

Maryland Results

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Q.1. In your community, how many parents do you think have access to good preschool programs that they can afford for their three- and four-year-old children--would you say that almost all parents have access to these programs, most parents, about half of parents, or fewer than half of parents have access to these programs for their young children?

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Almost all parents	28	26	29	35	17
Most parents	21	20	21	20	22
About half of parents	24	27	22	19	31
Fewer than half of parents	15	17	15	16	15
Not sure	12	10	13	10	15
Total Almost All/Most	49	46	51	55	38
Total Half Or Fewer	40	43	36	35	46

Q.2. And which one or two of the following do you think are the biggest obstacles facing parents in finding preschool programs for their three- and four-year-old children? (m) *

* Asked only of respondents who say most parents" or fewer (Q.1)."

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	229	110	119	122	104
Many of these programs are too expensive	40	40	40	46	32
There are not enough good preschool programs	19	19	20	21	18
The structure and schedule of programs	15	17	12	17	12
There is not enough information about programs	20	21	19	18	23
Many parents cannot find programs	25	30	20	22	28
All (VOL)	15	13	17	16	14

None/other (VOL)	2	1	3	1	2
Not sure	5	5	6	2	9

Q.3. Overall, do you think that state government is doing too much, about the right amount, or too little to make sure that all parents have access to affordable preschool programs for their young children?

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Doing too much	4	3	5	4	4
Doing about the right amount	22	21	22	25	17
Doing too little	58	59	58	57	60
Not sure	16	17	15	14	19

Q.4. I'd like to read you a list of things that state government could be doing with regard to preschool programs. For each item that I mention, please tell me whether you support or oppose state government getting involved in that specific area.

PROPORTIONS WHO SAY THAT THEY STRONGLY SUPPORT STATE GOVERNMENT GETTING INVOLVED IN SELECTED AREAS

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124

Ensuring the safety of preschool programs by establishing and enforcing licensing and inspection standards

80	77	82	84	75
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Providing funding and financial support for preschool programs so that all parents who want to can afford to enroll their children

65	60	70	69	61
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Ensuring the quality of preschool programs by setting standards for learning and for teacher training and education

66	56	75	68	64
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Working with parents and local school systems to operate preschool programs similar to the way local school systems now run kindergarten through twelfth grade school programs

46	42	51	45	48
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Holding preschool programs accountable for the learning progress and skill development of young children by establishing evaluation standards

41	41	41	42	40
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Providing funding and financial support for preschool programs so that all parents who want to can afford to enroll their children

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Strongly support	65	60	70	69	61
Somewhat support	23	25	20	20	26
Somewhat oppose	5	8	3	5	5
Strongly oppose	4	5	3	4	4
Not sure	3	2	4	2	4

Q.5a. Now I'm going to describe an approach that some people have suggested for expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs and then your reaction.

State government would provide funding and financial support so that all parents in the state who want to send their children to a high-quality preschool program can afford to do so. Parents would be able to choose which program to send their child to depending on their needs and preferences--for example, parents could select a public or a private program, and parents could select a program that is part-time or one that is full-time, as long as the program meets state standards for teacher qualifications, class size, and safety.

How do you feel about this approach--do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, feel neutral, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this approach?

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Strongly agree	50	45	54	52	47
Somewhat agree	25	28	22	24	25
Feel neutral	11	13	9	12	10
Somewhat disagree	6	7	5	3	10
Strongly disagree	6	6	7	7	5
Not sure	2	1	3	2	3
Total Agree	74	73	76	76	73
Total Disagree	12	13	12	10	15

Q.5b. Why do you feel that way about this approach to expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs?

(PROBE:) What do you think are the most positive aspects of this approach?

