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Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* Poll Shows Markey Leading Moulton by 17 Points in Senate Democratic Primary

Pete Buttigieg Emerging as Potential Massachusetts 2028 Presidential Favorite

BOSTON—Despite widespread dissatisfaction with incumbent leaders in Washington, Senator Ed Markey still leads challenger Congressman Seth Moulton 47% to 30% among Massachusetts voters, with 20% undecided, according to a Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* poll of likely Democratic primary voters taken April 9-13.

Moulton, 47, has made Markey's age, 79, an issue in the race, questioning whether he is too old to serve another six-year term. "Someone who has been in Congress for half a century and will be 86 years old at the end of his next term is, in fact, too old," Moulton said last fall, when launching his own bid for the seat.

However, the age criticisms don't appear to be enough to threaten Markey's front-runner status. Just 26% of likely Democratic voters polled indicated that Markey's age would influence their vote "a lot," while 36% said the age difference would influence them "a little," and 32% indicated "none at all."

"Although the general electorate of all voters indicate they are becoming less tolerant of older incumbents, these Democratic primary voters put ideology above age differences," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center. "This could also turn out to be good news for other older Democratic incumbents in Massachusetts, like Secretary of State Bill Galvin (age 75), Congressman Richard Neal (age 77), and Senator Elizabeth Warren (age 76)."

Markey's progressive strength was prominent in the poll, especially among demographics that usually dominate voter participation in Democratic primaries. He led 52%-29% among those voters self-identifying as "liberal/very liberal." He also led among women (48%-28%), older

voters ages 56-plus (50%-28%), and union households (51%-28%). Moulton led Markey among Hispanic voters (43%-37%), and polled close among those identifying as "moderates" and "conservatives," only trailing Markey by three points (38%-35%).

Democratic primary voters disappointed with Democratic leadership in DC

Just 5% of likely Massachusetts Democratic voters rated their party's leadership in DC as "excellent," and just 21% as "good." Most voters gave mediocre grades to their congressional leadership, with 40% indicating "fair" and 32% "poor."

For 2028, Pete Buttigieg emerging as most exciting presidential candidate

While the poll showed an overall lack of approval and enthusiasm for DC leadership among respondents, there is one potential 2028 presidential candidate that is exciting Bay State Democratic voters: former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg (23%), who ran unsuccessfully in the 2020 Democratic primary. California Governor Gavin Newsom was viewed as second best in terms of excitement at 17%, followed by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who polled at 14%. Other Democrats generating some interest were Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, and former Vice President and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris (tied at 7%).

Methodology

The statewide Suffolk University survey was conducted April 9-13 through live interviews of cell phone and landline users. All respondents indicated that they were very likely, somewhat likely, or 50-50 to vote in the upcoming State Democratic primary on September 1. The 14 Massachusetts counties were grouped into four general regions. Each area's quota and demographic information—including party affiliation, gender, race, and age—were determined from exit polls from previous Democratic primary elections and recent census data. The margin of error is +/- 4.4% at a 95% level of confidence. Results are posted on the Suffolk University Political Research Center website. For more information, contact David Paleologos at 781-290-9310, dpaleologos@suffolk.edu.

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