UMassAmherst | UMass Poll

Toplines
University of Massachusetts Amherst/WCVB
April 2023 Massachusetts Poll

Field Dates:	March 28, 2023 – April 5, 2023
Sample:	700 Respondents
Margin of Error:	4.7%

YouGov interviewed 821 respondents who were then matched down to a sample of 700 to produce the final dataset. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file).

The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, and region. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles.

The weights were then post-stratified on 2016 and 2020 Presidential vote choice, and a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the final weight.

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State of the National Economy (N=700)

Thinking about the state of our national economy, would you rate the nation's economy as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	Apr. 2023	Oct. 2022	June 2022	Nov. 2021	March 2021	Oct. 2020	Aug. 2020
Excellent	4%	3%	4%	3%	1%	4%	2%
Good	23%	22%	18%	29%	19%	19%	19%
Fair	46%	37%	37%	42%	55%	38%	40%
Poor	27%	38%	41%	27%	24%	38%	39%

State of the Massachusetts Economy (N=700)

Thinking about the state of Massachusetts' economy, would you rate Massachusetts' economy as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	Apr. 2023	Oct. 2022	June 2022	Nov. 2021	March 2021	Oct. 2020	Aug. 2020
Excellent	9%	7%	7%	7%	3%	4%	4%
Good	45%	40%	36%	46%	39%	32%	36%
Fair	35%	39%	38%	34%	45%	51%	46%
Poor	11%	14%	19%	13%	13%	13%	15%

State of Own Economic Situation (N=700)

Thinking about your own economic situation, would you rate your own economic situation as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	Apr. 2023	Oct. 2022	June 2022	Nov. 2021
Excellent	10%	8%	8%	9%
Good	34%	36%	34%	38%
Fair	36%	40%	41%	35%
Poor	20%	17%	17%	18%

Finances (N=700)

In the past year, has there been a time when you did not have enough money to . . .

	Yes	No	Not Applicable
pay your rent or mortgage?	23%	66%	12%
pay for your own or your family's medical care?	26%	62%	12%
buy food for you or your family?	28%	68%	4%
travel to and from your place of employment?	13%	63%	24%

Nation Right Direction/Wrong Track (N=700)

Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	Apr. 2023	Oct. 2022	June 2022	Nov. 2021	March 2021	Oct. 2020	Aug. 2020
Right Direction	22%	21%	18%	31%	31%	24%	15%
Wrong Track	65%	66%	67%	52%	51%	71%	75%
Not Sure	13%	12%	15%	17%	18%	5%	10%

MA Right Direction/Wrong Track (N=700)

Do you think things in Massachusetts are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	Apr. 2023	Oct. 2022	June 2022	Nov. 2021	March 2021	Oct. 2020	Aug. 2020
Right Direction	44%	45%	40%	50%	47%	49%	53%
Wrong Track	33%	36%	38%	30%	30%	32%	28%
Not Sure	23%	19%	22%	20%	23%	19%	19%

Massachusetts Move (N=700)

In the past year have you contemplated moving from Massachusetts to another state?

	Apr. 2023	Oct. 2022
Yes	39%	35%
No	61%	65%

Move To Word Cloud (N=283)

Only asked of respondents who indicated that they have contemplated moving.

What state have you contemplated moving to?
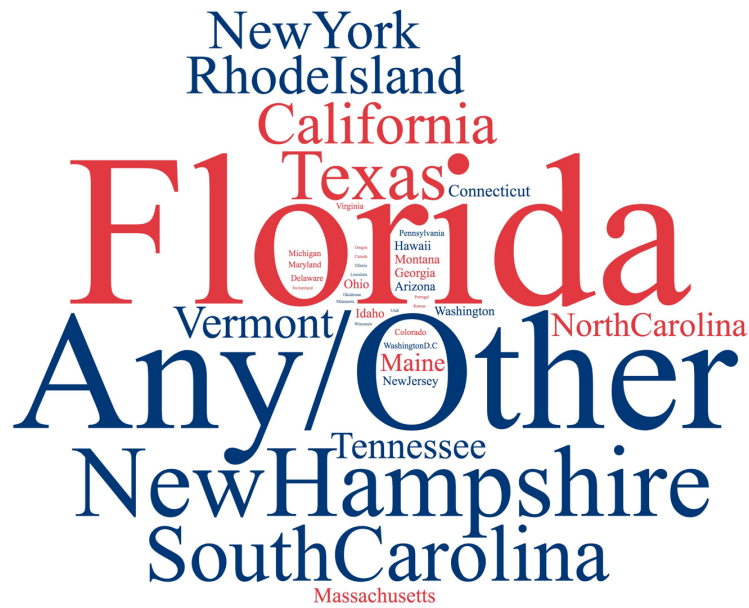
<u>Why Move? (N=283)</u>[i]

Only asked of respondents who indicated that they have contemplated moving.

