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**POLITY RESEARCH CONSULTING LLC
PRC #6066**

TOP-LINE RESULTS

**MASSACHUSETTS
APRIL/MAY 2026**

(some percentages may add to more/less than 100% due to rounding error)

WEB interviewing dates: 4/29-5/07, 2026; Sample size: N=608 Registered Voters; MOE: ±3.97%

1. What is your gender identity?

- 1. Female 52%
- 2. Male 47
- 3. Other, Transgender, Non-Binary 1

2. To start off, what do you think are the one or two most important problems facing Massachusetts today—*the ones that affect you and your family the most?*

[UP TO 2 RESPONSES ACCEPTED/TOTALS MORE THAN 100%]

- Cost of living 26%
- Cost of housing/Affordable housing 23
- Cost of gas/Oil/Energy 14
- Taxes 13
- Cost of health care 10
- Cost of food/Groceries 10
- Inflation 9
- Government corruption/Issues with government 6
- Economy 6
- Illegal immigration 6
- Jobs/Job stability 5
- Money issues 4
- Homelessness/Lack of housing 4
- Traffic/Congestion/Transportation 4
- Trump tariffs/Trump destroying everything 3
- Roads/Road conditions 3
- Housing in general 3
- Education 2
- Infrastructure 2
- Drugs 2
- Poverty 1
- Elderly issues/Social Security/Retirement 1
- Climate change 1

- Other 6
- Don't know --

3. Do you think things here in *Massachusetts* are generally headed in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

SCALE:	1. Right Direction	2. Wrong track	3. Don't know
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
April/May 2026	36%	45	19
April 2025	39%	43	18
April 2024	48%	39	13
April 2023	59%	29	12

4. How about *nationally*, do you think things in the United States are generally headed in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

SCALE:	1. Right Direction	2. Wrong track	3. Don't know
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
April/May 2026	24%	68	8
April 2025	27%	66	7
April 2024	29%	60	11

5. And, how confident are you about the *current state* of the *Massachusetts* economy?

SCALE:	1. Very confident	2. Somewhat confident	3. Not very confident	4. Not confident at all
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
April/May 2026	12%	41	37	10
April 2025	8%	44	36	12
April 2024	16%	45	28	11

Please indicate whether you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people. [LIST ROTATED]

SCALE:	1. Favorable	2. Unfavorable	3. Don't know/Can't rate
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
06. Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey			
April/May 2026	57%	31	12
April 2025	58%	31	11
April 2024	54%	32	14
April 2023	60%	21	19
07. US Senator Edward Markey			
April/May 2026	51%	30	19
April 2025	52%	26	22
April 2024	50%	29	21
08. President Donald Trump			
April/May 2026	31%	66	3
April 2025	28%	67	5

SCALE: 1. Favorable 2. Unfavorable 3. Don't know/Can't rate

		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
09. Massachusetts Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll				
	April/May 2026	37%	21	42
	April 2025	39%	21	40
	April 2024	33%	24	43
	April 2023	40%	15	45
10. US Senator Elizabeth Warren				
	April/May 2026	52%	37	11
	April 2025	54%	37	9
	April 2024	52%	40	8
11. US Congressman Seth Moulton				
	April/May 2026	37%	23	40

12. If the November 2026 general election for Governor of Massachusetts were held today and the candidates were Democrat Maura Healey and Republican Brian Shortleeve, for who would you vote? **[IF UNDECIDED]** Well, toward which candidate do you *lean* at this time?

1. Healey	56%	59%
2. (Lean Healey)	3	
3. Shortleeve	25	30%
4. (Lean Shortleeve)	5	
5. Don't know/Not sure	11	11%

13. And, if the November 2026 general election for Governor of Massachusetts were held today and the candidates were Democrat Maura Healey and Republican Michael Minogue, for who would you vote? **[IF UNDECIDED]** Well, toward which candidate do you *lean* at this time?

1. Healey	56%	58%
2. (Lean Healey)	2	
3. Minogue	29	31%
4. (Lean Minogue)	2	
5. Don't know/Not sure	12	12%

14. In general, do you think state government here in Massachusetts spends too much, not enough or about the right amount?

