we should support our citizens in gaining the education they need to work, NOT fill the ranks with foreign workers who aren't even citizens.

It is way too easy for foreigners to cross the border and into our country bringing their crime and problems with them. CLOSE THE BORDER!

Legal immigration is not the same as illegal immigration, why isn't our government enforcing the law and deporting all illegal persons in this country?

Means test and only legal immigrants

My grandparents came into this country legally in the 1920's. They had to have a job and sponsors. We should not have open borders that allow people to just walk in.

no free ride for illegal immigrants

None

Not poverty, just violence.

Not sure what you mean by open. there should be some vetting-no known criminals, etc.

of course it has to be controlled and we need to know who is entering (neither of which is happening now). Outside of that, we do need some level of legal immigration to offset demographic patterns

Our borders are wide open...you cannot have a secure country with no borders especially now

Our citizens are bleeding and the border is wide open to those who are bleeding us dry. The homeless and other people in need are thrown on the streets by those who are making room for illegals who are pouring across our southern border.

Our country screwed up central and many south American countries and other countries around the world. We have a duty to help people in dire conditions. Or help get their countries in better shape.

Our country should allow most, if not all immigrants that follow the proper immigration procedure. Immigrants that enter the United States illegally should not be tolerated, as it blurs the line between what is okay and not okay in the eyes of the law.

Our country's economic needs should NEVER be part of any measured policy with our National Security at the forefront of our concerns. Humanitarian issues are naturally of concern !!

Our immigration policy needs to understand why so many people want to come here when the cost of living is so high. The immigrants are traveling thousands of miles in complete poverty to get here.

Our rights come from God, not the Government! Would you open your door to allow strangers into your home without knowing who they are?? I doubt it. This open border is coming to haunt us again. Oh and thanks for the Fentanyl killing so many of our kids!! Good job

People should come to this country legally..

Prior to the 1920's there were virtually no limits on immigration.

Q29. The declaration is a separation from England, not a standard of government.

Right now we are being invaded and divided .

Terrorists are coming in the USA due to open border. CLOSE. Build wall

The 'get aways' are very dangerous in that we do not know who they are. It will take a major incident for the Feds to wake up to border security.

The country is needs more workers and we have immigrant workers who want to work. It's not rocket science.

The fourth option, above should not be restrictive to Central and South America.

The immigration question is totally misleading. The nuances of immigration policy are far greater than the choices you provided and don't take into account the challenges that "closing" the Southern border has on the economy overall, especially industries like crab picking, lifeguards, farming, etc.

The immigration restrictions of the 1920's followed mass immigration the prior 2 decades. Having a cooling off and time for integration is essential.

the last question I agree with escaping violence but not poverty. The US just can't help everyone. Our housing, education, and health system just can NOT help everyone. But we CAN support N help people in those countries to improve these systems in their OWN countries with aid thru UN and other organizations

The open border with Mexico is a highway for crime, criminals and terrorists. Jewish schools and synagogues will be attacked by Islamist killers.

There has always been immigration laws in this country. We should strictly adhere to these laws that have been around for over a hundred years

There needs to be a more restrictive policy rather than a lack of policy. The policy should look at the economics contribution to the country and security for its citizens first and then humanitarian considerations

There should be legal immigration. The fact that people are coming across the border in the millions is putting an unsustainable burden on county, city and state governments and they are seeking funding and support from the federal government. That means taxpayers will have to pay more and we are barely making ends meet now. Inflation is a terrible burden and products that we are paying more for are in smaller packages... meaning we are being doubly penalized. Unchecked immigration does not allow for providing jobs, housing, education and food to our citizens. It's putting the illegal immigrants first at the expense of citizen taxpayers.

This country needs to operate for the benefit of its citizens first and foremost.

This is a hard question but the U.S. can use more workers and there needs to be a path towards citizenship. Congress needs to get its act together and pass new legislation that will help the now untenable immigration problems.

This is an economic decision as well as a humanitarian one. American businesses have such a dire need for employees, and the vast majority of asylum seekers are honest people who want to work. We should expand H1B and return to our previous system for granting probationary asylum and a work visa with the same entry stamp.

throw a dart at a world map, anyplace you hit won't come close to the US for created equal

Trump destroyed the economies in other countries with his "America First" policies. We should stabilize the conditions in those countries so people don't have to leave out of desperation.

uncontrolled immigration as we have now will cause serious if not catastrophic challenges in the future.

Very tough to find the right balance on immigration. Immigrants bring great energy and cultural diversity but I worry about economic impact. US capacity is not infinite

Way to many illegal immigrants coming into our country at this time. We can not afford to take care of our own citizens that are homeless and poor let alone the illegal immigrants. Also not fair to those who have applied to come to our country legally.

We are allowing in 1/3 the people we were 20 years ago. At the same time, our birth rate continues to decline. GDP growth comes from growth in number of workers and growth in productivity per worker. This means that our current structure is setting the future US economy up for slower growth

We are at capacity.

We are letting to many come here and getting help and the people here can't even get help. It's sad how they have taking over the neighborhoods

We can barely afford to take care of our kids in the school public system how can we afford to take care of immigrants

We desperately need labor, especially in the Midwest. This country could accommodate far more immigrants than it takes.

We do need more security at the Southern border to control the flow of undocumented persons.

We have flooded our local Community with illegal immigrants we can't afford to care for at all. It results in deepening the access to services for our actual citizens in vulnerable communities.

We have no idea who's coming in now good or bad. My family came in legally during the late 1800 and had to learn English to work. If you want live in USA follow the language and pay taxes. No one should expect to live on government funds. My mother was a widow at 38 years and had a heart attack at 42- we were the wrong color. She had no support from the county and the children worked to keep our home/bills.

We must stop supporting foreign military and America must stop destroying other countries if they don't want immigrants. Stop my tax money going to foreign military spend it for Americans

We need more immigrants and more services to help them transition and seek citizenship.

We need much more effective border control if any immigration policy is to work well. 30 foot steel walls are probably not the best answer. So far, politics has prevented any fully thought out and implemented approach.

We need to close our borders now! The man that occupies the White House is incompetent.

We need to close the borders now. I don't have a problem with immigration, but it needs to be done legally & everyone should have to wait their turn just like the others before them did.

We need to consider the resources needed for the influx of immigrants.

We need to have a path to citizenship for immigrants here already and much stricter information on where all the immigrants actually are. Also, we need to allow immigrants chance to legally find employment

We need to have control over our borders, south AND north.

We need to increase resources (admin, clerks and judges) to review applications for asylum and green cards so that the "legal" methods actually work and don't require years of waiting.

We should allow immigrants in to our country as we all as Americans were once immigrants (early settlers, etc.), but their should be a rigid system for doing so, to avoid malignant criminals.

We should enforce the current laws i the books..I'll vote accordingly

We should follow the current laws

We should have, and maintain, actual borders so that whatever policy we may adopt, we retain the ability to enforce it. Without borders, we are not truly a nation.

We should only allow immigrants that will contribute to our economy and ban those that will cost taxpayers more money.

We should start by enforcing the existing laws

We were founded by immigrants.

Wee need workers. Let them work legally. Start enforcing the immigration laws against employers who violate them

Which should include fairness to all countries such as allowing the same percentage of Haitians as is allowed for Swedish people to enter the country.

While "all men are created equal" some enjoy far more equality than others, particularly as it relates to the imposition of the rule of law and the creation of economic advantage.

Why hasn't Congress amended our immigration system to include more guest workers?
World is too unstable and threat is high with terrorists trying to infiltrate our country

Appendix J: National Issues

All citizens should be held accountable for their actions, especially politicians.

All men are equal, NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW.

An example of not treating everybody fairly: we'd be in jail if we carried out his actions.

Any other person would be in jail

Anyone and everyone should obey the law, uphold our constitution and be accountable for any crimes.

Anyone causing destruction in the country to the extent that many innocent persons died should be held accountable.

As a 35 year trade union member, the current state of unions is off the tracks and not able to represent all workers and seems to cater to a vocal few.

As mentioned in a previous comment, some people are more "equal" under our system than others. If anyone taking this survey had done the things Mr. Trump is accused of, there would be far less debate about the nature of our prosecution.

both

Both

But he should face consequences if he committed crimes.

But it should be to hold him accountable.

Come on, you know they are trying to prevent President Trump from running. They are trying to deny the citizens of the choice to vote for who they want.

Corruption is rampant among Democratic candidates

Donald Trump should be held accountable for his crimes

False dichotomy of choices. They are meant to taint the environment but still allow him to run.

He commits crimes openly. We are watching him. To not prosecute is to deny facts.

He has been a criminal all his life. Finally he is being held accountable for something. He is a major danger to our democracy & must never be in the White House again.

He has broken laws repeatedly and manages to get away with it (while those he gets to go along with his crimes go to jail). He needs to be held accountable and should not ever be our President again.

He is an idiot, but this is getting crazy.

He is not above the law and should be held responsible in every case.

He is not above the law and should be tried for his actions.

He needs to be held accountable just like any other person would.

He needs to be made an example out of. No more corruption in political offices. NO ONE should be above the law.

He needs to go to jail. Also he needs to be held accountable for his past deeds. He is being treated like a king.

He needs to go. Why are members of Congress still listening to him? Shameful and they have made the US a laughingstock again.

He needs to pay for his crimes like everybody else does.

He should be held accountable along with his helpers

He should be tried and held accountable for his actions in business and as President of the United States.

He should be under house arrest for stealing classified documents and not be allowed to run for president ever again! He is a danger to US security.

He should be held accountable for every charge. Most people would have been jailed by now.

I am exasperated that Trump and other politicians who attempted a coup (like our new speaker of the house) are not behind bars so that they cannot harm our country again.

I am not a Trump fan at all, but believe that he is treated to a standard not applied to Biden family and appointees.

I am not a Trump supporter but I believe most, if not all charges, are politically motivated.

I am not a Trump supporter, but believe he's being prosecuted for political reasons rather than for "crimes" that many on both sides of the aisle have committed.

I am not saying that he is innocent by no means; however, I do feel the charges are politically motivated.

I believe the prosecution efforts are equally driven by an attempt to hold him accountable for his crimes and to prevent him from running for president again.

