

Emerson College

POLLING



PIONEER INSTITUTE
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Massachusetts Poll

August 2024



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METHODOLOGY

Emerson College Polling conducted a survey of Massachusetts registered voters, commissioned by the Pioneer Institute.

The sample consists of $n=1,000$ Massachusetts registered voters. Data was weighted by Massachusetts general population parameters provided by the US Census and voter registration data provided by the MA Secretary of State. The credibility interval, similar to a poll's margin of error, for the sample is $\pm 3\%$ in 19 of 20 cases. The survey was administered via an online panel, provided by CINT and text via MMS-to-web. Data was collected between August 15-17, 2024.

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.

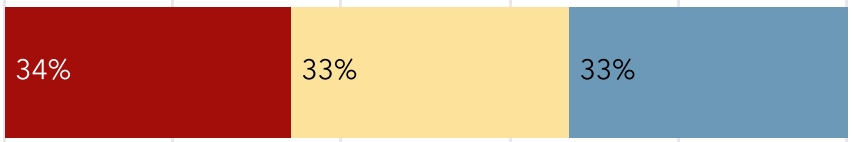
A chi-square significance level of .05 indicates significance at the 95 percent level. In other words, it is 95 percent likely that the results are due to a real difference between comparison groups. A chi-square significance level of .01 indicates significance at the 99 percent level. When a t-test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

