

MASSACHUSETTS SURVEY REPORT

Commissioned by

Conducted by



PIONEER INSTITUTE
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Emerson College
P O L L I N G



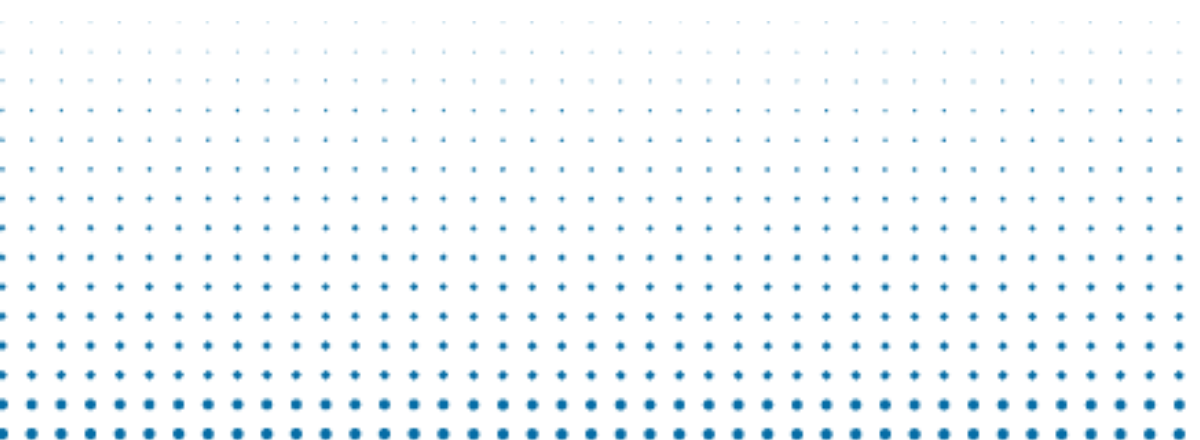
CONTENTS

METHODOLOGY, 3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, 4

SURVEY RESULTS, 5

DEMOGRAPHICS, 25



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 $\pm 3\%$ in 19 of 20 cases. The survey was administered by contacting cell phones via text message, a consumer list of emails, and online panel. Data was collected between March 31-April 2, 2023.

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

Seventy-eight percent of Massachusetts residents agree if a student does not respond well to the educational practice in their public school, they should be able to have access to other educational choices, regardless of their income.

A majority of Massachusetts residents, 52%, favor charter schools in Massachusetts. Women are more supportive of charter schools in Massachusetts than men: 63% of women support charter school, compared to 59% of men.

There is a difference in intensity regarding charter school support by party: 19% of Democrats strongly favor charter schools and a total of 58% favor, compared to 39% of Republicans who strongly favor and 70% favor total. Thirty-one percent of independents strongly favor charter schools, and 63% favor total.

Respondents with children under 18 in their household are more favorable of charter schools than those without: 67% of parents with children under 18 support charter schools compared to 59% of respondents without kids in the household. Those who identify as liberal are 20 points less favorable of charter schools compared to conservatives, 54% to 74%.

Regarding if Massachusetts should repeal amendments that prevent public funding to religious schools, a plurality (47%) think the state should keep the laws the same. Women are more supportive of keeping the amendments the same by a larger margin than men: women support keeping it the same rather than repealing 49% to 32% while men are more split: 46% to 36%.

Independent or unaffiliated voters are most split: 47% think it should be kept as is while 35% support repealing. A majority of Democrats (55%) think it should be kept as is, while 61% of Republicans think the amendments should be repealed.

Those who rely on cable or network news for information about public issues are most likely to want to repeal the amendment at 46%, compared to 32% of those who watch local TV and 20% public TV.

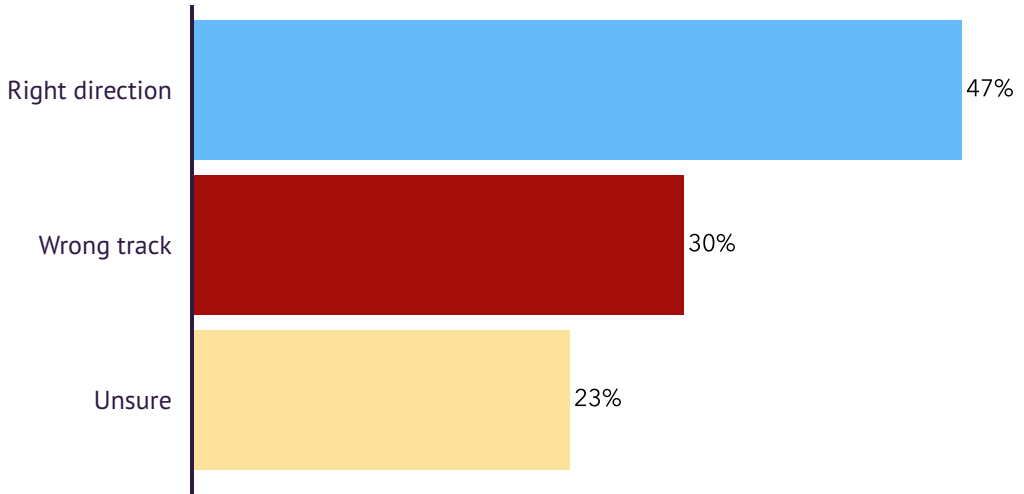
Young Massachusetts residents, between the age of 18 and 25, and older residents, over 66 are the most optimistic about Massachusetts being on the right track at 49% and 56% respectively.

Democrats see Massachusetts heading in the right direction rather than wrong 69% to 14%, whereas Republicans see it headed down the wrong track 54% to 30%. Independents or unaffiliated voters are more split, with 40%-36% right direction to wrong track.

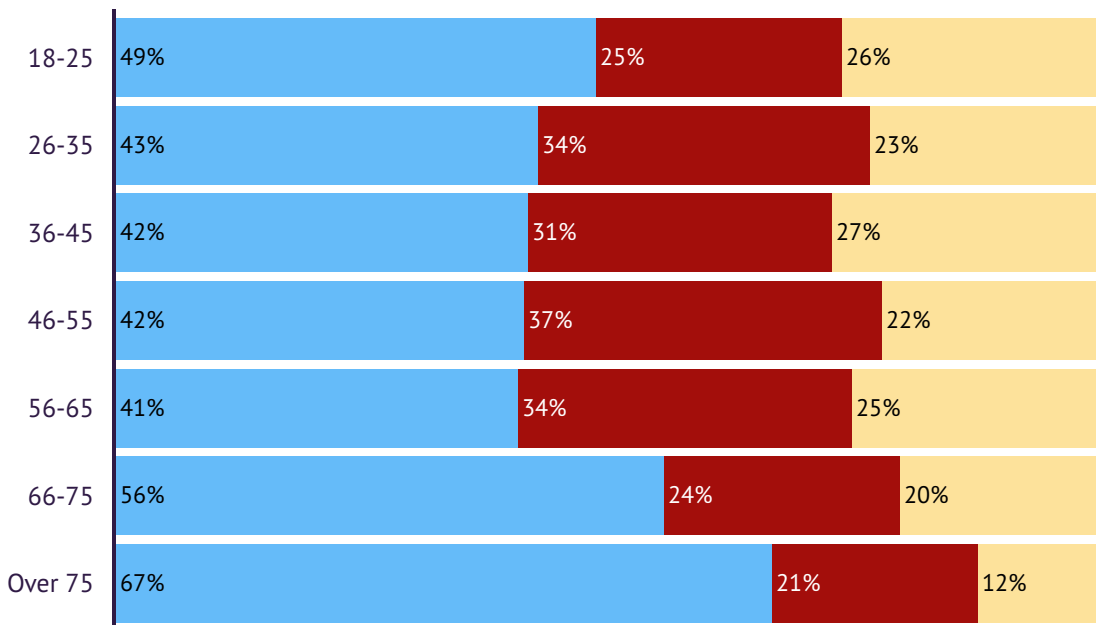
Among those consuming cable or network news, 40% think Massachusetts is on the wrong track and 37% the right direction. Those consuming public media are more optimistic: 67% think the right direction and 13% the wrong track.

