SCANDALS TAKE TOLL AS EVEN OUR VOTERS SOUR ON OBAMA

MASS. LOSES FAITH

Also: Casino support SINKS!

LATEST GOVERNOR’S RACE NUMBERS TODAY AT 9 ON HERALD RADIO
Suffolk University/Boston Herald Poll

June 9, 2014

News Coverage
BAKER FAILS TO BREAK OUT WHILE AG DIPS
But he leads among those eyeing gov race ‘very closely’

If you’re a Charlie Baker fan, you are probably frustrated with the latest Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll. Back in January, Baker had a 35 percent favorability rating and just 14 percent unfavorable. Today, nothing much has changed — Baker gets 33 percent favorable versus 20 percent unfavorable — except the likely GOP nominee picked up a few more detractors.

So how is it Charlie Baker is closer to winning than he was in January if he’s not more popular? In his contest against presumed Democratic nominee Attorney General Martha Coakley, Baker has actually dropped from 31 percent in January to 29 percent. Coakley, however, has really dropped — from 44 percent in January to 36 percent, for a 7 percentage point margin.

Traditional Democratic voters like women and registered Democrats are taking pause and have moved to “undecided.” That might be due to Coakley’s campaign finance misstep or her efforts to thwart a casino referendum ballot question to repeal the state’s gaming law.

On the other hand, Coakley leads Treasurer Steve Grossman among Democratic voters despite having done fewer public appearances. Regardless of the state convention outcome this Saturday, she’s in a strong position.

With Coakley lying low, Baker had a chance to make a dramatic move but never
took advantage of that void over the past five months. Now, independent candidates like Jeffrey McCormick and Evan Falchuk are starting to carve out their pieces of the electoral pie. And just as quickly, registered Democrats and women could move back from undecided to Coakley.

But there is one piece of good news in the poll for Baker and his followers: Among likely November voters who said they are following the governor's race "very closely," he actually leads Coakley 39 percent to 25 percent. That means if the only people who voted were those paying close attention to the governor's race right now, Baker would be in a stronger position than Coakley.

Here's the reality though: Many who don't follow the race for governor "very closely" will still vote come November. Some will go to the polls for their state rep who they really care about, and will check the ballot for governor almost as an afterthought. Others who hadn't planned to cast a ballot might get a visit from a union rep urging them to get out and vote. Still others may be more motivated by a ballot question or a candidate for another constitutional office, like...
attorney general or treasurer.

Believe it or not, many go to the polls and don't even cast a vote for governor. In 2010, 25,524 people went to the polls and either didn't vote for any of the four listed candidates — Deval Patrick, Charlie Baker, Tim Cahill or Jill Stein — or wrote in someone else's name.

When you add it all up, it may just be that Massachusetts voters are "electioned out." With four major statewide elections in as many years, people may want to focus on other parts of their lives right now.

But come November, the successful candidate for governor will know the difference between those who are following the race "very closely" and those who actually vote, for whatever reasons. They are not the same.
Poll shows odds don’t favor casinos

Casino opponents, especially in Greater Boston, shouldn’t fold their hand yet.

There’s been a dramatic shift in what Bay State voters think about gambling, according to a new Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll. Public opinion has completely turned around on legalized slots and casinos.

Only 37 percent of poll respondents say they approve of gambling in Massachusetts, while 47 percent say they’d rather live without it. That’s better than another 15 percent who are not sure, which means the majority of those undecided voters are not likely to be casino boosters either.

A few weeks ago, Gov. Deval Patrick said the thought of an urban casino gave him “heartburn.”

Apparently Massachusetts voters agree, because the idea of building a casino in a Boston-area location went down in flames.

Both proposed casinos in Everett and Revere were hit with an astonishing 56 percent of voters saying “neither” location is any good. Apparently the airing out of the potential negative impacts of a casino on crowded urban areas has caused Massachusetts citizens to say it’s just not worth it. Traffic, declining property values, negative impacts on surrounding small businesses — the voters are saying thanks, but no thanks.

Given these results, one wonders whether the governor and the Gaming Commission might ease back the throttle a bit. If they can, it’s important to the commonwealth with several gambling dens. It might be time to think again.

When the gambling law was created, it was a different time for Massachusetts. The economy was tanking and jobs were scarce. The outlook was bleak. It was pitched as a jobs-and-revenue strategy. Just because the governor is now counting on casino revenue to shore up the state budget doesn’t necessarily mean that it’s good public policy. And voters seem to have also come to that same conclusion.

Voters may actually have a chance to decide this issue in November if a question to repeal the gambling law goes on the ballot, a matter which the Supreme Judicial Court is deciding now. And with these types of poll numbers showing so much concern over gambling, one can only imagine the furor and outrage that will result if voters are denied a voice by the court.

Yet, there are two hidden winners in the race — Democrat Donald Berwick, who has opposed casinos from day one, and Republican Charlie Baker, who has consistently urged the state to go slowly.

Both are looking pretty smart right now.
PREZ SEES SHARP DROP IN MASS. APPROVAL RATE

By DAVID PAELOLOGOS

I've never seen President Obama's job performance numbers this bad in Massachusetts. In the Suffolk University poll of likely general election voters, Obama struggles with a 45 percent approve and 44 percent disapprove — dead even in deep blue Massachusetts. Yet his popularity is fairly high — he has a 57 percent favorable and a 37 percent unfavorable. Voters are telling us that the president is personally likable, but less effective in the job.

We've got five Massachusetts data poll points since his first election in 2008. In our April 2009 “100 days” poll, Massachusetts voters gave the newly sworn-in president a 60 percent job approval to 37 percent disapproval, even though the stock market's Dow Jones industrial average had just plummeted. Today the Dow has nearly tripled and the president's approval has dropped from a plus-39 back in 2009 to a plus-1 today.

For most of his first six years Obama's job approval in Massachusetts has been generally in the fifties and his disapprove number in the thirties with two exceptions: In our January 2010 poll, the approval was a mere 48 percent and the disapprove had crept up to 43 percent, when the president was facing an Obamacare backlash and Republican Scott Brown was suddenly leading Democrat Martha Coakley in the special Senate election. As recently as a year ago, Obama's job approval was a respectable 57 percent approve and 37 percent disapprove. Then, two weeks later, toward the end of June, Edward Snowden, then a contractor working for the NSA, revealed the existence of a massive government surveillance program that secretly collects a log of phone usage on millions of American citizens. The result? The Obama job approval numbers broke to a new low of 47 percent approval and 43 percent disapproval, while 56 percent of likely voters said they did not trust the federal government to protect individual privacy.

