

OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 1279

Lierra Lenhard
Phoenix, MD

Dear Delegates,

Please do not vote for Bill HB 1279. Each county delegation should continue to decide for itself what is in the best interest of their county and not let DNR decide. DNR caters to the tiny population of hunters, less than 2% of Marylanders and does not have the interest of the majority of Marylanders with their regulations.

Last year myself and others testified against a bill to reduce the safety zone in Baltimore County. Only one person testified for it because his next door neighbor did not want hunting between their houses. Do you really want to pit neighbor against neighbor? The bill failed to pass out of the delegation and a Delegate that is a hunter, advised everyone that reducing the safety zone was a bad idea.

HB 1279 only benefits bow hunters and cross bows are extremely dangerous with new models that advertise that they shoot just like a rifle. Safety zones of 50 or even 100 yards cannot keep us safe when cross bows can shoot an arrow 150 yards in one second!

In the 5 long months of bow hunting citizens will be put into even more danger when hunters can hunt in areas too close to homes where they have never been able to hunt before. All 98% of Marylanders that do not hunt have the right to recreate outdoors without this added danger especially since reduced safety zones in other counties have not reduced the deer population.

Sunday hunting also has not reduced the deer population as many counties have Sunday hunting and it has been proven ineffective. Farmers and others experiencing crop damage can easily get a permit to kill deer 365 days a year. This bill was put in to please the recreational hunter who isn't taking advantage of the 5 months (from early September to the end of January) that they already have 6 days a week.

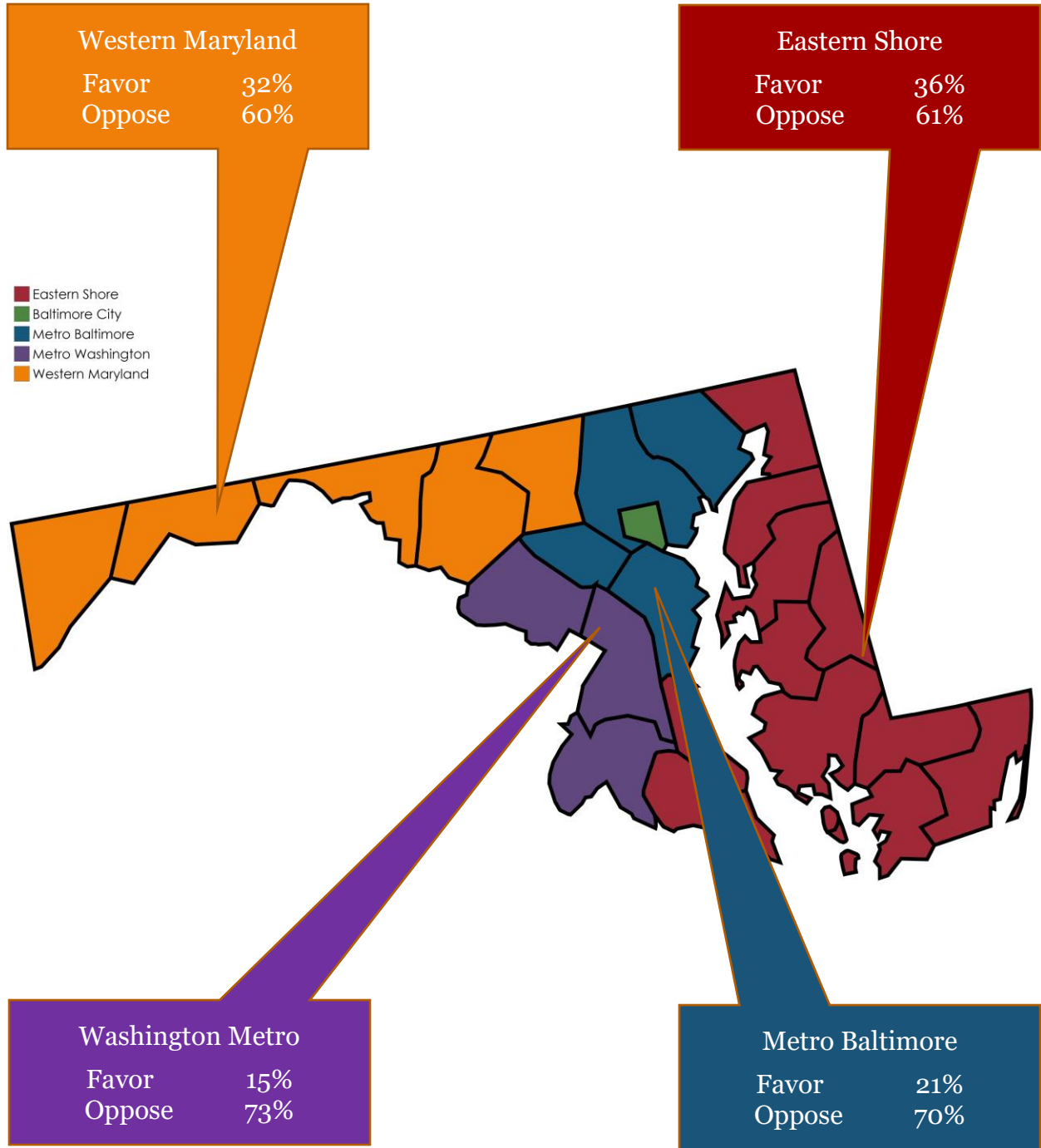
Please listen to the citizens of Maryland as the Gonzales poll proves that the majority of the citizens of Maryland DO NOT want Sunday hunting or the safety zones reduced. **See my attached Gonzales poll results.**

