

# Who are the Democrats that Voted for Hogan?\*

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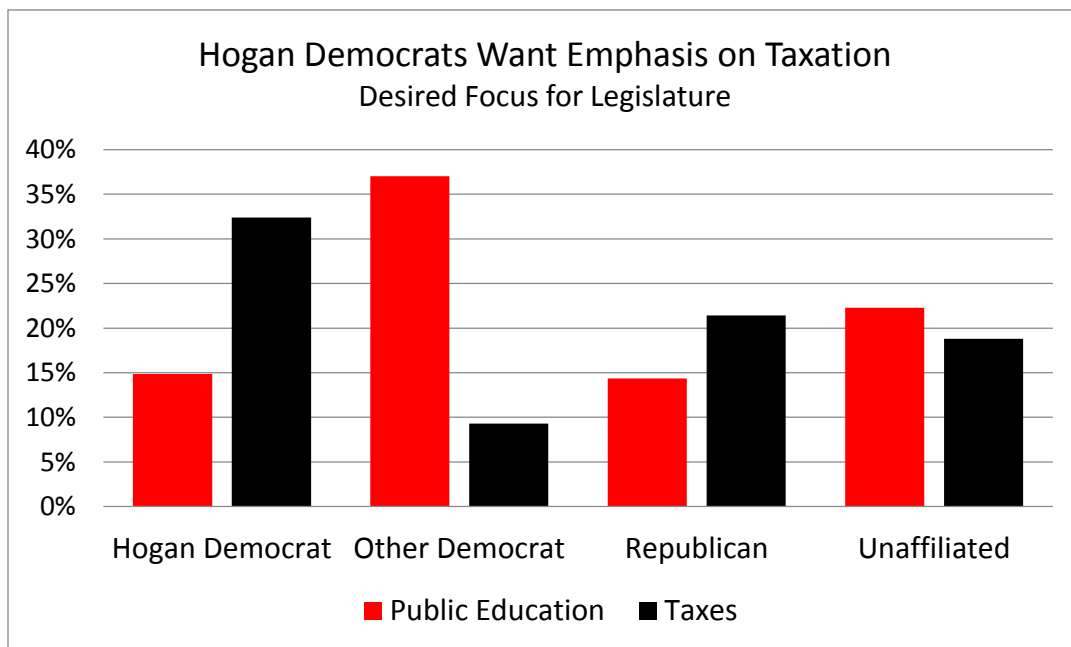
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[Prior analyses](#) suggest the cause of Democrat Anthony Brown’s surprising defeat to Republican Larry Hogan in the 2014 Maryland Gubernatorial Election was Hogan’s ability to win over the Republican base, unaffiliated voters, and even a sizable proportion of Democrats (23%). This is especially impressive as Lt. Governor Brown could have won the election solely with the Democrats who turned out on Election Day, *even if he did not receive a single vote from a Republican or unaffiliated voter*. So, who are the Democrats that supported Hogan? Using new results from a [Washington Post-University of Maryland Poll](#), we can answer this question.

## *Public Education vs. Taxes*

The Hogan and Brown campaigns [traded barbs](#) over tax policy and their plans for education spending. While many Democrats surveyed (including those who voted for Gov. Hogan) oppose cuts to education (see appendix for results), “Hogan Democrats” differ in that they overwhelmingly think that the Maryland government should focus on taxes rather than education (or other issues).

- 32% of “Hogan Democrats” said the top issue the state legislature and governor should confront is taxes, compared to only 9% of other Democrats who voted. Moreover, the proportion of Hogan Democrats who reported taxes should be the focus even exceeded the proportion of Republicans who did so. The 11 percentage point gap between Hogan Democrats and Republicans is statistically significant ( $p < 0.1$ ).
- Only 15% of “Hogan Democrats” chose education as the top issue, similar to the 14% of Republicans but far below the 37% of other voting Democrats who chose education.