SURVEY RESULTS

Massachusetts Elected Officials Approval

Maura Healey

Disapprove Neutral Approve



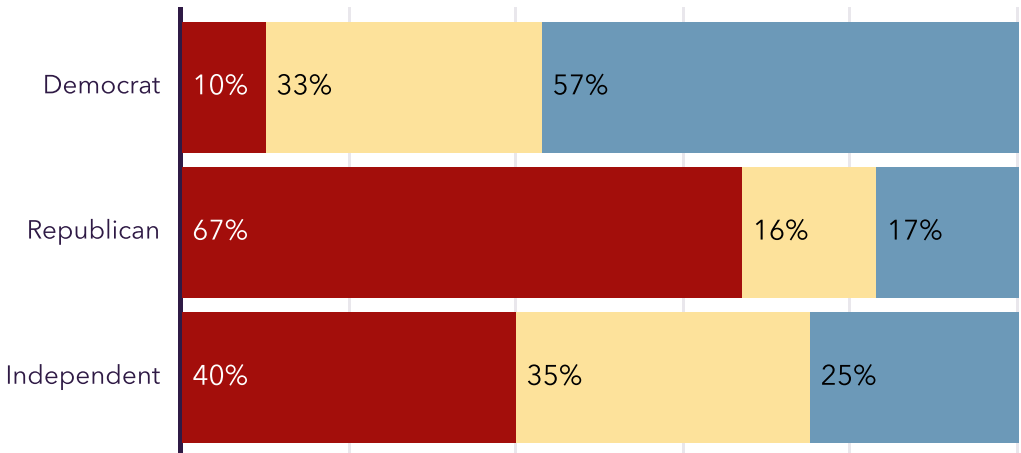
Your State Senator



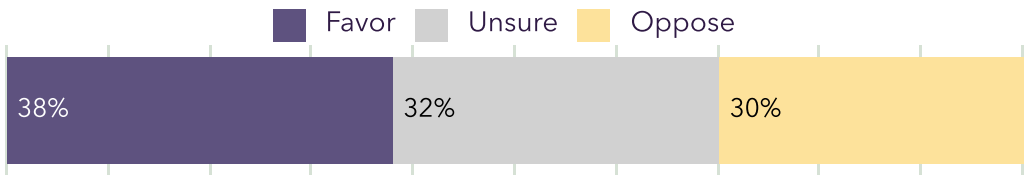
Your State Representative



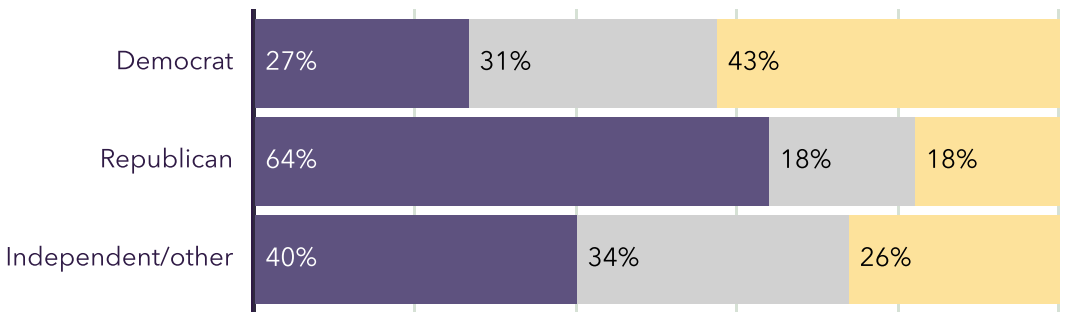
Maura Healey Approval by Party:



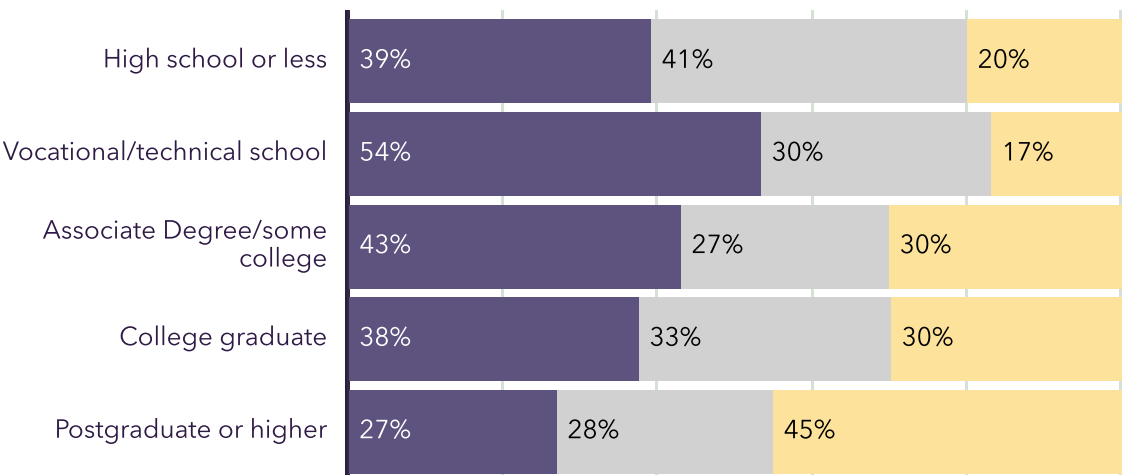
Massachusetts is one of 10 states in which the state legislature meets year-round - in most states, lawmakers meet only part of the year and often have another career at the same time. Some people are proposing that Massachusetts move to a part-time legislature and reduce state legislators' pay. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?



SUPPORT BY PARTY



SUPPORT BY EDUCATION

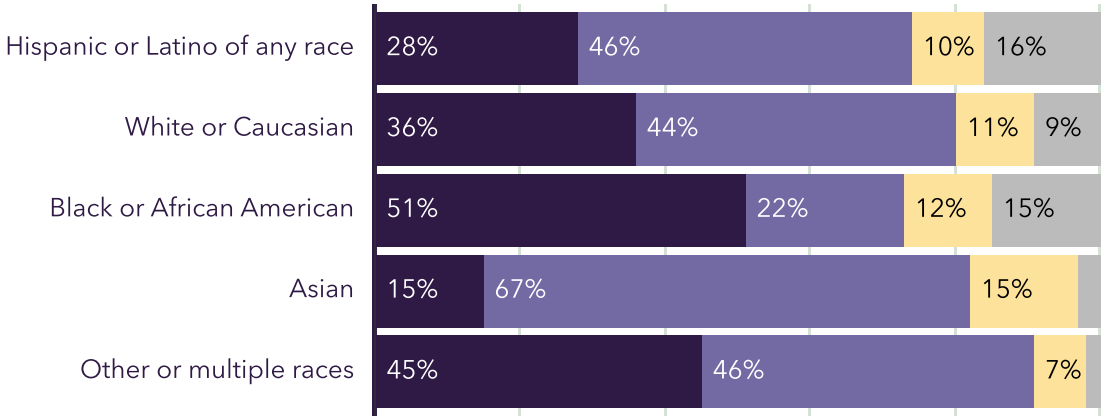


Massachusetts lawmakers' base pay is almost \$75,000 a year plus travel reimbursements and an expense allowance. Those who chair legislative committees receive additional compensation.