I live 10 minutes from Timonium in a beautiful neighborhood. This bill will make my life even more miserable than hunting already has. I would like to continue to hike on my 14 acres on Sunday and I am angry that hunters will be able to hunt closer to my home. I am already upset about witnessing deer with arrows in them, dead deer with arrows in them and arrows that I could step on and even more upset that these bills are trying to take my rights away!

Sincerely,
Lierra Lenhard

Maps

Sunday Hunting



QUESTION #2 Sunday Hunting – Favor/Oppose *All hunters in Maryland can currently hunt 6 days a week, from September through January. Some want to change the law to add Sunday hunting STATEWIDE, while others say 6 days a week is enough and they just want one day without weapons in their neighborhoods and parks. Do you favor or oppose legislation that would add Sunday hunting, giving hunters 7 days a week?*

SUNDAY HUNTING	Number	Percent
Favor	175	21.9 %
Oppose	551	68.9 %
No answer	74	9.3 %
Total	800	100.0 %

Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

SUNDAY HUNTING	Number	Percent
Strongly Favor	108	13.5 %
Somewhat Favor	67	8.4 %
Somewhat Oppose	123	15.4 %
Strongly Oppose	428	53.5 %
No answer	74	9.3 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING				
Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

PARTY

Democrat	41 9.1%	38 8.5%	68 15.1%	257 57.2%	45 10.0%
Republican	58 25.7%	19 8.4%	27 11.9%	107 47.3%	15 6.6%
Unaffiliated	9 7.2%	10 8.0%	28 22.4%	64 51.2%	14 11.2%

N=800

SUNDAY HUNTING				
Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

GENDER

Male	78 20.9%	30 8.0%	53 14.2%	184 49.2%	29 7.8%
Female	30 7.0%	37 8.7%	70 16.4%	244 57.3%	45 10.6%

N=800

	SUNDAY HUNTING				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>RACE</u>					
White	86 16.1%	47 8.8%	77 14.4%	277 52.0%	46 8.6%
African-American	17 7.8%	17 7.8%	37 17.0%	122 56.0%	25 11.5%
Other	5 10.2%	3 6.1%	9 18.4%	29 59.2%	3 6.1%

