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### **Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* Massachusetts Poll: Markey Leads Moulton in Senate Democratic Primary, but Pressley Would Shake it Up**

BOSTON—Incumbent Democratic Senator Ed Markey maintains a comfortable margin over challenger Democratic Congressman Seth Moulton 45%-22%, according to a Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* poll of Massachusetts registered voters.

But if Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley enters the Democratic Primary fray, she would edge out Markey by a slim margin of 35%-34%, survey respondents said, with Moulton’s support dropping to 16% of likely Democratic voters.

Markey’s age at re-election—80—is not a disqualifying factor, according to 58% of the voters surveyed.

“The idea that you can beat Markey in a Democratic primary just based on his age does not hold water in the poll,” said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center.

The support for incumbent politicians among the state’s voters didn’t stop with Markey. Forty-six percent of voters said they thought Governor Maura Healey had earned re-election to her seat. Among likely Republican voters, Brian Shortleeve (22%) leads Mike Kennealy (13%) and Michael Minogue (6%) with a whopping 59% undecided on the GOP nomination for governor, so far.

### **Massachusetts voters signal deepening unhappiness with US economy**

More than 39% percent of Massachusetts voters overall rated the US economy as “poor.” When the 39% poor rating is combined with 38% rating the economy only “fair,” the poll is indicating nearly 8 in 10 recent respondents scored the economy as not strong. The “poor/fair” combined rating of 77% is significantly higher from a Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* poll taken last

October which showed a combined “poor/fair” rating of 59%. In today’s poll, just 21% of respondents combined for a “good/excellent” rating compared to 41% last October.

Voters outlined the most pressing recent strains on family budgets including utility costs (21%), healthcare and housing (tied at 17% each), and groceries (15%). Nearly 19% said there is no financial strain on their budget currently.

“Public perception of the US economy has dropped off the table over the last year. And a number of voters say utility costs are a major strain on their budgets today,” Paleologos said.

### **Voter support for potential ballot questions to add controls to Massachusetts Legislature, cut taxes, and cap rents**

In one of the most lopsided findings, 84% of voters want to require the governor’s office and the Massachusetts legislature to be subject to the state’s public records law. Only 7% oppose the measure. In addition, a majority want to eliminate or change extra stipends paid to legislators in addition to their salaries for committee leadership positions which are currently paid to most Massachusetts legislators.

A proposed question to reduce the state income tax from 5% to 4% by 2029 was overwhelmingly supported 67%-23%, and a proposal to cap rents at a 5% annual increase was supported 63%-31% among voters overall.

### **Methodology**

The Suffolk University statewide survey of 500 residents was conducted November 19-23, and is based on live interviews of registered voters in Massachusetts. Each area’s quota and demographic information—including party affiliation, gender, race, and age—were determined from similar midterm 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. The margin of error for the subset of likely Democratic Primary voters (n=226) is +/- 6.5 percentage points. The margin of error of likely Republican Primary voters (n=93) is +/- 10.2 percentage points. Marginals and full cross-tabulation data are posted on the [Suffolk University Political Research Center](#) website. For more information, contact David Paleologos at 781-290-9310, [dpaleologos@suffolk.edu](mailto:dpaleologos@suffolk.edu).

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