

The MassINC Polling Group
The Commonwealth Beacon and GBH Survey
Survey of 1,002 Massachusetts residents
Field dates: March 21 - 29, 2024

What do you think is the single biggest issue facing state government here in Massachusetts?

Migrants / immigration	21%
Housing	15%
Inflation / cost of living	12%
Taxes / government spending / welfare	12%
Politics (corruption, transparency, incompetence)	8%
Homelessness	7%
Infrastructure (roads, energy, etc)	7%
Economy (jobs, poverty, inequality)	8%
Public safety (drugs, crime, violence)	5%
Healthcare	4%
Education	3%
Climate / environment	2%
Discrimination / rights (race, LGBT, sexism)	2%
Other	4%
Non response	5%

Are you registered to vote in the state of Massachusetts?

Yes	86%
No	11%
Don't know / refused	2%

ASK FOLLOWING 2 QUESTIONS IF REGISTERED TO VOTE

What are the chances that you will vote in the November general election for President and other offices?

Very likely	81%
Somewhat likely	12%
Somewhat unlikely	3%
Very unlikely	3%
Don't know / refused	2%

If the election for President were held today, for whom would you vote? **ROTATE ORDER.**

ASK IF UNSURE WHO WOULD VOTE FOR TODAY

Which way do you lean as of now? **ROTATE ORDER.**

Initial preference

Democrat Joe Biden	44%
Republican Donald Trump	26%
Independent Robert Kennedy Jr.	7%
Independent Cornel West	2%
Another candidate	3%
Would not vote	3%
Unsure	14%
Don't know / refused	1%

Preference with leaners

Democrat Joe Biden	46%
Republican Donald Trump	28%
Independent Robert Kennedy Jr.	9%
Independent Cornel West	2%
Another candidate	4%
Would not vote	3%
Unsure	7%
Don't know / refused	2%

ASK ALL

Joe Biden and Donald Trump look set to be the two main candidates for president. Which of the following words describe your feelings about this matchup? **ROTATE ORDER. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.**

Disappointed	48%
Annoyed	31%
Angry	23%
Interested	19%
Motivated	17%
Excited	12%
Bored	11%
Happy	6%
None of the above	5%
Don't know / refused	6%

Which of the following do you think best describes political tensions in America today?

Not that bad	4%
Somewhat bad	21%
Very bad	39%
A crisis	33%
Don't know / refused	3%

How likely or unlikely do you think it is that the US will see major violence in relation to the 2024 presidential election?

Very likely	22%
Somewhat likely	42%
Not too likely	22%
Not at all likely	6%
Don't know / refused	9%

How closely have you been following the situation in Gaza?

Very closely	17%
Somewhat closely	42%
Not too closely	28%
Not at all	11%
Don't know / refused	2%

Would you say you support or oppose the military action Israel has taken in Gaza?

Strongly support	13%
Somewhat support	21%
Somewhat oppose	21%
Strongly oppose	19%
Don't know / refused	26%

Which is closer to your point of view? **ROTATE ORDER.**

The US should push Israeli leaders to end the war right away	47%
The US should support Israeli leaders in the war	21%
Something else	8%
Don't know / refused	23%

There may be a question on the November 2024 ballot in Massachusetts regarding a proposal related to auditing the state legislature. A yes vote would specify that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the Legislature. A no vote would make no change to existing law. If the election were held today, how would you vote on this proposal? **ROTATE ORDER.**

Vote yes	53%
Vote no	12%
Don't know / refused	35%

To the best of your knowledge, do you personally know anyone who has had an abortion? **ROTATE ORDER.**

Yes	51%
No	43%
Don't know / refused	5%

Do you think the Supreme Court ruling striking down Roe vs Wade and removing the federal right to abortion was the right decision or wrong decision?

Right decision	19%
Wrong decision	67%
Don't know / refused	14%

Massachusetts is the only state in the country with a "right to shelter" law, which requires the state to provide shelter to families and pregnant women. Do you support or oppose this law?

Strongly support	47%
Somewhat support	32%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	7%
Don't know / refused	6%

Recently, thousands of migrants have come to Massachusetts, many of whom are currently being housed in the state's emergency shelter system. Overall, do you support or oppose housing migrants in the emergency shelter system?

Strongly support	17%
Somewhat support	28%
Somewhat oppose	21%
Strongly oppose	26%
Don't know / refused	8%

Which of the following best describes your view of the current migrant situation in Massachusetts?

A crisis	28%
A major problem	39%
A minor problem	20%
Not a problem	5%
Don't know / refused	7%

Now I would like to ask you about another topic.

The state legislature is considering a proposal which would allow the State Lottery to sell lottery products online to customers aged 18 and over. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

Strongly favor	17%
Somewhat favor	33%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	18%
Don't know / refused	13%

Which of the following have you done in the last year?

