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Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* Poll Shows Markey in Command, Leading Moulton by 14 Points in Senate Democratic Primary

Bay State voters continue to favor Buttigieg as 2028 Democratic presidential nominee

BOSTON—With two weeks to go before the September 1 Democratic primary for US Senate, incumbent Senator Ed Markey (52%) holds a commanding lead over Democratic challenger Seth Moulton (38%), with the number of undecided voters (9%) dwindling from earlier surveys, according to a Suffolk University/*Boston Globe* poll of likely Democratic primary voters taken August 13-16. In an April poll, Markey led 47% to 30%, with 20% undecided.

A companion poll of voters in the bellwether city of Chelmsford also points to a large lead for Markey, who is currently leading 52%-33% in the city, buoyed by voters who have already cast ballots by mail.

It appears that the issue of age, seen by many as Markey's greatest vulnerability, will not compromise the 80-year-old's performance at the ballot box. Nearly half of those in the statewide survey (49%) said his age makes no difference to them, while 33% said that his age alone would make them less likely to vote for him. Just 11% said that they would not vote for him because of his age.

"The early-voting data points are not statistically significant, but all data points taken together are directional," said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center. "In the last contested Democratic primary for US Senate in 2020, our final Suffolk University poll showed Markey winning by just over 9 percentage points over Congressman Joseph Kennedy. The final margin was Markey by 11 points. In that race, Markey won Chelmsford by 13 percentage points, with the bellwether correctly predicting the outcome," Paleologos said.

For 2028, Pete Buttigieg emerges as favored presidential candidate in second consecutive poll

In terms of prospective 2028 White House contenders, Massachusetts Democratic primary voters remain most excited by former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg (21%), followed by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (14%), California Governor Gavin Newsom (12%), former Vice President Kamala Harris (10%), Arizona Senator Mark Kelly (8%), and Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro (7%), among others in low single digits.

Voters rank housing, then unemployment and healthcare, as most crucial state problems

Thirty percent of Massachusetts voters said a lack of housing ranked as the state's most serious problem, followed by unemployment and/or the economy (24 %) and healthcare at (20%). Climate change and immigration ranked as the next biggest issues at 8% each.

Recreational marijuana sales law still popular with voters

Voters asked about a November ballot question about keeping or repealing the state law that legalized recreational marijuana sales overwhelmingly supported keeping the law (79%), with just 16% saying they would vote to repeal it.

Support for incumbent state and national leaders remains strong

When asked about the popularity of incumbent politicians, voters indicated they continue to favor many current leaders. US Senator Elizabeth Warren received a 73% favorability rating, while Governor Maura Healey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu both notched 68% favorability ratings.

Methodology

The statewide Suffolk University survey was conducted August 13-16 through live interviews of cell phone and landline users. All respondents indicated that they were very likely, somewhat likely, or had already voted 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 percentage points at a 95% level of confidence. The senate Democratic primary bellwether of Chelmsford was conducted August 10-13 through live interviews of cell phone and landline users, focusing on respondents who indicated they were very likely, somewhat likely, or had already voted in the upcoming state Democratic primary on September 1. The bellwether margin of error is +/- 5.6 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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