

The MassINC Polling Group & CommonWealth Beacon

Massachusetts Ballot Questions Poll

Survey of 800 Massachusetts likely voters

Field Dates: September 14 - 22, 2026

Thinking about the November election, how do you plan to vote?

Vote by mail	31%
Vote in person	65%
Unsure	3%

As you may have heard, the Trump administration wants the Postal Service to reject mail-in ballots that do not match a voter database. Does this news make you less likely to vote by mail, more likely, or does it not make a difference?

Less likely to vote by mail	24%
More likely to vote by mail	17%
Makes no difference	56%
Unsure	3%

In a few words, what are one or two high-priority issues for you when deciding how to vote in the November elections? **OPEN END. RESPONSES CODED INTO CATEGORIES.**

Inflation / cost of living	30%
Vote for Democrat / against Trump / GOP	19%
Economy / jobs	17%
Immigration / ICE	10%
Healthcare	9%
Candidate qualities / stances	10%
Foreign Policy / National Security	9%
Housing	7%
Taxes / Spending	5%
Social issues / rights	5%
Vote against Democrats / For GOP	3%
Crime / Public Safety	3%
Environment / Climate change	3%
Ballot Questions	3%
Education	2%
Other	16%
Unsure / No response	3%

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of each of the following?

RANDOMIZE ORDER	Favorable	Unfavorable	Heard of / Undecided	Never heard of	Prefer not to say
Donald Trump	25%	67%	4%	1%	3%
Maura Healey	52%	33%	11%	3%	2%
Mike Minogue	21%	33%	27%	16%	2%
Ed Markey	50%	27%	18%	4%	1%
John Deaton	13%	19%	36%	30%	2%

If the election for Governor of Massachusetts were held today, for whom would you vote? **ROTATE CANDIDATES. ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION IF UNDECIDED ON GOVERNOR VOTE:** Which way do you lean as of today in the election for Governor? **ROTATE CANDIDATES.**

Initial preference

Mike Minogue, Republican Party	30%
Maura Healey, Democratic Party	51%
Andrea James, Independent	3%
Another candidate	2%
Undecided	12%
Prefer not to say	2%

Preference with leaners

Mike Minogue, Republican Party	32%
Maura Healey, Democratic Party	54%
Andrea James, Independent	4%
Another candidate	3%
Undecided	6%
Prefer not to say	2%

If the election for Senate were held today, for whom would you vote? **ROTATE CANDIDATES. ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION IF UNDECIDED ON SENATE VOTE:** Which way do you lean as of today in the election for Senate? **ROTATE CANDIDATES.**

Initial preference

John Deaton, Republican Party	26%
Ed Markey, Democratic Party	52%
Joe Tache, Party for Socialism and Liberation	2%
Shiva Ayyadurai, Independent	2%
Another candidate	3%
Undecided	14%
Prefer not to say	1%

Preference with leaners

John Deaton, Republican Party	28%
Ed Markey, Democratic Party	54%
Joe Tache, Party for Socialism and Liberation	2%
Shiva Ayyadurai, Independent	3%
Another candidate	3%
Undecided	9%
Prefer not to say	2%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION OF HEALEY VOTERS

Which two of the following best describe your reasons for wanting to vote for Maura Healey? **Select up to two. ROTATE ORDER**

I agree with her policy positions	40%
I prefer to vote for Democrats	35%
To oppose Donald Trump	37%
To oppose Mike Minogue	14%
I think she has done a good job	54%
Another reason	1%
Unsure / Prefer not to say	1%

ASK FOLLOWING QUESTION OF MINOGUE VOTERS

Which two of the following best describe your reasons for wanting to vote for Mike Minogue? **Select up to two. ROTATE ORDER**

I agree with his policy positions	35%
I prefer to vote for Republicans	30%
To support Donald Trump	14%
To oppose Maura Healey	45%
I think he will do a good job	41%
Another reason	3%
Unsure / Prefer not to say	1%

ASK ALL

There will be 9 questions that appear on your ballot in November. We will now ask you about each.

Question 1 concerns records held by the State Legislature and the Governor's office. A "yes" vote would make most records held by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. A "no" vote would make no change to the Massachusetts Public Records law. If the election for this measure were held today, would you vote yes or no?

Yes	63%
No	14%
Undecided	23%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Question 2 concerns collective bargaining for the Committee for Public Counsel Services, which provides public defenders to defendants who cannot afford them. A "yes" vote would specify that Committee for Public Counsel Services employees may form a union to collectively bargain with their employer. A "no" vote would make no change to the law governing labor relations for Committee for Public Counsel Service employees. If the election for this measure were held today, would you vote yes or no?

Yes	48%
No	25%
Undecided	26%
Prefer not to say	1%

Question 3 concerns primary elections for political offices. A “yes” vote would eliminate separate party primaries for state elections and require a single primary in which all candidates appear on one ballot, voters could vote for any candidate, and the top two candidates would advance to the general election. A “no” vote would make no change to the laws governing primary elections. If the election for this measure were held today, would you vote yes or no?

