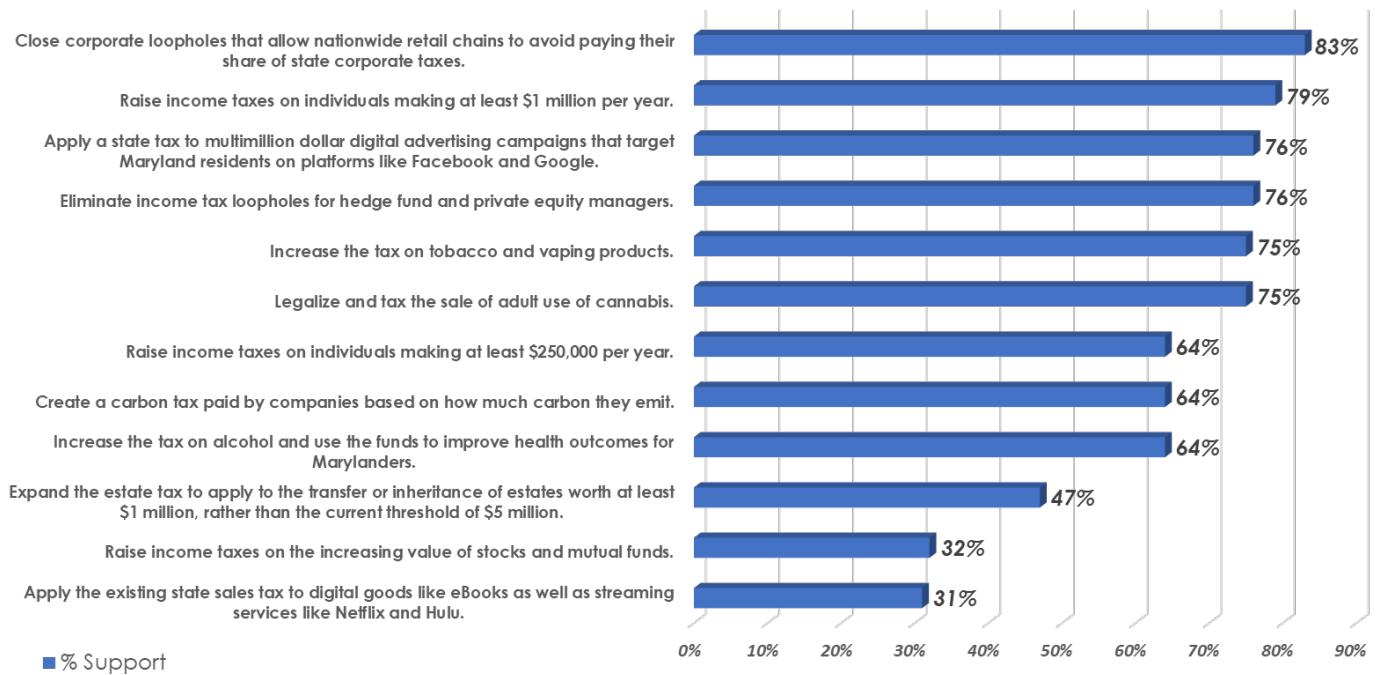




**DATE:** February 11, 2021  
**TO:** Interested parties  
**FROM:** Ben Lazarus, TargetSmart  
**RE:** New Maryland poll shows broad support for public investment and more progressive revenue from corporations and the wealthy

TargetSmart’s recently conducted poll<sup>1</sup> on behalf of the State Innovation Exchange and Strong Future Maryland shows overwhelming support for an array of proposals to raise revenue to fund investments in key public priorities. As shown in **FIGURE 1**, proposals to close corporate tax loopholes, raise income taxes on individuals making more than a million dollars a year, tax the legal sale of cannabis, eliminate income tax loopholes for hedge fund and private equity managers, raise taxes on tobacco and vaping products, and apply a state tax to multimillion dollar digital advertising campaigns that target Maryland residents on platforms like Facebook and Google are particularly popular.

**Figure 1: Please indicate if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following proposals that will raise revenue for the state budget in Maryland.**