With Obama job approval at an even deeper low, you have to wonder whether the controversial Bergdahl swap is driving the numbers lower, amid the ongoing VA, IRS and NSA scandals. If history is any judge, the president's numbers should bounce back up again, but by how much and what then? Will they stay higher or continue the pattern of falling to an even deeper low with yet another issue that may break voter confidence before the midterm elections?
Search for winning numbers

**PRIMARY CONCERN**

*How the Democratic Candidates Compare*

- **Martha Coakley**: 44%
- **Steve Grossman**: 12%
- **Donald Berwick**: 4%
- **Juliette Kayyem**: 2%
- **Joseph Avellone**: 2%

*Undecided: 32%*

**HEAD-TO-HEAD**

*How Coakley Stacks Up Against GOP's Charlie Baker*

- **Martha Coakley**: 36%
- **Charlie Baker**: 29%

*How Grossman Compares When Facing Baker*

- **Charlie Baker**: 27%
- **Steve Grossman**: 24%

There are still a lot of undecided voters on the sideline when it comes to the Democratic race for governor, according to a Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll. Here's a look at the numbers.
Coakley leads in Democratic primary race for governor, poll finds

By Michael Levenson | GLOBE STAFF  JUNE 09, 2014

Attorney General Martha Coakley continues to hold a wide lead over her four rivals for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, but would face a close race against Republican Charlie Baker in a hypothetical general election matchup, according to a new poll.

In the race for the Democratic nomination, Coakley had the support of 44 percent of likely primary voters, compared with 12 percent for state Treasurer Steve Grossman, who was the only other Democrat to crack double digits in the Boston Herald/Suffolk University poll.

Donald Berwick was at 4 percent, Juliette Kayyem at 2.4 percent, and Joseph Avellone at 1.8 percent. Those three candidates are also in a tough race to garner enough support from delegates at this weekend’s Democratic state convention in Worcester to qualify for the September primary ballot.

Coakley was the only Democrat who would beat Baker in a hypothetical general election matchup, but her edge was narrow, according to the poll.

Respondents said they would pick Coakley over Baker, 36 percent to 29 percent. Baker would top the other four Democrats in potential November matchups, beating Grossman, his closest rival, by 27 percent to 24 percent.

The race for the Democratic nomination for attorney general is shaping up to be the tightest intraparty fight, according to the poll.
In that contest, Maura Healey, a former Coakley aide and first-time candidate, has a narrow edge over former state senator Warren Tolman, 21 percent to 18 percent. Still, 59 percent of voters said they were undecided.

The poll also showed that voters have turned against the legalization of casinos in Massachusetts.

About 47 percent of those polled said they disapproved of plans to bring casinos to the state, compared with 37 percent who approved.

That shift against gambling is potentially significant because casino opponents are hoping to place a referendum question on the November ballot that would repeal the state's casino law. The Supreme Judicial Court is currently weighing whether their ballot question passes legal muster.

Michael Levenson can be reached at mlevenson@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @mlevenson.
Many Mass. residents say state is headed in right direction, poll shows

By Evan Horowitz | GLOBE STAFF  JUNE 09, 2014

There’s a new poll out today from Suffolk University and the Boston Herald, and while it deals mostly with the governor’s race, the results provide some interesting findings on other topics. Here are a few that stand out out.

Do you think Massachusetts is heading in the right direction or is on the wrong track?

Right direction: 48 percent

Wrong Track: 33 percent

Undecided: 19 percent

This is the kind of question that can be hard to analyze in the abstract. If 48 percent of voters think Massachusetts is heading in the right direction, is that a lot or a little? Compared with national polls, it’s a lot. Nationwide, just 30 percent of people say the United States is heading in the right direction.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as President?

Approve: 45 percent

CONTINUE READING BELOW ▼
Disapprove: 44 percent

Undecided: 11 percent

Despite Massachusetts’ liberal reputation, President Obama is not much more popular here than elsewhere. Nationwide, his approval rating is about 43 percent. The one big difference is that a lot of voters in Massachusetts remain undecided. For that reason, the number who actively disapprove of Obama is far smaller than the national average, 44 percent here compared with 53 percent overall.

For lieutenant governor there are up to four candidates... At this point would you lean toward Chueng, DeRosa, Kerrigan, or Lake?

Undecided: 85 percent

Just 3 of every 20 likely voters have a preference in the lieutenant governor’s race. The other 17 aren’t even leaning toward a candidate. And that’s in spite of the fact these are all likely voters and that 60 percent of them said they were following the governor’s race either very closely or somewhat closely. It’s impossible to tell from the poll whether that’s because these candidates can’t break through to voters, or because voters aren’t yet interested in this race.

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of plans to locate gambling casinos in Massachusetts?

Approve: 37 percent

Disapprove: 47 percent

Undecided: 15 percent

Nearly half of all likely voters say they are opposed to building casinos in Massachusetts. If this holds, it may actually derail the whole casino process. A group called “Repeal the Casino Deal” has been fighting for a ballot initiative, which means that come November voters like the ones polled here may have the opportunity to decide whether to go ahead with casino gambling or not.
These were just side questions in a poll mostly focused on the governor’s race. Sometimes, though, it’s the side questions that provide the most information.

More from Evan Horowitz:
- How books help a presidential candidate
- Many Mass. residents say state is headed in right direction, poll shows
- Don't expect baseball's defensive shifts to keep working
- Mass. on its way to meeting new climate regulations
- Census comes for same-sex spouses

Evan Horowitz digs through data to find information that illuminates the policy issues facing Massachusetts and the U.S. He can be reached at evan.horowitz@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @GlobeHorowitz
All five members of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission will present various details of the MGM Resorts International plan for an $800 million Springfield casino today at the MassMutual Center.

The presentations, which are open to the public, will be followed by discussion and deliberations which can last through Thursday. On Friday, the commission has said it will return to Springfield to announce whether MGM will receive the sole Western Massachusetts casino license.

"This is the culmination of an exhaustive competitive process in Western Mass. that began with several high quality applicants and ultimately winnowed down to a single applicant," Chair of the commission Steve Crosby said in a statement announcing the week's proceedings. "We look forward to sharing our findings with the public and are pleased to progress to this major milestone as we focus on facilitating the thousands of jobs and revenue benefits that await the citizens of the Commonwealth."

It is still unclear whether the gaming commission will delay the formal awarding of the casino license until after the Supreme Judicial Court rules in early July as to whether the ballot question repealing the state's expanded gaming law will proceed. A Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll released on Monday showed support for casinos in Massachusetts dropping compared to recent surveys.

An MGM spokesperson attributed the drop to "fatigue," thanks to the long licensing process. Anti-casino activists, however, said the poll was indicative of a shift in opinions that ultimately must lead to the ballot box in November.
Obama in Mass. as woes swirl

By O'RYAN JOHNSON

President Obama flies into the Bay State today for a fundraiser and a commencement speech amid a steady onslaught of scandals and missteps that Republicans say have “narrowed the map” for him and could prematurely turn him into a lame duck ahead of the midterm elections.

The latest Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll showed even in heavily blue Massachusetts, Obama faces as many detractors as fans, with his job approval/disapproval numbers in a virtual dead heat at 45 percent to 44 percent.

“When you’re barely treading water in a Democratic stronghold like Massachusetts, it’s safe to say you’ve hit lame-duck status,” said Ford O’Connell, a Republican operative in Washington, D.C.

“He’s going to Silicon Valley next, so he’s really narrowed the map,” O’Connell said, noting Obama is zeroing in on his party’s most reliable sources of deep-pocket donors. “The chickens are coming home to roost. He will try anything to change the narrative around.”