N=800

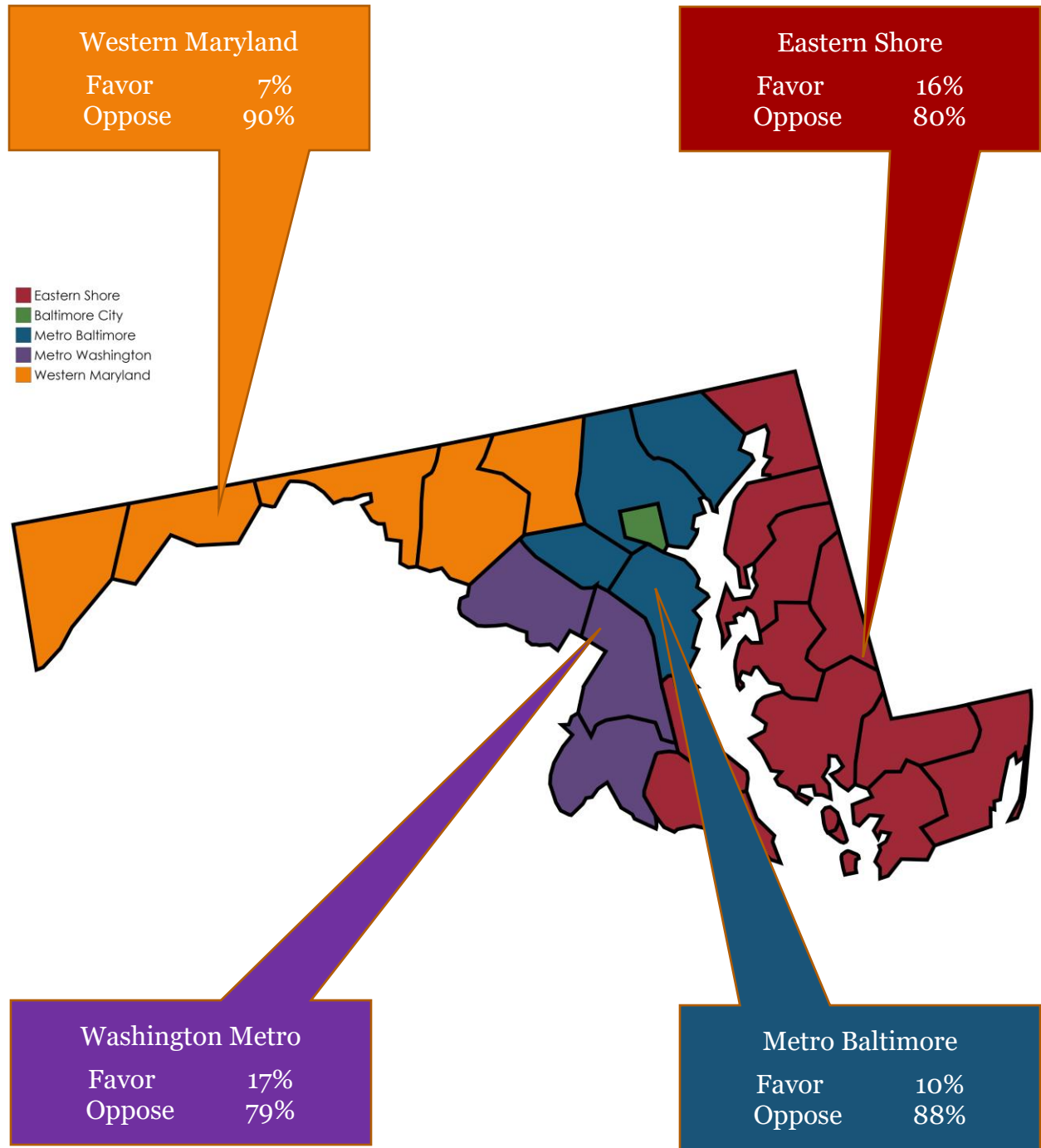
	SUNDAY HUNTING				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>AGE GROUP</u>					
Millennial	20 12.3%	7 4.3%	29 17.8%	93 57.1%	14 8.6%
Xennial	11 9.0%	11 9.0%	22 18.0%	68 55.7%	10 8.2%
Gen X	23 14.6%	10 6.4%	24 15.3%	80 51.0%	20 12.7%
Gen Jones	37 21.3%	19 10.9%	25 14.4%	77 44.3%	16 9.2%
Boomer	17 9.2%	20 10.9%	23 12.5%	110 59.8%	14 7.6%

