Marylanders Value Their Public Libraries

**Marylanders Depend on Their Libraries.**
Almost two-thirds of the state’s residents think of their local public library as “an essential service like a school.”

**Marylanders Give Their Libraries Top Marks.**
Three-quarters of Marylanders grade their local public libraries as great or good.

**Public Libraries Across Maryland Touch Many Lives.**
Over half of Marylanders visited a library in the last several weeks.

**How This Survey Was Conducted**
This survey was conducted online and by telephone between March 19 and July 20, 2020, among 3,510 adult residents of Maryland. OpinionWorks LLC, an independent research organization based in Annapolis, Maryland, developed and conducted this survey in consultation with a committee of library professionals from across the state.
Nearly four out of five Marylanders believe libraries are a good investment.

Marylanders see public libraries as a good investment of tax dollars. 77% favor libraries, 15% think taxes are better spent in other ways, and 8% are not sure.

A majority of Marylanders want to invest more in public libraries. 57% believe more should be invested in public libraries, 27% think libraries receive enough, and 16% are not sure.

By a 30-point margin, Marylanders said they believe more public money should be invested in our libraries.

87% of Marylanders think that public libraries help people learn new things.

82% of Marylanders think that a local public library builds a sense of community.

80% of Marylanders think that public libraries improve a community.

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