

**Transparency Initiative**

T1. Changing topics, the Maryland Public Information Act grants the public the right to access records and data about public business and how taxpayer funds are spent. The Act was passed 45 years ago in 1970. Many good government groups and public watchdogs say that the law needs to be updated because some important information affecting public health and civil liberties is not accessible to the public as the law originally intended.

Do you agree or disagree that the Maryland Public Information Act should be updated to allow better access to government-funded data and information?

Agree ..... 84%  
Disagree..... 6%  
(Do not read): Not sure/Refused to say ..... 10%

T2. Under the Act, individual agencies charge a fee for public records requests at a level they feel is needed to cover their administrative burden. Now there is a proposal to place a limit on the amount of these fees so they do not deter public records requests, and to establish an independent body to ensure agencies comply with Maryland’s public information laws. Would you support or oppose legislation to limit fees and establish an oversight body?

Support ..... 71%  
Oppose ..... 20%  
(Do not read): Not sure/Refused to say ..... 9%

T3. There is currently an exemption in the Maryland Public Information Act for agricultural operators that prevents the public from accessing their pollution control plans, even though agriculture receives taxpayer dollars to support those pollution control efforts. Some farmers say it would violate their privacy if the government were to disclose their pollution control plans. Would you support or oppose legislation to close this loophole and make agricultural pollution control plans available to the public?

Support ..... 77%  
Oppose ..... 15%  
(Do not read): Not sure/Refused to say ..... 9%

T4. All things considered, how strongly do you support or oppose updating the Maryland Public Information Act? (Read choices.)

Strongly support ..... 49%  
Somewhat support ..... 38%  
Total Support..... 87%  
Somewhat oppose ..... 5%  
Strongly oppose ..... 3%  
Total Oppose..... 8%  
(Do not read):  
Depends..... 2%  
Not sure/Refused to say ..... 2%

Maryland Voter Survey - February 3-11, 2015 - OpinionWorks, LLC

QT1. Changing topics, the Maryland Public Information Act grants the public the right to access records and data about public business and how taxpayer funds are spent... Do you agree or disagree that the Maryland Public Information Act should be updated to allow better access to government-funded data and information?

	===PARTY REG==			=GENDER==		==POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY==					=====RACE=====			=====AGE=====				=====EDUCATION=====				=====GEOGRAPHY=====						
	ALL	Dem	Rep	Othr	Male	Fe- male	Very Cons	Cons	Mod	Lib	Very Lib	Whit	Afr- Amer	Othr	<35	35- 49	50- 64	65+	HSor Less	Some Coll	4-yr Dgre	Grad Work	Balt City	Balt Cnty	Mont gmry	Prnc Geo	Big 10	Rurl 14
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)	(N)	(O)	(P)	(Q)	(R)	(S)	(T)	(U)	(V)	(W)	(X)	(Y)	(Z)	(A2)	(B2)
	493	275	127	91	236	257	27	126	176	102	24	310	123	66	88	120	160	118	94	115	146	132	47	78	83	79	421	72
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
UNWEIGHTED TOTAL	500	284	127	89	224	276	29	126	186	103	21	317	122	68	47	167	203	78	94	109	151	141	49	76	85	74	425	75
Agree	416	240	95	81	191	225	21	100	154	92	22	254	113	54	69	101	136	102	82	102	132	94	44	62	70	70	355	61
	84%	87%	75%	89%	81%	87%	76%	79%	87%	90%	92%	82%	91%	83%	78%	84%	85%	87%	87%	89%	90%	72%	93%	80%	85%	89%	84%	85%
		C		C		e				gH		L						V	V	V		XA2						
Disagree	29	13	14	2	19	11	2	11	7	3	-	20	6	3	8	7	10	5	8	5	5	12	-	10	5	3	24	5
	6%	5%	11%	2%	8%	4%	6%	9%	4%	3%		6%	5%	5%	9%	6%	6%	4%	8%	4%	3%	9%		13%	6%	4%	6%	7%
			BD		f			j														U		ZA2				
Not sure/Refused to say	47	23	17	7	26	22	5	15	16	7	2	36	4	8	11	12	14	11	4	7	10	26	3	5	7	6	41	6
	10%	8%	14%	8%	11%	8%	17%	12%	9%	7%	8%	12%	4%	12%	12%	10%	9%	9%	5%	6%	7%	20%	7%	6%	9%	7%	10%	8%
												M		m								STU						

Comparison Groups: BCD/EF/GHIJK/LMN/OPQR/STUV/WXYZA2B2  
 Independent T-Test for Means (equal variances), Independent Z-Test for Percentages  
 Upper case letters indicate significance at the 95% level.  
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QT2. Under the Act, individual agencies charge a fee for public records requests at a level they feel is needed to cover their administrative burden. Now there is a proposal to place a limit on the amount of these fees so they do not deter public records requests, and to establish an independent body to ensure agencies comply with Maryland's public information laws. Would you support or oppose legislation to limit fees and establish an oversight body?

