



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Nearly three-quarters approve of Massachusetts' Gov. Baker

Spectrum News/Ipsos poll finds Baker earns high marks on handling COVID-19, from Republicans and Democrats alike

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, October 21, 2020

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between October 7-15, 2020 on behalf of Spectrum News. For this survey, a sample of 1,001 adults age 18+ from Massachusetts was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:

Full Annotated Questionnaire

		Massachusetts (N=1,001)
1. Which of the following do you consider to be the main problem facing Massachusetts today? You may select up to three.	Healthcare	18%
	Crime or violence	12%
	Immigration	7%
	Unemployment	28%
	Education	11%
	Taxes	20%
	Climate change/natural disasters	12%
	COVID-19/coronavirus	55%
	Racial injustice	15%
	Opioid or drug addiction	24%
	Affordable housing	33%
	Gun control	5%
	Other	2%
	None of these	3%
2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Charlie Baker is handling his job as governor?	Strongly approve	27%
	Somewhat approve	44%
	Somewhat disapprove	13%
	Strongly disapprove	6%
	Don't know	10%
NETS	Approve	72%
	Disapprove	19%
5. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Charlie Baker is handling the following?	COVID-19	Strongly approve 38%
		Somewhat approve 35%
		Somewhat disapprove 11%
		Strongly disapprove 8%
		Don't know 7%
	NETS	Approve 73%
	Disapprove 20%	
5. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way	Jobs and the economy	Strongly approve 20%
		Somewhat approve 44%

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GAME CHANGERS





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Charlie Baker is handling the following?		Somewhat disapprove	17%
		Strongly disapprove	8%
		Don't know	11%
	NETS	Approve	64%
		Disapprove	25%
	Crime and public safety	Strongly approve	19%
		Somewhat approve	47%
		Somewhat disapprove	16%
		Strongly disapprove	6%
		Don't know	13%
	NETS	Approve	66%
		Disapprove	21%
	Protests and social unrest	Strongly approve	20%
		Somewhat approve	43%
		Somewhat disapprove	15%
		Strongly disapprove	8%
		Don't know	14%
	NETS	Approve	63%
		Disapprove	23%
	Plans for sending children back to school	Strongly approve	18%
		Somewhat approve	41%
		Somewhat disapprove	19%
		Strongly disapprove	11%
		Don't know	11%
	NETS	Approve	59%
		Disapprove	30%
	Climate change	Strongly approve	14%
		Somewhat approve	39%
Somewhat disapprove		13%	
Strongly disapprove		4%	
Don't know		30%	
NETS	Approve	53%	
	Disapprove	18%	
Police reform	Strongly approve	16%	
	Somewhat approve	35%	
	Somewhat disapprove	19%	
	Strongly disapprove	8%	
	Don't know	22%	
NETS	Approve	51%	
	Disapprove	27%	
7. How would you rate how the following are handling the COVID-19 pandemic?	The federal government	Excellent	5%
		Good	22%
		Just fair	24%
		Poor	46%
		Don't know	4%
	NETS	Excellent/Good	27%
		Just fair/Poor	69%

7. How would you rate how the following are handling the COVID-19 pandemic?	Your state government	Excellent	18%
		Good	47%
		Just fair	21%
		Poor	10%