SCALE: 1. Too much
 2. Not enough
 3. About the right amount
 4. Don't know

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
April/May 2026	36%	20	27	17
April 2025	31%	20	33	16
April 2024	34%	22	31	14

15. In general, do you think state leaders on Beacon Hill have *helped or hurt* the effort to make life more affordable here in Massachusetts?

- 1. Helped affordability 26%
- 2. Hurt affordability 53
- 3. Don't know/Not sure 21

16. In recent years, the Massachusetts State Legislature has passed a series of healthcare and energy mandates. Some people have said that these mandates have caused health insurance premiums and utility bills to rise—and those state mandates now make up about 25% of the average consumers total monthly bills. In addition, lawmakers on Beacon Hill have increased state spending at *twice* the rate that taxpayer income has increased. Having heard this, does it make you much more likely to think leaders on Beacon Hill have *hurt the effort to make the state more affordable*, somewhat more likely to feel that way, or doesn't it make any difference?

- 1. Much more likely to hurt affordability 40%
- 2. Somewhat more likely to hurt affordability 33
- 3. No difference 18
- 4. Don't know 9

Below is a list of different *taxes* here in Massachusetts. For each one, please indicate whether you think that particular tax should be raised, cut, or whether it should stay the same as it is now.

[LIST ROTATED]

SCALE:	1	2	3	4
1. Raised				
2. Cut				
3. Stay the same				
4. Don't know				
17. The state's 6.25% sales tax				
April/May 2026	10%	59	27	4
April 2025	6%	55	34	5
April 2024	5%	56	34	5
18. The state's 5% income tax				
April/May 2026	10%	44	39	7
April 2025	6%	41	47	6
April 2024	6%	39	49	7
19. Local property taxes in the state				
April/May 2026	10%	60	23	7
April 2025	6%	58	28	7
April 2024	7%	59	26	8

20. Thinking about the costs faced by small businesses and their employees in Massachusetts, which *one* of the following do you think causes them the *most* hardship:

	<u>4-5/2026</u>	<u>4/2025</u>
1. Health insurance costs	31%	26%
2. Federal, state and municipal taxes	10	12
3. Energy and utility costs	16	9
4. Federal, state and municipal regulations	4	5
5. Unemployment insurance taxes	2	2
6. Credit card fees paid to banks	1	1
7. All equally	32	38
8. Don't know/Not sure	5	8

21. For 20 years, Massachusetts has required taxpayers to buy health insurance with certain mandated coverage levels. Failure to buy the coverage means the taxpayer is assessed a state tax penalty—based on income—ranging from \$312 a year to \$2,532 a year per adult. Massachusetts now has the highest health insurance premiums in the nation, these mandates making up 24% of the premiums. In some cases, family policies exceed \$40,000 per year, particularly for employees of small businesses. Some people have said that, given the cost burden on families and employees of small businesses, this health insurance mandate from the state should be repealed. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree that the insurance mandate should be repealed in Massachusetts?

1. Strongly agree	41%	75%
2. Somewhat agree	34	
3. Somewhat disagree	19	25%
4. Strongly disagree	6	

22. This year, the Massachusetts State Senate passed a bill that would ban single-use *plastic* bags and mandate a minimum 10-cent tax on recycled *paper* bags. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose this proposed statewide ban on plastic bags and tax on paper bags?

1. Strongly favor	19%	50%
2. Somewhat favor	31	
3. Somewhat oppose	25	50%
4. Strongly oppose	25	

Below is a list of public policy actions that *might* take place in Massachusetts. For each one, please indicate how important that particular policy action would be in ***helping you make ends meet in your own household at the end of every month***—very important, somewhat important, not too important or not important at all. **[ROTATE LIST]**

SCALE:	1. Very important	2. Somewhat important		
	3. Not too important	4. Not important at all		
			<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
			<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
23.	Lowering Massachusetts state income taxes from 5% to 4%.			
		52%	29	15
24.	Lowering state mandates on health insurance that add to consumer premiums.			
		56%	31	10
25.	Lowering state mandates on utilities that add to monthly consumer bills.			
		61%	31	6

What follows are some measures that *may* appear on the 2026 Massachusetts statewide ballot.