	All Maryland Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Net Positive Aspects	69	72	66	71	66
Gives them an early start on	10	13	7	7	14
Equal opportunity, for all child	13	10	16	14	11
Gives parents choices/options	11	10	11	13	6
Makes it affordable, it's pensi	8	8	8	10	5
Good for kids, prepares them	10	10	10	12	7
Good flexibility, choice of hou	4	6	2	6	1
Government should be involv	4	7	1	2	7
Gives them a chance to learn	5	6	4	4	6
Good age, able to learn, kids	5	4	5	4	6
Gives them the best start, ma	3	1	4	3	3
Gets parents involved, aware o	2	-	4	2	2
It's important, need to do mor	2	3	2	2	4
Important to interact with othe	7	5	8	6	7
Benefits working/single parer	3	2	4	3	3
Develop good habits, learn di	2	1	3	2	1
It's needed, some kids come	3	3	2	3	2
Teaches social/communicatic	2	2	2	1	2
Good for competition/quality,	1	1	1	1	2
Agree with it, it's a good idea	3	3	3	4	1
Supports both public and priv	1	1	1	-	2
More access, more programs	2	2	2	3	-
Parents choose based on nei	1	1	1	-	3
It works, have seen the resul	1	1	1	1	1
All other positive aspects of tl	2	3	2	2	3

Q.5b. Why do you feel that way about this approach to expanding opportunities for three- and four-year-old children to participate in preschool programs?

(PROBE:) And what concerns do you have about this approach?

	All Maryland Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Net Concerns	53	55	51	51	54

Where will money/funding come from?	6	8	5	7	5
Against government involvement	5	7	4	5	7
Teachers need to be certified	8	6	10	6	10
Parents should educate/take responsibility	4	6	2	4	5
Ensure standards/safety, need to be held accountable	3	3	4	4	3
Too costly, too expensive	3	5	1	4	2
Should be based on need, pay for it	3	2	3	2	5
Too young, not ready, need to be prepared	5	6	3	4	6
Will be taken advantage of, abused	2	2	3	1	4
Not fair, not equitable for all, not everyone can afford	2	1	3	2	2
Shouldn't pay for private education	3	3	2	3	2
Don't have children, not fair to tax	-	-	1	-	1
The schools/other programs are doing a good job	1	1	2	1	2
Every child has different needs	1	1	1	1	2
Against evaluating/qualifying teachers	-	-	1	-	1
Should be voluntary, not forced	2	3	-	1	2
Used as babysitting/day care	3	3	3	3	2
Not needed, not necessary, expensive	1	-	1	1	1
Most parents will choose private	-	-	-	-	-
Should be for public only, not private	1	1	-	1	-
Against vouchers, sounds like a bad idea	-	-	-	-	-
Disagree with it, bad idea, disagree	1	-	2	2	-
Concerns about quality of education	1	1	-	-	1
Local government/community responsibility	1	-	1	1	1
All other concerns about this	10	10	10	10	9
Don't know enough, would like to know more	1	-	2	1	1
Don't know, no response	6	3	9	6	7

Q.6a. Now I'd like to read you two statements about how preschool programs could be made available. Please listen to each statement and then tell me which one best represents your own feelings.

Statement A: These programs should be free to all children, regardless of their family's income, OR

Statement B: These programs should be free ONLY to children from poor and low-income families, with the parents of other children paying based on the family's income and ability to pay.

	All Maryland Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Statement A/These programs :	55	55	55	54	55
Statement B/These programs :	35	34	37	36	35
Neither/other (VOL)	6	5	6	6	6
Not sure	4	6	2	4	4

Q.6b. And now I'd like to read you three statements about paying for preschool programs. Please listen to each statement and then tell me which one best represents your own feelings.

Statement A: I believe that these programs are a top priority and I would be willing to pay additional state taxes to pay for them

Statement B: I support these programs, but only if they can be funded within the existing state budget and without raising state taxes

Statement C: I do not believe that these programs are an important priority given all the other issues that state government needs to address

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Statement A: I believe that the	33	31	34	32	35
Statement B: I support these p	55	57	53	59	48
Statement C: I do not believe t	7	7	8	5	12
Federal government should p	2	3	1	1	2
None/other (VOL)	2	1	2	2	1
Not sure	1	1	2	1	2

Q.7a. I'd like to list reasons that some people have given for why it is important to have preschool programs available for three- and four-year-old children.