Yes	43%
No	36%
Undecided	20%
Prefer not to say	1%

Question 4 concerns registering to vote. A “yes” vote would permit eligible citizens to register to vote or to update their voter registration address at their polling place on Election Day. A “no” vote would make no change to the laws governing voter registration. If the election for this measure were held today, would you vote yes or no?

Yes	53%
No	33%
Undecided	14%
Prefer not to say	1%

Question 5 concerns the limit on how much revenue the state can collect in a given year. A “yes” vote would change the limit on state revenue collection, tying it to prior year collections plus average wage and salary growth, and provide for a rebate of revenue exceeding that limit. A “no” vote would make no change in the law relative to state revenue collection. If the election for this measure were held today, would you vote yes or no?

Yes	47%
No	26%
Undecided	25%
Prefer not to say	1%

Question 6 concerns creating a fund for nature conservation, subject to appropriation by the legislature. A “yes” vote would create a fund that could be utilized for natural resource conservation that would receive some state taxes collected on the sale and use of sporting goods and recreational vehicles, and the use of golf courses. A “no” vote would not create this natural resource conservation fund or change how sales and use taxes are spent. If the election for this measure were held today, would you vote yes or no?

Yes	56%
No	24%
Undecided	20%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Question 7 concerns relaxing zoning rules for single-family homes. A “yes” vote would allow single-family homes to be built on lots of 5,000 square feet or more in residential areas, subject to reasonable local regulation of certain aspects of those homes. A “no” vote would make no change to the law relative to building single-family homes. If the election for this measure were held today, would you vote yes or no?

Yes	51%
No	24%
Undecided	24%
Prefer not to say	1%

Question 8 concerns recreational marijuana. A “yes” vote would prohibit the legalization, regulation, and taxation of the retail sale of adult recreational use marijuana, and change the penalties for possession of marijuana. A “no” vote would make no change to the law relative to marijuana. If the election for this measure were held today, would you vote yes or no?

Yes	27%
No	61%
Undecided	11%
Prefer not to say	1%

Question 9 asks voters to approve or repeal an existing law regarding firearms. A “yes” vote would keep in place the law, which increases the regulation of firearms, including ghost guns, machine guns, and assault-style weapons. A “no” vote would repeal the law. If the election for this measure were held today, would you vote yes or no?

Yes	70%
No	18%
Undecided	11%
Prefer not to say	1%

Just to clarify, do you think the firearm law as described above should be kept in place, or should it be repealed?

Kept in place	65%
Repealed	19%
Undecided	15%
Prefer not to say	1%

In 2024, voters passed a ballot question that gave the State Auditor the right to audit the State Legislature. Do you support or oppose that decision to let the Auditor audit the Legislature?

Support	72%
Oppose	7%
Unsure	21%

As you may know, Massachusetts has had more ballot questions than ever in recent years. Which is closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right? **ROTATE ORDER**

The Massachusetts state legislature should decide more of these issues rather than leaving them to the voters	15%
It is a good thing for the voters to decide these issues	76%
Unsure	9%

When thinking about Maura Healey's time as governor, which three areas do you think she has been most successful in? **Select up to three.**

Roads and highways	19%
The MBTA	24%
K-12 education	23%
Housing costs	19%
Overall cost of living	15%
Healthcare	30%
Clean Energy	20%
The environment	19%
None of the above	21%
Unsure	13%

When thinking about Maura Healey's time as governor, which three areas do you think she has been least successful? **Select up to three.**

Roads and highways	21%
The MBTA	19%
K-12 education	13%
Housing costs	48%
Overall cost of living	59%
Healthcare	26%
Clean Energy	10%
The environment	7%
None of the above	5%
Unsure	14%

As you may know, Massachusetts has some of the highest energy prices in the country. Which of the following do you think is **most** responsible for high energy prices in Massachusetts? **ROTATE ORDER**

Governor Healey	13%
Electric and gas utility companies	28%
President Trump	32%
Lack of new pipelines for natural gas	8%
State clean energy programs	9%
None of the above	2%
Unsure	8%

Demographics:

Gender:

Men	47%
Women	53%
Some other way	0%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Age:

18-29	13%
30-44	22%
45-59	31%
60+	34%

Race:

White alone	79%
Black alone	6%
Latino	6%
AAPI alone	7%
Other	3%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Party identification, with leaners:

Democrat	56%
Republican	30%
Independent / other	13%
Prefer not to say	1%

Education:

High School or less	22%
Some college, no degree	23%
College graduate (BA/BS)	32%
Advanced degree	24%

About the poll

These results are based on a survey of 800 likely voters in the November 2026 election in Massachusetts. Responses were collected via online survey interviewing September 14 - 22, 2026. Results were weighted by race, age, gender, education, political party, and county to reflect known and estimated population parameters for Massachusetts likely voters. The credibility interval for this survey is +/- 4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, inclusive of the design effect. This project was conducted by The MassINC Polling Group and sponsored by *CommonWealth Beacon*.