

# Maryland State Education Association

## January 2017



## Gonzales Research & Media Services

Public Opinion Surveys, Data Analysis  
Issue Advocacy & Video Content Production

We provide the tools you need to measure public opinion,  
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# Table of Contents

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	<u>Page#</u>
I. Scope and Methodology .....	3
II. Executive Summary .....	4
III. Key Findings.....	5-9
A) Increased Funding – Level of Importance .....	5
B) Close Loopholes and Raise Income Tax.....	6
C) Expand Access to Public Pre-K.....	7
D) Public Schools or Charter Schools.....	8
E) Public Schools or Charter Schools Map.....	9
IV. Data Tables.....	10-17
V. Sample Demographics .....	18

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## Scope and Methodology

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Patrick E. Gonzales graduated magna cum laude from the University of Baltimore with a degree in political science.

His career began in the mid 1980's as an analyst with *Mason-Dixon Opinion Research*. Mr. Gonzales helped develop, craft and implement election surveys and exit polls for Baltimore's WMAR-TV Channel 2.

Patrick Gonzales has polled and analyzed well over a thousand elections in Maryland and across the country since this time. His polling in the 2014 Maryland gubernatorial election foreshadowed Larry Hogan's victory on Election Day.

During an interview at WBAL 1090 AM radio on October 27, 2016, Mr. Gonzales was one of the very few pollsters in the nation to state publicly that Donald Trump would win over Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election.

This poll was conducted by ***Gonzales Research & Media Services*** from December 14<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. A total of 823 registered voters in Maryland were queried by live telephone interviews, utilizing both landlines and cell phones. A cross-section of interviews was conducted throughout the state reflecting general election voting patterns.

The margin of error (MOE), per accepted statistical standards, is a range of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. If the entire population was surveyed, there is a 95% probability that the true numbers would fall within this range.

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## Executive Summary

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### **Increased Funding for Public Education in Maryland**

- Among Maryland voters, 83% say it is important to have increased funding for public education in Maryland (61% “very important” and 22% “somewhat important”), while 15% say increased funding for public education is not important (9% “not at all important” and 6% “not that important”), and 2% offer no opinion.

### **Closing Corporate Loopholes and Raising Income Taxes**

- Seventy-three percent of Maryland voters would favor increasing funding for public education in Maryland if this means closing corporate loopholes and raising income taxes on the state’s highest earners (55% “strongly favor” and 18% “somewhat favor”), while 25% would oppose increasing funding for public education if it means closing corporate loopholes and raising income taxes on the state’s highest earners (17% “strongly oppose” and 8% “somewhat oppose”), with 2% giving no response.

### **Expanding Access to Public Pre-Kindergarten**

- Among voters, 70% favor expanding access to public pre-kindergarten to all 4 year-old kids in the state (52% “strongly favor” and 18% “somewhat favor”), while 23% oppose expanding access to public pre-kindergarten to all 4 year-olds (12% “strongly oppose” and 11% “somewhat oppose”), and 8% have no opinion.

### **Focus Funding on Existing Schools **or** Charter and Parochial Schools**




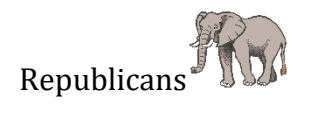
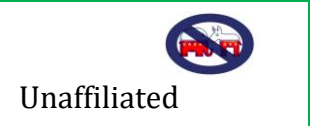
- Sixty-eight percent of Free State voters think that school leaders and elected officials in Maryland should focus education funding on improving existing public schools, while 19% believe they should focus education funding on shifting taxpayer dollars to schools under private-sector management, like charter schools and parochial schools, and 13% are not sure of the best approach.