For each statement, please tell me whether you think it is extremely convincing, very convincing, fairly convincing, just somewhat convincing, or not really convincing.

PROPORTIONS WHO SAY THAT SELECTED REASONS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ARE EXTREMELY OR VERY CONVINCING

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Many children who participate in preschool programs do better when they enter elementary school and score higher on basic skills tests	68	67	69	72	62
Many children who participate in preschool programs are more self-confident, better adjusted, and less likely to be disruptive and cause problems that affect other children in the classroom when they enter elementary school *	62	65	59	61	63

Good preschool programs help motivate young children to become problem-solvers who are more successful in school, work, and in their communities

67 68 67 69 64
 Having children participate in preschool programs strengthens families by giving parents the resources and support they need to help their children get a good start

67 69 66 68 65
 Good preschool programs cost a lot more than most working families can afford, leaving many parents with few alternatives

56 55 57 56 56
 Children who participate in preschool programs are less likely to get involved with things like gangs and drugs as they get older and more likely to grow up and become productive, contributing members of the community *

44 44 45 45 43
 Good preschool programs benefit the economy and save taxpayers two dollars for every dollar invested, because these programs prevent school failure and crime and produce a better educated, more productive workforce **

47 53 42 45 50
 Children who do NOT participate in preschool programs are less self-confident, less adjusted, and more likely to be disruptive and cause problems that affect other children in the classroom when they enter elementary school **

45 50 41 40 54
 Good preschool programs benefit the economy and save taxpayers two dollars for every dollar invested *

36 39 34 32 40
 Children who do NOT participate in preschool programs are more likely to have problems in school and to get involved with things like gangs and drugs as they get older **

38 46 31 36 41

FACTUALS

Q.F1. How old are you?

	All Maryland Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
Total	316	149	167	189	124
18-24	7	5	9	12	-
25-29	10	9	10	17	-
30-34	11	11	10	18	-
35-39	10	8	13	17	-
40-44	11	14	9	18	-

45-49	11	10	11	18	-
50-54	11	11	11	-	27
55-59	6	8	5	-	16
60-64	7	7	7	-	18
65-69	4	4	4	-	11
70-74	3	1	4	-	7
75 and over	8	10	7	-	21
Refused	1	2	-	-	-

Q.F2. Are you currently employed?

	All Maryland Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Professional, manor	21	18	25	28	12
White-collar worker	19	18	19	21	15
Blue-collar worker	14	21	7	17	9
Farmer, rancher	-	-	-	-	-
Student	4	4	5	8	-
Homemaker	8	4	11	10	4
Retired	23	22	23	3	51
Unemployed, looking for work	5	6	5	7	3
Other	4	4	4	5	3
Not sure	2	3	1	1	3

Q.F3. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

	All Maryland Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Grade school	3	3	3	4	2
Some high school	6	6	6	4	9
High school graduate	39	41	37	40	37
Some college, no degree	12	11	14	14	10
Vocational training/2-year colle	8	9	6	7	8

4-year college/bachelor's degree	18	17	19	16	21
Some postgraduate work, no c	3	4	3	3	4
2 or 3 years' postgraduate wor	9	7	11	10	9
Doctoral/law degree	2	2	1	2	-
Not sure/refused	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F4. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or as something else?

(IF REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not very strong (Republican/Democrat)?

(IF NOT REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or closer to the Democratic Party?

	All Maryland Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Strong Republican	15	17	13	11	21
Weak Republican	12	13	12	15	9
Independent/lean Republican	4	5	4	5	2
Strictly independent	16	19	12	16	15
Independent/lean Democrat	4	4	4	5	3
Weak Democrat	18	15	20	18	18
Strong Democrat	30	26	33	28	30
Not sure/refused	1	1	2	2	2
Total Republicans	31	34	29	31	32
Total Democrats	51	45	57	51	51

Q.F5. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative?

