MASSACHUSETTS SURVEY REPORT

Commissioned by

Conducted by

Emerson College

POLLING
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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 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?

- **Right direction**: 47%
- **Wrong track**: 30%
- **Unsure**: 23%

**BY AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Right direction</th>
<th>Wrong track</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-35</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-45</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-65</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66-75</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 75</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Right direction**
- **Wrong track**
- **Unsure**
Do you think Massachusetts is heading in the right direction or is on the wrong track?

### BY PARTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not registered to vote</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Independent/Unenrolled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Right direction
- Wrong track
- Unsure

### CHILDREN VS. NO CHILDREN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have kids under 18</th>
<th>Do not have kids under 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Right direction
- Wrong track
- Unsure
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?

- A lot: 52%
- Some: 35%
- A little: 8%
- No effect at all: 5%

**BY AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>A lot</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>A little</th>
<th>No effect at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-35</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-45</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-65</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66-75</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 75</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: 
- Blue: A lot
- Purple: Some
- Yellow: A little
- Red: 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?

1 (very poor quality) - 6%
2 (poor) - 8%
3 - 39%
4 (high quality) - 33%
5 (very high quality) - 14%

### BY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>1 (very poor)</th>
<th>2 (poor)</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4 (high quality)</th>
<th>5 (very high quality)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-35</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-45</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-65</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66-75</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 75</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Boston/Suffolk</th>
<th>Northshore</th>
<th>Southshore</th>
<th>Worcester/Western Mass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly favor</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat favor</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strongly favor: 28%
Somewhat favor: 34%
No difference: 23%
Somewhat oppose: 11%
Strongly oppose: 5%
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Strongly favor</th>
<th>Somewhat favor</th>
<th>No difference</th>
<th>Somewhat oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-35</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-45</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-65</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66-75</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 75</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BY PARTY REGISTRATION

Not registered to vote:
- Strongly favor: 19%
- Somewhat favor: 33%
- No difference: 31%
- Somewhat oppose: 17%
- Strongly oppose: 11%

Democrat:
- Strongly favor: 11%
- Somewhat favor: 33%
- No difference: 18%
- Somewhat oppose: 24%
- Strongly oppose: 14%

Republican:
- Strongly favor: 39%
- Somewhat favor: 23%
- No difference: 25%
- Somewhat oppose: 9%
- Strongly oppose: 16%

Independent/unenrolled:
- Strongly favor: 25%
- Somewhat favor: 31%
- No difference: 19%
- Somewhat oppose: 16%
- Strongly oppose: 10%

Other:
- Strongly favor: 16%
- Somewhat favor: 20%
- No difference: 48%
- Somewhat oppose: 14%
- Strongly oppose: 9%
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>18-25</th>
<th>26-35</th>
<th>36-45</th>
<th>46-55</th>
<th>56-65</th>
<th>66-75</th>
<th>Over 75</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly favor</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat favor</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strongly favor | Somewhat favor | No difference | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose
BY PARTY REGISTRATION

Not registered to vote
- Strongly favor: 28%
- Somewhat favor: 18%
- No difference: 38%
- Somewhat oppose: 13%

Democrat
- Strongly favor: 15%
- Somewhat favor: 24%
- No difference: 22%
- Somewhat oppose: 22%
- Strongly oppose: 18%

Republican
- Strongly favor: 26%
- Somewhat favor: 25%
- No difference: 34%
- Somewhat oppose: 10%

Independent/unenrolled
- Strongly favor: 23%
- Somewhat favor: 22%
- No difference: 28%
- Somewhat oppose: 17%
- Strongly oppose: 11%

Other
- Strongly favor: 16%
- Somewhat favor: 19%
- No difference: 56%
- Somewhat oppose: 6%
- Strongly oppose: 6%
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?

- Yes: 78%
- No: 8%
- Unsure/No opinion: 14%

**BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

- Other or multiple races (please specify): 81% Yes, 6% No, 13% Unsure/No opinion
- Hispanic or Latino of any race: 67% Yes, 16% No, 16% Unsure/No opinion
- White or Caucasian: 81% Yes, 6% No, 13% Unsure/No opinion
- Black or African American: 82% Yes, 11% No, 7% Unsure/No opinion
- Asian American or Pacific Islander: 67% Yes, 8% No, 26% Unsure/No opinion
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?