Pollster David Paleologos, director of Suffolk University’s Political Research Center, reported in the Herald that a slew of recent missteps and scandals have likely led to the president’s rapid slide.

The VA scandal, followed by the release of five Taliban hardliners for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl — viewed as a possible deserter by some of his comrades — and anger directed at Obama by his own party in Congress for failing to notify leadership of the trade, are weighing on Obama, poll numbers show.

With Democrats across the country relying on Obama’s fundraising ability and popularity to maintain control of the U.S. Senate in November, the negative numbers could not come at a worse time.

GOP strategist Chip Felkel said if the Bay State is a bellwether, it’s too late for Obama to turn the tide.

“If he can’t get a warm reception and have a good response in Massachusetts, I would say the midterms do not look promising,” Felkel said. “The way they handled Bergdahl, the VA scandal, it’s all starting to add up. It’s not just Massachusetts. It’s around the country. If you’re at the National Republican Congressional Committee right now, you’re licking your chops.”

Obama is scheduled to land at Worcester Airport about 3:25 p.m. After he speaks at the Worcester Technical High School graduation at the DCU Center in Worcester he will head to Weston for a fundraiser at a private home. Obama was just in Weston for a fundraising dinner in October. At that gathering 60 or so invitees paid anywhere from $16,200 per person to $64,800 per couple to attend.
Prez schmoozes and country loses

Adriana COHEN

Today, President Obama flies in to do what he does best: schmooze with one-percenters at a $32,000-a-head fundraiser in Weston.

You can rest assured neither the well-heeled Democratic donors nor the graduating class at Worcester Technical High School, where the president will deliver a commencement address, will say boo about what the polls are telling us: Even blue-state Democrats are disillusioned with his abysmal job performance. A Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll this week found his job approval numbers here at a historically low 45 percent favorable, 44 percent unfavorable in the wake of back-to-back scandals, most recently the swap of five Taliban terrorists for a suspected deserter.

So if you're Barack Obama, don't you have to ask yourself ... shouldn't I be back in Washington, D.C., trying to keep Americans safe, instead of looking for feel-good photo-ops and still more money for the Democrats' failed agenda?

The reality is that after nearly six years of Obama's misguided foreign policy, the Taliban and al-Qaeda are on the march.

U.S. troops were under such pressure from an emboldened Taliban on Monday they were forced to call in an airstrike that killed five of their own — air-strikes, we're told, being a rare "in extremis" event under the military's highly restrictive rules of engagement.

The Taliban killed 27 people in Karachi, Pakistan, over the weekend. Yesterday, al-Qaeda took over Mosul, the second-largest city in Iraq, forcing Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to beg for military recruits. Iraq, you'll recall, is where President George W. Bush won the war, and President Obama abandoned the peace, failing to cut a deal to keep U.S. forces there to keep al-Qaeda at bay.

Obama does everything he can to avoid using the word "terrorism." He insists al-Qaeda is on the run.

His people pushed the line that in Benghazi, the 2012 Islamist terrorist attack that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens was a protest about a video.

They called the 2009 deaths of 16 Americans by a rogue American Muslim soldier yelling "Allahu Akhbar" a case of workplace violence.

It appears Obama thought swapping a suspected deserter for five terrorists would be a public relations win. Massachusetts, attacked by suspected Islamist terrorists in the April 2013 Marathon bombings, isn't buying it. But in Barack Obama's worldview, grandstanding, scoring political points, and raking in campaign cash take precedence over Americans' safety.

AdaCohen is co-host of Trending Now on Boston Herald Radio. Follow her on Twitter @AdrianaCohen16.
NUMBERS SLIPPING: President Obama's approval ratings continue to erode under a barrage of conservative criticism.
VOTERS FLIP-FLOP ON CASINO ISSUE

By JOE BATTENFELD

In a serious blow to expanded gambling in Massachusetts, a new Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll shows support for Las Vegas-style casinos has dramatically slipped in just the past few months.

The Suffolk/Herald poll conducted last week shows Bay State voters oppose casinos by a 47-37 percent margin, a near reversal of sentiment. In February, a Suffolk/Herald poll had voters approving of casinos by a 51-37 margin.

The new numbers could give more ammo to casino opponents, who are trying to repeal the casino law.

The Supreme Judicial Court is currently weighing whether to allow a referendum to repeal the 2011 law on the November ballot. Casino opponents got enough signatures, but Attorney General Martha Coakley rejected it, saying it was unconstitutional.

The poll results suggest Coakley’s stance could hurt her gubernatorial campaign. The poll of 800 likely voters asked respondents whether they “approve or disapprove of plans to locate gambling casinos in Massachusetts” and nearly half said they disapprove — the first time a poll has registered such a negative response.

The 2011 law allows for a total of three casino resorts, one in western Massachusetts, one in the central part of the state and one in the Greater Boston area. The Gaming Commission is currently deciding whether to back a Greater Boston casino in Revere or Everett, but the poll offers little comfort to casino developers at either site.

When asked “whether it makes sense” to open a casino in Revere or Everett, a resounding 55 percent of voters chose “neither.” Just 18 percent picked Revere as the best location, while just 5 percent chose Everett.

David Paleologos, the director of Suffolk University Political Research Center, said the results show support for casino gambling has taken a huge dive in just a short time.
By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

BOSTON — It was a stingeworthy moment for Massachusetts Democrats.

Martha Coakley, who was running in 2010 for the Senate seat long held by Edward M. Kennedy, spoke dismissively of the campaign ritual of shaking hands with voters at their beloved Fenway Park. That moment came to epitomize all that critics said was wrong with her candidacy, and she went on to lose the race, turning over “Teddy’s seat” to Scott P. Brown, a Republican.

This year, she is running for governor. And after her announcement tour in September last year, a chastened Ms. Coakley made a campaign stop at Fenway. She shook hands, chatted with fans and posed for photographs, hoping to signal that she would run a better campaign this time around.

On Saturday, she will face her first big political test since 2010, when 6,000 Democratic activists meet at the state party convention in Worcester to endorse a candidate for governor.

Ms. Coakley, the state’s attorney general since 2007, holds a substantial lead in polls of voters, running way ahead of her four rivals.

But in an unusual dynamic, she appears not to have won over party insiders. Indications are that despite her popularity with voters, Ms. Coakley will not win her party’s endorsement. The endorsement will almost certainly go to Steve Grossman, 68, the state treasurer, who lags far behind her in the public opinion polls.

Analysts explain the situation this way: Ms. Coakley leads among voters in part because she has the highest name recognition. And she lags among party activists because of their lingering concern from 2010 that she will not be able to fire up the troops sufficiently to keep the governor’s office in Democratic hands. (Gov. Deval Patrick is not seeking a third term.)

Mr. Grossman leads among convention delegates because he is a longtime party insider; he is a former chairman of the state and national Democratic Parties, a fund-raising stalwart who is calling in his chits. He has not caught on with voters because he has an insider image and voters do not know him.

Ms. Coakley minimizes the importance of the convention, calling it just one step in the process toward November. She has been tamping down expectations about her potential delegate haul, saying she wants only to emerge with at least 15 percent, the minimum to earn a spot on the Sept. 9 primary ballot.

