

**WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY POLLING INSTITUTE
MASSACHUSETTS STATEWIDE SURVEY**

TABLES

As you may know, members of Congress are discussing whether to lower the voting age to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in elections for president and Congress. Do you support or oppose this idea? (If respondent says support): Do you strongly support or somewhat support this idea? (If respondent says oppose): Do you strongly oppose or somewhat oppose this idea?

Lowering the voting age to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in national elections

		Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly oppose	Neither support nor oppose (Vol.)	Don't know (Vol.)	N*
April 9 – 27, 2019	Adults	11%	18%	22%	43%	3%	3%	495
	Registered voters	10%	18%	21%	45%	3%	3%	464
Party registration	Democrat	20%	21%	21%	27%	6%	5%	150
	Republican	11%	0%	11%	78%	0%	0%	53
	Unenrolled	5%	19%	23%	49%	2%	2%	251
Gender	Male	12%	18%	14%	51%	3%	1%	261
	Female	10%	18%	28%	36%	3%	5%	233
Parent of child or children ages 13 to 18	Yes	22%	14%	21%	41%	0%	1%	63
	No	9%	19%	21%	43%	4%	3%	432
Age	18-39	10%	33%	24%	29%	1%	4%	81
	40-54	16%	9%	24%	47%	3%	1%	91
	55-64	13%	13%	16%	47%	6%	6%	113
	65 and older	7%	12%	18%	56%	6%	1%	199
Age at which respondent voted for the first time	18 to 20	11%	18%	23%	41%	2%	4%	301
	21 or older	7%	9%	20%	58%	6%	1%	156
Highest level of education	High school or less	13%	33%	15%	39%	0%	0%	74
	Some college	8%	15%	24%	50%	2%	2%	102
	College graduate	12%	16%	22%	42%	4%	4%	318
Region	Western MA	8%	19%	17%	53%	2%	2%	91
	Central MA	5%	18%	17%	55%	0%	5%	60
	North / South Shore	17%	16%	19%	42%	4%	2%	136
	Boston and suburbs	9%	20%	26%	38%	4%	4%	205

** Samples are unweighted N's and consist of adults for the demographic categories, current registered voters for the party registration categories, and current and former registered voters for the age of first vote categories. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.*

In your own words, what is the top reason why you SUPPORT lowering the voting age to 16 for elections for president and Congress?

Asked of the 115 adults who said they strongly supported or somewhat supported lowering the voting age to 16 for national elections. Open-ended responses from survey participants were coded into the following categories:

Reasons for supporting lowering the voting age to 16 for national elections	
	April 9 – 27, 2019
They are mature enough to vote at 16 and 17	21%
They have valid views and opinions	19%
Elections are about their future	17%
16- and 17-year-olds are part of society	14%
They are knowledgeable enough to vote at 16 and 17	13%
The earlier you vote, the more likely you are to vote later in life	6%
Lowering the voting age will lead to more political participation	4%
High school will help to inform them about the candidates and issues	1%
Other	4%
Don't know (Vol.)	1%
N	115

Column percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

In your own words, what is the top reason why you OPPOSE lowering the voting age to 16 for elections for president and Congress?

Asked of the 348 adults who said they strongly opposed or somewhat opposed lowering the voting age to 16 for national elections. Open-ended responses from survey participants were coded into the following categories:

Reasons for opposing lowering the voting age to 16 for national elections	
	April 9 – 27, 2019
They are not mature enough to vote at 16 and 17	51%
They do not have enough knowledge about candidates and issues at 16 and 17	22%
16- and 17-year-olds do not have enough life experience to vote	17%
Parents / teachers / peers might pressure them to vote a certain way	2%
They are not interested at 16 and 17	2%
They should have additional time to form their views before voting	1%
They will vote for Democrats	1%
There is no need to make this change	1%
Other	3%
Don't know (Vol.)	0%
N	348

Column percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

Some cities and towns in Massachusetts are discussing whether to lower the voting age to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local elections. Do you support or oppose this idea? (If respondent says support): Do you strongly support or somewhat support this idea? (If respondent says oppose): Do you strongly oppose or somewhat oppose this idea?

