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Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* Poll Shows Minogue Leading Shortsleeve by 30 Points in Republican Gubernatorial Primary

Marco Rubio emerging as potential Massachusetts 2028 GOP presidential favorite

BOSTON—On the heels of a dominant showing at the Republican state convention in April, businessman Michael Minogue continues his momentum among Republicans and independents planning to vote in the Massachusetts Republican primary on September 1. Minogue (45%) led businessman and former MBTA Chief Administrator Brian Shortsleeve (13%) with 40% still undecided, according to a Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* poll of likely Republican primary voters taken May 26-29.

Shortsleeve, who supports abortion rights, has attempted to make reproductive choice a delineating issue against Minogue, who opposes them. However, 50% of Republican primary voters statewide said that the candidates' differences on abortion rights don't make them more or less likely to vote for either candidate, while 33% said it made them more likely to vote Minogue, and 14% said it made them more likely to vote Shortsleeve.

"Abortion rights will matter more in the general election, but among many of these Republican primary voters the issue doesn't matter, and may even benefit Minogue," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center.

Overall, 42% of respondents named the cost of living as the issue the governor should be most focused on, followed by immigration (23%). Other issues such as housing, public safety, and healthcare were all ranked less than 10% each.

Although 57% of poll respondents said they thought there should be one or two debates between Minogue and Shortsleeve before the primary, and 28% would prefer three to five debates, Minogue has so far refused to debate his opponent in a forum.

Despite falling approval ratings in nationwide bipartisan polls, President Donald Trump remains popular among this group of Massachusetts Republican voters, with 63% rating his job performance as "good" or "excellent." When asked which Massachusetts Republican is most aligned with President Trump, 43% indicated Minogue versus 6% for Shortsleeve.

An even split on hypothetical Trump candidacy in 2028

The poll tested Trump loyalty among Republican primary voters. When asked if voters would choose Trump again in 2028 if they could, 47% indicated yes and 47% no.

Marco Rubio emerging as leading 2028 presidential candidate

When asked which 2028 Republican potential presidential candidate excited them most, 36% named Secretary of State Marco Rubio, followed by 28% who chose Vice President JD Vance. Former US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, who ran unsuccessfully in the 2024 Republican primary, was named by 8% of voters. Former Vice President Mike Pence and current Florida Governor Ron DeSantis were each chosen by 4% of respondents.

Methodology

The statewide Suffolk University survey was conducted May 26-29 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 Republican 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 Republican primary elections and recent census data. The margin of error is +/- 4.5 percentage points 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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