

The MassINC Polling Group
Barr Foundation Climate Change Survey
 Statewide Survey of 1,890 Massachusetts Residents,
 including oversamples of Black, Latino, and Asian residents
 Field Dates: March 23 - April 5, 2022

I'd like to ask you about long-term issues the Massachusetts state government could focus on. As I read from the list, please tell me if you think each should be a high priority, a medium priority, or a low priority for the state government over the long term. First, should **READ FIRST ITEM** be a high priority, medium priority, or a low priority for the State Government over the long term? What about **READ NEXT ITEM. RANDOMIZE AND REPEAT QUESTION SCALE AND STEM AS NEEDED.**

| | | High priority | Medium priority | Low priority | Don't Know / Refused |
|--|------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Jobs and the economy | 2022 | 68% | 27% | 4% | 1% |
| | 2019 | 61% | 32% | 6% | 1% |
| | 2014 | 83% | 12% | 4% | 1% |
| | 2011 | 89% | 7% | 2% | 1% |
| Education | 2022 | 70% | 25% | 4% | 1% |
| | 2019 | 70% | 25% | 4% | 1% |
| | 2014 | 83% | 13% | 3% | 1% |
| | 2011 | 83% | 14% | 3% | 1% |
| Health Care | 2022 | 73% | 21% | 5% | 1% |
| | 2019 | 71% | 22% | 6% | 2% |
| | 2014 | 77% | 17% | 5% | 1% |
| | 2011 | 71% | 22% | 6% | 1% |
| Taxes | 2022 | 51% | 38% | 9% | 2% |
| | 2019 | 48% | 37% | 11% | 3% |
| | 2014 | 49% | 36% | 12% | 3% |
| | 2011 | 49% | 37% | 11% | 3% |
| Climate Change (Global Warming in 2011, 2014 and of half of respondents in 2019) | 2022 | 47% | 31% | 19% | 2% |
| | 2019 | 54% | 26% | 18% | 3% |
| | 2014 | 41% | 31% | 25% | 3% |
| | 2011 | 32% | 35% | 29% | 4% |
| Energy and fuel costs (Energy in 2019) | 2022 | 64% | 28% | 6% | 1% |
| | 2019 | 47% | 41% | 10% | 2% |
| | 2011 | 57% | 35% | 7% | 2% |

In a word or two, what emotions do you feel when you think about climate change?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Anxious; nervous; worried | 18% |
| Sad; disappointed; defeated | 14% |
| Serious; urgent; happening; needs action | 13% |
| Fear; stress; doom | 13% |
| Apathetic; indifferent; unconcerned | 9% |
| Fake; hoax; skeptical; exaggerated; overblown; natural | 8% |
| Angry; frustrated; guilty | 8% |
| Unsure; ambivalent; confused | 6% |
| Concerned; alarmed | 5% |
| Hopeful; good; positive; hopeful | 4% |
| Bad; negative | 3% |
| Helpless; inevitable; too late | 3% |
| Other | 3% |
| No comment; N / A | 2% |

If nothing is done to reduce climate change in the future, how serious of a problem do you think it will be for Massachusetts?

| | 2011 | 2019 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Very serious | 42% | 53% | 48% |
| Somewhat serious | 32% | 26% | 29% |
| Not too serious | 12% | 9% | 11% |
| Not serious at all | 9% | 8% | 6% |
| Climate change is not happening | N/A | N/A | 3% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 4% | 4% | 3% |

Which of the following impacts do you think climate change is already having here in Massachusetts? First, **READ FIRST. PROBE IF NOT ALREADY HAPPENING:** How likely do you think **READ ITEM** is to happen in the next 5 years due to climate change? Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely? How about **READ NEXT. REPEAT STEM AND SCALE ONLY AS NEEDED.**

| | Already happening | Very likely | Somewhat likely | Not too likely | Not at all likely | Don't know / Refused |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Increased coastal flooding | 33% | 28% | 20% | 9% | 6% | 5% |
| Sea level rise | 34% | 26% | 19% | 9% | 7% | 5% |
| More extreme heat waves | 30% | 29% | 20% | 12% | 6% | 4% |
| More powerful storms | 36% | 25% | 21% | 9% | 6% | 3% |
| Inland flooding from extreme rain events | 26% | 25% | 24% | 14% | 7% | 4% |