26. First, how would you vote on a ballot measure that would ***establish rent control in Massachusetts—limiting annual residential rent increases to the Consumer Price Index, or 5%—whichever is lower***? The annual rent increase limit would be in place whether or not there was a change in tenancy in the rental unit. How do you think you would vote on a ballot measure like this? Do you think you would definitely vote “YES” to limit rent increases, probably vote “YES”, probably vote “NO” or definitely vote “NO” on such a question?

1. Definitely vote YES	40%	69%
2. Probably vote YES	29	
3. Probably vote NO	11	19%
4. Definitely vote NO	8	
5. Don’t know	12	12%

27. How would you vote on a ballot measure that would ***repeal laws that permit the sale of recreational marijuana in Massachusetts as well as the personal cultivation of cannabis in homes***? The measure would permit possession of up to one ounce of marijuana without penalties. Do you think you would definitely vote “YES” to repeal laws permitting the sale of recreational marijuana, probably vote “YES”, probably vote “NO” or definitely vote “NO” on such a question?

1. Definitely vote YES	25%	41%
2. Probably vote YES	16	
3. Probably vote NO	19	48%
4. Definitely vote NO	29	
5. Don’t know	11	11%

28. How would you vote on a ballot measure that would *adjust the state tax revenue and spending cap to trigger more frequent refunds to taxpayers?* Do you think you would definitely vote “YES” to lower the state tax revenue and spending cap limit, probably vote “YES”, probably vote “NO” or definitely vote “NO” on such a question?

1. Definitely vote YES	41%	76%
2. Probably vote YES	35	
3. Probably vote NO	9	12%
4. Definitely vote NO	3	
5. Don't know	12	12%

29. How would you vote on a ballot measure that would *decrease the Massachusetts state income tax from 5% to 4% by 2029?* Also, for 2027, the tax rate would be 4.67% and for 2028, the tax rate would be 4.33%. Do you think you would definitely vote “YES” to decrease the state income tax rate, probably vote “YES”, probably vote “NO” or definitely vote “NO” on such a question?

1. Definitely vote YES	50%	78%
2. Probably vote YES	28	
3. Probably vote NO	10	15%
4. Definitely vote NO	5	
5. Don't know	7	7%

What follows is a list of statements that some people have made about the Massachusetts ballot question on *decreasing the state income tax from 5% to 4%*. For each one, please indicate whether that particular statement makes you *more likely* to vote “YES”—to decrease the income tax—, *more likely* to vote “NO”—to leave the income tax at 5%, or whether that statement *has no impact* on your vote. [ROTATE LIST]

SCALE: 1. More likely to vote YES 2. More likely to vote NO
 3. No impact on my vote 4. Don't know/Not sure

1 2 3 4

30.	Lowering the Massachusetts state income tax from 5% to 4% will stimulate business competitiveness in the state—and keep more businesses from leaving.	14%	16	54	17
31.	Lowering the Massachusetts state income tax from 5% to 4% will jeopardize funding for education, municipal services and public transportation.	22%	28	38	13
32.	Lowering the Massachusetts state income tax from 5% to 4% will significantly reduce the cost of living for all Massachusetts residents.	16%	19	49	16
33.	Lowering the Massachusetts state income tax from 5% to 4% will only benefit the top wage-earners in the state at the expense of the middle class.	22%	24	38	15

Now, let's turn to the issues of *privacy and artificial intelligence, or "AI"*. On the scale below, where "1" means "no trust at all" and "5" means "complete trust", please indicate how much trust you place in the following organizations when it comes to privacy and AI-related issues with your family and consumer electronic data. [ROTATE LIST]

