

MASSACHUSETTS SURVEY REPORT

Commissioned by



PIONEER INSTITUTE
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Conducted by

Emerson College
P O L L I N G



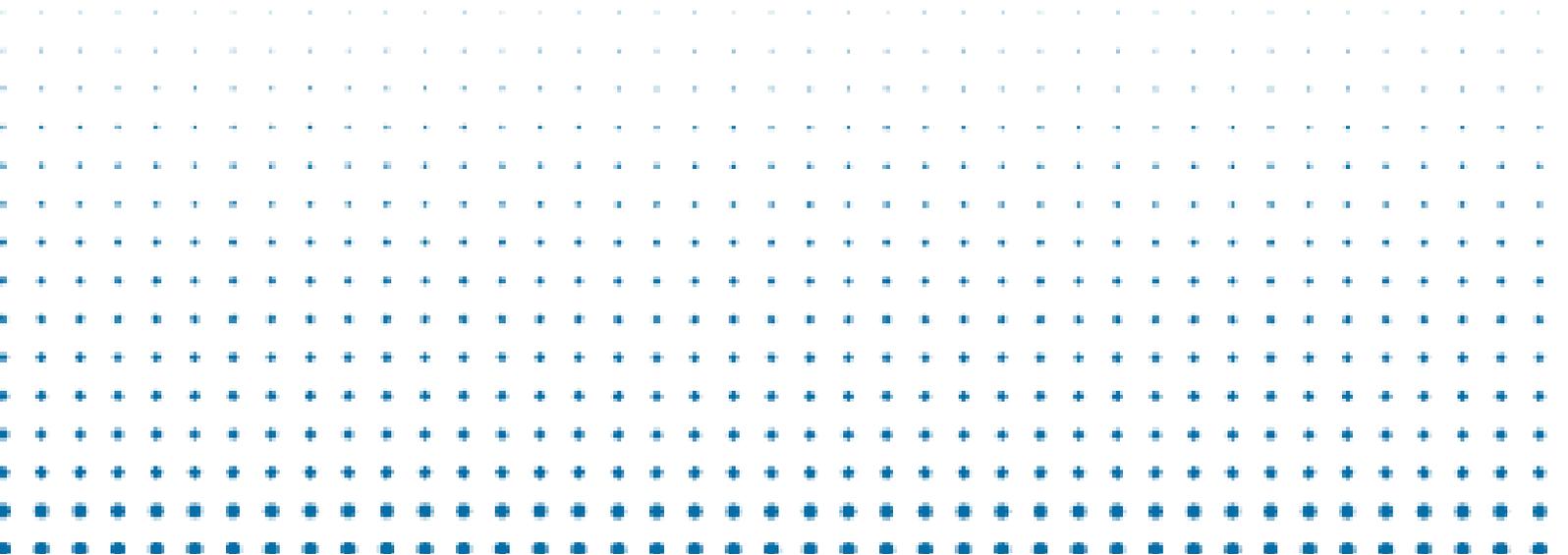
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METHODOLOGY

Emerson College Polling is pleased to present the Pioneer Institute with the findings from a survey of Massachusetts residents' attitudes toward education policy. All respondents interviewed in this study were part of a fully representative sample using an area probabilistic sampling method of N=1,000 (sample size).

Data was weighted by Massachusetts general population parameters. The margin of error for the sample is +/- 3% in 19 of 20 cases. The survey was administered by contacting landline telephones via IVR, cell phones via text message, and online panel. Data was collected between November 11-14, 2022.

The results presented in this report include univariate and bivariate analysis of the data. Frequency distributions for each item included on the questionnaire are shown in the tables. In all cases, cross-tabulation results are also shown. This type of bivariate analysis examines differences between sub-groups of the overall population. In the cases where cross tabulation results are presented, a chi-square test, an independent t-test for means, or a Z-test for independent percentages is shown.

A chi-square test is used in cases where comparisons are made for categorical variables. A t-test is used in cases where comparisons are made for measurement variables. A Z-test is used in cases where comparisons are made between independent population percentages.

The purpose of these statistical tests is to determine whether or not the observed difference between sub-groups in the sample is due to sampling error or whether it is due to a real difference in the population. When the results are statistically significant, it strongly suggests that the observed difference between sub-groups found in the sample is due to a real difference in the population, and not due to sampling error.

A chi-square significance level of .05 indicates significance at the 95 percent level. In other words, it is 95 percent likely that the results are due to a real difference between comparison groups. A chi-square significance level of .01 indicates significance at the 99 percent level. When a t-test or a Z-test is shown, lower- and upper-case letters indicate significance at the 90 and 95 percent levels respectively.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sixty-two percent support restoring the passage of a US history MCAS tests a high school graduation requirement, while 21% oppose.

Eighty percent of Massachusetts residents think all MA public school students should study the nation's founding and history.

- Of registered voters, 91% think public school students should study founding and history while 71% of nonvoters think public school students should study the nation's founding and history.

A plurality of Massachusetts residents (38%) rate the education quality as a 3, where 1 means very poor quality and 5 means very high quality. The rating skews positive: 43% rate it as a 4 or 5 whereas 19% rate it as a 1 or 2.

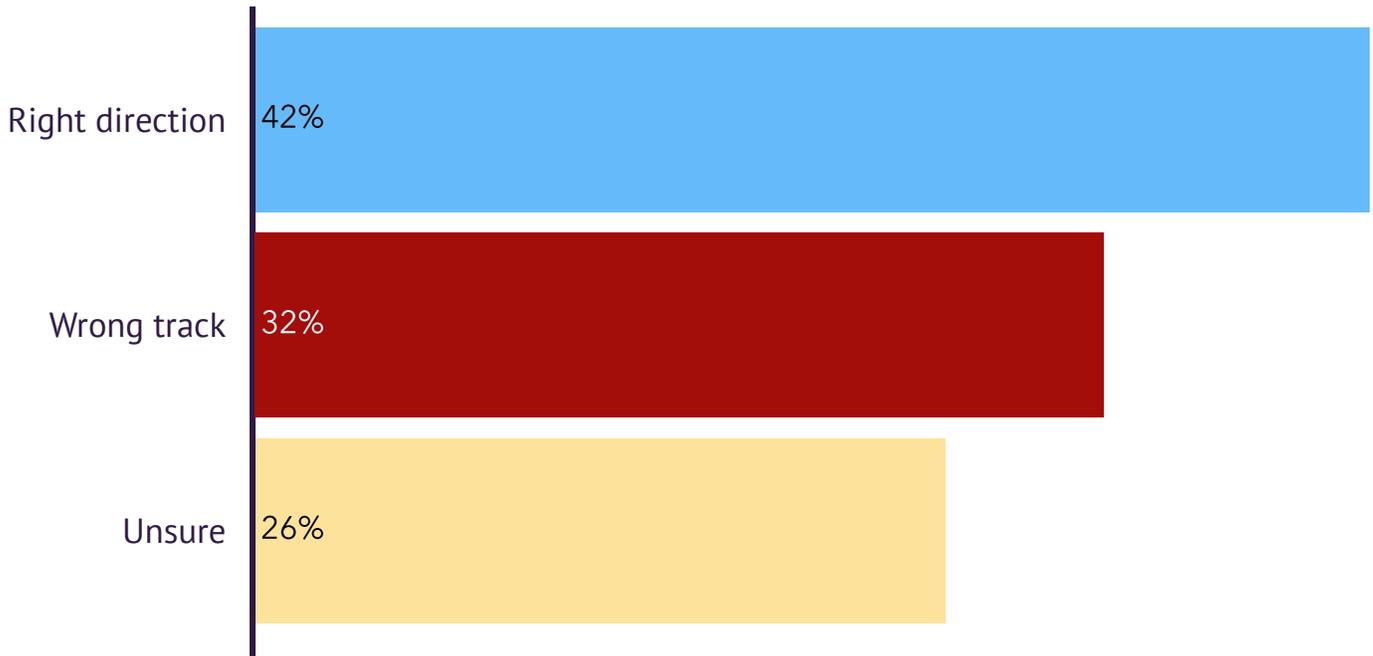
- Young Massachusetts residents between 18 and 25 rate the quality of education the highest: 59% rate it as a 4 or 5, compared to those between 36 and 45 who are the least satisfied with the quality of education: 39% rate it as a 4 or 5.
- Those without children in the household rate the quality of education as better than those with children: 45% of those without children under the age of 18 rate the education as a 4 or 5 compared to 37% of those with children in their household under the age of 18.

A plurality of respondents (42%) think Massachusetts is headed in the right direction, while 32% think the state is on the wrong track.

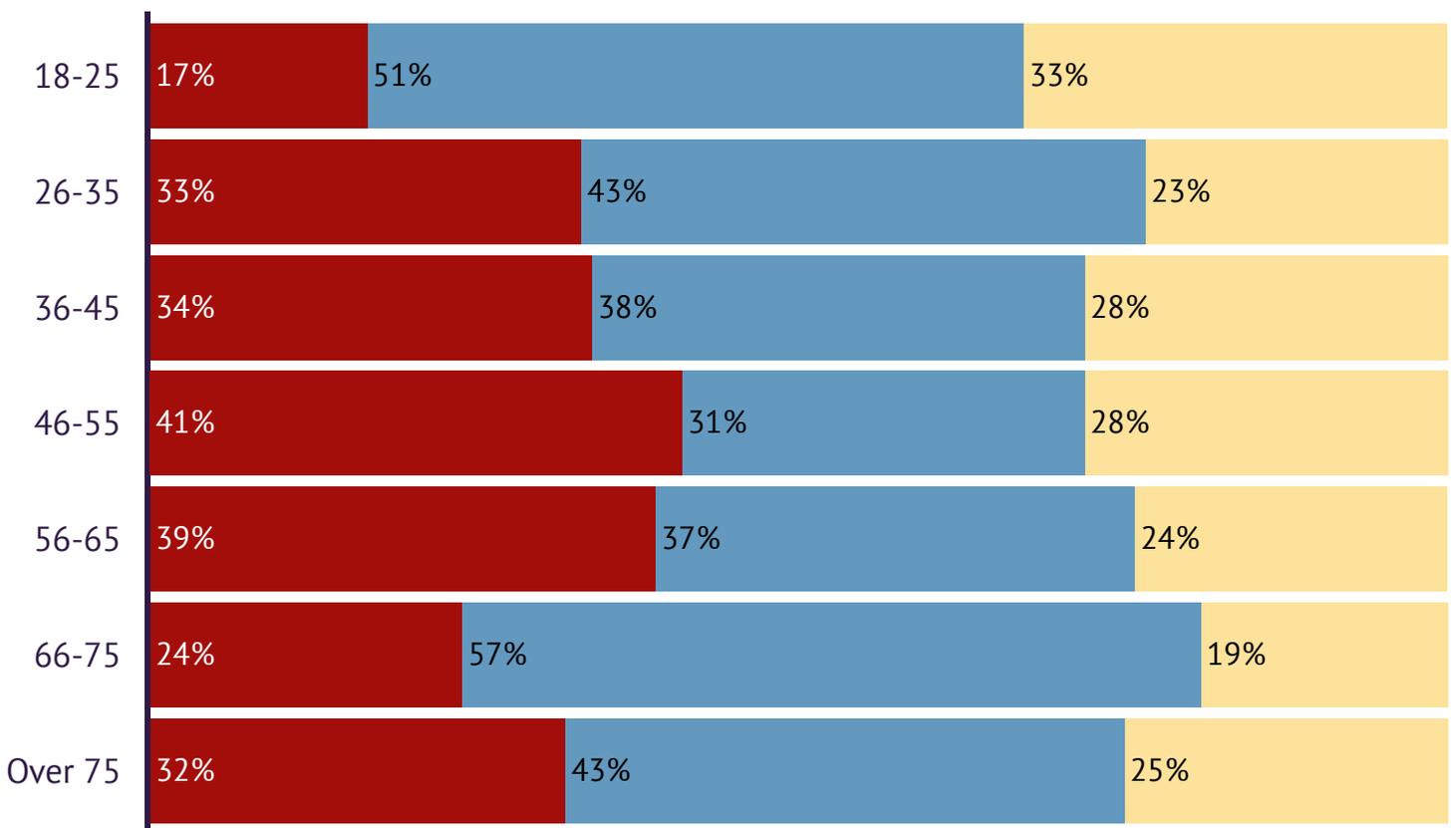
- Those between 18 and 25 are most optimistic: a 51% majority think the state is headed in the right direction. Those between 46 and 55 are the least optimistic: a 41% plurality think the state is on the wrong track.
- A majority of Democrats (66%) think the state is headed in the right direction while a majority of Republicans (64%) think the state is on the wrong track

SURVEY RESULTS

Do you think Massachusetts is heading in the right direction or is on the wrong track?