In a sentence or two, please explain why you have contemplated moving from Massachusetts to another state.

Listed from most common to least commonly cited reasons and examples (see note below).

Reason #1	Escaping the High Cost of Living
Reason #2	Looking for a Change
Reason #3	Concerns About High Taxes and Governance
Reason #4	Feeling Left Out
Reason #5	Complaints About Progressive Politics

Reason 1: Escaping the High Cost of Living – Examples
"I am a social worker; don't make a lot of money. I need to live in a state that will take less of my paycheck--I need to pay student loans AND save for retirement."

"Because living in Massachusetts is starting to get costly and expensive because of inflation altogether."

"Massachusetts is expensive, but not a great place for a young person to live."

Reason 2: Looking for a Change - Examples
"Graduating from school and considering various job paths. Connecticut is similar to MA, and has a large children's hospital I am interested in working at."

"I have mobility issues and could use a warmer climate."

"I only moved here temporarily to be with family due to health/finances. MA is not ideal for my lifestyle, lacks racial diversity compared to the urban hubs I am used to/is very homogenized and lacks arts/music/nightlife/cultural experiences that other cities have to offer."

Reason 3: Concerns about High Taxes and Governance – Examples
"Real estate taxes in my town are skyrocketing with less than fair abatements for seniors and property tax in the area of my other home - plus no state income tax - are inviting."

"High taxes, inflation, corruption at the state level."

"High taxes, corruption and social dysfunction."

Reason 4: Feeling Left Out - Examples
"The people are totally ignorant and I get more respect from strangers in my birth state."

"I do not feel like I belong in Massachusetts. Culturally I do not feel like this is home for me."

"I was not being treated fairly, While all immigrants were getting everything basically free, right after arriving,while I struggled to get the same things."

Reason 5: Complaints about Progressive Politics - Examples
"Insane liberal/progressive spending as well as well as DEI programs which are ruining schools and business environments...pitting racial groups against each other."

"The politics of this state has gotten insufferable. The elitism, the high education nonsense, the spiritual like belief in science and left causes. The people of this state are blinded by their politics and have no idea what is reality going on."

"Too many taxes and regulations, progressive failures in crime and immigration, COST OF EGGS due to cage free nonsense."

Most Important (N=700)

In a word or two, what do you think is the most important issue facing Massachusetts?

Policies (N=700)

Do you support or oppose . . .

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
ending the use of Native American names, symbols, or images to serve as high school, college, or university mascots or team names in Massachusetts?	25%	15%	23%	11%	27%
replacing the state's seal and flag, which shows a colonist's arm brandishing a sword above an image of a Native American?	26%	18%	24%	6%	27%
allowing your local government to set a limit on how much rents can be increased each year?	47%	23%	15%	7%	9%
gradually increasing the state's minimum wage from $15 per hour to $20 per hour by the year 2027?	49%	18%	13%	8%	12%
alllowing public school teachers to strike to improve their working conditions, wages, and benefits?	40%	23%	16%	7%	14%

Reparations Experiment

Do you support or oppose . . .

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
the state of Massachusetts making cash payments to the descendants of slaves? (N=352)	16%	16%	15%	15%	39%
the state of Massachusetts using the revenue from the sale of recreational marijuana to make cash payments to the descendants of slaves? (N=348)	17%	15%	24%	12%	31%

Banks Safe (N=700)

How safe or unsafe do you think the money that you currently have deposited in US banks is?

Very safe	28%
Somewhat safe	42%
Somewhat unsafe	14%
Very unsafe	6%
Not sure	6%
I do not have money deposited in banks	3%

Transit (N=700)

Note: option #4 ("the MBTA")shown only to respondents who live in: Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Bristol, Worcester, and Essex Counties.

How would you rate the quality of the following forms of public transportation in the state?

	Apr. 2023	Nov. 2018	Apr. 2023	Nov. 2018	Apr. 2023	Nov. 2018	Apr. 2023	Nov. 2018	Apr. 2023	Nov. 2018	Apr. 2023	Nov. 2018
	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Very Poor		Do Not Use Service	
Buses	3%	3%	21%	23%	27%	30%	15%	10%	9%	5%	24%	30%
Amtrak	7%	4%	20%	25%	25%	24%	10%	7%	5%	2%	33%	38%
Commuter Rail	5%	2%	16%	23%	27%	27%	14%	12%	8%	5%	30%	31%
The MBTA (N=532)	4%	3%	10%	20%	21%	30%	23%	16%	25%	11%	17%	20%

MBTA Fault (N=532)

Only shown to respondents who live in: Please only ask of respondents who live in: Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Bristol, Worcester, and Essex Counties. Please randomize rows.

