

The UMD Student Survey was administered online to UMD degree seeking students age 18 or older who are U.S. citizens. Students were contacted using an email listserv provided by the Office of the Registrar. The survey was fielded October 2-12, 2020. The overall sampling margin of error is +/- 1.5%. The survey is part of a collaboration among GVPT’s [Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement](https://cdce.umd.edu/) in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, the [Civic Maryland Initiative](https://spp.umd.edu/research-impact/initiatives/civic-maryland-initiative) in the School of Public Policy, and the [Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism](https://merrill.umd.edu/shirley-povich-center/) in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

When possible, results are compared to a nationally representative sample of U.S. voting age citizens from the August 2020 [University of Maryland-Washington Post Poll](https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/washington-post-university-of-maryland-poll-by-ipsos-on-voting-issues-aug-24-31/d0ca1dc3-4b85-40b1-92b1-4c91986d0be3/) conducted by [Ipsos](https://www.ipsos.com/en-us)(labeled UMDPost below).[[1]](#footnote-1)

Values represent percentages and may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

\* indicates less than 1 percent

**Generally speaking, do you have a hometown address (your permanent residence or where you would generally return when not attending college) AND a different college address?**

No

Yes No opinion

10/20 UMD 66 33 \*

**Is your hometown in Maryland or another state?**

Another No

Maryland State opinion

10/20 UMD 75 24 \*

*If selected another state asked which state (results available upon request)*

**[Among those who said their hometown is in Maryland]** **Is your hometown…?**

College Elsewhere in Elsewhere in

Park PG County Maryland

10/20 UMD 2 10 88

**Which of the following best describes where you are currently living while attending college this semester?**

My College Elsewhere in Elsewhere in In another No

Hometown Park Maryland my home state state op.

10/20 UMD 46 39 11 1 2 \*

**Is this temporary due to the pandemic or would you be living there anyway?**

Would live No

Temporary there anyway opinion

10/20 UMD 28 72 \*

**Are you currently registered to vote?**

Yes No

10/20 UMD 97 3

**Which of the following best describes where you are registered?[[2]](#footnote-2)**

College Where No

Hometown Address Displaced opinion

10/20 UMD 89 7 1 4

**What are the chances you will vote in the presidential election this fall?**

Absolutely Will probably Chances Less than No

certain to vote vote are 50-50 50-50 chance opinion

10/20 UMD 84 11 3 3 \*

08/20 UMDPost 78 7 5 10 \*

**Has anyone contacted you to encourage you to register and/or vote?**

Yes No

10/20 UMD 75 25

**Have you contacted anyone to encourage them to register and/or vote?**

Yes No

10/20 UMD 43 57

**Thinking specifically about this fall’s presidential election, if you vote, how would you prefer to cast your ballot?**

By dropping off your ballot

In person at at an election office, No

a polling place By mail polling place or ballot box opinion

10/20 UMD 32 40 28 \*

08/20 UMDPost 49 33 16 1

**And would you prefer to vote on Election Day or before Election Day?**

On Before No

Election Day Election Day opinion

10/20 UMD 23 77 \*

08/20 UMDPost 38 61 1

***Overall Preference for Time and Method of Voting***

------- On Election Day ------- ----- Before Election Day -----

In By Drop No In By Drop No No

Net person mail off op. Net person mail off op. op.

10/20 UMD 23 17 3 3 \* 77 15 37 25 0 \*

08/20 UMDPost 38 32 3 2 0 61 17 30 14 0 1

**Regardless of where you might be registered now, where would you prefer to register and vote?**

College Where No

Hometown Address Displaced opinion

10/20 UMD 80 16 4 \*

**And would you say your preference is…?**

Not very No

Strong strong opinion

10/20 UMD 59 41 \*

***Overall preference and strength of preference for registration location.***

College Where

--Hometown-- --Address-- -Displaced- No

Strong Not Strong Not Strong Not opinion

10/20 UMD 49 31 7 8 3 2 \*

**Have you made a plan to vote?**

Yes No

10/20 UMD 84 16

**Have you requested or been sent a mail/absentee ballot?**

No

Yes No opinion

10/20 UMD 70 30 \*

**[Among those who requested or were sent a mail/absentee ballot] Did you request it or was it automatically sent to you?**

Requested it Automatically sent No opinion

10/20 UMD 82 18 \*

**[If requested a ballot] Have you received your mail/absentee ballot?**

Yes No

10/20 UMD 53 47

**If you vote in this fall’s presidential election, how confident are you that your vote will be counted accurately?**

---- Confident ---- --------------- Less confident --------------- No

NET Very Somewhat NET Not too confident Not confident at all op.