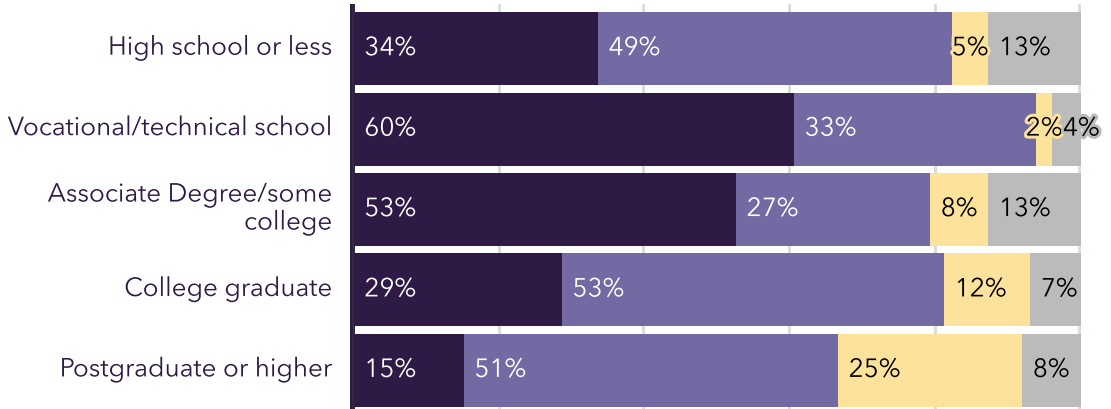
Do you think their compensation is too high, too low, or about right?