SURVEY RESULTS

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



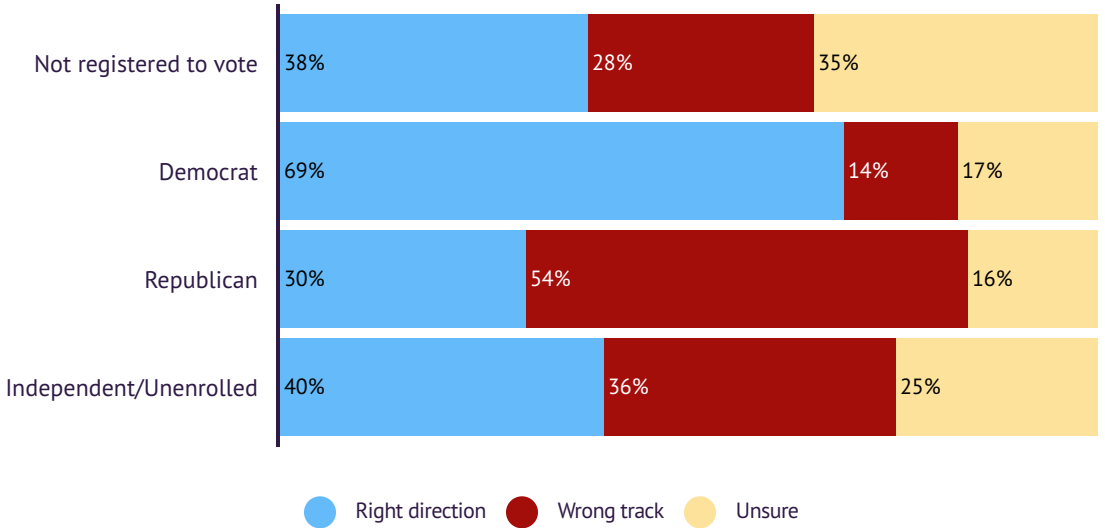
BY AGE



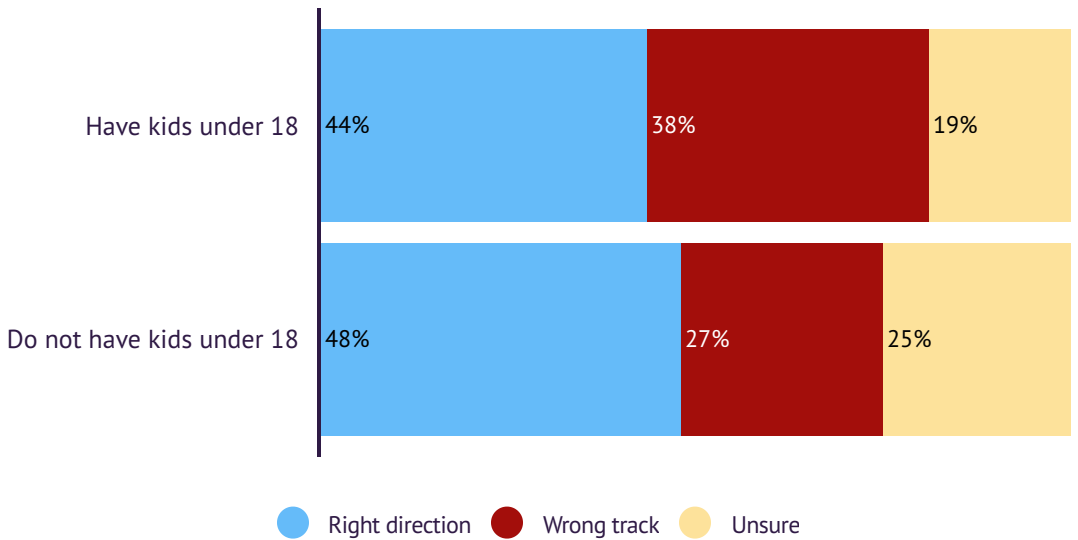
● Right direction ● Wrong track ● Unsure

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

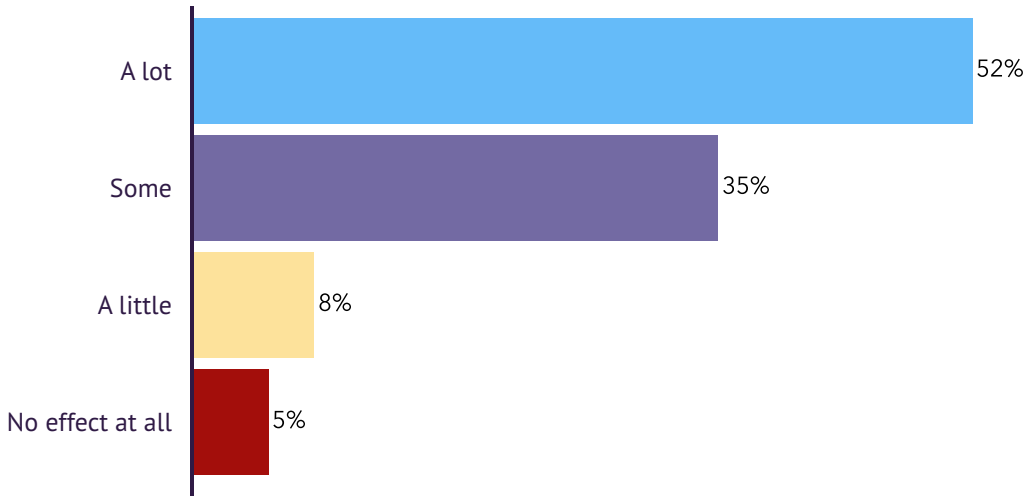
BY PARTY



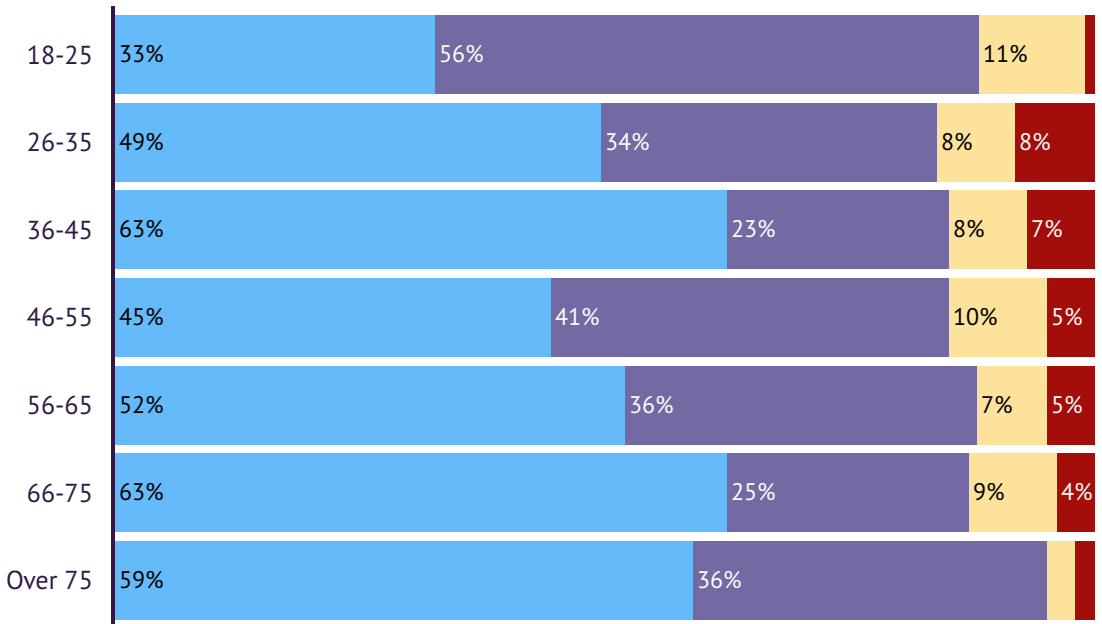
CHILDREN VS. NO CHILDREN



How much effect does the quality of elementary and high school education in Massachusetts have on how well things go economically in Massachusetts: would you say a lot, some, only a little, or no effect at all?

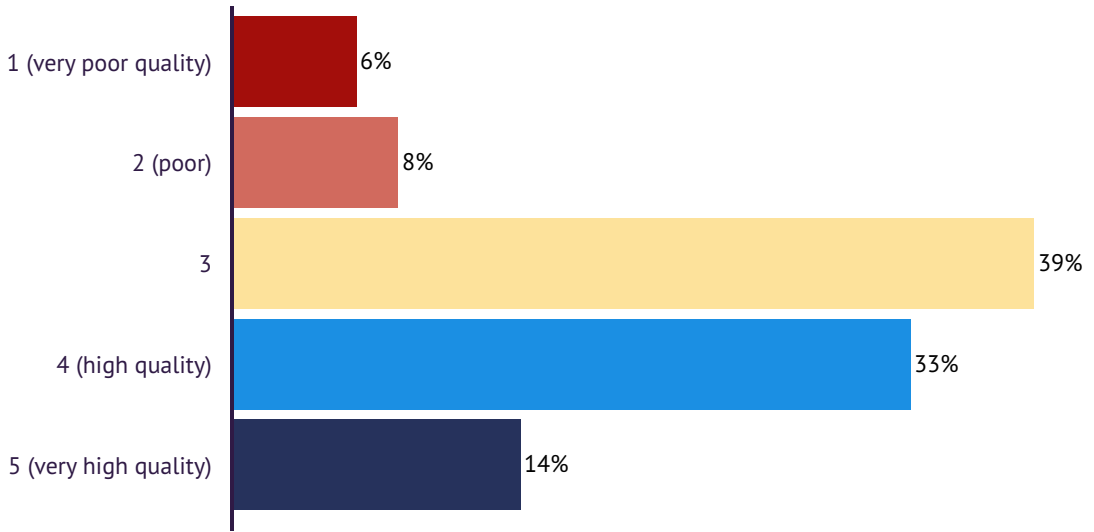


BY AGE

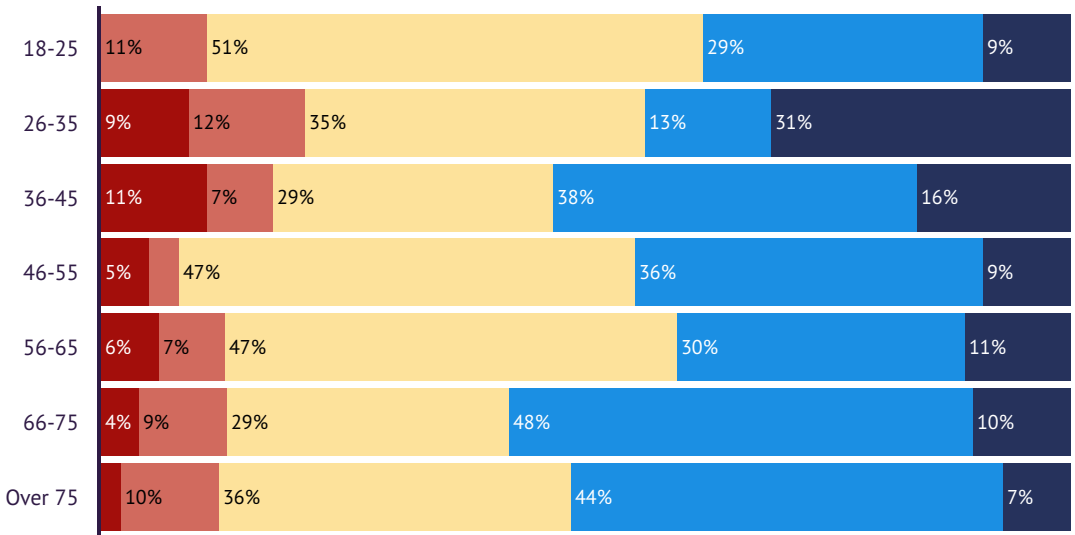


● A lot
 ● Some
 ● A little
 ● No effect at all

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?