10/20 UMD 84 28 56 16 12 4 0

08/20 UMDPost 80 41 39 19 12 7 1

**Regardless of the voting rules in your state, how confident would you be about your ballot being counted accurately if you voted in the following ways?**

***10/20 UMD -- Summary table***

----- Confident ----- ----- Less confident ----- No

NET Very Somewhat NET Not too Not at all op.

a. If you voted in

person on Election Day 94 63 31 6 5 1 \*

b. If you voted in person

early 93 57 36 7 5 2 \*

c. If you voted by mail

or absentee mail 70 20 50 30 22 9 \*

***08/20 UMDPost -- Summary table***

----- Confident ----- ----- Less confident ----- No

NET Very Somewhat NET Not too Not at all op.

a. If you voted in

person on Election Day 90 62 28 8 5 3 2

b. If you voted in person

early 86 50 35 13 8 5 1

c. If you voted by mail

or absentee mail 65 28 37 34 20 14 1

**How do you feel about the possibility that you or someone in your immediate family might catch the coronavirus?**

----- Worried ----- ------------- Not worried ---------------- No

NET Very Somewhat NET Not too worried Not at all worried opinion

10/20 UMD 76 29 47 24 20 4 0

08/20 UMDPost 60 19 41 39 27 12 1

**Given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, how comfortable would you feel going to a polling place to vote in-person this fall?**

---- Comfortable ---- --- Uncomfortable --- No

NET Very Somewhat NET Somewhat Very opinion

10/20 UMD 42 14 27 58 37 21 0

08/20 UMDPost 52 27 25 47 27 20 1

**In the past month, did you spend any time volunteering through or for any organization or association, or not?**

Yes No No opinion

10/20 UMD 18 82 \*

08/20 UMDPost 12 87 1

**During a typical month before March 1, 2020, when the coronavirus began spreading widely in the United States, did you spend any time volunteering through or for any organization or association, or not?**

Yes No No opinion

10/20 UMD 38 62 0

08/20 UMDPost 22 78 1

**If your area needed election poll workers this fall, would you be willing to volunteer as a poll worker at an in-person voting location, or not willing?**

Willing Not willing No opinion

10/20 UMD 34 66 \*

08/20 UMDPost 33 66 1

**Different people feel differently about voting. For some, voting is a DUTY. They feel that they should vote in every election however they feel about the candidates and parties. For others, voting is a CHOICE. They feel free to vote or not to vote in an election depending on how they feel about the candidates and parties. For you personally, voting is FIRST AND FOREMOST a:[[3]](#footnote-3)**

Duty Choice Not sure

10/20 UMD 67 26 7

**[Among those who said duty] How strongly do you feel personally that voting is a duty?**

Very Somewhat Not very

Strongly strongly strongly

10/20 UMD 63 35 2

**Which statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right?**

10/20 UMD

-Voting gives people like me some say about how government runs things 73

-Voting by people like me doesn’t really affect how government runs things 27

-No opinion \*

**Which statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right?**

10/20 UMD

-Voting is the best way to express my views on how government runs things 84

-I can express my views on how government runs things in lots of ways so

don’t need to vote 16

-No opinion \*

**[Among those who said don’t need to vote] What is the best way to express your views on how government runs things?**

Writing Posting on Volunteering No

Protesting elected officials social media in my community Other op.