I definitely think the timing of it all was intended to disrupt his campaign, but I'm not complaining. I think he's guilty and should not be pardoned just for being Donald Trump.

I dislike how the responses about government shutdowns were worded. I think Democrats and Republicans should negotiate. Some of the proposals by the Republicans were good and the Democrats should have been willing to accept some of them.

I do not like Trump but do believe that what prosecutors are doing is for political purposes only..

I don't like Trump but it sure does appear to be more about politics than anything else.

I mean, he's a terrible person and shouldn't be president but all this fake legal stuff is pure political posturing and just keeps him in the news. He can't go away if this stuff keeps happening and he needs to go away.

I never want him to be my President, nor did I previously! How can anyone vote for someone that represents the worst of everything that's evil? I feel so badly for those people who drank the coolaid, as they are into a Trump addiction! They cannot say they were wrong...but why?

I remember Trump from the 80s, and he was a crass individual then. I think he is unintelligent and narcissistic, and has always blustered his way out of any accountability. I fully support efforts to prosecute him for trying to overthrow the presidential election, for security violations, and for business fraud. As someone who held a security clearance, I am astonished by his violations - if an average citizen has committed his violations, they would be swiftly ushered to prison!

I think it's both.

I think that efforts to prosecute former President Donald Trump are mainly meant to hold him accountable for various crimes. He should be held accountable just like any other citizen would.

I think there is a big difference between actors, auto workers and health care workers. I cannot support an actor's strike in the same way that I believe auto workers deserve better (we need them!!) and health care workers deserve better - they care for us!! Industries that provide a necessary function or service do not, in my mind, equate with actors. While I certainly appreciate entertainment, it is not a necessity.

I think Trump will go down as the best President that we ever had! Everyone knows what this is about. I tell everyone, if the government is so afraid of this guy that they had to steal the election and not interfere with it, they are afraid of him and we should again vote for him!

If anyone else had committed these acts, they would already be in jail.

If my chemo cost go up because of him I'm mailing my bills to him if he actually wins

In my personal opinion after January 6th, I've kind of gone as far as to consider him a traitor for riling up/encouraging his supporters to storm the capital. That was completely his fault and do believe there should be consequences to his actions and choices.

It is so obvious as to what is going on in this country. It is a two tiered justice system.

It seems that the Democrats are afraid of him for some reason and are trying to do anything within their power to stop him and keep him from running again.

It's mostly meant to hold him accountable, but I'm sure politics are at play as well.

It's unbelievable how severe the punishment for Jan 6 participants has been compared to the punishment for looters, rioters, arsonists during Floyd trials. It's ridiculous how many people received no penalty for such atrocities as setting fire to cars, smashing windows, stealing thousands of dollars in merchandise.

Lock him up before he destroys American democracy.

LOCK HIM UP!

Need a balanced budget amendment so that congress must do its job and take care of the fisc. We also need term limits. Our founders did not visualize a system in which professional politicians were running the country. Congress should be more like a service to society that you do for a limited time. We need smaller government and more efficient government. There is an entrenched class that maintains control over the workings of government and I do believe they have targeted Trump. I do not like Trump, but I don't think he has been treated fairly.

No man is above the law. This includes former Presidents.

No one else has ever been prosecuted for these made up offenses. It is outrageous no matter if you voted for him or not. It is weaponizing of the DOJ and the Justice Dept

No one is above the law and he broke the law many times.

No one is safe from this horrific administration!

No one should be above the law, President or not.

No one should be above the law.

NO one should be above the law.

On the question of government shut downs and deficit. In general, I think Republicans and Democrats need to negotiate more and find common ground on important issues. I do think in this specific instance, far right Republicans hijacked the process when a bi-partisan agreement had already been in place on this issue. On the labor strike issue, I think striking has been a way to bring management to the table to resolve challenging issues companies have been avoiding (AI, streaming for writers/actors and wage concessions made in 2008 by autoworkers).

Our democracy is being threatened, and the US international status and credibility as a leader has diminished because of former President Trump.

Our elected representatives on both sides of the isle need to "grow up" and be reminded that they were elected to office to representative the people and NOT to further their own personal agendas!!

Probably mostly a political stunt, most presidents have done horrible things.

Prosecute the Bidens as aggressively as you prosecute Trump. Just be fair for a change.

Re; Republicans and budget: questions seemed to reflect an assumption about negative impact of deficits and imbalanced budgets. I understand that scholars disagree.

Re: Shutdown... The Republicans ARE right to try to get their (our) financial house in order, but shutting down is not the way to do this and those who say this is the way are not critical thinkers and are only showboating for name recognition for the next election. How about if they had to live paycheck to paycheck and suddenly found themselves out of work. I know they would probably start running the numbers sooner instead of waiting until the last minute to get the budget together. That is what all the financial advisors tell is poor folk to do when we run into trouble. Don't wait until your checking account is overdrawn to start thinking of ways to keep that from happening.

Regardless of who a person is, if you have committed a crime in this country, you should be prosecuted. If the impeachment does lead him to be prevented, maybe that's a benefit as well.

Should be stopped !

Should NOT be allowed to become President again.

The 2020 election was stolen from President Trump and a large majority of the people who voted for him. The left will do everything and anything to stop him. Anyone who was in the Trump campaign or administration or his supporters are all being attacked. It's unfair and the justice system is corrupt. I can't wait to vote for him in 2024 as well as everyone I know.

The amount of hatred and fear so many people have for one man just astounds me.

The Democrats and RINO Republicans are afraid of Donal Trump and will do anything legal or illegal to prevent him from running for President again.

The man is a crook and should be held accountable. He is not fit to hold any office.

The mental health of ANY person that holds office or runs for office needs to be addressed better.

The politicians that have run this country for years before Trump has failed miserably to fix this country both economically and militarily now we are seeing the effects happening in this administration and government. These Anti-trump politicians and their supporters say that our nation is in danger by what they describe as "fascists" and "authoritarians" but they have proved to be more dangerous than Trump calling for censorship of speech, defunding or straight disbanding the police, taking away guns from law abiding citizens in the name of security, allowing US military hardware and weapons fall into the hands of the Taliban, having ties with the CCP, and now the possibility of the United States going into a war with Russia over Ukraine.

The president of Anne Arundel Community College should not fight unionization of staff and negotiate a fair contract. The college's anti-union stance is embarrassing to our community. Shameful really.

The voting public need's to know extent of his lies and corruption so that he won't be elected again!

These are definitely efforts to interfere with the democratic process. These prosecutions should be prosecuted.

They are political

Things (more money, cheaper prices for food, cars, housing, gas, healthcare) were better with Trump in office.

This efforts are to punish him for trying to drain the swamp and expose federal government corruption.

This is a violation of freedom of speech and constitutional law. It is a travesty.

This is a waste of taxpayers money. Whether it is Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump or Bill Clinton or Richard Nixon, etc. Both houses should be ashamed of themselves for wasting taxpayer's money!! And most times during the trials, inquiries Congress looks like buffoons!

This is the only real election interference by democrats and Never Trumpers.

Too much money, time and focus has been on him and not the country as a whole. Government waste and multiple terms need to end. Sometimes you need new blood.

Trump is a crinale through and through. Time for him to face his dirty deeds.

Trump is a disgrace to the office of president

Trump is an autocrat against democracy who has committed serious crimes against this country and its people. I hope he dies in jail

Trump needs to have a mild stroke to put him out of running for President.

Trump should be found guilty and sent to jail.

Trump should be in jail!

Trump should be in jail.

Trump should be prosecuted EXACTLY the same as any other citizen, no more, no less.

Trump should not be able to claim that a former political office precludes him from being legally responsible for his actions.

Trump was indicted in Wash DC where he received 5% of the popular vote. How can he have a fair jury trail ?

Trump was right about everything!!!

Two impeachments while he was president that didn't allow full information to come to light. NOPE, they hate him and will do anything to keep him out of office. If he wins the presidency in 2024, I fear their next step will be assassination they hate him that much!

Unions serve no one in today's America except the Union bosses. Unions have no place in government. When someone works a white collar job in the Federal government and is "protected" by a union, there is an abuse of the taxpayer who pays that person's salary.

We are a country of laws. Everyone is equal under the law. No one is above the law.

Where is Epstein's Client list? Where is Hunter Biden's laptop?

Why is this question even here ???

Words escape me when it comes to Donald Trump. I should get my mouth washed out with soap!

Appendix K: Comments on International Issues

America walks a tightrope in this one. Biden tempered his support for Israel with compassion for ordinary Palestinians.

and avoid getting involved militarily. Israel needs protection but the Zionists need to be more open to the needs of the Palestinians.

As long as Israel's right to exist is not acknowledged no negotiated "solution" would stick. And even then, neither terrorists nor Iran would abide by that.

As someone who has volunteered on the front lines of Ukraine, Europe needs to do more and pay more.

Both sides need to learn to live in peace with one another.

Can't we all just get along? This is breaking my heart

cause good not there in Palestinian innocent ppl are die and Israel kill them

Compromise

Continue to support Israel, enable Palestinians to get out from under terrorist rule while supporting more normalization of Arab countries with Israel. Get Iran out of the terrorist support business.

Don't give away funds that we must borrow from somewhere else. Don't send/lend/give away \$ we don't have.

For all its virtues as a democratic country, Israel is oppressing the Palestinians. Oppressed people always want to get rid of their oppression, and will remain as they are only through violent action by their oppressors, either implied or actual.

Funding Iran by our president has given the boost to start this war on Israel. His constant bumbling in foreign affairs has caused worldwide turmoil.

I am not educated enough on this topic to answer q.38.

I do not pay attention to politics and know very little about this.

I do not see the current administration working toward negotiated peace (compromise) in Ukraine. I ever hear President Biden talking about how he is Seeking peace to stop the Ukraine war.

I do not watch the news as it is triggering and depressing. I feel as if there is an issue to be addressed because human lives are at stake but I do not have an opinion as to how America should react.

I don't see how this is any of the United States' business. We provide funding to both sides, it is ridiculous.

I don't condone the actions of Hamas in any way. But the Israeli government must acknowledge the role it played in pushing people to such desperate and violent actions.