Thinking about some of the ways that individuals can reduce their impact on the climate, which of the following do you already do? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

| | |
|--|-----|
| Adjust your thermostat to save energy | 62% |
| Recycle | 79% |
| Compost your food scraps | 28% |
| Eat less meat | 32% |
| Buy locally made products | 45% |
| Avoid single-use plastic products | 48% |
| Vote based on your climate priorities | 34% |
| Avoid investing in companies that contribute to carbon emissions | 28% |
| None of these | 4% |
| Unsure | 1% |
| Prefer not to say | 2% |

The next questions are about your primary residence.

Do you own or rent your home, or do you have another arrangement like living with family members or student housing?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Own | 56% |
| Rent | 33% |
| Another arrangement | 10% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 1% |

Which of the following energy sources does your home use for heating, cooking, electricity, or hot water? Please select all that apply.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Heating oil | 26% |
| Natural gas | 49% |
| Propane gas | 11% |
| Electricity from solar panels on your home | 8% |
| Renewable electricity (solar, wind, hydro) from the electric grid | 10% |
| Electricity from the conventional sources in the electric grid | 56% |
| Wood or wood pellets | 9% |
| Something else | 1% |
| Unsure | 4% |
| Prefer not to say | 1% |

The following asked of homeowners:

How soon might you plan to make each of the following improvements to your home?

| | Already done this | In the next year | In 1-2 years | In 3-4 years | In 5 or more years | No plans / Never | Don't Know / Refused |
|---|-------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Installing electric heat pumps to heat and cool your house | 13% | 5% | 5% | 6% | 6% | 48% | 18% |
| Installing solar panels to generate electricity | 13% | 5% | 6% | 8% | 8% | 48% | 12% |
| Replacing your windows or adding other insulation for your home | 48% | 9% | 8% | 6% | 8% | 17% | 5% |
| Replacing your appliances with ones that use less energy | 49% | 7% | 8% | 7% | 7% | 14% | 7% |
| Replacing your gas stove with an electric stove | 36% | 4% | 4% | 3% | 3% | 45% | 6% |

The following asked of those who responded "3-4 years" or longer, have no plans, or are unsure to any of previous questions:

Would you move up your schedule for making these kinds of improvements if READ FIRST, or would it not make a difference? How about if READ NEXT

| | Yes, would move up my schedule | Wouldn't make a difference | Don't Know / Refused |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| You received an incentive or rebate to help you cover the cost | 60% | 28% | 12% |
| You received a tax break | 54% | 30% | 16% |
| Homes were required to meet certain energy efficiency standards before they were rented or sold | 35% | 46% | 19% |

When it comes to reducing the climate impact of most buildings, the easiest time to do so is during construction or major renovations. Keeping that in mind, how strongly would you support or oppose each of the following policy proposals?

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Don't Know / Refused |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Require new or renovated buildings to use only renewable electricity, either from solar on the building or from the electric grid | 34% | 33% | 12% | 13% | 8% |
| Require new or renovated buildings to be ready to charge electric vehicles | 36% | 34% | 11% | 11% | 8% |
| Require new or renovated buildings to be fully electric, using no oil or natural gas | 25% | 32% | 16% | 17% | 10% |

Massachusetts' building codes currently do not account for climate change risks like increased flooding, wind, snow, or extreme heat. Proposals to update the building code could include reinforcing doors and windows, protecting lower floors from flooding, elevating buildings, and strengthening roofs. How strongly would you support or oppose updating the state's building codes to require buildings be better protected against climate change?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Strongly support | 40% |
| Somewhat support | 36% |
| Somewhat oppose | 9% |
| Strongly oppose | 8% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 7% |

The next few questions are about how you get around.