VIEW BY RACE/ETHNICITY



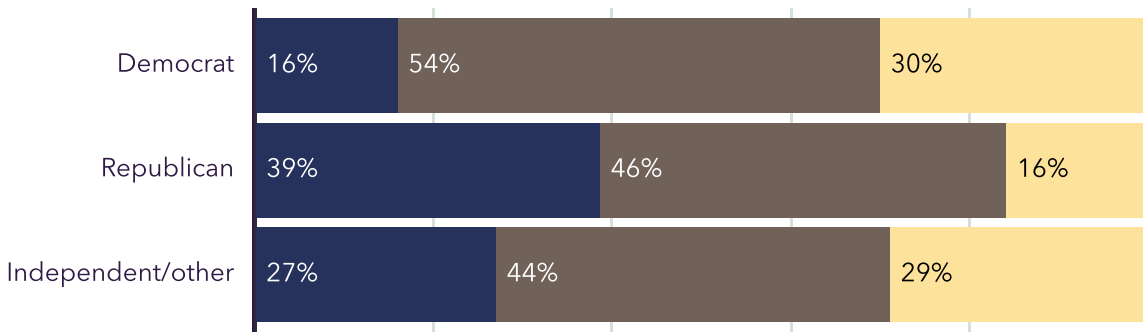
VIEW BY EDUCATION



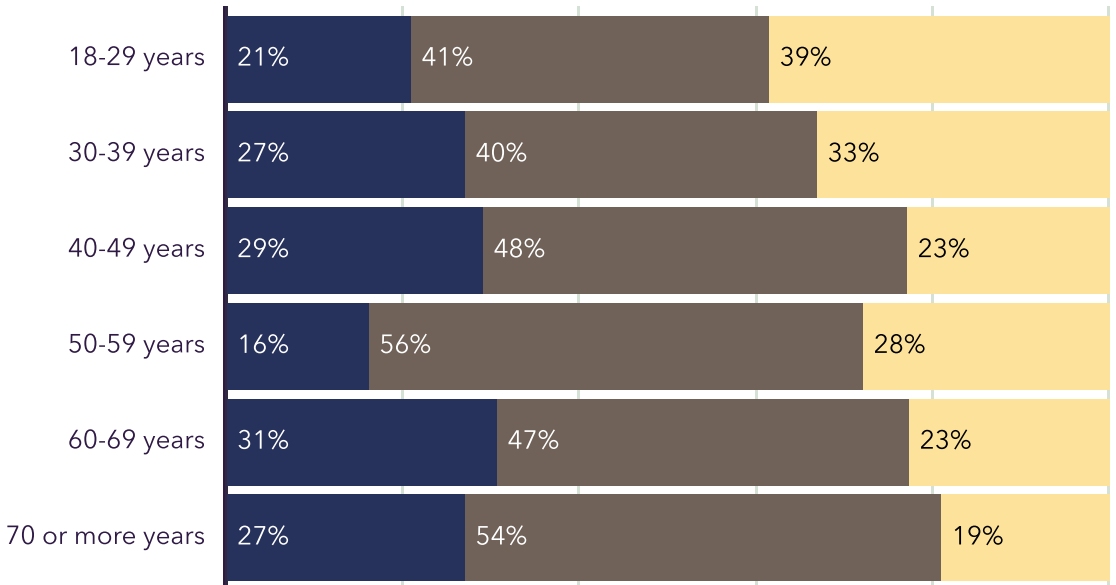
This year, Massachusetts was the last state to pass a budget. Would that information change your opinion regarding legislative compensation?



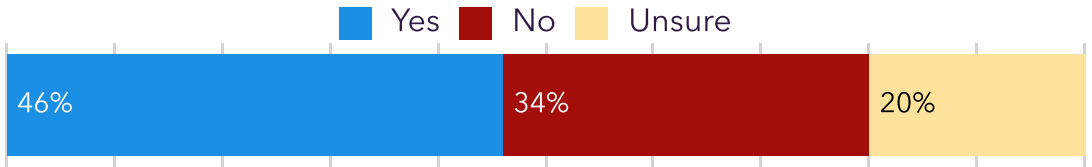
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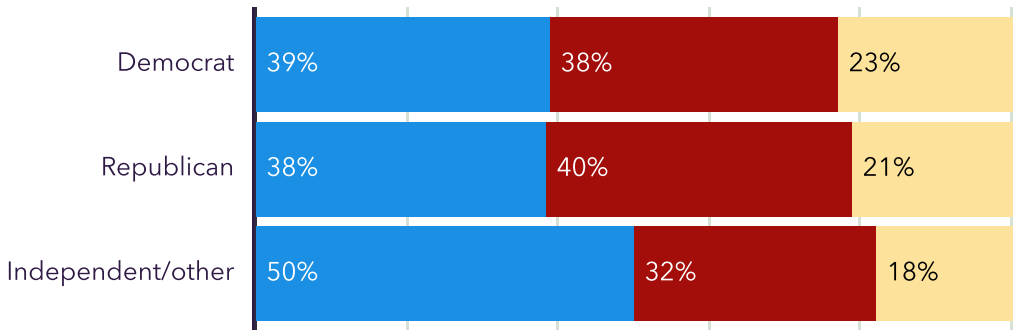
VIEW BY AGE