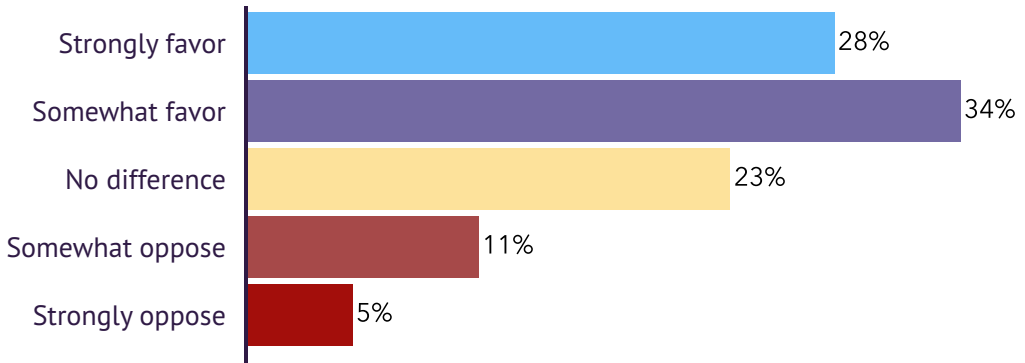


BY AGE

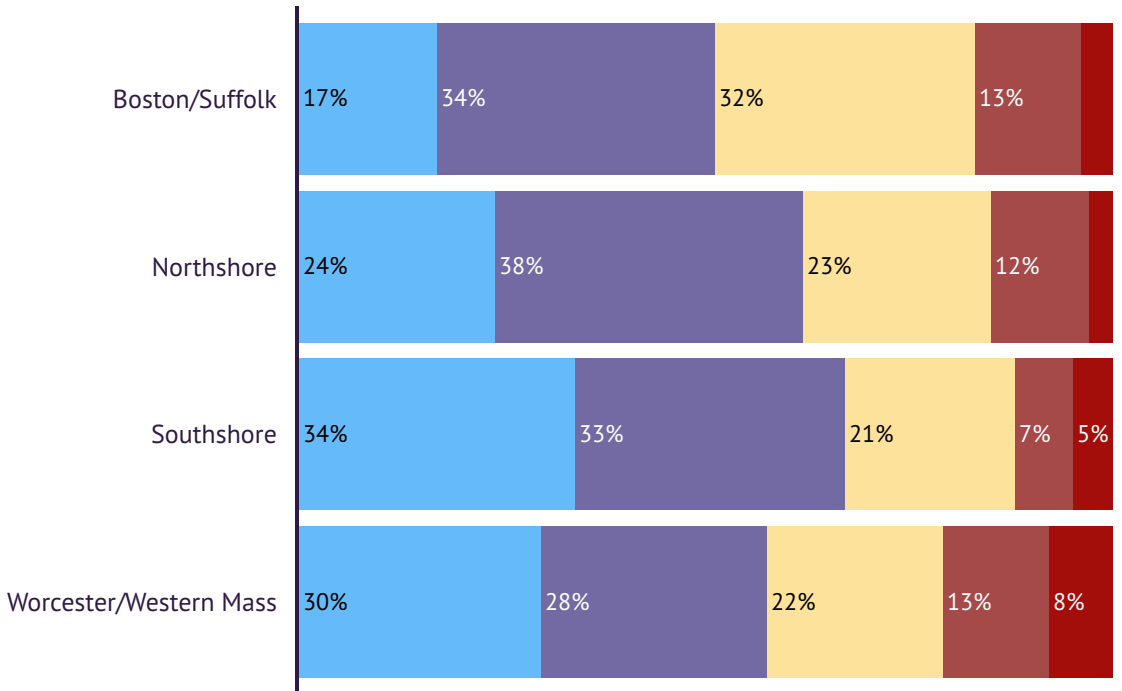


● 1 (very poor)
 ● 2 (poor)
 ● 3
 ● 4 (high quality)
 ● 5 (very high quality)

Students are not assigned to these schools, but rather attend based on parental choice. Based on this description, do you support charter schools here in Massachusetts, or oppose them?

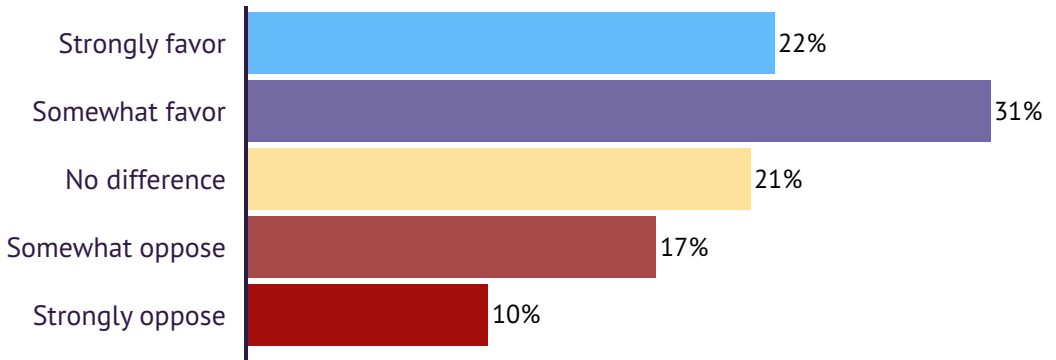


BY REGION

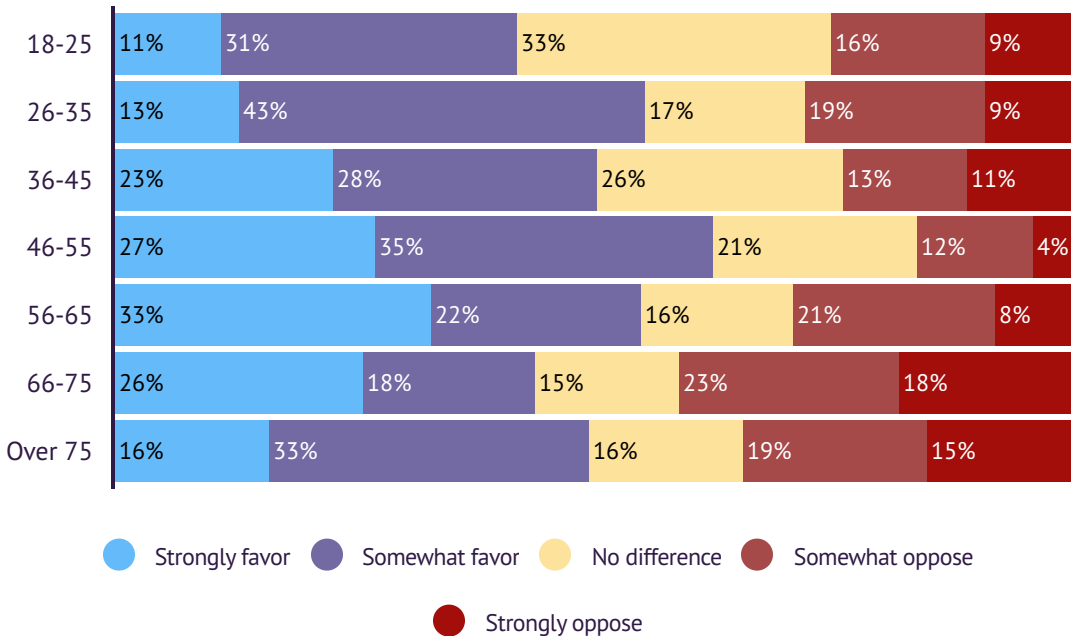


● Strongly favor
 ● Somewhat favor
 ● No difference
 ● Somewhat oppose
 ● Strongly oppose

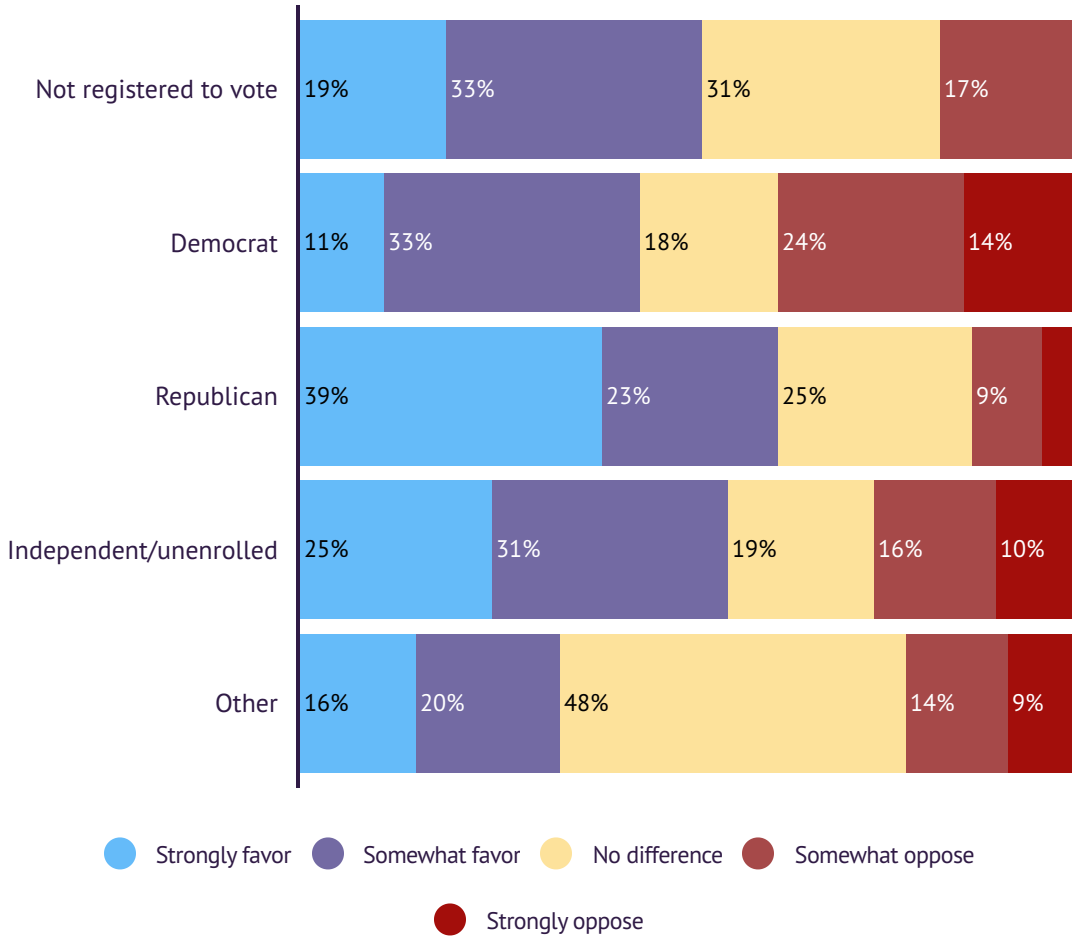
Charter schools are funded by re-allocating money that would have otherwise gone to each student's local school district. The per-student amount is about the same as the district would have spent to educate that child. Based on this description, do you favor charter schools here in Massachusetts or oppose them?