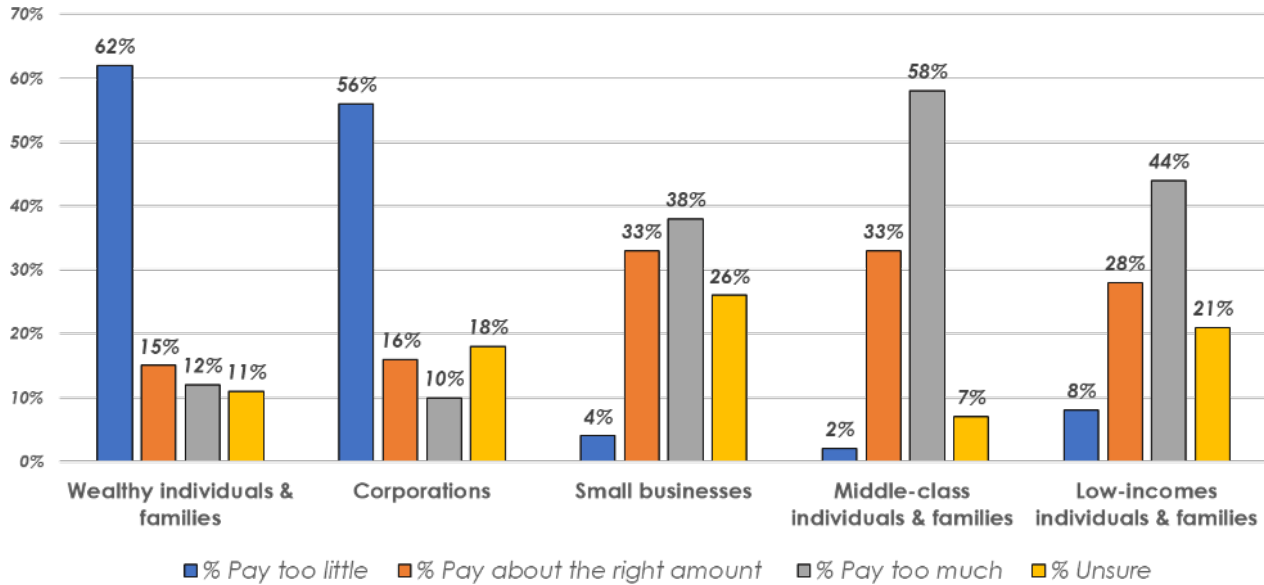


Support for this populist, progressive revenue agenda in Maryland is underpinned by a broad sense among Maryland voters that middle-class and low-income residents are paying too much in state taxes while wealthy families and corporations are paying too little. As shown in **FIGURE 2**, 62 percent of Maryland voters believe the wealthy pay too little in state taxes and 56 percent believe the same is true for corporations, while a 58 percent

<sup>1</sup> January 25-February 3, 2021, n=615 online respondents, registered voters, credibility interval +/- 4.0%

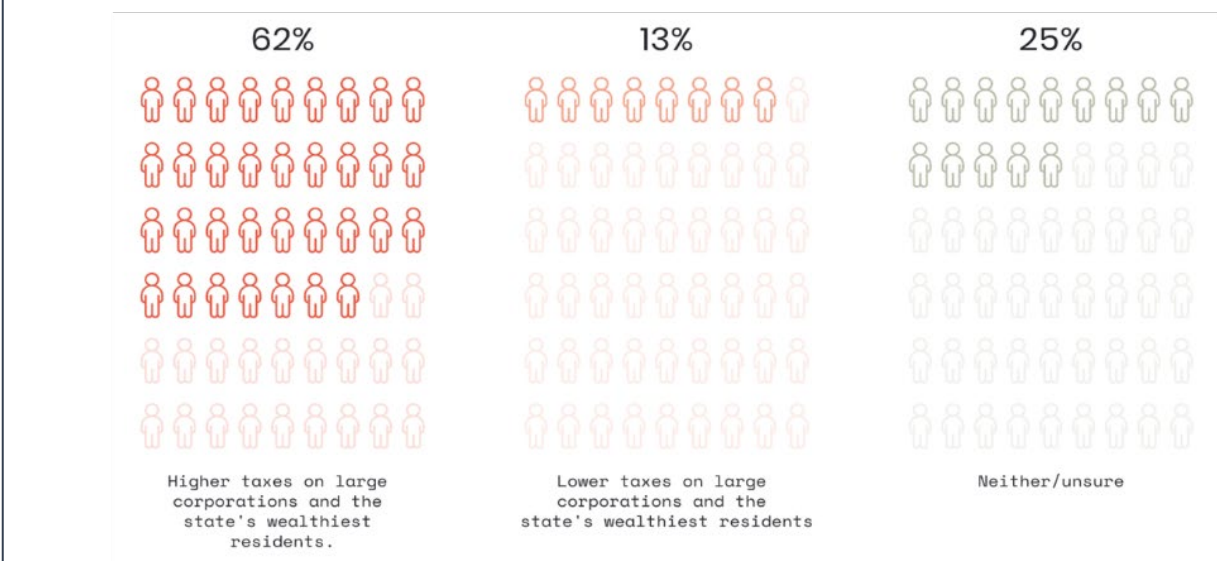
majority say middle-class families pay *too much* in state taxes, and a 44 percent plurality believe low-income families pay too much as well.

**Figure 2: Do you think each of the following groups of people in Maryland pay too little in state taxes, about the right amount in state taxes, or too much in state taxes?**



Additionally, as shown in **FIGURE 3**, voters overwhelmingly believe that higher taxes on the wealthy and big corporations would be better for working people in the state than a trickle-down approach.

**Figure 3: What do you think would be better for working people and working families in Maryland?**



Finally, in parallel with these specific attitudes about taxes, we also measure a broad embrace of arguments for investments in the state and its residents over arguments for austerity and low taxes. As shown in **FIGURE 4**

below, support for austerity arguments barely breaks double digits, while two-thirds to more than 7-in-10 voters support arguments for public investment.

**Figure 4:** And which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?

### Investment vs. Austerity

No COVID-19 Mention

64%



State government in Maryland should invest more in the state and its residents, ensuring they are safe, healthy, and economically secure, even if it means corporations and the wealthy have to contribute more in taxes.

13%



State government in Maryland should keep taxes low, even if it means cutting funding for education and infrastructure and cutting unemployment insurance and healthcare coverage.

23%



Neither/unsure

### Investment vs. Austerity

COVID-19 Investment Centered

75%



Because of the impacts of COVID-19, Maryland should invest more resources in supporting families, small businesses, schools, and healthcare systems.

11%



Because of the impacts of COVID-19, Maryland must find ways to live within its means, even if that means cutting resources for families, businesses, schools, and healthcare systems.

14%



Neither/unsure