I love Israel and also believe the Netanyahu government is at great fault for ignoring the threat from Gaza. They will make a huge mistake when they attempt to conquer it. If they think they've eliminated Hamas, they are wrong. The trauma they do will haunt Israel and the US for generations.

I think that the U.S. policy toward the Middle East should also protect Israel as well as find a negotiated solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

I think that this war looks like it is going to turn into another long-drawn war sorta like Afghanistan but I do believe we need to stop the atrocities that are being committed within our ally's lands.

I think the United States need to mind their business and focus on their own country problems

I will acknowledge that Israel has violated the Palestinian people's rights countless times but it was Hamas' fault and choice to attack. In my opinion I believe it is time for them to go. I can't understand why the Israeli and Palestinian people can't come together to form a unified and equal union state.

I wish we could walk away, but since we pushed the UN in the 1940s to establish Israel, then we need to help see a way toward peace. That being said, if we're going to be our brothers keepers, so to say. Then we are everywhere internationally. Isolationism is no longer an option in a world with nuclear options.

I'd support protection of Israel, except they are killing innocent civilians by the hundreds and I cannot accept that it is the only way to peace.

I'm not sure what "Protect Israel" means - ground troops, military aid, money? I'm all for giving aid - weapons and/or money, but not ground troops.

In regards to the current war conflict, Hamas is directly responsible. However, the Israeli government has directly created the conditions that made this possible. Hamas is not moral, but there is a reason why they took power. Regardless, civilians shouldn't be victims of their government's choices

Israel has 10 million people and is surrounded by 140 million Arabs. If we go to war to defend Israel we will be bogged down for decades. The American people will become antisemitic.

Israel has done its best to ensure no civilian casualties and only fought wars in self defense. The IDF is known for calling civilians in the Gaza strip of a warning of a bomb hours before schedule and even dropping leaflets on the areas to leave immediately. Hamas is an anti-Semitic and anti-Israel terrorist organization that is currently supported by the corrupted regime of Iran, Hamas and its allies seek not just the destruction of Israel but the whole world and hell bent on creating what is called a world Caliphate "Khilaafat" where no religion or culture exist only Islam. The Hamas Charter even proclaims that Israel will exist until Islam obliterates it, and jihad against Jews is required until Judgement Day. Compromise over the land is forbidden. The documents promote holy war as "divinely ordained", reject political solutions, and call for instilling these views in children to ensure there will be no peace with Israel. It's also really disgusting and concerning of the many of these students in both high school and college openly supporting Hamas terrorism including harassing, beating, and massacring men, women, children, and babies in the most heinous sort also waving Nazi symbols and Taliban flags in demonstrations and shouting "Gas the Jews" and "Allahu Akbar". Many Jews across the country and aboard have been attacked and now I believe the slogan "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free." is promoting the persecution and genocide of the Jews.

Israel is a colonial apartheid state established by the British and Americans and used as a foothold for them and other western powers in the Middle East. Israel is committing war crimes and has been since 1948, and have been condemned for illegally occupying territory in Gaza and the West Bank by all but the US in the international community. Hamas' tactics are barbaric and unjustifiable but they are barbarism in response to barbarism. Not to mention Hamas was propped up over other more progressive and reasonable parties by the Israeli government, who continues to fund them, to act exactly as they do to give Israel some flimsy excuse to continue to carry out its campaign of genocide. Free Palestine

Israel is one of if not our closet allies ... already America and its leadership is viewed as WEAK and losing its position as the GREATEST nation in the civilized world !! Let's not prove our enemies to be correct in their thinking!!

Israel let Hamas attack its people, Netanyahu wants a war. If Trump was in office, this would never happen. The US should stay out of it.

Israel wants peace. Palestinians/Hamas want to kill all Israelis.

Israel's Right wing and settlement policies will have to change before there can be peace. the Arabs and Iranians will have to openly accept Israel's existence before there can be peace.

It is important to stand by the obligations we have with our allies however, it is not wise to take on their burdens. The US needs to focus on support and strategic operations rather than involving itself too tactically in these conflicts.

It is sad that Israel and Palestinians could not come up with a way to live together. A big part of the problem is that Palestinians do not have a homeland. And Israel government allows Israelis to take over Palestinian areas. Therefore there will always be conflicts.

It's an impossible situation, I really don't know what the solution should be.

Maybe some of the Arab nations/people might help resettle the Palestinian refugees in their own country. After all, they were the ones that caused most of the refugees by constant attacks.

Military supply assistance to Ukraine was fine. The delay or failure to provide needed (air & armor assets) or most effective (full range) systems was stupid. The wholesale US funding of the Ukrainian government and economy is something we cannot afford.

n/a

N/A

NATO pushed Russia to the limits. Neo-Nazis control parts of Ukraine and are ethnically cleansing Russians. Putin is protecting his nation. Please do your homework

Need a two state solution.

No comment.

None

only one side is calling for genocide and it isn't the Israelis
peace

Proportionally help Israel like Ukraine

Protect Israel is the most important at this time when it is under attack. However, there also should be a negotiated solution. Just one choice here is a little misleading. There should be more options for this complicated topic.

Protect our allies

Protect Palestinian

Should be a cease fire but I do not trust Hamas

Some involvement could help with war efforts, but should be somewhat limited.

Stop funding Israeli forces.

Stop supporting Israel Military with my tax money

Strong sanctions against Iran

Supporting Palestinians is fine supporting Hamas is not.

The achievement of Peace through strength has been demonstrated in the past. THE Biden administration assttempts to negotiate with "Terrorists", including Iran has failed miserably. They were late in providing Ukraine with the means to defend itself. If they had acted sooner to assist Ukraine, they would have had earlier success in their own defense. The withdrawal from Afganistan was a fiasco of epic proportions. As far as the situation in Israel, they should not be expected to negotiate with Terrorists. Until or unless their right to exist is recognized, they must be allowed to defend themselves from those who would seek to "eliminate" them.

The Biden Administration's lack of direction and duplicitous involvement in world affairs (ie supporting Russia via oil etc while sending military supplies to Ukraine AND sending money, supplies and relief from sanctions for Iran thereby fueling the Hamas assault on Israel). There are other examples.

The challenges for the US are two-fold. First, to recognize that we are in the middle of a new form of warfare using proxies and fought in part by non-kinetic means. Second, we need national leaders who have the ability to see this clearly, the courage to act on it effectively, and the intelligence (and mental acuity) to see a clear and productive path forward.

The Jews control our country.... Iran want's to see them go away....

The killing needs to stop immediately. UN peacekeepers should be deployed. A jointly negotiated cease fire with a path to land for peace, two-state solution must happen as that is called for in the Oslo accords.

The Middle East has been fighting since Biblical times, are we going to stop it?

The Palestinians seem to consider the Jews as colonists that took over their country. Is that our future with the number of illegal aliens coming into the U.S.?

The problem seems unsolvable but if Northern Ireland could eventually find peace I hope the Middle East could too.

The resolution should include all the Arab nations living in close proximity.

The United States is funding Hamas. The U.S. sent \$6 billion to Iran that started this war. We are culpable.

The until Palestinians have equal rights the conflict will remain unresolved

The US has a streak of trying to spread "democracy" and "freedom" in the Middle East, only to just ruin countries and drain them of resources under the guide of helping them. All that money that the US sends Israel should be used to help American citizens instead of funding a genocide.

The USA can be self-sufficient.

The USA spends too much time, energy, money and resources when it comes to other countries. We should focus on what's happening here before sending aid elsewhere. We don't have the means for it.

The wars need to stop. How I do not know. Where there is power, money and religion involved it may never end, sadly.

There is no one in that region for Israel to negotiate with for peace. They are unable to negotiate with Hamas, the elected governing body of the Gaza region since they are openly committed to destroying Israel. That is a non-starter.

There will always be conflict in the Middle East due to religious extremism.

This comment probably will go unread. Getting involved when the world is staring at us will only lead to a domino effect that is undesirable for the United States as a whole. Israel can fend off the threats thrown at them currently. Their biggest problem is the diplomatic threats they face. The entire world is putting too much of the wrong kind of attention on the death of the civilians in this conflict. It needs to be understood that Israel was hit with terror attacks. They need to put an end to this and the people who committed the undeniably evil actions against Israeli civilians are hiding behind Palestinian civilians who can't leave despite the warnings given for them to leave. This puts Israel in a horrible position but they understand and the world needs to understand that tragic things will happen. For these things to not happen the evil that commits them needs to be eliminated. Stopping them now will only save Palestinians and Israelis alike in the future as Hamas won't be able to hide behind Palestine anymore and won't be able to attack Israel anymore. As for the United States, we cannot get involved because it will only make us look bad and give our enemies more talking points against us on the world stage. At most financial support to Israel should be allowed.

This is a multilayer conundrum with historical generations of religious passion. Conflict will never be resolved through combat. In my lifetime, there has never been meaningful resolve to sustain peace. I hope that does not continue.

This is such a far reaching question; I have tried to educate myself but it is very, very complex; I feel that both parties are at fault, as well as outside influences. I am unsure of what the best course would be; it is tragic all around, and yet, we have been enmeshed in that area for so many years, to no avail.

Try to negotiate while protecting Israel.

Two state option.... Good faith negotiations on BOTH sides

War crimes are war crimes, terrorists are terrorists and apartheid is apartheid, no matter who the oppressor is.

War never solves political problems by itself. We must preserve other democracies as well as our own threatened democracy

War usually does not have a good outcome for either side. Quite a waste of resources and lives.

We have to support and ally and the only democracy in the region.

We have traveled to Spain and Jordan the last couple of years and had Palestinian guides in both places. Even though these guides have been in their countries for many years they are Palestinian's first. Both persons expect some day to get the house in Israel that their family lost. It is still their house and land and not the Israeli person who own it. They both had specific addresses their family lost in the 67 war.

We should probably just get our noses out of the middle east's affairs.

Why bother negotiating with those that profess to eliminate Israel and the Jews?

Why do some people think every Arab or Muslim population is entitled to "their" land, but Israel is not? Why is acceptable for Arab entities to attack Israel, but Israel is not entitled to defend itself or counterattack?