N=800

	SUNDAY HUNTING				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
<u>REGION</u>					
Baltimore Metro	39 11.3%	32 9.3%	57 16.5%	186 53.9%	31 9.0%
Washington Metro	25 9.3%	16 5.9%	41 15.2%	155 57.4%	33 12.2%
Rural Maryland	44 23.8%	19 10.3%	25 13.5%	87 47.0%	10 5.4%

Maps

Legislation to Reduce Safety Zone Distance



QUESTION #5 Safety Zone Reduction *Currently, most counties in Maryland have a 150 yard safety zone, which prohibits hunting within 150 yards of an occupied structure, such as your home. Now that archery crossbows can shoot an arrow almost 150 yards in just one second, do you favor or oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure?*

<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>	Number	Percent
Favor	100	12.5 %
Oppose	673	84.1 %
No answer	27	3.4 %
Total	800	100.0 %

Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose legislation that would reduce the safety zone distance to 50 yards of an occupied structure?

<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>	Number	Percent
Strongly Favor	49	6.1 %
Somewhat Favor	51	6.4 %
Somewhat Oppose	77	9.6 %
Strongly Oppose	596	74.5 %
No answer	27	3.4 %
Total	800	100.0 %

N=800

	<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

PARTY

Democrat	28 6.2%	25 5.6%	43 9.6%	337 75.1%	16 3.6%
Republican	14 6.2%	18 8.0%	22 9.7%	165 73.0%	7 3.1%
Unaffiliated	7 5.6%	8 6.4%	12 9.6%	94 75.2%	4 3.2%

N=800

	<u>REDUCE SAFETY ZONE</u>				
	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer

GENDER

Male	20 5.3%	27 7.2%	35 9.4%	279 74.6%	13 3.5%
Female	29 6.8%	24 5.6%	42 9.9%	317 74.4%	14 3.3%

N=800

REDUCE SAFETY ZONE

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
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RACE

White	27 5.1%	33 6.2%	47 8.8%	409 76.7%	17 3.2%
African-American	18 8.3%	17 7.8%	23 10.6%	152 69.7%	8 3.7%
Other	4 8.2%	1 2.0%	7 14.3%	35 71.4%	2 4.1%

N=800

REDUCE SAFETY ZONE

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
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AGE GROUP

Millennial	6 3.7%	6 3.7%	15 9.2%	129 79.1%	7 4.3%
Xennial	7 5.7%	9 7.4%	7 5.7%	98 80.3%	1 0.8%
Gen X	11 7.0%	11 7.0%	13 8.3%	114 72.6%	8 5.1%
Gen Jones	14 8.0%	10 5.7%	18 10.3%	129 74.1%	3 1.7%
Boomer	11 6.0%	15 8.2%	24 13.0%	126 68.5%	8 4.3%

N=800

REDUCE SAFETY ZONE

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	No answer
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REGION

Baltimore Metro	12 3.5%	21 6.1%	33 9.6%	269 78.0%	10 2.9%
Washington Metro	28 10.4%	18 6.7%	23 8.5%	191 70.7%	10 3.7%
Rural Maryland	9 4.9%	12 6.5%	21 11.4%	136 73.5%	7 3.8%