

**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 / Undecided	Never 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 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%

**I have just one last short topic I would like to ask you about.**

How closely, if at all, have you been following news about the trial of admitted marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev?

	Boston Area	City of Boston
Very closely	23%	25%
Somewhat closely	54%	47%
Not too closely	17%	16%
Not at all closely	7%	11%
Don't Know / Refused	0%	0%

As you may be aware, Tsarnaev has admitted during the trial to conducting the bombing. Do you think he should be given the death penalty, or sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole?

	Boston Area	City of Boston
Death penalty	38%	27%
Life in prison	49%	62%
Neither / depends (not read)	7%	8%
Don't Know / Refused	6%	3%

## 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.