ROTATE ORDER	Have done this	Have not done this	Don't know / refused
Purchased scratch or lottery tickets	68%	31%	1%
Purchased Mega Millions or Powerball tickets	57%	42%	1%
Placed a bet at a casino	25%	74%	2%
Placed a sports bet	24%	75%	1%
Played Keno	22%	77%	1%
Bet on horse racing	7%	91%	2%

ASK IF DOES NOT SPORTS BET

You noted you have not placed a sports bet in the last year. What are the main reasons you do not participate in sports betting?

Not interested / not for me	24%
Don't watch sports	24%
Opposed to gambling generally	19%
Don't want to risk / lose money	11%
Waste of money	9%
No money to bet / too expensive	6%
Don't know / understand how to bet	5%
Worried about addiction / slippery slope	5%
Think it is rigged	2%
Other	2%
Non response	2%

ASK FOLLOWING 8 QUESTIONS IF PLACED SPORTS BET

You noted you have placed a sports bet in the last year. Over the last year, how often have you placed sports bets?

More than once a week	17%
About once a week	17%
A few times a month	17%
About once a month	16%
Less than monthly	30%
Don't know / refused	3%

What is the largest sports bet you've placed in the last year? **ENTER AMOUNT: \$____. CODED INTO CATEGORIES.**

<\$10	11%
\$10 to <\$20	9%
\$20 to <\$50	17%
\$50 to <\$100	18%
\$100 to <\$500	35%
\$500+	9%

What amounts do you typically bet when placing sports bets?

Less than \$20	46%
\$20-\$49	25%
\$50-\$99	17%
\$100-\$199	5%
\$200 or more	6%

What are the main reasons you place sports bets?

Fun / entertainment	45%
To win money	30%
Excitement / interest	23%
Got free bet to play	3%
Play with friends / family	3%
Like sports / favorite teams	3%
Other	3%
Non response	1%

Keeping in mind this survey is anonymous, did you ever place bets on sporting events before it was legalized in Massachusetts?

Yes	41%
No	53%
Don't know / refused	6%

ASK IF PLACED SPORTS BET BEFORE IT WAS LEGAL

Compared to before it was legalized, would you say you bet more or less on sports now, compared to before sports gambling was legalized in Massachusetts?

Bet more now	36%
Bet less now	16%
Bet about the same amount	48%
Don't know / refused	0%

Thinking of all of the sports bets you have placed in the last year, do you think you have made money or lost money over that period?

Made money	41%
Lost money	46%
Don't know / refused	13%

How would you describe the source of funds you use for sports betting? **ROTATE ORDER.**

Spare cash	73%
Part of my living expenses	5%
A combination of both	18%
Don't know / refused	4%

ASK ALL

As you may know, the state legislature passed a law called the “MBTA Communities Act” which requires cities and towns in the MBTA region to create zoning for a certain amount of multi-family housing to be built. Do you think this is a good policy or a bad policy?

Good policy	50%
Bad policy	20%
Don't know / refused	30%

If a city or town refuses to create zoning for the amount of new housing required by the state law, what do you think should happen? **ROTATE ORDER.**

The town should be allowed to refuse	41%
State officials should force the town to comply through legal means	31%
Don't know / refused	28%

State leaders have said if a city or town refuses to create zoning for the amount of new housing required by the state law, the town will not be able to receive some kinds of state funding. Do you think this is a good policy or a bad policy?

Good policy	41%
Bad policy	34%
Don't know / refused	25%

Recently, some teachers' unions in Massachusetts have gone on strike, even though it is currently illegal for Massachusetts public school teachers to strike. (Teachers' unions that go on strike have to pay fines for each day they are out of work.) Do you think the law should be changed to make teachers' strikes legal, or do you think they should remain illegal?

Change to make strikes legal	50%
Keep strikes illegal	34%
Don't know / refused	16%

Demographics

Gender:	Men	48%
	Women	51%
	Non-binary	1%
	Some other way	0%
	Don't know / refused	<1%
Age:	18-29	22%
	30-44	24%
	45-59	25%
	60+	29%
Race:	White	72%
	Black	7%
	Latino	10%
	Asian	7%
	All other / multiple	3%
	Don't know / refused	<11%
Party ID:	Democrat	34%
	Republican	14%
	Independent / other	47%
	Don't know / refused	5%
Education:	High School or less	32%
	Some college, no degree	26%
	College graduate (BA/BS)	24%
	Advanced degree	18%
	Don't know / refused	<1%

About the poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,002 Massachusetts residents. Responses were collected via online survey interviewing March 21 – 29, 2024. The data were weighted to reflect known and estimated population parameters for race, age and gender, education, geography, and political party. Population targets were based on 5-year estimates from the American Community Survey. Party identification was estimated using MPG survey data. The credibility interval for this survey is +/- 3.4 percentage points for the entire sample, including the design effect. All surveys are potentially subject to non-sampling error. This project was conducted by The MassINC Polling Group and sponsored by Commonwealth Beacon and GBH.