## Key Findings: Increased Funding – Level of Importance

**QUESTION:** *How important to you is it to have increased funding for public education in Maryland?*

INCREASED PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING	Number	Percent
Important	685	83.2 %
Not Important	123	15.0 %
No answer	15	1.8 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

INCREASED PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING	Number	Percent
Very Important	505	61.4 %
Somewhat Important	180	21.9 %
Not that Important	50	6.1 %
Not at all Important	73	8.9 %
No answer	15	1.8 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>




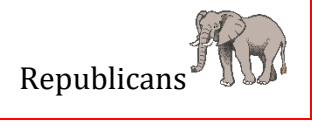

	<b><u>Important</u></b>	<b><u>Not Important</u></b>	<b><u>No answer</u></b>
 <b>Male</b>	79%	19%	2%
 <b>Female</b>	87%	11%	2%
	<b><u>Important</u></b>	<b><u>Not Important</u></b>	<b><u>No answer</u></b>
 <b>Democrats</b>	93%	7%	0%
 <b>Republicans</b>	70%	27%	3%
 <b>Unaffiliated</b>	76%	19%	5%

## Key Findings: Close Loopholes – Raise Income Tax

**QUESTION:** *Would you favor or oppose increasing funding for public education in Maryland if this means closing corporate loopholes and raising income taxes on the state's highest earners?*

INCREASED FUNDING – LOOPHOLES/INCOME TAX	Number	Percent
Favor	599	72.8 %
Oppose	206	25.0 %
No answer	18	2.2 %
Total	823	100.0 %

INCREASED FUNDING – LOOPHOLES/INCOME TAX	Number	Percent
Strongly Favor	449	54.6 %
Somewhat Favor	150	18.2 %
Somewhat Oppose	64	7.8 %
Strongly Oppose	142	17.3 %
No answer	18	2.2 %
Total	823	100.0 %


	<b><u>Favor</u></b>	<b><u>Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>No answer</u></b>
 Male	69%	28%	3%
 Female	76%	23%	1%
	<b><u>Favor</u></b>	<b><u>Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>No answer</u></b>
 Democrats	81%	17%	2%
 Republicans	59%	38%	3%
 Unaffiliated	71%	26%	3%


## Key Findings: Expand Access to Public Pre-K


**QUESTION:** *Do you favor or oppose expanding access to public pre-kindergarten to all 4 year-old kids in Maryland?*

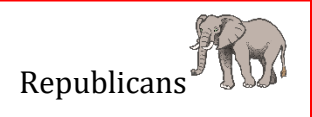
EXPAND PRE-K ACCESS TO ALL 4 YEAR OLDS	Number	Percent
Favor	574	69.7 %
Oppose	186	22.6 %
No answer	63	7.7 %
Total	823	100.0 %


EXPAND PRE-K ACCESS TO ALL 4 YEAR OLDS	Number	Percent
Strongly Favor	431	52.4 %
Somewhat Favor	143	17.4 %
Somewhat Oppose	89	10.8 %
Strongly Oppose	97	11.8 %
No answer	63	7.7 %
Total	823	100.0 %

	<b><u>Favor</u></b>	<b><u>Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>No answer</u></b>
 Male	65%	27%	8%

 Female	74%	19%	7%
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	<b><u>Favor</u></b>	<b><u>Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>No answer</u></b>
 Democrats	84%	10%	6%

 Republicans	45%	45%	10%
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 Unaffiliated	71%	22%	7%
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## Key Findings: Public Schools or Charter Schools



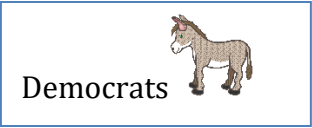
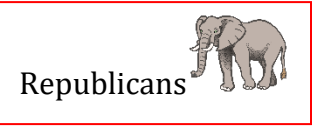

**QUESTION:** Which of the following better reflects your opinion: **ROTATE ORDER**

*School leaders and elected officials in Maryland should focus education funding on improving existing public schools, OR*

*School leaders and elected officials in Maryland should focus education funding on shifting taxpayer dollars to schools under private-sector management like charter schools and parochial schools?*