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	ALL	Dem	Rep	Othr	Male	Fe- male	Very Cons	Cons	Mod	Lib	Very Lib	Whit	Afr-	Othr	<35	35- 49	50- 64	65+	HSor Less	Some Coll	4-yr Dgre	Grad Work	Balt City	Balt Cnty	Mont gmry	Prnc Geo	Big 10	Rurl 14	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)	(N)	(O)	(P)	(Q)	(R)	(S)	(T)	(U)	(V)	(W)	(X)	(Y)	(Z)	(A2)	(B2)	
	493	275	127	91	236	257	27	126	176	102	24	310	123	66	88	120	160	118	94	115	146	132	47	78	83	79	421	72	
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
UNWEIGHTED TOTAL	500	284	127	89	224	276	29	126	186	103	21	317	122	68	47	167	203	78	94	109	151	141	49	76	85	74	425	75	
Support	352	208	76	67	163	189	18	82	132	86	17	218	95	44	58	89	119	82	66	88	107	87	29	58	55	56	296	55	
	71%	76%	60%	74%	69%	74%	68%	65%	75%	84%	69%	70%	77%	68%	66%	74%	74%	70%	70%	77%	73%	66%	61%	75%	67%	71%	70%	77%	
		C		C					h	gHi									v								w		
Oppose	97	46	37	15	56	41	-	39	31	10	4	63	18	16	23	25	26	22	17	17	27	34	11	15	20	13	85	11	
	20%	17%	29%	16%	24%	16%		31%	18%	10%	18%	20%	14%	24%	26%	21%	16%	19%	18%	15%	19%	26%	23%	19%	24%	17%	20%	16%	
			BD		F			IJ	j											T									
Not sure/Refused to say	44	21	14	9	17	27	8	6	13	6	3	28	10	6	8	6	15	14	11	10	12	10	8	4	7	9	39	5	
	9%	8%	11%	10%	7%	11%	32%	4%	7%	6%	13%	9%	8%	8%	9%	5%	9%	12%	12%	9%	8%	8%	16%	6%	9%	12%	9%	7%	

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QT3. There is currently an exemption in the Maryland Public Information Act for agricultural operators... Would you support or oppose legislation to close this loophole and make agricultural pollution control plans available to the public?

	===PARTY REG==			=GENDER==		==POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY==					=====RACE=====			=====AGE=====				=====EDUCATION=====				=====GEOGRAPHY=====						
	ALL	Dem	Rep	Othr	Male	Fe- male	Very Cons	Cons Mod	Lib	Very Lib	Whit	Afr- Amer	Othr	<35	35- 49	50- 64	65+	HSor Less	Some Coll	4-yr Dgre	Grad Work	Balt City	Balt Cnty	Mont gmry	Prnc Geo	Big 10	Rurl 14	
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)	(N)	(O)	(P)	(Q)	(R)	(S)	(T)	(U)	(V)	(W)	(X)	(Y)	(Z)	(A2)	(B2)
	493	275	127	91	236	257	27	126	176	102	24	310	123	66	88	120	160	118	94	115	146	132	47	78	83	79	421	72
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
UNWEIGHTED TOTAL	500	284	127	89	224	276	29	126	186	103	21	317	122	68	47	167	203	78	94	109	151	141	49	76	85	74	425	75
Support	378	231	78	70	184	194	13	87	144	85	23	231	104	45	65	93	117	99	65	95	114	100	37	55	67	66	327	51
	77%	84%	61%	77%	78%	75%	47%	69%	82%	84%	97%	75%	85%	69%	74%	78%	73%	84%	69%	83%	78%	76%	78%	70%	82%	84%	78%	71%
		C		C				G	GH	GH	GHIJ		LN					Q		S						xb2		
Oppose	73	30	30	13	38	35	7	29	19	11	1	48	12	15	17	21	22	9	21	13	16	22	5	18	7	9	60	13
	15%	11%	23%	14%	16%	13%	27%	23%	11%	11%	3%	15%	10%	23%	19%	18%	14%	8%	22%	11%	11%	16%	11%	23%	8%	11%	14%	18%
			B				iK	IJK						M	r	R			tU				wYz					
Not sure/Refused to say	42	14	19	8	14	29	7	11	14	5	-	31	7	6	6	5	20	9	9	6	16	10	5	5	8	4	35	8
	9%	5%	15%	9%	6%	11%	26%	8%	8%	5%		10%	5%	9%	7%	4%	13%	8%	9%	6%	11%	8%	11%	7%	10%	5%	8%	11%
			B			E	HIJ										P											

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QT4. All things considered, how strongly do you support or oppose updating the Maryland Public Information Act?  
Strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose?