	All Maryland Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Liberal	27	26	27	28	24
Moderate	44	43	45	47	39
Conservative	23	26	20	19	30

Not sure	6	5	8	6	7
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Q.F6. Are you currently single and never married, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Single	20	22	19	28	9
Married	61	62	60	61	60
Separated	2	4	-	3	1
Widowed	11	8	13	4	21
Divorced	5	3	6	3	8
Other (VOL)	-	-	1	-	-
Not sure/refused	1	1	1	1	1

Q.F7a. Do you have any children under age 18 currently living in your household?

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Yes, kids under 18 in househo	44	43	44	65	12
No, no kids under 18 in housel	54	54	55	34	85
Not sure	2	3	1	1	3

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following age categories?

Zero to five *

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	138	64	74	122	15

One	31	45	19	33	19
Two	14	11	17	16	-
Three	4	2	6	4	9
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	1	3	-	1	-
None	50	39	58	46	72
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following categories?

Six to nine *

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	138	64	74	122	15
One	36	40	33	40	5
Two	7	5	9	8	-
Three	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	57	55	58	52	95
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following categories?

Ten to fourteen *

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	138	64	74	122	15
One	24	22	26	23	34
Two	8	8	9	8	9
Three	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-

Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	68	70	65	69	57
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7b. How many children do you have in each of the following categories?

Fifteen to eighteen *

	All Maryland Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	138	64	74	122	15
One	20	15	23	18	29
Two	5	3	8	6	-
Three	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-
Five or more	-	-	-	-	-
None	75	82	69	76	71
Not sure	-	-	-	-	-

Q.F7c. Have you yourself ever had a child under age five enrolled in a preschool program?

	All Maryland Voters	Men	Women	18-49	50 and over
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Yes, child is currently enrolled	13	17	10	19	5
Yes, child was enrolled in a preschool	28	24	32	31	22
Yes, child enrolled in a preschool	2	2	2	1	3
No, never had a child under age five	53	52	53	44	68
Not sure/refused	4	5	3	5	2
Total Have/Have Had Child In	43	43	43	51	30

Q.F7d. Have you ever had a child under age five in a child care arrangement outside the home--including with friends or relatives?

All

	Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Yes, child is currently in a child care arrangement	15	16	14	21	5
Yes, child was in child care arrangement	23	22	24	23	23
Yes, child was in child care arrangement	3	3	3	3	2
No, never had a child under age 18	53	54	53	46	66
Not sure/refused	6	5	6	7	4
Total Have/Have Had Child In	41	41	40	47	30

Q.F7e. Do you have any grandchildren under age twelve? *

* Asked only of respondents who say that they are a 40 or over (Q.F1).

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Yes, have grandchildren under age 12	30	29	30	9	60
No, do not have grandchildren	29	34	24	24	36
Not sure	4	4	4	4	4

Q.F8a. In what religion were you brought up?

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Protestant	26	25	27	18	40
Catholic	31	36	27	31	31
Jewish	5	7	3	2	9
Other	26	26	26	35	12
None	8	3	11	10	3
Not sure/refused	4	3	6	4	5

Q.F8b. Would you describe yourself as either a fundamentalist or evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way? *

* Asked only of Protestants (Q.F8a).

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Fundamentalist/evangelical	7	7	7	5	12
Neither fundamentalist nor eva	11	9	12	8	14
Not sure	8	9	8	5	14
Non-Protestants (Q.F8a)	74	75	73	82	60

Q.F9. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than \$10,000, between \$10,000 and \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, between \$75,000 and \$100,000, or would the total be more than that?

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
Total	316	149	167	189	124
Less than \$10,000	6	6	6	3	10
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000	6	5	8	5	9
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000	15	15	15	16	13
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000	11	13	9	13	8
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000	9	9	9	11	5
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	12	11	13	13	11
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	7	10	5	8	7
More than \$100,000	11	12	10	12	11
Not sure/refused	23	19	25	19	26

Q.F10. What is your race?

	All Maryland Voters -----	Men -----	Women -----	18-49 -----	50 and over -----
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Total	316	149	167	189	124
Hispanic	3	5	2	4	2
White	69	72	66	63	78
Black	24	20	28	30	15
Asian	1	-	1	1	1
Other	1	-	2	1	1
Not sure/refused	2	3	1	1	3