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		Don't know	4%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Excellent/Good</i>	65%
		<i>Just fair/Poor</i>	31%
	Your local/city government	Excellent	14%
		Good	50%
		Just fair	22%
		Poor	9%
		Don't know	5%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Excellent/Good</i>	64%
		<i>Just fair/Poor</i>	31%
8. In light of the current circumstances, how long do you think it will be before life in your city or community will get back to normal?		Less than a month	1%
		1-2 months	2%
		3-under 6 months	9%
		6 months-1 year	32%
		Longer than a year	42%
		Never	6%
		Don't know	7%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Under 6 months</i>	12%
		<i>6 months or longer</i>	75%
9. How likely are you to vote in the upcoming presidential election?		Very likely	68%
		Somewhat likely	8%
		Somewhat unlikely	3%
		Very unlikely	9%
		I have already voted	8%
		Don't know	5%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Likely</i>	76%
		<i>Unlikely</i>	11%
10. Thinking about the upcoming presidential election, regardless of your plans to vote (including if you have already voted), what would be your preferred method of voting this year?		In-person on Election Day	36%
		In-person before Election Day	13%
		By mail or absentee ballot	32%
		By dropping off your ballot at an election office or polling place	12%
		Other	0%
		I do not plan to vote	8%
11. Regardless of your plan to vote, how confident are you that your vote will be counted if you voted...	In-person on Election Day	Very confident	62%
		Somewhat confident	20%
		Not very confident	8%
		Not confident at all	5%
		Don't know	6%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Confident</i>	82%
		<i>Not confident</i>	12%
	In-person before Election Day	Very confident	51%
		Somewhat confident	25%
		Not very confident	11%
		Not confident at all	5%
		Don't know	7%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Confident</i>	76%
		<i>Not confident</i>	17%
11. Regardless of your plan to vote, how confident are you that your vote will be counted if you voted...	By mail or absentee ballot	Very confident	33%
		Somewhat confident	29%
		Not very confident	18%
		Not confident at all	14%
		Don't know	7%

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	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Confident</i>	62%
		<i>Not confident</i>	32%
	By dropping off your ballot at an election office or polling place	Very confident	42%
		Somewhat confident	28%
		Not very confident	15%
		Not confident at all	8%
		Don't know	7%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Confident</i>	70%
		<i>Not confident</i>	23%
13. How likely are you to trust the outcome of the presidential election, regardless of who wins?		Very likely	32%
		Somewhat likely	38%
		Somewhat unlikely	11%
		Very unlikely	7%
		Don't know	12%
<i>NETS</i>		<i>Likely</i>	70%
		<i>Unlikely</i>	18%
14. Have the following made you more or less favorable towards President Donald Trump ahead of this November's election?	The handling of the current vacancy in the U.S. Supreme Court	Much more favorable	12%
		Somewhat more favorable	14%
		No impact	18%
		Somewhat less favorable	10%
		Much less favorable	40%
		Don't know	7%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>More favorable</i>	26%
		<i>Less favorable</i>	49%
	The nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court	Much more favorable	14%
		Somewhat more favorable	10%
		No impact	23%
		Somewhat less favorable	9%
		Much less favorable	35%
		Don't know	8%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>More favorable</i>	25%
		<i>Less favorable</i>	44%
	The recent reporting on Trump's tax returns	Much more favorable	7%
		Somewhat more favorable	5%
		No impact	28%
		Somewhat less favorable	11%
		Much less favorable	43%
		Don't know	6%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>More favorable</i>	12%
		<i>Less favorable</i>	54%
	The national recovery plan from the coronavirus	Much more favorable	9%
		Somewhat more favorable	14%
		No impact	16%
Somewhat less favorable		12%	
Much less favorable		43%	
Don't know		5%	
<i>NETS</i>	<i>More favorable</i>	23%	
	<i>Less favorable</i>	55%	
14. Have the following made you more or less favorable towards President Donald Trump ahead of this November's election?	Trump's performance in the first presidential debate	Much more favorable	8%
		Somewhat more favorable	9%
		No impact	16%
		Somewhat less favorable	13%
		Much less favorable	49%
		Don't know	5%
<i>NETS</i>	<i>More favorable</i>	18%	