Why in the world would Biden want to provide \$100M for "humanitarian aid" to the Palestinians when Hamas will keep it for re-arming themselves in their attempt to eradicate Jews?! Biden never shows strength to our enemies and they realize he's weak and senile and boy are they taking advantage of that!

Why is it our job to solve this problem? I know it affects us, and we need to be supportive and help de-escalate, but we have always spoken about it as though it is our job. It is strange.

you can't negotiate with groups that don't acknowledge your right to exist.

Appendix L: Comments About Presidential Voting Choices

After January 6, Donald Trump should not be allowed to run for President again.

Age limits need added

Always vote for best person not party

Any one except TRUMP.

As much as I don't like him nor agree with him I will say this, he was able to allow small businesses (like my mother's) to grow and thrive. He was also tough when it came to foreign policy and I do agree that the government is spending way too much money on things we shouldn't be spending money on. I do agree with supporting Ukraine but I do not agree with giving any money to Israel and do not agree with giving away \$100 billion, that's way too much money.

Biden and Trump are both losers. One is an idiot the other incompetent. Ask yourself why a decent candidate from either side doesn't run...

Biden if the worst president in US history. Given Buchanan, Wilson, Harding, Carter and Obama for competition that is remarkable.

Biden is getting too old (look at him walking . But far better than Trump

Biden is really too old to be President but I believe he is still the better choice. He knows and understands how the government of the United States works. However, I do wish he had a more competent Vice President.

Biden is too old & senile & Harris is incompetent. We were better off under Trump

Can't figure out how to use your Ranking tool in Q61. Christie, Pence, NICKI, Vivek, Desantis, Scott, SOmone else, Trump

Could not get the ranking to work

Depending on the nominee, I'd vote for 3d party candidate or not vote at all.

Don't know anything about a 3rd party yet. Also, could not make the nominees question work!

Donald Trump should be removed from the ballot because of his past involvement in crimes in the country.

Each parties control over who becomes the presidential candidate scares me.

Either option is really rough but from my limited understanding and time in the military I see the embarrassment a lot of service members have serving under Joe Biden. The nation on the world stage looks weaker for many reasons relating to Joe Biden. We need to look stronger and meaner if we want to stay number one. Looking meaner sucks but its better than China being number one as they for sure don't care about looking mean. The Chinese government is an example for an intense dystopian society. Our military is extremely strong but its getting weaker with weak policies from weak looking politicians. The Army has an obese reputation and a lazy one. But in reality while its worse than it should be the Army is extremely capable and able to handle the threats on the world stage (Russia, China).

Fair elections limit mail in voting to absentee voting as in the past

Have never been a fan of Trump but his name is on the ballot I would vote for him.

Having Joe Biden as the Democratic nominee is certainly not a good choice, but I will take it if it means that we don't regress as a society.

He may be too, but he is competent and surrounds himself with qualified people.

Hogan would get my vote

I am a registered Libertarian.

I am frightened that we would lose our democracy if the Hitlerian Trump was elected.

I am not 100% educated on all republican nominees yet but from what I know my nominee order accurately represents my values.

I believe Joe Biden is both corrupt and in advanced mental decline. I would prefer not to vote for Trump, but I cannot in good conscience vote for Biden because I think his continuation in office poses an existential threat to the country.

I don't know any of these people

I don't follow politics

I hate that Maryland has closed primaries and that our primary is held so late in the season.

I have no comments to my voting choice above

I hope that our choices in the next election are not Trump and Biden.

I hope that this is not going to happen

I repeat: Trump is a clear & present danger to a free America. He is precisely why the framers wrote the third clause of the 14th amendment.

I think the country needs DeSantis to be the next president

I think the Democrats need to run a younger candidate. Trump could win over Biden if there is a third party split.

I think there is so much corruption within the government system and that it is predetermined (manipulated) in a way that who they want to win will win, despite our involvement. Also, I voted for Kanye

I use to, 30 yrs ago, vote for candidate regardless of party. But in last 30 yrs have only voted Democratic

I want someone other than 2 old white men running

I wish that there was someone groomed to take over for Biden. It was a shame he stood with the vice president,

I wish there for better options and not two old white men running for President. We need a woman and more people of color to run for office and get elected.

I wish we could have a strong democratic alternate to Biden

I would be very reluctant to re-elect Biden due to his age but I would certainly vote for him again as I would never vote for Trump. I used to be a Republican but the actions of Trump and the extreme right of the party made me change my affiliation to Independent.

I would never put DJT in office of any kind. I wish Biden would make room for a new candidate. He does worry me and unfortunately I think VP Harris would not survive a term in office because of the hate and violence and vitriol that is plaguing our country. I am worried for her every single day, actually.

I would prefer a better choice regardless of party. Prefer someone with experience and in their 50's or early 60's.

I would prefer a stronger choice however I do not believe the democrats have a better candidate than the incumbent.

I would prefer another democrat

I would qualify my answer to Q62 by saying my vote would depend on who the candidate is. If not favorable, I probably wouldn't vote at all.

I would vote for Nikki Haley if she received the Republican nomination. I might vote for Chris Christie if he gets the nomination. Other than those two, I will likely vote for a third party because our two main parties are failing. We need a centrist option.

I'm not a republican, not sure why I got this question

I'm not impressed with any of the candidates but I would never vote for Trump.

I've emailed my representatives informing them that they need to hold a democratic primary as I refuse to vote for Joe Biden in the upcoming election due to his support of Israel.

Ideally Joe Biden wouldn't be the democratic nominee but boomers have electoral politics in a chokehold and not voting is the same as voting republican as a chief predictors of republican electoral victories is low voter turnout.

Ideally, I would love to see a moderate Republican or a Democrat with stronger leadership abilities. Mostly, I want a person that can think outside the party lines and is open to proposals from both sides...not dismissing a proposal simply because it came from the "other" party. To me, most of our politicians don't know how to think for the American people or for themselves - they simply parrot a party stance, even if they would not support it as a non-politician civilian.

If Donald trump wins I might move to Canada. Or mars.

im honeslty not sure all i know is it wouldnt be trump

Im voting for whoever the democrats put forward in 2024, but I hope to vote for someone under the age of 65 in 2028.

In the Republican primary, I would choose Haley. If it's between ANY Democrat and Trump, I'd go with Trump or any other Republican.

It fucking sucks

It is difficult to accept a Joe Biden and Donald Trump are the best two candidates for president in a nation of 330 million people.

It's a shame America has very poor leadership.

It's all about preserving our Democracy.

Joe Biden isn't the president, Barack Obama, Valerie Jarrett and Susan Rice are running this horrible show.

Know your candidate and VOTE on policy NOT personality!!

Need a better option

Need new blood.

Neither Trump or Biden should be running our country

NO IDEA WHO IM VOTING FOR

None of these candidates protects Americas interest they are all supporting Israel
not republican

Of the above choices, I would write in a female candidate--Minnie Mouse.

Open the Democrat primary to include Kennedy.

Overall we need better candidates from all parties.

Parties should find candidates who are more concerned about the nation instead of getting elected or meddling with citizens' private affairs.

Poor choices on either side. Biden is doing a good job but is too old to run again. I am 79 and know how age affects even the best of us.

project 2025 is so bad I rather have Joe Biden who is terrible than even risking anything from that project happening again.

project 2025 is the only reason i wouldnt vote for trump. joe biden is complicit in a mass extermination and genocide in palestine

Q61 not worded correctly I made one choice because that is all I could do-- or try to do.
Ron DeSantis

Q62 negates Q61. I think Biden and Trump need to give it up.

Q63 is a private question! Not answering.

RFK Jr is beginning to look more appealing all the time! My first choice is Ron DeSantis. However, I believe Niki Haley could be an excellent president too.

RFK, Jr is my choice for President.

Ron DeSantis would be my choice. Excellent job in Florida

scam

So sad that these are our choice.

That's a really hard decision. Never Trump. Biden, whom I supported in 2020, I feel is no longer equipped for another 4 yrs.

The American media has been terribly dishonest in it's coverage of the candidates. RFK, Jr has been shoved aside by the press!

The choice is to save American democracy or burn it down. Let's save it.

The choices are both terrible

The choices are pathetic.

The country was doing good under Trump. I hope he can "make America great again"

The electoral college needs to be reformed, and the winner of the popular vote should win the office.

The Republican party has veered so far to the right as to become the lunatic fringe. I won't vote for a Republican for any office, not even dogcatcher.

The Ship of State needs a steady and experienced hands at the helm when navigating rough waters.

The US needs younger candidates, in my opinion.

There needs to better choices!

They all need Jesus

they all suck

This is a "work your way into an answer" question.

This man proved he could do the best job

Too early to decide. But have some ideas.

Trump ain't great, Biden is obviously worse.

Trump or no one for President.

Trump should be disqualified from being president due to the 14th amendment.

Uncle Joe is too old; Democrats need to put forth another candidate.

Unreasonable question as there isn't enough info to know who I would vote for. It absolutely wouldn't be for Biden or Trump. If Biden were to win, I would be voting for his VP-or whoever the hell it is that are currently running the government as Biden can't use the brain in his own head. If Trump were to win he would be totally ineffective as the Democratic establishment will continue to direct all their efforts at continuing to procedure him. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats in office are thinking about the American people. And the American people are too uneducated to make educated choices.

We desperately need a multiple party system, but with extreme right-wing candidates in the Republican party (reason I left it) that's not possible.

We need better choices than Trump and Biden.

We need better options for Democrats.

We need more choices!

We need ranked choice voting

We need Trump now more than ever.

We need younger people.

Wes Moore for VP since Biden is running for re-election

what horrible options we have, what the fuck is wrong with us

Who I'm satisfied with running the country

Would greatly prefer younger candidates but prefer anything with a pulse to Trump. He is a cancer

Would like a different Dem candidate but any Dem candidate is better than ANY Republican candidate.

Would prefer another candidate, but need to choose the best of the two.

Wouldn't vote for either Trump or Biden so hopefully that won't be our choices!

Your ranking doesn't work on Q61.

Appendix M: Comments About Steuart Pittman Job Approval

A tyrant who suppressed our liberties in the name of safety

AACo has a lot of homeless, crime, illegals, drugs, the Glen Burniwe area is trashy vand now they want to build"affordable" housing, which will only contribute to more of tha above problems

All he has kept Davidsonville from further development. Had not done anything to improve Permit Department. Takes forever to get a permit.