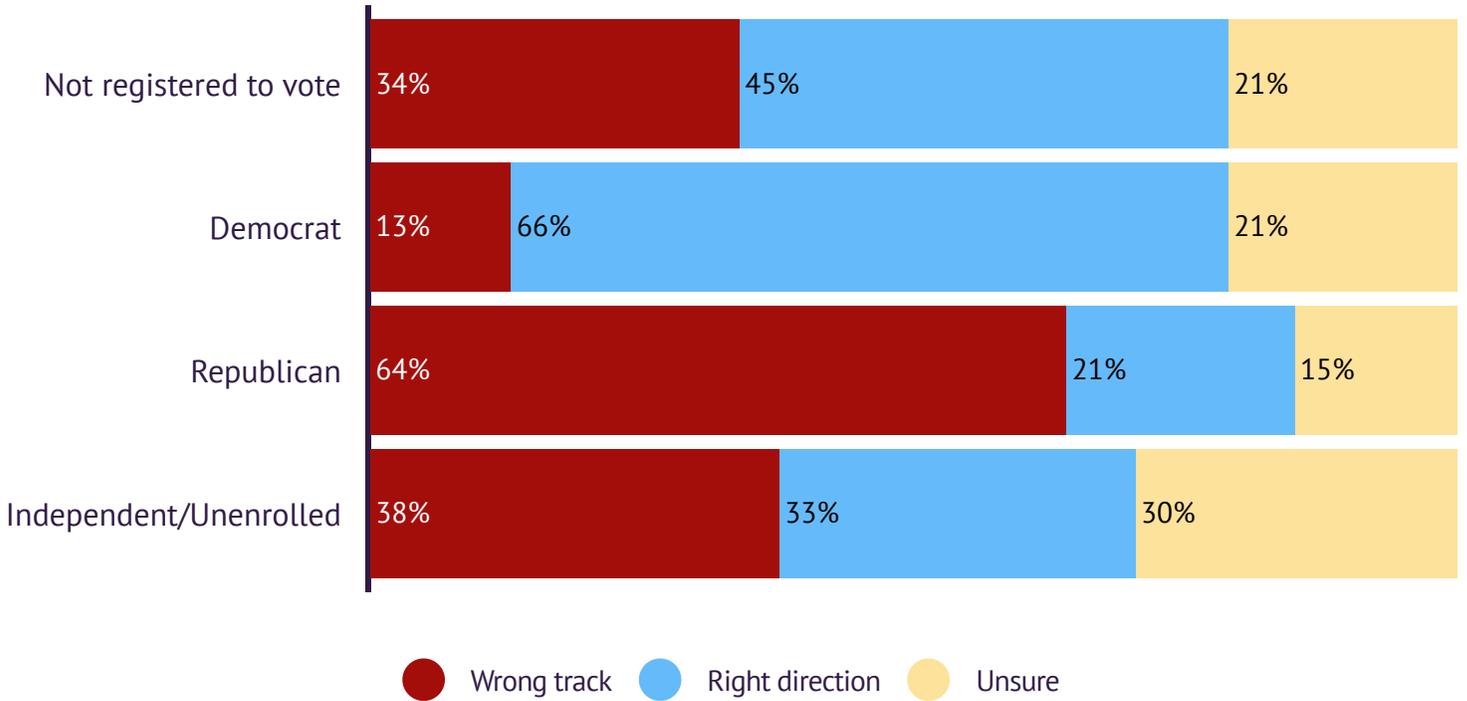
BY AGE



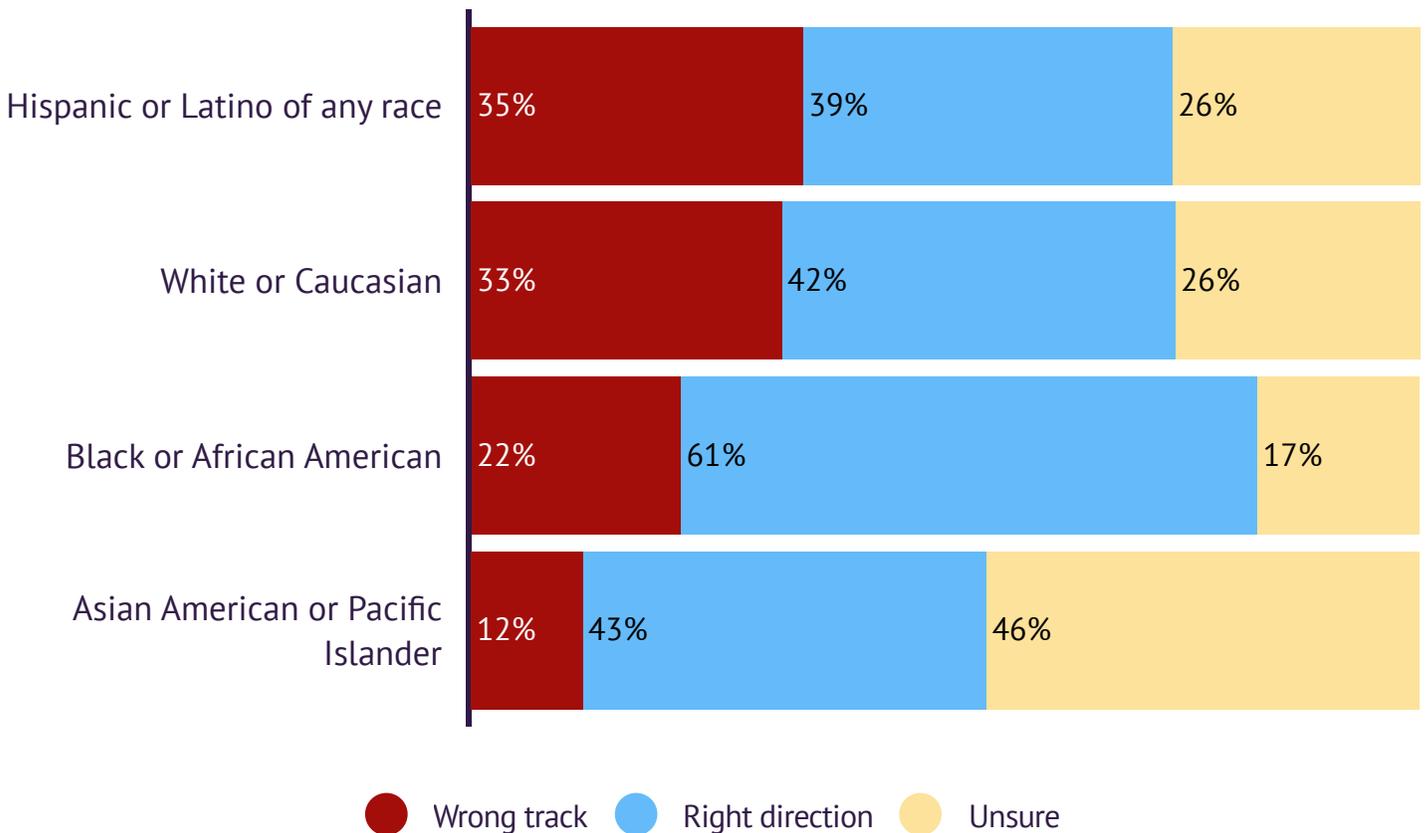
Wrong track Right direction Unsure

Do you think Massachusetts is heading in the right direction or is on the wrong track?

