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## **County Survey Finds Residents Focused on Coronavirus Situation**

A survey of 358 Anne Arundel County residents conducted March 23-28 using an online panel of respondents by Anne Arundel Community College found that 69 percent of the respondents placed concern with coronavirus/COVID-19 as “the most important problem faced by residents at the current time.” This was followed by “the economy” chosen by 10 percent. In the recent past, surveys have shown drugs, taxes, crime, the environment and education as leading issues. This spring, all of these issues were dwarfed by concern with the pandemic. Another section of the survey asked respondents to identify how serious various problems were in the county. Again, the coronavirus situation was dominant as it was cited as “very serious” by 60 percent, with “the management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay” (52 percent) and easy access to opioids (48 percent) also among the leading issues.

About 10 percent of residents said they “know someone (including yourself) who has been diagnosed with coronavirus,” with another 4 percent saying that they had tried to get tested but haven’t been able to do so.<sup>1</sup>

As seen in Table 1, respondents had a variety of reactions to the changes in lifestyle and work that have been introduced. Almost everyone (95 percent) affirmed that they avoided situations that might cause exposure to COVID-19. Another third (34 percent) agreed that such efforts had caused “unhappiness due to social isolation.” About 9 percent said that they “were suffering unrelated health problems due to closure of services.”

A large percentage (70 percent) affirmed that finding key items such as toilet paper, masks and gloves was difficult. Another 40 percent said that they had “stocked up on goods or supplies more than normal.” About two-thirds (62 percent) had changed their travel plans. Slightly below one half (46 percent) had moved to online purchases of goods, with a nearly identical percentage (43 percent) changing work routines by working online.

Among those who said that they were employed full-time, the change to online work was dramatic: 68 percent cited such a change. About one-quarter of those employed full-time (26 percent) had “seen a reduction of hours or had been laid off,” but those employed “part-time” (58 percent) or were self-employed/consultants (57 percent) were much more likely to claim reductions in hours or layoffs.

While 14 percent said that they “had to manage day care or home schooling” this figure rose to 25 percent for those employed full-time.

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<sup>1</sup> According to an ABC/Langer Associates poll out on March 27, the national percentage is nearly identical: 11 percent. See [https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/coronavirus-impacts-disrupted-lives-elevated-stress-soaringworry/story?id=69812058&mc\\_cid=c8fa8d89b9&mc\\_eid=\[UNIQID\]](https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/coronavirus-impacts-disrupted-lives-elevated-stress-soaringworry/story?id=69812058&mc_cid=c8fa8d89b9&mc_eid=[UNIQID])

**Table 1: Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Employment, Lifestyle, Habits**

	Yes	No	Unsure, N.A.
Decided to avoid situations that might expose you to CV	95	3	1
Found it difficult to obtain some key items like toilet paper, masks or gloves	70	27	3
Changed travel plans	62	30	4
Changed work routines by working online	43	41	13
Moved to purchase of goods online	46	52	2
Stocked up on goods or supplies more than normal	40	56	0
Unhappiness due to social isolation (“social distancing”)	34	60	6
Seen a reduction of hours or been laid off	25	66	10
Had to manage day care or home schooling	14	74	11
Are suffering unrelated health problems due to closure of services	9	88	3

Asked to describe in their own words “**the most challenging aspect of adapting to the coronavirus pandemic for you or your household**” responses were coded into a set of categories and are shown on Table 2. The largest response (37 percent) pertained to *isolation* from friends, family and other social gatherings. Comments included, “I’m isolated from friends and worry about family” and “Being isolated from usual things and unsure of what’s safe and what’s not...”

*Fear of running out of supplies* was second – 16 percent. One person said, “I have challenges obtaining groceries - pickup services cancelled, don't want to take children inside, single parent.” Another said, “Shelves in the stores are empty when trying to buy everyday items (toilet paper, bread, canned goods), due to people hoarding these items.” “Fear of not being able to get food and prescriptions” or “Fear of running out of food due to empty store shelves” were other typical comments.

*Diffuse fears* relating to how to cope with the situation and the uncertainty about duration of the crisis accounted for another 9 percent. “Keeping a positive mental outlook amidst all the doom and gloom” or “Family stress and fear from differing views of what to do and when it’s safe to go out” and “Fear of being exposed by running normal errands, shopping for necessities, seeing friends and family. I live alone. There are no hugs anymore” were examples of comments. Another group (6 percent) cited “*fear of infection*, others not following social distancing.”

*Boredom*, loneliness and confinement to close quarters were 8 percent. Fear of infection especially from others who weren’t following recommended social distancing was mentioned by 6 percent. “Anxiety is kicking in every worse way due to the fact that I’m at home and thinking about stuff and not able to go out.”

*Economic impacts* such as layoffs, lack of income, business closings, online work or losses to retirement accounts were mentioned by 8 percent. “Budgeting for mortgage/bills with decreased income. Spouse is a grocery store employee so we worry about exposure to people defying best practices.”

Some (5 percent) mentioned *children*: “It’s hard for us to keep the kids at home, we are very socially active, and staying home has been tough” or “Keeping the kids away from friends.” One

respondent mentioned, “Our child attends private school and they created a great online structure but we are still working outside the home and not able to provide enough oversight.”

A few respondents (4 percent) mentioned difficulties of getting *accurate information*, sometimes lauding Governor Hogan and lamenting the federal level. One respondent lamented “The uncertainty and the ineptitude of the federal government. Thank God for Governor Hogan!” See Appendix B for a listing of the comments.

**Table 2: Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic – Coded Open Responses**

	Count	Percentage
Isolation from family, friends, social gatherings	48	37
Lack of groceries, supplies, fear of running out	21	16
Diffuse fear and anxiety (duration, coping)	12	9
Boredom, loneliness, confinement at home, close quarters	10	8
Economic impacts – layoffs, lack of income, retirement losses, business closing, online work	10	8
Fear of infection, others not practicing social distancing	8	6
Children – homeschooling, keeping them busy, explaining why they are home, controlling their fears	6	5
Disruption of routines	5	4
Inability to get reliable information	5	4
Lack of access to other needed services	4	3
Can’t go out as before	2	2
Total	131	100

The survey asked specifically, “**How much do you trust information about the coronavirus pandemic and how to cope with it coming from...**” various sources. Results are shown on Table 3. Governor Hogan was clearly the most trusted source, with 92 percent saying they trusted him “a great deal” or “a good amount.” The least trusted source was President Trump – 34 percent. His low numbers were based on sharply polarized partisan perceptions: While 62 percent of Republicans trusted him in the top two categories, only 5 percent of Democrats and 34 percent of unaffiliated individuals did so. By comparison, 97 percent of Democrats and 88 percent of Republicans trusted Hogan along with 92 percent of unaffiliated respondents.

**Table 3: How Much Do You Trust Information About Coronavirus from Various Sources**

	Great+ good deal	Great deal	Good amount	Only some	Not much	Not at all	N.A.
President Donald Trump	34	18	16	12	11	42	0
Governor Larry Hogan	92	58	34	7	1	0	0
County Executive Steuart Pittman	51	24	27	12	5	3	29
County and state health officials	77	39	38	9	4	0	10
Federal health officials	72	33	39	21	5	2	1

The survey asked, “**Do you approve the following actions to cope with the coronavirus pandemic.**” Table 4 shows each of the proposed actions and the percentage approving in varying degrees. Looking just at the “great deal” answer, all the actions received a majority of support. Preventing public gatherings were the most widely supported (81 percent) but even legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly received a high “great deal” score (72 percent). In terms of the latter, there was a partisan bias – with 88 percent of Democrats and only 58 percent of Republicans liking the legislation “a great deal” – large majorities of both party registrants liked the legislation at least “a good amount”: Democrats 98 percent, Republicans 86 percent.

**Table 4: Do You Approve These Actions to Cope with Coronavirus**

	Great deal	Good deal	Only some	Not very much	Not at all
Efforts to prevent public gatherings	81	14	4	1	1
Closure of malls	76	15	5	2	1
Movement of colleges to online format	76	19	2	2	1
Legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly including expanding unemployment benefits, setting job protections, requiring that testing and any future vaccines be covered by insurance	72	18	7	2	0
Efforts to provide financial support for those whose income has been curtailed	71	17	12	1	0
Movement of public schools to online format	70	21	7	1	1
Actions to prevent hoarding of key goods	70	18	8	4	1
Delaying the Maryland primary elections	60	18	17	3	2

The survey asked, **“In light of how the United States has handled the coronavirus pandemic, would you say that the American health care system needs no change, some change or great change?”**

In response, 89 percent said that the system needs at least “some change.” Table 5 shows the overall results along with partisan differences. Democrats were about three times more likely to say “great change” (68 percent) than were Republicans (23 percent).

Many of those favoring “great change” mentioned universal health care coverage, single payer, Medicare for All and an expansion of the Affordable Care Act. They also emphasized a stronger federal coordinating and planning role, as well as the need to provide coverage for all during the pandemic. Many of those favoring “some change” were focused on the planning process, arguing that the lack of supplies for health care workers and the inability to effectively structure a national response indicated that more advanced planning was required. Both groups tended to agree with this assessment, often coupled with an admonition that politics take a back seat to health experts and science. Many of the specific comments are available in Appendix C.