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		<i>Less favorable</i>	62%	
Trump`s handling of jobs and the economy		Much more favorable	15%	
		Somewhat more favorable	15%	
		No impact	15%	
		Somewhat less favorable	12%	
		Much less favorable	38%	
		Don`t know	5%	
<i>NETS</i>		<i>More favorable</i>	30%	
		<i>Less favorable</i>	50%	
The fact that Trump contracted COVID-19		Much more favorable	7%	
		Somewhat more favorable	7%	
		No impact	36%	
		Somewhat less favorable	10%	
		Much less favorable	35%	
		Don`t know	5%	
<i>NETS</i>		<i>More favorable</i>	14%	
		<i>Less favorable</i>	44%	
Trump`s public comments around mask wearing and social distancing		Much more favorable	9%	
		Somewhat more favorable	9%	
		No impact	14%	
		Somewhat less favorable	13%	
		Much less favorable	50%	
		Don`t know	5%	
<i>NETS</i>		<i>More favorable</i>	18%	
		<i>Less favorable</i>	63%	
15. President Trump recently announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19. What impact, if any, do you think this announcement will have on the upcoming election?		Major impact	24%	
		Minor impact	34%	
		No impact	29%	
		Don`t know	13%	
18. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	There should be a state law in Massachusetts mandating that masks be worn at all times in public	Strongly agree	46%	
		Somewhat agree	26%	
		Somewhat disagree	12%	
		Strongly disagree	12%	
		Don`t know	5%	
	<i>NETS</i>		<i>Agree</i>	72%
			<i>Disagree</i>	23%
	There are an adequate number of COVID-19 testing sites in my community		Strongly agree	17%
			Somewhat agree	39%
			Somewhat disagree	19%
			Strongly disagree	8%
			Don`t know	18%
	<i>NETS</i>		<i>Agree</i>	56%
			<i>Disagree</i>	26%

18. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	I feel comfortable dining inside a restaurant	Strongly agree	14%	
		Somewhat agree	25%	
		Somewhat disagree	24%	
		Strongly disagree	32%	
		Don`t know	4%	
	<i>NETS</i>		<i>Agree</i>	40%
			<i>Disagree</i>	56%
			Strongly agree	21%
			Somewhat agree	25%



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19. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	I will take the first generation COVID-19 vaccine when it is approved by the FDA	Somewhat disagree	18%
		Strongly disagree	22%
		Don't know	15%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	46%
		<i>Disagree</i>	39%
	I am having trouble, or have had trouble, paying my bills as a result of COVID-19	Strongly agree	14%
		Somewhat agree	23%
		Somewhat disagree	25%
		Strongly disagree	34%
		Don't know	5%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	37%
		<i>Disagree</i>	58%
	COVID-19 lockdowns in my community have been too restrictive	Strongly agree	11%
		Somewhat agree	16%
		Somewhat disagree	33%
		Strongly disagree	33%
		Don't know	8%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	27%
		<i>Disagree</i>	66%
	IF EMPLOYED	N=539	
I feel comfortable returning to my workplace right now	Strongly agree	25%	
	Somewhat agree	30%	
	Somewhat disagree	22%	
	Strongly disagree	19%	
	Don't know	4%	
<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	55%	
	<i>Disagree</i>	41%	
	IF CHILD AGE 5-17	N=198	
My child is falling behind in school because of COVID-19	Strongly agree	26%	
	Somewhat agree	33%	
	Somewhat disagree	20%	
	Strongly disagree	16%	
	Don't know	5%	
<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	59%	
	<i>Disagree</i>	36%	
All colleges and universities in Massachusetts should be closed and only offer virtual classes	Strongly agree	28%	
	Somewhat agree	31%	
	Somewhat disagree	20%	
	Strongly disagree	11%	
	Don't know	10%	
<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	59%	
	<i>Disagree</i>	31%	

19. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	My local school district is handling the COVID-19 pandemic well	Strongly agree	14%
		Somewhat agree	40%
		Somewhat disagree	16%
		Strongly disagree	9%
		Don't know	21%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	54%
		<i>Disagree</i>	25%
		IF CHILD AGE 5-17	N=198
	I feel that my child is, or would be, safe attending school in-person	Strongly agree	23%
		Somewhat agree	28%
	Somewhat disagree	19%	





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		Strongly disagree	24%
		Don't know	7%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	50%
		<i>Disagree</i>	43%
		IF CHILD AGE 5-17	N=198
	My child has the necessary tools to learn in the current environment	Strongly agree	33%
		Somewhat agree	39%
		Somewhat disagree	21%
		Strongly disagree	6%
		Don't know	1%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	73%
		<i>Disagree</i>	26%
20a. Regarding COVID-19, which of the following are true to you? Select all that apply.		I have been tested and diagnosed with COVID-19	4%
		A relative has been tested and diagnosed with COVID-19	17%
		A friend or acquaintance has been tested and diagnosed with COVID-19	28%
		A relative or friend has died from COVID-19	13%
		I suspect I have or had COVID-19	7%
		Someone I know suspects they have or had COVID-19	12%
		None of the above	49%
	21. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Police using excessive force against Black or African Americans is a widespread problem	Strongly agree
Somewhat agree			27%
Somewhat disagree			15%
Strongly disagree			12%
Don't know			6%
<i>NETS</i>		<i>Agree</i>	66%
		<i>Disagree</i>	27%
The recent protests regarding racial justice will bring about positive change in our society		Strongly agree	16%
		Somewhat agree	33%
		Somewhat disagree	20%
		Strongly disagree	19%
		Don't know	13%
<i>NETS</i>		<i>Agree</i>	49%
		<i>Disagree</i>	38%

21. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Black Americans receive equal treatment to white Americans in this country	Strongly agree	15%
		Somewhat agree	19%
		Somewhat disagree	23%
		Strongly disagree	36%
		Don't know	7%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	34%
		<i>Disagree</i>	59%
	Racism is a significant problem in Massachusetts	Strongly agree	23%
		Somewhat agree	35%
		Somewhat disagree	19%
		Strongly disagree	14%
		Don't know	9%





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	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	59%
		<i>Disagree</i>	32%
	Lately, I do not feel safe in my community	Strongly agree	8%
		Somewhat agree	21%
		Somewhat disagree	31%
		Strongly disagree	33%
		Don't know	8%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	29%
		<i>Disagree</i>	64%
	I support reducing my local police department's budget in order to increase investment in social programs	Strongly agree	20%
		Somewhat agree	25%
		Somewhat disagree	18%
		Strongly disagree	27%
		Don't know	11%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	44%
		<i>Disagree</i>	45%
	I support the Black Lives Matter movement	Strongly agree	37%
		Somewhat agree	27%
		Somewhat disagree	11%
		Strongly disagree	15%
		Don't know	10%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Agree</i>	65%
		<i>Disagree</i>	26%
25. How much do you support or oppose the following?	A state requirement that all school-aged children receive a flu shot every year	Strongly support	32%
		Somewhat support	27%
		Somewhat oppose	16%
		Strongly oppose	16%
		Don't know	10%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Support</i>	59%
		<i>Oppose</i>	31%
	Ranked-choice voting, where voters rank-order candidates by preference on their ballots, for state-level elections	Strongly support	20%
		Somewhat support	26%
		Somewhat oppose	15%
		Strongly oppose	19%
		Don't know	21%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Support</i>	45%
		<i>Oppose</i>	34%

25. How much do you support or oppose the following?	Legalization of professional sports betting in Massachusetts	Strongly support	17%
		Somewhat support	29%
		Somewhat oppose	18%
		Strongly oppose	15%
		Don't know	21%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Support</i>	46%
		<i>Oppose</i>	33%
	Legalization of college sports betting in Massachusetts	Strongly support	12%
		Somewhat support	19%
		Somewhat oppose	23%
		Strongly oppose	23%
		Don't know	22%
	<i>NETS</i>	<i>Support</i>	31%
		<i>Oppose</i>	46%



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	Local governments should be able to block marijuana dispensaries from opening in their area	Strongly support	18%
		Somewhat support	22%
		Somewhat oppose	20%
		Strongly oppose	25%
		Don't know	14%
		<i>NETS</i>	
26. The 'Right to Repair Law' Vehicle Data Access Requirement Initiative is on the ballot in Massachusetts in November. It would revise the current 'Right to Repair Act' and require all cars manufactured in 2022 or after to have mechanical data transmitted directly to the manufacturer. This data would be available on a public platform to both owners and independent repair facilities. How much do you support or oppose this initiative?		<i>Support</i>	41%
		<i>Oppose</i>	45%
		Strongly support	31%
		Somewhat support	27%
		Somewhat oppose	9%
		Strongly oppose	13%
<i>NETS</i>		Don't know	20%
		<i>Support</i>	58%
		<i>Oppose</i>	22%



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between October 7-15, 2020, on behalf of Spectrum News. For this survey, a sample of 1,001 adults age 18+ from Massachusetts was interviewed online in English.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the population of Massachusetts using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following ($n=1,001$, $DEFF=1.5$, adjusted Confidence Interval= ± 5.0 percentage points).

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