



**The MassINC Polling Group
Barr Foundation – Transportation Poll**

Survey of 987 likely voters in the November general election
Field dates: October 5 - 14, 2022

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of the following? If you haven't heard of someone, or if you have heard of them but are undecided, please say so.

ROTATE ORDER

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Heard of but undecided	Never heard of	Refused
Charlie Baker	67%	17%	13%	2%	1%
Joe Biden	49%	42%	7%	1%	1%
Geoff Diehl	17%	26%	28%	28%	1%
Maura Healey	44%	22%	23%	9%	1%

If the election for Massachusetts governor were held today, for whom would you vote? **ROTATE ORDER OF FIRST 2.**

Democrat Maura Healey	53%
Republican Geoff Diehl	23%
Some other candidate	4%
Would not vote	2%
Undecided	18%
Refused	<1%

Question #1 on the November ballot would change the state constitution to establish an additional four percent state income tax on that portion of annual taxable income in excess of \$1 million. This income level would be adjusted annually, by the same method used for federal income-tax brackets, to reflect increases in the cost of living. Revenues from this tax would be used, subject to appropriation by the state Legislature, for public education, public colleges and universities; and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation. The proposed amendment would apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.

A **YES VOTE** would change the state Constitution to impose an additional 4% tax on that portion of incomes over one million dollars to be used, subject to appropriation by the state Legislature, on education and transportation.

A **NO VOTE** would make no change in the state Constitution relative to income tax

As of right now, how would you vote?

Yes	59%
No	31%
Don't Know / Refused	10%

Question #4 on the November ballot asks voters to approve or disapprove of a law recently passed by the Massachusetts State Legislature and scheduled to take effect July 1, 2023.

The law allows Massachusetts residents who cannot provide proof of lawful presence in the United States to obtain a standard driver's license or learner's permit if they meet all the other qualifications. The law lays out what types of documents can be used to prove residency and limits what the state can record or share about applicants' citizenship or immigration status. The law does not allow applicants who cannot provide proof of lawful presence in the United States to obtain a REAL ID or to be automatically registered to vote.

A YES VOTE would keep in place the law.

A NO VOTE would repeal the law.

As of right now, how would you vote on this question?

Yes	49%
No	37%
Don't Know / Refused	14%

Thinking about transportation in particular, what do you think should be the top priority for the next governor of Massachusetts? **OPEN ENDED.**

Roads / Highways / Bridges	26%
MBTA / Commuter Rail	16%
Other policy concern	11%
Safety	10%
Public transit expansion	9%
Public transit affordability	7%
Public transit efficiency / reliability	6%
Climate change / electric vehicles	6%
General infrastructure	5%
Congestion / traffic	5%
Cost (gas prices / gas tax / tolls)	4%
Public transit access / availability	3%
Driver's license ballot question	2%
Other	6%
Don't know	8%

Of the following, which **three** do you think should be top priorities for the next governor? **ROTATE ORDER.**

Improving the condition of highways, roads, and bridges	66%
Improving existing public transportation like trains, subways, and buses	59%
Making roads safer for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians	39%
Reducing traffic congestion	33%
Reducing carbon emissions from transportation	26%
Expanding rail travel across the state	26%
Improving transportation for historically underserved communities	22%
None of the above	1%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

How would you rate the condition of transportation here in Massachusetts, including roads, bridges, cycling and walking, and public transportation including buses, trains, subways, and ferries?

Excellent	3%
Good	18%
Fair	52%
Poor	26%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

How much do you approve or disapprove of how Charlie Baker has managed transportation in Massachusetts?

Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	53%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	9%
Don't Know / Refused	4%

Which statement is closer to your own view? **ROTATE ORDER.**

The way we get around now is fine; we just need to fix and maintain our current transportation system	47%
We need major changes to the way we get around in Massachusetts	47%
Don't Know / Refused	6%

The next few questions are about the MBTA, which runs subways, trains, buses, and ferries in Eastern Massachusetts.