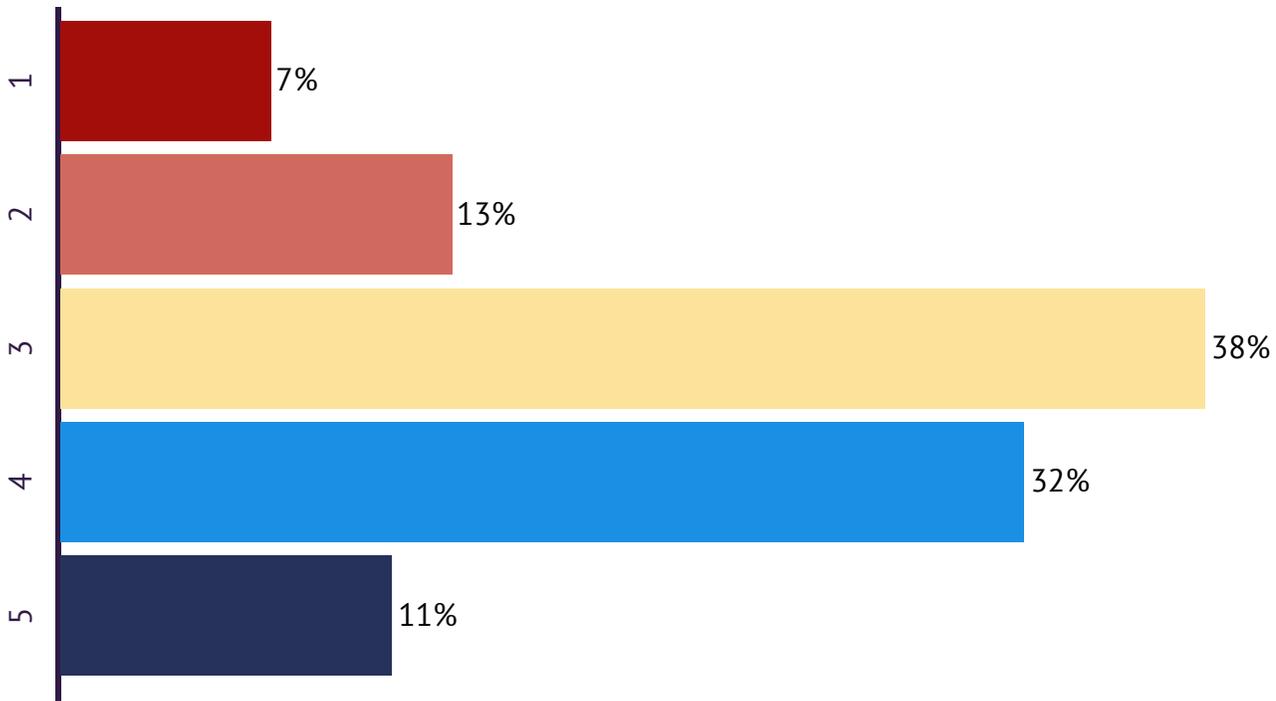
BY PARTY



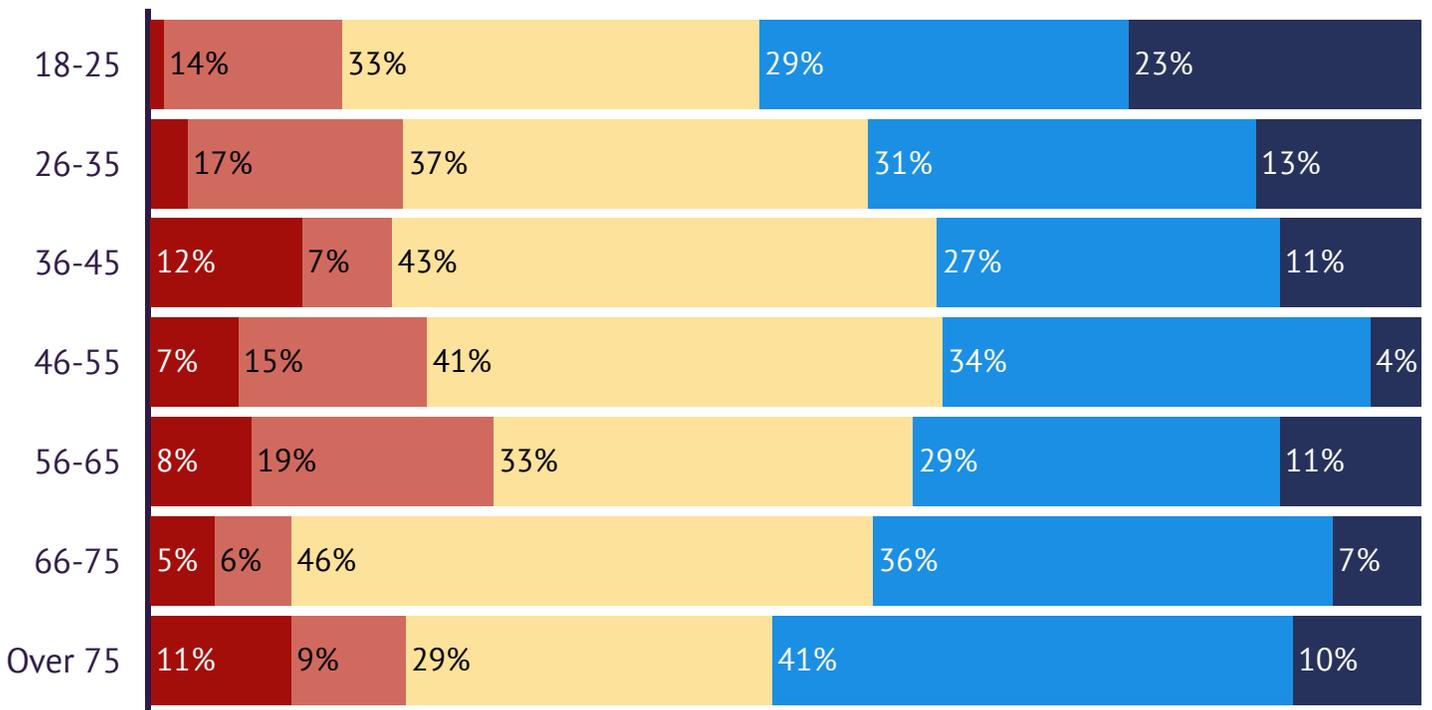
BY RACE



On a scale of "1" to "5" where "1" means "very poor quality" and "5" means "very high quality", what best represents your view of the overall quality of the public schools here in Massachusetts - not necessarily just your own local schools - but all public schools across the state?

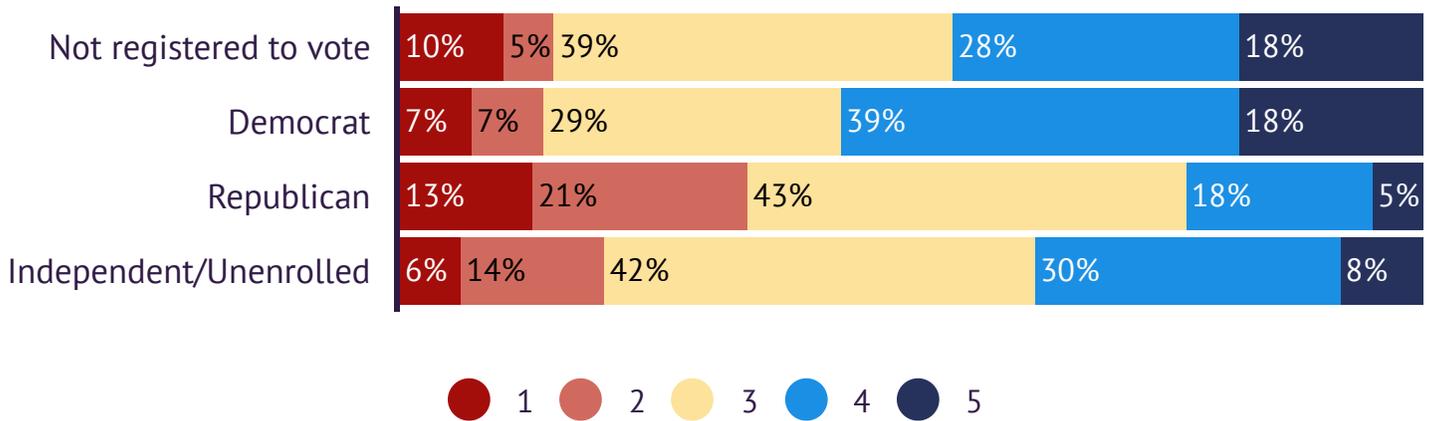


BY AGE

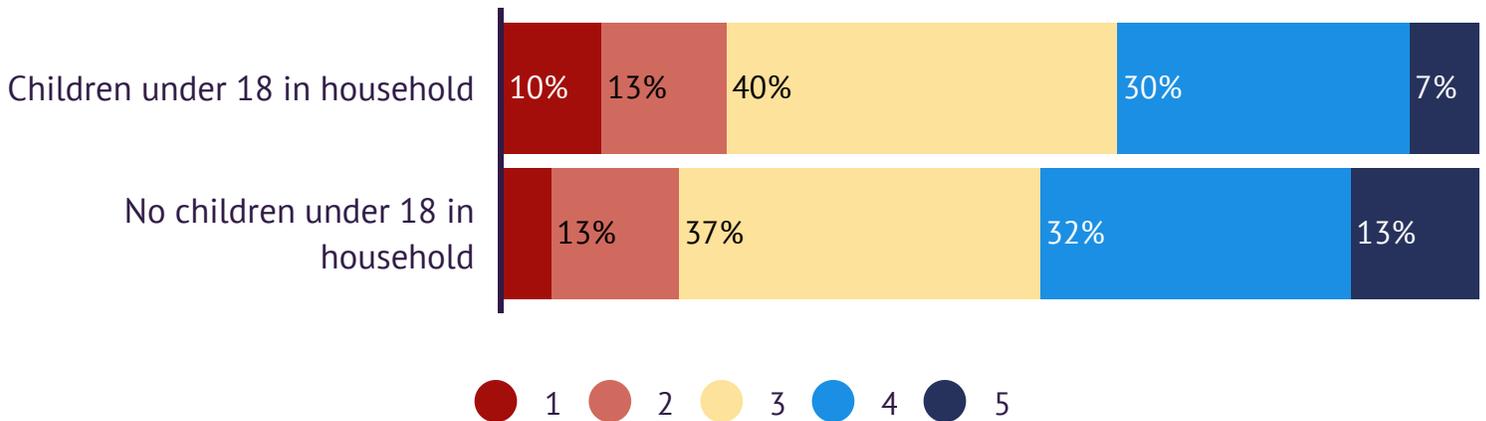


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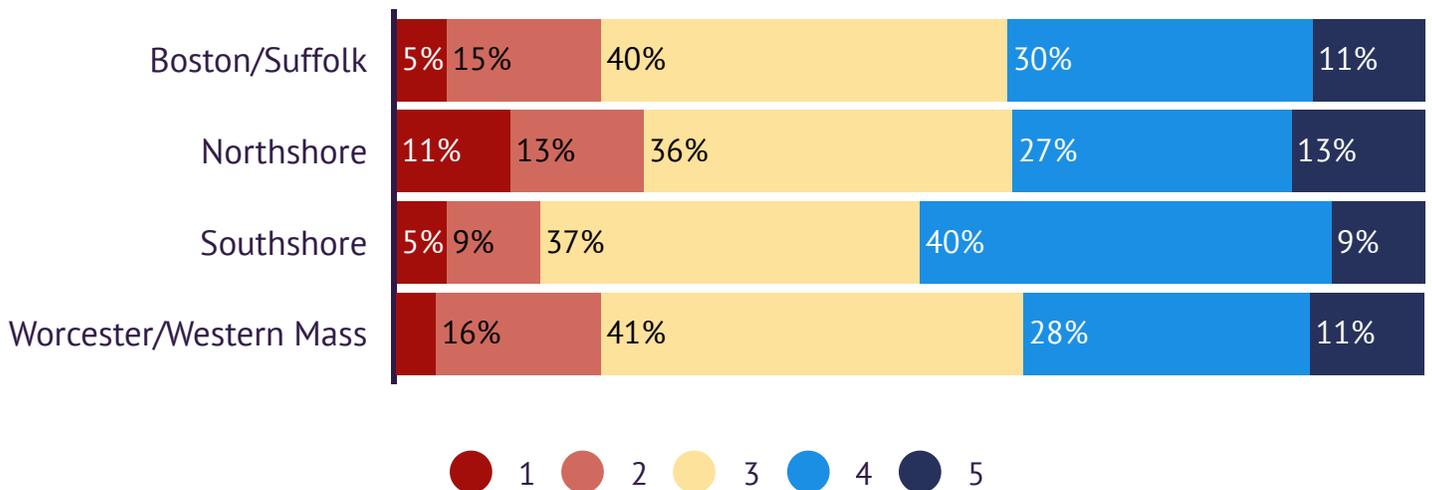
PARTY



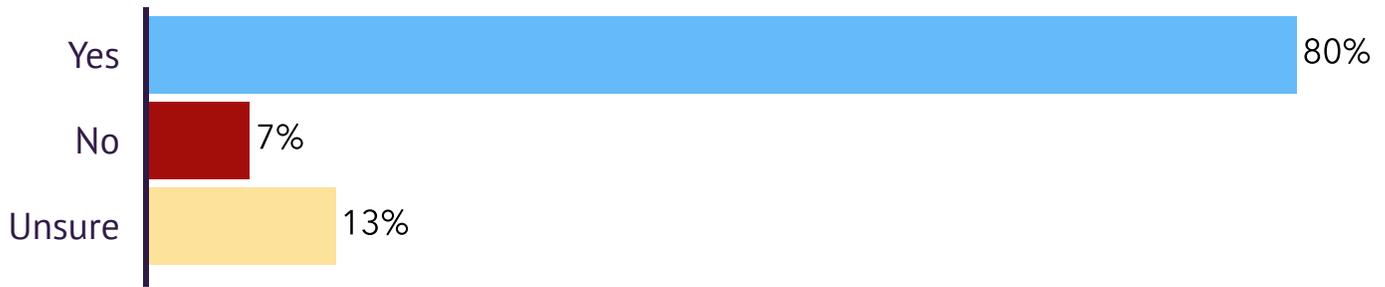
CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD VS. NO CHILDREN