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	ALL	Dem	Rep	Othr	Male	Fe- male	Very Cons	Cons	Mod	Lib	Very Lib	Whit	Afr-	Othr	<35	35- 49	50- 64	65+	HSor Less	Some Coll	4-yr Dgre	Grad Work	Balt City	Balt Cnty	Mont gmry	Prnc Geo	Big 10	Rurl 14
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)	(N)	(O)	(P)	(Q)	(R)	(S)	(T)	(U)	(V)	(W)	(X)	(Y)	(Z)	(A2)	(B2)
	493	275	127	91	236	257	27	126	176	102	24	310	123	66	88	120	160	118	94	115	146	132	47	78	83	79	421	72
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
UNWEIGHTED TOTAL	500	284	127	89	224	276	29	126	186	103	21	317	122	68	47	167	203	78	94	109	151	141	49	76	85	74	425	75
Strongly support	243	152	38	53	121	123	10	54	85	60	19	138	79	30	35	55	86	64	48	68	72	53	27	34	38	49	207	36
	49%	55%	30%	58%	51%	48%	38%	43%	48%	59%	78%	45%	64%	46%	40%	46%	54%	55%	51%	59%	49%	40%	58%	43%	46%	63%	49%	51%
		C		C						gH	GHIj		LN				o		V							XYA2		
Somewhat support	188	105	55	28	81	107	12	49	72	38	5	126	41	23	39	50	57	41	34	39	61	52	14	33	35	24	158	29
	38%	38%	43%	31%	34%	41%	45%	39%	41%	37%	22%	41%	33%	34%	44%	41%	36%	35%	36%	34%	42%	39%	29%	43%	43%	31%	38%	41%
			d				k		k																			
TOTAL SUPPORT	431	257	93	81	202	229	22	103	157	98	24	264	119	53	74	104	143	105	82	107	133	105	41	67	73	73	365	66
	87%	93%	74%	89%	86%	89%	83%	82%	89%	96%	100%	85%	97%	81%	84%	87%	89%	89%	87%	93%	91%	80%	88%	86%	89%	93%	87%	92%
		C		C						gHI	GHIj		LN						V	V						a2		
Somewhat oppose	26	6	16	5	16	10	2	12	7	3	-	18	3	5	6	8	6	5	6	4	6	11	2	4	6	2	25	1
	5%	2%	12%	5%	7%	4%	6%	9%	4%	3%		6%	3%	8%	7%	7%	4%	4%	6%	3%	4%	8%	3%	5%	7%	3%	6%	2%
			Bd					iJ													t			b2		B2		
Strongly oppose	13	4	9	-	10	3	-	6	4	1	-	10	1	2	2	5	6	-	3	2	2	7	2	4	2	-	10	3
	3%	1%	7%		4%	1%		5%	2%	1%		3%	1%	2%	3%	4%	4%		3%	1%	1%	5%	4%	5%	3%		2%	4%
			B		f			j				m									tu							
TOTAL OPPOSE	39	9	25	5	26	13	2	18	11	4	-	28	4	7	9	13	12	5	8	5	7	18	3	8	8	2	35	4
	8%	3%	20%	5%	11%	5%	6%	14%	6%	4%		9%	3%	10%	10%	11%	7%	4%	9%	4%	5%	14%	7%	10%	10%	3%	8%	5%
			BD		F			IJ				M		m		R					TU		z	z		z		
Depends	12	6	4	2	5	7	2	4	2	-	-	8	-	3	2	1	2	5	-	-	4	5	2	2	-	1	10	1
	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	8%	3%	1%			3%		5%	2%	1%	1%	4%			3%	3%	5%	2%		2%	2%	2%
							i																					
Not sure / refused to say	11	3	4	4	3	8	1	1	6	-	-	10	-	2	3	1	3	3	3	3	1	4	-	2	1	2	11	1
	2%	1%	3%	4%	1%	3%	3%	1%	4%			3%		4%	4%	1%	2%	3%	4%	2%	1%	3%		2%	1%	2%	2%	1%
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