Anyone who worked for non profits and inherited his money cannot understand the middle working class who pay the most per income.

As an educator, I am appreciative of his support, and getting us on a salary scale that had been neglected for years. I feel like overall his policies represent who I am and what I stand for.

Average

Best county exec in history.

Cares about people and the environment, racial justice, police reform. A decent human being.

Community focused Solution focused Sympathetic

County is thriving. Low unemployment, little change in taxes, working together with local and state and federal leaders

Disagree with many of his positions

Doesn't care about the water table, or roads for emergency vehicles

Don't follow politics mind my business

dont know much about his office

Excellent leader in his second term, has accomplished a great deal to improve the lives of all county residents.

Fascist

Focused on education which has not improved and destroying our county with congestion and plans for building low income housing.

Good communication

Good guy, trying hard in a challenging environment.

great job

Great supporter of education!

Has brought the issues of Development and environment to the fore.

Haven' t seen or heard of him doing much

He always seems to be on the ground and reaching out to people. He cares about our county.

He campaigned against over development and then turned the Riva Road area into a parking lot, but not near his residence

He continues to approve development. Stop it!

he cool

He does not support teachers

he has always stood up for teachers and tried to what's best for Anne Arundel County.

He has been doing a good job in balancing competing interests while addressing critical issues.

He is a rich elitist that couldn't give a damn about regular people. Unless you are poor, or a special group he can pander to for a photo op he could care less. He doesn't give a damn about the working middle in any way I have ever seen demonstrated.

He is allowing excessive construction and growth causing extreme traffic problems some days people can't even get out of their houses or neighborhoods cuz of the traffic every time you look there's a new apartment building or condo going up

He is doing various things to increase population density and trying to mimic a number of policies that have already failed in Baltimore City

He is doing what he can with what the County Council will let him.

He is fine.

He is giving our public money to his family, and he is taking positions on higher level public policy that are above his competency and pay grade.

He is intent on raising taxes.

He is keeping developers in check and funding education

He makes decisions that seem to benefit the most people. He appears to rely on information from experts (e.g., health and transportation officials, climate scientists, etc.). He provides ample opportunities for public input.

He ran on the platform of limiting development and it has not slowed down at all.

He ruined small businesses, families and has a dark agenda that violates the US Constitution.

He seems like an intelligent and reasonable man, and he participates in the county.

He seems reasonable, however his acceptance of building more housing on Riva Rd was a huge mistake, as if we need more traffic snarls there!! Also, I do not approve of pushing the Gay agenda on everyone. Just live and let live.

He seems to be measured about increasing development which is a primary concern of mine

He's fine but has no vision for the county

He's the best option.

He's amazing - smart, courageous, people person, caring, responsible

He's old school systemic government but he is trying to behave

High taxes. Increasing cost of government building by 40%.

His administrations restrictions on residential renovation and building are disturbing. Public Works Department is a bueraucratic wasteland. Trash and recycling guys are not careful and we are unable to get county water. Yet he restricts our ability to build a house.

His Covid governing was awful and the education system suffered

His dedication to conserving rural apace.

His lack of regard for people that have lived here many years or have been born, lived, raised their children who now live here. NO COMMON SENSE. He is giving everything away and many of us cannot afford to live here much longer.

His office does respond to me. No help with the 5 kids I have taken in but I think they tried. At this point I don't believe there is any help.

Horrible tax and spend Socialist.

I

I am unsure and have no explanation

I appreciate his presence in the community and what I hear from those who work with him, his willingness to listen and consider where action is needed to address social challenges in the county.

I appreciate the consistency of his updates and keeping our county informed

I believe he has been as true to his word as possible and keeps constituents informed.

I can not see any progress.

I do not know him

I don't follow them to judge them.

I don't know anything about him and can't have an opinion.

I don't know enough about what he has done recently for our county.

I have no experience of what he has done.

I honestly don't know anyone who approves of Mr Pittman. Mr Tax and spend.

I just moved here. I don't know.

I like his L/T urban planning for the county.

I like his methods of communicating with county residents.

I never completely feel that Pittman is doing what's best for BOTH the City of Annapolis (residents do have to pay County taxes) or Anne Arundel County.

I thought he was going to be against some or the slow down of the developments but he just seems to be like all the rest a empty suit when it comes to that issue

I voted for Pittman & have not found him to have kept his campaign promises.

I will never forgive him for requiring businesses and churches to close while attending a black lives matter rally. Also dislike his financial/budget priorities.

I'm disappointed in some of his lack of stopping the growth in our county, stopping building in the critical areas. He has not lived up to his political promises to do that.

In over his head. Steve Schuh was much more qualified.

Ineffective, too eager to embrace current progressive political trends instead of managing county government. Did I read he authorized \$7 million for a hiking trail?

Law changes in zoning

Lied about tax increases. He's a "tax & spend" Dem!

Made promises about taxes and development to get elected and reversed course. He can not be trusted

n/a

N/A

No one is ever going to do things 100%. He had more challenges than normal thrown at him due to Covid. He has a very clear, honest approach and while I may not like paying more in taxes (for example), I understand why it's needed. He's fixing things the previous Governor didn't want to touch due to national political ambitions.

No opinion.

None

not able to get the county under control control in any area

Not moving important things forward but not creating problems.

Not serves county residents best interest every county employee almost democrat and they don't allow anyone to speak up against current policy they hide things from folks

OK. not outstanding. Too much tax

Open about his intentions. Gets credit for working on solutions rather than just infighting.

Pittman blew the Covid response badly for school kids & businesses

pittman has gone back on his commitment to listening to the people and not protecting the environment. environmental laws not being enforced by his depts.

Pittman is a communist

Pittman wants what's best for AA Co and is doing his best to be everywhere he needs to be.

Raised taxes; made Maryland a sanctuary state that harbors illegal immigrant criminals..

Seems to spend too much money and raises taxes.

Seems too cozy with developers. Annapolis area is becoming too crowded and there's little thought given to the infrastructure to support this growth.

Supportive of environmental concerns. Responsive to constituents. Not owned by developers.

Tax and spend. Taxes up and services down.

Taxes, sanctuary county

The County Executive made some bold and ambitious promises during the campaign. I admit that I was skeptical. However he has hired an experienced staff and empowered them to meet challenges. My experience has been that his administration has engaged the community in creative ways to make them part of the solutions.

The county has not moved forward and has become more expensive under his leadership.

The man is a true Democrat and lover of HIGH TAXES!

Things could be worse and they could be better.

Too liberal

Too many new positions and expansion of govt.

Too much ignoring Homeowners on Zoning density.

Turning Anne Arundel County into Baltimore ...not my plan for where I would like to live and raise children.

Ugh

Unable to work for middle of the road solutions to problems and issues. Offers no voice to improve election fairness. Too closely allied with teachers unions and not focused on education. He even stated that expecting excellence in our schools was asking too much.

we've lost focus on what is important, and we tend to think that govt is the answer to all problems when in reality it just makes things worse (by evidence of the fact that things have largely gotten worse, especially regarding education, and govt has gotten much more involved).

what

What has he done in his 4+ years???

Why does his wife's contract school get approved when others haven't? Did NOT like the way the QWP purchase and then attempt to build a massive, water front building in the quiet went down. Why does Chesapeake Bay Rd need a multi-million dollar bike lane?

Would be dictator who showed his true colors during COVID.

Appendix N: Wes Moore Job Approval Comments

A non-entity. Lots of media appearances but not much work being seen.

a Spending too much.

A true politician but no vision

About time we had a real democrat instead of a fake populist Republican.

Again, lack of common sense for what EVERYONE NEEDS!

Again, no one can get 100%. Plus, he's still new. I do appreciate the new volunteering initiative with recent graduates. It's a clever way to staff key vacancies and perhaps spur interest in the non-profit world.

All about progressive social issues and not about solving the problems confronting Marylanders (high crime rate, high taxes, high energy (gasoline & diesel) taxes, lack of affordable child care. Too many safety net programs for illegal immigrants.

All smile and less results. Obviously he has to fix Baltimore or he is toast.

Another progressive who just seems to do photo ops.

Big smile--empty suit!

Bombastic

Cares about Baltimore and teachers.

Caring Understanding HandsOn, open, willing to work with others

Carpetbagger

Changing laws ..critical

Do not believe that he has done much, of anything, for the stste.

doing a good job

Doing an excellent job for the state.

Don't follow politics

Don't know enough yet.

Energy is good.

everything from gun rights to abortion

Far left in his policies

Global tool

Gov has been in office for limited amount of time too early to tell

Governor Moore is an inspirational leader. While it is still early in his tenure, he an Lieutenant Governor Miller have shown that inspiration can be a powerful motivation for engagement.

Governor Moore's gun control only works on law abiding citizens that is does to criminals we have already have many gun control laws and yet we are still the highest crime in the country next to all gun control states.

great start

Has not been in office long enough

Has proposed some good policies like the service year opportunity for high school graduates

he cool

He follows the bad California policies

He has acknowledged the LGBTQ+ and other marginalized communities in MD. His executive orders have matched that commitment.

He has committed to leaving no one behind. I agree with all the issues that encompasses.

He has done a good job from what I have seen.

He is a Marxist, he will destroy this state.

He is able face fiscal reality as he works to implement his vision for Maryland

He is all show. He needs to stop the crime, drugs, etc instead of photo ops

He is a very handsome guy and a slick talker. His response to the soaring crime in Maryland is all hot air and lacks substance. He is all hat and no cattle.

He is keeping too low a public profile & the Office of the Comptroller is doing a terrible job.

He is new to the job. Must give him a chance.

He is off to a fantastic start!

He is taking a fair approach to the State's needs.

He is trying to provide fresh leadership.

He is very left leaning and has no problem with the killing of innocent life in the womb. He has no soul!

he needs to improve Maryland for business and taxpayers instead of increasing spending.

He ran his campaign as a moderate. He is far from it. So disappointed.

He seems like a nice man.

He seems to be trying to do what is best for Maryland. I think the state and him should look at child resources for family. I took in 5 kids to keep them out of Foster Care and there is NO assistance for me. I have contacted his office with no response. This is a big problem.

