

Toplines

University of Massachusetts Amherst/WCVB February 2025 Massachusetts Poll

Field Dates:	February 14 –20, 2025
Sample:	700 Respondents
Margin of Error:	4.8%

YouGov interviewed 733 Massachusetts (MA) respondents who were then matched down to a sample of 700 to produce the final dataset. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The sampling frame is a politically representative "modeled frame" of MA adults, based upon the American Community Survey (ACS) public use microdata file, public voter file records, the 2020 Current Population Survey (CPS) Voting and Registration supplements, the 2020 National Election Pool (NEP) exit poll, and the 2020 CES surveys, including demographics and 2020 presidential vote.

The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, and home ownership. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles.

The weights were then post-stratified on home ownership, 2020 and 2024 presidential vote choice as well as a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (2-categories), and education (4-categories), and a two-way post-stratification on race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the final weight.

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Race Relations (N=700)

Which of the following comes closest to your own views?

Massachusetts has made a lot of progress toward achieving equality between White Americans and African Americans.	61%
Massachusetts still has a long way to go in order to achieve equality between White Americans and African Americans.	39%

Future of Race Relations (N=700)

Looking ahead to the next **four years**, do you believe that race relations in the state between White people and African Americans will get better or worse?

Definitely Get Better	11%
Probably Get Better	45%
Probably Get Worse	32%
Definitely Get Worse	13%

Reasons for Disadvantage (N=700)

In many areas of life, African Americans suffer from disadvantages. How much do you think each of the following contributes to the disadvantages African Americans face?

	A Great Deal	A Fair Amount	Not Much	Not At All
Racial discrimination	40%	31%	18%	10%
Less access to good schools	33%	37%	18%	12%
Less access to high paying jobs	32%	36%	21%	12%
Family instability	31%	45%	17%	7%
Lack of good role models	22%	38%	25%	16%
Lack of motivation to work hard	13%	28%	27%	33%

Racial Policies (N=700)

Do you support or oppose . . .

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
raising the minimum age to be criminally tried and sentenced under state law as an adult from 18 to 19 years old?	11%	16%	28%	19%	25%
the state of Massachusetts making cash payments to the descendants of slaves?	11%	15%	20%	13%	41%
ending state policies that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in education, employment, and housing?	21%	11%	16%	11%	41%

Racial Resentment (N=700)

Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each statement.

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Irish, Italians, Jews and many other minorities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Blacks should do the same without any special favors.	19%	23%	20%	12%	26%
Generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class.	29%	24%	14%	14%	18%
It's really a matter of some people not trying hard enough; if blacks would only try harder, they could be as well off as whites	10%	17%	21%	14%	38%

Statewide Graduation Standard (N=700)

In 2024, Massachusetts voted in favor of eliminating the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests in Mathematics, Science and Technology, and English in order to receive a high school diploma. Do you support or oppose the development of a **new** statewide standard for high school graduation?

Strongly Support	27%
Support	26%
Neither Support Nor Oppose	23%
Oppose	14%
Strongly Oppose	11%

Education Options (N=358)

Only asked of respondents who indicated that they supported a new statewide graduation standard.

In the wake of the elimination of the MCAS requirement, there have been a number of policies that have been proposed to ensure that high school students meet minimum standards before receiving their high school diploma. From the following list, please rank the following four options from most to least preferred option to establish a new statewide standard for high school graduation.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Mandate that all high school students must successfully complete a designated set of courses	52%	28%	14%	6%
A review by a board of examiners of each student's academic work to determine if the student's skills are at, below, or above their grade level	21%	32%	29%	18%
Require passing a standardized civics exam	13%	29%	43%	15%
Reinstate the MCAS requirement through state legislation	15%	10%	14%	61%

Cell Phone Restriction (N=700)

Do you support or oppose restricting the use of cellphones by public school students during official school hours except in the case of an emergency or if the student has a medical condition or disability? . . .

Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024
Strongly Support		Somewhat Support		Neither Support Nor Oppose		Somewhat Oppose		Strongly Oppose	
48%	50%	28%	25%	13%	13%	6%	7%	4%	5%

Abortion Access (N=700)

In the wake of the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, a number of states have placed restrictions on a woman's right to choose to have an abortion or have banned abortion in their state. Looking ahead, do you believe that a woman's right to choose to have an abortion in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will remain safe, legal, and accessible?

	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024
Yes	62%	70%
No	11%	7%
Don't know	27%	23%

Abortion Policies (N=700)

A number of states have passed laws concerning a woman's choice to have an abortion. Please indicate whether you support or oppose the following laws and amendments.

	Strongly Support		Somewhat Support		Neither		Somewhat Oppose		Strongly Oppose		Don't Know	
	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024	Feb. 2025	Oct. 2024
A state constitutional amendment that protects a woman's right to choose to have an abortion.	54%	57%	15%	14%	14%	14%	5%	6%	9%	6%	3%	3%
A law protecting access to birth control.	59%	58%	17%	16%	13%	15%	4%	5%	4%	4%	3%	2%
A law protecting access to abortion pills.	53%	51%	16%	14%	15%	18%	5%	8%	7%	6%	4%	2%
A law requiring emergency rooms to provide an abortion to save the life or health of a pregnant woman.	61%	60%	20%	20%	10%	13%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	4%
A law protecting providers and pharmacists from out of state legal actions and professional licensure consequences for providing reproductive health care services.	53%	52%	15%	15%	17%	20%	3%	3%	6%	5%	6%	5%

Demographic Breakdown of February 2025 University of Massachusetts Amherst/WCVB Poll (N=700)

White	75%
People of Color	25%
HS or less	31%
Some Coll.	16%
Coll. Deg.	33%
Postgrad	21%
18-29	21%
30-54	39%
>55	41%
Liberal	38%
Moderate	39%
Conservative	22%
Men	48%
Women	52%
Harris	67%
Trump	33%
Registered Democrat	38%
Registered Independent	40%
Registered Republican	14%