**Table 5: How Much Change Does US Health System Need**

	Overall	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
No change	9	0	16	12
Some change	45	31	61	38
Great change	44	68	23	44
No answer, unsure	2	1	1	7
Total	101	100	100	101

A final question touching on the pandemic and government policy stated, “The United States is the only major country that does not provide paid sick leave for workers.” Respondents were then asked to indicate whether they favored “No changes are needed to America’s sick leave policy,” “America should require paid sick leave for at least a majority of workers,” or “America should require paid sick leave for all workers.” Table 6 shows the results. There was clearly a strongly partisan difference on this issue, although the unaffiliated respondents leaned more toward the Democratic position.

**Table 6: How Much Change to America’s Paid Sick Leave Policy is Needed?**

	Overall	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
No changes are needed to America’s sick leave policy	21	5	40	11
America should require paid sick leave for at least a majority of workers	28	29	26	29
America should require paid sick leave for all workers.	45	65	23	54
No answer, unsure	7	2	11	6
Total	101	100	100	101

## Summary of Other Findings

Below is a summary of some of the other findings from this survey. The summary includes benchmark questions such as right vs. wrong direction for the county, state and country. Economic conditions ratings were included as well as questions about personal economic circumstances such as facing the possibility of unemployment, the cost of education and health care. The survey included discussions of other state and national policies not directly related to coronavirus, such as the Kirwan Commission recommendations for public schools, foreign policy, presidential voting preferences and trust in political parties.

The actual questionnaire and percentages can be found in Appendix A at the end of the press release. Open-ended comments can be found in Appendices B and C.

**Most Important Problem Facing County Residents:** This topic was already covered above.

### Right Direction/Wrong Direction

The percentage of those saying that the **county** was moving in the right direction was 51 percent a year ago; after rising to 54 percent last fall it has reached 59 percent this spring. Regarding the **state**, there was an increase from 56 percent last spring to 70 percent this spring. The percentage applicable to the **country** stayed in the same general range for the last few surveys: 32 percent compared to 31 percent last fall. Current results are shown below on Table 7.

**Table 7: Are things headed in the right or wrong direction for the county, the state of Maryland and the country as a whole?**

	Right	Wrong	Unsure/Don't know
Anne Arundel County	59	22	20
Maryland	70	16	15
US	32	50	18

### Rating Economic Conditions - County, State and Country

For the county, the percentage saying “excellent” or “good” was down a few points from 73 last fall to 68 this spring. At the state level, the spring percentage was also down – from 70 percent last fall to 62 percent. The federal level was down to 44 percent from 53 percent.

**Table 8: Rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County, in Maryland, and in the United States generally -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?**

	Excellent+ Good	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	Unsure/Don't know
Anne Arundel County	68	11	57	24	4	4
Maryland	62	10	52	28	6	3
US	44	9	35	31	20	6

A new question asked, “**Thinking ahead for the next few years, do you expect the national economy to improve, stay the same or get worse?**” The sample was quite divided about how to think of the future, with a plurality saying “Improve” (41 percent) but another large group saying either “Stay the same” (23 percent) or “Get worse” (27 percent). Another 9 percent were unsure. There was a sharp partisan bias to these results as shown in Table 9, with Democrats much more pessimistic (24 percent) than either Republicans (55 percent improve) or unaffiliated voters (49 percent).

**Table 9: Will National Economy Improve, Stay Same or Worsen?**

	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Unaffiliated</b>
Improve	41	24	55	49
Stay the same	23	19	28	22
Worsen	27	43	13	22
No answer, unsure	9	14	4	9
Total	100	100	100	101

### **Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents**

Since 2008, the semi-annual survey has asked respondents whether certain economic conditions and perceptions applied to them or their households. Table 9a shows the results for this spring with a comparison from last fall. The most notable results appear to be a jump in the percentage saying “facing the possibility of unemployment” (from 10 to 15 percent) as well as a decline in the percentage saying “found a new or better job recently” (from 15 to 5 percent). Overall, it was a mixed picture with some measures of economic distress such as “health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate” dropping from 33 to 25 percent.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The percentage saying “facing the possibility of unemployment” was slightly higher among full-time workers (16 percent), and much higher among the self-employed (39 percent) and students (44 percent). The latter two categories had relatively small case numbers however.

**Table 9a: Economic Conditions Applying to Personal Circumstances –  
Fall 2019/Spring 2020**

	<b>Applies Fall 2019</b>	<b>Applies Spring 2020</b>	<b>Doesn't apply</b>	<b>Unsure, no answer</b>
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	47	<b>37</b>	60	3
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	41	<b>40</b>	59	0
Facing the possibility of unemployment	10	<b>15</b>	74	11
Found a new or better job recently	15	<b>5</b>	94	1
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	24	<b>19</b>	79	2
Hard to afford the cost of education beyond high school	24	<b>21</b>	74	5
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	33	<b>25</b>	74	1
Hard to afford the cost of prescription drugs	n.a.	<b>22</b>	76	2
Taxes are too high in relation to government services provided	53	<b>46</b>	40	14



## State and Local Issues

A major focus of non-coronavirus related policy was the Kirwan Commission and its findings regarding public school reform. Table 10 shows the results for this section. The reforms suggested in the question – expanded prekindergarten, higher teacher pay and more vocational training – were strongly supported, with 64 percent favoring them. However, when asked about measures to pay for the additional costs to the state and localities, respondents were more ambiguous. They resisted the extension of sales taxes to services (only 31 percent supported), and any taxes on digital downloads of music, books and music (35 percent). They were more favorable to taxes on digital advertisements (54 percent), corporate loopholes (71 percent) and tobacco (74 percent).

**Table 10: Kirwan Commission Reforms and Proposals to Pay for Them**

	Support	Oppose	Unsure/NA
Maryland’s Kirwan Commission suggested public school changes such as expanded prekindergarten, increased teacher pay and more vocational training. <b>Do you support or oppose such changes?</b>	64	30	7
When fully implemented after 10 years, these changes would add \$4 billion annually to government expenditures. A variety of taxes have been proposed to cover the cost. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these: <b>The extension of sales taxes to services such as car repairs and haircuts while decreasing the overall sale tax rate by one point.</b>	31	60	9
A tax on digital downloads of music, books and movies	35	59	6
A tax on digital advertisements	54	36	10
A tax on corporate loopholes	71	23	6
Increasing the tax on tobacco	74	24	4

**Table 10a: Kirwan Proposals by Party Registration**

	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Unaffil.</b>
Maryland’s Kirwan Commission suggested public school changes such as expanded prekindergarten, increased teacher pay and more vocational training. <b>Do you support or oppose such changes?</b>	64	87	45	57
When fully implemented after 10 years, these changes would add \$4 billion annually to government expenditures. A variety of taxes have been proposed to cover the cost. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these: <b>The extension of sales taxes to services such as car repairs and haircuts while decreasing the overall sale tax rate by one point.</b>	31	46	19	27
A tax on digital downloads of music, books and movies	35	50	25	27
A tax on digital advertisements	54	71	42	43
A tax on corporate loopholes	71	93	48	80
Increasing the tax on tobacco	74	94	59	62

As seen on Table 10a, the only tax proposal supported by a majority of Republicans was to increase tobacco taxes. Even Democrats didn’t generate a majority (46 percent) in support of extending the sales tax to services. Unaffiliated voters were inclined to support both the tobacco tax as well as the tax on corporate loopholes.

The survey also asked about other state and local issues. These are shown in Table 11. Almost all of the proposals mentioned obtained a majority in support. The largest majority applied to the idea of imposing more restrictions on the development of property close to congested intersections. This was in keeping with concerns with transportation and development that were found in previous recent surveys. Other measures such as the legalization of recreational marijuana or establishment of a local progressive income tax obtained bare majorities. Several of these proposals had relatively large unsure/no answer percentages, implying that the public wasn’t sufficiently knowledgeable to make an informed judgment.

**Table 11: Support or Opposition to Various Measures**

	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Unsure/NA</b>
The legalization of recreational marijuana	50	43	6
Having local governments vary income taxes so that those with higher incomes pay more	52	38	10
Treating gun violence as a public health issue instead of only as a criminal justice issue	53	34	13
Imposing more restrictions on the development of property close to congested intersections	81	7	11
Have local candidates receive matching public funds if they raise enough small contributions from individuals and reject large contributions from individuals and corporations	49	34	17
Putting stronger restrictions on short-term rentals like AirBNB such as the limit to owning only two rentals in the county or having owners pay a \$400 fee for licensing every two years	52	33	15

**Table 11a: Support for Various Measures by Party Registration**

	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Dems</b>	<b>Reps</b>	<b>Unaffil.</b>
The legalization of recreational marijuana	50	66	32	60
Having local governments vary income taxes so that those with higher incomes pay more	52	77	31	47
Treating gun violence as a public health issue instead of only as a criminal justice issue	53	79	31	48
Imposing more restrictions on the development of property close to congested intersections	81	87	74	87
Have local candidates receive matching public funds if they raise enough small contributions from individuals and reject large contributions from individuals and corporations.	49	72	29	46
Putting stronger restrictions on short-term rentals like AirBNB such as the limit to owning only two rentals in the county or having owners pay a \$400 fee for licensing every two years.	52	63	43	49

Table 11a shows that Democrats were consistently in favor of each of these proposals. By contrast Republicans were generally opposed. Unaffiliated voters were somewhat more favorable than Republicans, especially regarding the legalization of recreational marijuana where their percentage (60 percent support) was down only slightly from the Democratic percentage (66 percent).

