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Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* Massachusetts Poll: Majority of Democrats want Biden to Step Aside

More than two thirds of Republicans are satisfied with Trump as nominee

BOSTON—Nearly two-thirds (64%) of registered Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents in Massachusetts would prefer the Democratic Party nominate someone other than President Joe Biden, according to a new Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* poll of Massachusetts voters. Just 29% of Bay State Democratic voters say they are satisfied with Biden as the presumptive nominee.

“What a difference a presidential term makes,” said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center. “It was not even four years ago that candidate Joe Biden came into Massachusetts and beat sitting U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders in the Democratic Primary without really campaigning in Massachusetts.”

The trend is nearly reversed on the Republican side, where more than two-thirds (69%) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independent voters say they are satisfied with Trump as the GOP nominee and just 28% would like to see someone else. Trump accepted his party’s nomination Thursday night at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Ballot Test

Despite low confidence in Biden as the nominee, 80% of Democrats would still vote for him against Donald Trump. A majority (54%) of voters of all parties approve of Biden’s job performance, while 42% disapprove. In a head-to-head matchup, Biden led Trump by 18 points, 47%-29%, with 8% selecting independent Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and 3% voting for Green Party Jill Stein, independent Cornel West, and libertarian Chase Oliver combined. Nearly 11% were undecided.

This contrasts sharply with a Massachusetts poll taken in April – before the debate and assassination attempt – where Biden led by 30 points, 52%-22%.

Assassination Attempt

When voters were asked how the shooting would impact their choice for president in 2024, 7% said it would make them more likely to vote for Trump while 3% said less likely and 88% indicated it would not change their vote.

Voters were asked “Who do you hold most responsible for this act of violence” – 29% said Trump, 21% said the Secret Service, 15% said the media, 4% said local law enforcement, 6% said Biden, 10% said “other” and 15% were undecided.

When voters were asked whether the shooting made them more or less worried about the direction of the country, 47% said it made them more worried, 2% said it made them less worried, 49% said the shooting did not change their view of the direction of the country, and 2% were undecided.

The shooting has had a slight impact on the willingness of Massachusetts voters to attend outdoor events this summer like concerts, fairs, and sporting events. Over 12% said the shooting made them less likely to attend outdoor events while 84% indicated no difference.

Issues in Massachusetts

The economy has moved up to a strong second, compared to April’s poll. The top three issues are the future of American democracy (33%), the economy/inflation (26%), and immigration and border security, which has dropped from 21% in April to 13% today. Despite the shooting, only 4% of respondents in the poll said gun control was the most important issue when considering their vote for president.

Methodology

The Suffolk University statewide survey of 500 residents was conducted July 16-18, and is based on live interviews of registered voters in Massachusetts who indicated they were very or somewhat likely to vote this November. Each area’s quota and demographic information—including party affiliation, gender, race, and age—were determined from presidential exit polls and 2022 census data. The 14 Massachusetts counties were grouped into four general regions. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is +/- 4.4 percentage points. Poll students Emily Dempsey and Lauren Hyder contributed to the execution of this poll release, under the supervision of SUPRC Director David Paleologos. Marginals and full cross-tabulation data are posted on the [Suffolk University Political Research Center](https://www.suffolk.edu/political-research-center) website. For more information, contact David Paleologos at 781-290-9310, dpaleologos@suffolk.edu.

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