He seems to know what he is doing..

He should be focused on helping all retirees not just the military people

He should be more active with the mess that is the State Board of Ed and he has had no action on growing youth crime in Baltimore and the region around.

He spent the surplus he inherited and won't do anything about juvenile crime

He talks about the environment, but then allows Baltimore's wastewater treatment plants to overflow raw sewage that affects us in Anne Arundel. Also, supports expensive, ineffective rail transit. Can't see that he has improved things in Baltimore City.

He tends to forget that he has constituents outside of Baltimore. Crime in the state has not gone down under his leadership.

He's heading toward where we should have been by now.

He's passed a lot of good legislation recently in regards to firearms, reproductive rights, protection against price gouging, and more.

He's still getting use to his job but so far so good

He's got sound if not pie-in-the-sky aspirations but he will not easily implement them

He's too new to the position for me to know how good he'll be as Governor. Ask me again in a year.

He's very handsome He has a great smile So far no huge mistakes

High potential but may play to the audience too much. Case in point is allowing Stadium Authority to be disengaged instead of valuing the check and balance it provides.

His focus does not appear to be for the whole of Marylanders. While admirable at the first Black Maryland governor, there are other constituencies in the state. When asked a question, answer it would vagueness and rhetoric. Stop looking for the next stepping stone. Reduce the selfies and the "party" persona

His priorities align with mine, and he is doing a great job so far.

Horrible tax and spend Socialist.

i agree with his stances on everything and he's been doing great so far

I am unsure and have no explanation

I approve his policies.

I believe he is involving racism in too many of his decisions.

I believe he's racist and doesn't care about the honest law abiding citizens

I did vote for him, though I haven't seen too much of him as of late. I think Maryland is doing alright all things considered so I can't complain.

I do not know him

i dont know much about him but what i have heard has not been good

I feel he is honest and considers the needs of all Marylanders, not just a few groups.

i have not heard a lot about him, but I know some people who have bad thoughts about him.
idk

i just dont know what he's done.

I know too little to have an opinion and don't really know what he's doing.

I like him and so far he is doing a good job. I believe he is going to be one of the best governors of the US and in 8 yrs will run for president.

I like him. Voted for him. Been somewhat disconnected to things after that.

I like his efforts to fix Maryland's transportation systems.

I like his work in the Robin Hood foundation.

I recently just moved to Maryland so I don't know much about him so I just ranked him based on what I have seen.

I see Wes as being a better representative of central Maryland than Larry Hogan was, I see him focusing on the areas that have the highest potential for industry rather than the tourism that Larry Hogan focused too much on

I think he has good intentions for Maryland

I think it is still early in his administration, but so far I think it is going well

I'm in a wait and see mode.

it is still too early to tell. I expect great things and I slowly think we are heading in the right direction. Maybe the governor can reign in the legislative branch and encourage some bi-partisan consideration for legislation.

It's too early to make a decision on his performance.

Just moved here.

Less diversity

Let's see if he can decrease crime and improve education results of students in the state and Baltimore.

Lots of good intentions. Still don't know if he has the influence to effect change.

Maryland has been off course with corruption, lack of intelligent policies and failing to govern effectively for decades and it shows

Moore screwed Maryland with his shady Orioles MOU. He's giving away too much taxpayer \$ to his donor John Angelos

Moore was rather an unknown, but he seems to be doing ok so far; there was absolutely no way I could vote for the other candidate. I have read Moore's story, and I admire who he is as a person; I just hope he can do some good for the state.

n/a

N/A

Needs to revamp the Blueprint and provide funds for implementation of it.

Never met a tax he didn't like.

Nice man with a good ability to be in the middle. Don't agree with all of his positions but believe he is a solid leader.

No dont like him. I fell Maryland is very racist with him now.

No fiscal constraint; wrong priorities.

None

Not balanced, too one sided. he didn't have enough government experience going into the job.

Not sure where he came from, like Obama. Shame on Hogan for getting him elected! I was warned by my friends in Baltimore that if he got elected, Baltimore was coming here and it is! We even have squeegee kids!

Nothing but a puppet for the Democrat Party.

Nothing good nothing bad yet. Basically he has done nothing. Which is good then nothing gets messed up

Paying children to volunteer but get paid for a year is not what government should do and we can't afford it. I volunteer without being paid.

plead

Publicity hog.

same as above, I couldn't afford private academy education and my family supports itself. We were taught to earn what we desired .

Same.

Sanctuary state, raising taxes,

Score based on not having time in the job for me to truly evaluate.

Seems to be moving in the right direction but too soon to tell

So far all talk and show, done nothing at all for me or people I know.

So far so good. Had only been Governor since January 2023

So far things seem to be going well.

Spending down huge surplus recklessly. Expanding govt. Reckless. Promises can't keep. Now may raid rainy day fund.

Spending too much money on illegals.

Status quo is OK. he hasn't shot himself in the foot... or anyone else.

Appendix O: Joe Biden Job Approval Comments

"Never underestimate Joe's ability to fuck it up," Barack Obama. For once Obama was absolutely right.

A complete disaster economically, socially, and foreign policy wise.

A man of integrity who has done a good job in very difficult times

A non-impact player.

A serial liar, pervert, and crook with no moral compass who has grown rich by selling favors to the highest bidder. He has publicly bragged how he withheld money from Ukraine officials until they fired the prosecutor who was investigated his son, Hunter. He has unleashed the Justice Department on his political enemies and as President Obama predicted he has screwed up every foreign policy decision including ending our dominance in oil and gas, thus allowing Russia and Iran to make enough money to fund wars, our withdrawal from Afghanistan resulting in the Taliban gaining access to some of our best weaponry, and opening our southern border allowing drug smuggling, and human trafficking to flourish plus allowing potential terrorists to gain entry. He is a weak, cognitive impaired man who is hurting American prestige as he begs OPEC to cut oil prices. He, the Democrats, and RINO republicans caused inflation with massive spending bills. None of this would have occurred if Trump had remained President.

A tough job, but he is not a good "explainer" and he needs to get rid of K Harris even tho he cannot.

A true states men focused on middle & working class values

Afghanistan abandonment. Immigration too open. Let Russia throttle Ukraine. Interest rates are bad news. Hasn't improved much if anything.

after 4 years of ? , bringing a semblance of order in the office

Age; personal/family ethics; very poor on immigration; poor on economy; wrong approach on Ukraine; botched withdrawal from Afghanistan

Although he's not perfect, I approve of most of his policies. He has some moral foundations and is basically a good person, unlike Trump.

An outstanding President. Will go down in history as one of the best. Helping to rescue American democracy.

Anything is excellent compared to previous administration

BAD !

Better than Trump

biden has kept the economy strong, tried to bring people together. supports women's right to choose.

Biden.

Brain dead and a traitor-criminal.

Brain dead and shouldn't be in office.

Bro sucks, seriously. Like what is he doing in that white house, other than giving away our money and being an ugly freak. I want to rent a house in Anne Arundel County Joe!!! How you expect me to come up in this economy bro like I will not be able to support myself financially. So annoying.

Command

corrupt, inept, senile, spending us into oblivion, poor foreign policy.. dead americans in Afghanistan... he is in the pocket of foreign governments and a doddering old fool

Corruption

Criminal Fraud.

Debt forgiveness promises were unfulfilled

Definitely would NOT vote for him. He is the worst President ever.

Despite his age, he is doing an outstanding job of fighting to preserve our democracy from being destroyed by right wing populists and Fascists led by Mr. Trump that is now far too similar to what happened in Germany with Adolf Hitler when I was a child.

Disaster

Doesn't inspire confidence or strength. Too close to unions especially in the building industry thereby limiting equal opportunity for non-union workers to make a living.

Doing an amazing job under horrific circumstances Underappreciated

Doing his best considering what he walked into

Don't follow politics

Doofus

Economic, gas (drilling access) immigration

Experience; Prudent; Measured;

Experienced diplomat

Fair job with too many attempts to buy votes through programs using tax dollars

First, he is not Trump. But more, his policies both international and domestic seem generally well thought out and well chosen. He was too slow in supporting Ukraine, but has come around. He has the right ideas on environment, but can't get enough support from COngress or the general public.

Getting out of Afghanistan was terribly done. Other than that I think he's done a very good job.

Giving money to tons of other countries despite the horrid state of our economy

great job.

Has done nothing good for this country.

He and his family appear to be crooks, in addition to being incompetent.

He can't express his ideas clearly.

he cool

He does not invoke confidence he knows what he is doing

He has become a tool for the far left progressive party.

He has dementia and should never have been allowed to occupy the white house while others...unelected...are running the government making us more unsafe than any other time in our history.

he has health issues which cause issues.

He has made too many wrong decisions especially by sending too much money for wars in other countries and the open border is a disaster!

He hasn't done anything for 40 years. Why would he start now?

He is a milquetoast president, and doesn't accurately represent what I want for the country. However, I can still praise him for his defense of the UAW strike and efforts to defend marginalized groups, even if it isn't exactly how I want it to happen

He is a thoughtful, measured, and experienced leader who knows how to compromise and has the same priorities as mine. I am concerned about his age, but is the best candidate in the race so far.

He is an experienced and balanced politician. He appoints qualified people to key positions and listens to them. He sincerely cares about Democracy and the American people.

he is cognitively not fit to run again for office.

He is competent and has surrounded himself with qualified people.

He is doing an excellent job of bringing this country back to normal and has greatly improved our reputation among other world leaders.

He is doing as well as he can, given the ineffective nature of Congress. He is handling foreign affairs well -- I wish people actually voted on that basis.

He is keeping a strong U.S. message overseas about stopping aggression; building allies against China and trying to re-shore high-tech manufacturing in the U.S.

He is not capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of the President. He is suffering from dementia.

He is so incompetent and should not be making any type of decisions at all.

He is so sad to watch and listen to .

He is taking a balanced approach to the Nation's internal and external needs

He is the most corrupt president of all time. This administration is a joke.

He is the worst person to be president and needs to retire!

He is the worst president in my 76-year lifetime. He is dictatorial, a spendthrift, and an embarrassment on the domestic and international stages. His mishandling of the border and economy is atrocious, while his international policy is extremely dangerous!