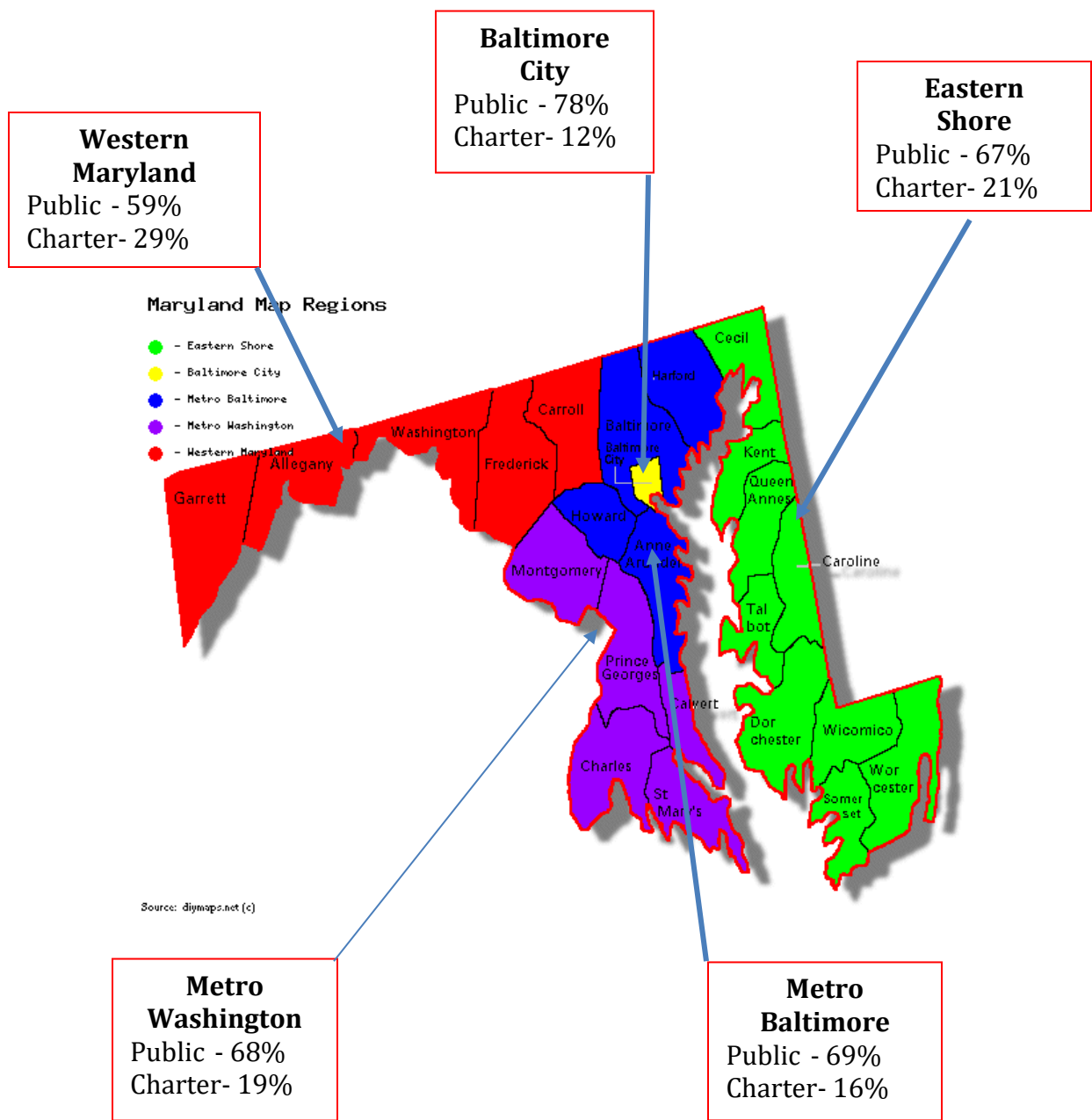
PUBLIC SCHOOLS or CHARTER AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

	Number	Percent
Public Schools	561	68.2 %
Charter Schools	155	18.8 %
No answer	107	13.0 %
Total	823	100.0 %