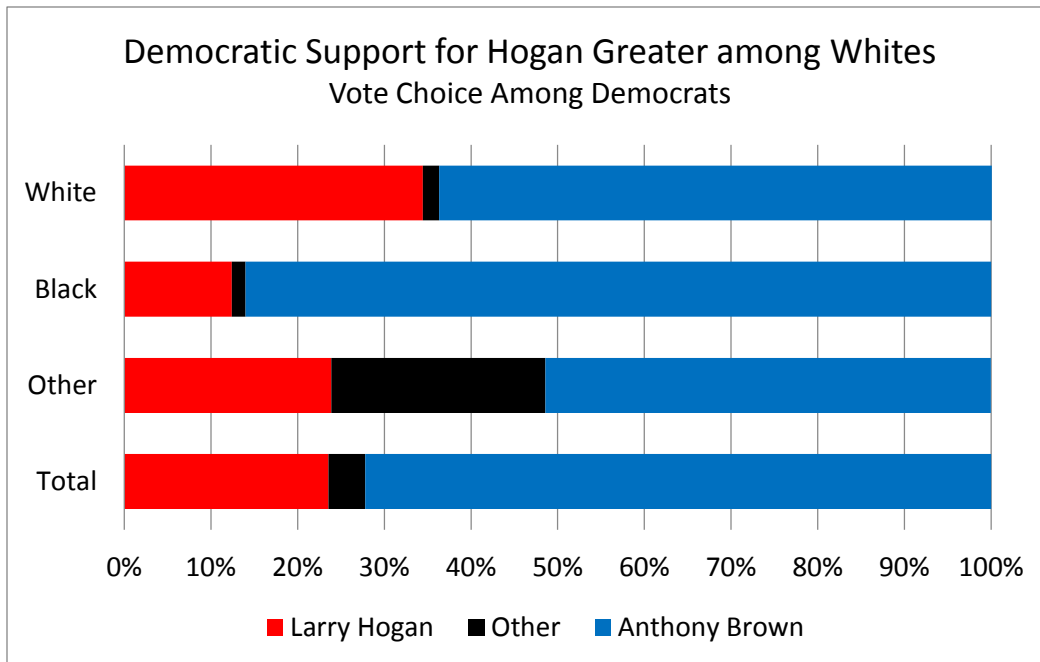


Notes: Difference between Hogan Democrats and Other Democrats is statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ). Data are from the Washington Post-University of Maryland Poll

## *Hogan's Success with White Democrats*

In addition to the difference in policy preferences between Democrats who supported Lt. Governor Brown and those that supported Governor Hogan, there were divisions by race.

- 34% of white Democrats supported Larry Hogan, compared to only 12% of black Democrats.

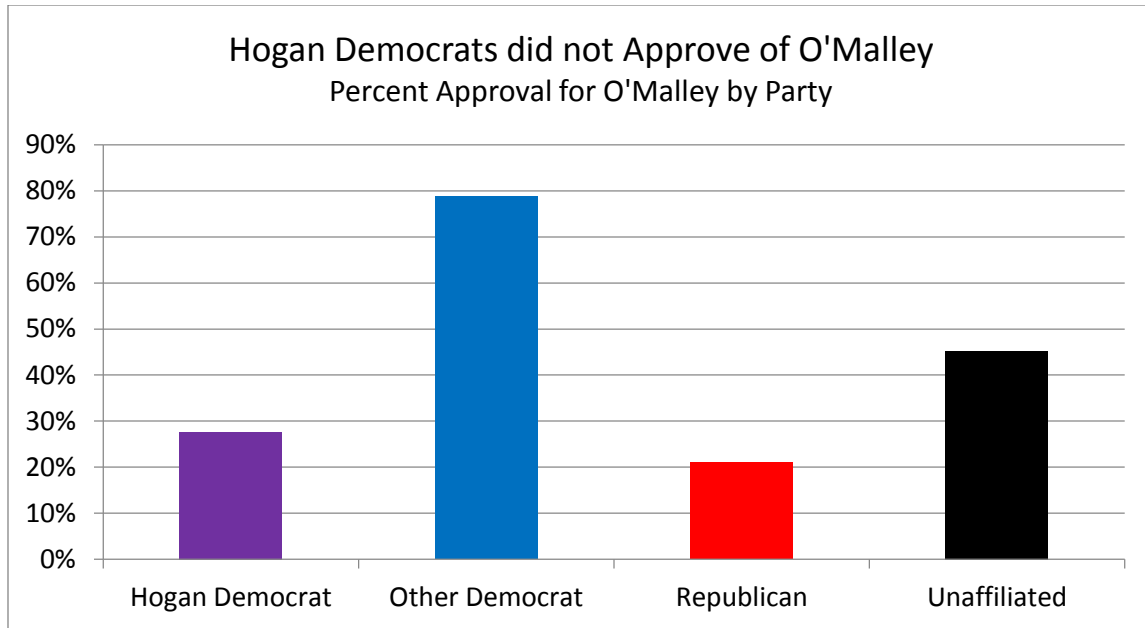


Notes: Difference between white Democrats and black Democrats is statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ). Data are from the Washington Post-University of Maryland Poll

## *The O'Malley Effect*

The results from the Washington Post-University of Maryland Poll suggest that a lack of support for Gov. Martin O'Malley had a significant effect in driving some Democrats away from voting for Lt. Governor Brown.