Compared to when Charlie Baker took office in 2015, do you think the MBTA is.... **ROTATE ORDER.**

Doing better	23%
Doing worse	33%
Doing about the same	31%
Don't Know / Refused	13%

As you may have heard, the MBTA recently completed a month-long shutdown of the Orange Line Subway and part of the Green Line trolley, to make needed repairs. Based on what you've seen, heard, or experienced, do you think the shutdowns of the Orange Line and part of the Green Line were worth the inconvenience to riders and drivers, or not worth it? **ROTATE ORDER**

Yes, worth it	59%
No, not worth it	15%
Don't Know / Refused	26%

Was your travel around Greater Boston impacted by the shutdowns of the Orange Line and part of the Green Line?

Yes	29%
No	67%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

For future repairs, which of the following do you think the MBTA should do? **ROTATE ORDER.**

Make repairs as quickly as possible, even if it means shutting down subway and/or trolley lines entirely	59%
Keep subway and/or trolley lines open as much as possible, even if it means repairs take longer	32%
Don't Know / Refused	10%

Do you think the next governor should replace the senior leadership of the MBTA, or do you think they should be kept in place?

Replace senior MBTA leadership	47%
Keep senior leadership in place	18%
Don't Know / Refused	36%

Do you think the next governor should replace the senior leadership of the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT), or do you think they should be kept in place?

Replace senior DOT leadership	44%
Keep senior leadership in place	22%
Don't Know / Refused	34%

Right now, Boston and surrounding cities and towns do not have representatives on the board that oversees the MBTA. How much would you support or oppose adding two new seats to the MBTA board: one seat for the City of Boston, and one seat representing all the other communities served by the MBTA?

Strongly support	43%
Somewhat support	41%
Somewhat oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	2%
Don't Know / Refused	10%

Boston and surrounding cities and towns currently pay a small portion of the MBTA's budget, in addition to funding from the state government. Would you support or oppose increasing the amount that Boston and surrounding cities and towns pay towards the MBTA's budget, to help pay for improvements?

Strongly support	18%
Somewhat support	44%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	10%
Don't Know / Refused	12%

How much would you support or oppose each of the following regarding the fares that riders pay on public transportation?

ROTATE ORDER	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't Know / Refused
Giving low-income riders a discounted fare on all buses, trains, and ferries with unlimited bus transfers	45%	35%	9%	6%	6%
Making all buses run by the MBTA and the Regional Transit Authorities across the state free for all riders	25%	25%	24%	17%	9%

The state has 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) that run bus service outside the MBTA service area. Many of these RTAs do not run buses in the evening or on the weekends. Would you support or oppose the state giving these RTAs more funding so they can run buses more often, including at night and on the weekends?

Strongly support	34%
Somewhat support	45%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	4%
Don't Know / Refused	9%

There is a proposal to reimagine the MBTA Commuter Rail system into a “regional rail” network. Under a regional rail-style plan, trains would travel in both directions every 15 to 30 minutes throughout the day, at night, and on the weekends. Would you support or oppose moving the MBTA Commuter Rail toward a regional rail system?

Strongly support	31%
Somewhat support	42%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	3%
Don’t Know / Refused	15%

How much do you support or oppose the idea of East-West rail, running passenger trains from Boston west to Springfield and Pittsfield?

Strongly support	39%
Somewhat support	41%
Somewhat oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	2%
Don’t Know / Refused	12%

Both the federal and state government recently passed new rebates for purchasing electric vehicles. With this in mind, how likely are you to purchase an electric vehicle in the next 5 years?

Very likely	13%
Somewhat likely	27%
Not too likely	22%
Not at all likely	26%
Do not drive a car	5%
Don’t Know / Refused	7%

If you do own, or were to own an electric vehicle, do you have a place to charge it, either at your home or a charging station in your neighborhood or at your work? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.**

Yes, can charge at home	20%
Yes, charging stations near home	24%
Yes, charging stations near work	12%
No, nowhere to charge	44%
Don’t Know / Refused	17%

The state recently passed a rebate for purchasing electric bicycles. With this in mind, how likely are you to purchase an electric bike in the next 5 years?