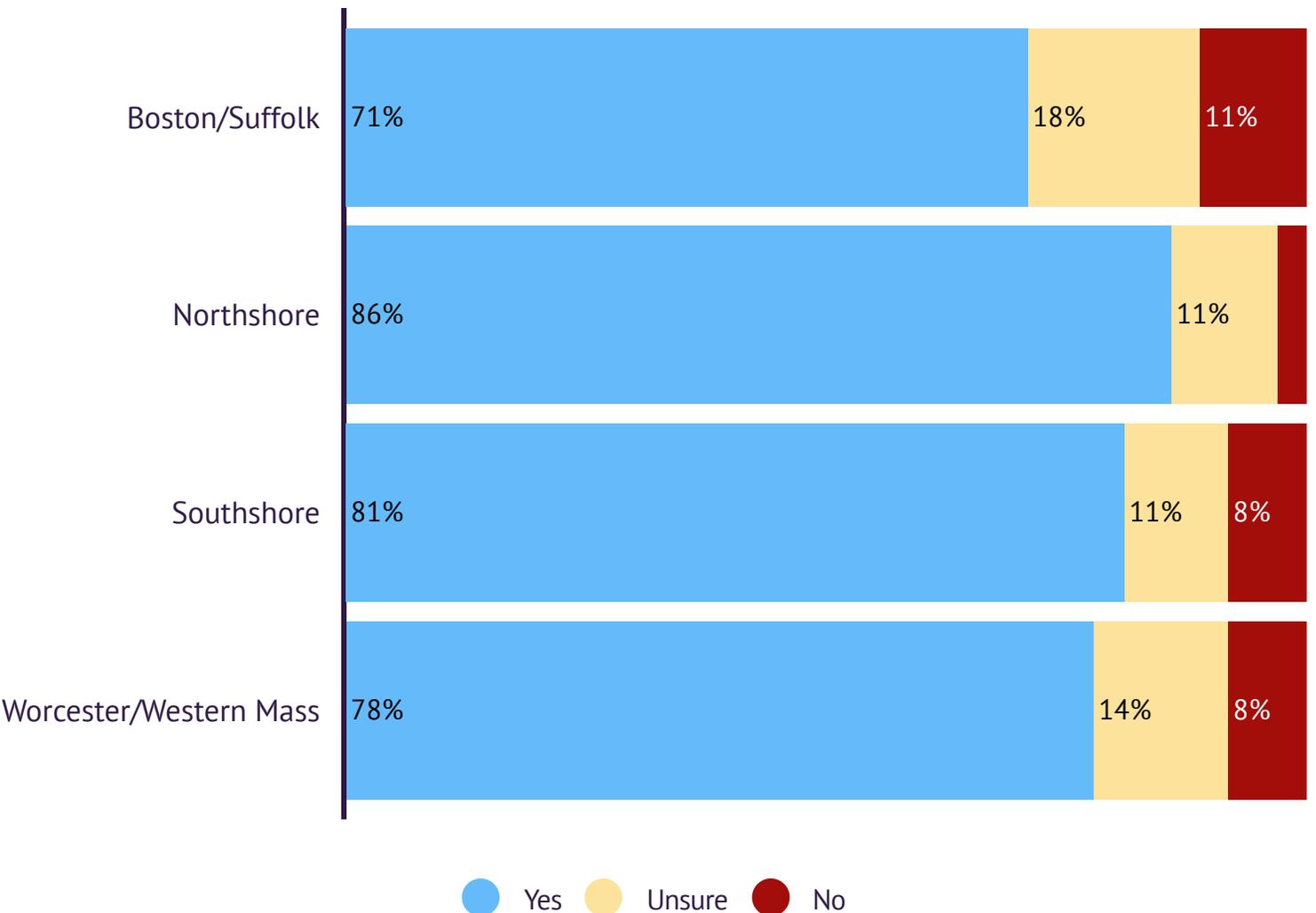
BY REGION



Since education reform enacted in 1993, Massachusetts students are required to demonstrate basic knowledge of English, math and science to graduate from high school, in addition to studying topics like the nation's founding documents. Do you think that all Massachusetts public school students should study our nation's founding and history?

