

**The MassINC Polling Group**  
**Transportation for Massachusetts**  
 Survey of 1,408 Massachusetts residents  
 Field dates: June 12 - 30, 2024

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

Housing	18%
Migrants / immigration	18%
Taxes / government spending / welfare	14%
Inflation / cost of living	13%
Politics / corruption / transparency / incompetence	10%
Economy / jobs / poverty / wages	9%
Infrastructure (roads, energy, public transportation, traffic, etc.)	7%
Homelessness	6%
Public safety (drugs, crime, violence)	5%
Education / childcare	2%
Healthcare (mental and physical)	2%
Climate / environment	1%
Discrimination / rights (race, LGBT, sexism)	1%
Other	2%
No response / don't know	6%

In the past month, which of the following have you used to get around? **Select all that apply.**

Drive alone	74%
Drive or ride with others	60%
Walk	56%
Take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	29%
Take the MBTA subway or trolley	20%
Take the MBTA or RTA bus	16%
Take the commuter rail	11%
Ride your own bike	11%
Take a ferry	3%
Ride a BlueBikes or other bikeshare	2%
Take a corporate or private shuttle	1%
Other	1%
Don't know / refused	<1%

And which of these would you say is your main way of getting around?

Drive alone	59%
Drive or ride with others	19%
Walk	8%
Take the MBTA subway or trolley	5%
Take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	4%
Take the MBTA or RTA bus	2%
Take the commuter rail	1%
Ride your own bike	1%
Take a corporate or private shuttle	<1%
Take a ferry	<1%
Ride a BlueBikes or other bikeshare	<1%
Other	1%
Don't know / refused	<1%

How would you rate the condition of transportation here in Massachusetts, including roads, bridges, cycling and walking, and public transportation including buses, trains, subways, and ferries?

Excellent	5%
Good	28%
Fair	41%
Poor	25%
Don't know / refused	1%

What grade would you give Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey on transportation, including highways, roads and bridges, public transportation like trains, subways, buses and ferries, and walking and biking?

A	6%
B	29%
C	32%
D	14%
F	11%
Don't know / refused	8%

The Massachusetts State Legislature is responsible for funding public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, sidewalks, bike paths, and public transportation like trains, buses, and subways. What grade would you give the State Legislature for funding transportation infrastructure here in Massachusetts?

A	5%
B	23%
C	34%
D	18%
F	13%
Don't know / refused	6%

It has been a little more than a year since Governor Healey appointed a new General Manager for the MBTA. Based on what you may have heard or read recently, or what you experienced yourself as a rider, do think the MBTA is...

Getting better	22%
Getting worse	17%
About the same as it has been	43%
Don't know / refused	17%

Thinking about the public transportation near where you live -- including buses, subways, trains, and ferries - would you say that is good enough that you could rely on it to get where you need to go, or not?

Good enough to rely on	47%
Not good enough to rely on	38%
Don't know / refused	15%

In the past 3 months, how often were you not able to leave the house when you wanted to because of a problem with transportation?

Often	6%
Sometimes	25%
Never	66%
Don't know / refused	4%

In the past 3 months, how often did you feel bad because you did not have the transportation you needed?

Often	9%
Sometimes	25%
Never	63%
Don't know / refused	3%

In a typical month would you say that the amount you spend on transportation, including car payments, gas and maintenance, bus fares, Uber, Lyft, and taxis, is...

Not a burden at all	13%
Not much of a burden	24%
Somewhat of a burden	38%
A very big burden	19%
I do not have any transportation expenses	4%
Don't know / refused	1%

The state has 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) that run bus service outside the MBTA service area. The RTAs also provide on-demand, door-to-door paratransit service for passengers with disabilities that prevent them from using the bus.

Most RTAs charge fares to ride. A few do not charge fare to ride, either some of the time or all of the time. There is a proposal in the State Legislature to give the RTAs funding so that all of them can run fare-free. How much would you support or oppose making all the state's RTAs fare-free to ride?

Strongly support	39%
Somewhat support	35%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	6%
Don't know / refused	11%

**Thank you. Now we would like to ask you some questions about how we pay for transportation in Massachusetts.**

Cities like London and Paris charge drivers a fee to drive into their central business districts. New York City was planning to charge drivers entering part of Manhattan starting this month. That plan has been delayed by New York Governor Kathy Hochul. These "congestion pricing" fees are meant to reduce traffic and pollution and raise money for public transit. Do you think that Massachusetts should study ways to use congestion pricing to reduce traffic and raise money for public transit in and around Boston?

Yes, should study	50%
No, should not study	36%
Don't know / refused	14%

In some other states, cities and towns let voters vote on whether to raise local taxes for transportation projects. Massachusetts currently does not let cities and towns do this. Do you think Massachusetts should allow cities and towns to let voters vote on raising local taxes for transportation?

Yes, should allow local votes	68%
No, should not allow local votes	19%
Don't know / refused	12%

Do you think that businesses with more than a certain number of employees should pay a payroll tax to help cover the transportation impacts of their employees' commutes?

Yes, they should	47%
No, they should not	35%
Don't know / refused	18%

Do you think that real estate developers should pay part of the cost of the transportation near the projects that they build?

Yes, they should	58%
No, they should not	25%
Don't know / refused	17%

**Thank you. Now we would like to ask you some questions about housing here in Massachusetts.**

Do you own or rent your home, or do you have another arrangement like living with family members or student housing?

Own	53%
Rent	38%
Some other arrangement	9%
Don't know / refused	<1%

**ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTION IF NOT A HOMEOWNER**

Do you hope to buy a home in the next 5 years?

Yes	49%
No	30%
Don't know / refused	22%

Would you say that the amount you spend on housing in a month, including rent or mortgage, insurance, taxes, is...

Not a burden at all	10%
Not much of a burden	16%
Somewhat of a burden	34%
A very big burden	37%
I do not spend anything on housing	3%
Don't know / refused	<1%

How long have you lived at your current address?

Less than 5 years	31%
5 years to less than 10 years	20%
10 years to less than 15 years	14%
15 years or longer	34%
Don't know / refused	1%

In the next 5 years, do see yourself moving, either within Massachusetts or to somewhere outside Massachusetts?

Yes, move within Massachusetts	19%
Yes, move out of Massachusetts	21%
Not planning on moving	45%
Don't know / refused	15%

Let's assume for a moment that you were looking to move to a new place to live in Massachusetts. How important are each of the following when deciding where you would want to live?

<b>ROTATE ORDER</b>	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	Don't know / refused
Finding a home I can afford	84%	11%	2%	2%	1%
Having safe places to walk or bike nearby	61%	29%	8%	2%	<1%
Finding a home with enough space for my family	57%	26%	9%	7%	1%
Having an easy commute to work	45%	29%	9%	15%	2%
Being in a neighborhood with amenities like shopping and dining	39%	42%	15%	4%	<1%
Access to public transportation	32%	32%	23%	12%	<1%
Being in a good school district	32%	20%	20%	28%	1%

And of those, which would you say are the three most important factors in deciding where to live?

Finding a home I can afford	78%
Having safe places to walk or bike nearby	47%
Finding a home with enough space for my family	41%
Being in a neighborhood with amenities like shopping and dining	39%
Having an easy commute to work	31%
Access to public transportation	23%
Being in a good school district	20%
Don't know / refused	1%

Transit Oriented Development refers to building a mix of housing, shopping, and office space near public transportation (train stations, bus or subway stops, etc.). In general, do you think that this type of development is a good idea or a bad idea in Massachusetts?

A good idea	69%
A bad idea	11%
Don't know / refused	19%

Would you be interested in doing each of the following at a Transit Oriented Development? **Select all that apply.**

Going out for shopping or dining there	57%
Living there	34%
Working at office space there	32%
None of these	21%
Don't know / refused	12%

**Thank you. We're almost done. The last few questions are for statistical purposes.**

How many cars, if any, does your household own or lease?

None	11%
One	41%
Two	33%
Three	9%
Four or more	5%
Prefer not to say	1%

Do you have any children living with you and attending kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade?

Yes	24%
No	75%
Prefer not to say	1%

Which of the following describes you? **Select all that apply.**

I work a full-time job	46%
I work one or more part-time jobs	16%
I go to school	7%
I take care of children or other dependents at home	10%
I am retired	22%
I am unable to work due to a medical condition	7%
I am not working for other reasons	7%
None of the above	2%
Don't know / refused	1%

**ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTION IF EMPLOYED FULL OR PART-TIME**

How often do you work from home right now?

Every workday	19%
A few times a week	20%
A few times a month	6%
Less than once a month	6%
Never, I prefer not to work from home	7%
Never, this is not an option for my work	41%
Don't know / refused	1%

**ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION IF COMMUTES TO WORK**

When you commute to work, how do you do so? **Select all that apply.**

Drive	80%
Take the MBTA subway	16%
Walk	14%
Take a public bus (MBTA or RTA)	12%
Take the commuter rail	6%
Ride a bike	4%
Take a ferry	1%
Don't know / refused	<1%



## Demographics

Gender:	Man	47%
	Woman	51%
	Non-binary	1%
	Some other way	<1%
	Don't know / refused	1%
Age:	18-29	22%
	30-44	24%
	45-59	25%
	60+	29%
Race:	White	71%
	Black	7%
	Latino	11%
	AAPI	7%
	All other / multiple	3%
	Don't know / refused	2%
Party ID:	Democrat	34%
	Republican	14%
	Independent / other	46%
	Don't know / refused	6%
Education:	High School or less	33%
	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 1,408 Massachusetts residents, including oversamples of 300 residents of selected Gateway Cities and 100 residents of Mattapan and Hyde Park in Boston. Responses were collected from June 12 – 30, 2024 by online survey, text invitation into an online survey, and by live interviews via landline and cell phones. The oversamples and base samples were weighted by race, age and gender, education and geography, using targets derived from the latest available 5-year American Community Survey data. The oversamples were then weighted in proportion to the state population, and the entire sample was weighted by age and gender, race, education, geography, and political identification. The credibility interval for the full sample is +/- 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, inclusive of the design effect. This project was conducted by The MassINC Polling Group with input from Transportation for Massachusetts and sponsored by The Barr Foundation.