



WBUR & CommonWealth Beacon Poll
 Survey of 800 likely voters in Massachusetts
 Field Dates September 12-18, 2024

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of **READ FIRST NAME?** If you have never heard of (him / her) or if you are undecided, please just say so. How about **READ NEXT NAME?**

ROTATE ORDER	Favorable	Unfavorable	Heard of / Undecided	Never heard of	Refused
Kamala Harris	58%	40%	2%	<1%	<1%
Donald Trump	37%	58%	3%	0%	1%
Tim Walz	58%	31%	7%	2%	1%
JD Vance	28%	61%	11%	1%	%
The US Supreme Court	36%	53%	8%	0%	3%
Elizabeth Warren	52%	42%	4%	<1%	1%
John Deaton	19%	14%	19%	47%	1%

Would you say things in the country are headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?

Right direction	31%
Wrong direction	50%
Don't know / refused	19%

If the election for President were held today, and the candidates were **READ AND ROTATE LIST OF CANDIDATES**, for whom would you vote?

ASKED OF UNDECIDED VOTERS:

Even though you say you are undecided -- which way do you lean? **READ LIST OF CANDIDATES ONLY IF REQUESTED. ROTATE ORDER.**

ASKED ONLY OF THOSE VOTING FOR OR LEANING TOWARDS RFK, WEST, STEIN, OLIVER, OR ANOTHER CANDIDATE:

What if the election were just between **READ AND ROTATE** Kamala Harris and Donald Trump? If it were just the two of them, for whom would you vote?

Initial preference

Kamala Harris	59%
Donald Trump	31%
Robert F Kennedy Jr.	3%
Jill Stein	1%
Cornel West	<1%
Chase Oliver	<1%
Another candidate (do not read)	1%
Would not vote for president (do not read on phone)	1%
Prefer not to say (do not read)	2%
Don't Know / Undecided (do not read)	2%

Preference with leaners

Kamala Harris	60%
Donald Trump	32%
Robert F Kennedy Jr.	3%
Jill Stein	1%
Cornel West	<1%
Chase Oliver	<1%
Another candidate (do not read)	2%
Would not vote for president	1%
Prefer not to say (do not read)	2%
Undecided (do not read)	1%

2-way vote preference

Kamala Harris	63%
Donald Trump	35%
Another candidate (do not read)	<1%
Would not vote for president (do not read)	1%
Prefer not to say (do not read)	0%
Don't Know / Undecided (do not read)	<1%

If the election for Senator from Massachusetts were held today, and the candidates were **READ AND ROTATE LIST OF CANDIDATES**, for whom would you vote?

Democrat Elizabeth Warren	56%
Republican John Deaton	35%
Another candidate (do not read)	1%
Would not vote for senate	1%
Prefer not to say (do not read)	1%
Undecided (do not read)	7%

What issues matter to you the most in the upcoming 2024 election for President? **Please select all that apply.** If the issue that matters most to you is not shown here, please select “other” and write in those topics. **ROTATE ORDER.**

FOR PHONE: What issues matter to you the most in the upcoming 2024 election for President? I’m going to read a list of issues. For each, please tell me if that is an important issue for you or not. **AFTER READING LIST:** Are there any other issues I didn’t mention that are important to your vote? **RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. ROTATE ORDER.**

Jobs, wages, and the economy	55%
Abortion/reproductive rights	51%
The future of democracy in America	50%
Immigration policy	45%
The US Supreme Court	42%
Gun policy	42%
Foreign policy	38%
The character of each candidate	38%
Health care policy	37%
Voting rights	37%
Social Security and Medicare	37%
Climate change	37%
Housing costs	34%
The national debt / deficit	31%
Issues of race	26%
The military	23%
Other	7%
None of the above	<1%
Don’t know / refused	<1%

How confident are you that votes in the 2024 Presidential Election will be counted fairly and accurately nationally? **ROTATE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1-4, TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP**

Very confident	49%
Somewhat confident	22%
Not too confident	16%
Not at all confident	11%
Don't know / refused	2%

How about in Massachusetts? How confident are you that votes in the 2024 statewide elections in Massachusetts will be counted fairly and accurately? **ROTATE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1-4, TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP**

Very confident	66%
Somewhat confident	13%
Not too confident	9%
Not at all confident	10%
Don't know / refused	2%

How likely or unlikely do you think it is that there will be major violence in Massachusetts related to the 2024 presidential election? **FOR PHONE: Would you say it's READ OPTIONS. ROTATE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1-4, TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP**

Very likely	4%
Somewhat likely	11%
Not too likely	37%
Not at all likely	43%
Don't know / refused	5%

In your view, does each of the following better describe Donald Trump or Kamala Harris, both the same, or neither of them?

ROTATE ORDER	Donald Trump	Kamala Harris	Both the same	Neither of them	Don't know / refused
Knows how to manage the economy	36%	48%	3%	8%	5%
Will keep America safe	36%	55%	3%	3%	4%
Will represent all Americans	29%	58%	3%	8%	2%
Is a person of strong moral character	17%	60%	2%	18%	3%
Is mentally sharp	25%	62%	8%	4%	2%
Will follow the law	25%	62%	3%	9%	2%
Will bring real change to Washington	35%	39%	2%	20%	5%
Seems like someone you can relate to	21%	55%	1%	20%	2%
Expresses a positive view of the future of America	28%	61%	5%	5%	1%
Did a better job in the debate	16%	65%	5%	11%	2%

Which comes closer to your point of view about your rights in America today?