Very likely	8%
Somewhat likely	17%
Not too likely	18%
Not at all likely	30%
Do not ride a bike	23%
Don’t Know / Refused	4%

Right now, the BlueBikes bikeshare system around Greater Boston does not offer electric-assist bikes. How likely would you be to use BlueBikes if they introduce ebikes as an option?

Already use BlueBikes	3%
Very likely	11%
Somewhat likely	17%
Not too likely	13%
Not at all likely	14%
No BlueBikes available where I live	16%
Do not ride a bike	21%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

The state recently finalized rules requiring cities and towns that have MBTA service to change their zoning to allow for more housing in the coming years near public transit stops and stations. Do you think that the next governor should... **ROTATE ORDER**

Keep the current policy in place	32%
Repeal the policy	12%
Go further and require more housing near MBTA stations	31%
Don't Know / Refused	25%

Whether it's fixing roads and bridges, improving the MBTA and RTAs, or expanding rail service across the state, making changes to transportation will mean the state will need to spend more money on transportation. In a few words, how do you think the state should pay for changes to transportation that you would like to see? **OPEN ENDED.**

Use existing funds / cut wasteful spending	26%
Fair Share / Question 1 / Raise taxes on wealthy and corporation	17%
General complaint about transportation	13%
General taxes (income, sales, property, etc)	9%
Transit fares	7%
Federal funding / grants / fundraising	7%
Road user fees (tolls, gas tax, excise tax, mileage, parking, etc)	6%
Vice taxes (casino, lottery, marijuana, alcohol, etc)	4%
The government / state	3%
Regional funding	2%
Other	4%
Don't know	13%

Which modes of travel do you use on a monthly basis to get around? Please check all that apply.

Drive alone	75%
Drive or ride with others	47%
Walk	42%
Take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	22%
Take the MBTA subway or trolley	20%
Take the MBTA or RTA bus	17%
Ride your own bike	10%
Take the commuter rail	10%
Ride a BlueBikes or other bikeshare	3%
Take a ferry	2%
Take a corporate or private shuttle	2%
Other	2%
Don't know / refused	1%

How many cars, if any, does your household own or lease?

None	10%
One	43%
Two	33%
Three	9%
Four or more	3%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

ASK IF OWN AT LEAST 1 CAR.

Do you own an electric car or truck? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.**

I own a fully electric car or truck	4%
I own a hybrid	8%
No, I don't own an electric or hybrid car or truck	87%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

Which one of the following best describes your work situation—employed full time, employed part time, or not currently employed?

Employed full time	46%
Employed part time	17%
Not currently employed	35%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

ASK IF NOT EMPLOYED.

Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or temporarily unemployed?

A student	3%
A homemaker	12%
Retired	67%
Temporarily unemployed	16%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

ASK IF EMPLOYED FULL OR PART TIME.

How often do you work from home right now?

Every work day	23%
A few times a week	20%
A few times a month	8%
Less than once a month	4%
Never	26%
Not an option for my work	18%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

If you could choose any amount to work from home over the next few years, how often would you work from home?

Every work day	34%
A few times a week	34%
A few times a month	10%
Less than once a month	1%
Never	18%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

Demographics:

Gender:

Man	47%
Woman	53%
Non-binary / other way	1%

Age:

18-29	13%
30-44	24%
45-59	28%
60+	36%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%

Race:

White	80%
Black	6%
Latino	6%
Asian	5%
All other	3%
Don't know / Refused	<1%

Party ID with leaners:

Democrat	54%
Republican	29%
Independent / Other	16%
Don't know / Refused	2%

Education

High School or less	22%
Some college, no degree	24%
College graduate (BA/BS)	31%
Advanced degree	22%
Don't know / Refused	<1%

About the poll

These results are based on a survey of 987 likely voters in the November Massachusetts statewide election. Responses were collected via online survey October 5-14, 2022. The data were targeted and weighted by race, age, gender, education, geography, and party identification to reflect known and estimated population parameters for likely voters in the upcoming election. This poll was sponsored by The Barr Foundation.