

Final Frequencies (n=600)
MARYLAND STATEWIDE SURVEY
The Mellman Group & Public Opinion Strategies
February 22, 2016

Hello. My name is [FIRST NAME ONLY]. I'm calling long distance from _____. We are conducting a public opinion survey and I would like to ask you some questions. We are not selling anything, and I will not ask you for a contribution or donation. Could I please speak with **[ASK FOR NAME ON LIST. IF NOT AVAILABLE, SCHEDULE TIME FOR A CALLBACK.]** First, are you registered to vote at this address?
[IF NO, TERMINATE AND MARK TQ1 ON SAMPLE SHEET]

[RECORD, BUT DO NOT ASK, GENDER:]

male 46
female 54

A. Are you or is anyone in your household a journalist, employed by a newspaper, television or radio station?

yes **[TERMINATE]**
no 100
dk/ref **[TERMINATE]**

1. How likely would you say you are to vote in the November 2016 general election for President, Congress and other political offices -- are you almost certain to vote in the election, very likely, about 50-50, not too likely, not at all likely, or aren't you sure?

almost certain 83
very likely 17
about 50-50 **[TERMINATE]**
not too likely **[TERMINATE]**
not at all likely **[TERMINATE]**
dk/not sure **[TERMINATE]**

2. Generally speaking, would you say that things in Maryland are going in the right direction or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

right direction 57
wrong track 26
don't know **[VOL]** 17

3. On a day-to-day basis, using a scale from ZERO to TEN where zero means you do NOT FEEL SAFE AT ALL and ten means you feel COMPLETELY SAFE, how safe do you personally feel in your community? Of course you can choose any number between zero and ten.

[RECORD ACTUAL NUMBER. DK/REFUSED=99] _____

Zero.....	1
One	0
Two.....	1
Three.....	0
Four.....	2
Five.....	6
Six.....	8
Seven	12
Eight	27
Nine	18
Ten.....	24
Not sure/DK [VOL]	0
MEAN.....	8

4. Do you think that the state of Maryland should sentence more offenders to prison than it does now, sentence fewer offenders to prison, or should Maryland sentence about the same number of offenders to prison as it does now?

more	22
same	30
fewer.....	23
[VOL] don't know.....	26

[SPLIT SAMPLE J]

5. In your opinion, what should be the main purpose of sending a person convicted of a crime to prison?

[ALLOW ONLY ONE RESPONSE]

[IF RESPONSE GIVEN, ASK] What is the second most important purpose? [ALLOW ONLY ONE RESPONSE]

[READ AND ROTATE]	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>
__To punish the individual.....	20	19
__To rehabilitate the individual so he might become a productive citizen.....	33	22
__To keep the individual locked up in order to protect society from future crimes he or she might commit	25	14
__To deter others who might commit crimes.....	8	15
__To provide justice for victims	11	27
[VOL] DK/refused	3	4

[SPLIT SAMPLE K]

I am going to read you some purposes people have given to send a person convicted of a crime to prison. After each, please tell me how important that is as a purpose for sending a person to prison – is it one of the most important purposes, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

[RANDOMIZE Q.6-Q.10]	One of most	Very impt	Smwt impt	Not too	Not at all	[VOL] DK/ref
6. __To punish the individual	33	32	26	6	2	2
7. __To rehabilitate the individual so he might become a productive citizen	23	41	19	7	7	2
8. __To keep the individual locked up in order to protect society from future crimes he or she might commit	28	42	20	4	2	3
9. __To deter others who might commit crimes	15	39	26	11	7	3
10. __To provide justice for victims.....	32	46	15	3	3	2

[SPLIT SAMPLE J]

11. Do you think Maryland should spend more than it does now on prisons, less than it does now on prisons, or should Maryland spend about what it is spending now on prisons?
- More 11
 - Less 31
 - About the same 39
 - don't know **[VOL]**..... 19

[SPLIT SAMPLE K]

12. As you may know, the state of Maryland spent \$777 million dollars on prisons in 2015. Do you think Maryland should spend more than it does now on prisons, less than it does now on prisons, or should Maryland spend about what it is spending now on prisons?
- More 11
 - Less 40
 - About the same 35
 - don't know **[VOL]**..... 14

[RESUME ASKING EVERYONE]

[ROTATE Q.13-Q.14]

13. __Which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view? **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

__**Statement A.** It does not matter whether a non-violent offender is in prison 24 or 30 or 36 months. What really matters is that the system insures that when offenders do get out, they are less likely to commit another crime.

