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## Final Story Memo

Hello,

We would like to propose a story idea about demographic factors that impact the different voting methods for Maryland voters. This story would be interesting to election boards, get out the vote organizations and general voting advocates looking for how to best encourage specific populations to get out to the polls.

Through an analysis of voting records, we found that counties with an older population tend to vote more on election day than the other counties. We also found that younger counties tend to vote more by mail.

Of individual precincts who voted early, we found that the highest rate of people voting early came from a precinct in Anne Arundell county with a relatively young average age and high average income. We also found that more people voted early for the presidential election in 2024 than in the gubernatorial 2022 election, implying that Maryland voters were less excited to vote in a statewide election (which could mean that voting advocates may need to push more for early voting in non-presidential years).

These data points suggest that younger people in Maryland are more likely to use early voting and mail-in voting, two methods that were promoted within the last few elections. Areas with more older Marylanders on the other hand are more likely to embrace traditional voting on election day.

While our current data is strong evidence that there is a link towards age and the methods of voting, there is room for a more detailed and robust data analysis. We would like to look into precincts or cities with dramatically high or low median age to see if these patterns exist at a hyper-local level.

We would also like to look into more factors like income level, occupation and party identification to see if they also have a great impact on voting methods.

After we looked at these other data points we would interview ‘get out the vote’ experts in the regions of Maryland we’re highlighting to see if they have seen any of these patterns play out in their own cities. These experts could be people who work in campaigns, voting drives and other programs to encourage specific populations (like college students, seniors etc.) to vote.

In order to give this story more of a human angle, we would interview individuals from Anne Arundell county to explore potential reasons why some people decide to vote early. It’s important to add personal stories to data-driven articles as too many numbers could become quite overwhelming for readers.

We also have a few other story angles related to the 2024 election we are interested in pitching to you.

This includes an analysis of the difference in voting trends for former president Donald Trump in predominantly Black cities. We used Prince George's County and Baltimore City as a reference point, as both regions have a population with over 54% Black people. Our group looked at Memphis and Detroit as points of references, since those city demographics are similar to Baltimore City and Prince George's County.

We found that Black cities shifted dramatically towards Trump in 2024, even more so than 2022. This was similar across the nation, but for Democratic coalitions to lose one of its main demographics. However, we found that Baltimore and Prince George's County did not shift as much towards Trump as the other Black-majority areas we looked into. This was likely because of the Democratic down ticket in Maryland and also the liberal nature of Maryland.

Thank you for your time,  
Katharine Wilson, Samuel Jane, and Loretta Pulwer