My rights are being threatened	69%
My rights are well protected	21%
Don't know / refused	10%

Will recent US Supreme Court decisions influence your choice of whom to support for President in 2024, or not?

Yes they will	53%
No they will not	40%
Don't know / refused	7%

Do you think the Supreme Court ruling striking down Roe vs Wade and removing the federal right to abortion was the right decision or wrong decision?

Right decision	25%
Wrong decision	67%
Don't know / refused	8%

Do you think the Supreme Court ruling that Presidents have immunity from prosecution for official acts they commit as President was the right decision or the wrong decision?

Right decision	27%
Wrong decision	62%
Don't know / refused	11%

Would you support or oppose a proposal to remove lifetime appointments for Supreme Court justices and replace them with a single 18-year term? **FOR PHONE:** And is that strongly (approve / disapprove) or just somewhat?

Strongly support	54%
Somewhat support	21%
Somewhat oppose	3%
Strongly oppose	16%
Don't know / refused	6%

Would you support or oppose creating a binding code of conduct for Supreme Court justices? **FOR PHONE:** And is that strongly (approve / disapprove) or just somewhat?

Strongly support	65%
Somewhat support	13%
Somewhat oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	8%
Don't know / refused	9%

Would you say the state government in Massachusetts mostly operates in a way that is open and transparent or not?

Yes it does	36%
Not it does not	45%
Don't know / refused	19%

There will be a question on the November 2024 ballot in Massachusetts regarding auditing the state legislature. A yes vote would specify that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the State Legislature. A no vote would make no change to existing law. If the election were held today, how would you vote on this proposal? **ROTATE ORDER**

Vote yes	70%
Vote no	8%
Don't know / refused	22%

There will be a question on the November 2024 ballot in Massachusetts regarding standardized testing. A yes vote would eliminate the requirement that students pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate high school but still require students to complete coursework that meets state standards. A no vote would make no change to existing law. If the election were held today, how would you vote on this proposal? **ROTATE ORDER**

Vote yes	51%
Vote no	34%
Don't know / refused	15%

There will be a question on the November 2024 ballot in Massachusetts regarding natural psychedelic substances. A yes vote would allow persons over age 21 to use certain natural psychedelic substances under licensed supervision and to grow and possess limited quantities of those substances in their home, and would create a commission to regulate those substances. A no vote would make no change to existing law. If the election were held today, how would you vote on this proposal? **ROTATE ORDER**

Vote yes	42%
Vote no	44%
Don't know / refused	14%

There will be a question on the November 2024 ballot in Massachusetts regarding the minimum wage for tipped workers. A yes vote would increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to the full state minimum wage implemented over five years, at which point employers could pool all tips and distribute them to all non-management workers. A no vote would make no change to existing law. If the election were held today, how would you vote on this proposal? **ROTATE ORDER**

Vote yes	43%
Vote no	40%
Don't know / refused	16%

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Massachusetts state legislature is doing lately? **FOR PHONE:** And is that strongly (approve / disapprove) or just somewhat? **ROTATE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1-4, TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP**

Strongly approve	10%
Somewhat approve	32%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	24%
Don't know / refused	11%

Do you think there are enough candidates running for state legislature in Massachusetts, or would you like to see more?

There are enough	19%
Would like to see more	58%
Don't know / refused	23%

As you may know, the state legislature passed a law called the "MBTA Communities Act" which requires cities and towns in the MBTA region to create zoning for a certain amount of multi-family housing to be built. Do you think this is a good policy or a bad policy?

Good policy	50%
Bad policy	31%
Don't know / refused	19%

Demographics

Party Identification	Democrat	35%
	Republican	28%
	Independent / other	36%
	Don't know / refused	1%
Race	White / Caucasian	78%
	All others	20%
	Don't Know / Refused	3%
Age	18 to 29	15%
	30 to 44	24%
	45 to 59	26%
	60+	35%
Gender	Male	48%
	Female	51%
	Don't know / refused	<1%
Education	High School or less	22%
	Some college, no degree	26%
	College graduate (BA/BS)	28%
	Advanced degree	23%
	Don't know / refused	1%
Region	West	12%
	Middlesex	23%
	Suffolk	10%
	Worcester	12%
	Essex	12%
	Norfolk, Bristol	19%
	Plymouth / Cape / Islands	12%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 800 likely voters in the 2024 General Election in Massachusetts. Voters were contacted via text message invitation to an online survey and by live telephone interviewers calling landline and cell phones. Both modes used conventional registration-based sampling procedures. Responses were collected September 12-18, 2024.

Results were weighted to known and estimated parameters for likely voters by age and gender, race, party, education, and region within Massachusetts. Demographic targets were based on analysis of American Community Survey and state voter registration data. Political party was estimated using state voter registration data, benchmark surveys, and turnout from prior elections. The margin of sampling error for the entire sample is +/- 4.1 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence, including the design effect. All surveys are potentially subject to non-sampling error.

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