SCALE:	No trust at all						Complete trust		DK
	1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6
	1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6
34. Employers									
April/May 2026	26%	16	27	18	9	5	2.66		
April 2023	7%	14	35	33	7	4	3.19		
35. Retailers where you shop*									
April/May 2026	23%	20	27	19	8	3	2.68		
April 2023	12%	22	35	22	5	4	2.87		
36. Local, State and Federal Government*									
April/May 2026	37%	18	23	12	8	3	2.35		
April 2023	24%	19	32	18	4	4	2.57		
37. Healthcare providers and insurers*									
April/May 2026	23%	19	23	23	10	2	2.78		
April 2023	9%	11	26	35	16	3	3.37		
38. Banks									
April/May 2026	27%	16	20	24	12	2	2.79		
April 2023	9%	15	24	34	14	3	3.30		
39. Cell phone, internet and social media companies*									
April/May 2026	34%	23	19	15	7	2	2.38		
April 2023	31%	28	24	11	4	3	2.27		

40. When it comes to the regulation of privacy and "AI" issues related to your family and consumer electronic data, would you favor a single federal standard or should each individual state set their own regulatory standards for privacy and "AI" issues?

	4-5/2026	4/2023
1. Single Federal government standard	50%	49%
2. Individual standards for each state	30	36
3. Don't know	20	15

Now, please complete some final questions for statistical purposes.

41. In which of the following categories is your age?	
1. 18-25	9%
2. 26-35	8
3. 36-45	22
4. 46-55	21
5. 56-64	16
6. 65+	25
9. Refused	--

42. What is the highest level of education you completed?
- | | |
|----------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Some high school or less | 2% |
| 2. High school graduate | 20 |
| 3. Some college or vocational training | 24 |
| 4. Graduated college | 35 |
| 5. Graduate school education | 19 |
43. Please indicate which of the following groups you **most** identify with racially or ethnically:
- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. White, Non-Hispanic | 76% |
| 2. Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin | 8 |
| 3. Black or African-American | 9 |
| 4. Asian or Pacific Islander | 4 |
| 5. Native American, American Indian, Alaska Native | -- |
| 6. Multi-racial, multi-ethnic background | 1 |
| 7. Some other race, specify: _____ | 1 |
| 8. Refused | 1 |
44. How are you registered to vote here in Massachusetts?:
- | | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Democrat | 26% |
| 2. Republican | 8 |
| 3. Independent (Un-Enrolled) | 63 |
| 4. Some other party | 3 |
45. Politically, would you generally consider yourself more of a liberal, more of a conservative, more of a progressive, or more of a moderate?
- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Liberal | 22% |
| 2. Conservative | 22 |
| 3. Moderate | 49 |
| 4. Progressive | 4 |
| 5. Refused | 3 |
46. How likely are you to stay in Massachusetts **long-term**?
- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Very likely | 55% |
| 2. Somewhat likely | 26 |
| 3. Not very likely | 8 |
| 4. Not likely at all | 5 |
| 5. Don't know | 5 |

47. Where do you get *most* of your information about public issues facing the state?
- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 01. Radio | 3% |
| 02. Local Television | 35 |
| 03. Internet news sites | 24 |
| 04. Newspapers—like <i>The Boston Globe</i> or <i>The Boston Herald</i> | 7 |
| 05. Social media sites like Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly TWITTER) | 19 |
| 06. Podcasts | 2 |
| 07. Word of mouth from family and friends | 5 |
| 08. (Other _____) | 2 |
| 09. (Don't know/Refused) | 2 |
48. Please indicate in which of the following categories is your total household income—that is, of everyone living in your household:
- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. \$0-29,999 | 16% |
| 2. \$30-49,999 | 14 |
| 3. \$50-74,999 | 20 |
| 4. \$75-99,999 | 14 |
| 5. \$100,000-\$124,999 | 10 |
| 6. \$125,000 and over | 25 |
| 7. Refused | 2 |
- REGION:
- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Boston Metro (Middlesex, Suffolk, Norfolk) | 42% |
| 2. North (Essex) | 11 |
| 3. South (Dukes, Nantucket, Barnstable, Plymouth, Bristol) | 18 |
| 4. Central (Worcester) | 15 |
| 5. West (Hampshire, Hamden, Franklin, Berkshire) | 14 |

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!