

**WBUR Massachusetts Senate Special Election Poll**

Topline Results

Survey of 498 Registered Voters

Field Dates: February 11-13, 2013

Overall, do you think things in Massachusetts are headed in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?

Right Direction	52%
Wrong Track	36%
Don't Know / Refused	12%

I'm going to read you the names of several people and groups who are active in public affairs. After I read each one please tell me if you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable view of the person. If you have never heard of the person or if you are undecided, please just say so. **READ FIRST NAME.** How about **READ NEXT NAME?**

**REPEAT QUESTION TEXT ONLY IF NECESSARY, PROBE IF RESPONDENT SAYS "DON'T KNOW".**

Have you heard of **READ NAME** and are undecided about (him/her)? Or **PAUSE** have you never heard of (him/her)?

<i>Order rotated.</i>	Favorable	Unfavorable	Heard of / Undecided	Never heard of	Refused
Scott Brown	58%	27%	12%	3%	0%
Steve Lynch	29%	12%	30%	27%	2%
Ed Markey	29%	19%	26%	25%	2%
Mo Cowan	10%	7%	29%	51%	4%
Dan Winslow	6%	4%	26%	58%	6%
Gabriel Gomez	8%	4%	26%	56%	6%
Bruce Tarr	8%	5%	23%	58%	6%
The Republican Party	32%	47%	17%	2%	1%
The Democratic Party	53%	31%	15%	1%	0%
The National Rifle Association	32%	45%	18%	5%	1%

As you may be aware, now that John Kerry has been confirmed as Secretary of State, there will be a special election in June to elect a new senator from Massachusetts.

For this special election, would you be more likely to vote in a Democrat primary election, Republican primary election, or neither? *Order rotated.*

Democrat	48%
Republican	26%
Neither	13%
Don't Know / Refused	14%

*Candidate order rotated for next five questions.*

*Asked to Democrats and Unenrolled voters who said they were more likely to vote in a Dem primary. If the candidates in the Democratic primary were Ed Markey and Steve Lynch, for whom would you vote?*

Ed Markey	38%
Steve Lynch	31%
Some other candidate (not read)	4%
Would not vote (not read)	1%
Don't Know / Refused	26%

*Order of next two questions rotated.*

In the general election, what if the Democratic Party's candidate were Steve Lynch? Would you vote for Steve Lynch or for the Republican Party's candidate?

Steve Lynch	39%
Republican party's candidate	23%
Don't Know / Refused	38%

In the general election, what if the Democratic Party's candidate were Ed Markey? Would you vote for Ed Markey or for the Republican Party's candidate?

Ed Markey	38%
Republican party's candidate	28%
Don't Know / Refused	34%

If the general election were held today, and if the candidates were for Democrat Ed Markey and Republican Dan Winslow, for whom would you vote?

Ed Markey	43%
Dan Winslow	24%
Don't Know / Refused	34%

If the general election were held today, and if the candidates were for Democrat Steve Lynch and Republican Dan Winslow, for whom would you vote?

Steve Lynch	44%
Dan Winslow	20%
Don't Know / Refused	36%

As you may be aware, there are currently all Democrats in the Massachusetts congressional delegation. If a Democrat wins the special election, the congressional delegation will remain all Democrats. In your view, is a Massachusetts delegation made up of all Democrats positive or is it negative? *Order rotated.*

Positive development	47%
Negative development	39%
Both (not read)	2%
Neither (not read)	3%
Don't Know / Refused	8%

Would you like to see former Senator Scott Brown should run for elected office again in the future, or do you think he should not run for office again?

Should run for office	62%
Should not run for office	28%
Don't Know / Refused	9%

As you may have heard, reports indicate Scott Brown is in negotiations to become a regular contributor on Fox News. If he were to become a Fox News contributor, would this make you more likely or less likely to vote for him, should he run for office in Massachusetts in the future, or would it make no difference? *Order rotated.*

More likely	13%
Less likely	26%
Would make no difference	58%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

I'd like to ask you about some issues the Massachusetts State Legislature could focus on in the year ahead. As I read from a list, please tell me if you think each should be a high priority, a medium priority, or a low priority for the State Government in the year ahead? First, should **INSERT ITEM** be a high priority, medium priority, or a low priority for the State Government in the year ahead? What about **READ NEXT ITEM**?

**REPEAT AS NECESSARY:** should this be a high priority, medium priority, or a low priority for the State Government?

<i>Order rotated.</i>	High priority	Medium Priority	Low priority	Don't Know / Refused
Controlling the cost of health care	79%	17%	4%	1%
Improving the state's network of roads, highways, and bridges	58%	34%	7%	0%
Cutting state taxes in Massachusetts	48%	31%	19%	2%
Improving K-12 education	76%	18%	6%	1%
Improving the economy and jobs	94%	5%	0%	1%
Improving our public transportation network such as buses, trains, and subways	42%	40%	18%	0%

How much have you heard or read about Governor Patrick's plan to raise taxes to pay for transportation infrastructure and education improvements? *Order rotated.*

A great deal	17%
A fair amount	37%
Not very much	30%
Nothing at all	15%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

As you may know, the Governor's plan focuses on increasing funding for education and transportation here in Massachusetts. The proposal would raise the additional funds by raising the income tax in Massachusetts from 5.25% to 6.25% percent, eliminating a variety of tax deductions for individuals and businesses, and reducing the sales tax from 6.25% to 4.5%. Would you support or oppose this idea? And do you strongly (support/oppose) this idea, or somewhat (support/oppose)? *Order rotated.*

Strongly support	15%
Somewhat support	27%
Somewhat oppose	20%
Strongly oppose	30%
Don't Know / Refused	8%

In general, do you feel that the laws we have here in Massachusetts covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept about the same as they are now? *Order rotated.*

More strict	53%
Less strict	5%
Kept about the same	36%
Don't Know / Refused	6%

Do you think having stricter gun control laws here in Massachusetts would reduce the amount of violence in the state, or not?

Yes, would reduce the amount of violence	40%
No, would not reduce the amount of violence	54%
Don't Know / Refused	6%

In your opinion, which should be more important to lawmakers when considering laws regarding gun sales and ownership—protecting the constitutional right of to own guns or protecting citizens from gun violence? *Order rotated*

Protecting right to own guns	25%
Protecting citizens from gun violence	59%
Both (not read)	9%
Neither (not read)	2%
Don't Know / Refused	4%

Do you or anyone in your household own a gun?

Yes	20%
No	77%
Don't Know / Refused	3%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

The last few questions are for statistical purposes only

### Race

White / Caucasian	81%
All others	17%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

### Age

18 to 29	18%
30 to 44	25%
45 to 59	29%
60+	28%

### Gender

Male	48%
Female	52%

### Party Registration

Democrat	36%
Republican	11%
Independent / Unenrolled	53%

### Education

High School or less	34%
Some college, no degree	22%
College graduate (BA/BS)	26%
Advanced degree	17%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

### About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 498 registered voters in Massachusetts. The poll was conducted February 11-13, 2013. Live telephone interviews were conducted via both landline and cell phone using conventional registration based sampling procedures. Results were weighted to reflect the demographic makeup of registered voters in Massachusetts. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.4 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence. The poll was sponsored by WBUR, a National Public Radio station in the Boston area.