

**Methodology:**

The survey was fielded from February 24-27, 2026. Potential respondents were selected from a database of Hampden County residents aged 18 years or older using a stratified random sampling 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; four 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=665 residents aged 18 years or older, and the survey has a margin of error of ±3.8% 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. Are you a resident of Hampden County? *The cities and towns in Hampden County are Agawam, Blandford, Brimfield, Chester, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Granville, Hampden, Holland, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Montgomery, Palmer, Russell, Southwick, Springfield, Tolland, Wales, West Springfield, Westfield, and Wilbraham.*
  1. Yes **100%**
  2. No **[END SURVEY]**
3. To ensure we are reaching residents in all areas of Hampden County, please provide your ZIP code.

*Resident of Springfield: **33.4%***

*Resident of Chicopee, Longmeadow, or municipalities east of Springfield: **33.8%***

*Resident of municipalities west of Springfield: **32.8%***

4. I'd like to start by asking you some questions about public policy related to vocational-technical high schools. Massachusetts vocational-technical high schools – such as Springfield's Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy – perform as well or better academically than the state's traditional public high schools, even though vocational-technical students alternate weekly between academics and their chosen trade, such as plumbing, carpentry, automotive, or life sciences.

If a student is not succeeding within the traditional public school system in their city or town, should the families of those students have access to other educational choices, regardless of their income?

1. Yes **84.6%**
2. No **4.3%**
3. Unsure **11.1%**

5. Many Massachusetts students attend vocational-technical high schools. Currently, there is a long waitlist to attend these schools and many students who wish to attend never gain admission. Do you support expanding students' access to vocational-technical schools?
  1. Support **88.2%**
  2. Oppose **2.6%**
  3. Unsure **9.3%**
  
6. The shortage of vocational-technical high schools is particularly severe in parts of the state other than the Boston area and Worcester. Do you specifically support or oppose expanding Hampden County students' access to vocational-technical schools?
  1. Support **88.7%**
  2. Oppose **2.6%**
  3. Unsure **8.7%**
  
7. Vocational-technical high schools often conduct outreach programs – such as information sessions, tours, and camps - for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who might be interested in vocational-technical education after they complete middle school. However, some middle schools currently decline to allow vocational-technical high schools to interact with their 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Should public middle schools be required to provide vocational-technical schools with access to those students?
  1. Yes **76.3%**
  2. No **8.0%**
  3. Unsure **15.7%**
  
8. Although many vocational-technical high school graduates go on to higher education, they are more than twice as likely as traditional high school graduates to move directly into the workforce and tend to earn more than their peers during the first 10 years after graduation. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support expanding access to vocational-technical high schools?
  1. More likely **78.7%**
  2. Less likely **4.0%**
  3. Unsure **17.3%**
  
9. Vocational-technical high schools educate a significantly higher percentage of students with special needs than traditional high schools do, yet vocational-technical high schools have much lower dropout rates. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support expanding access to vocational-technical high schools?
  1. More likely **80.9%**
  2. Less likely **3.6%**
  3. Unsure **15.5%**
  
10. Given this additional information, let me ask you again: Do you support or oppose expanding Hampden County students' access to vocational-technical high schools?
  1. Support **90.0%**
  2. Oppose **2.9%**
  3. Unsure **7.0%**

11. I now have a few quick demographic questions. Do you describe yourself as male, female, or in some other way?
  1. Male **47.5%**
  2. Female **51.5%**
  3. Some other way **1.0%**
  
12. What is your age?
  1. 18 to 34 years old **28.7%**
  2. 35 to 44 years old **16.7%**
  3. 45 to 54 years old **14.2%**
  4. 55 to 64 years old **16.1%**
  5. 65 or older **24.3%**
  
13. Which of the following best describes your primary race or ethnicity?
  1. White or Caucasian **61.9%**
  2. Black or African American **5.6%**
  3. Hispanic or Latino **24.6%**
  4. Asian or Pacific Islander **1.7%**
  5. American Indian or Alaska Native **0.7%**
  6. Other **5.5%**
  
14. What is the highest level of education you have already completed so far?
  1. Attended high school but have not graduate **5.8%**
  2. A high school degree or equivalent **37.5%**
  3. Attended some college, but have not earned a degree yet **18.5%**
  4. Earned an Associate's degree **10.5%**
  5. Earned a Bachelor's degree **16.0%**
  6. Earned a Master's degree, Doctoral degree, or professional degree beyond a Bachelor's degree **11.7%**
  
15. Are you registered to vote in Massachusetts?
  1. Yes **95.5%**
  2. No **(END SURVEY) 4.5%**

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

1. Democrat **23.6%**
2. Republican **9.7%**
3. Independent or unaffiliated **60.1%**
4. A smaller political party, such as Libertarian or Green-Rainbow **2.0%**
5. (Not registered in Question 15) **4.5%**

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*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.*