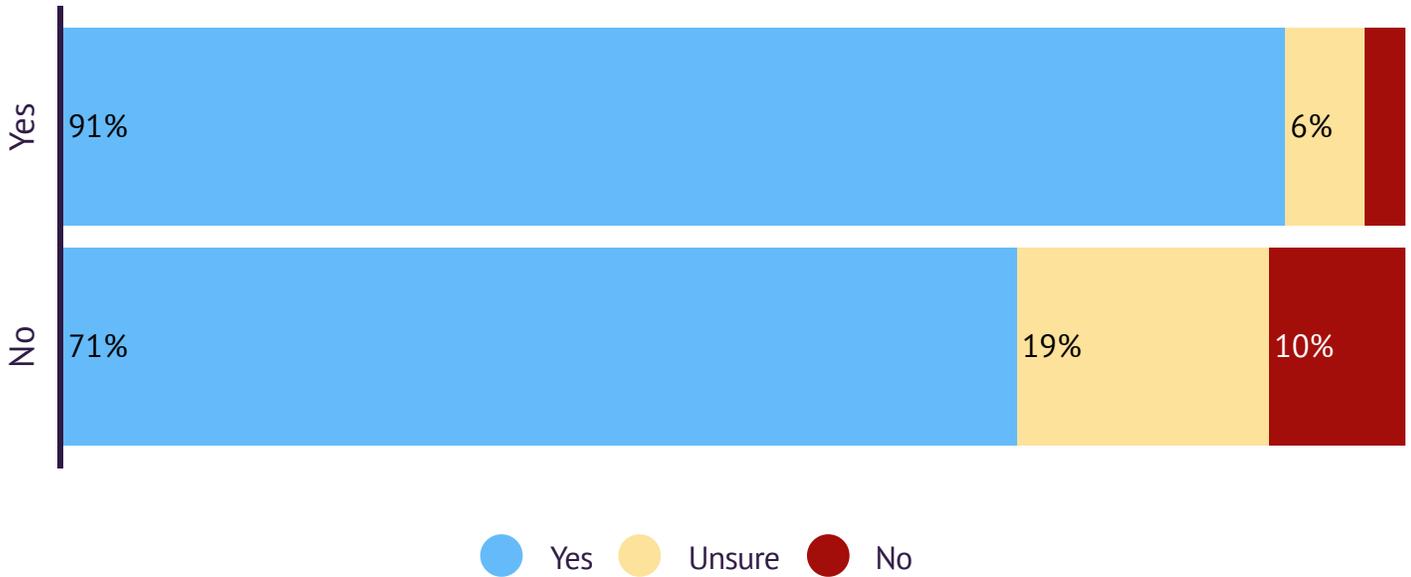


BY REGION

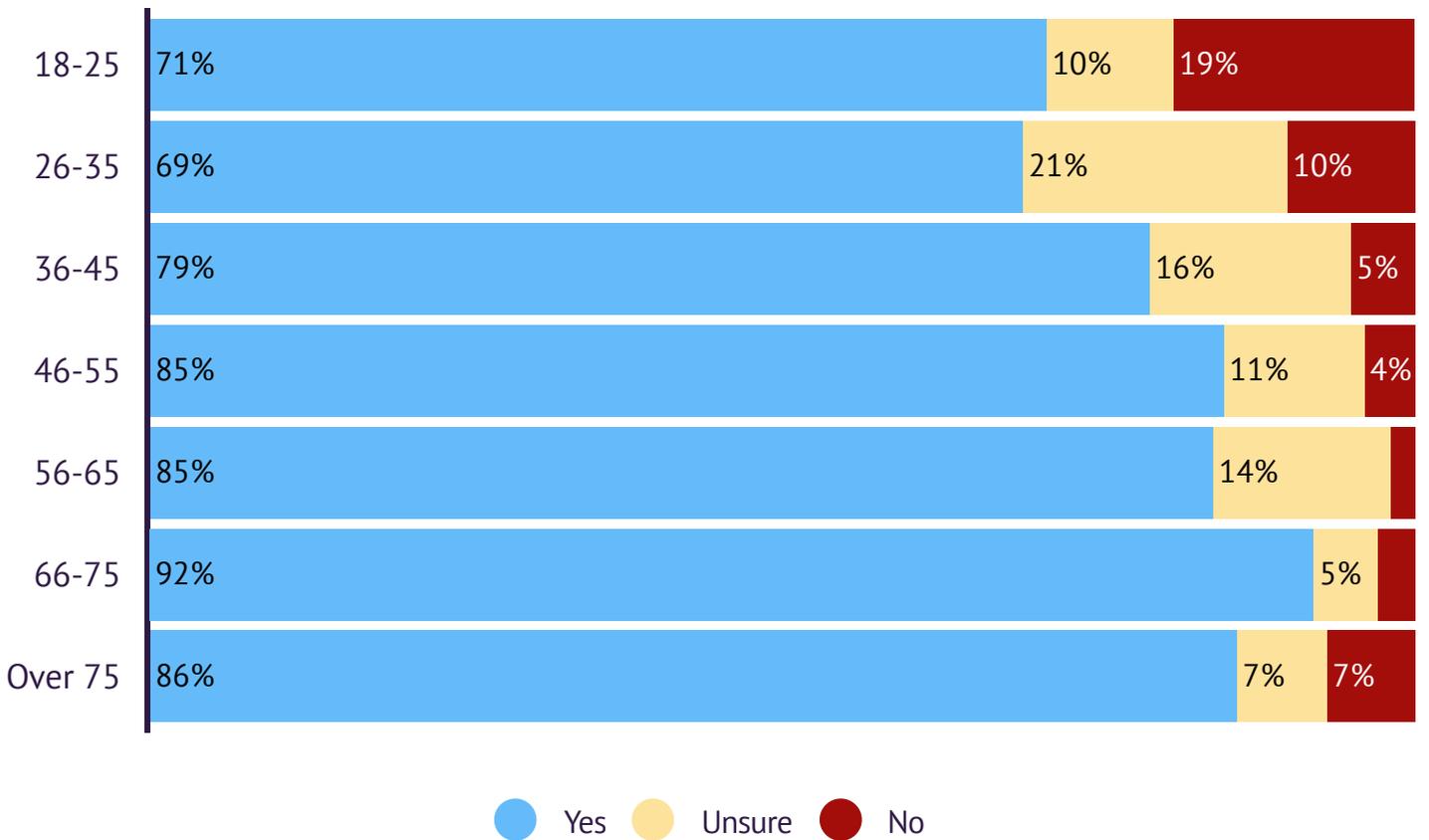


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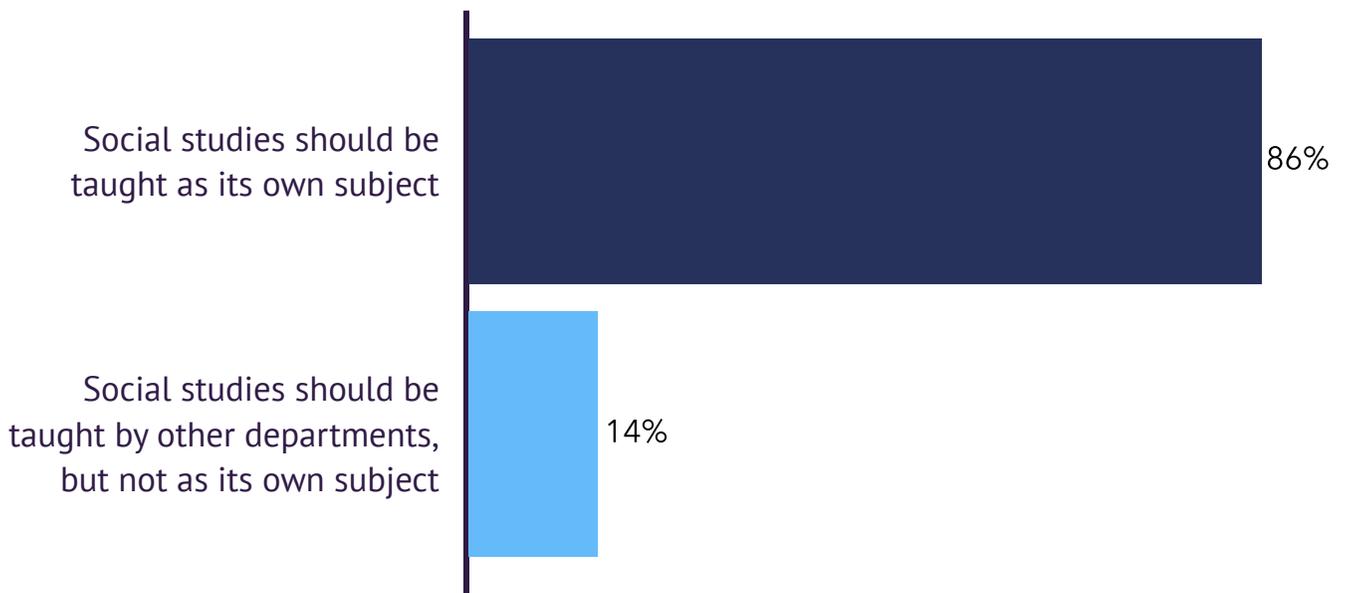
BY VOTING HISTORY



BY AGE

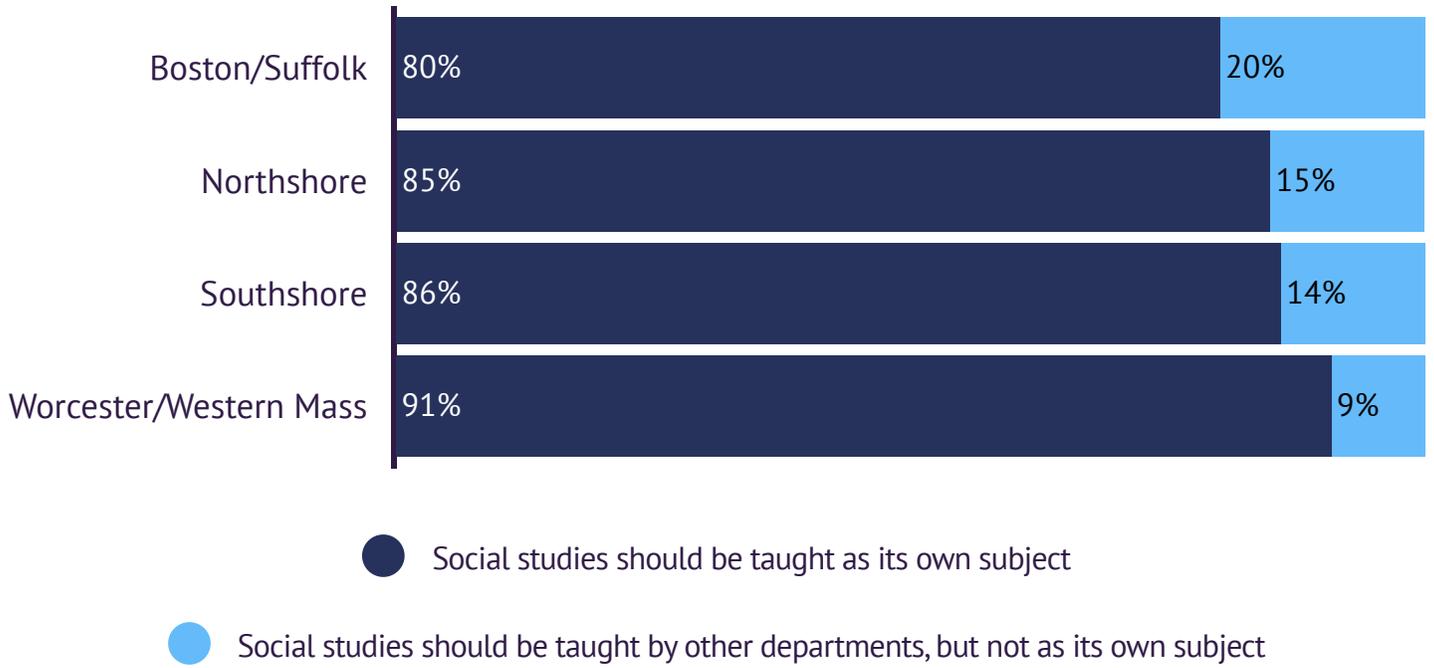


Since Massachusetts suspended the Social Science MCAS in 2009, there have been reports on the elimination or replacement of middle and high school social studies departments, and that Social studies courses are now being taught by English, math, and science teachers. Which of the following statements on Social Studies is closer to your opinion?

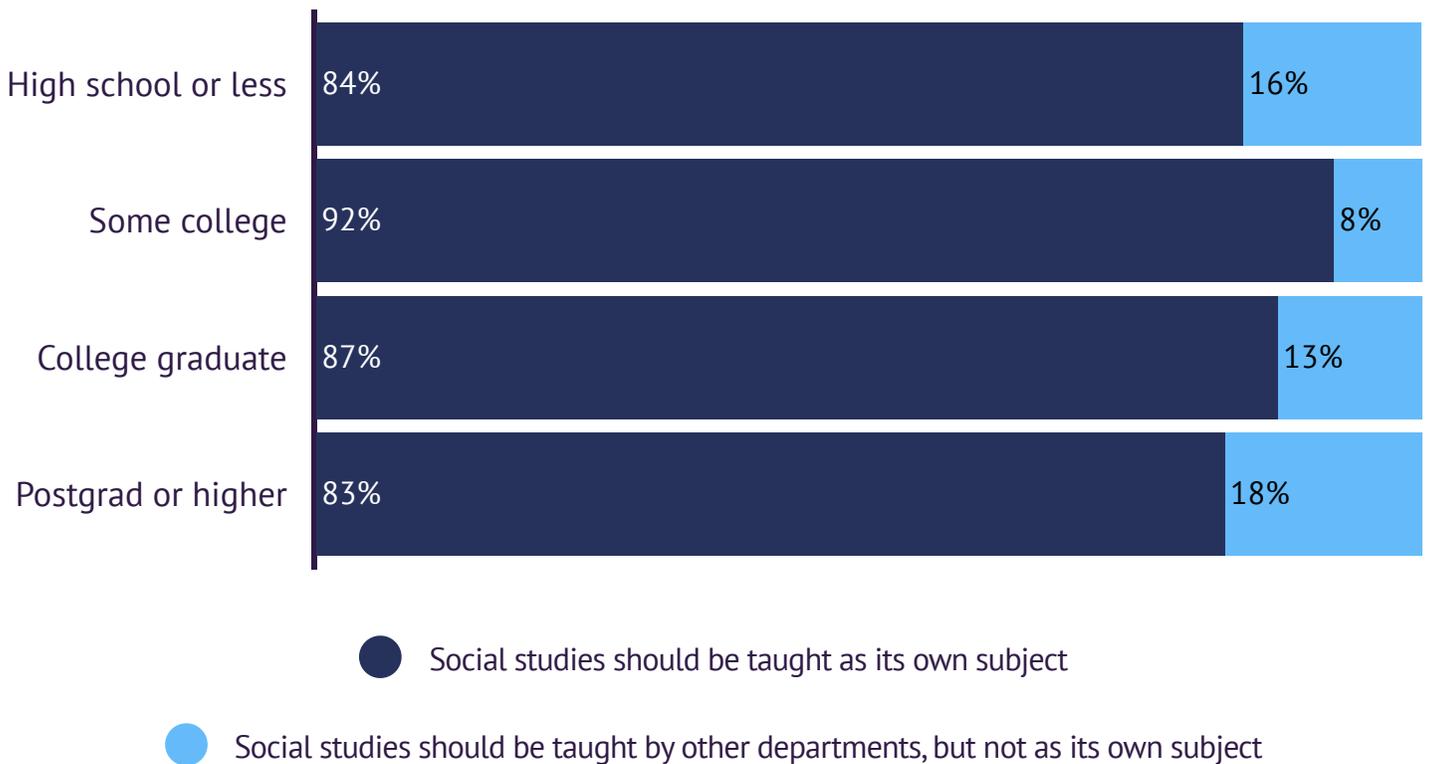


Which of the following statements on Social Studies is closer to your opinion?

BY REGION

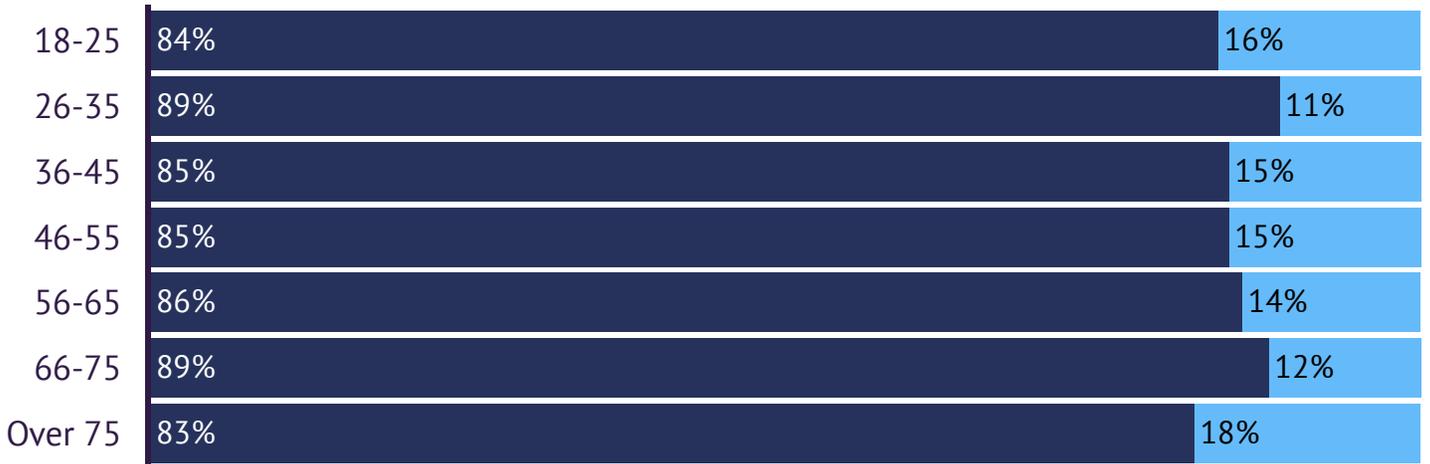


BY EDUCATION



Which of the following statements on Social Studies is closer to your opinion?