The last question in that set focused on recent legislation dealing with short-term rentals – including some regulations that would limit the availability of such rentals. The idea of placing stronger restrictions obtained a small majority (52 percent) with a large unsure/no answer percentage of 15 percent. There was also a sharp 20-point difference between Democrats and Republicans, with the latter less favorable to restrictions.

That question about short-term rentals was followed up by another asking respondents whether they had used a short-term rental within the last couple of years. A total of 36 percent said they had. Table 11b shows that those who had were less favorable to imposing restrictions compared to those who had not used such rentals. Clearly, there was less support (45 percent) for restrictions by those who had used them in the recent past compared to those who had not (55 percent).

**Table 11b: Support for Short-term Rentals Restrictions by Use of Such Rentals**

	Support	
	Used	Not Used
Putting stronger restrictions on short-term rentals like AirBNB such as the limit to owning only two rentals in the county or having owners pay a \$400 fee for licensing every two years.	45	55

## Seriousness of Various Issues

This topic was broached briefly above when mentioning the percentage who perceived “the possibility of coronavirus spreading into Maryland” as being the most serious issue among all the items. Clearly there were two tiers of issues – those near or above 50 percent “very serious” and those significantly below. The former dealt with more “concrete” issues such as opioids, coronavirus, housing costs and run-off. The latter were less specific and reflected attitudes more than the others.

Three issues were bunched together: management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay (52 percent), the high cost of housing (49 percent) and having easy access to opioids (48 percent). Among the attitudinal categories, the “growth in income and wealth inequality” received the highest percentage of “very serious” responses (35 percent).

**Table 12: Seriousness of Various Issues**

Issue	How serious=>	Very	Somewhat	Not very	N.A.
The possibility of coronavirus spreading into Maryland		60	35	3	2
The management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay		52	36	8	5
High cost of housing		49	39	9	4
Having easy access to opioids		48	31	6	15
The growth in income and wealth inequality		35	35	27	4
The lack of trust in government		30	46	23	3
The lack of trust in corporations		29	44	23	3
Hate crimes in the county		21	43	33	4
The lack of trust in other people, especially those different than you		20	37	40	4

Among the attitudinal items, several showed large differences among partisans (see Table 12a). Democrats were much more likely to regard the lack of trust in other people and corporations as serious than were Republicans or unaffiliated voters. They were also much more likely to highlight the importance of hate crimes and the growth in income and wealth inequality. By contrast there was relatively little difference regarding the “lack of trust in government” as both Democrats (30 percent) and Republicans (31 percent) seemed to find consensus on that attitude. Democrats were less concerned with “easy access to opioids” (44 percent) than were Republicans (54 percent). By contrast, Democrats were more concerned with the spread of coronavirus (69 vs. 50 percent), the management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay (66 to 43 percent) and the high cost of housing (59 to 42 percent).

**Table 12a: Seriousness of Issues by Party Registration (% saying very serious)**

Issue	Very serious=>	Overall	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
The possibility of coronavirus spreading into your community		60	69	50	68
The management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay		52	66	43	40
High cost of housing		49	59	42	43
Having easy access to opioids		48	44	54	40
The growth in income and wealth inequality		35	65	11	25
The lack of trust in government		30	30	31	23
The lack of trust in corporations		29	39	20	27
Hate crimes in the county		21	34	12	10
The lack of trust in other people, especially those different than you		20	30	13	11

The last group of issues in this section focused on *foreign policy*. Three countries were discussed – China, Russia and Iran – as well as the general concern with climate change. Of the four, only the “possibility of war with Iran” did not reach the 50 percent “very serious” threshold (See Table 12b).

**Table 12b: Seriousness of Issues – Foreign Policy**

Issue	How serious=>	Very	Somewhat	Not very	N.A.
The threat posed by climate change		54	18	27	0
The threat to American democracy posed by Russia		52	30	18	0
The rising economic and military threat posed by China		50	32	15	3
The possibility of war with Iran		19	47	32	1

Looking at the issues by party on Table 12c, differences were apparent. While Democrats were much more concerned with Russia (66 percent) than China (34 percent) – it was the opposite for Republicans (40 and 61 percent). Neither party seemed too worried about Iran. But the largest cleavage was with regard to climate change which presented a 64-point difference between Democrats (87 percent) and Republicans (23 percent). Unaffiliated respondents were in the middle but with a majority saying “very serious” (54 percent). These findings are consistent with previous findings in these and other surveys about partisan divides regarding climate change.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> See for example the survey conducted by Pew Research in 2019. Asked whether the federal government “is doing too little to reduce the effects of climate change,” Democrats wholeheartedly agreed: 90 percent. By contrast, only 39 percent of Republicans agreed. See <https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2019/11/25/u-s-public-views-on-climate-and-energy/>.

**Table 12c: Very Serious Percent for Foreign Policy Issues - Overall and by Party**

Issue	Very serious=>	Overall	Dems	Reps	Unaffil.
The rising economic and military threat posed by China		50	34	61	60
The threat to American democracy posed by Russia		52	66	40	51
The possibility of war with Iran		19	23	16	21
The threat posed by climate change		54	87	23	54

These foreign policy questions were capped by a general question: **“Thinking about President Trump’s foreign policies, have these made America safer, less safe or no change from the past?”**

Overall, the results were critical of Trump’s policies as only 33 percent said safer while 55 percent said “less safe” with 8 percent saying no change (4 percent unsure, no answer). As shown on Table 12d, there was a 57-point difference between Democrats and Republicans – showing the sharpness of polarization on this issue. Unaffiliated voters were much closer to the Democratic position.

**Table 12d: Trump Made Us Safer? (Percent Saying “Safer” by Party Registration)**

Issue	Percentage
Overall	33
Democrats	6
Republicans	63
Unaffiliated	21

### **Presidential Voting Choices in November 2020**

The survey asked respondents to indicate their choice for president in 2020. As was the case last fall, they were offered the choice of voting for President Trump, voting for a Democrat, voting for another candidate or “don’t know.” There was an increase in support for the generic Democratic candidate (to 53 percent, up from 41 last fall and 37 percent in spring 2019). Support for President Trump also went up a bit - from 33 percent in spring 2019 to 31 percent fall 2019 to 35 percent this spring. Another 8 percent were unsure/no answer. There was a sharp drop in the percentage saying another candidate – from 13 percent last fall to only 5 percent this spring. Among those saying that they were likely to vote in the Democratic primary, Joe Biden was the overwhelming choice of 79 percent – with Bernie Sanders garnering only 13 percent. Another 8 percent said “someone else.” These findings show the consolidation of the Democratic vote around Joe Biden as the presumptive nominee – he was the choice of only 24 percent in fall 2019.

Asked whether they would stick with the nominee even if someone other than “your candidate” was nominated, the great majority (88 percent) said yes, slightly down from the 92 percent last spring. Table 13 shows that Biden voters were slightly less loyal to the party nominee than were Sanders voters. While none of the ideological groups within the Democratic Party were inclined to vote for Trump, moderates did seem more likely to look elsewhere if an

unacceptable nominee appeared. Not shown on Table 13, moderates were also most likely to vote for Biden. “Very liberal” voters were the largest supporters of Bernie Sanders with 45 percent supporting him – but were more willing to stick with Biden than moderates would stick with Sanders.