He is weak and incompetent to lead our country

He knows what he is doing with diplomacy and sure of it,

He looks like he has no idea what he's doing. Like a puppet for the government.

He saved the economy and has us on track to continue a robust recovery from the damage the prior administration caused. He is skillful and experienced in foreign policy. And he cares about people.

He sucks. Too damn old and senile

He will always have my strong support for getting the IJJA passed.

He's a puppet for globalism

He's a quiet leader, which allows him to avoid back and forth kindergarten behavior. I just think we need someone a little more vocal.

He's an excellent statesman, but not paying enough attention to multiple problems. too weak in Homeland security, not enough Healthcare reform, other issues left untouched.

He's an idiot. Too much spending on illegals and spending money we don't have.

he's completely lost and I have little confidence that he's actually making any decisions (c'mon man, we both know that he's not)

He's determined and has surrounded himself with good people with expertise who are more than some name on the door.

He's really juggling far more at once than many previous administrations, all while his opponents actively do anything possible to not govern (the holding up of key military appointments for example). The spitefulness only hurts U.S. citizens, not actually one man. Despite this, he's maintained his composure quite well.

He's the only option that'll keep Trump out.

He's trying but needs to be interacting more with younger and marginalized voters.

He's weak, senile, and very corrupt, He's got the DOJ and FBI as his "henchmen" going after conservatives. Why would you have them considering moms as terrorists because they are concerned about what is being taught to their children?!

He's worse than Jimmy Carter who was horrible.

He's a bit out of touch but has good people around him

He's doing a good job and trying to fix the problems the previous guy left us with.

He's done nothing within his presidency to help the American people or our economy. As a history buff, he reminds me of Herbert Hoover but worse

His administrations policies are dangerous to the US. The tonedeaf nature and continued rhetoric that anyone who disagrees with him are extremists is calling the kettle black. Joe Biden himself does not have the capacity to govern. He is not well physically and cognitively.

His policies and political decisions have successfully navigated through treacherous conflicts.

His policies created the worst economy since 1980. Allowed world conflicts to foment. Has allowed our borders to be overrun by invaders, both benign and maleficent. Offers no solutions for education, sexual dysphoria. Purposely encourages divides in our society.

Hopefully he will be impeached for not executing the duties of his office and enforcing the laws of the land.

I agree with his explanation of why we need to support Ukraine and Israel.

I am glad that Biden is handling international relations right now rather than Trump

I am unsure and have no explanation

I don't feel the trust I had several years ago. I feel he will be putting efforts only where he can make political gains.

I have yet to hear anything coherent from him. I don't believe he's in charge but -back to personal responsibility- he has allowed someone else to be in charge on his behalf and they're making a huge mess of our country.

I like Biden and he us doing a good job. He works quietly and steadily. And cares about this country. Too bad he has to deal with unruly Republicans.

I like Joe Biden, I believe he has very good intentions and wants nothing but the best. I would vote for him but what really sells it is that we are spending way too much money on other things instead of using that money to help American citizens, like me for example, I'm someone who wants to pursue even higher education but does not come from a very wealthy family, if he were to authorize the government to give money to students like me then I would be eternally grateful but I try not to think just about me or education, I also think about other people, for example, like healthcare, the homeless, and people with small businesses (like my mom).

I think he's probably a nice man, who has dementia. Shame on his family for putting him through this.

I think he's done the best he can do under very unusual circumstances.

I think some things should be handled better or differently.

I told everyone when he was running he should not be running any more than my husband who has Alzheimer's. He has never worked a day in his life so he does not understand "working Class".

I'm old enough to remember when Biden got hair plugs. He's basically a good man who understands the common woman & has deep human compassion. That said, his foreign policy experience is unparalleled. His economic policy saved us from the morass of Trump. I think he runs a tight ship & steers a clear course.

If not someone with his temperament, who?

Incompetent buffoon, completely corrupt

Inflation high, no security at Southern border, gas prices high, withdrawal from Afghanistan. He is getting too old.

Inflation immigration incompetence

Inflation in double digits, high energy prices, the start of 2 international wars, haven't even gained back the COVID lost jobs, \$1.7 trillion in debt growth this year alone.

Inflation is killing us, and he needs to stop it. He also has allowed immigration at our borders to explode. He listens too much to the progressives.

It's too low to score.

Job creation, bi-partisan legislation passed (infrastructure, CHIPS Act), bringing together NATO to support Ukraine, leadership in the Israel-Hamas war.

Joe Biden is funding IDF and I disapprove of anything relating to helping Israel. Biden has not accomplished as much as he said he would mainly because of Congress disapproval of him

Joe Biden is too old to be president.

Joe Biden is too, too old and too weak. He has two wars break out because on his watch because our enemies don't fear him. Inflation due to Bidenomics caused rampant inflation. Antisemitism is on the rise. Street crime is killing our cities. Migrants are overwhelming our schools and social systems.

Joe Biden publicly embarrasses himself and our nation, which is not a good look when other nations are watching.

Joe has made sound decisions both domestically and internationally.

Keeps delivering a clear, concise, and balanced message that will show results.

Like Biden, think he's a good & honest person. Don't think he has the stamina for another term.

n/a

N/A

No southern border, out of control inflation, trying to get me to pay for others college education. etc etc etc

None

Not approved for this current office or any office !

Not happy with how he is handling the US. But also he cannot get anything done due to Congress fighting him every step of the way. and No he should not be running for another term.

Not mentally competent to hold this position!!

Old and wise better than dumb and narcissistic

Our economy is awful with high inflation. Gas prices are high; food is expensive. Mishandled Afghanistan withdrawal; deceitful; his weakness encouraged the invasion of Ukraine.

Plus and Minus for My Biden.

President Biden has failed this country immensely by allowing our military equipment in the hands of Jihadists and yet he wants to restrict citizens gun rights, our economy is doing worse now with people paying more on items they desperately need.

President Biden has the depth of experience and wisdom not readily apparent in some other areas of government. We are experiencing troubling times that are testing decision makers. I

believe that The President years at the center of many critical leadership junctures makes him the best person for continuing to guide America.

Probably the worst president ever. I do not think anyone could make things so much worse in such a short time. Also is probably corrupt !

Pullout from Afghanistan where my Army son served two tours. Vast increases in Federal spending, failure to work with Congress to prevent constant, chaotic continuing resolutions and government shutdowns.

Puppet

Sad that no one loves this man enough to stop letting him be an embarrassment to himself, our great nation and We the People. It's a disgrace and a mockery!!

Same

Seems Too old to do the job well. Has not surrounded himself with the best team

Senile

Since he has taken office the country has gone downhill fast prices have increased at a historic rate and there's way too many immigrants sneaking in the country and he's letting them stay

Sincerely cares about the country and every person. Putting up a tough fight against all the extremism. Excellent at seeking compromises but that's impossible given the weakness and incompetence of the other sides leadership.

Single-handedly ruining our country since taking office

Skilled foreign policy person. Selects strong management teams. Uncorrupt administration.

Smart and experienced.

Steady and experienced.

The economy has been in shambles since he took over. I am a working man and getting close to retirement and my life time of saving has declined a lot due to the condition of the economy.

The handling of the Israeli crisis seems one-sided for Israel when the Palestinian civilians are not being treated under the rules of law.

The man is corrupt, unintelligent, a career plagiarist, and increasingly senile.

The most corrupt, incompetent and worse administration of incompetent individuals.

The president is a steady hand during the challenges of our democracy.

The worst President ever. Very weak, indecisive, a prisoner of big labor and progressive interest groups. And of course, dementia.

This is difficult. I feel like he should step aside at this point; I don't think he has done anything terrible, nor great. He is a middle of the road guy, but I don't understand his attempt to seek office again at this point.

This President is the most corrupt president in my lifetime. He is indebted to the Chinese and the Ukrainians thus keeps sending our tax dollars to them, with no expectation of peace or where the money goes! His behavior and lack of wisdom has made the USA a laughing stock on the world stage. He is happy to fund Iran and Hezbollah and fuel conflict all over while China is ready to pounce on Taiwan! He has made our military weak and unprepared for war while our southern border is porous for criminals, drugs and sex trafficking.

Too old already & he clearly lacks the mental capacity to be President. He makes no sense unless he is reading from a teleprompter. Horrible economic & foreign policy decisions over his first 2 years

Too old and feeble....he has to go.

Too old. Too many lies. Too involved in Hunter's businesses.

Total disaster. Dishonest, corrupt, senile, self-serving and not a loyal American too liberal

Ugggg do you really need an explanation??? Come on man!! The guy is not well.

Under the circumstances, he is doing an outstanding job.

We look weak. The President looks weak. He isn't doing anything about that. If we want to be a strong country and look strong we need to act strong.

Weak foreign policy from Afghan to Iran. Wide open borders and too much spending

Weak, too old, not giving the US a strong reputation around the world. We are the laughing stock on the world stage. Very sad

Weak. poor decisions. Too old.

Wes Moore is obliged to the world economic forum. Hogan handed him the button.

Worst president and cabinet of all time. The world would like to know who is really running the country. Cabinet is full of "first time" and "Check the box" people.

You had to ask! The man belongs in a nursing home, not the White House. It's not the America I grew up in when your president cannot control his bowels, his feet, his words, and is a laughing stock among the leaders of the world.

Appendix P: Other Job Approval Comments

AA County Health Dept. Heads should be fired over their inane Covid lockdown policies that hurt kids & business owners unnecessarily

AA County schools seem to be doing as good as possible but need more teachers and bus drivers.

AAC Council...why take my plastic bags? People are going to make as much pollution with paper bags as plastic, not to mention the loss of trees for more paper production.

AACC is doing a lot and doing a lot better than most. But there are many flaws in the system.

Aacps school board. Corine frank is an right wing extremist

Again Anne Arundel Community College administration is a joke and waste of resources. Registration is ridiculously complex and no one cares!

All Biden's cabinet appointees are terrible! Look at how they "fled" from Afghanistan leaving LOTS of equipment and arms for the terrorists to keep!

Annapolis Mayor Buckley--a complete sleaze!