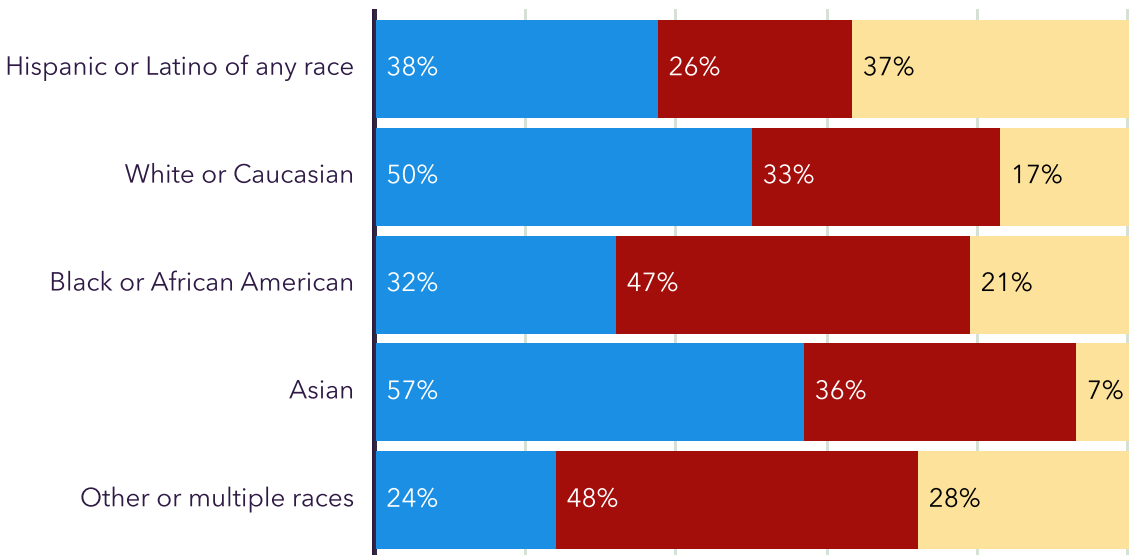
A 2023 analysis by Fiscal Note, a Washington D.C.-based company that makes software for policy tracking, found that the Massachusetts Legislature was the least efficient among the 50 states. Would that information change your opinion regarding legislative compensation?



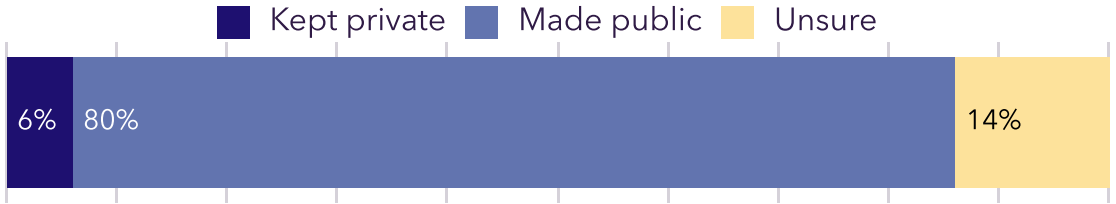
VIEW BY PARTY



VIEW BY RACE/ETHNICITY



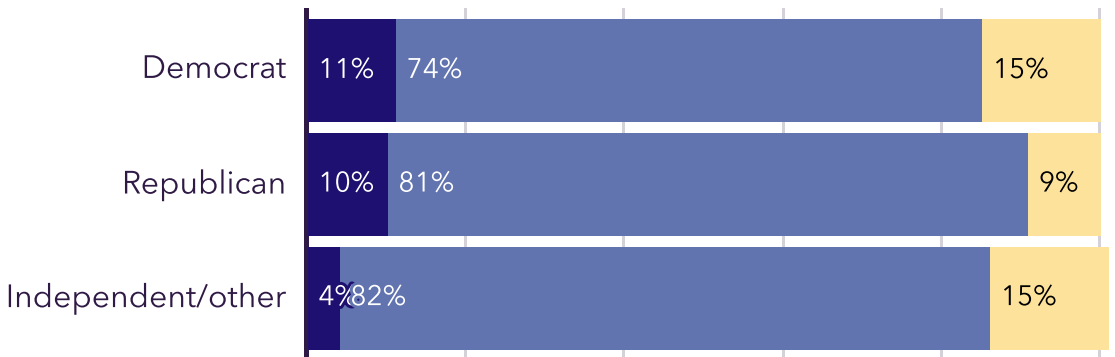
The Massachusetts Legislature, governor and the Supreme Judicial Court have claimed exemption to public records laws. Should these records be kept private, or should they be made public?