Her focus, she says, is meeting people and reassuring them, when asked, that she has learned from the mistakes in 2010, including that she was too aloof.

“The lessons learned are that people want to see you’re committed and they want to see you and they want to be able to talk to you and pinch you and ask you questions,” she said during an interview in a restaurant in Salem last weekend after a campaign meet-and-greet event.

She said she was receiving a noticeably friendlier reception this time. Voters, she said, are telling her that “you got back up on your feet, you worked hard for us, you’ve earned this, and we’re going to help you this time.”

In addition to the stop at Fenway, her new strategy includes knocking on doors. (“Talk about a one-on-one experience!” she said.) She is also talking at public events about her brother, who committed suicide in 1996 at age 33.

“I just feel it’s important for people to know who I am, where I come from, what my experience has been and also to relate that to what it means to be a good governor,” she said. “I’ve been through this, I know how tough it is.”

Voters at the Salem event said they liked her, but a few expressed reservations about her campaign. Tom Buonagurio, a retired teacher, said he supported her but wanted her to show a little more verve in the manner of Senator Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat who defeated Mr. Brown in 2012.

“I know people think women should have some decorum, but Martha needs to be more like Warren, who didn’t let Brown get away with anything,” he said.

Leslie Schwartz, also a retired teacher, agreed, saying she liked Ms. Coakley’s views, “but she needs to pick up the ball and run with it.”

Ms. Schwartz’s husband, Alan, an engineer, is undecided, said he wanted Ms. Coakley to raise her energy level, but he appreciated that her campaign had called him to come to the event.

“They seem more serious this time,” he said.

Dale Orlando, a retired psychologist, is also undecided.

“Martha has done a fantastic job as attorney general, and it’s time for the state to have a woman governor,” she said.

But she said she did not like Ms. Coakley’s recent agreement to allow Partners HealthCare, the state’s largest hospital and physician network, to acquire three more hospitals. The deal has been criticized for potentially raising health care costs and putting some hospitals out of business.

The five Democratic candidates have differed little on major policy questions facing the state, which is enjoying a relatively healthy postrecession economy. This has muted interest in the race, and the candidates have had a hard time distinguishing themselves.

Ms. Coakley has dominated all public opinion surveys. A poll released June 9 by Suffolk University and The Boston Herald showed her with 44 percent of the Democratic primary vote; Mr. Grossman had 12 percent.

Behind them were Donald Berwick, a former federal Medicaid and Medicare administrator; Juliette Kayyem, a national security specialist; and Joseph Avelone, a biotech executive.

The poll also showed Ms. Coakley leading Charlie Baker, the
likely Republican nominee, in November; she was the only Democrat ahead of him.

Still, Mr. Grossman has been making an issue of what he says is Ms. Coakley’s "passion gap," her failure to stir excitement among party activists. He told The Herald that if she had a poor showing Saturday, she needed "to do a lot of soul-searching."

Mary Anne Marsh, a Democratic strategist, said that voters were likely to be puzzled that Ms. Coakley was supposedly the front-runner and yet could not win her party's endorsement. The crucial factor, Ms. Marsh said, will be how Ms. Coakley is able to frame her convention performance afterward and "whether she reassures voters or whether she reinforces their concerns about her."

Scott Ferson, another Democratic strategist, said Ms. Coakley might be able to turn a weak delegate haul at the convention into a plus among regular voters. "They don’t expect her to be the consummate political insider who should have all this wrapped up," he said.

In any case, the candidates are expected to turn to Twitter early and often during the convention to start putting their own spin on the narrative that will drive the race to the September primary.

Martha Coakley, running for Massachusetts governor, at a campaign event Sunday. She is ahead in the polls, but the state Democratic Party is expected to endorse Steve Grossman.
Poll: Many in state still have doubts on casinos

By BOB SALSBERRY Associated Press | Posted: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 11:03 am

BOSTON (AP) — While gambling regulators move closer to awarding the state's first resort casino license, a poll released on Monday suggests that many voters still have doubts about whether Massachusetts should host casino gambling at all.

The Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll found that 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state, while 37 percent approve. The survey of 800 residents was conducted June 4-7 with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

The results were in contrast to a similar poll in February when 50 percent of respondents said they approved of locating casinos in Massachusetts, while 37 percent disapproved.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission on Tuesday is scheduled to begin a series of meetings leading up to a Friday vote on whether to award MGM Resorts International a license for its proposed $800 million casino in downtown Springfield.

MGM is the only remaining applicant for the sole western Massachusetts resort casino license.

The commission has been evaluating MGM's proposal on a number of criteria that include financing, economic development and building and site design.

"We look forward to sharing our findings with the public and are pleased to progress to this major milestone as we focus on facilitating the thousands of jobs and revenue benefits that await the citizens of Massachusetts," Stephen Crosby, chairman of the commission, said in a statement.

The state's highest court is deciding whether to allow an initiative calling for repeal of the 2011 casino law to appear on the November ballot. Attorney General Martha Coakley barred the question from the ballot, saying it would violate the state's constitution. But casino opponents asked the Supreme Judicial Court to overturn that ruling.

The group Repeal the Casino Deal said in a statement Monday that they welcome the most recent poll results as evidence of growing public support for their position.

"The more that Massachusetts voters learn about casinos, their ethics and practices, the more the voters realize we can do better than casinos for the people and economy of our state," said Darek Barcikowski, the group's campaign manager.

In a separate poll question about eastern Massachusetts resort casino proposals, about 55 percent answered "neither" when asked if the facility should be sited in Revere or Everett. Eighteen percent answered Revere and five percent said Everett, with the rest undecided.

MGM has asked the five-member gambling panel to consider granting a provisional license and hold
off on a final license until the uncertainty over the ballot question is settled. The company is concerned that it might lose a $185 million licensing fee and other charges if the law is ultimately repealed.
Coakley Hangs On In Massachusetts

A new Boston Herald/Suffolk University poll in Massachusetts shows Martha Coakley (D) holds a waning but still commanding lead over her Democratic gubernatorial rivals and a shaky 7-point margin over likely GOP opponent Charlie Baker (R), 36% to 29% with another 27% still undecided.

Comments (View)
Poll: Many in state still have doubts on casinos

By BOB SALSBERG

BOSTON (AP) - While gambling regulators move closer to awarding the state's first resort casino license, a poll released on Monday suggests that many voters still have doubts about whether Massachusetts should host casino gambling at all.

The Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll found that 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state, while 37 percent approve. The survey of 800 residents was conducted June 4-7 with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

The results were in contrast to a similar poll in February when 50 percent of respondents said they approved of locating casinos in Massachusetts, while 37 percent disapproved.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission on Tuesday is scheduled to begin a series of meetings leading up to a Friday vote on whether to award MGM Resorts International a license for its proposed $800 million casino in downtown Springfield.

MGM is the only remaining applicant for the sole western Massachusetts resort casino license.

The commission has been evaluating MGM's proposal on a number of criteria that include financing, economic development and building and site design.

"We look forward to sharing our findings with the public and are pleased to progress to this major milestone as we focus on facilitating the thousands of jobs and revenue benefits that await the citizens of Massachusetts," Stephen Crosby, chairman of the commission, said in a statement.