	<u>Public</u>	<u>Charter</u>	<u>No answer</u>
 Male	64%	23%	13%
 Female	72%	15%	13%
	<u>Public</u>	<u>Charter</u>	<u>No answer</u>
 Democrats	77%	14%	9%
 Republicans	53%	28%	19%
 Unaffiliated	70%	16%	14%



# Public Schools or Charter Schools Map



## Data Tables

N=823

### INCREASED PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not that Important	Not at all Important	No answer
<b><u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u></b>					
Democrat	324 72.5%	91 20.4%	9 2.0%	22 4.9%	1 0.2%
Republican	108 42.4%	70 27.5%	31 12.2%	38 14.9%	8 3.1%
Unaffiliated	73 60.3%	19 15.7%	10 8.3%	13 10.7%	6 5.0%
<b><u>AGE GROUP</u></b>					
18 to 34	90 63.8%	35 24.8%	7 5.0%	9 6.4%	0 0.0%
35 to 49	131 60.1%	44 20.2%	14 6.4%	24 11.0%	5 2.3%
50 to 64	147 58.6%	56 22.3%	20 8.0%	24 9.6%	4 1.6%
65 and older	137 64.3%	45 21.1%	9 4.2%	16 7.5%	6 2.8%
<b><u>AGE GROUP</u></b>					
Under 50	221 61.6%	79 22.0%	21 5.8%	33 9.2%	5 1.4%
50 and older	284 61.2%	101 21.8%	29 6.3%	40 8.6%	10 2.2%
<b><u>RACE</u></b>					
White	325 55.0%	146 24.7%	44 7.4%	64 10.8%	12 2.0%
African-American	159 82.8%	27 14.1%	3 1.6%	2 1.0%	1 0.5%
Other/Refused	21 52.5%	7 17.5%	3 7.5%	7 17.5%	2 5.0%

N=823

INCREASED PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

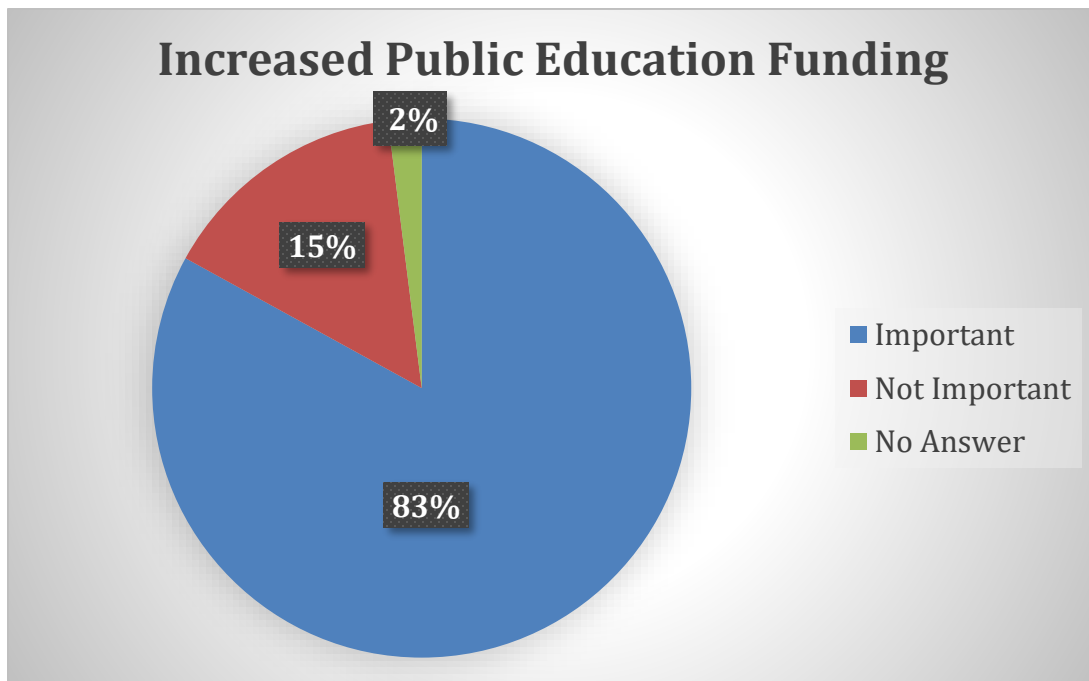
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not that Important	Not at all Important	No answer
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GENDER