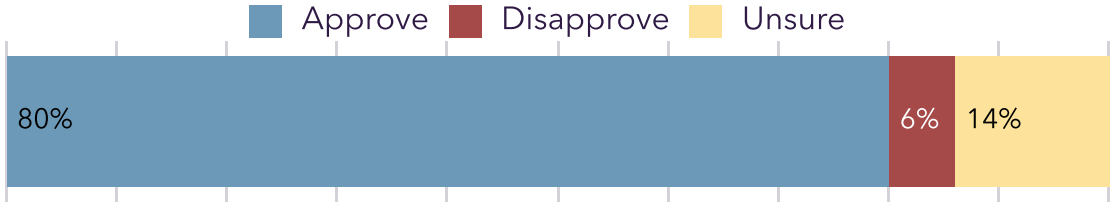
VIEW BY GENDER



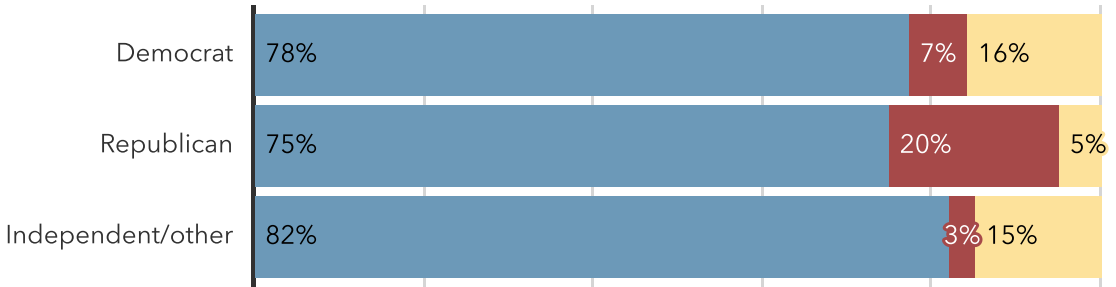
VIEW BY PARTY



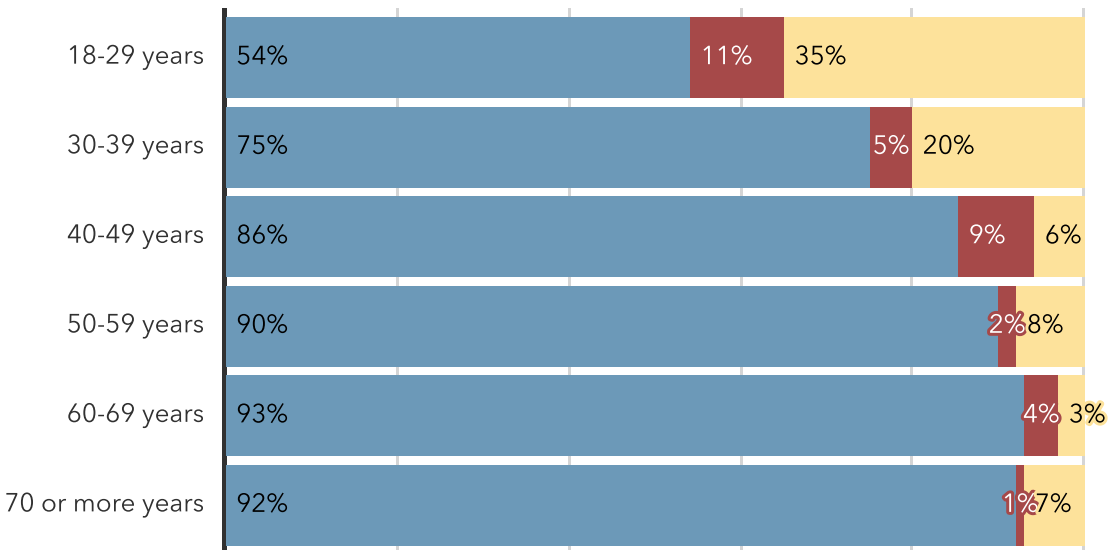
The job of the State Auditor is to audit state agencies, report on how well they are functioning and make recommendations for improvement. In Massachusetts, the legislature is exempt from these audits. The current State Auditor is seeking to gain the ability to audit the legislature. Do you approve of this?



