



The MassINC Polling Group
Mass Taxpayers Foundation
Survey of 999 Massachusetts residents
Field Dates: June 25 – July 14, 2026

Overall, how would you rank Massachusetts as a place to live compared to other states?

	2025	2026
One of the best	29%	26%
Above average	34%	37%
Middle of the pack	23%	23%
Below average	8%	8%
One of the worst	4%	4%
Unsure	2%	2%

And how would you rank Massachusetts as a place to do business compared to other states?

	2025	2026
One of the best	19%	16%
Above average	40%	35%
Middle of the pack	24%	28%
Below average	9%	9%
One of the worst	4%	5%
Unsure	5%	6%

Which **three** of the following are the most important reasons you live in Massachusetts? **Select up to three.**

I grew up here	51%
To be close to family	44%
Access to good health care	33%
I like the New England lifestyle	29%
Quality of life	27%
Job or career opportunities	23%
Quality of schools	22%
Political or cultural values	16%
I have a strong community here	16%
Access to Boston and other job centers	12%
Something else	2%
Unsure	1%

Where do you think Massachusetts ranks compared to other states on each of the following measures of quality of life? *Sorted by “one of the best” for display.*

ROTATE ORDER	One of the best	Above average	Middle of the pack	Below average	One of the worst	Unsure
Quality of health care	44%	33%	15%	5%	2%	1%
Quality of K-12 educational system	30%	37%	21%	6%	2%	5%
Quality of local public services	19%	42%	27%	9%	2%	2%
Strength of our communities	15%	44%	29%	8%	2%	3%
Availability of childcare	11%	29%	33%	11%	3%	13%
Commute times	8%	21%	37%	20%	10%	3%
Availability of housing	7%	16%	32%	29%	15%	1%
Overall affordability	6%	13%	24%	34%	22%	1%

Where do you think Massachusetts ranks compared to other states on each measure of affordability? *Sorted by “one of the best” for display.*

ROTATE ORDER	One of the best	Above average	Middle of the pack	Below average	One of the worst	Unsure
Health care	32%	31%	23%	8%	4%	2%
Childcare	10%	22%	33%	17%	7%	12%
Energy	10%	21%	36%	17%	10%	6%
Housing	7%	14%	27%	29%	21%	2%
Overall cost of living	7%	14%	23%	30%	26%	1%
Taxes	5%	14%	29%	24%	25%	3%

Are you registered to vote in the state of Massachusetts?

Yes	89%
No	10%
Prefer not to say	1%

ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE:

Which **three** state issues are most important to you in deciding which candidates to support for elections here in Massachusetts? **Select up to three.**

Rising prices	45%
Cost of housing	36%
Health care costs and access	34%
Taxes	29%
Jobs and the economy	28%
Energy and fuel costs	24%
Immigration and border security	16%
Crime and public safety	17%
Political division	10%
Education	16%
Climate change / environment	16%
Abortion / reproductive rights	11%
Transportation and traffic	10%
Something else	2%
Prefer not to say	<1%

How do you feel about the direction of Massachusetts compared to a year ago?

More optimistic	25%
Less optimistic	29%
About the same	41%
Unsure	5%

How important are each when it comes to keeping Massachusetts thriving? *Sorted by “very important” for display.*

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	Unsure
ROTATE ORDER					
Ensuring life is affordable for all residents who want to live in Massachusetts	68%	26%	5%	1%	1%
Ensuring life is affordable for young people and families who want to live in Massachusetts	64%	30%	4%	1%	1%
Ensuring all businesses grow and thrive in Massachusetts	52%	38%	8%	1%	2%
Ensuring new and innovative businesses can grow and thrive in Massachusetts	52%	38%	8%	1%	1%

How do you feel about the direction of the country compared to a year ago?

More optimistic	20%
Less optimistic	54%
About the same	23%
Unsure	3%

Do actions at the federal level make you feel better or worse about living in Massachusetts compared to other states, or does it not make much difference?

	2025	2026
Feel better about living here	29%	40%
Feel worse about living here	20%	23%
Not much difference	42%	32%
Unsure	9%	5%

In the next five years, do you see yourself moving out of Massachusetts?

	2025	2026
Yes	25%	22%
No	54%	59%
Unsure	21%	19%

ASK FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS IF PLANNING ON MOVING IN NEXT FIVE YEARS

Where would you consider moving? **Select all that apply.**

Another Northeast state (ME, NH, VT, CT, RI, NY)	36%
Another region of the United States	52%
Outside of the United States	17%
A state with better economic opportunities	24%
A state with a lower cost of living	43%
Prefer not to say	1%

Which of the following are reasons that you would consider moving out of Massachusetts? **Select all that apply.**

Cost of living	63%
Taxes	46%
Weather	40%
Job or business opportunities elsewhere	32%
Family reasons	25%
Politics	23%
Higher education opportunities	13%
Finished my Massachusetts education	12%
Some other reason	12%
Moving back where you lived before	9%

ASK ALL

Below is a list of issues that state government could work on. Which of these are your top **three** that you think policymakers in Massachusetts should prioritize? **Select up to three.***

Cost of living	65%
Housing costs	47%
Taxes	34%
Energy costs	32%
Health care	32%
Crime and public safety	19%
Immigration	14%
K-12 Education	12%
Transportation and commute time	12%
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	11%
Abortion or women's reproductive rights	9%
Childcare and early education	8%
Business regulations	5%
Prefer not to say	1%

When you think about affordability in Massachusetts today, what are the biggest challenges facing you or your household? **OPEN END. RESPONSES CODED INTO CATEGORIES.**

Housing costs	38%
Cost of living	31%
Energy costs	21%
Food costs	19%
Taxes	17%
Health care	8%
None	5%
Limited income / budget	4%
Other	4%
Transportation	3%
Blame state government	3%
Employment	2%
Childcare	2%
Education	2%
Immigration	1%
Blame federal government	1%
Nonresponse	1%

Which **three** national issues concern you the most on a day-to-day basis? **Select up to three.**

Rising prices	51%
Cost of housing	32%
Health care costs and access	27%
Jobs and the economy	24%
Energy and fuel costs	24%
Political division	22%
Taxes	21%
Foreign wars and international conflict	20%
Immigration and border security	17%
Crime and public safety	16%
Climate change / environment	16%
Abortion / reproductive rights	12%
Education	8%
Transportation	6%
Something else	3%
Prefer not to say	1%

Demographics:

Gender:

Men	48%
Women	52%
Some other way	<1%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Age:

18-29	21%
30-44	25%
45-59	24%
60+	30%

Race:

White	69%
Black	6%
Latino	11%
AAPI	7%
Other / multiple	5%
Prefer not to say	1%

Party ID:

Democrat	39%
Republican	19%
Independent / other	37%
Prefer not to say	5%

Education:

High school or less	32%
Some college, no degree	24%
College graduate (BA/BS)	25%
Advanced degree	19%

About the poll

These results are based on a survey of 999 Massachusetts residents. Responses were collected via online survey interviewing June 25 – July 14, 2025. Results were weighted by race, age and gender, education, political party, and county to reflect known and estimated population parameters for Massachusetts residents. The credibility interval for this survey is +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, inclusive of the design effect. This project was conducted by The MassINC Polling Group and sponsored by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation.