



MARYLAND POLL

January 2026

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## Background and Methodology

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

His career in the field of public opinion research began in the mid-1980s as an analyst with *Mason-Dixon Opinion Research*. During this time, Mr. Gonzales helped develop, craft and implement election surveys and exit polls for television and radio in the Baltimore-Washington D.C. metro area.

Mr. Gonzales has polled and analyzed thousands of elections in Maryland and across the country over the past forty years. Further, he and his associates have conducted numerous market research projects, crafting message development plans and generating strategy blueprints for businesses and organizations throughout the state.

Over his decades of conducting public opinion polls, Patrick Gonzales has been widely recognized by his peers for his ability to conduct unbiased surveys, and analyze the results in an impartial, evenhanded manner.

Mr. Gonzales appears frequently on radio and television in the Baltimore-D.C. region as a guest commentator.

This poll was conducted by ***Gonzales Research & Media Services, Inc.*** from December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026. A total of 808 registered voters in Maryland, who indicated they are likely to vote in the 2026 general election, were queried by live telephone interviews, utilizing both landline and cell phone numbers. 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.

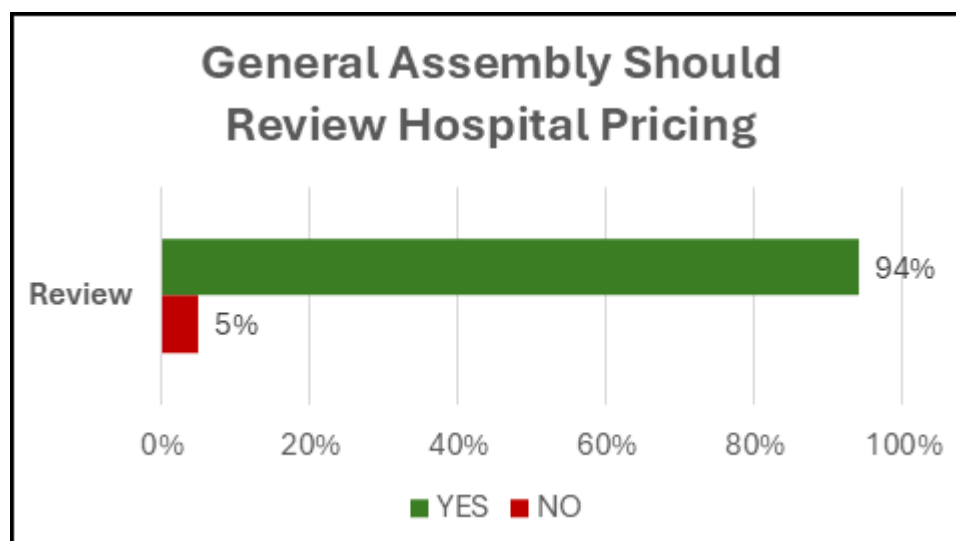
## Gonzales Maryland Poll – January 2026 Results

### Maryland General Assembly Review Hospital Pricing

Marylanders express overwhelming support for having the General Assembly review hospital pricing and explore ways to reduce health care costs. With hospital expenses rising more than 250% since 2000—far outpacing inflation—concern about affordability cuts across demographic and political lines. Eight in ten residents (80%) say the legislature should “definitely” take up the issue, and another 14% say it “probably” should. Fewer than 6% express any level of opposition, underscoring how broadly the public views rising hospital costs as a problem requiring state attention.

Support is strong across party registration, though the intensity varies a tad. Democrats show the highest level of certainty, with 83% saying the General Assembly should “definitely” review pricing and another 13% saying it “probably” should. Independent voters mirror this pattern, with 82% in the “definitely” category.

Republicans are somewhat less emphatic but still overwhelmingly supportive overall: 70% say “yes, definitely” and 20% say “yes, probably,” leaving only 8% opposed. The data herein suggest that while partisans may disagree on many health-policy questions, the idea of examining hospital pricing enjoys rare cross-party alignment.



## Appendix A: Data Tables

**QUESTION: Review Health Care Costs** Since 2000, hospital costs in America have risen over 250%, nearly three times the rate of inflation. Should the Maryland General Assembly review hospital pricing in the state and consider solutions aimed at reducing health care costs for Maryland residents...yes or no?

REVIEW HOSPITAL PRICING IN MARYLAND	Number	Percent
Yes	756	93.6 %
No	43	5.3 %
No answer	9	1.1 %
Total	808	100.0 %

N=808

REVIEW HOSPITAL PRICING IN MARYLAND		
Yes	No	No answer

### RESULTS

Statewide	756 93.6%	43 5.3%	9 1.1%
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N=808

REVIEW HOSPITAL PRICING IN MARYLAND		
Yes	No	No answer

### PARTY REGISTRATION

Democrat	424 95.9%	15 3.4%	3 0.7%
Republican	184 90.2%	16 7.8%	4 2.0%
Unaffiliated	148 91.4%	12 7.4%	2 1.2%