**Table 13: Would Democrats Stick with a Disliked Democratic Nominee**

	F '19	S '20	Dem Primary Vote			Ideology		
Choices	Overall		Biden	Sanders	Other	Lib.	Mod.	Cons.
Vote for Democrat	92	88	89	92	74	93	86	92
Vote for Donald Trump	1	2	0	0	26	0	0	0
Vote for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party candidate	6	7	7	8	0	4	14	0
Not vote for president	2	3	4	0	0	2	1	8

### Job Approval for County Executive, Governor and President

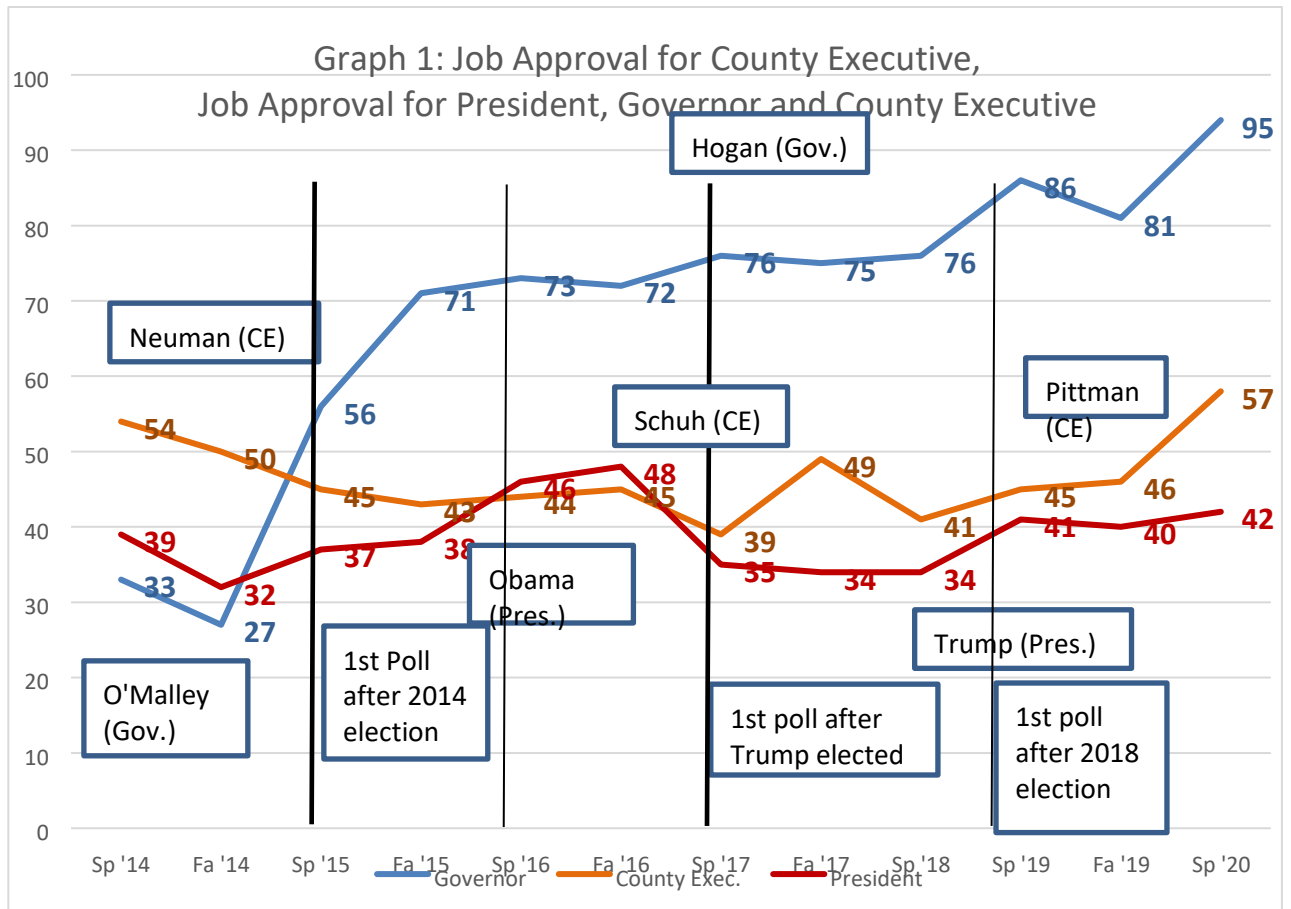
The job approval question used the scale “strongly approve/disapprove, somewhat approve/disapprove.”

As seen on Table 14, combining the strongly and somewhat approval scores, County Executive Steuart Pittman saw his job approval percentage rise from 46 to 57 percent, the highest score in recent history for any county executive. At times of crisis, a “rally effect” in which elected executives experience unprecedented increases in job approval may explain such a sudden rise. This might also apply to Governor Larry Hogan, whose job approval rose from 81 to 95 percent. However, for President Trump the rally effect was very small – his job approval only rose two points from 40 to 42 percent. Pittman’s job approval numbers were limited somewhat by a persistently high percentage having no opinion: 19 percent in spring 2020. This figure was down from 32 percent last spring. By contrast, there were virtually no respondents without an opinion of Hogan and Trump. Graph 1 shows the job approval scores since spring 2014 for the three positions.

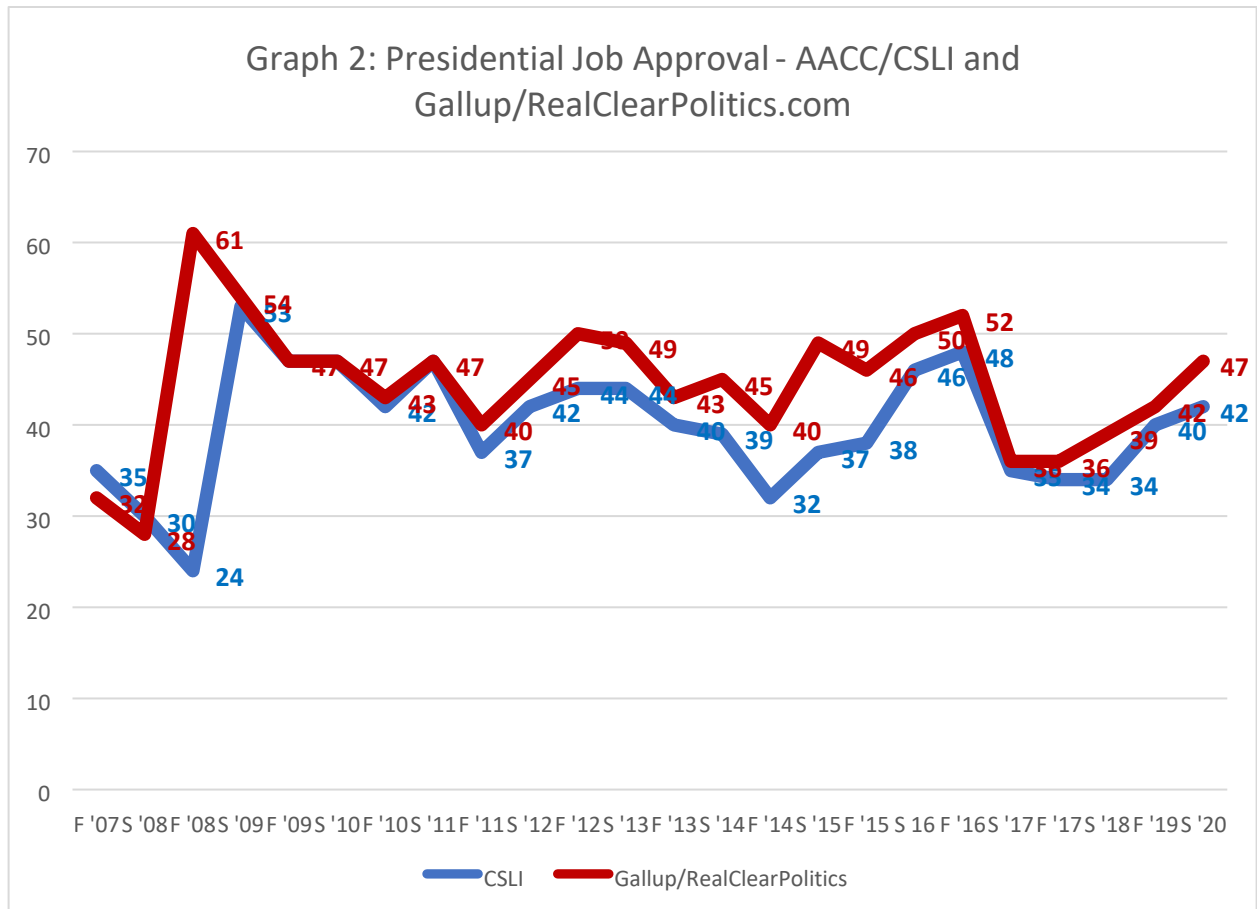
**Table 14: Job Approval by Party**

Percent Approving	Overall F'19	Overall S'20	Dem	Rep	Unaffil.
County Executive Steuart Pittman	46	57	77	42	55
Governor Larry Hogan	81	95	96	94	93
President Donald Trump	40	42	5	77	40





Comparing national presidential job approval percentages with those obtained by AACC/CSLI surveys over the years has produced a similar overall pattern (see Graph 2). However, this spring there was a larger than usual gap. The RealClearPolitics.com overall score for Trump’s job approval was 47 percent compared to our 42 percent. This is probably due to the “rally effect” being higher nationally than locally with Trump experiencing a three-point jump over the last couple of weeks in national polling.



**Which Party Do You Trust?** The fall 2019 figures showed a notable increase in support for Democrats compared to spring 2019 – from 34 to 39 percent: Democrats held steady at 39 percent this spring. Republicans were also almost unchanged moving from 33 to 34 percent.

**Methodology:** The survey polled a random sample of 358 county residents who were at least 18 years old. Historical AACC/CSLI (Center for the Study of Local Issues) surveys have utilized a combination of telephone interviewing conducted by students as well as an online panel. The latter has been assembled by asking telephone respondents to provide us with an email address so that they could be contacted for future surveys via email rather than telephone. This has resulted in over 2000 email addresses resulting in about an 18 percent response rate this spring. An appeal for their participation went out on March 23 – data collection terminated March 28 at noon. The statistical margin of error was about 5.2 percent. The online dataset is less fully representative of all segments of the population than the combined telephone/online product which has been used in the past. As in the past, the dataset was weighted by gender, political party and education to better represent the general population.