Which modes of travel did you use regularly to get around? Please check all that apply.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Drive alone | 66% |
| Drive or ride with others | 46% |
| Take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft | 16% |
| Take the MBTA subway | 15% |
| Take a public bus | 15% |
| Take a corporate or private shuttle | 3% |
| Take a ferry | 3% |
| Take the commuter rail | 10% |
| Ride a bicycle | 13% |
| Walk | 45% |
| Other | 1% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 1% |

The following asked of those who drive alone or with others:

Is the car you drive *most often* one that runs on gas only, a gas-electric hybrid, or fully electric? If you drive various cars or do not drive a car, please say so.

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Gas only | 84% |
| Hybrid | 6% |
| Electric | 3% |
| Drive various cars | 1% |
| Don't drive a car | 5% |
| Don't Know / Refused | <1% |

The following asked of those who drive but don't have an EV:

How likely is it that you would lease or buy an electric car for your next car, if you're planning to buy another?

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Very likely | 18% |
| Somewhat likely | 26% |
| Not too likely | 16% |
| Not at all likely | 21% |
| Already own an electric car | <1% |
| Not planning to buy another car | 12% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 6% |

How willing would you be to walk for local trip of a mile or less, instead of driving?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very willing | 44% |
| Somewhat willing | 29% |
| Not too willing | 10% |
| Not at all willing | 8% |
| Unable to walk | 6% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 2% |

How willing would you be to ride a bike for a short local trip if there were protected bike lanes or separated paths connecting you to where you want to go?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Very willing | 32% |
| Somewhat willing | 27% |
| Not too willing | 12% |
| Not at willing | 15% |
| Unable to ride a bike | 12% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 3% |

How willing would you be to take public transit instead of driving if **READ FIRST?** How about **READ NEXT?**

| | Very willing | Somewhat willing | Not too willing | Not at all willing | N/A (not available, not able to) | Don't Know / Refused |
|--|--------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Public transit were free | 40% | 22% | 13% | 13% | 8% | 3% |
| Public transit were more widely available in your area | 37% | 27% | 13% | 14% | 6% | 3% |
| Public transit ran more frequently | 34% | 26% | 13% | 15% | 9% | 3% |
| Public transit were more reliable | 36% | 25% | 13% | 14% | 9% | 3% |

Demographics

Gender

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Man | 47% |
| Woman | 52% |
| All other | 1% |
| Don't Know / Refused | <1% |

Age

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 18 to 29 years | 22% |
| 30 to 44 years | 24% |
| 45 to 59 years | 26% |
| 60 or over | 28% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 1% |

Party Identification

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Democrat | 34% |
| Republican | 14% |
| Independent / some other party | 47% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 5% |

Education Level

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| High School or less | 33% |
| Some college, no degree | 25% |
| College graduate (BA/BS) | 23% |
| Advanced degree | 17% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 1% |

Race

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| White | 74% |
| Black | 7% |
| Hispanic / Latino | 10% |
| Asian | 7% |
| All other | 3% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 1% |

About the poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,890 Massachusetts residents. Live telephone interviews and online interviewing were conducted in English and Spanish between March 23 and April 5, 2022. Telephone respondents were reached by both landline and cell phone. Oversamples were conducted to obtain a total at least 250 Black, 250 Latino, and 200 Asian residents. Results within race and ethnicity were weighted by age, gender, and education level. These were then combined and weighted by race, age, gender, education, geography, and party to reflect known and estimated population parameters for the adult population of Massachusetts. The credibility interval for this survey is +/- 2.6 percentage points for the entire sample, including the design effect. This poll was sponsored by The Barr Foundation.