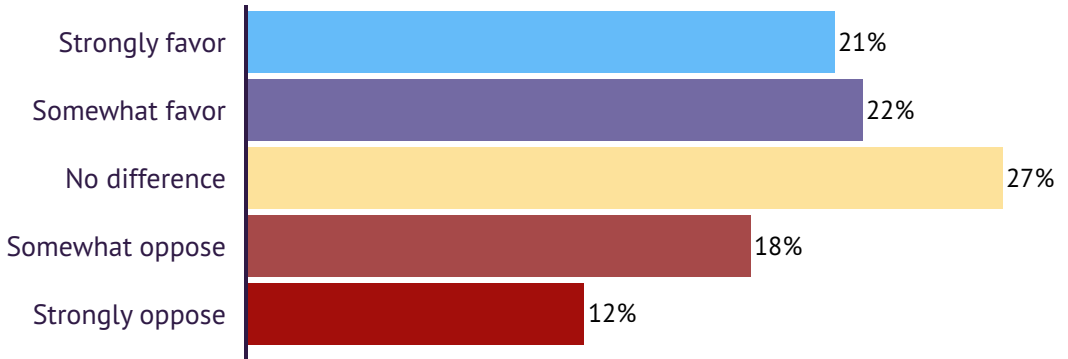
BY AGE



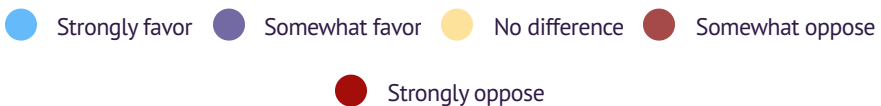
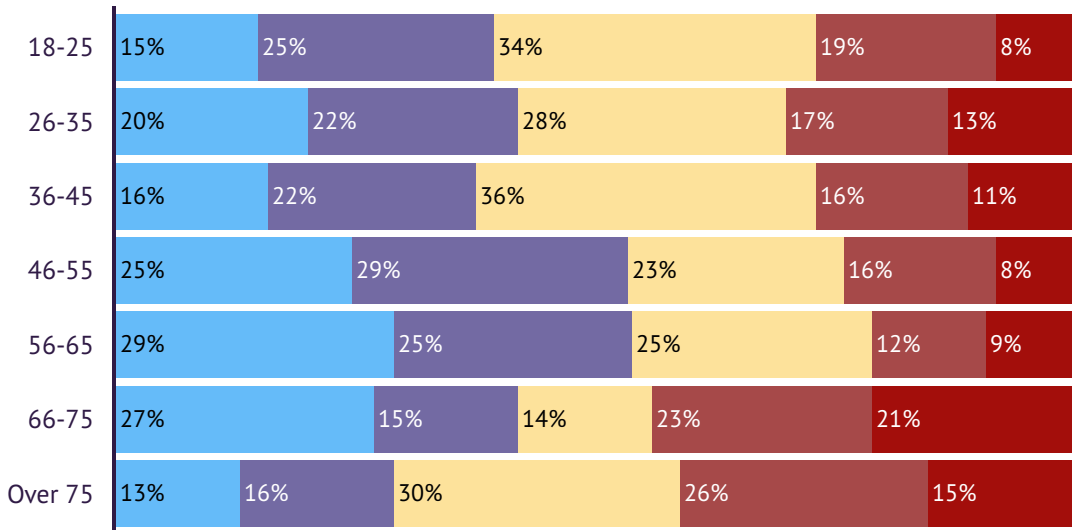
BY PARTY REGISTRATION



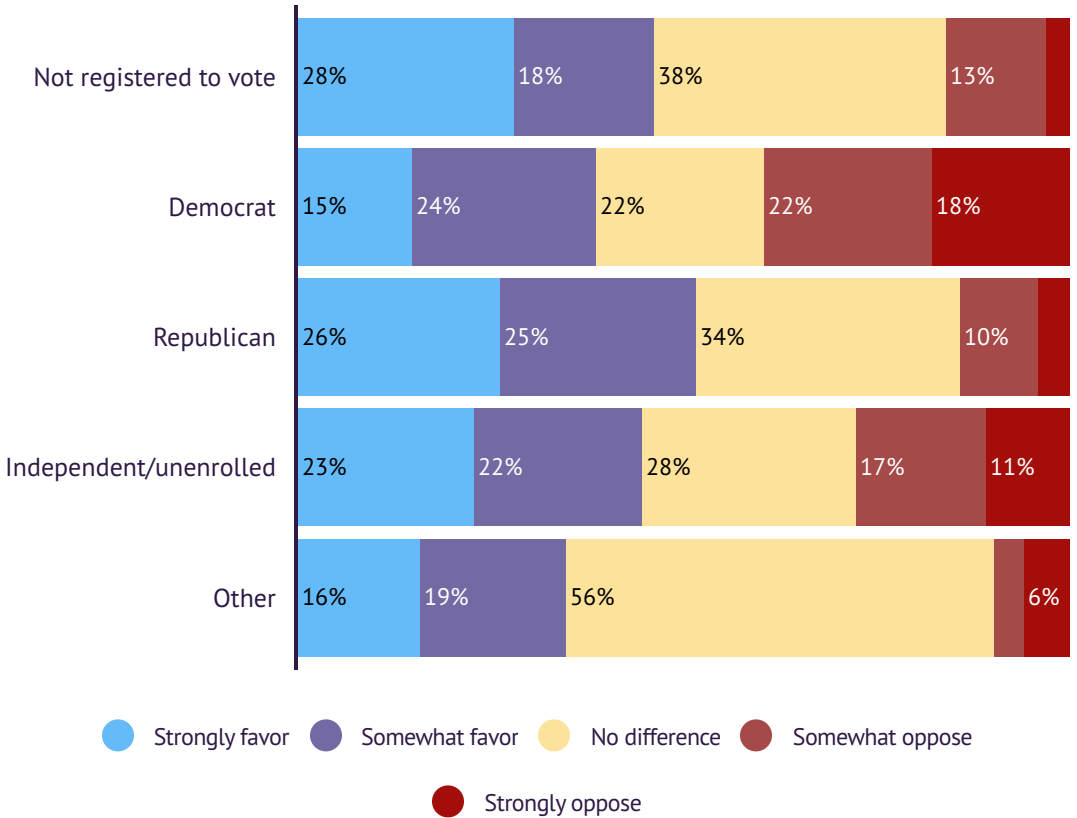
Teachers are hired outside of normal state certification requirements and are generally not part of a union. Based on this description, do you favor charter schools here in Massachusetts or oppose them?