BY AGE



● Social studies should be taught as its own subject

● Social studies should be taught by other departments, but not as its own subject

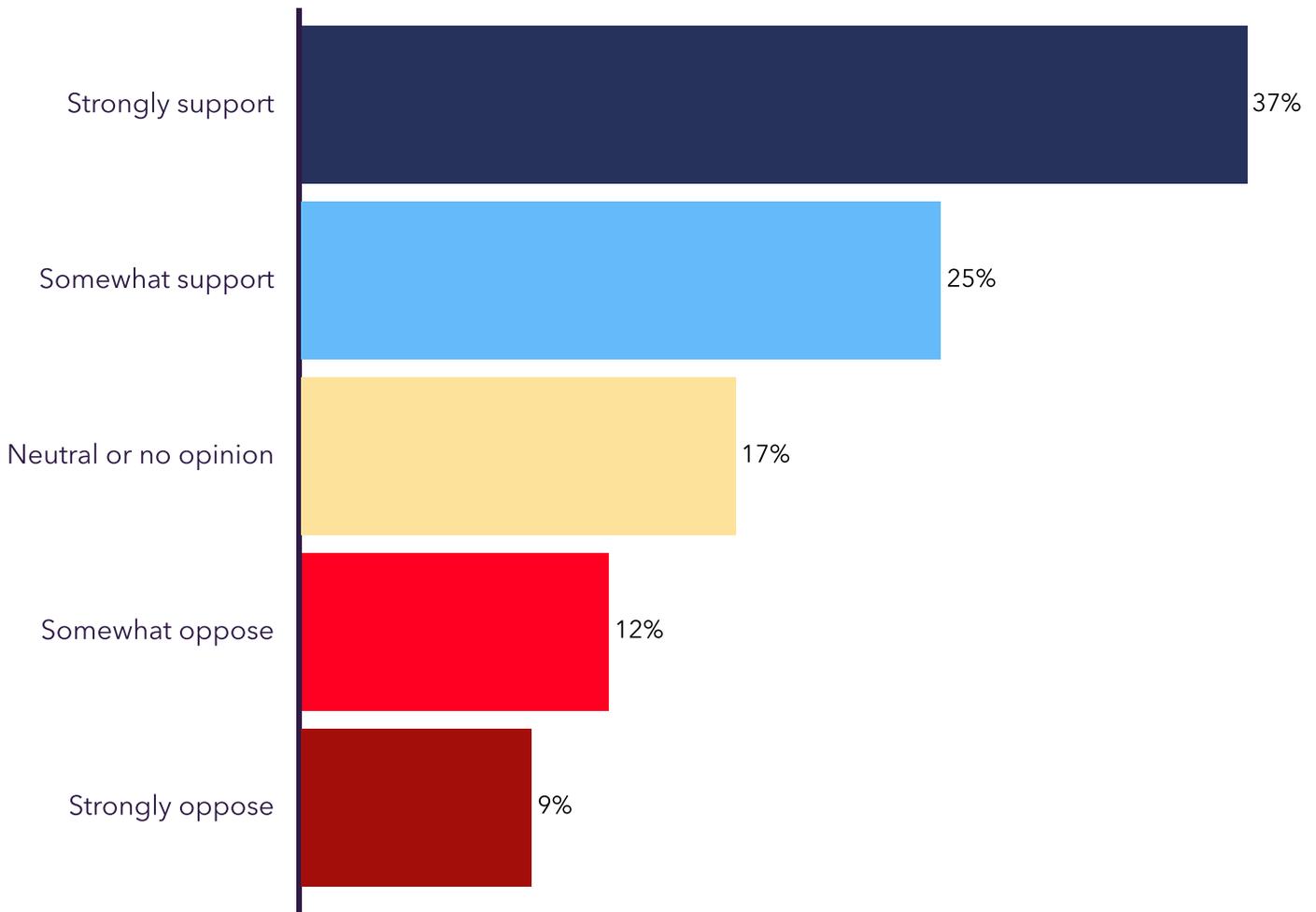
BY CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN HOUSEHOLD VS. NO CHILDREN



● Social studies should be taught as its own subject

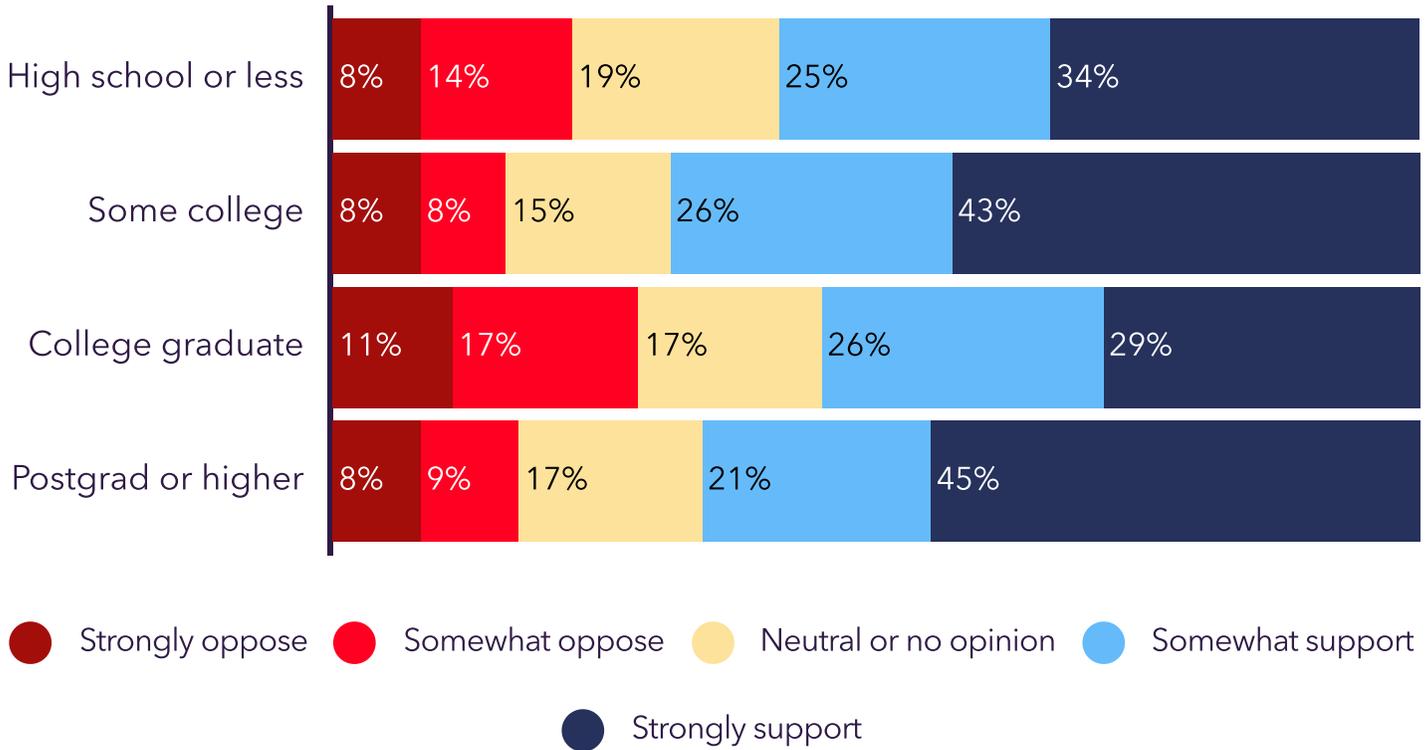
● Social studies should be taught by other departments, but not as its own subject

In 2009, the Commissioner of Education and the state Board of Elementary Education agreed to postpone the U.S. history graduation requirement. Do you support restoring the passage of a U.S. history MCAS test as a high school graduation requirement?