N=808

REVIEW HOSPITAL PRICING IN MARYLAND		
Yes	No	No answer

### GENDER

Female	406 93.5%	21 4.8%	7 1.6%
Male	350 93.6%	22 5.9%	2 0.5%

N=808	REVIEW HOSPITAL PRICING IN MARYLAND		
	Yes	No	No answer
<u>RACE/ETHNICITY</u>			
White	438 93.6%	26 5.6%	4 0.9%
African American	226 93.8%	11 4.6%	4 1.7%
Other/No answer	92 92.9%	6 6.1%	1 1.0%

N=808	REVIEW HOSPITAL PRICING IN MARYLAND		
	Yes	No	No answer
<u>AGE</u>			
18 to 34	152 95.6%	5 3.1%	2 1.3%
35 to 49	178 91.8%	15 7.7%	1 0.5%
50 to 64	210 96.3%	5 2.3%	3 1.4%
65 and older	216 91.1%	18 7.6%	3 1.3%

N=808	REVIEW HOSPITAL PRICING IN MARYLAND		
	Yes	No	No answer
<u>REGION</u>			
Rural Maryland	116 91.3%	9 7.1%	2 1.6%
Baltimore City	56 90.3%	5 8.1%	1 1.6%
Baltimore Suburbs	293 93.6%	18 5.8%	2 0.6%
Washington Suburbs	291 95.1%	11 3.6%	4 1.3%

**INTENSITY - Is that definitely or probably should/should not?**

REVIEW PRICING - INTENSITY	Number	Percent
Yes, definitely	642	79.5 %
Yes, probably	114	14.1 %
No, probably	19	2.4 %
No, definitely	24	3.0 %
No answer	9	1.1 %
Total	808	100.0 %

N=808

REVIEW PRICING - INTENSITY				
Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No, probably	No, definitely	No answer

**RESULTS**

Statewide	642 79.5%	114 14.1%	19 2.4%	24 3.0%	9 1.1%
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N=808

REVIEW PRICING - INTENSITY				
Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No, probably	No, definitely	No answer

**PARTY REGISTRATION**

Democrat	366 82.8%	58 13.1%	5 1.1%	10 2.3%	3 0.7%
Republican	143 70.1%	41 20.1%	9 4.4%	7 3.4%	4 2.0%
Unaffiliated	133 82.1%	15 9.3%	5 3.1%	7 4.3%	2 1.2%

N=808

REVIEW PRICING - INTENSITY				
Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No, probably	No, definitely	No answer

**GENDER**

Female	346 79.7%	60 13.8%	13 3.0%	8 1.8%	7 1.6%
Male	296 79.1%	54 14.4%	6 1.6%	16 4.3%	2 0.5%

N=808

## REVIEW PRICING - INTENSITY

Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No, probably	No, definitely	No answer
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RACE/ETHNICITY

White	363 77.6%	75 16.0%	9 1.9%	17 3.6%	4 0.9%
African American	199 82.6%	27 11.2%	5 2.1%	6 2.5%	4 1.7%
Other/No answer	80 80.8%	12 12.1%	5 5.1%	1 1.0%	1 1.0%

N=808

## REVIEW PRICING - INTENSITY

Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No, probably	No, definitely	No answer
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AGE

18 to 34	126 79.2%	26 16.4%	2 1.3%	3 1.9%	2 1.3%
35 to 49	155 79.9%	23 11.9%	8 4.1%	7 3.6%	1 0.5%
50 to 64	171 78.4%	39 17.9%	4 1.8%	1 0.5%	3 1.4%
65 and older	190 80.2%	26 11.0%	5 2.1%	13 5.5%	3 1.3%

N=808

## REVIEW PRICING - INTENSITY

Yes, definitely	Yes, probably	No, probably	No, definitely	No answer
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REGION

Rural Maryland	96 75.6%	20 15.7%	4 3.1%	5 3.9%	2 1.6%
Baltimore City	52 83.9%	4 6.5%	2 3.2%	3 4.8%	1 1.6%
Baltimore Suburbs	248 79.2%	45 14.4%	7 2.2%	11 3.5%	2 0.6%
Washington Suburbs	246 80.4%	45 14.7%	6 2.0%	5 1.6%	4 1.3%



## Appendix B: Maryland Poll Sample Demographics

<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Democrat	442	54.7 %
Republican	204	25.2 %
Unaffiliated	162	20.0 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>AGE</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
18 to 34	159	19.7 %
35 to 49	194	24.0 %
50 to 64	218	27.0 %
65 and older	237	29.3 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>RACE/ETHNICITY</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	468	57.9 %
African American	241	29.8 %
Other/No answer	99	12.3 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>GENDER</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Female	434	53.7 %
Male	374	46.3 %
Total	808	100.0 %

<u>REGION</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Rural Maryland	127	15.7 %
Baltimore City	62	7.7 %
Baltimore Suburbs	313	38.7 %
Washington Suburbs	306	37.9 %
Total	808	100.0 %

### **Regional Groupings**

***Rural Maryland*** – includes Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne’s, St. Mary’s, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

***Baltimore City*** – includes Baltimore City.

***Baltimore Suburbs*** – includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties.

***Washington Suburbs*** – includes Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties.