

**WBUR Boston Area Poll  
Survey of 504 Registered Voters  
Field Dates: March 16-18, 2015**

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>  | Area           | Date       | Favorable | Unfavorable | Heard of /<br>Undecided | Never<br>heard of | Refused |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Marty Walsh           | Boston Region  | Jan 2015   | 68%       | 6%          | 21%                     | 5%                | 1%      |
|                       |                | Feb 2015   | 65%       | 10%         | 19%                     | 4%                | 1%      |
|                       |                | March 2015 | 65%       | 10%         | 22%                     | 3%                | <1%     |
|                       | City of Boston | Jan 2015   | 74%       | 6%          | 18%                     | 1%                | <1%     |
|                       |                | Feb 2015   | 65%       | 15%         | 17%                     | 2%                | 1%      |
|                       |                | March 2015 | 63%       | 16%         | 18%                     | 2%                | <1%     |
| Charlie Baker         | Boston Region  | Jan 2015   | 58%       | 17%         | 23%                     | 2%                | <1%     |
|                       |                | Feb 2015   | 59%       | 18%         | 20%                     | 2%                | 1%      |
|                       |                | March 2015 | 63%       | 14%         | 22%                     | 1%                | <1%     |
|                       | City of Boston | Jan 2015   | 58%       | 10%         | 28%                     | 3%                | <1%     |
|                       |                | Feb 2015   | 50%       | 25%         | 22%                     | 3%                | 1%      |
|                       |                | March 2015 | 56%       | 17%         | 25%                     | 2%                | 0%      |
| Boston2024            | Boston Region  | March 2015 | 19%       | 34%         | 19%                     | 29%               | <1%     |
|                       | City of Boston | March 2015 | 20%       | 31%         | 18%                     | 31%               | 1%      |
| No Boston<br>Olympics | Boston Region  | March 2015 | 34%       | 29%         | 22%                     | 15%               | <1%     |
|                       | City of Boston | March 2015 | 38%       | 30%         | 20%                     | 12%               | 0%      |
| Deval Patrick         | Boston Region  | March 2015 | 56%       | 34%         | 9%                      | 2%                | <1%     |
|                       | City of Boston | March 2015 | 63%       | 29%         | 6%                      | 2%                | <1%     |

As you may be aware, Boston was chosen by the United States Olympic Committee to be the U.S. city that will bid on the games. Do you support or oppose the idea of bringing the Olympic Games to the Boston region in 2024?

|                      | Boston Area |          |            | City of Boston |          |            |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|------------|----------------|----------|------------|
|                      | Jan 2015    | Feb 2015 | March 2015 | Jan 2015       | Feb 2015 | March 2015 |
| Support              | 51%         | 44%      | 36%        | 50%            | 43%      | 41%        |
| Oppose               | 33%         | 46%      | 52%        | 33%            | 48%      | 47%        |
| Don't Know / Refused | 16%         | 10%      | 13%        | 17%            | 9%       | 12%        |

Which do you think is more likely—**READ FIRST** or **READ NEXT**? *Order rotated.*

|                                                                                                                                           | Boston Area | City of Boston |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Bringing the games to Boston will focus our leaders attention on the need to improve our transportation network                           | 46%         | 48%            |
| Bringing the games to Boston will distract our leaders attention away from the things we need to do to improve our transportation network | 45%         | 43%            |
| Don't Know / Refused                                                                                                                      | 8%          | 10%            |

Which do you think is more likely, that **READ FIRST**, or that **READ NEXT**? *Order rotated.*

|                                                      | Boston Area |            | City of Boston |            |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|
|                                                      | Jan 2015    | March 2015 | Jan 2015       | March 2015 |
| The games will be paid for with private money        | 29%         | 29%        | 24%            | 30%        |
| Taxpayer funds will be required to pay for the games | 53%         | 65%        | 57%            | 62%        |
| Don't Know / Refused                                 | 18%         | 7%         | 20%            | 8%         |

As you may have heard, former Governor Deval Patrick is now working with Boston 2024, the group working to bring the Olympics to the Boston area as a global ambassador. Do you approve or disapprove of him working for this group?

|                      | Boston Area | City of Boston |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Approve              | 42%         | 46%            |
| Disapprove           | 42%         | 41%            |
| Don't Know / Refused | 16%         | 14%            |