In the past year, the MBTA has experienced a number of safety problems, slowdowns, and closures. Who do you believe is <u>most responsible </u>for the MBTA's safety problems, slowdowns, and closures?

Governor Maura Healey	2%
Massachusetts State Legislature	11%
Boston Mayor Michelle Wu	3%
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDot)	57%
Former Governor Charlie Baker	8%
Don't Know	19%

Approval (N=700)

Do you approve or disapprove of the way each is doing their job?

	Apr. 2023			Oct. 2022			June 2022			Nov. 2021		
	App.	Disapp.	Not Sure	App.	Disapp.	Not Sure	App.	Disapp.	Not Sure	App.	Disapp.	Not Sure
President Joe Biden	50%	46%	4%	53%	45%	2%	45%	50%	5%	56%	41%	3%
Governor Maura Healey	57%	24%	19%				N/A					
Senator Edward Markey	57%	28%	15%	53%	35%	11%	49%	32%	19%	54%	30%	15%
Senator Elizabeth Warren	54%	34%	12%	54%	39%	7%	52%	37%	11%	54%	37%	9%
Mass State Legislature	57%	28%	15%	54%	34%	12%	50%	33%	17%	50%	34%	17%

One Word Healey (N=700)

What one word would you use to describe Governor Maura Healey?

One Word Baker (N=700)

What one word would you use to describe former Governor Charlie Baker?

Healey/Baker Similarities (N=700)

	Very Similar	Mostly Similar	Mostly Different	Very Different	Not Sure
When it comes to the *positions they hold on important issues*, would you say that former Governor Charlie Baker and Governor Maura Healey are very similar, mostly similar, mostly different, or very different?	7%	34%	27%	11%	21%
When it comes to their *ideology*, would you say that former Governor Charlie Baker and Governor Maura Healey are very similar, mostly similar, mostly different, or very different?	6%	29%	31%	13%	22%
When it comes to the *leadership styles*, would you say that former Governor Charlie Baker and the current Governor Maura Healey are very similar, mostly similar, mostly different, or very different in their style of leadership?	6%	26%	27%	14%	27%

Healey Policies (N=700)

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
providing free breakfast and lunch for **ALL** K-12 students in the state's public schools on a permanent basis?	59%	20%	10%	5%	7%
the construction of a high-speed rail (train) service between Springfield and Boston?	39%	28%	24%	2%	7%
a temporary moratorium on commercial logging in state-owned forests?	28%	20%	37%	6%	9%
increasing the threshold, from $1 million to $3 million, at which the state begins to collect taxes from heirs to the estates of deceased residents?	26%	22%	26%	11%	14%
lowering the state tax on financial gains from investments held for less than a year from 12 percent to 5 percent?	28%	22%	31%	9%	10%

Healey One Issue (N=700)

Of the following issues, please select the *one* issue that you would like to see Governor Maura Healey address in her first year in office.

Housing shortage and affordability	30%
Infrastructure	7%
Inflation	13%
Immigration	5%
Crime	5%
Transportation	6%
Health care	6%
Reproductive rights	2%
Taxes	9%
Income inequality	7%
Climate change	8%
Health of our democracy	2%

Healey Issue Performance (N=700)

Thinking back on Maura Healey's first 100 days as the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, how well would you say that Governor Healey has handled…

	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Not Too Well	Not Well At All	Don't Know
the economy	9%	28%	12%	17%	35%
the environment	10%	26%	9%	11%	45%
Education	10%	27%	11%	12%	39%
Taxes	8%	22%	13%	15%	43%
Housing	8%	21%	17%	17%	37%
transportation	7%	30%	15%	15%	33%
child care	9%	17%	11%	13%	49%
health care	10%	24%	12%	11%	43%
the MBTA	9%	26%	18%	19%	29%

Healey Representation (N=700)

Thinking back on Governor Healey's first 100 days as the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, how well would you say that Governor Healey has represented each of the following groups and areas?

	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Not Too Well	Not Well At All	Don't Know
Women	26%	29%	7%	7%	30%
Democrats	31%	30%	5%	6%	29%
Republicans	8%	17%	14%	23%	39%
The Middle Class	13%	29%	11%	17%	30%
The Working Class	13%	25%	13%	17%	32%
Small Business Owners	10%	26%	9%	16%	40%
People of Color	14%	30%	8%	8%	40%
Rural Communities	8%	19%	16%	15%	42%
Progressives	21%	28%	8%	6%	36%

Healey Expectations (N=700)

Has Governor Healey exceeded, met, or fallen short of your expectations during her term as Governor?