![Survey results](chart)

**BY EDUCATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Strongly support</th>
<th>Somewhat support</th>
<th>Unsure or no opinion</th>
<th>Somewhat oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High school or less</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College graduate</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgrad or higher</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More of a Liberal

- Strongly support: 38%
- Somewhat support: 37%
- Somewhat oppose: 7%
- Strongly oppose: 11%
- Neither: 7%

More of a Conservative

- Strongly support: 27%
- Somewhat support: 46%
- Somewhat oppose: 12%
- Strongly oppose: 5%
- Neither: 10%

Neither

- Strongly support: 34%
- Somewhat support: 42%
- Somewhat oppose: 6%
- Strongly oppose: 5%
- Neither: 13%

Legend:
- 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?

Repeal amendments: 34%
Keep as is: 47%
Unsure or no opinion: 19%

BY PARTY REGISTRATION

- Not registered to vote: 18% Repeal, 52% Keep, 30% Unsure
- Democrat: 26% Repeal, 55% Keep, 20% Unsure
- Republican: 61% Repeal, 25% Keep, 14% Unsure
- Independent/unenrolled: 35% Repeal, 47% Keep, 18% Unsure
- Other: 46% Repeal, 45% Keep, 9% Unsure
EMERSON COLLEGE POLLING CENTER

BY EDUCATION

- **High school or less**
  - Repeal amendments: 28%
  - Keep as is: 41%
  - Unsure or no opinion: 32%

- **Some college**
  - Repeal amendments: 31%
  - Keep as is: 48%
  - Unsure or no opinion: 21%

- **College graduate**
  - Repeal amendments: 37%
  - Keep as is: 51%
  - Unsure or no opinion: 13%

- **Postgrad or higher**
  - Repeal amendments: 42%
  - Keep as is: 53%
  - Unsure or no opinion: 5%
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?

**Strongly support** 30%
**Somewhat support** 36%
**Somewhat oppose** 13%
**Strongly oppose** 9%
**Unsure or no opinion** 12%

**BY RACE/ETHNICITY**

- Other or multiple races (please specify):
  - Strongly support 36%
  - Somewhat support 20%
  - Somewhat oppose 20%
  - Strongly oppose 9%
  - Unsure or no opinion 15%

- Hispanic or Latino of any race:
  - Strongly support 46%
  - Somewhat support 34%
  - Somewhat oppose 17%

- White or Caucasian:
  - Strongly support 24%
  - Somewhat support 39%
  - Somewhat oppose 14%
  - Strongly oppose 10%
  - Unsure or no opinion 13%

- Black or African American:
  - Strongly support 58%
  - Somewhat support 20%
  - Somewhat oppose 10%
  - Strongly oppose 12%

- Asian American or Pacific Islander:
  - Strongly support 27%
  - Somewhat support 34%
  - Somewhat oppose 26%
  - Strongly oppose 9%
  - Unsure or no opinion 13%
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure or no opinion</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BY CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD/NO CHILDREN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure or no opinion</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Strongly Support</th>
<th>Somewhat Support</th>
<th>Somewhat Oppose</th>
<th>Strongly Oppose</th>
<th>Unsure or No Opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High school or less</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College graduate</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgrad or higher</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEMOGRAPHICS
What is your gender?

- Male: 48%
- Female: 50%
- Non-binary: 2%

What is your age?

- 18-25: 12%
- 26-35: 17%
- 36-45: 16%
- 46-55: 16%
- 56-65: 17%
- 66-75: 12%
- Over 75: 10%
Currently, how are you registered to vote?

- Not registered to vote: 5%
- Democrat: 28%
- Republican: 8%
- Independent/Unenrolled: 58%
- Other: 1%

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

- Yes: 30%
- No: 70%
With regard to schooling, do you have any children enrolled in any of the following schools? (select all that apply)

- Charter School: 4%
- Public School: 24%
- Private or Parochial School: 5%

What is the highest level of education you have attained?

- High school or less: 32%
- Some college: 22%
- College graduate: 25%
- Postgrad or higher: 22%
When it comes to politics, do you consider yourself more of a liberal or more of a conservative?

- More of a Liberal: 35%
- More of a Conservative: 31%
- Neither: 34%

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

- Digital or online news: 25%
- Cable or network news: 21%
- Local television news: 18%
- Print news: 5%
- Public television or radio: 11%
- Social media: 15%
- Something else (please specify): 5%
What is your ethnicity?

- Other or multiple races (please specify): 4%
- Hispanic or Latino of any race: 15%
- White or Caucasian: 67%
- Black or African American: 7%
- Asian American or Pacific Islander: 7%

What region of Massachusetts do you live in?

- Boston/Suffolk county: 12%
- Northshore: 35%
- Southshore: 30%
- Worcester/Western Massachusetts: 24%