**Now I would like to turn to some questions about the MBTA.**

Overall, how would you rate the condition of the MBTA system? *Order rotated,*

|                      | Boston Area |          |            | City of Boston |          |            |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|------------|----------------|----------|------------|
|                      | Jan 2015    | Feb 2015 | March 2015 | Jan 2015       | Feb 2015 | March 2015 |
| Excellent            | 6%          | 1%       | 1%         | 7%             | 2%       | 2%         |
| Good                 | 39%         | 18%      | 15%        | 40%            | 19%      | 13%        |
| Fair                 | 40%         | 39%      | 42%        | 35%            | 34%      | 40%        |
| Poor                 | 11%         | 39%      | 35%        | 13%            | 42%      | 40%        |
| Don't Know / Refused | 5%          | 3%       | 7%         | 5%             | 4%       | 5%         |

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Charlie Baker is handling the situation with the MBTA as it recovers from recent snowstorms?

*February version read: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Charlie Baker's is handling the situation with the MBTA during the recent snow storms?*

|                      | Boston Area |            | City of Boston |            |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|
|                      | Feb 2015    | March 2015 | Feb 2015       | March 2015 |
| Approve              | 49%         | 60%        | 41%            | 48%        |
| Disapprove           | 35%         | 28%        | 45%            | 40%        |
| Don't Know / Refused | 16%         | 12%        | 14%            | 12%        |

How much of a priority do you think addressing the problems with the MBTA should be for the Baker administration going forward?

|                      | Boston Area |            | City of Boston |            |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|
|                      | Feb 2015    | March 2015 | Feb 2015       | March 2015 |
| Major priority       | 81%         | 86%        | 86%            | 85%        |
| Minor priority       | 16%         | 11%        | 13%            | 10%        |
| Not a priority       | 2%          | 2%         | 1%             | 3%         |
| Don't Know / Refused | 1%          | 1%         | 0%             | 1%         |

Who would you say is most responsible for the troubles with the MBTA this winter? *Order rotated,*

|                                           | Boston Area |            | City of Boston |            |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|
|                                           | Feb 2015    | March 2015 | Feb 2015       | March 2015 |
| Governor Charlie Baker                    | 5%          | 3%         | 5%             | 5%         |
| Former MBTA General Manager Beverly Scott | 19%         | 22%        | 17%            | 16%        |
| Boston Mayor Marty Walsh                  | 2%          | 3%         | 3%             | 4%         |
| The Massachusetts State Legislature       | 27%         | 30%        | 28%            | 30%        |
| Previous Massachusetts governors          | 25%         | 23%        | 23%            | 23%        |
| Someone else (not read, specify: ____)    | 8%          | 10%        | 9%             | 11%        |
| Don't know / Refused                      | 15%         | 10%        | 14%            | 11%        |

*The following three questions were only asked of Boston voters. N=229.*

**Let's turn to some other aspects of the snowstorms.**

Do you approve or disapprove of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh's handling of the recent snow storms?

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Approve              | 69% |
| Disapprove           | 27% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 5%  |

How well would you say the City of Boston did at clearing snow off public streets?

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Excellent            | 9%  |
| Good                 | 32% |
| Fair                 | 33% |
| Poor                 | 25% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 1%  |

Now I want to ask you about what Boston residents often called "space savers". If a Boston resident digs their car out of the snow on a public street, should they be able to put something in the space to save it for their own use, or not?

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Yes they should      | 70% |
| No they should not   | 26% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 4%  |

*Some questions held for later release.*

## Demographics

### Race

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| White / Caucasian    | 75% |
| All others           | 21% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 4%  |

### Age

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| 18 to 29 | 16% |
| 30 to 44 | 25% |
| 45 to 59 | 28% |
| 60+      | 31% |

### Gender

|        |     |
|--------|-----|
| Male   | 47% |
| Female | 53% |

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### About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 504 registered voters living in the Boston area. For the purposes of this poll, the Boston area was defined as communities inside Route 128 or which straddle Route 128. The poll included a base sample of 404 residents in the entire area including Boston, with an additional 100 voters living in the City of Boston. Between the base sample and oversample, a total of 229 voters in the City of Boston were interviewed, which were weighted down to the city's actual share of the area's total population of registered voters.

Interviews were conducted March 16-18, 2015 by live telephone interviews via both landline and cell phone using conventional registration based sampling procedures. The margin of sampling error for the full sample is +/- 4.9 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence, and 6.5 percent for the City of Boston figures. The poll was sponsored by WBUR, a National Public Radio station in the Boston area.