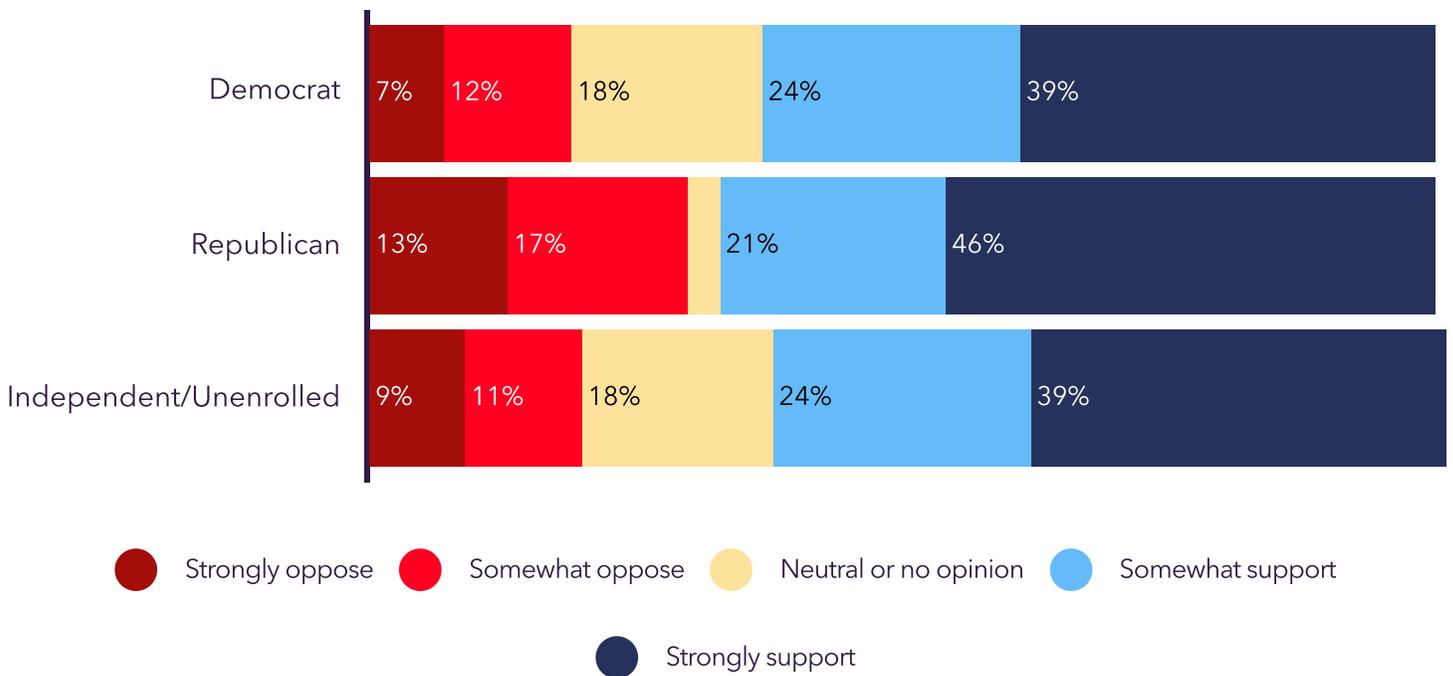


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BY EDUCATION

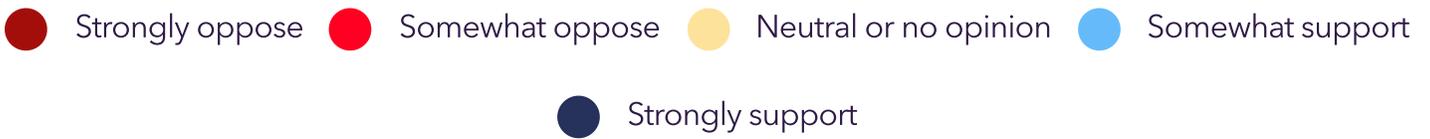
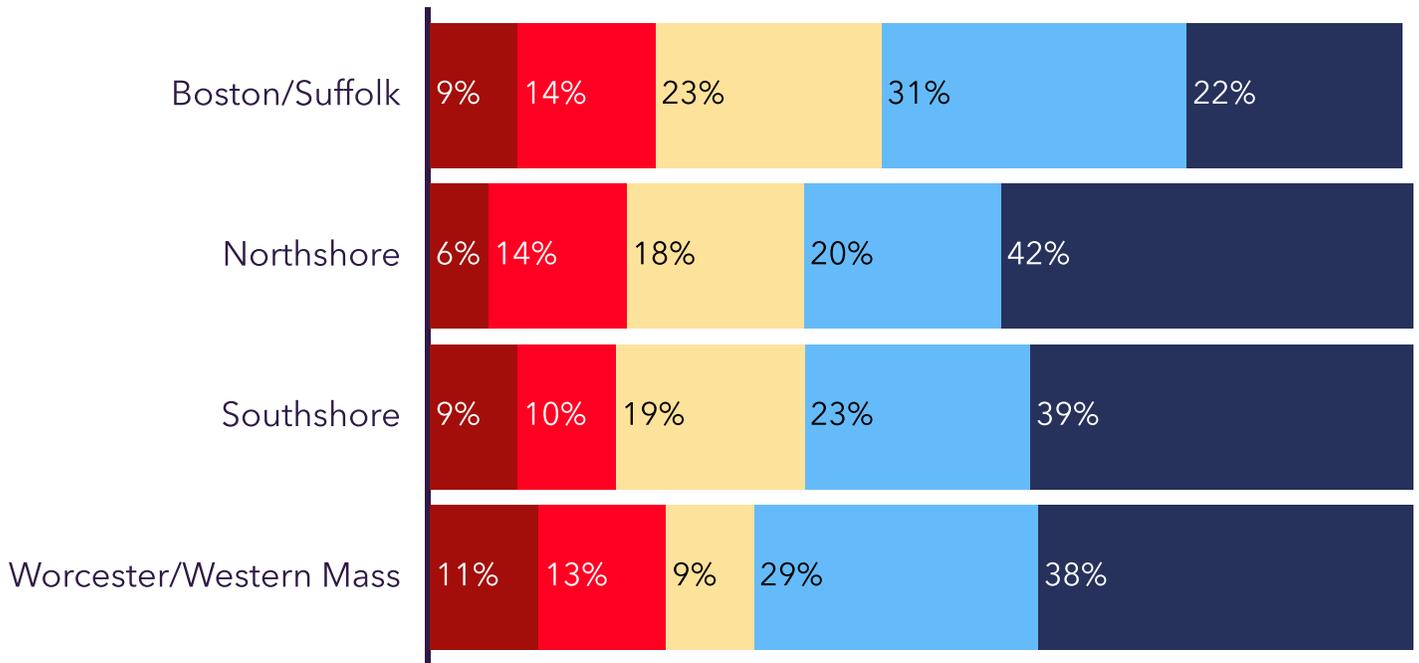


BY PARTY

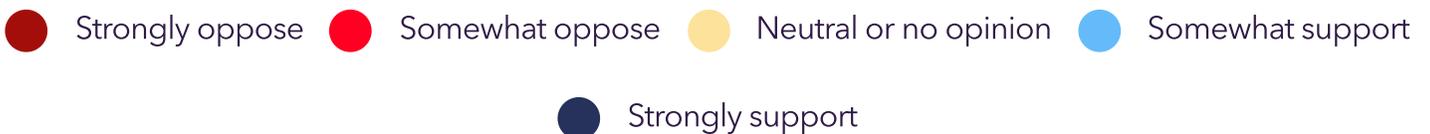
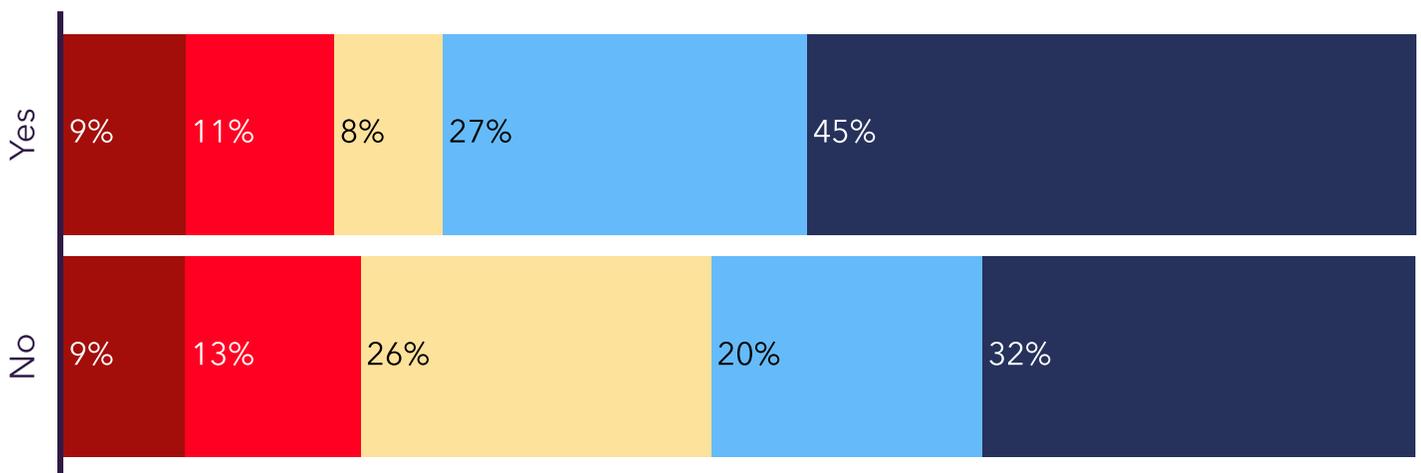


Do you support restoring the passage of a U.S. history MCAS test as a high school graduation requirement?

BY REGION

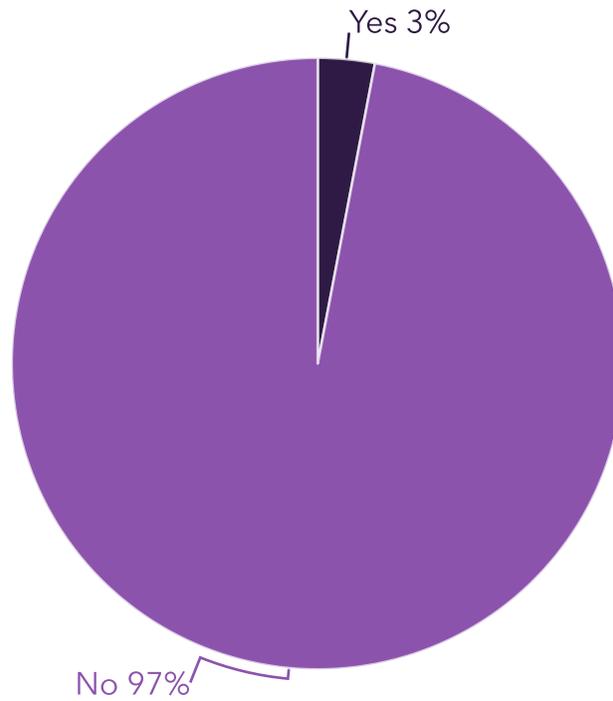


BY VOTING HISTORY



DEMOGRAPHICS

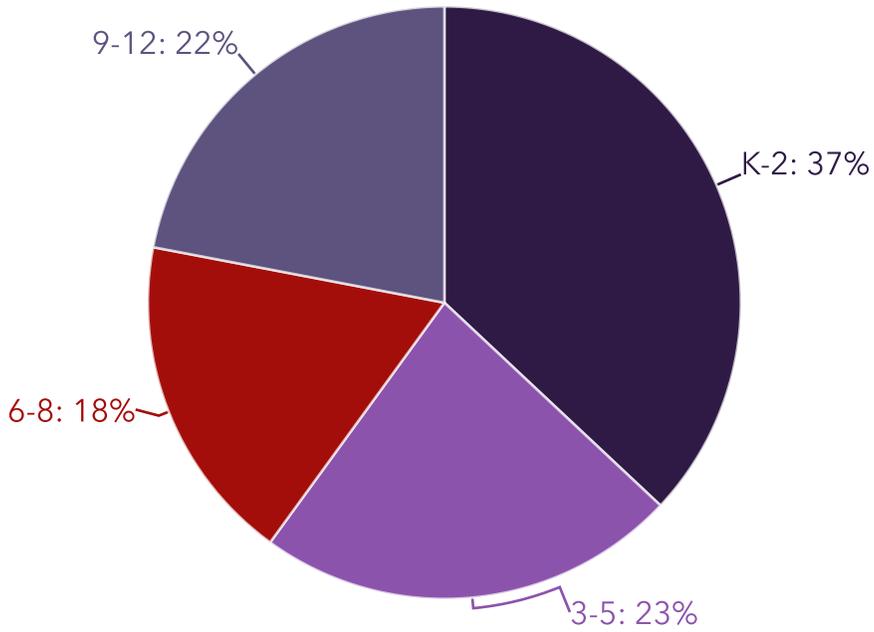
Are you a public school teacher or do you work in the public schools?



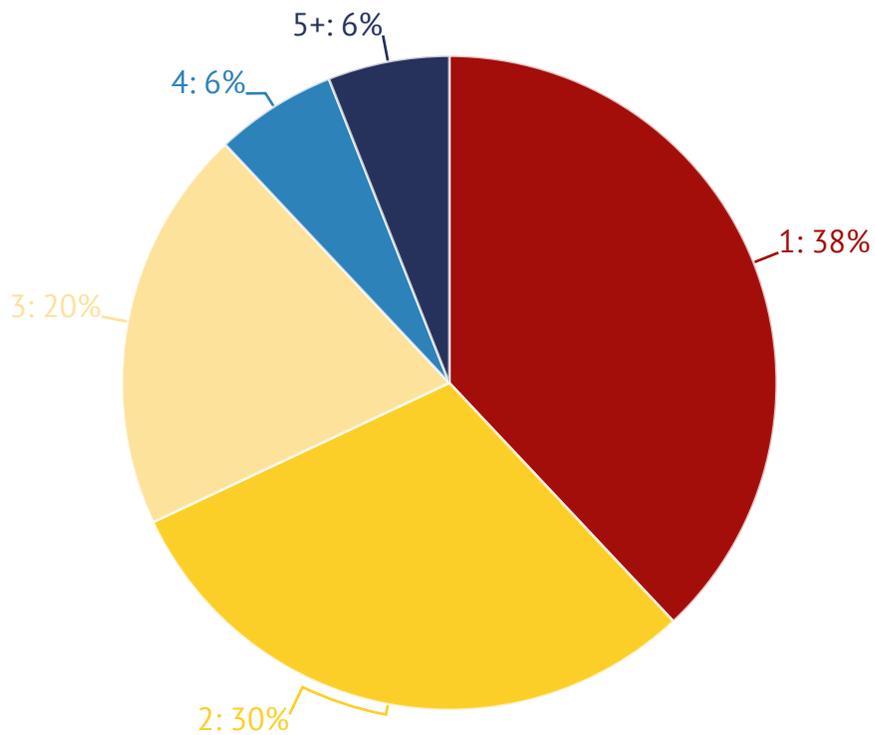
Are there any children in your household under the age of 18?