Male	221 55.8%	94 23.7%	31 7.8%	43 10.9%	7 1.8%
Female	284 66.5%	86 20.1%	19 4.4%	30 7.0%	8 1.9%

REGION

Eastern Shore	43 59.7%	24 33.3%	3 4.2%	2 2.8%	0 0.0%
Baltimore City	49 71.0%	9 13.0%	3 4.3%	7 10.1%	1 1.4%
Metro Baltimore	175 58.9%	72 24.2%	14 4.7%	25 8.4%	11 3.7%
Metro Washington	186 65.0%	57 19.9%	20 7.0%	22 7.7%	1 0.3%
Western Maryland	52 52.5%	18 18.2%	10 10.1%	17 17.2%	2 2.0%



N=823

## INCREASED FUNDING - CLOSE LOOPHOLES and RAISE INCOME TAX

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>					
Democrat	282 63.1%	82 18.3%	27 6.0%	49 11.0%	7 1.6%
Republican	97 38.0%	53 20.8%	28 11.0%	70 27.5%	7 2.7%
Unaffiliated	70 57.9%	15 12.4%	9 7.4%	23 19.0%	4 3.3%
<u>AGE GROUP</u>					
18 to 34	79 56.0%	26 18.4%	6 4.3%	28 19.9%	2 1.4%
35 to 49	116 53.2%	39 17.9%	15 6.9%	42 19.3%	6 2.8%
50 to 64	132 52.6%	51 20.3%	20 8.0%	43 17.1%	5 2.0%
65 and older	122 57.3%	34 16.0%	23 10.8%	29 13.6%	5 2.3%
<u>AGE GROUP</u>					
Under 50	195 54.3%	65 18.1%	21 5.8%	70 19.5%	8 2.2%
50 and older	254 54.7%	85 18.3%	43 9.3%	72 15.5%	10 2.2%
<u>RACE</u>					
White	300 50.8%	115 19.5%	43 7.3%	117 19.8%	16 2.7%
African-American	131 68.2%	30 15.6%	13 6.8%	16 8.3%	2 1.0%
Other/Refused	18 45.0%	5 12.5%	8 20.0%	9 22.5%	0 0.0%