Findings from the survey are used in classes to illustrate sociological principles and statistical testing of hypotheses. These findings are also used in political science courses in assignments meant to have students evaluate the impact of ideology and partisanship upon attitudes and policy stances taken by the public.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 and [ddnataf@aacc.edu](mailto:ddnataf@aacc.edu). This press release can be obtained at this site: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Rdg8PabIMrY7D2huicBu3jcwNt\\_Hbps8](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Rdg8PabIMrY7D2huicBu3jcwNt_Hbps8)

Check this other website for results for information and press releases for previous surveys: [www2.aacc.edu/csli](http://www2.aacc.edu/csli).

## Appendix A: Spring 2020 Questionnaire with Frequency Distribution

### AACC Semi-Annual Survey – Spring, 2020

**1. What do you think is the most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time**

Problem	Percentage
<b>Coronavirus</b> – spread, treatment, testing	69
<b>Crime</b> (other than drug related)	1
<b>Drugs</b> (use or sale of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or use of prescription pain killers for non-medical purposes.)	3
<b>Economy</b> – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	10
<b>Education</b> , problems with schools, quality, facilities, staff, discipline	3
<b>Environment</b> (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	0
<b>Government ethics</b> – corrupt, immoral	1
<b>Government waste</b> – inefficient, spends too much	2
<b>Government lack resources</b> –for roads, schools, services	1
<b>Growth/overpopulation</b> - too much development, poorly planned	4
<b>Healthcare</b> (cost, access)	1
<b>Housing cost</b>	1
<b>Racism, hate crimes, discrimination</b>	0
<b>Taxes</b> – too high	2
<b>Transportation</b> problems/traffic congestion, lack of public transit	1
<b>No answer, don't know</b>	0
<b>Other answer - write in:</b>	1

**2. Are things headed in the right or wrong direction for the county, the state of Maryland and the country as a whole?**

	Right	Wrong	Unsure/Don't know
2.1 <b>Anne Arundel County</b>	59	22	20
2.2 <b>Maryland</b>	70	16	15
2.3 <b>US</b>	32	50	18

**3. Next, how do you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County, in Maryland, and in the United States generally -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor?**

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	Unsure/Don't know
3.1 <b>Anne Arundel County</b>	11	57	24	4	4
3.2 <b>Maryland</b>	10	52	28	6	3
3.3 <b>US</b>	9	35	31	20	6

**3.4 Thinking ahead for the next few years, do you expect the national economy to improve, stay the same or get worse?**

(1) Improve 41% (2) stay same 23% (3) get worse 27% (0) no answer/unsure 9%

**4. Thinking now about your personal circumstances, please tell me whether any of these economic conditions apply to you or your household.**

	Applies	Doesn't apply	Unsure, no answer
4.1 Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	37	60	3
4.2 Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	40	59	0
4.3 Facing the possibility of unemployment	15	74	11
4.4 Found a new or better job recently	5	94	1
4.5 Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	19	79	2
4.6 Hard to afford the cost of education beyond high school	21	74	5
4.7 Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	25	74	1
4.8 Hard to afford the cost of prescription drugs	22	76	2
4.9 Taxes are too high in relation to government services provided	46	40	14

**5. Do you support or oppose the following items?**

	Support	Oppose	Unsure/NA
5.1 Maryland's Kirwan Commission suggested public school changes such as expanded prekindergarten, increased teacher pay and more vocational training. <b>Do you support or oppose such changes?</b>	64	30	7
5.2 When fully implemented after 10 years, these changes would add \$4 billion annually to government expenditures. A variety of taxes have been proposed to cover the cost. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each of these: <b>The extension of sales taxes to services such as car repairs and haircuts while decreasing the overall sale tax rate by one point.</b>	31	60	9
5.3 A tax on digital downloads of music, books and movies	35	59	6
5.4 A tax on digital advertisements	54	36	10
5.5 A tax on corporate loopholes	71	23	6
5.6 Increasing the tax on tobacco	74	24	4
5.7 <b>Do you support or oppose:</b> the legalization of recreational marijuana	50	43	6
5.8 Having local governments vary income taxes so that those with higher incomes pay more	52	38	10
5.9 Treating gun violence as a public health issue instead of only as a criminal justice issue	53	34	13

5.10 Imposing more restrictions on the development of property close to congested intersections	81	7	11
5.11 Have local candidates receive matching public funds if they raise enough small contributions from individuals and reject large contributions from individuals and corporations.	49	34	17
5.11a Putting stronger restrictions on short-term rentals like AirBNB such as the limit to owning only two rentals in the county or having owners pay a \$400 fee for licensing every two years.	52	33	15

**5.11b Have you used a short-term rental for vacations or relocation in the last couple of years?**

Yes 36% No 64%

**The following questions deal with coronavirus.**

**5.12 Have you or any members of your household experienced any of the following because of coronavirus?**

	Yes	No	Unsure/NA
5.13 Tried to get tested but haven't been able to do so	4	93	3
5.14 Know someone who has been diagnosed with coronavirus	10	89	1
5.15 Decided to avoid situations that might expose you to CV	95	5	1
5.16 Stocked up on goods or supplies more than normal	40	60	0
5.17 Found it difficult to obtain some key items like toilet paper, masks or gloves	70	27	3
5.18 Changed travel plans	64	32	4
5.19 Changed work routines by working online	43	45	12
5.20 Seen a reduction of hours or been laid off	25	65	11
5.21 Had to manage day care or home schooling	14	73	13
5.22 Moved to purchase of goods online	46	52	2
5.23 Are suffering unrelated health problems due to closure of services	9	87	4
5.24 Unhappiness due to social isolation	34	61	5

**5.25 Describe the most challenging aspect of adapting to the CV pandemic for you or your household. (open ended – See Appendix B)**

**6.0 Do you trust the information about CV coming from...**

	Great deal	Good deal	Only some	Not very much	Not at all	N.A.
6.1 President Trump	18	16	12	11	42	0
6.2 Governor Hogan	58	34	7	1	0	0
6.3 County Executive Steuart Pittman	24	27	12	5	3	29
6.4 County and state health officials	39	38	9	4	0	10
6.5 Federal health officials	33	39	21	5	2	1

**7. Do you approve the following actions to cope with the coronavirus pandemic.**

	Great deal	Good deal	Only some	Not very much	Not at all
7.1 Closure of malls	76	15	5	2	1
7.2 Movement of public schools to online format	70	21	7	1	1
7.3 Movement of colleges to online format	76	19	2	2	1
7.4 Efforts to prevent public gatherings	81	14	4	1	1
7.5 Delaying the Maryland primary elections	60	18	17	3	2
7.6 Actions to prevent hoarding of key goods	70	18	8	4	1
7.7 Efforts to provide financial support for those whose income has been curtailed	71	17	12	1	0
7.8 Legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly including expanding unemployment benefits, setting job protections, requiring that testing and any future vaccines be covered by insurance.	72	18	7	2	0

**8. In light of how the United States has handled the coronavirus pandemic, would you say that the American health care system needs no change, some change or great change?**

(1) No change 9% (2) Some change 45% (3) Great change 44% (0) No answer, unsure 2%

**8.1 For those who said “some change” or “great change”: Please provide some explanation of changes you would like to see (open-ended). See Appendix C.**

**8.2 The United States is the only major country that does not provide paid sick leave for workers. Which of the following best describes your view?**

No changes are needed to America’s sick leave policy	21
American should require paid sick leave for at least a majority of workers	28
America should require paid sick leave for all workers	45
No answer, unsure	7

**How serious – very, somewhat or not very – do you believe the following problems to be?**

Issue	How serious=>	Very	Somewhat	Not very	N.A.
9.1 Having easy access to opioids		48	31	6	15
9.2 The possibility of coronavirus spreading into Maryland		60	35	3	2
9.3 The management of run-off into the Chesapeake Bay		52	36	8	5
9.4 High cost of housing		49	39	9	4
9.5 The lack of trust in other people, especially those different than you		20	37	40	4
9.6 The lack of trust in government		30	46	23	3
9.7 The lack of trust in corporations		29	44	23	3
9.8 Hate crimes in the county		21	43	33	4
Issue	How serious=>	Very	Somewhat	Not very	N.A.
9.9 The growth in income and wealth inequality		35	35	27	4
9.10 The rising economic and military threat posed by China		50	32	15	3
9.11 The threat to American democracy posed by Russia		52	30	18	0
9.12 The possibility of war with Iran		19	47	32	1
9.13 The threat posed by climate change		54	18	27	0

**9.14 Thinking about President Trump’s foreign policies, have these made America safer, less safe or no change from the past.**

(1) Safer 33% (2) Less safe 55% (3) No change 8% (0) No opinion/unsure 4%

**9. With which political party, if any, are you registered?**

(1) 40% Democratic => **ASK: Do you consider yourself a**

**(1.1) Strong 37%**

**(1.2) Somewhat strong 51%**

**(1.3) Not a strong Democrat? 12%**

(2) 43% Republican => **ASK: Do you consider yourself a**

**(2.1) Strong 28%**

**(2.2) Somewhat strong 51%**

**(2.3) Not a strong Republican 22%**

(3) 16% Unaffiliated (or “independent”)=> **ASK: Do you consider yourself to be leaning more towards the**