OR

__ **Statement B.** If you do the crime you should do the time. We know that prison works. Longer sentences for non-violent offenders have made our streets safer, and this is no time to be reducing prison terms for anyone.

[IF A OR B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Statement A, strongly.....	51	62
Statement A, not strongly	10	
Statement B, not strongly.....	8	
Statement B, strongly.....	24	32
Not sure/DK [VOL]	6	

14. __Which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view? **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

__**Statement A.** Prisons are a government spending program, and just like any other government spending program they need to be put to the cost-benefit test to make sure taxpayers are getting the best bang for the buck.

OR

__ **Statement B.** It may be expensive to lock up criminals but we should pay what it costs to make sure our communities are safe and to make sure offenders are punished and learn the consequences of breaking the law.

[IF A OR B, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Statement A, strongly.....	36	46
Statement A, not strongly	10	
Statement B, not strongly.....	13	
Statement B, strongly.....	32	45
Not sure/DK [VOL]	8	

[END ROTATION]

[ROTATE Q.15-Q.16]

15. __Some people have proposed shorter prison sentences for non-violent offenders if that permitted the state to pay for stronger probation and parole, and more mandatory substance abuse and mental health treatment for offenders. Would you find this proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable?

[IF ACCEPTABLE/ UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:] And do you feel that it is **STRONGLY** (acceptable/ unacceptable) or **NOT SO STRONGLY** (acceptable/ unacceptable)?

Acceptable, strongly.....	64	86
Acceptable, not so strongly.....	22	
Unacceptable, not so strongly	4	
Unacceptable, strongly.....	6	11
[VOL] DK/refused.....	4	

16. __In Maryland, many offenders can earn time off their sentences for participating in programs and for good behavior. Some people have proposed allowing nonviolent offenders to earn additional time off of their prison term for completing substance abuse and mental health treatment programs while in prison. Would you find this proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable?

[IF ACCEPTABLE/ UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:] And do you feel that it is **STRONGLY** (acceptable/ unacceptable) or **NOT SO STRONGLY** (acceptable/ unacceptable)?

Acceptable, strongly.....	69	86
Acceptable, not so strongly.....	17	
Unacceptable, not so strongly	3	
Unacceptable, strongly.....	8	11
[VOL] DK/refused.....	3	

[END ROTATION]

17. Maryland currently has mandatory minimum sentences that require judges to sentence those convicted of some crimes to serve at least a certain length of time in prison. Would you favor or oppose allowing judges more say in deciding sentences based on the individual facts of each case? **[IF FAVOR/OPOSE, ASK:]** Is that strongly or not so strongly?

Favor, strongly	63	80
Favor, not so strongly	17	
Oppose, not so strongly.....	4	
Oppose, strongly	11	16
[VOL] Don't know	4	

18. Mandatory minimum sentences require those convicted of certain crimes to serve at least a certain length of time in prison. Some people have proposed that instead of mandatory minimums in drug cases, judges have the flexibility to determine sentences based on the facts of each case. Would you find this proposal generally acceptable or generally unacceptable?

[IF ACCEPTABLE/ UNACCEPTABLE, ASK:] And do you feel that it is STRONGLY (acceptable/ unacceptable) or NOT SO STRONGLY (acceptable/ unacceptable)?

Acceptable, strongly.....	67	83
Acceptable, not so strongly	16	
Unacceptable, not so strongly	4	
Unacceptable, strongly.....	11	15
[VOL] DK/refused.....	2	

19. Offenders on supervision, like probation or parole, have to follow rules in order to stay out of prison. If an offender breaks these rules, for example fails a drug test or misses a curfew, the offender has committed a violation. Which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view about a violation like this that is not another crime? **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

 Statement A. The offender did not fully comply with the requirements of their supervision, so he should be sent back to prison for up to the remainder of their sentence.

OR

 Statement B. The offender should be sent back to prison for up to 45 days to make clear there are consequences for not complying with the requirements of probation or parole.

OR

 Statement C. Violating rules of supervision is not that serious and should be addressed with treatment and programs designed to change the offender's behavior instead of sending them back to prison.

[IF A OR B OR C, ASK:] Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Statement A, strongly.....	29	35
Statement A, not strongly	7	
Statement B, strongly.....	34	42
Statement B, not strongly.....	8	
Statement C, strongly.....	16	20
Statement C, not strongly.....	4	
Not sure/DK [VOL]	2	

20. Being arrested is a violation of the rules of probation and parole, for which an offender can receive prison time. I'm going to read you two statements about this policy and ask your view. **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

__Statement A: People who are out on probation or parole who get arrested should be sent back to prison. They got out on probation or parole in the first place only on the condition that they stay out of trouble, and getting arrested is not staying out of trouble.

OR

__Statement B: People on probation or parole who get arrested should not be sent back to prison because people are innocent until proven guilty. If a probationer or parolee is convicted, they can be punished then, but a past conviction shouldn't mean going to prison without having their day in court.

Do you think people arrested while on probation or parole should or should not be sent back to prison? **[IF SHOULD/SHOULD NOT, ASK:]** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Should be sent back, strongly	41	54
Should be sent back, not so strongly.....	13	
Should NOT be sent back, not so strongly.....	17	
Should NOT be sent back, strongly	22	39
Not sure/dk [VOL]	6	

21. Maryland has a law that makes stealing property valued over \$1,000 dollars a felony crime. Some people have proposed raising the amount that constitutes a felony from \$1,000 dollars to \$2,000 dollars. Now I'm going to tell you what supporters and opponents of the plan to increase the value of what must be stolen to constitute a felony say and ask whether you favor or oppose it. **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

__Supporters of the plan say that taxpayers shouldn't be paying the high cost of prison for people who stole small items like electronics. Someone who stole something so small should not end up with a felony conviction on their record forever. Many states have raised the amounts that make theft a felony and research shows that theft rates haven't gone up.

OR

__Opponents of the plan say it is the wrong time to go soft on crime. People who steal iPads and computers are committing serious crimes and making our communities less safe. They should be locked up. It is not okay to steal--no matter what the amount--and raising the threshold sends the wrong message about our tolerance of theft.

Do you favor or oppose the plan to increase the value of what must be stolen to constitute a felony from \$1000 dollars to \$2,000 dollars? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE]** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Favor, strongly	32	47
Favor, not so strongly.....	15	
Oppose, not so strongly.....	10	
Oppose, strongly	36	47
Not sure/dk [VOL]	6	

22. There is a proposal in Maryland to change the way the state sentences nonviolent drug possession offenders, allowing shorter prison sentences while expanding the availability of substance abuse treatment for individuals who need it. **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

__ **Supporters** of this proposal say that longer prison terms is the wrong way to break the cycle of crime and addiction. A more effective strategy is to put drug-addicted offenders into treatment programs and community supervision and to hold them accountable with community service or short stays in jail if they continue to use drugs or fail to go to treatment.

OR

__ **Opponents** of this proposal say the threat of longer prison terms helps deter offenders from using drugs and sends a strong message to the general public that drug use is unacceptable. It would be great if substance abuse treatment really kept people drug-free but it doesn't, so prison is a more effective way to combat the problem of addiction and crime.

Do you favor or oppose changing the way the state sentences nonviolent drug possession offenders allowing shorter prison sentences while expanding the availability of substance abuse treatment for individuals who need it? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:]** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Favor, strongly	57	75
Favor, not so strongly.....	18	
Oppose, not so strongly.....	6	
Oppose, strongly	14	21
Not sure/dk [VOL]	4	

23. In Maryland, some have proposed reducing the penalties for drug offenses for all but the highest-level dealers. Now I'm going to tell you what supporters and opponents of the plan to reduce penalties on lower level drug offenders say and ask whether you favor or oppose it. **[ROTATE STATEMENTS]**

__ **Supporters** of this proposal say research shows long prison terms should be used on the high-level drug dealers driving the illegal drug market. Sentencing lower-level street dealers to longer prison terms is not an effective strategy for fighting the drug trade. Street dealers should be punished, but not in a way that prevents them from becoming productive citizens in the future.

OR

__ **Opponents** of this proposal say that we shouldn't let drug dealers off the hook. They need to serve long prison sentences to keep them off the streets and to deter others. Reducing penalties for drug dealers sends the wrong message. All drug crimes are inherently serious and violent crimes, leading to hundreds of deaths and destroying families and communities.