N=823

**INCREASED FUNDING - CLOSE LOOPHOLES and RAISE INCOME TAX**

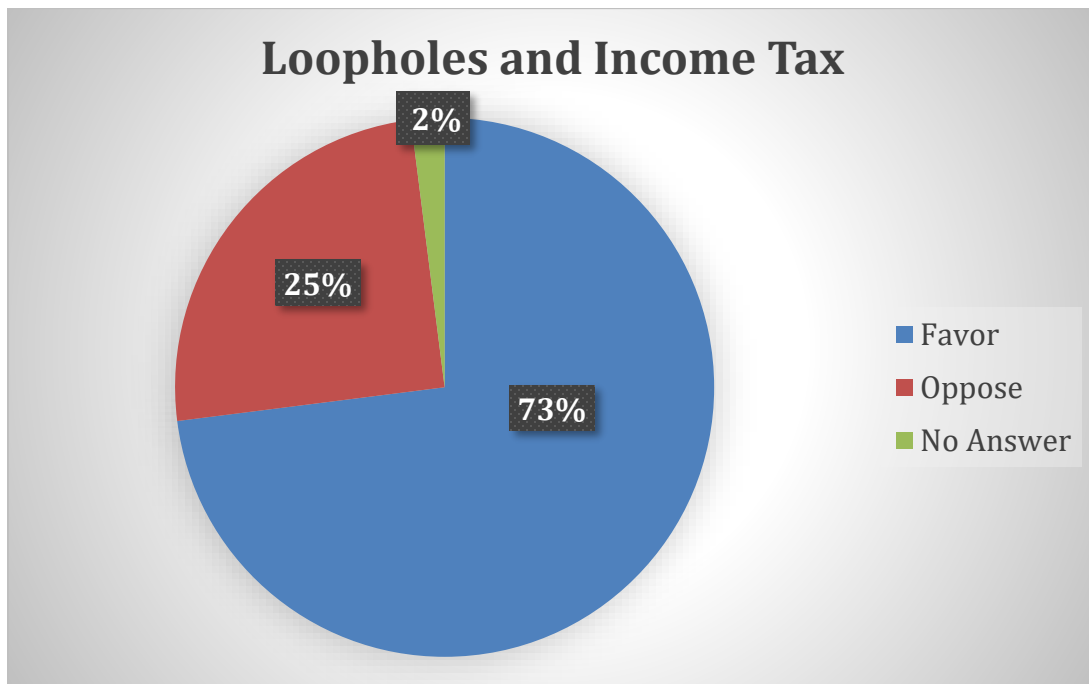
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
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**GENDER**

Male	198 50.0%	75 18.9%	33 8.3%	77 19.4%	13 3.3%
Female	251 58.8%	75 17.6%	31 7.3%	65 15.2%	5 1.2%

**REGION**

Eastern Shore	39 54.2%	10 13.9%	5 6.9%	17 23.6%	1 1.4%
Baltimore City	47 68.1%	13 18.8%	2 2.9%	7 10.1%	0 0.0%
Metro Baltimore	149 50.2%	64 21.5%	28 9.4%	44 14.8%	12 4.0%
Metro Washington	164 57.3%	46 16.1%	21 7.3%	50 17.5%	5 1.7%
Western Maryland	50 50.5%	17 17.2%	8 8.1%	24 24.2%	0 0.0%

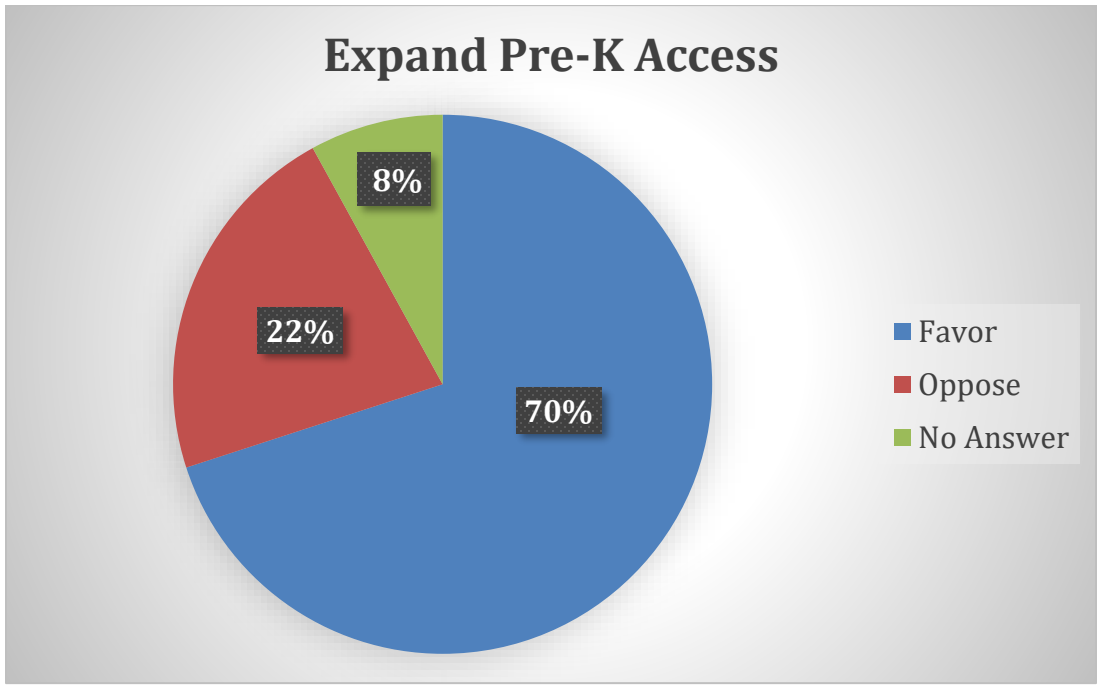


## EXPAND PRE-K ACCESS TO ALL 4 YEAR OLDS

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>					
Democrat	289 64.7%	84 18.8%	33 7.4%	12 2.7%	29 6.5%
Republican	76 29.8%	39 15.3%	47 18.4%	67 26.3%	26 10.2%
Unaffiliated	66 54.5%	20 16.5%	9 7.4%	18 14.9%	8 6.6%
<u>AGE GROUP</u>					
18 to 34	69 48.9%	34 24.1%	12 8.5%	17 12.1%	9 6.4%
35 to 49	102 46.8%	40 18.3%	25 11.5%	31 14.2%	20 9.2%
50 to 64	136 54.2%	41 16.3%	28 11.2%	31 12.4%	15 6.0%
65 and older	124 58.2%	28 13.1%	24 11.3%	18 8.5%	19 8.9%
<u>AGE GROUP</u>					
Under 50	171 47.6%	74 20.6%	37 10.3%	48 13.4%	29 8.1%
50 and older	260 56.0%	69 14.9%	52 11.2%	49 10.6%	34 7.3%
<u>RACE</u>					
White	245 41.5%	124 21.0%	83 14.0%	89 15.1%	50 8.5%
African-American	171 89.1%	8 4.2%	1 0.5%	1 0.5%	11 5.7%
Other/Refused	15 37.5%	11 27.5%	5 12.5%	7 17.5%	2 5.0%

EXPAND PRE-K ACCESS TO ALL 4 YEAR OLDS

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<b><u>GENDER</u></b>					
Male	192 48.5%	67 16.9%	47 11.9%	58 14.6%	32 8.1%
Female	239 56.0%	76 17.8%	42 9.8%	39 9.1%	31 7.3%
<b><u>REGION</u></b>					
Eastern Shore	33 45.8%	12 16.7%	11 15.3%	8 11.1%	8 11.1%
Baltimore City	52 75.4%	8 11.6%	2 2.9%	5 7.2%	2 2.9%
Metro Baltimore	146 49.2%	60 20.2%	35 11.8%	34 11.4%	22 7.4%
Metro Washington	162 56.6%	45 15.7%	33 11.5%	22 7.7%	24 8.4%
Western Maryland	38 38.4%	18 18.2%	8 8.1%	28 28.3%	7 7.1%



N=823

PUBLIC SCHOOLS or CHARTER AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

	Public Schools	Charter Schools	No answer
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PARTY REGISTRATION

Democrat	342 76.5%	63 14.1%	42 9.4%
Republican	134 52.5%	73 28.6%	48 18.8%
Unaffiliated	85 70.2%	19 15.7%	17 14.0%

AGE GROUP

18 to 34	105 74.5%	26 18.4%	10 7.1%
35 to 49	145 66.5%	40 18.3%	33 15.1%
50 to 64	170 67.7%	47 18.7%	34 13.5%
65 and older	141 66.2%	42 19.7%	30 14.1%

AGE GROUP

Under 50	250 69.6%	66 18.4%	43 12.0%
50 and older	311 67.0%	89 19.2%	64 13.8%

RACE

White	388 65.7%	119 20.1%	84 14.2%
African-American	147 76.6%	28 14.6%	17 8.9%
Other/Refused	26 65.0%	8 20.0%	6 15.0%



N=823

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS or CHARTER AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS**