10/20 UMD 29 18 8 21 24 \*

**Which of the following is the best way to have a say in what government does?**

10/20 UMD

-Voting 42

-Writing to elected officials 10

-Participating in a protest 9

-Donating money to a campaign or political cause 10

-Volunteering for a campaign or political cause 8

-Posting on social media 1

-Attending public meetings where community issues

are discussed 17

-Other 5

-No opinion \*

**UMD Athletics made the Xfinity Center available as an early voting location for the presidential election. Have you heard that Xfinity Center was made available for early voting?[[4]](#footnote-4)**

Yes No

10/20 UMD 33 67

**TerpsVote is a coalition of UMD students, faculty, and staff who work to increase civic engagement, including registration and voting at UMD. Have you heard of TerpsVote?4**

Yes No

10/20 UMD 44 56

**UMD participates in the Big 10 Voting Challenge, a competition to increase registration and voting at UMD to other participating Big 10 campuses. Have you heard of the Big 10 Voting Challenge?4**

Yes No

10/20 UMD 13 88

**Would you say UMD’s culture of voting is:**

Very Somewhat Somewhat Very No

Strong strong weak weak opinion

10/20 UMD 17 63 17 2 2

**How important do you think encouraging students to vote is to each of the following UMD groups?**

***10/20 UMD -- Summary table***

Extremely Very Somewhat Not too Not at all No

Important Important Important Important Important Op.

a. Students 44 28 20 5 3 1

b. Faculty 35 30 24 6 4 1

c. Staff 33 28 26 8 5 1

d. Administrators 35 29 25 7 4 1

**Thinking about after you graduate, how likely is it that you will donate money to support activities to increase student registration and voting at UMD?**

Very Somewhat Somewhat Very No

Likely likely unlikely unlikely opinion

10/20 UMD 3 20 36 41 \*

**Thinking now about the return of college sports, how important, if at all, is it to you that UMD take the following precautions before fans are allowed to attend games?**

***10/20 UMD -- Summary table***

Extremely Very Somewhat Not too Not at all No

Important Important Important Important Important Op.

a. Limited attendance 72 15 7 2 3 \*

b. Temperature checks

for all fans 57 19 14 5 4 \*

c. Hand-sanitizer

stations 70 17 8 2 3 \*

d. Mandatory masks

for all fans 81 9 5 1 3 \*

**Are you willing to attend a UMD sporting event before you receive a COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes No No opinion

10/20 UMD 36 64 \*

**[Among those not willing to attend before receiving a COVID-19 vaccine] Are you willing to attend a UMD sporting event after you receive a COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes No No opinion

10/20 UMD 58 42 \*

***Overall willingness to attend after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine***

Yes No No opinion

10/20 UMD 73 27 \*

*\*\*\*Background and demographic results available upon request*

**Notes:**

The project was approved by IRB on 9/18/20 (project 1657809-1) with an amendment approved on 10/5/20 (project 1657809-2). Students were contacted through an email listserv from which they could unsubscribe. Students were contacted up to three times and asked to participate in the survey. The data are weighted to UMD student population data based on race, ethnicity, sex, and student status (undergraduate or graduate). This procedure accounts for differences in the sample and the known population characteristics and helps correct for differential participation in the survey. The overall sampling margin of error is +/- 1.5% but may be higher for subgroups. The questions were administered using the exact wording above in the order presented above. The survey was programmed in English.

For more information, please contact:

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1. The University of Maryland-Washington Post poll conducted by Ipsos was a collaboration between UMD’s Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement and the Washington Post. The survey was fielded August 24-31, 2020 among a random national sample of 1,929 U.S. citizens drawn from the Ipsos KnowledgePanel. For more details see: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/washington-post-university-of-maryland-poll-by-ipsos-on-voting-issues-aug-24-31/d0ca1dc3-4b85-40b1-92b1-4c91986d0be3/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Results collapsed from the following categories:

   I am registered in my hometown;

   I was registered in my hometown but now I’m registered at my college address;

   I was registered in my hometown but now I’m registered where I am displaced during the pandemic;

   I registered for the first time at my college address;

   I was registered at my college address but now I’m registered in my hometown;

   I was registered at my college address but now I’m registered where I am displaced during the pandemic;

   I registered for the first time where I am displaced during the pandemic. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Statements about duty and choice were randomly ordered, with the answer choices following the same order. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Asked of a randomly selected quarter of the sample. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)