VIEW BY PARTY



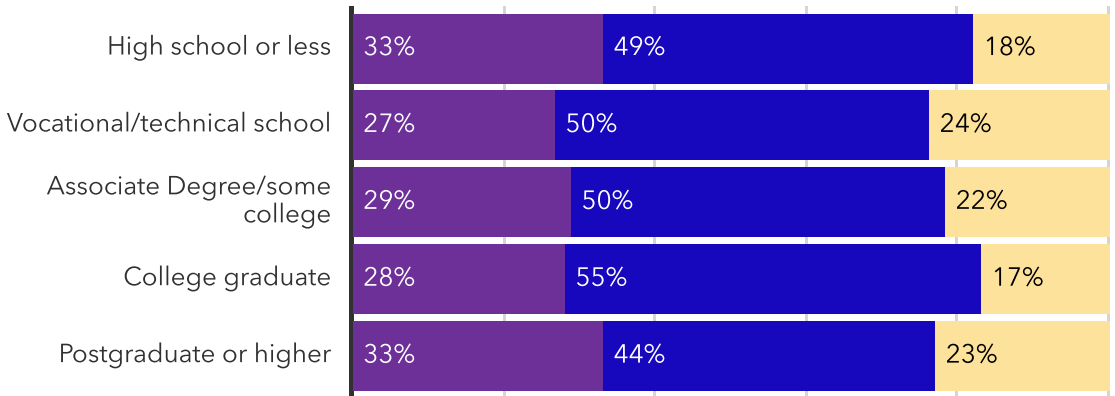
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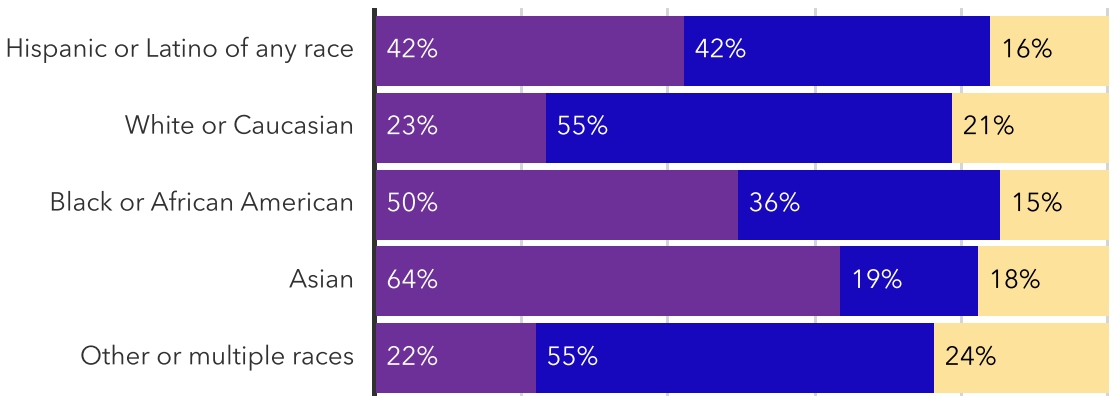
In recent years, the number of international students at U.S. colleges and universities has declined. Do you believe the U.S. should do more to attract foreign students to our colleges and universities?



VIEW BY EDUCATION

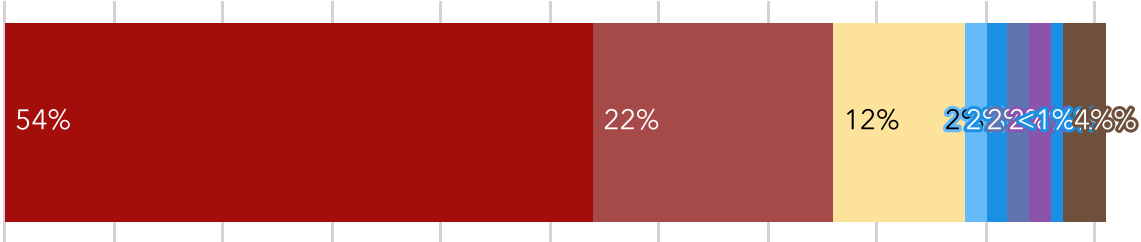


VIEW BY RACE/ETHNICITY

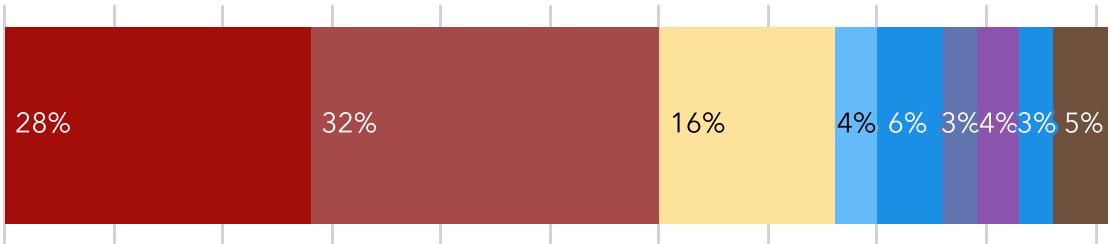


In recent years, the rate at which residents are leaving Massachusetts has been increasing. Which of the following do you believe is the biggest reason why people are leaving Massachusetts?

