



CENTER FOR
DEMOCRACY AND
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC POLICY
CIVIC INNOVATION CENTER



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COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM
THE SHIRLEY POVICH CENTER
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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](#) in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, the [Civic Maryland Initiative](#) in the School of Public Policy, and the [Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism](#) 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](#) conducted by [Ipsos](#) (labeled UMDPost below).¹ Additional questions are held for future release.

Values represent percentages and may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
* indicates less than 1 percent

Are you currently registered to vote?

	Yes	No
10/20 UMD	97	3

Which of the following best describes where you are registered?²

	Hometown	College Address	Where Displaced	No opinion
10/20 UMD	89	7	1	4

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

	Absolutely certain to vote	Will probably vote	Chances are 50-50	Less than 50-50 chance	No opinion
10/20 UMD	84	11	3	3	*
08/20 UMDPost	78	7	5	10	*

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/d0caldc3-4b85-40b1-92b1-4c91986d0be3/>

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.

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?

	In person at a polling place	By mail	By dropping off your ballot at an election office, polling place or ballot box	No 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 Election Day	Before Election Day	No 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 -----					
	Net	In person	By mail	Drop off	No op.	Net	In person	By mail	Drop off	No op.	No 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?

	Hometown	College Address	Where Displaced	No opinion
10/20 UMD	80	16	4	*

Have you made a plan to vote?

	Yes	No
10/20 UMD	84	16

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

	Yes	No	No opinion
10/20 UMD	70	30	*

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

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?³

	Yes	No
10/20 UMD	33	67

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 Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not too Important	Not at all Important	No 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	*

³ Asked of a randomly selected quarter of the sample.

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, though some questions have been held for future release. The survey was programmed in English.

For more information, please contact:

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