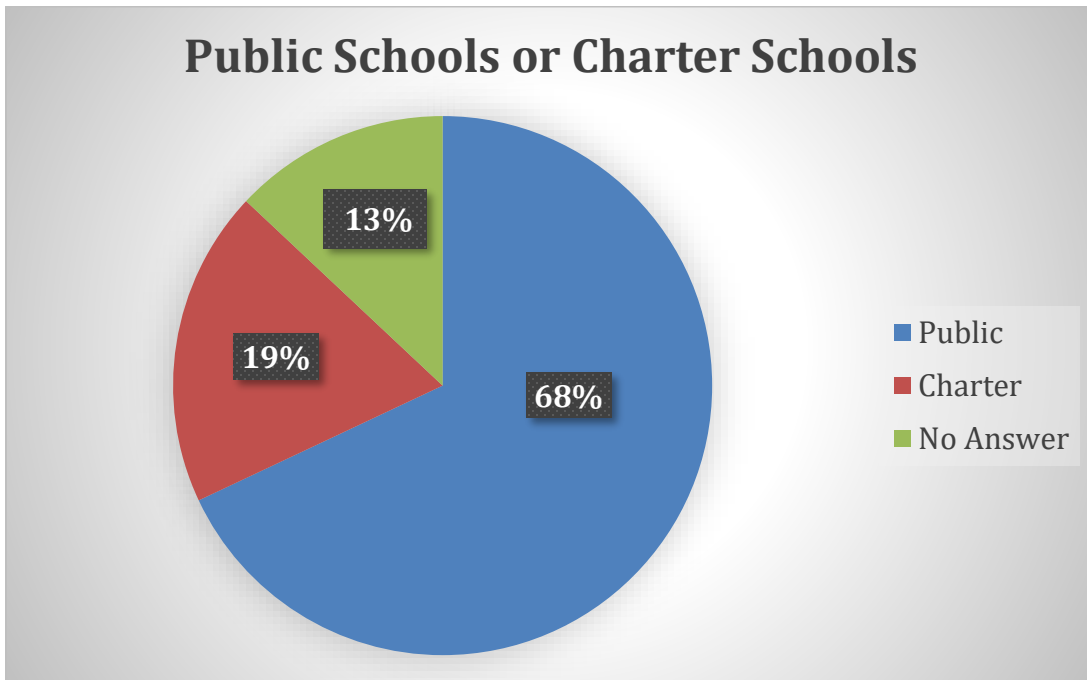
	Public Schools	Charter Schools	No answer
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**GENDER**

Male	255 64.4%	89 22.5%	52 13.1%
Female	306 71.7%	66 15.5%	55 12.9%

**REGION**

Eastern Shore	48 66.7%	15 20.8%	9 12.5%
Baltimore City	54 78.3%	8 11.6%	7 10.1%
Metro Baltimore	206 69.4%	48 16.2%	43 14.5%
Metro Washington	195 68.2%	55 19.2%	36 12.6%
Western Maryland	58 58.6%	29 29.3%	12 12.1%



## **Sample Demographics**

<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Democrat	447	54.3 %
Republican	255	31.0 %
Unaffiliated	121	14.7 %
Total	823	100.0 %

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
18 to 34	141	17.1 %
35 to 49	218	26.5 %
50 to 64	251	30.5 %
65 and older	213	25.9 %
Total	823	100.0 %

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Under 50	359	43.6 %
50 and older	464	56.4 %
Total	823	100.0 %

<u>RACE</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	591	71.8 %
African-American	192	23.3 %
Other/Refused	40	4.9 %
Total	823	100.0 %

<u>GENDER</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	396	48.1 %
Female	427	51.9 %
Total	823	100.0 %

<u>REGION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Eastern Shore	72	8.7 %
Baltimore City	69	8.4 %
Metro Baltimore	297	36.1 %
Metro Washington	286	34.8 %
Western Maryland	99	12.0 %
Total	823	100.0 %