Lowering the voting age to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local elections in Massachusetts

		Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly oppose	Neither support nor oppose (Vol.)	Don't know (Vol.)	N*
April 9 – 27, 2019	Adults	20%	22%	17%	35%	3%	3%	495
	Registered voters	18%	21%	17%	37%	3%	3%	464
Party registration	Democrat	30%	25%	13%	20%	6%	6%	150
	Republican	11%	0%	20%	69%	0%	0%	53
	Unenrolled	13%	23%	19%	40%	3%	2%	251
Gender	Male	20%	19%	16%	41%	3%	1%	261
	Female	20%	24%	19%	29%	3%	4%	233
Parent of child or children ages 13 to 18	Yes	30%	13%	19%	35%	0%	3%	63
	No	17%	24%	17%	35%	3%	3%	432
Age	18-39	25%	35%	17%	17%	2%	3%	81
	40-54	22%	13%	20%	43%	1%	1%	91
	55-64	17%	21%	10%	41%	5%	6%	113
	65 and older	12%	15%	19%	46%	6%	1%	199
Age at which respondent voted for the first time	18 to 20	20%	22%	19%	33%	2%	4%	301
	21 or older	10%	15%	18%	48%	8%	2%	156
Highest level of education	High school or less	25%	25%	19%	30%	0%	0%	74
	Some college	12%	28%	14%	41%	1%	3%	102
	College graduate	21%	19%	18%	34%	4%	3%	318
Region	Western MA	27%	17%	14%	39%	2%	2%	91
	Central MA	12%	20%	22%	40%	3%	3%	60
	North / South Shore	23%	16%	17%	37%	3%	3%	136
	Boston and suburbs	18%	28%	18%	31%	3%	3%	205

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[The following two questions, about climate change protests and community service hours, rotated in random order in the survey.]

As you may know, high school students across the country recently walked out of their classes to voice their concerns about climate change. Do you support or oppose high school students taking this action to voice their concerns about climate change? (If respondent says support): Do you strongly support or somewhat support this idea? (If respondent says oppose): Do you strongly oppose or somewhat oppose this idea?

Support or oppose high school students walking out of classes to voice concerns about climate change		Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly oppose	Neither support nor oppose (Vol.)	Don't know (Vol.)	N*
April 9 – 27, 2019	Adults	54%	15%	10%	17%	3%	1%	495
	Registered voters	55%	13%	10%	18%	4%	1%	464
Party registration	Democrat	80%	10%	3%	3%	3%	1%	150
	Republican	20%	4%	15%	52%	9%	0%	53
	Unenrolled	47%	17%	13%	19%	4%	0%	251
Gender	Male	46%	15%	11%	22%	5%	1%	261
	Female	61%	15%	9%	13%	2%	0%	233
Parent of child or children ages 13 to 18	Yes	60%	10%	10%	17%	1%	1%	63
	No	53%	16%	10%	17%	4%	0%	432
Age	18-39	60%	16%	11%	12%	1%	0%	81
	40-54	51%	14%	11%	19%	5%	0%	91
	55-64	50%	17%	10%	18%	2%	2%	113
	65 and older	54%	15%	7%	18%	6%	0%	199
Highest level of education	High school or less	48%	18%	13%	19%	2%	0%	74
	Some college	47%	12%	10%	27%	3%	1%	102
	College graduate	57%	15%	10%	14%	3%	1%	318
Region	Western MA	56%	8%	12%	22%	2%	0%	91
	Central MA	41%	20%	2%	30%	7%	0%	60
	North / South Shore	56%	13%	9%	20%	2%	0%	136
	Boston and suburbs	56%	18%	12%	10%	4%	1%	205

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As you may know, some high schools require students to complete a minimum number of volunteer community service hours in order to graduate. Do you support or oppose this idea? (If respondent says support): Do you strongly support or somewhat support this idea? (If respondent says oppose): Do you strongly oppose or somewhat oppose this idea?

		Support or oppose requiring high school students to complete service hours in order to graduate							
		Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly oppose	Neither support nor oppose (Vol.)	Don't know (Vol.)	N*	
April 9 – 27, 2019	Adults	61%	16%	8%	7%	7%	1%	495	
	Registered voters	61%	16%	6%	7%	8%	1%	464	
Party registration	Democrat	64%	14%	7%	6%	10%	0%	150	
	Republican	52%	17%	9%	9%	11%	2%	53	
	Unenrolled	61%	18%	5%	8%	6%	2%	251	
Gender	Male	55%	20%	10%	9%	6%	1%	261	
	Female	67%	12%	6%	6%	8%	1%	233	
Parent of child or children ages 13 to 18	Yes	84%	7%	4%	4%	1%	0%	63	
	No	55%	18%	9%	8%	8%	2%	432	
Age	18-39	50%	18%	14%	7%	9%	2%	81	
	40-54	77%	9%	3%	6%	5%	0%	91	
	55-64	66%	17%	7%	6%	2%	1%	113	
	65 and older	53%	18%	7%	10%	10%	2%	199	
Highest level of education	High school or less	54%	16%	15%	11%	2%	1%	74	
	Some college	53%	15%	8%	12%	13%	0%	102	
	College graduate	65%	16%	6%	5%	7%	2%	318	
Region	Western MA	60%	13%	11%	8%	8%	0%	91	
	Central MA	58%	23%	12%	2%	5%	0%	60	
	North / South Shore	63%	14%	6%	12%	4%	1%	136	
	Boston and suburbs	60%	16%	7%	6%	9%	2%	205	

** Samples are unweighted N's and consist of adults for the demographic categories and current registered voters for the party registration categories. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.*

METHODOLOGY

The Western New England University Polling Institute conducted a telephone survey using live interviewers April 9 – 27, 2019. Western New England University sponsored and funded the study. The survey sample consists of telephone interviews in English only with 495 adults ages 18 and older drawn from across Massachusetts using a combination of a random sample of listed telephone numbers for households and random-digit-dialing of cell phones. The sample yielded 464 adults who said they are registered to vote in Massachusetts.

Interviewers at the Polling Institute used random samples obtained from Dynata of Shelton, CT. In order to draw a representative sample from the landline numbers, interviewers alternated asking for the youngest adult male or the youngest adult female age 18 or older who was home at the time of the call. Interviewers dialing cell phone numbers interviewed the respondent who answered the cell phone after confirming three things: (1) that the respondent was in a safe setting to complete the survey; (2) that the respondent was an adult age 18 or older; and (3) that the respondent was a resident of Massachusetts. The sample of all adults consisted of 246 interviews completed on landlines and 249 interviews completed on cell phones. The landline and cell phone data were combined and weighted to reflect the adult population of Massachusetts by gender, race, age, and county of residence using U.S. Census estimates for Massachusetts. The data also were weighted to adjust for cell phone and landline usage based on state-level estimates for Massachusetts from the National Center for Health Statistics and to adjust for voter registration by party using figures from the office of the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth. Complete results of the poll and the full text of the landline and cell phone versions of the survey are available at <http://www1.wne.edu/polling-institute/index.cfm>.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The margin of sampling error for a sample of 495 adults is +/- 4 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval, and the margin of sampling error for a sample of 464 registered voters is +/- 5 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 25 percent of adults said they strongly support lowering the national voting age to 16, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 21 percent and 29 percent (25 percent +/- 4 percent) had all adults in Massachusetts been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects.

Established in 2005, the Western New England University Polling Institute conducts research on issues of importance to Massachusetts and the region. The Institute provides the University's faculty and students with opportunities to participate in public opinion research. The Institute is a charter member of the Transparency Initiative, sponsored by the American Association for Public Opinion Research. The Transparency Initiative supports greater openness in the reporting of survey research methodology. Additional information about the Polling Institute is available from Dr. Tim Vercellotti, director of the Polling Institute, at polling@wne.edu.