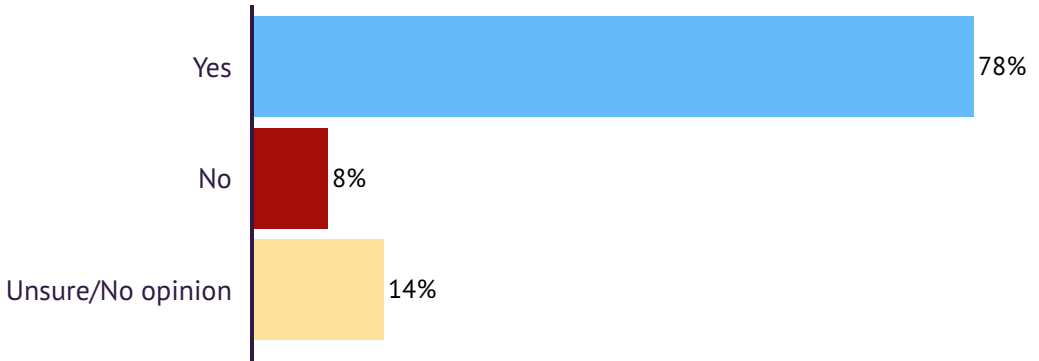
BY AGE



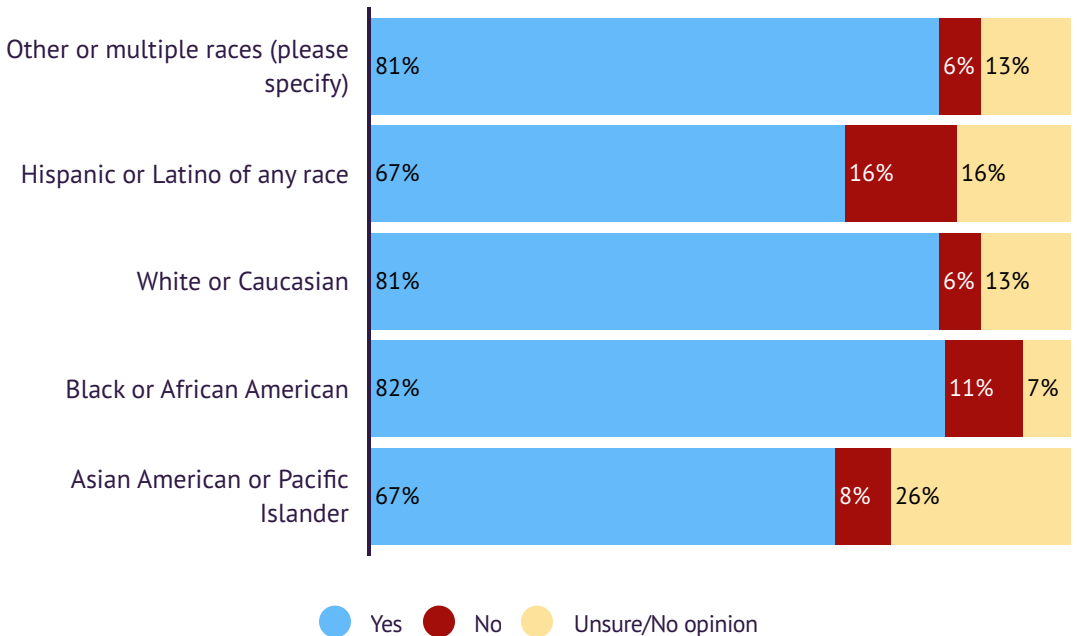
BY PARTY REGISTRATION



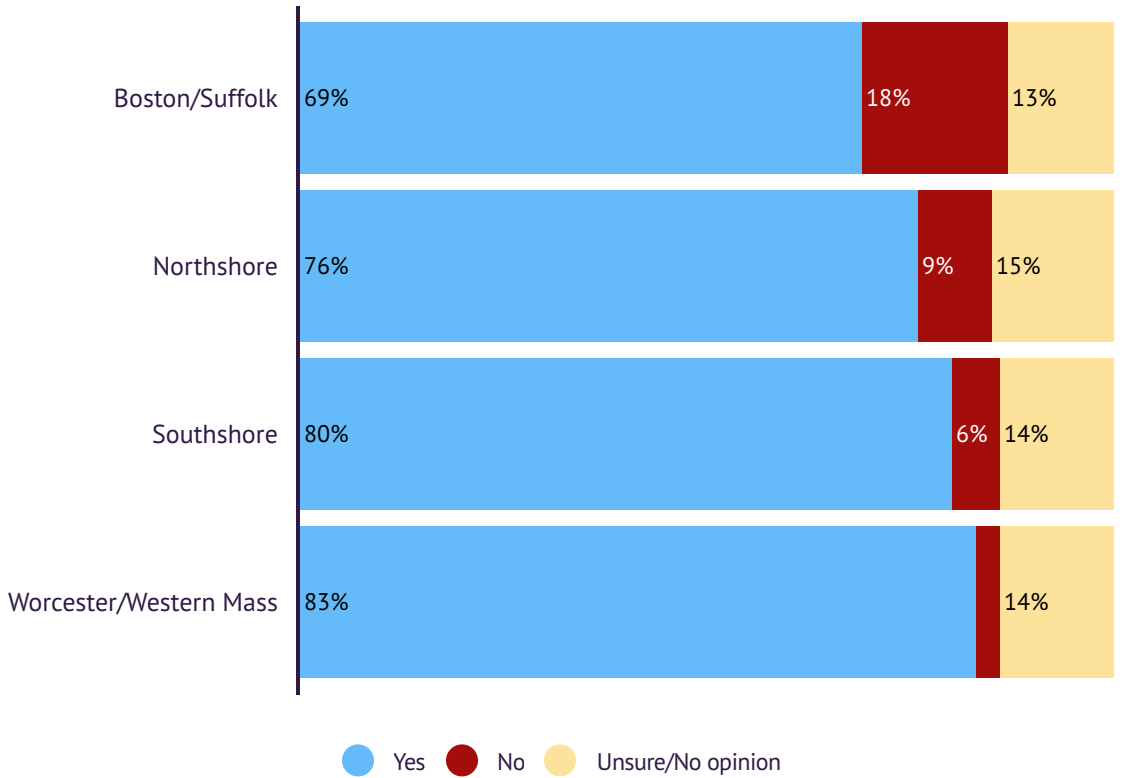
If a student does not respond well to the education practice in their public school, should the families of those students have access to other educational choices, regardless of their income?



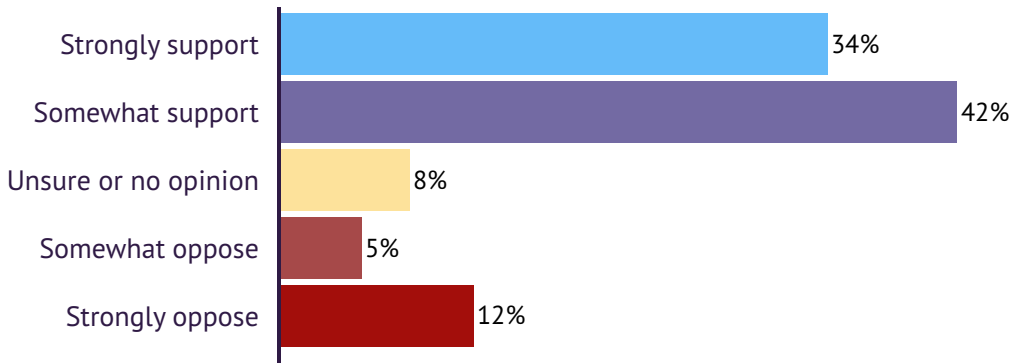
BY RACE/ETHNICITY



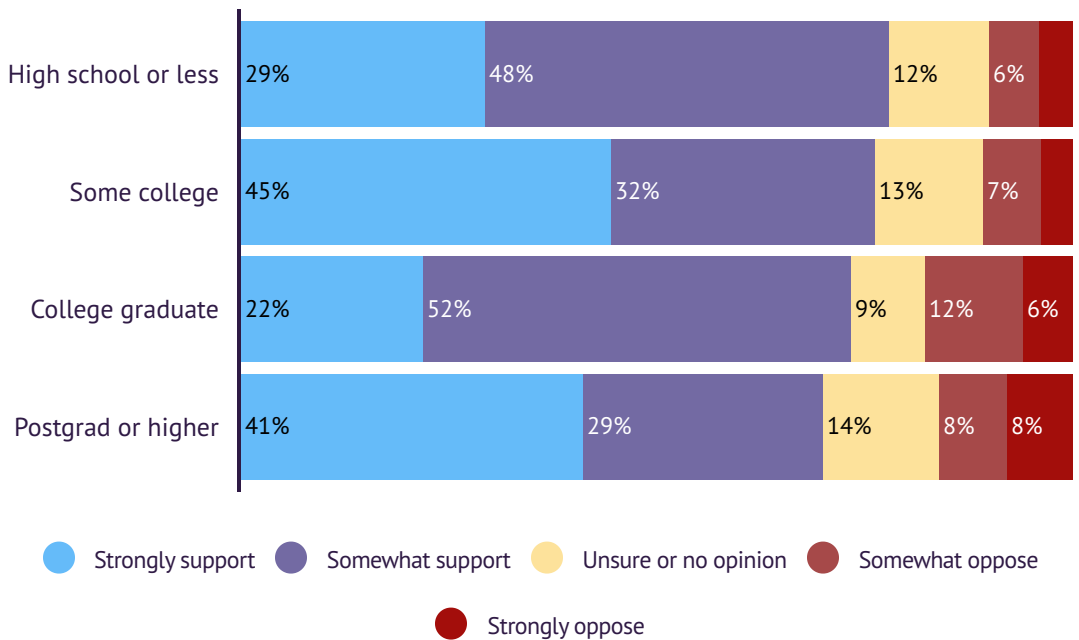
BY REGION



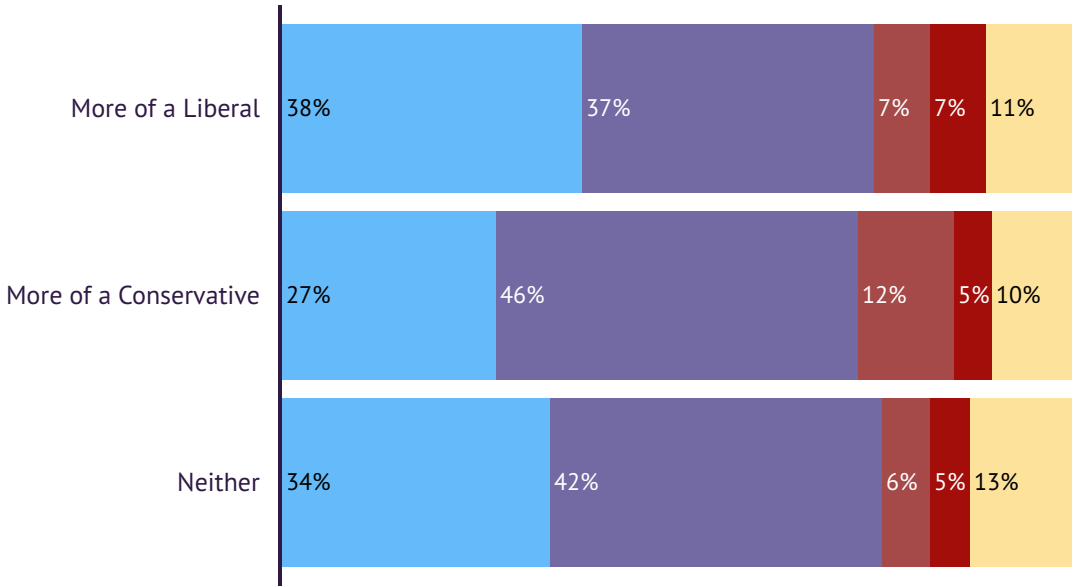
Twenty-three states offer education tax credits to individuals and businesses that make charitable contributions that give scholarships to families to use to send students to the schools of their choice. Florida, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island offer such a program for lower income families. Do you support or oppose tax credit programs if they are targeted toward those who are lower income?