Exceeded expectations	8%
Met expectations	61%
Fallen short of expectations	32%

Election Day Change (N=700)

Please indicate whether you would favor or oppose the following...

	Apr. 2023	June 2022	Apr. 2023	June 2022	Apr. 2023	June 2022	Apr. 2023	June 2022	Apr. 2023	June 2022
	Strongly Favor		Somewhat Favor		Somewhat Oppose		Strongly Oppose		Don't Know	
making Election Day a state holiday?	45%	49%	23%	22%	9%	11%	15%	12%	9%	8%
allowing people to register to vote and cast their ballot on Election Day?	41%	40%	23%	22%	11%	11%	15%	20%	10%	7%
allowing election officials to automatically mail absentee ballot applications to all voters?	34%	36%	20%	17%	9%	10%	26%	26%	12%	10%
allowing people currently serving a prison sentence the right to vote?	25%	N/A	24%	N/A	13%	N/A	27%	N/A	12%	N/A
lowering the legal voting age from 18 to 16?	10%	N/A	15%	N/A	20%	N/A	46%	N/A	8%	N/A
providing every registered voter with four $25 vouchers that can be donated to any qualifying political candidate running for state office?	14%	N/A	15%	N/A	11%	N/A	42%	N/A	18%	N/A

2024 Democratic Presidential Candidates (N=397)

From the list below, please rank the **top three** candidates that you would select to be the Democratic Party's presidential candidate in 2024.

	Apr. 2023			June 2022		
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Joe Biden	**28%**	11%	10%	26%	12%	8%
Kamala Harris	6%	17%	10%	9%	16%	18%
Bernie Sanders	21%	13%	10%	14%	12%	12%
Pete Buttigieg	15%	15%	14%	13%	15%	16%
Elizabeth Warren	12%	**20%**	**20%**	14%	18%	15%
Gavin Newsom	4%	8%	12%	N/A		
Gretchen Whitmer	4%	8%	9%	N/A		
Someone Else	11%	9%	17%	10%	6%	14%

2024 Republican Presidential Candidates (N=154)

From the list below, please rank the **top three** candidates that you would select to be the Republican Party's presidential candidate in 2024?

	Apr. 2023			June 2022		
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd
Donald Trump	**59%**	11%	7%	51%	16%	6%
Ron DeSantis	18%	**40%**	15%	24%	37%	9%
Nikki Haley	4%	13%	17%	6%	10%	20%
Mike Pence	10%	11%	11%	6%	11%	10%
Tim Scott	1%	10%	16%	1%	9%	20%
Liz Cheney	3%	1%	3%	N/A		
Chris Sununu	0%	5%	4%			
Someone Else	5%	9%	**26%**	8%	7%	21%

2024 Republican Head to Head Matchups (N=154)

If the race for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination comes down to a choice between former President Donald Trump and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, which candidate would you prefer?

Donald Trump	68%
Ron DeSantis	32%

If the race for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination comes down to a choice between former President Donald Trump and New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu, which candidate would you prefer?

Donald Trump	81%
Chris Sununu	19%

If the race for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination comes down to a choice between Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu, which candidate would you prefer?

Ron DeSantis	78%
Chris Sununu	22%

2024 Democratic Senate Primary Election (N=397)

In 2024, Senator Elizabeth Warren will be up for re-election. If Senator Warren was running against Representative Jake Auchincloss in the Democratic primary for senator, who would you be most likely to vote for?

Senator Elizabeth Warren	71%
Representative Jake Auchincloss	9%
Not Sure	19%
Would not Vote	1%

Demographic Breakdown of April 2023 University of Massachusetts Amherst/WCVB Poll (N=700)

Men	48%
Women	52%
18-29	19%
30-54	39%
>55	42%
HS or less	33%
Some Coll.	15%
Coll. Deg.	34%
Postgrad	18%
<$40K	33%
$40K-$100K	37%
>$100K	30%
Democrat	56%
Independent	21%
Republican	23%
Liberal	46%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	21%
People of Color	27%
White	73%
Biden	68%
Trump	32%

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[i] We identified major reasons for considering moving from Massachusetts in the open-ended responses using the structural topic model, a method for identifying thematic patterns in texts. We estimated a model with 5 topics, and used the words most associated with each topic, along with responses highly associated with each topic, to interpret the meaning of the topics. The topics are not mutually exclusive: responses can belong to more than one topic.