The state's highest court is deciding whether to allow an initiative calling for repeal of the 2011 casino law to appear on the November ballot. Attorney General Martha Coakley barred the question from the ballot, saying it would violate the state's constitution. But casino opponents asked the Supreme Judicial Court to overturn that ruling.

The group Repeal the Casino Deal said in a statement Monday that they welcome the most recent poll results as evidence of growing public support for their position.

"The more that Massachusetts voters learn about casinos, their ethics and practices, the more the voters realize we can do better than casinos for the people and economy of our state," said Darek Barcikowski, the group's campaign manager.

In a separate poll question about eastern Massachusetts resort casino proposals, about 55 percent answered "neither" when asked if the facility should be sited in Revere or Everett. Eighteen percent answered Revere and five percent said Everett, with the rest undecided.

MGM has asked the five-member gambling panel to consider granting a provisional license and hold off on a final license until the uncertainty over the ballot question is settled. The company is concerned that it might lose a $185 million licensing fee and other charges if the law is ultimately repealed.

Copyright 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley holds a wide lead over her Democratic primary opponents in the race for governor, a new poll released Monday shows.

Coakley leads state Treasurer Steve Grossman 44 percent to 12 percent, according to the Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll. No other Democrat is in double-digits. Thirty-two percent of likely Democratic primary voters are undecided.

Coakely, a 2010 U.S. Senate candidate who ran a flawed, losing campaign against Republican Scott Brown, remains one of the most popular Democrats in the Bay State.

The primary is Sept. 9. In a general election matchup against Republican Charlie Baker and three independent candidates, Coakley leads Baker 36 percent to 29 percent.

Gov. Deval Patrick (D) is stepping down at the end of his current term.
Massachusetts voters have an overwhelmingly positive opinion of Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who stood out among a field of candidates and elected officials in a poll released Monday.

Suffolk University and the Boston Herald polled likely voters in the state, finding that close to 58 percent have a favorable opinion of the senator, who unseated former Sen. Scott Brown (R-Mass.) in 2012.

Elizabeth Warren Is The Most Popular Politician In Massachusetts

The Huffington Post | By Samantha Lachman

Posted: 06/10/2014 2:04 pm EDT | Updated: 06/10/2014 3:59 pm EDT

312 Like

June 13, 2014

Elizabeth Warren Is The Most Popular Politician In Massachusetts

The Huffington Post | By Samantha Lachman

Posted: 06/10/2014 2:04 pm EDT | Updated: 06/10/2014 3:59 pm EDT

312 Like
Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick (D) was the only politician to come close to Warren’s approval rating, with 56 percent of respondents having a favorable opinion of the governor, who isn’t running for reelection. President Barack Obama came in third, with 51 percent of the poll’s respondents saying they view him favorably.

Obama came out in favor of Warren’s proposal to overhaul the federal student loan program on Monday, an indication that her policy ideas are beginning to hold increasing sway within the Democratic party.

In an interview with The Huffington Post last week, Warren neither committed to nor rejected a potential presidential bid.

The poll of 800 voters was conducted June 4-7 and has a margin of error of 3.5 percent.

RELATED ON HUFFPOST:

Elizabeth Warren

Around the Web

Facebook Conversations

LOOK: Restaurant In Hot Water After Patrons Received This Offensive Receipt
Coakley Keeps Lead In Suffolk Poll

By State House News Service  June 9, 2014

BOSTON — With only days remaining until the state nominating convention, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Martha Coakley continues to lead the field of five Democrats, taking 44 percent in a Suffolk University poll released on Boston Herald Radio.

Steven Grossman took 12 percent, said pollster David Paleologos.

“The race is a little bit closer in the Democratic primary but it’s still Coakley’s,” Paleologos said.

He said, “Coakley’s numbers have dropped a little bit not to anyone else’s benefit.”

Don Berwick took 4 percent, Juliette Kayyem took a little more than 2 percent and Joe Avellone took less than 2 percent.

• Related: Coakley Still The Frontrunner In Governor’s Race, WBUR Poll Shows

Please follow our community rules when engaging in comment discussion on wbur.org.
Poll: Coakley maintains lead among Democrats, voters losing interest in casinos

By Matt Murphy STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Attorney General Martha Coakley continues to hold a commanding lead over her four rivals for the Democratic nomination for governor, according to a new Suffolk University poll that also shows voter opinion shifting dramatically against the state’s nascent casino industry.

As the Democrats running to succeed Gov. Deval Patrick enter a critical week of campaigning ahead of the Democratic Party Convention in Worcester this weekend, Coakley leads her nearest rival, Treasurer Steve Grossman, by 32 points with a 44 percent to 12 percent advantage.

Though support for Coakley has fallen from 56 percent since the last Suffolk University Polling Center survey in February, Grossman’s backing has remained relatively flat with over 32 percent of voters indicating that they are still undecided in the race.

Meanwhile, the overall opinion of casino gaming in Massachusetts has flip-flopped over the past four months, according to the poll. While a majority of Bay State voters approved of casino gaming in February, 47 percent now disapprove of casinos compared to 37 percent who still favor casino gaming. Support for the industry is down from 50.5 percent in February.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission is poised to decide Friday whether to award the state’s first casino license to applicants MGM who hope to build a facility in Springfield. The commission is scheduled in late August or early September to award a casino license in the Boston area.

The poll arrives ahead of a Herald/Suffolk debate with the five Democratic candidates planned for Tuesday at 11 a.m. The debate will be moderated by Suffolk University’s John Nucci, a former city councilor, and Herald editorial page editor Rachelle Cohen. It will be streamed live on Suffolk.edu, Bostonherald.com, and the newspaper’s internet-based station, Boston Herald Radio.

“The race is a little bit closer in the Democratic primary but it’s still Coakley’s,” said Suffolk University polling director David Paleologos. He said “Coakley’s numbers have dropped a little bit not to anyone else’s benefit.”

Grossman told the News Service that Coakley’s campaign is suffering from a “passion gap,” and predicted that he would begin to close the deficit in both support and name recognition later in the summer when his campaign begins airing ads on television.

“When I saw that poll, frankly, I saw Martha Coakley at 44 percent and I said ‘whoa.’ If you are the clear front-runner, if you’re the acknowledged front-runner, and you can’t make it out of the 40s in a poll that’s a serious challenge and when you have this passion gap to boot with your activists, those are serious, serious challenges,” Grossman said.

While only one license for a slot parlor has been issued so far in Massachusetts, the Gaming Commission is getting close to issuing a casino license in western Massachusetts where MGM is the lone bidder for a license in Springfield. The commission is also considering applications in eastern Massachusetts for a casino in either Everett or Revere, and the Supreme Judicial Court is expected to rule soon whether a proposed ballot question repealing the expanded gaming law is eligible for the ballot in November.

Only 18 percent said they thought it made sense to locate a casino in Revere, while 5 percent said Everett made sense as a location for a Greater Boston casino. Fifty-six percent said neither spot made sense to them.