BY EDUCATION

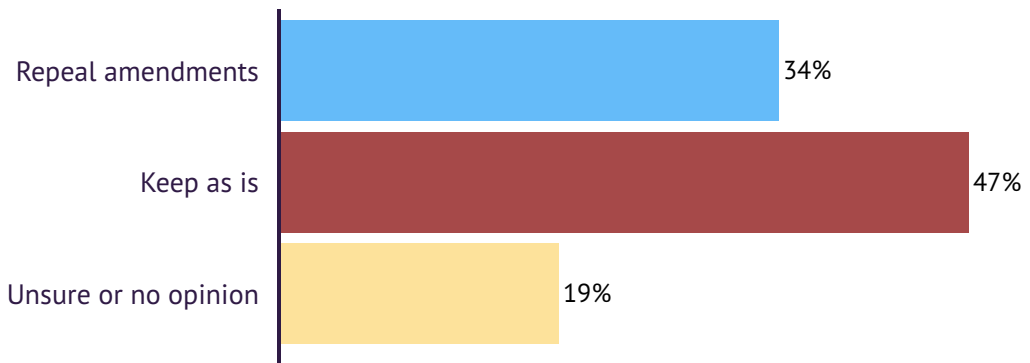


BY LIBERAL/CONSERVATIVE

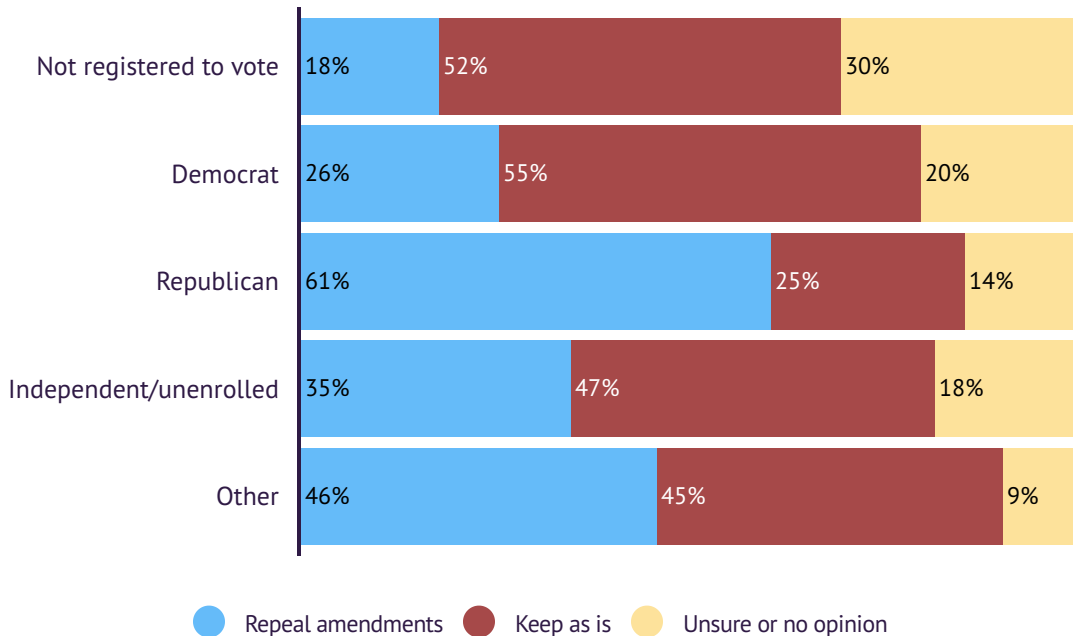


- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- No opinion

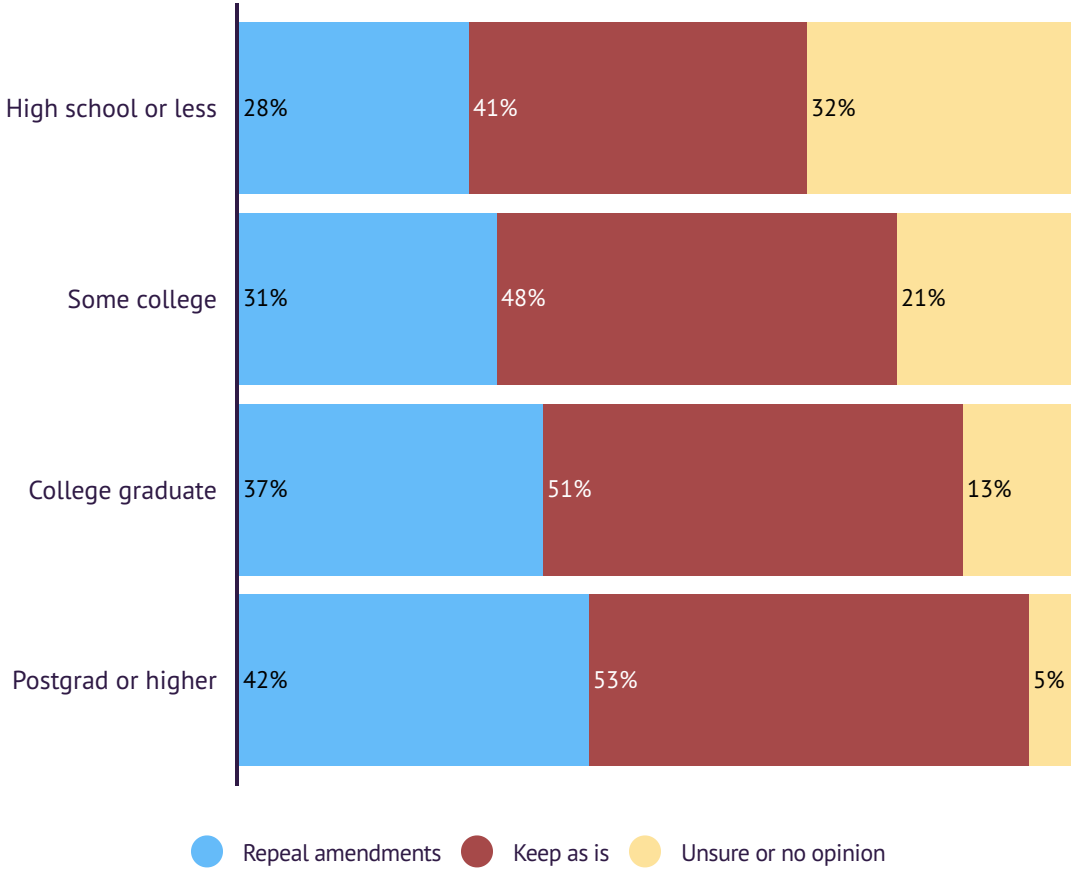
The Massachusetts Constitution was amended in the 1800's to prevent public funding from going to religious schools as part of anti-Catholic backlash that followed the arrival of Irish-Catholic immigrants. Should Massachusetts repeal these amendments, which prohibit public funding from flowing to parents who send their children to religious schools, or should the amendments remain as is?



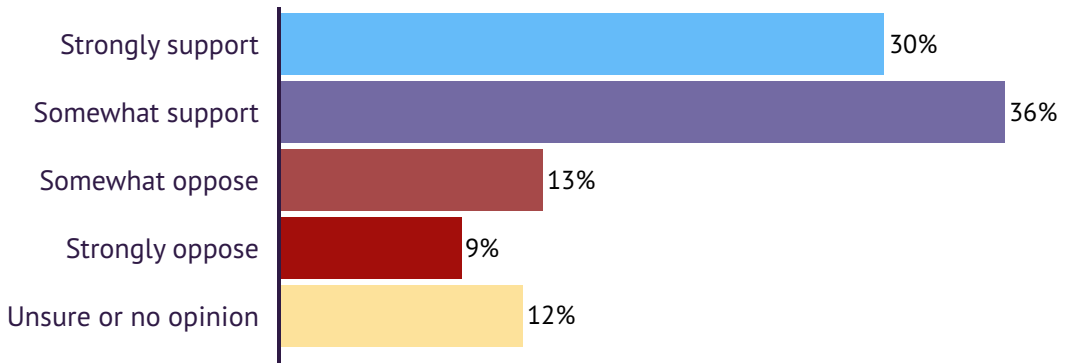
BY PARTY REGISTRATION



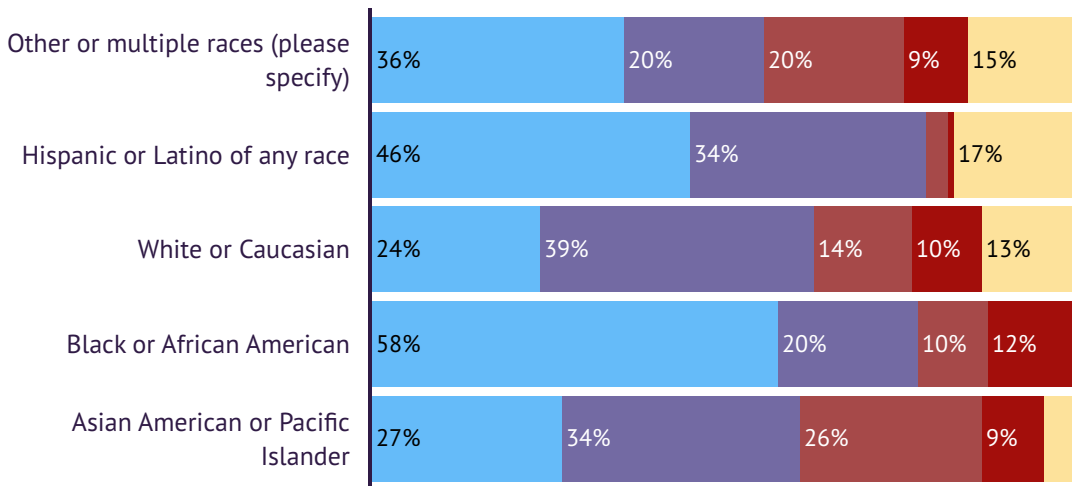
BY EDUCATION



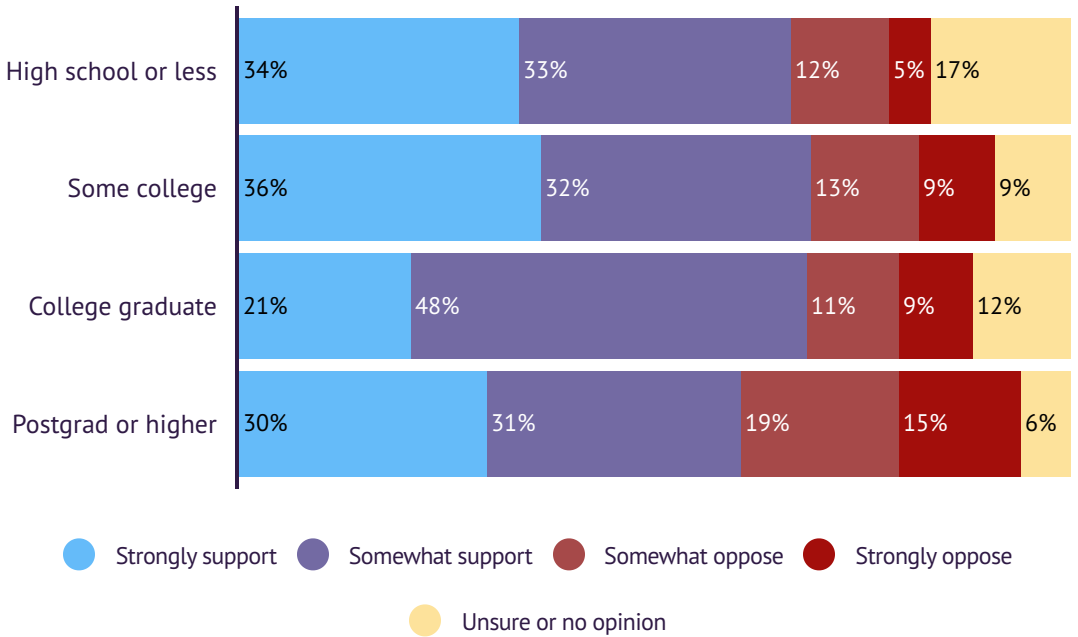
Some cities around the country have scholarship voucher programs that allow education dollars, in the form of state-funded scholarships, to be used for private school tuition. These voucher programs are mostly directed towards lower income and minority students. With this in mind, do you support or oppose these programs?



