

**Methodology:**

The survey was fielded on March 2-5, 2026. Potential respondents were selected from a database of Massachusetts residents aged 18 years or older using a stratified random sample method. Responses were collected via SMS messages that led to a web-based form. Each potential SMS survey respondent was texted a link containing a unique alphanumeric identifier code that allowed Opinion Diagnostics to detect and prevent attempts to submit duplicate or fraudulent survey responses; three such responses were discarded. Results were weighted using an iterative proportional fitting process to match the known gender, ethnicity, voter registration, age, educational attainment, and geographic attributes of this population. The weighting model was created using data sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2024 Public Use Microdata as well as data available from the Massachusetts Elections Division. The final sample size is n=642 residents aged 18 years or older, and the survey has a margin of error of ±3.9% with 95% confidence. This survey was commissioned by Pioneer Institute.

**Topline Results:**

*Some results may sum to greater or less than 100% due to rounding.*

1. Thank you for taking this public opinion poll of Massachusetts residents. It should take just a few minutes to complete. Are you currently a resident of Massachusetts?
  1. Yes **100%**
  2. No **[END SURVEY]**

2. To ensure we are reaching residents in all areas of Massachusetts, please provide your zip code.

*Based on zip code, Massachusetts geographic region:*

*Boston DMA, Counties North and East: **46.2%***

*Boston DMA, Counties South and West: **33.9%***

*Bristol County: **11.8%***

*Western Counties: **8.1%***

3. What is your opinion of the Massachusetts state Legislature?
  1. Very favorable **5.7%**
  2. Somewhat favorable **22.3%**
  3. Somewhat unfavorable **14.2%**
  4. Very unfavorable **36.8%**
  5. Neutral **17.1%**
  6. Never heard of the Massachusetts state Legislature **3.9%**
  
4. In a 2024 statewide ballot initiative, voters approved allowing the State Auditor to audit the Legislature by a 72% to 28% margin. Despite this, the state Legislature has not submitted itself to an audit and has held that the Auditor lacks the constitutional authority to conduct an audit of the Legislature. Do you believe legislators should drop their objection and allow the audit to take place?
  1. Yes, allow the Legislature to be audited **82.5%**
  2. No, keep as is **5.0%**
  3. Unsure **12.5%**

5. If the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court finds that “requiring” an audit by the State Auditor is unconstitutional, should the Legislature voluntarily submit to being audited by the State Auditor?
  1. Yes, it is a matter of good governance **79.0%**
  2. No, the Legislature should maintain its privacy **8.7%**
  3. Unsure **12.2%**
  
6. In 49 of the 50 U.S. states, candidates and public officials are required to file Statements of Financial Interest and provide basic transparency about their personal finances. These filings help determine if policymakers and politicians are acting in the public interest or in their own. Massachusetts **does** require these statements, but Massachusetts ranks poorly in making them available to the public: Massachusetts requires that those seeking a public official’s financial filing submit a photo ID, and notifies the public official of the identity of any person that requests their financial filing. The majority of other states do not require a photo ID and keep requests anonymous.

Do you believe Massachusetts should make officials’ financial information available online without requiring a photo ID?

1. Yes, make the forms more easily available **66.7%**
  2. No, keep the photo ID **22.0%**
  3. Unsure **11.3%**
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7. Do you believe legislators and other public officials should be given the name of the person requesting their financial filing?
    1. Yes, inform the public officials of the identity of the requestor **30.0%**
    2. No, the requestor should remain anonymous **54.2%**
    3. Unsure **15.8%**
  
  8. In 1978, Massachusetts first established Statements of Financial Interest forms. They have not been updated since. For example, for a question on the value of real estate owned, the top category is “Over \$100,000,” while the average home value in Massachusetts is now over \$600,000. The forms and the process for requesting them were developed and currently controlled by the Legislature, whose members are required to file the forms. Do you support turning the design and control of the forms over to the State Ethics Commission?
    1. Yes, turn over control to the State Ethics Commission **75.4%**
    2. No, keep the Legislature in control **6.3%**
    3. Unsure **18.3%**
  
  9. The Massachusetts Legislature has long exempted itself from state public records laws. Opponents of the exemption believe it violates the state Constitution, which requires the branches of state government to “at all times” be accountable to the people. Do you believe legislators should be subject to state public records laws?
    1. Yes **86.4%**
    2. No **2.4%**
    3. Unsure **11.3%**

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10. Governors and members of the judiciary have interpreted a 1997 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court case as exempting the Governor's Office and the management of the judicial branch from the requirement that they respond to public records requests. Do you believe the Governor's Office and the administrative component of the judiciary should make their records public?
1. Yes, make the records public **83.5%**
  2. No, compliance should remain voluntary **7.2%**
  3. Unsure **9.3%**
11. The United States Congressional Budget Office provides estimates of how much bills being considered by Congress would cost. Would you support creating a similar entity in Massachusetts to estimate the cost or revenue generated by any bill expected to have a budgetary impact of more than \$5 million?
1. Yes **76.0%**
  2. No **3.9%**
  3. Unsure **20.1%**
12. Overall, how important do you feel government transparency is to achieve the ideals of a democracy?
1. Extremely important **87.1%**
  2. Somewhat important **6.6%**
  3. Not very important **1.5%**
  4. Not at all important **0.0%**
  5. Unsure **4.8%**
13. I now have a few quick demographic questions. Do you describe yourself as male, female, or in some other way?
1. Male **47.8%**
  2. Female **51.2%**
  3. Some other way **1.0%**
14. What is your age?
1. 18 to 34 years old **29.5%**
  2. 35 to 44 years old **16.7%**
  3. 45 to 54 years old **14.5%**
  4. 55 to 64 years old **16.1%**
  5. 65 or older **23.1%**
15. Which of the following best describes your primary race or ethnicity?
1. White or Caucasian **75.7%**
  2. Black or African American **7.2%**
  3. Hispanic or Latino **7.0%**
  - (All others) **10.1%**

16. What is the highest level of education you have already completed so far?

- 1. Attended high school but have not graduated } 32.4%
- 2. A high school degree or equivalent }
- 3. Attended some college, but have not earned a degree yet } 22.7%
- 4. Earned an Associate’s degree }
- 5. Earned a Bachelor’s degree 24.7%
- 6. Earned a Master’s degree, Doctoral degree, or professional degree beyond a Bachelor’s degree 20.2%

17. Are you registered to vote in Massachusetts?

- 1. Yes 86.9%
- 2. No 13.1% (CONCLUDE SURVEY)

18. Which political party are you registered to vote with in Massachusetts?

- 1. Democrat 22.4%
- 2. Republican 7.3%
- 3. Independent or unaffiliated }
- 4. A smaller political party, such as Libertarian or Green-Rainbow } 57.1%  
(Not Registered in Q17) 13.1%

*Opinion Diagnostics is a public opinion polling and market research firm based in Massachusetts and North Carolina. Our team has a collective 30 years of experience in opinion research, and has surveyed public opinion at every level – from local to national. Our publicly-released work has been covered by more than 300 media publications nationally and internationally, and our clients include Congressional leadership, statewide and federal officeholders, Fortune-500 corporations, and nationally recognized non-profits.*