**(3.1) Democratic 24%**

**(3.2) Republican 27%**

**(3.3) Neither party most of the time? 49%**

(4) 0% Other

(5) 0% None (not registered to vote)

=====>

Go to question 14 next page =>



**11. If you voted for a presidential candidate in 2016, for whom did you vote?**

(1) Hillary Clinton 42% (2) Donald Trump 38% (3) Someone else 12% (4) Didn't vote 8%

**12. If you voted for a candidate for governor in 2018, for whom did you vote?**

(1) Larry Hogan 79% (2) Ben Jealous 13% (3) Someone else 0% (4) Didn't vote 7%

**13. Thinking about the race for president in 2020, at this time, would you be inclined to vote to re-elect President Trump or vote for a Democratic candidate or vote for a third party candidate?**

(1) Reelect President Trump 35%  
(2) Vote for Democrat 53%  
(3) Vote for third party candidate 5%  
(0) Unsure, no answer 8%

=> If "Vote for Democrat" ask: (otherwise skip to question 14 below)

**13.1 You said that you were inclined to vote for a Democratic candidate. Would that be:**

(1) Joe Biden 79% (2) Bernie Sanders 13% (3) someone else 8%

**13.2 If someone other than your candidate was nominated would you: vote for the Democrat, vote for Donald Trump, vote for a third party candidate, or not vote for president?**

(1) Vote for Democrat 88%  
(2) Vote for Donald Trump 2%  
(3) Vote for third party candidate 7%  
(4) Not vote for president 3%

**14. Overall, which party, the (Democrats) or the (Republicans), do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years?**

(1) Democrats 39%  
(2) Republicans 34%  
(3) Neither (volunteered) 24%  
(4) Other (volunteered) 0%  
(0) No answer 4%

**15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the following elected officials are handling their jobs:**

*“Would that be strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove?”*

Elected official	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	No answer/DK
15.1 County Executive Steuart Pittman	23	35	11	12	19
15.2 Governor Larry Hogan	61	33	4	1	0
15.3 President Donald Trump	22	20	4	54	0

**16. Which of the following best describes your political beliefs?**

1. Very conservative 11%
2. Somewhat conservative 23%
3. Moderate 34%
4. Somewhat liberal 22%
5. Very liberal (progressive or democratic socialist) 9%
6. Unsure/don't know 1%

**17. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_**

- 18-39 13%
- 40-49 7%
- 50-59 21%
- 60-69 29%
- 70+ 31%

**18. Regarding race or ethnicity, how would you describe yourself?**

- (1) White or Caucasian 92%
- (2) Black or African American 1%
- (3) Hispanic or Latino 2%
- (4) Asian or Asian American 1%
- (5) Mixed 1%
- (5) Other \_\_\_\_\_ 1%
- (0) No answer 3%

**19. Regarding religion, how would you describe yourself?**

- (1) None 14%
- (2) Non-practicing 16%
- (3) Evangelical or born again Christian (possibly Baptist, Pentecostal) 8%
- (4) Catholic 20%
- (5) Protestant (possibly Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopalian) 23%
- (6) Some other Christian 4%
- (7) Jewish 2%
- (8) A 'spiritual person' not associated with an organized religion 13%
- (9) Something else (e.g., Muslim, Hindu) 0%
- (0) No Answer 1%

**20. What is your current marital status?**

- (1) Single 12%
- (2) Married 70%
- (3) Separated/divorced 8%
- (4) Widowed 7%
- (5) Living together 3%
- (6) Other 1%

**21. Which of the following best describes your highest level of formal education?**

(1) less than a high school diploma 1%	(5) completed a 4 year bachelor's degree 25%
(2) a high school diploma 8%	(6) post graduate work 25%
(3) some college 23%	(7) something else? 1%
(4) completed a 2 year associate college degree 17%	(0) No Answer 0%

**22. Which of the following best describes your gross annual household income before taxes.**

- (1) Less than \$30,000 3%
- (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000 4%
- (3) \$50,001 to \$75,000 15%
- (4) \$75,001-\$100,000 14%
- (5) \$100,001-\$150,000 27%
- (6) \$150,001-\$250,000 16%
- (7) Over \$250,000 9%
- (0) No Answer 12%

**23. Which of following best describes your employment situation?**

Category	Percentage
Fully or semi retired	45
Self employed or consultant	4
Employed part-time	3
`	33
Student (mostly or full-time)	5
Unemployed and seeking a job	1
Unemployed and NOT seeking a job	1
Caregiver/parent	1
Unsure due to recent workplace changes caused by coronavirus	2
Other	6
No answer	0

**24. Gender (weighted)**

(1) Male 50% (2) Female 50% (3) Other 0%

**25. Zip code**

NA	0.1
20711	0.1
20724	0.5
20751	0.8
20764	2.6
20776	2.9
20779	0.9
21012	8.8
21032	0.8
21035	1.8
21037	2.9
21054	2.8
21056	0.1
21060	5.4
21061	4.6
21076	1.7
21090	1.0
21106	0.5
21108	3.1
21113	4.0

21114	4.4
21121	0.5
21122	11.7
21140	0.8
21144	4.6
21146	11.3
21303	0.7
214--	0.1
21401	10.4
21403	6.5
21409	3.1
21663	0.1
31062	0.3
Total	100.0

## Appendix B: Open-Ended Statements about Main Challenge Due to Coronavirus

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A fear of going out to stores because people are going insane mainly on toilet paper when families like mine are just trying to shop for the week, but scared to get injured

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Adjusting to teaching online, am unsatisfied with the options and with inability to really help my students.

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All plans have been cancelled. Food supply dwindling and will need to go shopping.

---

all social activities cancelled

---

Anxiety

---

Anxiety is kicking in even worse just to the fact that I'm at home and thinking about stuff and not able to be out

---

Anxiety over 401K, out of touch congress.

---

availability of goods and delivery windows for those goods

---

avoiding contacts

---

Being able to get prescriptions filled in a timely manner and having my insurance approve them.

---

Being able to socialize

---

Being altogether for long periods of time

---

Being isolated from family and friends

---

being isolated from usual things and unsure of what's safe and what's not

---

Being isolated.

---

Being older folks is challenging because we need to go grocery shopping and need the comfort of being around others.

---

Boredom

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Boredom. Feeling stuck at home. The unknown. The quick spread of the virus. Having family members that have to go to work during this virus.

---

Both my parents and I have all been laid off due to the closure of local businesses.

---

Budgeting for mortgage/bills with decreased income. Spouse is a grocery store employee so we worry about exposure to people defying shelter in place orders.

---

Cabin fever

---

Can't shop regularly at stores and going out to eat.

---

cancellation of scheduled surgery

---

Cancelled activities

---

Caring for elderly parents that live in neighboring county.

---

Change in travel plans

---

Child care / home schooling

---

Close quarters

---

Closed restaurants, cancelled social functions.

---

Closure of activities that are an important part of daily routine

---

Closure of business, and lack of essentials

---

closure of businesses

---

College children back home. Increased anxiety and depression from changes and unable to address with health services due to closures or restrictions. Concern about elderly relatives

---

constant close contact. We're in each other's way

---

Continuing to go to work with less than ideal coworkers and customers

---

Controlling my disbelieving stare as I witness so many fellow citizens doing nothing to protect themselves, or others.

---

dealing with changed plans or expectations (disappointment of the unfilled expectations)

---

Dealing with elderly parents, including one in hospice (with no visitation allowed)

---

Dealing with fear of infection for spouse, and trying to get truth from president

---

Difficulty doing routine shopping due to hoarding. Insufficient supplies

---

Diminished social interaction

---

Disruption of cash flow.

---

disruption of daily routine

---

Disruption to work

---

distance from loved ones and friends

---

Disturbed by the poor federal leadership. I find that our governor and other governors have been incredible.

---

Emotional stress/economic uncertainty

---

Enjoying social gatherings such as church

---

Ensuring my elderly parents who live in a retirement facility stay safe.

---

every day household items not available in stores

---

Everyone trapped in the house together.

---

Everyone trying to blame President Trump for everything bad and expecting the Government to fix everything.

---

Explaining to kids who don't understand

---

fake news

---

Family get togethers

---

---



Family stress from differing views of what to do and when it's safe to go out.

---

Fear

---

Fear of being exposed by running normal errands, shopping for necessities, seeing friends and family. I live alone. There are no hugs anymore.

---

Fear of contracting the virus while shopping for groceries or at drive-thru restaurants

---

fear of exposure while going out to obtain needed food and prescriptions.

---

Fear of not being able to get food and prescriptions

---

Fear of running out of food due to empty store shelves.

---

Financial insecurity

---

Finding sufficient foods that I regularly purchase

---

Finding toilet paper

---

Following the guidelines while other residents of the area and country do not

---

food purchases

---

freedom to go to parks, movies, visit friends and family

---

Getting accurate information

---

Getting Physical activity

---

grocery shopping. I am over 65, with asthma. Afraid to go shopping in person, trying to get most groceries online.

