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MARYLAND: TRUMP LEADS GOP PRIMARY

Frontrunner strong in all parts of the state

West Long Branch, NJ – Donald Trump's sizable lead in Maryland's GOP primary puts him on track to claim all 38 delegates available. The ***Monmouth University Poll*** finds that concerns about Trump's suitability for office expressed by the state's Republican governor hold little sway with voters there.

Currently, 47% of likely Republican primary voters in Maryland support Trump compared to 27% who support John Kasich and 19% who intend to vote for Ted Cruz. Trump's strongest area of support is in congressional districts 1 and 5, the eastern part of the state bordering the Chesapeake Bay, where he earns 54% support to 24% for Kasich and 11% for Cruz. Trump also does well in districts 6 and 8, which encompass the western part of the state, with 44% of the vote to 25% for Kasich and 23% for Cruz. Trump leads by a smaller margin in the state's remaining four congressional districts that run along the I-95 corridor from Baltimore to the DC suburbs, getting 43% of the vote there to 31% for Kasich and 20% for Cruz.

"If Trump's current level of support translates to each of Maryland's eight congressional districts, he may be able to run the table in the all-important delegate contest," said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Trump holds a large advantage among very conservative voters (58% to 27% for Cruz and 9% for Kasich), but a much smaller edge among somewhat conservative voters (38% to 33% for Kasich and 21% for Cruz). He splits the moderate vote with Kasich at 41% apiece, while Cruz gets 10%.

Kasich has a slight lead over Trump among college graduates (40% to 35%, with Cruz at 17%), but Trump more than makes up for this by garnering the support of nearly 6-in-10 voters who do not have a college degree (58%), compared to only 21% who support Cruz and 14% who support Kasich. Trump

also enjoys a large lead among male voters (55% to 24% for Kasich and 13% for Cruz) that augments his smaller lead among female voters (37% to 30% for Kasich and 25% for Cruz).

"Even though Kasich is competitive among certain demographic groups, Trump's overwhelming support among men without a college education accounts for his substantial lead statewide," said Murray.

The *Monmouth University Poll* also found that Gov. Larry Hogan's reservations about the frontrunner have little effect on his state's electorate. Just over half (53%) of likely primary voters have heard about Hogan's comments that Trump should not be the party's nominee. The vast majority (83%) of voters, though, say Hogan's position will have no impact on their own vote. Just 10% say it makes them less likely to support Trump and 5% say it actually makes them more likely to support Trump.

Looking ahead to November, 73% of Republican primary voters in Maryland say they would support Trump in a general election against Hillary Clinton, while 11% say they would vote for Clinton and 8% would vote for an independent candidate. If Kasich is the nominee, 80% would support him against Clinton, but if Cruz is the nominee, only 67% of GOP primary voters say they would be willing to commit to backing him in November.

Just over 4-in-10 Republican voters (44%) report they are completely decided on their primary choice, with Trump voters (56%) being more likely to have locked in their vote than either Kasich (39%) or Cruz (39%) supporters. Another 30% of Maryland Republicans say they have a strong preference but are willing to consider other candidates, 11% have only a slight preference and 15% say they are really undecided even if they say they lean to a candidate at this time.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from April 10 to 12, 2016 with 301 Maryland voters likely to vote in the Republican presidential primary. This sample has a margin of error of $\pm$5.7 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:
(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

1. If the Republican primary election for president was today, would you vote for – [*NAMES WERE ROTATED*]

	April 2016
Donald Trump	47%
John Kasich	27%
Ted Cruz	19%
(VOL) Other	1%
(VOL) Undecided	7%
(n)	*(301)*

2. Which of the following best describes where your decision stands at this moment: I am completely decided on which candidate I will support, I have a strong preference right now but I am willing to consider other candidates, I have a slight preference among a group of candidates I like, or I am really undecided among a number of candidates?

	April 2016
Already voted	*0%*
Completely decided	**44%**
Strong preference	**30%**
Slight preference	**11%**
Undecided	**15%**

[*QUESTIONS 3 THROUGH 5 WERE ROTATED*]

3. If Donald Trump became the Republican nominee and Hillary Clinton became the Democratic nominee, who would you vote for in the general election in November – Trump or Clinton or an independent candidate, or would you not vote for president?

	April 2016
Donald Trump	**73%**
Hillary Clinton	**11%**
Independent candidate	**8%**
Would not vote	**3%**
(VOL) Undecided	**5%**

4. If Ted Cruz became the Republican nominee and Hillary Clinton became the Democratic nominee, who would you vote for in the general election in November – Cruz or Clinton or an independent candidate, or would you not vote for president?

	April 2016
Ted Cruz	**67%**
Hillary Clinton	**8%**
Independent candidate	**10%**
Would not vote	**7%**
(VOL) Undecided	**8%**

5. If John Kasich became the Republican nominee and Hillary Clinton became the Democratic nominee, who would you vote for in the general election in November – Kasich or Clinton or an independent candidate, or would you not vote for president?

	April 2016
John Kasich	**80%**
Hillary Clinton	**4%**
Independent candidate	**5%**
Would not vote	**8%**
(VOL) Undecided	**3%**

6. Governor Larry Hogan has said that Donald Trump should NOT be the party's nominee. Have you heard about this or not heard about this before?

	April 2016
Had heard	**53%**
Had not heard	**47%**
(VOL) Don't know	**0%**

7. Does Governor Hogan's position make you more likely or less likely to support Trump or does this have no impact on your vote in the primary?

	April 2016
More likely	5%
Less likely	10%
No impact	83%
(VOL) Don't know	2%

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)
LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

53% Male	*11% 18-34*	*96% White*
47% Female	*23% 35-49*	*1% Black*
	39% 50-64	*2% Hispanic*
	28% 65+	*1% Other*

MARGIN OF ERROR
LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

	LIKELY VOTERS	*GENDER*		*POLITICAL IDEOLOGY*		
		Male	*Female*	*Very Conserv.*	*Somewhat Conserv.*	*Lib/ Moderate*
Unweighted N	*301*	*194*	*107*	*106*	*89*	*100*
moe	*5.7%*	*7.0%*	*9.5%*	*9.5%*	*10.4%*	*9.8%*

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