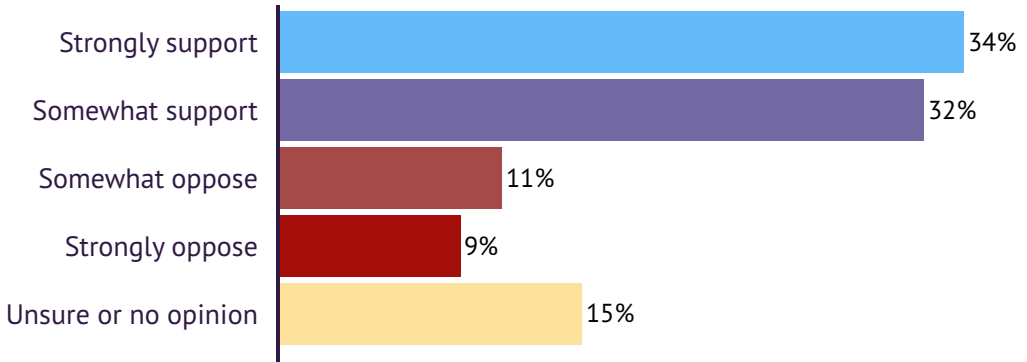
BY RACE/ETHNICITY



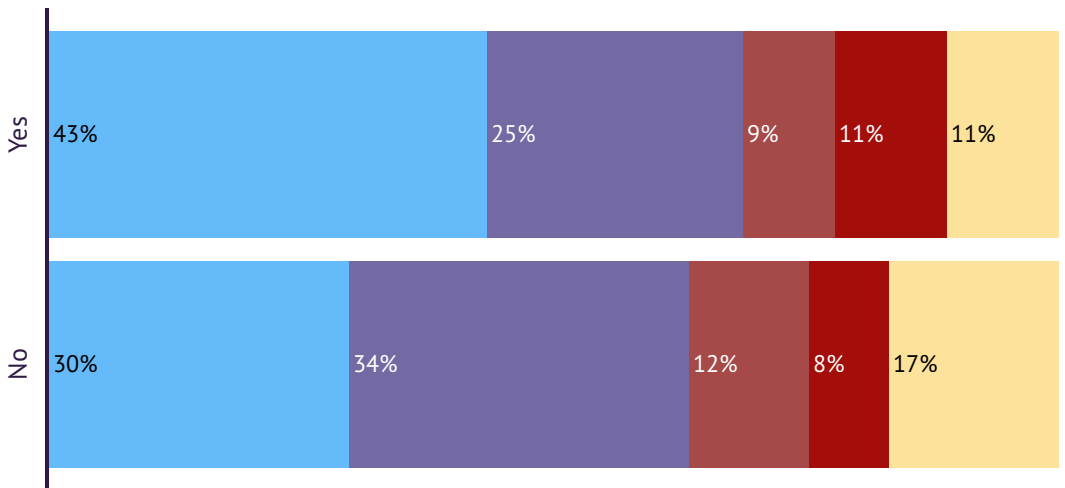
BY EDUCATION



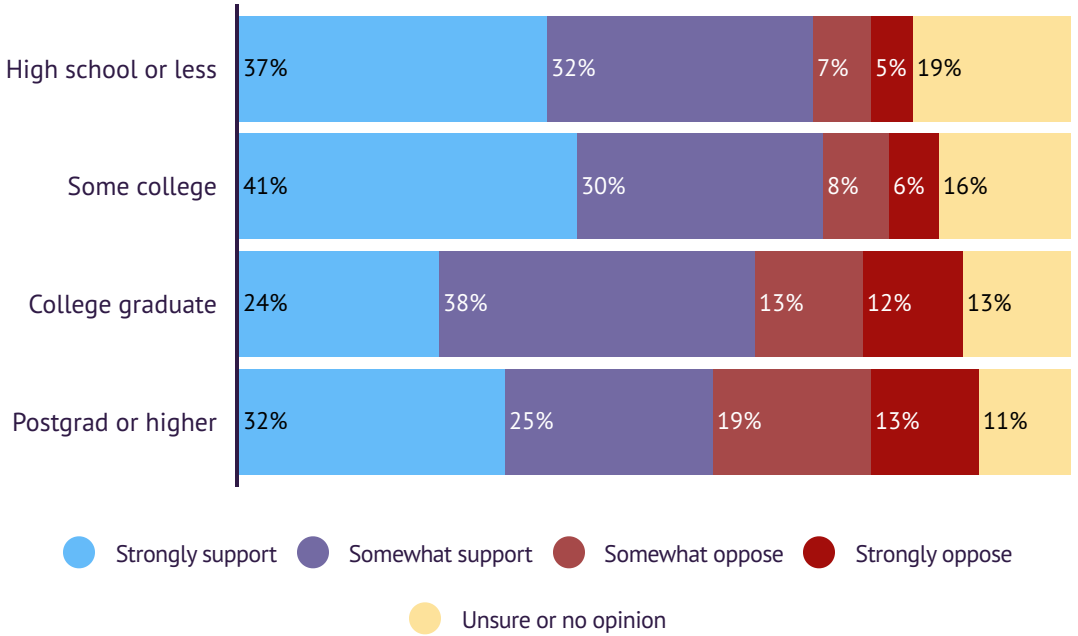
Scholarship voucher programs are not permissible under the amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution. Would you support repeal of the amendments if it meant lower income families could have access to more educational choices?



BY CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD/NO CHILDREN

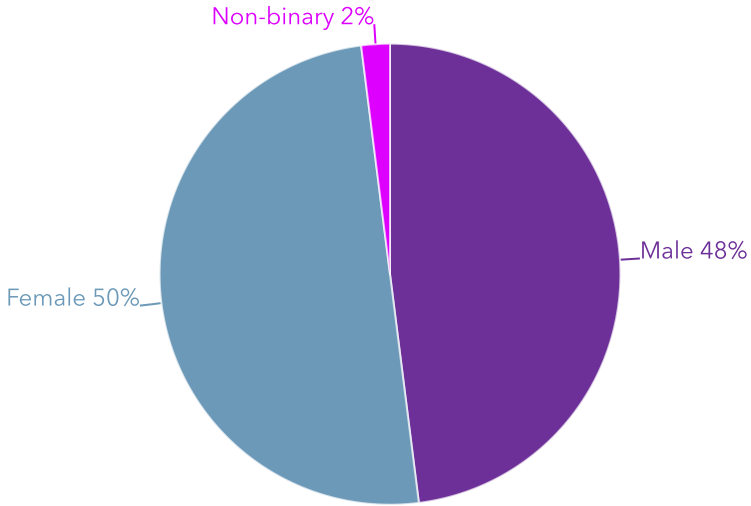


BY EDUCATION

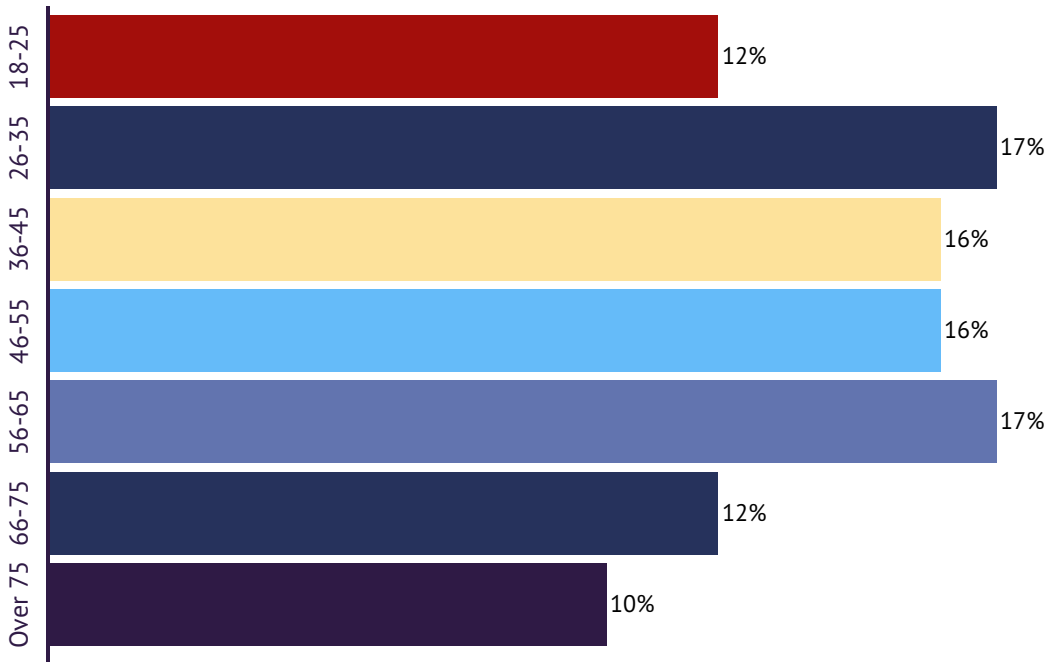


DEMOGRAPHICS

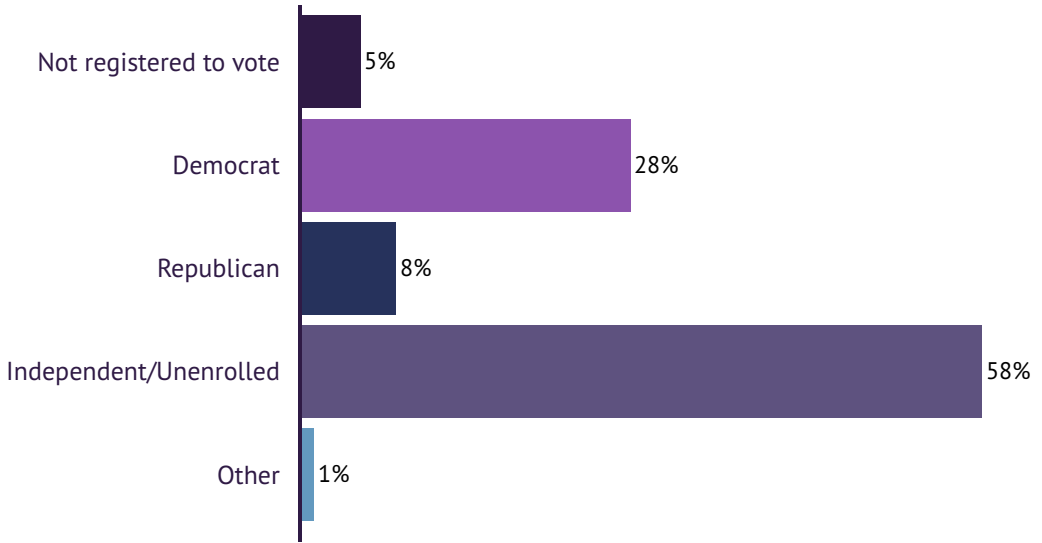
What is your gender?