The shifting opinions on casino gaming could create an opening in the gubernatorial race for former Obama health official Dr. Donald Berwick, who is the only Democrat in the field to oppose casinos and express his support for repeal. After polling at less than 1 percent in February, Berwick saw his numbers in this latest Suffolk survey tick upward slightly to 4 percent, putting him in third place.

Democrat Juliette Kayyem, a former state and federal homeland security official, captured just over 2 percent in the poll, while Wellesley biopharmaceutical executive Joseph Avellone had under 2 percent.

While nearly 37 percent of voters said they were not following the governor’s race very closely or at all, those numbers would probably be significantly higher in the other statewide races where undecided voters make up the clear majority.
Democrats Stephen Kerrigan and Leland Cheung tied at 4 percent in the four-way race for lieutenant governor with more than 85 percent of respondents indicating they were undecided.

Former assistant attorney general Maura Healey leads former state Sen. Warren Tolman 21 percent to 18 percent, with 59 percent undecided, while former Brookline Selectwoman Deb Goldberg (11 percent) led both her Democratic opponents Sen. Barry Finegold (8 percent) and Rep. Thomas Conroy (4 percent).

As Democrats prepare to gather in Worcester for the party’s nominating convention, Grossman is widely expected by party insiders to win the delegate vote despite trailing Coakley in the polls. Coakley, however, remains the only candidate in the race currently polling ahead of expected Republican nominee Charlie Baker.

Coakley leads Baker 36 percent to 29 percent in a hypothetical matchup, while Grossman trails Baker 27-24, within the 3.5 percent margin of error. Coakley’s seven-point lead over Baker is down from 13 points in February, while Grossman has narrowed the gap slightly with Baker that was five points at the time of the last poll.

The independents in the race for governor – venture capitalist Jeff McCormick and health consultant Evan Falchuk – are barely registering with less than 2 percent of likely voters.

“What it says is that there’s a ‘passion gap’ in her campaign that is, I think, very, very potentially damaging to her,” Grossman said of his perceived edge at the convention. “Yeah, she has the lead in the polls. When you have 95 percent name recognition, you’re going to have a lead in the polls, but I’m not worried about that.”

Despite a barrage of negative attention for Gov. Deval Patrick over the past several months, the two-term governor’s approval rating remains strong with 57 percent approving of the job he is doing as governor and 48 percent saying they think Massachusetts is heading in the right direction.

Asked about the Department of Children and Families and told that there have been nearly 50 deaths since 2006 of children under DCF supervision, 38 percent of respondents to the poll blamed Patrick while 27 percent saw the tragedies as on par with what happens in other states and 35 percent were unsure.

President Barack Obama’s approval rating in Massachusetts was about level with 45 percent approving and 44 percent disapproving of the job the president is doing, while 49 percent believe the Affordable Care Act is generally good for Massachusetts compared to 40 percent who view it as generally bad.

[Mike Deehan and Gin Dumcius contributed reporting]
Spinning the casino poll numbers

As support slips in Massachusetts, casino group promotes national survey results

BY: ANNA SPACK
June 11, 2014

THE LATEST POLL on casino gambling in Massachusetts brings troubling news for the casino industry, while it's sure to lift the spirits of opponents hoping to keep casinos out of the Bay State.

A Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll, released Monday, found that 47 percent of voters oppose plans to bring casinos to the state, while 37 percent are supportive of the idea. The results mark a sharp contrast from a Suffolk/Herald poll from February, which found that 37 percent opposed casinos, while 51 percent backed them.

Other recent polling data suggest stronger support for casinos in the state, though hardly an overwhelming mandate. A recent MassINC Polling Group survey found that 49 percent of voters support casinos, while 39 percent oppose them.

While casino support in Massachusetts has fallen off considerably, the gambling industry rolled out its own survey numbers on Tuesday to try to counter any notion that casino support may be slipping nationally. The American Gaming Association, a Washington-based trade group representing casinos, commissioned a poll that claims US residents of all demographic groups and political views have a “favorable image” of casinos. The association reported that 87 percent of respondents believe gambling is an acceptable activity -- even if they don't gamble themselves.

The association says residents, by a 2-to-1 margin, have a generally favorable view of casinos. However, with 27 percent of poll respondents saying they had no opinion, the actual percentage with a positive view of casinos did not even clear 50 percent, with 48 percent reporting a positive view and 24 percent viewing casinos negatively.

In a conference call conference with reporters, the CEO of the American Gaming Association, Geoff Freeman, was asked about the apparent disparity between the AGA’s national polling results and those from the Suffolk/Herald survey of Massachusetts voters.

“You have a small band of critics who are continuing to spread antiquated notions about the industry,” he said. “And those antiquated notions, that concerted campaign they’re running, clearly has an effect on those survey results.” Freeman promised that the AGA would continue to “correct these falsehoods.”

Whether Massachusetts voters will have the opportunity to weigh in on the casino question remains to be seen. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is expected to rule by early July whether a question seeking repeal of the 2011 casino law can appear on the November ballot. Casino opponents gathered signatures to put the question before voters, but Attorney General Martha Coakley ruled that it could not appear on the ballot because it would effectively seize property rights of casino and slot parlor applicants without compensating them for the millions of dollars they have spent trying to get licenses. Casino opponents appealed Coakley’s ruling to the state’s highest court.

Even some Massachusetts casino supporters believe the decision should be left with voters. In the same MassINC Polling Group survey that found continued support for casinos, voters also said they supported putting the casino question on the ballot, with 52 percent in favor of the casino repeal appearing on the November ballot and 39 percent opposed.

**ALSO CHECK OUT**

**RELATED ARTICLES**

No related articles currently available

**RELATED BLOG POSTS**

No related articles currently available

**RELATED TOPICS**

State Government, Gambling
Suffolk University poll: Massachusetts residents think party conventions are a 'waste of time and money'

Elizabeth Warren wins nomination at Massachusetts Democratic Convention

SPRINGFIELD 06.02.12. - Harvard Law School professor Elizabeth Warren answers questions from reporters after it was announced that she won a record percentage of support from the delegates at the Massachusetts Democratic Convention in Springfield to become the party's official candidate to take on Republican U.S. Sen. Scott Brown in November. (Republican Photo by Robert Rizzuto)

Shira Schoenberg | sschoenberg@repub.com By Shira Schoenberg | sschoenberg@repub.com
Follow on Twitter

on June 09, 2014 at 1:48 PM, updated June 09, 2014 at 4:23 PM

Poll finds casino support dropping in Massachusetts.

BOSTON - With the Massachusetts Democratic Party preparing for its state convention in Worcester this Saturday, a new poll from the Suffolk University Political Research Center and the Boston Herald finds that most Massachusetts residents think state conventions are "a waste of time and money."

A large percentage of residents also disagree with a rule, held by both state Democrats and Republicans, requiring a candidate to get support from 15 percent of convention delegates in order to appear on the ballot.

David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center, said conventions can be good for candidates – for example, a strong convention showing boosted then-political newcomer Deval Patrick, a Democrat, during his successful 2006 gubernatorial campaign. But they can also hurt new candidates by forcing them to spend close to half a year campaigning at caucuses and organizing convention delegates.