---

Having established plans and finances changed for and to me and my family and friends.

---

Having everything closed, instead of using common sense and social distancing.

Having my siblings home all day.

Having to consider every move or activity before I make it

---

Having to in search of daily use paper products, TP, tissues, paper towels, milk

---

Homeschooling

---

Husband working more in grocery store

---

---

---

I am a disabled ex RN, worried I'll have to help at expense of my own body.

---

I live alone, am used to being active, am not a home projects person, and am finding it lonely.

---

I want to volunteer but am at high risk so I haven't been able to.

---

I've been laid off because of the coronavirus

---

Inability to find grocery items like a loaf of bread.

---

Inability to go to restaurants or some stores

---

Inability to purchase individual items (example - computer).

---

Inability to shop as usual and lack of contact with friends and family

---

Inconvenience but necessary

---

Interrupted school routine for children and working parents

---

Isolated

---

Isolated from friends and worry about family. Possible cancellation of long term international travel.

---

Isolating to keep my immune compromised husband safe.

---

isolation

---

Isolation

---

It's hard for us to keep the kids at home, we are very socially active, and staying home has been tough.

---

Keeping a positive mental outlook amidst all the doom and gloom.

---

keeping apart from people

---

keeping enough food in house, especially fresh food.

---

Keeping supplies

---

Keeping the kids away from friends

---

---

---

---

Kids missing school, sports and special activities, i.e. proms, school play roles, etc

---

Lack of external entertainment (Parks, Riva Pool) & no TP

---

Lack of food at stores.

---

Lack of meats in the grocery store

---

Lack of outside contact

---

Lack of reliable information from the White House.

---

lack of socialization

---

Lack of some common items

---

Less social interaction

---

Less work.

---

Limiting mall walking. Need mall restroom services to ensure no accidents.

---

Longer and non-routine work hours

---

Loss of social contact

---

Loss of social freedom with friends and relatives

---

Loss of work/pay

---

Making sure stores have the necessity items we normally use  
managing children's schooling

Managing my child's anxiety, despite modeling calm and providing facts about what we can control (e.g., washing hands)

---

Managing work at home for multiple people

---

Miss seeing family and friends in person. Miss in home physical therapy sessions.

---

miss using gym facilities

---

missing being with family and friends / watching retirement \$\$\$ plunge

---

More people than usual staying at home and adapting routine to adjust

---

---

My doctor says to assume I have the virus, but I can't get testing because there aren't enough kits. The woman I spoke to at the Anne Arundel County Health Department accused me of trying to jump the line for testing when I called to get some more general information, per my doctor's orders.

---

My high school senior not enjoying her last year

---

My husband and I both own small businesses. We are losing income from both of our businesses.

---

My husband likes to go out to eat breakfast and that is curtailed

---

My husband lives in Virginia and we see each other weekly, worry about travel restrictions

---

My spouse and I are in "the most vulnerable category and are essentially selfquarantining,m." We are therefore cut off from friends and our normal activities.

---

My wife and I are in our seventies. It has been difficult to go to store, etc., to avoid groups.

---

n/a

---

no change

---

No income from work for me or my adult sons

---

No social interaction.

---

not able to do group activities and get enough exercise

---

Not able to spend time 84 year old mother

---

Not being able to do normal things in the community.

---

not being able to get out.

---

not being able to get some household and good goods

---

Not being able to go out to restaurants...our only recreation as elderly retirees. But a VERY, VERY MINOR thing!!!

---

Not being able to go to places I usually go to like the Senior Center and Restaurants.

---

Not being able to go to restaurants, mall, shopping, or socialize with friends.

---

---

Not being able to hang out with friends and family in public spaces

---

Not being able to interact personally with family and friends

---

Not being able to see and work with others

---

Not being able to see doctor for preexisting condition. Cannot travel within USA without contact with others.

---

Not being able to see family members who don't live with us

---

Not being able to see some of my family.

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Not being able to visit my Grandchildren and go shopping.

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Not being paid when schools are closed.

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Not eating out as much.

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Not getting to see & hug my grandchildren

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Not going anywhere how bad its gonna get  
not knowing what lies ahead, sickness, death.  
Not normal activities

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Not seeing anyone outside myself and my wife.

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Not seeing my grown children & grandchildren.

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nothing

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Obtaining food items

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obtaining groceries - pickup services cancelled, don't want to take children inside, single parent

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Obtaining needed supplies without exposure to the virus

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Online classes

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Our business went to carry-out only. Substantial loss of income but same bills.

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our child attends private school and they created a great online structure but we are still working outside the home and not able to provide enough oversight

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People hoarding supplies/groceries

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Planning for multiple scenarios

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Possibility of laying off my employees

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preparing for things to get worse

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Reduction of hours at jobs

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Rethinking touching public services. Being cautious of contacts. Cancelling family plans.

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Running a business remotely and having staff work from home.

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Sadness at distance from loved ones

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School being out for my kids and figuring out how to 'school' them ourselves

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Schooling

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Self Employed - Keep business running

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self imposed limited access to other people.

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Self Quarantine

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Shelves in the stores are empty when trying to buy everyday items (toilet paper, bread, canned goods), due to people hoarding these items. shopping safely particular for food and pharmacy items

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So far, it has just been a matter of calling and texting folks instead of seeing them.

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Social distancing

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Social Distancing

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social distancing = not going to the movies or the mall = bored

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social isolation

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Social Isolation

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Social isolation lack of contact with friends and family

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Social isolation Not knowing if and or when I will be called upon to work for Health Dept

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Social isolation, unable to participate in community activities such as church, gym etc

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Socializing

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Staying at home

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Staying busy

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Staying entertained. Let down because my surgery was cancelled for the foreseeable future.

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Staying home

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Staying Home

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Staying home and away  
Staying home most of the day

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Staying home with family members 24/7.

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Staying home, no visitors

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Staying in

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staying in the house

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Staying indoors and hearing of the fatality across the country

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Staying indoors.

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Staying safe

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Stress and the lack of exercise and the outdoors

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Stress of worrying about family

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Strict social distancing

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Supply shortages caused by hoarding.

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Taking care of elderly parents & finding supplies for them

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technological challenges due to teleworking: can't get a lot of work assignments done

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Teenagers are bored

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The most challenging adaptation is managing our college freshman's wish to see friends. He's returned from Virginia Tech and the freedom of dorm life (plus, had had a lot of freedom at home as well). Going back to "no you can't" and we'll "let" you see friends to play tennis but not to hang out in someone's basement has been truly awful. He's been reasonable, but it's an untenable situation. I do not like returning to the parental role I had when he was 13. He's nearly 20 and reliable, hard working, and I had enjoyed transitioning to be a resource and not as much a no/yes parent. And, I wish he could hang out with his friends. But, honestly, even some of their parents are the problem. I don't trust that they've been social distancing. My other son, 11th grade, is resigned to the situation and his friends' parents aren't letting their kids out to hang out anyway so temptation is less. I agree with everything Gov. Hogan is doing and am SO grateful. He has not given a shelter in place order. If young people are a problem for social distancing, such an order may make it easier for those parents who waffle

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to stand their ground. the panic and misinformation in the press about severity to healthy people. The hoarding from stores.

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The stress of the situation and making sure the children are handling/understanding properly.

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The uncertainty and the ineptitude of the federal government. Thank God for Governor Hogan!

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The uncertainty as to us/ People around us being infected as to unavailability of testing!

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The uncertainty of it all. We are adjusting but it keeps changing

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The uncertainty of the duration of the crisis

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The uncertainty. Not knowing when life will return to normal. Concern for the health of family members.

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The uncertainty... Worry about my son who is in health care.

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Three teens not going to public school and socializing

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Travel to visit relatives.

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Trying to avoid people that aren't social distancing

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Trying to decipher the news and "official" announcements to determine what they think they are doing....

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Trying to find providers of essential services beyond food markets.

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Trying to help my 84 year old parents without also exposing them. They already feel isolated/lonely prior to this and now they think they'll die if they get it and yet they can't even hug or be in close proximity to family.

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TRYING TO KEEP EVERYTHING DISINFECTED

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trying to work full time remotely, and teach + care for children

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Unab) Lee to travel

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Unable to be with our family

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unable to enjoy eating out two or three times a week, can't attend church, afraid to go to dr's office

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Unable to pursue normal activities because of need to shelter in place

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Uncertainty

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uncertainty / concerns about being out in community / social distancing makes sense, but it is hard

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Uncertainty and fear for myself and family. My child is on the frontlines.

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Uncertainty of the short and long term regarding work, Bill's, etc

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uncertainty regarding availability of food/goods

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Unknowns

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Unnecessary outings

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Venturing out to get needed items

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Vigilance

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Watching the federal government, specifically Trump, mishandle this crisis. Also, watching how workers on the front-line are not protected by the federal government.

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We have a house in Georgia sold before this crisis, we are worried that it will not close now.

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Working

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working and homeschooling

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Working online with the rest of the nation. This country literally doesn't have the bandwidth to support that.