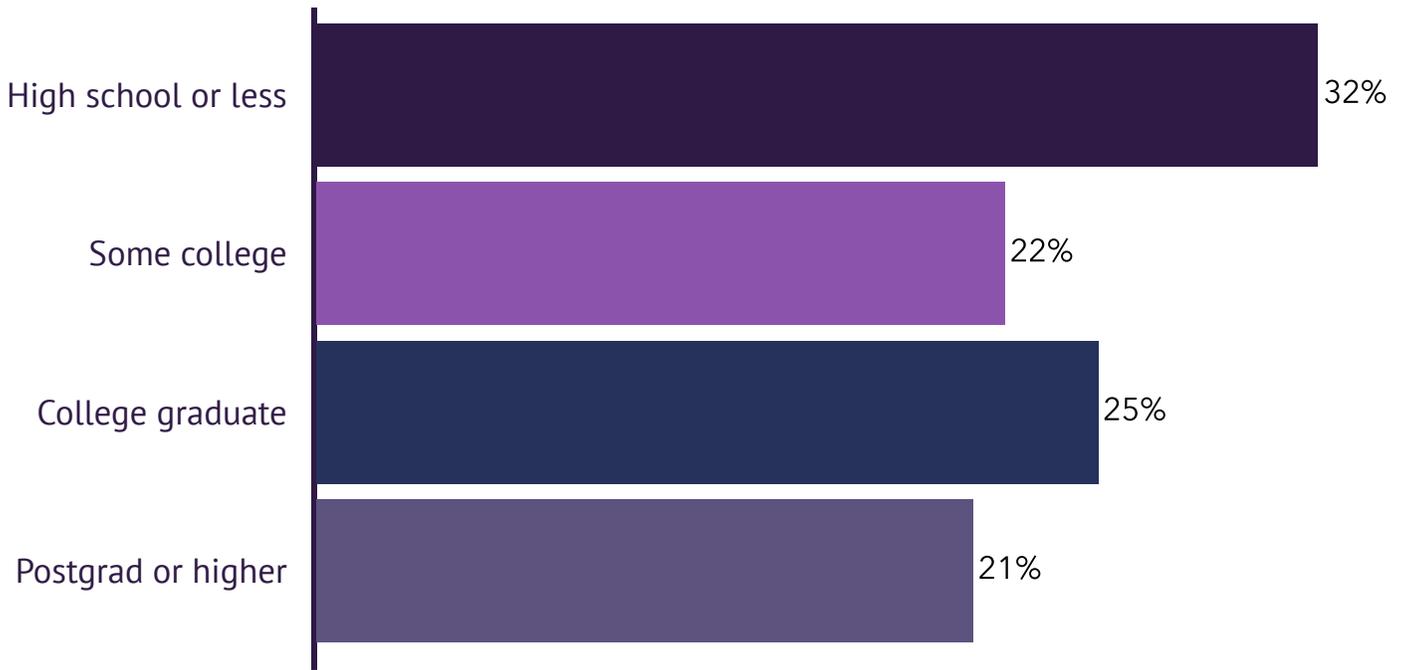
What grade is your youngest child currently in?



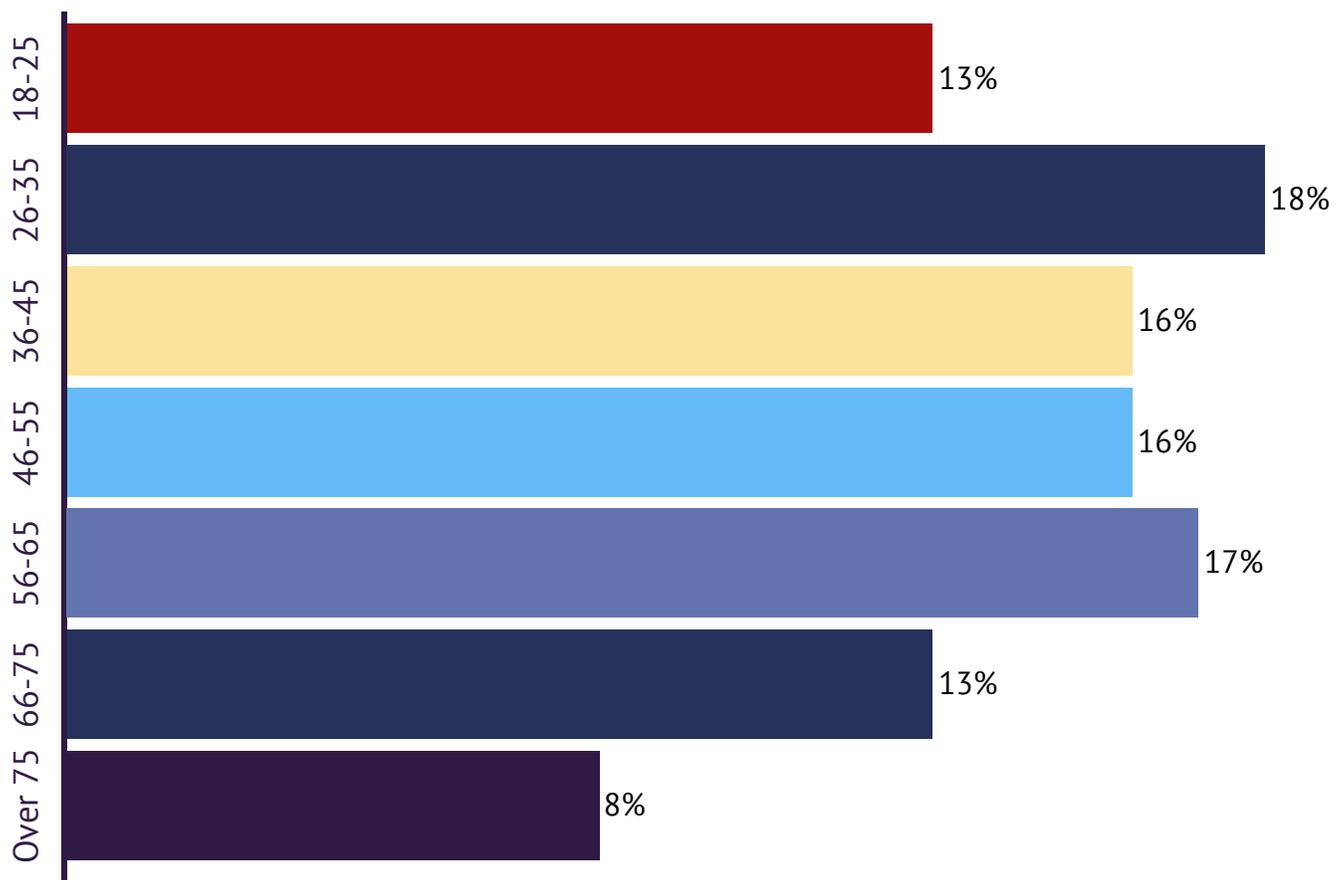
How many children do you have?



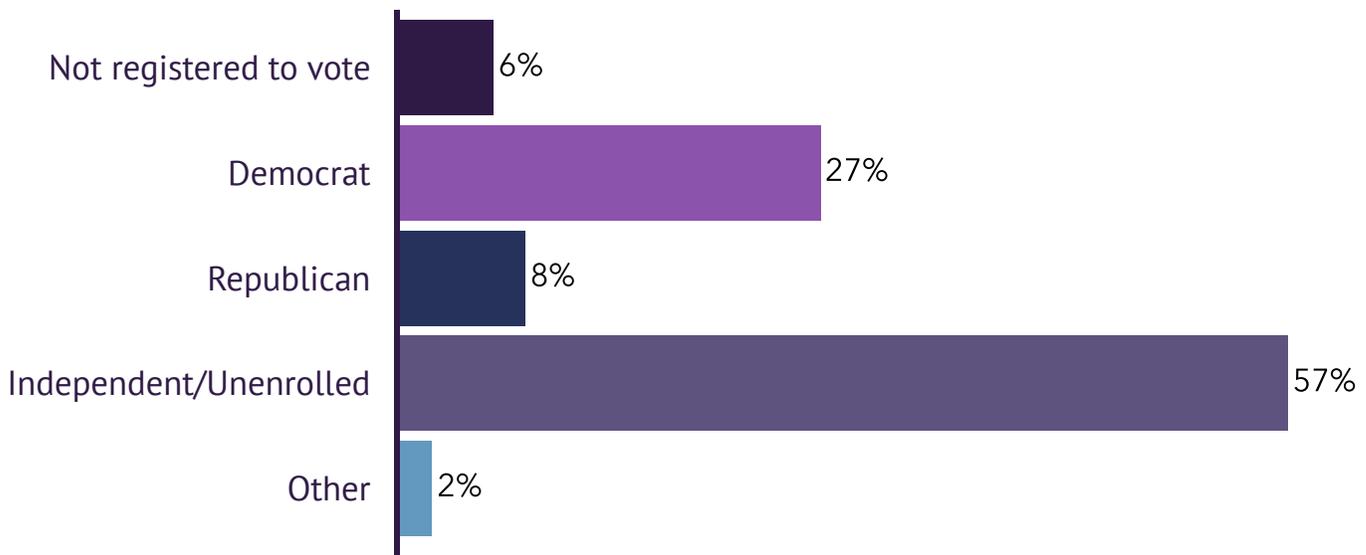
What is the highest level of education you have attained?



What is your age?



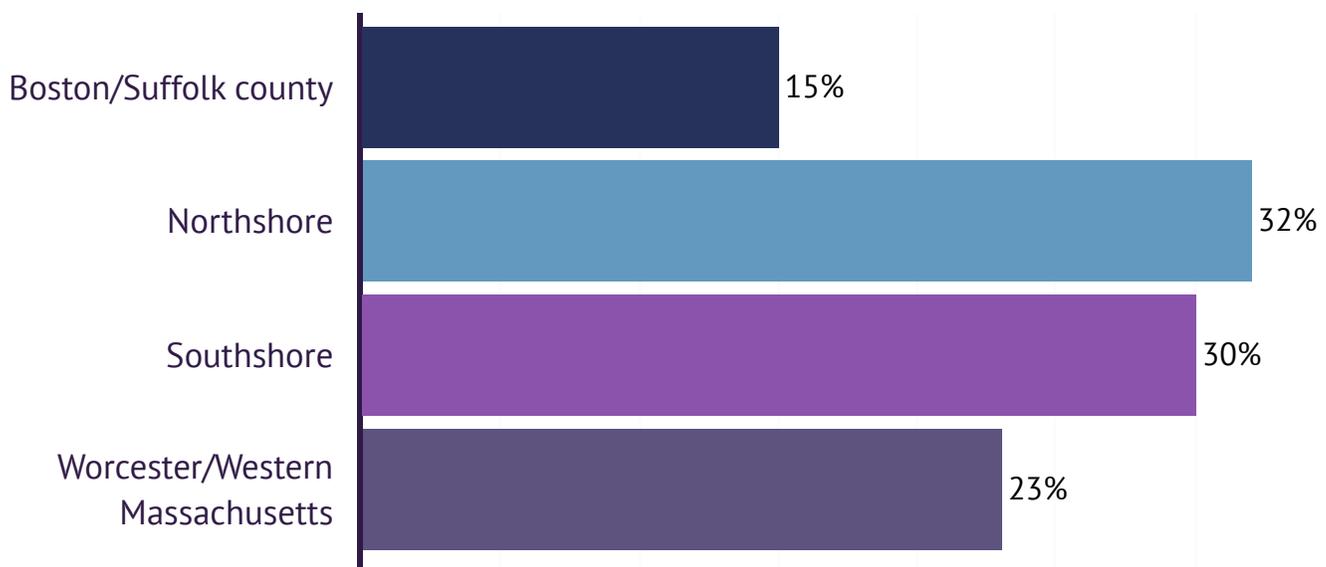
Currently, how are you registered to vote?



Did you vote in the election this November?



What region of Massachusetts do you live in?





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