- Less than 28% of Democrats voting for Gov. Hogan approved of Gov. O'Malley's performance.
- The rest of Democratic voters overwhelmingly approved of the job Martin O'Malley did as governor, at nearly 79%.
- To provide some context, "Hogan Democrats" more closely resembled Republicans (21% approval) than unaffiliated voters (45% approval) in terms of support for Gov. O'Malley.



Notes: Difference between Hogan Democrats and Other Democrats is statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ). Data are from the Washington Post-University of Maryland Poll

Governor Hogan's message on taxes resonated across party lines in 2014. He benefitted further from the electorate's disapproval of the sitting Democratic governor. But Governor O'Malley is on to other [endeavors](#), so his (un)popularity is unlikely to matter in future elections. How well Governor Hogan and the Democratic-dominant legislature can negotiate on taxes and education will likely shape the debate going into the next election cycle.

\*Michael J. Hanmer, Associate Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland and Research Director for the Center for American Politics and Citizenship, contributed to this report.

The Washington Post-University of Maryland Poll is a joint venture between the Washington Post and faculty in the Center for American Politics and Citizenship in the Department of Government and Politics, in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, at the University of Maryland.

Appendix: Complete Results

**Preferences for the Legislative Agenda**

	<b>What Area Should be Protected from Cuts?</b>				
<b>Area</b>	<i>Hogan Democrat</i>	<i>Other Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>	<i>Unaffiliated</i>	<i>Total</i>
Transp.	17.23%	10.69%	10.47%	12.27%	11.96%
Health	4.49%	7.86%	9.18%	11.01%	10.63%
Public Safety	4.99%	9.31%	20.53%	14.09%	12.67%
K-12	45.27%	35.48%	27.97%	33.44%	32.64%
Higher Ed.	6.38%	13.94%	10.70%	7.67%	10.98%
Environ.	14.82%	14.57%	12.15%	12.81%	12.30%
Other	2.29%	5.64%	5.58%	5.44%	5.83%
No Cuts	4.54%	2.52%	3.42%	3.26%	2.98%

	<b>What Should Be the Focus of the Legislative Session?</b>				
<b>Focus</b>	<i>Hogan Democrat</i>	<i>Other Democrat</i>	<i>Republican</i>	<i>Unaffiliated</i>	<i>Total</i>
Budget	11.51%	4.64%	15.53%	12.99%	10.13%
Economy	17.90%	12.44%	21.55%	16.51%	15.60%
Public Ed.	14.84%	37.02%	14.36%	22.29%	25.87%
Trans./Inf.	12.64%	18.21%	5.99%	10.71%	11.76%
Drug Abuse	6.70%	6.47%	13.79%	8.40%	9.02%
Taxes	32.38%	9.28%	21.42%	18.80%	18.29%
Other	4.04%	11.95%	7.36%	10.30%	9.32%

**Vote Choice among Democrats by Race**

<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Vote Choice</b>		
<b>Race</b>	<i>Larry Hogan</i>	<i>Anthony Brown</i>	<i>Other</i>
White	34.42%	63.78%	1.89%
Black	12.40%	86.00%	1.60%
Other	23.86%	51.42%	24.71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.56%</b>	<b>72.23%</b>	<b>4.22%</b>

### O'Malley Effect

	O'Malley Approval				
	<i>Hogan Democrats</i>	<i>Other Democrats</i>	<i>Republican</i>	<i>Unaffiliated</i>	<i>Total</i>
% Approval	27.61%	78.72%	20.97%	45.25%	52.80%

Notes: The classifications used above draw on questions about vote choice and a standard partisan identification question. "Hogan Democrats" are those who reported voting for Larry Hogan but who self-identified as Democrats. "Other Democrats" are those who reported voting for Antony Brown or another candidate and who self-identified as Democrats. "Republicans" are those who self-identified as Republican, regardless of their vote choice. "Unaffiliated" respondents are those who when asked for their partisan identification did not choose either Democrat or Republican.