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Working with scouts on advancement and keeping them engaged

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Workplace closed, can't work from home, unemployment only 60% and can't get yet as am in limbo w/job status

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Worrying about myself and coworkers in health field not having proper supplies

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Worrying about older relatives--their health, do they have what they need, social distancing, psychological side effects for them, etc.

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## **Appendix C: Comments Associated with “Some change” and “Great change” in U.S. Healthcare System**

**Comments associated with the category “Some change” of the U.S. healthcare system.**  
Stop blaming everyone and anyone for black swan events, need to increase ability so work/share across state lines  
A more affordable model, with no price gouging from top to bottom  
Ability to be tested whether or not you show symptoms Affordable services for all.  
Allow us to buy health insurance across state lines, remove mandated minimum coverage.  
Basic services should be free to all Americans, insurance then provides additional services.  
Better access to testing and trial medicine.  
Better disaster recovery planning.  
Better communications across various levels of government; better understanding of who has the power to do what.  
Better disaster recovery planning.  
Better planning to future events Better plans for an epidemic.  
Better preparation for pandemic events and a better plan in place. Private payer healthcare is the reason we will be able to respond. Better prepared for situations like this one.  
Better readiness for widespread pandemics. I think the system is fine for less widespread diseases.  
CDC should be more prepared for epidemics.  
Do not agree with socialized medicine in any form.  
Earlier expended testing in similar situation in the future.

Easier access, less cost  
Everyone has the right to health care.  
Everyone needs some kind of health coverage, not necessarily a national plan.  
Everyone should have health care coverage. Preexisting conditions should prevent coverage or rate hikes.  
Far more coordination and sharing of information available from international, national and local health organizations and specialists.  
Free markets.  
Get rid of the red tape.  
Greater availability to everyone, particularly for preventive services, more local clinics.  
Health and government officials gaming preparations.  
Health care services need to be available to all Americans. Health care should not so expensive.  
Health care that isn't tied to your job.  
Hospitals, medical facilities, medical professionals should have comprehensive risk management plans so they would be able to the government what policies and procedures to put in place and what supplies they need rather than have the government flounder and figure it out on the fly. I really want change such as healthcare for all, but I wanted that before COVID-19 I do not think this virus has changed my view.  
It should be more affordable.  
I think the circulation of coronavirus tests need to increase as well as the focus on developing a cure of some sort.  
I think we could have done better to get masks and other materials to hospitals soon in preparation for the peak of the virus and getting tests sooner. I do think that hospitals are doing the best they can and that we are doing better than other countries thus far.  
If there were federal took piles of ventilators and other needed equipment it should be made available immediately instead of waiting for businesses who have never made this items to produce them.  
Ignore liar Trump, listen to trained health experts and professionals – stay home.  
Increase payments to doctors, less paperwork  
Health care community wasn't prepared for this, they will stake stock and improve their ability to care for more people on short notice.  
It takes the govt too long to make important decisions. As far as Trump is concerned, the main concerns are keeping the rich richer and his reelection. You cannot be a person that cares only about money in crisis care about the people...sad.  
Less cost more or lower cost insurance available to low income families and individuals.  
Less political posturing in health care delivery and information.  
Lower price for health insurance.  
Local doctors need quicker information.  
Less prescription cost, less litigation.  
Make it more affordable and have the level of care appropriate to the facility – don't use ER for simple issues.  
Mandatory publication of disaster preparedness plans.

Modify logistics to better supply medical equipment. Make drugs in America.  
More affordable health care options.  
More attention to planning for crises and improvements to Obamacare.  
More availability...alternative to providing coverage other than typical insurance methods. More capacity a public option and the restatement of the requirement that everyone have insurance.  
More emphasis on preparedness and research; streamlining of bureaucracy. Billing is ridiculous.  
Too much paperwork costly to produce and not helpful.  
Have more equipment in place.  
More important emphasis on CDC and increase their budget, not like Trump did by decreasing.  
More items in inventory. Improve communication among health officials.  
More research.  
More resources devoted to research.  
More resources for health providers  
More supplies for hospitals and health care workers.  
More testing now.  
More American made items/medicine.  
Need to be better prepared. They saw what happened in China and Italy and did not quickly request production of necessary supplies. No deductibles when it comes to pandemic issues.  
Not totally related to CV but due to recent illness, I realize that even with excellent health care, the billing system is so convoluted and hard to work through... Pandemic should equal health care coverage for all.  
Preparedness of those working by supplying proper PPE.  
Provide better stockpiles of medical supplies.  
Provide essential protective measures for HC workers.  
Quicker response by state and federal authorities to protect and support our HC works. Ensuring that they have enough PPE to protect themselves since without them we are in real trouble!  
Quicker to try safe drugs without politicking.  
Reduce costs such as copays, deductibles, RX fees.  
Need rational leadership at all levels.  
Address supply chain problem for PPE permanently.  
This wasn't unanticipated, but planning was slow to arrive and incomplete. Need special warehouses for special circumstances like these.  
Stock piling critical items like PPE, emergency medical equipment (said several times).  
Testing and vaccines should be free for all.  
Government needs to deal in facts and not worry about the politics.  
Why wasn't the response to a pandemic not practiced – FEMA has a huge training organization...  
Done ok but not great thus far.  
Services need to learn from one another in anticipation of a pandemic in the future.  
Total privatization of day to day health care – government only involved during disasters.  
Byzantine hybrid public/private morass complicates our system.  
Universal basic health care.

More private companies provide testing kits. CDC wanted to control full production of testing, wrong!

More think tanks should have pondered this situation earlier on. A president who doesn't call things a hoax one day and proclaim himself the president of the next war the next.

Weren't prepared we should have been! Be more fully prepared in the future.

**Comments associated with the category "Great change" of the U.S. healthcare system.** A universal single-payer system such as Medicare for All (M4A) or robust public option plan.

Access for all – fully supported medical facilities and staff.

Adequate supplies PPE for all, especially HC workers

Affordable HC for everyone

All hospitals need to charge the same for services throughout the world.

An agency to handle stocking and rotating a stockpile of the equipment to states. Coordinating companies across the nation that can, with little effort, retool to produce needed goods such as those in short supply. Companies should have various monetary, tax and promotional incentives so that the country can gear up on short notice.

As a HC worker, the system is extremely broken, short staffed and this was before COVID-19

Availability of HC insurance outside of job. Obamacare was just a start, we need to revamp billing, point of care services, availability of basic health care. Get FDA/Congress out of cozy relationship with big pharma. Improve services in underserved areas.

Being able to access my prescriptions and having them be honest if all of us should really be tested.

Better access to HC for those without or minimal health insurance. Free testing for virus and follow-up care.

Better access.

Better communication across various levels of government, better understanding of who has the power to do what.

Better federal planning and stockpiling of essential medical supplies.

Better planning (mentioned several times).

Feds need to learn from Maryland. Expand

Obamacare

Convert to single payer – careful plan to do so.

]Trump disbanded pandemic group! People won't want to be tested since don't have funds for treatment. Lack of supplies – Trump won't use National Production Act. Pay too much, outcomes not good enough! M4A.

Free treatment during crisis.

Decent HC should be available for all – some kind of public/private partnership?

Focus on science, politicians should be sidelined.

Everyone in US should have basic HC not tied to employment. Supplement with private HC insurance.

Expand ACA. More fed regulation of drug and hospital costs. Increase at home and online services.

Federal support for preplanning future events.

Follow 2016 pandemic plan, stockpile essential supplies. Get Trump out of equation, let states be prepared.

Greater availability of tests. President didn't take this seriously – trying to swim upstream, without great success.

Greater coverage for all Americans in case of job loss.

Greater investment in developing and sustaining public health emergency preparedness capabilities.

Guaranteed health care and payment for all.

Health care in US is not comparable to what is offered in other developed countries.

HC should be non-profit.

HC workers need more protection.

Money needs to go to the front line and not well-paid executives.

Never eliminate a pandemic agency – hospitals should never be caught without enough PPE.

Socialize medical care so that everyone gets the care they need.

Major overhaul needed, make it more affordable for everyone.

M4A plus cover the costs of training HC professionals more.

Good people, broken system – lack of supplies is incredible.

More clinics, less use of ER.

With M4A we would have a more accurate understanding of the resources needed to treat everyone.

Improve ACA, reinstate science and health offices gutted by Trump. Create plans for next pandemic. Many mentioned this idea.

Increased access to PPE, testing for all symptomatic, no special treatment.

More funding for CDC, FEMA, subsidies for HC workers for day care.

Less reliance on foreign drug manufacture.

Maternity leave, cover sick days due to virus.

More sick leave benefits, day care for all.

Better federal leadership that doesn't ignore warning or cut CDC funding. If not M4A, something basic that assures everyone has reasonable access.

Option for those under 65 to join Medicare.

Need a broader public health focus, not just clinical. Need to keep workers healthy.

Trump has no clue what he is doing.

Single payer – mentioned by several people. Heightened role for federal government with lots of plans and coordination of state efforts by fed.

Supply chain management is lacking.

Lacking HC workers – medical education too expensive.