As a retiree living on retirement income I am freighted that the lack of cooperation between the political parties and the lack of stable leadership in Congress will destroy our economy. I am too old to start over.

As stated previously, these elected officials have lost sight of why they were voted into office "to serve the BEST interests of the people" NOT to promote their own political agendas!!

Character matters!

Congress and the Maryland legislature need term limits. What happened to the citizen statesmen who created this country. Professional politicians can not be trusted

Congress does not represent the american people well. america wants Palestine to be free but congress agrees to keep helping the IDF

Congress has done NOTHING to address immigration, border security or the environment. It's easier to keep their jobs by producing nothing.

Congress is a joke. With few exceptions, they are using their office for personal gain and power. There is little difference in the two parties currently. The MAGA republicans are too few in number to make a difference.

Congress is a Mess, the Supreme Court is bought and paid for on the conservative side.

Congress is also pathetic. Most of them seem to forget that they are REPRESENTATIVES of AMERICAN CITIZENS.

Congress is fundamentally a broken, inept body. There should be mandated term limits for those elected officials.

Congress needs to negotiate more on legislation and impose term limits.

Congress overspends and doesn't care about voters needs

Congress seems to love to stumble over itself. The Republican party is growing ever more extreme, and Democrats are afraid of winning/succeeding (this shows on the local level as well)

Congress should be self-explanatory as we are 18 days without a Speaker. Supreme Court it not the non-partisan institution that the Constitution assumed it would be. They have had some good decisions that have included decisions by both liberal and conservative justices but ALL of them should be able to be determined based on law and not on political ideology.

Congress too ewak!

Congressional Republicans are in chaos

County Council is funding education in AAC

County folk need to slow down development. Or build a more robust infrastructure

Courts and Congress are clearly working for their own benefit not that of the constitution or the people of this country or the world for that matter.

CPS has always been very helpful to me and I don't think they are given enough resources.

Critical law changes for political gain, drug abuse juveniles law in Baltimore Car theft etc.

Despite County Executive Steuart Pittman being a Democrat I do believe the gun violence issue is about mental health rather on the guns.

Ditto for Mayorkas and Blinken.

Don't follow politics

fifth.

general assembly is a veto-proof overspending politboro

Government in generally is failing us.

I am too new to Maryland to have an informed opinion on the state and local representation.

I am unsure and have no explanation

I believe the overall dysfunction of Congress is reprehensible. The system is broken and legislators are ineffective at providing any significant value to the American people.

I can't have an opinion because I don't know that.

I disagree with almost all of the board of educations decisions.

I don't really follow local issues. Fewer potholes would be appreciated!

I feel that the majority of the current actions taken by the supreme court in recent years have been rather disruptive. The overturning of Roe, being among one of their least favorable rulings in my opinion. Both in part due to the bizarre arguments presented in the majority opinion, in addition to the high level of public opposition for the banning of abortion.

I interned at the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court and believed that the judges and staff are dedicated to serve county residents.

I like these surveys and also believe AACCC is a big plus for Anne Arundel County residents and society as a whole. Keep up the great work!

I think that the entire Supreme Court should be DISMISSED NOW!!!

I would vote for Nikki Haley

I'm looking to see a bigger vision by local elected officials on addressing sea level rise and pollution.

idk

It is becoming apparent that the Supreme Court is not unbiased. Certain members give the appearance of receiving gifts from people who have cases coming before the court. Those justices have eroded trust in the institution.

Maryland General Assembly needs to repeal their stupid decisions that a person under 18, and other younger ages, essentially have no responsibility for committing crimes.

Mr. Pittman is the most ethical and sound person for this position. I hope he considers the Senate in the future.

my neighborhood is fighting zoning concerns with the county. Also the county was going to build up Quiet waters. They need to stop. that huge building on Riva road is obnoxious.

Neither the General Assembly or Anne Arundel County Council care about their constituents.

No institutional system is perfect, most are heavily flawed. Unfortunately I believe that the peoples faith that they're being accurately represented is decreasing significantly

No one wants to compromise

None

Not reaching employees during work hours that work for state

On the Supreme Court I only know the rulings on the most significant cases. And I greatly disagree with their decisions. Many of the SCOTUS decisions, on lesser known cases, I know nothing about,

Re: SCOTUS: they need to create and follow ethical standards similar to (or stronger than) standards required of other judges.

Same.

School board needs to change so we can try to save our children for a brighter future. Some of mine have been pulled out of public school and on grade level or ahead.

SCOTUS has never had so many truly nasty humans on the bench. The shadow docket must go. The GOP House needs to be purged of everyone who voted not to certify the 2020 election (op cit 14th amendment). Warhol got it wrong. Everyone will not be famous for 15 minutes. They want to be famous every 15 minutes. Public service has been supplanced by self-aggrandizement. The Cult of Trump must be broken.

SCOTUS needs an enforceable code of ethics. States need to have representation that closely aligns with voter registrations. If a state is 55/45 red vs. blue or vice versa, their entire delegation should not be one color. People are told they live in red states while it's actually closer to an even split. As a result, we have a lot of racist, anti-progress ppl in government who don't believe in doing what's right, or really much at all.

Stop spending on illegals. Stop sending overseas where we don't have it.

Strongly disapprove of how Congress performs business- there are too many representatives for the people that do NOT have the peoples' interest in mind and are too influenced by money/greed and corporations that their decisions do NOT benefit the people and simply benefit their own wallets/those of big corporations. Republicans and democrats Do NOT work together well and these tensions have stalled progress/ prevented the US from leading change in areas where it matters. Instead we have gone backwards reversing humans rights laws and it is a shame

Supreme Court allowing politics to influence decisions

Supreme Court has become too political and partisan. They are not listening to the citizens. And now I question their ethics.

Supreme Court has been negatively affected by trump appointees. I would like to see term Limits & ethical standards applied to them

Supreme Court is a disaster and is a clear and present danger to future of US.

supreme court is being painted as far-right, but from my perspective they're actually pretty balanced and making reasonable and defensible decisions. For example, I do think abortion should be legal, but there's obviously no constitutional backing for that and it was always a stretch. States need to just pass laws protecting it.

Supreme Court is doing the best job it can in a ridiculous media environment.

Supreme Court is too politically motivated and some members are ethically challenged.

The Board of Education needs to set policy that makes academic excellence their number one priority, NOT LGBTQ++ "safe spaces" and DEI baloney. Our children's test scores are below half the counties in Maryland.

The Congress is a failure. All levels of the government are failing the public that it is intended to support.

The Congress is full of those whose only goal is to be reelected. Our country is run by lobbyists, especially the industrial/military complex and the Tech sector who robs us of free speech.

The county council has been extremely unsupportive to teachers and public education over the years, making it virtually impossible to live and work here.

The current Congress is an embarrassment. We need term limits to get rid of some of the old fossils, especially Mitch McConnell.

The entire govt is giving away too much. People are not working because they are getting things handed to them. The working man is paying for it. Illegals are getting a voice in issues and being handed my tax money that I worked for and had to give up.

The Gen. Assb refuses to deal with Juvenile criminal behavior in Baltimore and in the state as a whole.

The House must come to order. America is a Republic. We are best governed when competing parties vie for solutions that benefit the citizens of our great nation. Not when Members vie for whose sound bite is going to lead "Breaking News". The best decisions are made when the best and brightest are at the table. That includes all members of all parties. I wonder if there might be opportunity to choose a Speaker with bipartisan cooperation.

The House needs to clean house. And the County Council, the city aldermen, Supreme Court could all make good use of new brooms at the moment.

The members of Congress are so self absorbed. They choose whatever benefits them or makes them look good. Little regard for their constituents (unless it's time to vote) and even less regard for the country as a whole.

The other 110 million Americans citizens who didn't vote better get involved or this country in trouble

The question should have separated us house from Senate

The Republican majority in Congress has no interest in performing their duties to their constituents, the American people and have more interest in acting in bad faith and to enrich themselves and the wealthy elite

The Republican Party stole the Supreme Court. They will come to regret the Dobbs decision. The House of Representatives under Republican leadership has proven completely dysfunctional

The Republicans in the House of Representatives are NOT doing the work of the people and can't even decide who they want to be speaker. There is important work to be done & they are being irresponsible, to say the least.

The same, it seems that every single one of them, all for themselves and not for their constituents.

The Supreme Court has become a cesspool. Will they ever adopt a code of ethics?

The supreme court has become a disgrace, voting based on their religious views rather than the constitution.

The Supreme Court has squandered its only source of authority—public trust and confidence—by failing to be impartial, being bought by special interests, ignoring the value of precedent, and refusing to adopt a code of conduct and ethics. I'm so disappointed I could cry.

The Supreme Court is a joke, it has turned into an unaccountable right wing hit squad determined to take away individual civil rights and empower right wing and corporate interests.

The Supreme Court is a scandal. Corruption and hypocrisy.

The Supreme Court is governed by politics, rather than sound opinion

The Supreme Court is not reflective of the Country as a whole. The Courts Integrity has be ruined for decades (based on the fact individuals will be in place for decades)

The Supreme Court needs a code of ethics and term limits!

The Supreme Court should have ethics investigations and not be for a lifelong appointment

The UNI party is a disaster. No one represents the American people any longer. The freedom caucus are the only decent humans left in politics.

The US House will be completely dysfunctional until the bomb throwing Republicans are voted out of office.

they cool

They're doing okay. Not great. Not terrible.

They're doing the best job they can, but not as well as it should be done.

Too liberal

US Congress - too much partisanship in the House and not enough of getting work done on important issues. In the Senate, allowing Tuberville to hold up all the military appointments. No one seems to be acting like public servants working for their constituents and the American people. US Supreme Court - all the ethical questions around some members of the court undermines confidence in their rulings. More troubling is the refusal to put some basic code of ethics in place. Unfortunately, the political nature of the last 3 appointments also makes me question the effectiveness. It seems the balance that is usually there between conservative and liberal viewpoints has been skewed.

Very difficult for the democrats to be mature and play fair when the other side perpetuates selfish and very hypocritical behavior.

We need term limits

We need to do something about the Supreme Court ASAP!!

You asked nothing about the media. The current state of the media as a propoganda arm of government needs to be addressed.