Do you favor or oppose reducing penalties for lower-level drug offenses? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE:]** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

Favor, strongly	44	62
Favor, not so strongly.....	18	
Oppose, not so strongly.....	10	
Oppose, strongly	23	33
Not sure/dk [VOL]	5	

24. Would you favor or oppose taking some of the money that Maryland is spending on locking up non-violent offenders and shifting it to strengthening mandatory community supervision programs like probation and parole? **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:]** Is that strongly or not so strongly?
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Favor, strongly | 60 | 80 |
| Favor, not so strongly | 19 | |
| Oppose, not so strongly..... | 6 | |
| Oppose, strongly | 10 | 16 |
| [VOL] Don't know | 5 | |

THANK YOU. THE FEW REMAINING QUESTIONS ARE FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY.

25. Have you or a member of your immediate family been a victim of a violent crime?
[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?
- | | | |
|--|----|-----------|
| Yes, You | 4 | 16 |
| Yes, Someone else in your household..... | 9 | |
| Yes, Both | 3 | |
| No | 82 | |
| dk/na/other..... | 1 | |
26. Have you or a member of your immediate family been a victim of a non-violent crime?
[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?
- | | | |
|--|----|-----------|
| Yes, You | 16 | 45 |
| Yes, Someone else in your household..... | 15 | |
| Yes, Both | 14 | |
| No | 53 | |
| dk/na/other..... | 2 | |
27. Have you or someone in your immediate family ever been in prison or on probation or parole?
[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?
- | | | |
|--|----|-----------|
| Yes, You | 3 | 14 |
| Yes, Someone else in your household..... | 11 | |
| Yes, Both | 1 | |
| No | 84 | |
| dk/na/other..... | 2 | |
28. Are you or someone in your immediate family active in Law Enforcement?
[IF YES. ASK:] And does that apply to you, to someone else in your household or both?
- | | | |
|--|----|-----------|
| Yes, You | 4 | 10 |
| Yes, Someone else in your household..... | 6 | |
| Yes, Both | 1 | |
| No | 88 | |
| dk/na/other..... | 1 | |

29. What is your age? [**CODE ACTUAL AGE. REFUSED=99**] _____
- | | | |
|--------------|----|--|
| 18-29 | 18 | |
| 30-39 | 14 | |
| 40-49 | 17 | |
| 50-59 | 21 | |
| 60+ | 31 | |
| na/ref | 0 | |
30. What was the last level of schooling you completed?
- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|--|
| less than high school graduate | 3 | |
| high school graduate | 19 | |
| some college..... | 25 | |
| college graduate | 35 | |
| post-graduate..... | 17 | |
| na..... | 1 | |
31. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else? [**IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT ASK:**] Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)? [**IF INDEPENDENT ASK:**] Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| strong Republican..... | 17 | 26 |
| not so strong Republican | 3 | |
| independent leans Republican | 6 | |
| independent..... | 22 | |
| independent leans Democratic..... | 7 | |
| not so strong Democrat..... | 7 | |
| strong Democrat | 30 | 43 |
| dk/na/other | 8 | |
32. Do you consider yourself very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative or very conservative? [**IF MODERATE, ASK:**] Do you tend to lean toward the liberal or conservative side?
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|-----------|
| very liberal..... | 9 | 33 |
| somewhat liberal..... | 19 | |
| moderate leans liberal..... | 5 | |
| moderate | 28 | |
| moderate leans conservative..... | 8 | |
| somewhat conservative..... | 13 | |
| very conservative..... | 12 | 33 |
| DK/ref..... | 6 | |

33. Are you black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or some other race?

black	26
white	63
Hispanic	4
Asian.....	2
Native American.....	0
other	2
ref.....	2

34. Are you Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, or something else?

Protestant	30
Catholic.....	23
Mormon/LDS	1
Jewish	3
something else	32
[VOL] DK/ref	12

35. In which of the following ranges does your family income fall? **[READ LIST]**

below \$12,000	1
above 12 but less than 20 thousand	3
above 20 but less than 30 thousand	7
above 30 but less than 40 thousand	7
above 40 but less than 50 thousand	9
above 50 but less than 60 thousand	5
above 60 but less than 80 thousand	9
above 80 but less than 100 thousand	9
above 100 but less than 150 thousand	12
above 150 thousand	7
[VOL] refused	29

36. What is your zip code? _____

Thank you for answering these questions.