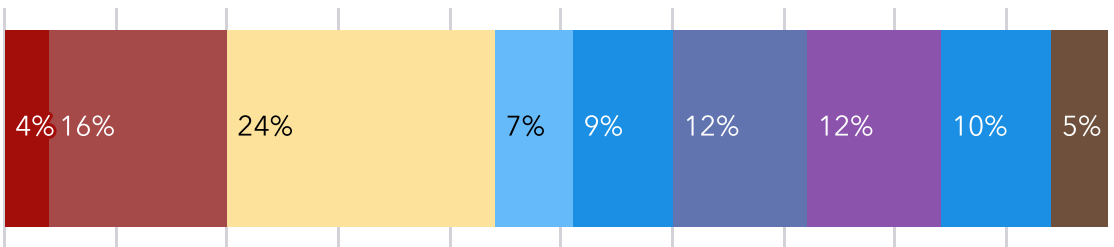
- Overall cost of living
- Housing costs
- Taxes
- Retirement
- Seeking a different lifestyle
- Lack of job opportunities
- Poor infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and public transportation
- Healthcare costs
- Something else



Second biggest reason

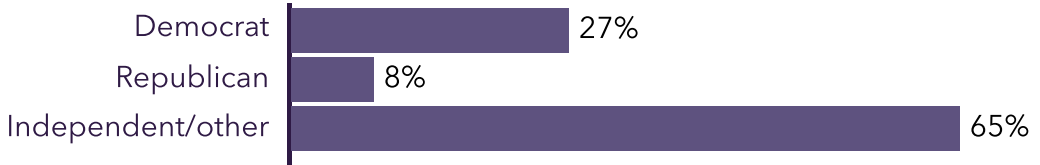


Third biggest reason

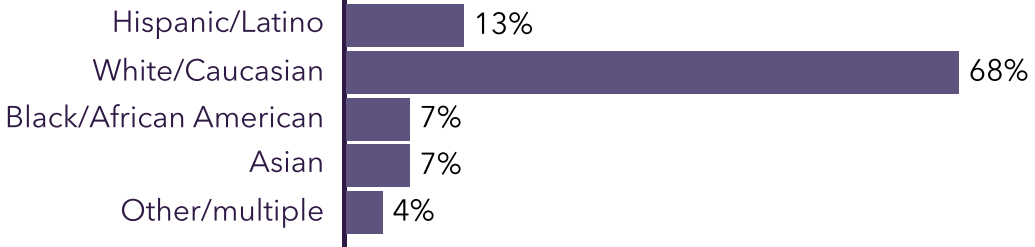


DEMOGRAPHICS

Party affiliation



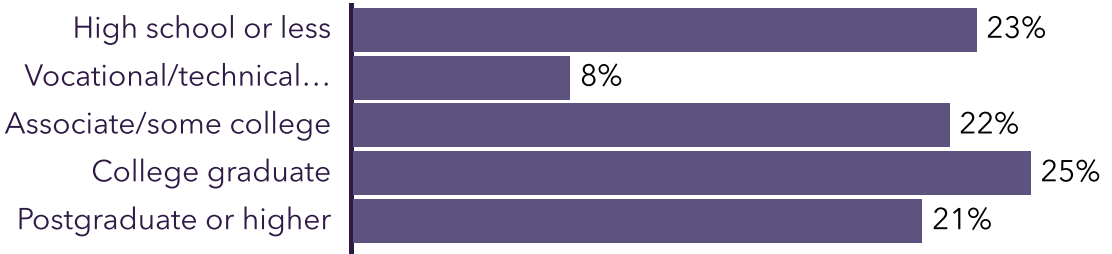
Ethnicity



Age



Education



Gender





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