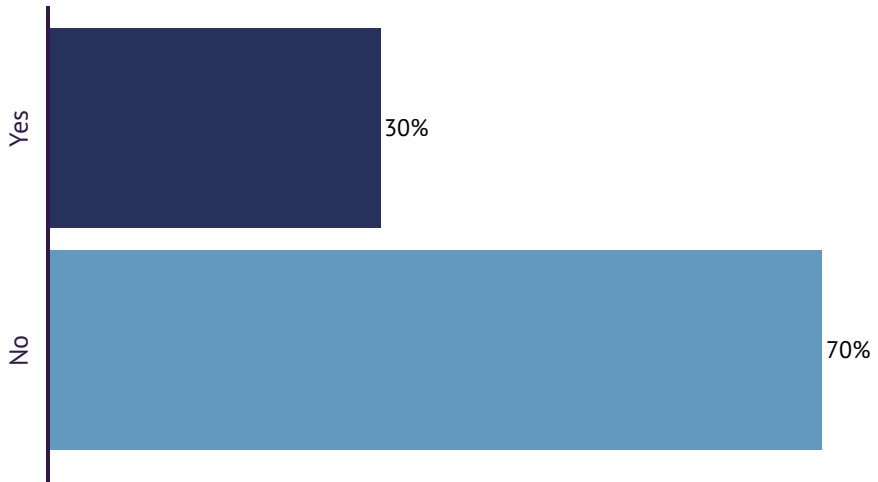
What is your age?



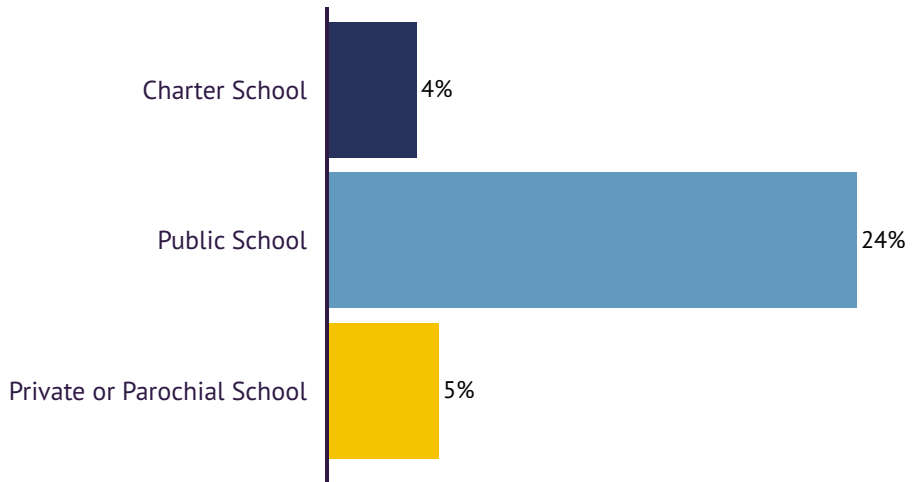
Currently, how are you registered to vote?



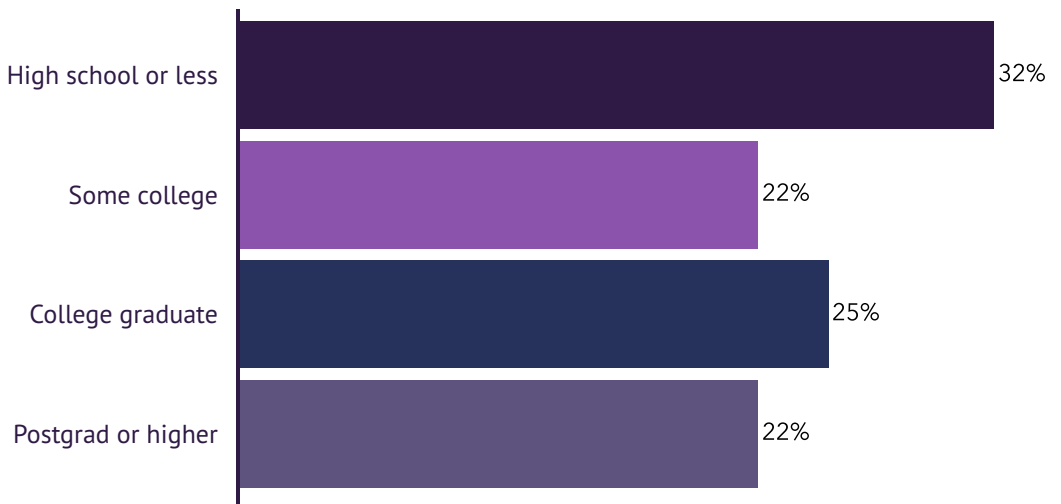
Are there any children in your household under the age of 18?



With regard to schooling, do you have any children enrolled in any of the following schools? (select all that apply)



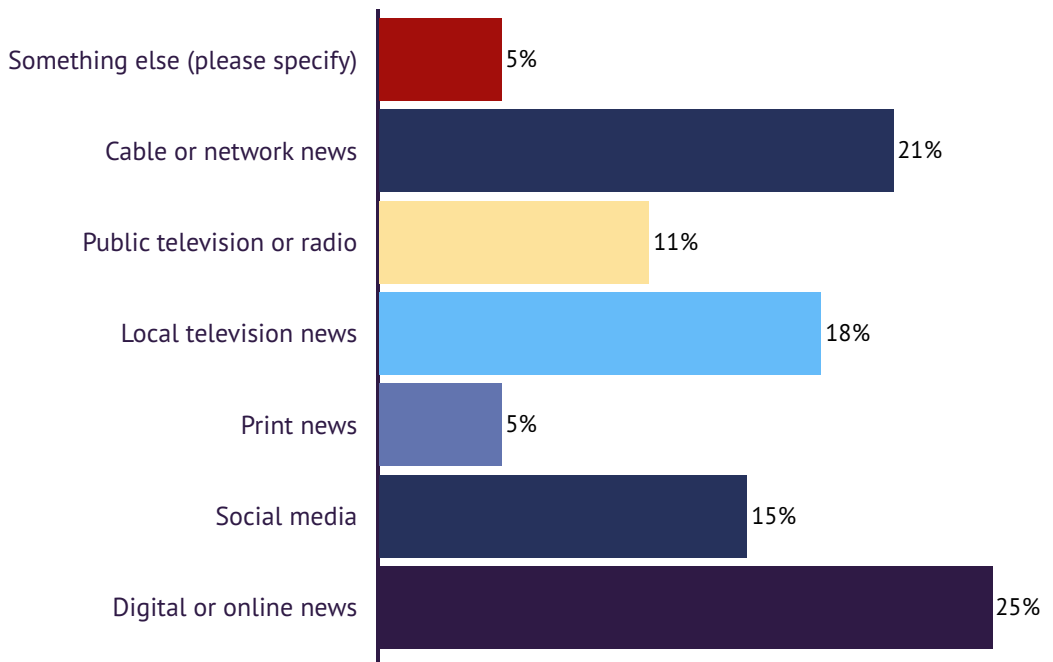
What is the highest level of education you have attained?



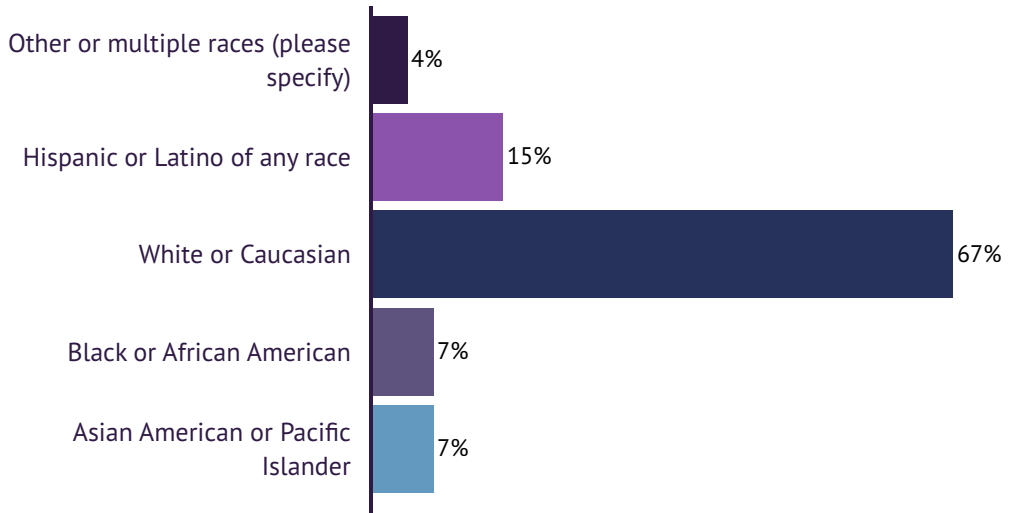
When it comes to politics, do you consider yourself more of a liberal or more of a conservative?



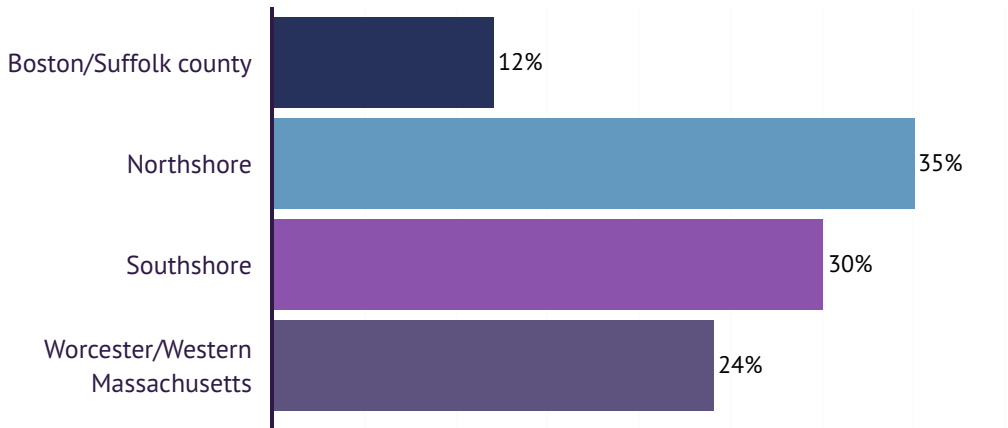
Which of the following sources do you most rely on for information on public issues?



What is your ethnicity?



What region of Massachusetts do you live in?





PIONEER INSTITUTE
PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH



Emerson College
P O L L I N G