"They can consume a lot of hours and dollars and focus, to the detriment of likely general election voters or even primary voters," Paleologos said.

The poll asked residents whether they believe state party conventions serve an important role in the political process by setting benchmarks for candidates and key issues or whether they are a waste of time and money, especially for candidates who must focus on getting support from delegates.

Just over half (51 percent) responded that conventions are a waste of time and money, while only one quarter said they serve an important role.

Asked about the 15 percent rule, 42 percent of respondents said it was not fair, compared to 33 percent who said it was fair. Proponents of the rule say it sets a baseline level of support that any serious candidate should be able to meet, and lets activists make sure a candidate values the state party platform. Opponents say as long as a candidate gets enough signatures from voters, party activists should not be
allowed to exclude him from the ballot.

The rule has been controversial. At the Republican convention in March, the party said Tea Party-affiliated gubernatorial candidate Mark Fisher fell just shy of the 15 percent needed to challenge Charlie Baker, whom the party endorsed. Fisher, claiming voting irregularities, challenged the ruling. The party ultimately let him on the ballot to settle a lawsuit. In 2012, overwhelming support for Democrat Elizabeth Warren kept Marisa DeFranco off the Democratic ballot.

Matt Fenlon, executive director of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, defended the role of the state convention. "I think as Democrats we've shown over the years that the conventions are a proven way to keep our grassroots energy alive and growing," Fenlon told The Republican/MassLive.com. Fenlon said the conventions generate energy and excitement among grassroots activists and showcase the party's messages on issues.

With over 600 caucuses, events that elect delegates to the state convention, Fenlon said 7,000 Democrats participated in the process. "I think it's pretty clear that a majority of our grassroots are excited by our conventions," Fenlon said.

Similar to previous polls, the Suffolk poll has Democrat Martha Coakley, the state attorney general, in the strongest position among the gubernatorial candidates. If the primary were held today, Coakley would beat Democrat Steve Grossman, the state treasurer, 44 percent to 12 percent, with 32 percent undecided. None of the other Democrats – Don Berwick, Juliette Kayyem or Joe Avellone – would get more than 4 percent.

Coakley would also lead Baker in the general election, 36 percent to 28 percent. Baker leads Grossman by 2 percentage points, and the other Democrats by far larger margins.

Baker holds a 33-point lead over Fisher in the Republican primary.

The poll finds that a majority of voters are undecided in the races for lieutenant governor, attorney general and treasurer, and none of the candidates have statistically significant leads in those races.

The poll finds that Patrick continues to enjoy a high approval rating – 57 percent.

President Barack Obama, a Democrat, has seen his approval rating drop slightly. His approval rating is 45 percent – down from 47 percent in June 2013 – and 44 percent disapprove of the job he is doing. Obama's reputation has suffered nationally due to factors ranging from the slow economic recovery to problems with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Despite a new Massachusetts health insurance exchange that has been a technological disaster, the poll found 49 percent of voters think the national health care overhaul is "generally good" for Massachusetts, while 40 percent think it is generally bad.

The poll of 800 voters, released Monday, was conducted June 4-7 and has a margin of error of 3.5 percent.
Poll finds support for casino gambling dropping in Massachusetts

Shira Schoenberg | sschoenberg@repub.com
By Shira Schoenberg | sschoenberg@repub.com
Follow on Twitter

Support for casino gambling is dropping in Massachusetts, according to a poll released Monday by the Suffolk University Political Research Center and the Boston Herald.

The poll found that just 37 percent of voters approve of casino gambling in Massachusetts, while 47 percent disapprove.

That is a major flip from a Suffolk poll in January which found that 51 percent of residents approved of gambling, and from a poll done in 2010 when 57 percent approved.

David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center, said the shift is driven by growing disapproval among women.

"It seems like you've had a major shift in opinion as the reality of casinos and the regressive nature of what happens with the placement of casinos in Massachusetts in addition to some of the social issues (sets in)," Paleologos said. He pointed to research indicating that it is mostly low-income individuals who spend money at casinos.

The poll was released days before the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is set to issue a decision on whether to license MGM Resorts to open a casino in Springfield. MGM is the only remaining potential licensee in Western Massachusetts. The commission plans to meet for presentations, evaluations and deliberations on Tuesday and Wednesday in Springfield and possibly Thursday in Boston. The license determination will be announced Friday at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. In eastern Massachusetts, a license is expected to be awarded before the beginning of September. Wynn Resorts' proposal for a casino in Everett is competing with Mohegan Sun and Suffolk Downs' plan to build a casino in Revere.

The shift in popular opinion could be significant for casinos, who have spent millions of dollars on the licensing process, if a question reaches the ballot in November to repeal the state's casino gambling law.

A group called Repeal the Casino Deal gathered enough signatures to get a question on the ballot asking voters to repeal the gambling law. Attorney General Martha Coakley refused to certify the question, arguing that it would constitute an illegal taking of private property and impair implied contracts between the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and license applicants. Anti-casino activists appealed to the court, and the case is now awaiting a decision by the Supreme Judicial Court.
Steven Abdow, who works for the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts in Springfield and is a leader in Repeal the Casino Deal, said he thinks the poll reflects the growing opposition he has seen statewide. "As time goes on and people become more educated about the impact that casinos can have in their communities, they like the idea less and less," Abdow said.

While proponents of casinos have portrayed them as a tool for economic development and revitalization in cities like Springfield, opponents argue that casinos bring with them social problems and can hurt other area business.

"I think the tide has turned, people realize more and more that they wouldn't want one in their community...and the issue's not really about my backyard, it's about the state," Abdow said.

Carole Brennan, a spokeswoman for MGM Springfield, attributed the shift to the long licensing process and predicted that it would not last. "A long licensing process may have resulted in casino fatigue for some residents of the Commonwealth," Brennan said in a statement. "But we are optimistic that MGM Springfield will be designated the Western Mass licensee soon and that will show voters that thousands of new jobs and strong economic opportunities are real outcomes, not just slogans."

Brennan said she is confident that once the licensing process is complete, the "downtown renaissance" brought to Springfield by the casino "will build momentum."

Another factor in the shift could be that pro-casino activists have been putting their efforts toward winning over residents of host communities, who have the power to vote down a casino. Activists gathering signatures for the ballot question have been working statewide. "I think all of the pro side on the casinos has been focused in these potential host communities, and the general public opinion is turning against casinos," Paleologos said.

This story has been updated to include a quote from Brennan.

© 2014 masslive.com. All rights reserved.
Another poll gives Coakley the edge

The Lowell Sun  
UPDATED: 06/09/2014 01:57:09 PM EDT

By Matt Murphy

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

BOSTON -- Attorney General Martha Coakley continues to hold a commanding lead over her four rivals for the Democratic nomination for governor, according to a new Suffolk University poll that also shows voter opinion shifting dramatically against the state's nascent casino industry.

As the Democrats running to succeed Gov. Deval Patrick enter a critical week of campaigning ahead of the Democratic Party Convention in Worcester this weekend, Coakley leads her nearest rival, Treasurer Steve Grossman, by 32 points with a 44 percent to 12 percent advantage.

