

**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? *Open ended. Coded responses to follow.*

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%

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## 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. This poll was sponsored by The Barr Foundation.