



**The MassINC Polling Group**

Statewide Survey of 854 Likely Voters in the November 2022 Election  
 Including 520 Likely Voters in the September Democratic Primary  
 Field Dates: August 5-9, 2022

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

Right Direction	55%
Wrong Track	29%
Both / neither / depends (not read)	10%
Don't Know / Refused (not read)	5%

How much of a priority do you think state leaders should give to dealing with **READ FIRST?** How about **READ NEXT?**

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	None at all	Don't Know / Refused
<b>ROTATE ORDER</b>					
Cost of housing	60%	24%	10%	5%	2%
Inflation	55%	26%	11%	4%	3%
Availability of jobs	37%	34%	19%	7%	3%
Wages not keeping up with costs	54%	28%	11%	6%	2%
Gas prices	49%	26%	16%	8%	2%
The cost of food	58%	25%	10%	5%	1%
Cost of living	64%	24%	7%	4%	1%

I'm going to read you the names of several people or 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?**

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Heard of / Undecided	Never heard of	Refused
<b>ROTATE ORDER</b>					
Real estate developers	18%	42%	22%	16%	2%
The Massachusetts State Legislature	42%	30%	17%	9%	2%

How familiar are you with the concept of “wage theft?”

Very familiar	12%
Somewhat familiar	19%
Not too familiar	20%
Not at all familiar	46%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

As you may know, wage theft is when an employer fails to pay wages or provide employee benefits owed to an employee by law or by contract. Prior to this survey, how much had you heard or read about wage theft?

A great deal	9%
A fair amount	20%
Not too much	33%
Nothing at all	38%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

Right now, the general contractor on a given project are not responsible if subcontractors they hire fail to pay their workers wages or benefits they are owed. One proposal would hold lead contractors responsible for wage theft by their subcontractors. Would you support or oppose this proposal? And is that strongly (support / oppose) or just somewhat?

Strongly support	42%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	15%
Don't Know / Refused	11%

Right now, employees who have had their wages stolen are able to sue their employers. There is a proposal to make wage theft a crime, meaning that employers who steal wages or benefits could be found guilty of a felony. Would you support or oppose making wage theft a crime? And would you strongly (support / oppose) or just somewhat?

Strongly support	45%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	11%
Don't Know / Refused	8%

Would you support or oppose state laws that encourage developers and other companies working in Massachusetts on public projects to use union workers? And is that strongly (support / oppose) or just somewhat?

Strongly support	38%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	18%
Don't Know / Refused	6%

How familiar are you with the concept of “responsible development?”

Very familiar	12%
Somewhat familiar	34%
Not too familiar	25%
Not at all familiar	27%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

Responsible development refers to a series of best practices for real estate developers to follow. Under responsible development, developers provide workers a living wage and benefits and support apprenticeship programs to train new workers. Developers prioritize minimizing the environmental impacts of their projects and work with community members to ensure projects reflect their values. Knowing this, would you support or oppose responsible real estate development in Massachusetts? And is that strongly (support / oppose) or just somewhat?

Strongly support	54%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	4%
Strongly oppose	9%
Don't Know / Refused	7%

One proposal would require projects that receive public funding to follow these responsible development principles. Would you support or oppose this proposal? And is that strongly (support / oppose) or just somewhat?

Strongly support	47%
Somewhat support	31%
Somewhat oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	10%
Don't Know / Refused	7%

*The next two questions were each asked of separate halves of the sample:*

**SPLIT ½** Would you support or oppose Massachusetts state legislature allowing cities and towns to implement rent control policies?

Strongly support	37%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	22%
Don't Know / Refused	7%

**SPLIT ½** The Massachusetts state legislature is considering changing the law to let local governments pursue rent control policies. Under rent control, local governments set limits on the rents or rent increases for privately owned housing in their city or town. Would you support or oppose allowing local governments to set limits on rent or rent increases for privately owned housing?

Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	19%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	31%
Don't Know / Refused	8%

## Demographics

### Party Registration

Democrat	33%
Republican	11%
Unenrolled	56%

### Race

White / Caucasian	80%
All other voters	18%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

### Age

18 to 29	14%
30 to 44	22%
45 to 59	32%
60+	32%

### Gender

Men	48%
Women	52%
Non-binary / other	0%
Don't Know / Refused	0%

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### About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 854 likely voters in the Massachusetts November general election. The sample included an oversample to reach a total of 520 likely voters in the September Democratic primary election. Interviews were conducted August 5-9, 2022 by live telephone interviews via both landline and cell phone using conventional registration-based sampling procedures. Results were weighted to known and estimated population parameters for likely voters in each election on gender, age, race, education, geography, and party registration. The margin of sampling error for the full sample is +/- 4 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence. The poll was sponsored by the Responsible Development Coalition.