

WBUR Boston Area Poll
Survey of 509 Registered Voters
Field Dates: April 10-13, 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 Area	Jan 2015	68%	6%	21%	5%	1%
		Feb 2015	65%	10%	19%	4%	1%
		March 2015	65%	10%	22%	3%	<1%
		April 2015	63%	10%	20%	7%	<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%
		April 2015	65%	10%	19%	6%	0%
Charlie Baker	Boston Area	Jan 2015	58%	17%	23%	2%	<1%
		Feb 2015	59%	18%	20%	2%	1%
		March 2015	63%	14%	22%	1%	<1%
		April 2015	64%	13%	19%	4%	0%
	City of Boston	Jan 2015	58%	10%	28%	3%	<1%
		Feb 2015	50%	25%	22%	3%	1%
		March 2015	56%	17%	25%	2%	0%
		April 2015	59%	15%	23%	4%	0%
Boston2024	Boston Area	March 2015	19%	34%	19%	29%	<1%
		April 2015	21%	30%	18%	30%	<1%
	City of Boston	March 2015	20%	31%	18%	31%	1%
		April 2015	24%	29%	22%	24%	0%
No Boston Olympics	Boston Area	March 2015	34%	29%	22%	15%	<1%
		April 2015	36%	27%	20%	17%	<1%
	City of Boston	March 2015	38%	30%	20%	12%	0%
		April 2015	34%	26%	21%	18%	<1%
John Fish	Boston Area	April 2015	10%	14%	20%	56%	0%
	City of Boston	April 2015	12%	19%	18%	51%	0%
Rich Davey	Boston Area	April 2015	7%	8%	17%	68%	<1%
	City of Boston	April 2015	8%	12%	15%	65%	0%

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	April 2015	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	March 2015	April 2015
Support	51%	44%	36%	40%	50%	43%	41%	47%
Oppose	33%	46%	52%	50%	33%	48%	47%	41%
Don't Know / Refused	16%	10%	13%	10%	17%	9%	12%	12%

How likely is it that **READ FIRST** —very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?
How about **READ NEXT**?

<i>Order randomized</i>		Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not at all likely	Don't Know / Refused
The Olympics will result in more affordable housing in the Boston area	Boston Area	8%	14%	24%	48%	7%
	City of Boston	12%	15%	21%	48%	4%
The Boston region will benefit economically from hosting the Olympics	Boston Area	23%	29%	19%	25%	5%
	City of Boston	27%	33%	16%	22%	2%
Hosting the Olympics will cost much more than is currently estimated	Boston Area	68%	22%	3%	3%	4%
	City of Boston	66%	21%	5%	3%	5%
The Olympics will leave Boston with a better transportation system than we would have otherwise had	Boston Area	18%	30%	18%	28%	6%
	City of Boston	19%	30%	17%	28%	6%

Some of the cities that have been discussed as possible host cities for the 2024 Olympic Games are **READ LIST**. If you could choose any of them, which city would you choose to host the 2024 Olympics—**READ LIST**? *Order rotated*

	Boston Area	City of Boston
Boston	25%	33%
<i>Another US city subtotal</i>	25%	27%
Los Angeles	11%	14%
San Francisco	7%	6%
Washington DC	7%	7%
<i>A European city subtotal</i>	36%	30%
Paris, France	13%	12%
Rome, Italy	11%	7%
Hamburg, Germany	13%	11%
None of these / somewhere else (not read)	8%	3%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	6%

Now I would like to ask you about another topic.

Current plans are for up to 3 casinos to be located in Massachusetts, 1 in each of 3 separate regions of the state. Do you approve or disapprove of locating casinos in Massachusetts?

	Boston Area	City of Boston
Approve	50%	51%
Disapprove	46%	46%
Don't Know / Refused	4%	4%

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	April 2015	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	March 2015	April 2015
Excellent	6%	1%	1%	1%	7%	2%	2%	2%
Good	39%	18%	15%	12%	40%	19%	13%	14%
Fair	40%	39%	42%	39%	35%	34%	40%	42%
Poor	11%	39%	35%	42%	13%	42%	40%	37%
Don't Know / Refused	5%	3%	7%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Charlie Baker is handling the situation with the MBTA?

	Boston Area			City of Boston		
	Feb 2015	March 2015	April 2015	Feb 2015	March 2015	April 2015
Approve	49%	60%	57%	41%	48%	49%
Disapprove	35%	28%	23%	45%	40%	32%
Don't Know / Refused	16%	12%	20%	14%	12%	19%

March version read: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Charlie Baker is handling the situation with the MBTA as it recovers from recent snow storms?

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?

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	April 2015	Feb 2015	March 2015	April 2015
Major priority	81%	86%	77%	86%	85%	75%
Minor priority	16%	11%	18%	13%	10%	17%
Not a priority	2%	2%	3%	1%	3%	5%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%	3%	0%	1%	4%

Which of the following is closest to your point of view? *Order rotated*

	Boston Area	City of Boston
State government should contribute significant funds to keeping the MBTA running effectively	51%	54%
The MBTA should mostly pay for itself through fares and other revenues	41%	42%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	4%

For the current level of service, do you think MBTA fares are too low, about right or too high? *Order rotated*

	Boston Area	City of Boston
Too low	12%	13%
About right	57%	55%
Too high	23%	28%
Don't Know / Refused	8%	4%

If it meant service on the MBTA would significantly improve service, would you support or oppose the MBTA raising fares?

	Boston Area	City of Boston
Support	61%	54%
Oppose	31%	37%
Both / neither / depends (not read)	5%	5%
Don't Know / Refused	3%	4%

During the average week, do you use MBTA buses and trains for all of your trips, most of your trips, some of your trips, just a few trips, or none of your trips?

	Boston Area	City of Boston
All of your trips	8%	14%
Most of your trips	12%	15%
Some of your trips	16%	19%
Just a few trips	22%	21%
None of your trips	42%	30%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%

If the MBTA system were more reliable, would you ride it more or less, or about the same amount? *"More" and "less" rotated*

	Boston Area	City of Boston
More	34%	34%
Less	2%	1%
About the same amount	62%	61%
Don't Know / Refused	3%	3%

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	
	March 2015	April 2015	March 2015	April 2015
Very closely	23%	32%	25%	26%
Somewhat closely	54%	44%	47%	47%
Not too closely	17%	15%	16%	17%
Not at all closely	7%	8%	11%	9%
Don't Know / Refused	0%	1%	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	
	March 2015	April 2015	March 2015	April 2015
Death penalty	38%	31%	27%	26%
Life in prison	49%	58%	62%	61%
Neither / depends (not read)	7%	4%	8%	6%
Don't Know / Refused	6%	7%	3%	8%

Would you support the use of the death penalty in cases other than this one? Or are you opposed to the use of the death penalty in general?

	Boston Area	City of Boston
Support in other cases	35%	29%
Opposed to it in general	57%	63%
Neither / depends (not read)	6%	8%
Don't Know / Refused	2%	1%

Demographics

Race

White / Caucasian	75%
All others	20%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

Age

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

Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 509 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 409 voters 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 223 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 April 10-13, 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.