Though support for Coakley has fallen from 56 percent since the last Suffolk University Polling Center survey in February, Grossman's backing has remained relatively flat with over 32 percent of voters indicating that they are still undecided in the race.

Meanwhile, the overall opinion of casino gaming in Massachusetts has flip-flopped over the past four months, according to the poll. While a majority of Bay State voters approved of casino gaming in February, 47 percent now disapprove of casinos compared to 37 percent who still favor casino gaming. Support for the industry is down from 50.5 percent in February.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission is poised to decide Friday whether to award the state's first casino license to applicants MGM who hope to build a facility in Springfield. The commission is scheduled in late August or early September to award a casino license in the Boston area.

The poll arrives ahead of a Herald/Suffolk debate with the five Democratic candidates planned for Tuesday at 11 a.m. The debate will be moderated by Suffolk University's John Nucci, a former city councilor, and Herald editorial page editor Rachelle Cohen. It will be streamed live on Suffolk.edu, Bostonherald.com, and the newspaper's internet-based station, Boston Herald Radio.

"The race is a little bit closer in the Democratic primary but it's still Coakley's," said Suffolk University polling director David Paleologos. He said "Coakley's numbers have dropped a little bit not to anyone else's benefit."

Grossman told the News Service that Coakley's campaign is suffering from a "passion gap," and predicted that he would begin to close the deficit in both support and name recognition later in the summer when his campaign begins airing ads on television.

"When I saw that poll, frankly, I saw Martha Coakley at 44 percent and I said 'whoa.' If you are the clear front-runner, if you're the acknowledged front-runner, and you can't make it out of the 40s in a poll that's a serious challenge and when you have this passion gap to boot with your activists, those are serious, serious challenges," Grossman said.
While only one license for a slot parlor has been issued so far in Massachusetts, the Gaming Commission is getting close to issuing a casino license in western Massachusetts where MGM is the lone bidder for a license in Springfield. The commission is also considering applications in eastern Massachusetts for a casino in either Everett or Revere, and the Supreme Judicial Court is expected to rule soon whether a proposed ballot question repealing the expanded gaming law is eligible for the ballot in November.

Only 18 percent said they thought it made sense to locate a casino in Revere, while 5 percent said Everett made sense as a location for a Greater Boston casino. Fifty-six percent said neither spot made sense to them.

The shifting opinions on casino gaming could create an opening in the gubernatorial race for former Obama health official Dr. Donald Berwick, who is the only Democrat in the field to oppose casinos and express his support for repeal. After polling at less than 1 percent in February, Berwick saw his numbers in this latest Suffolk survey tick upward slightly to 4 percent, putting him in third place.

Democrat Juliette Kayyem, a former state and federal homeland security official, captured just over 2 percent in the poll, while Wellesley biopharmaceutical executive Joseph Avellone had under 2 percent.

While nearly 37 percent of voters said they were not following the governor's race very closely or at all, those numbers would probably be significantly higher in the other statewide races where undecided voters make up the clear majority.

Democrats Stephen Kerrigan and Leland Cheung tied at 4 percent in the four-way race for lieutenant governor with more than 85 percent of respondents indicating they were undecided.

Former assistant attorney general Maura Healey leads former state Sen. Warren Tolman 21 percent to 18 percent, with 59 percent undecided, while former Brookline Selectwoman Deb Goldberg (11 percent) led both her Democratic opponents Sen. Barry Finegold (8 percent) and Rep. Thomas Conroy (4 percent).

As Democrats prepare to gather in Worcester for the party's nominating convention, Grossman is widely expected by party insiders to win the delegate vote despite trailing Coakley in the polls. Coakley, however, remains the only candidate in the race currently polling ahead of expected Republican nominee Charlie Baker.

Coakley leads Baker 36 percent to 29 percent in a hypothetical matchup, while Grossman trails Baker 27-24, within the 3.5 percent margin of error. Coakley's seven-point lead over Baker is down from 13 points in February, while Grossman has narrowed the gap slightly with Baker that was five points at the time of the last poll.

The independents in the race for governor - venture capitalist Jeff McCormick and health consultant Evan Falchuk - are barely registering with less than 2 percent of likely voters.

"What it says is that there's a 'passion gap' in her campaign that is, I think, very, very potentially damaging to her,” Grossman said of his perceived edge at the convention. "Yeah, she has the lead in the polls. When you have 95 percent name recognition, you're going to have a lead in the polls, but I'm not worried about that."

Despite a barrage of negative attention for Gov. Deval Patrick over the past several months, the two-term governor's approval rating remains strong with 57 percent approving of the job he is doing as governor and 48 percent saying they think Massachusetts is heading in the right direction.

Asked about the Department of Children and Families and told that there have been nearly 50 deaths since 2006 of children under DCF supervision, 38 percent of respondents to the poll blamed Patrick while 27 percent saw the tragedies as on par with what happens in other states and 35 percent were unsure.

President Barack Obama's approval rating in Massachusetts was about level with 45 percent approving and 44 percent disapproving of the job the president is doing, while 49 percent believe the Affordable Care Act is generally good for Massachusetts compared to 40 percent who view it as generally bad.
GOP’s Baker backs minimum wage hike, tax credits

By Bob Salsberg
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Republican candidate for governor Charlie Baker is backing an increase in the state’s minimum wage to $10.50 per hour, and said Monday it should be coupled with tax breaks for low-income individuals and small businesses.

The former head of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, who was the 2010 Republican nominee for governor, announced a series of economic proposals as he and his running mate, former state Rep. Karyn Polito, began a statewide campaign tour.

Baker endorsed a House-passed bill that would raise the minimum wage to $10.50 per hour over three years. The Senate version calls for a hike to $11 per hour over three years and, unlike the House bill, would automatically tie future increases to inflation.

Meanwhile, a Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll released Monday showed Baker trailing by seven points in a hypothetical general election matchup with Democratic Attorney General Martha Coakley. Nearly 27 percent of respondents said they were undecided. The survey of 800 likely voters was conducted from June 4-7 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

A similar poll in February showed Baker trailing Coakley by 13 points.

The most recent poll puts Baker in a virtual dead heat with state Treasurer Steven Grossman and well ahead in hypothetical matchups with the three other Democrats, Joseph Avellone, Don Berwick and Juliette Kayyem, who are vying for their party’s gubernatorial nomination.

A poll of more than 600 likely voters conducted for The Boston Globe from May 29 to June 3 showed Coakley with a five-point lead over Baker in a hypothetical matchup, while Baker notched a six-point lead over Grossman. That poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

Hiking the minimum wage is an “important first step” in helping more than 400,000 workers in Massachusetts, from students working their way through college to parents holding multiple jobs to support their families, Baker said. But he added it would not alone do enough to help low-income workers and also called for a doubling of the state’s earned income tax credit from 15 to 30 percent.
Poll: Baker narrows gap on Coakley in GOP primary governor race

A new poll shows that Republican candidate for governor Charlie Baker has narrowed the lead of the Democratic front-runner.

The results of a statewide poll by Suffolk University were released on Monday.

Baker, who trailed Attorney General Martha Coakley by 13 points in February, is now 7 percent behind in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup, according to the poll results.

Of the 800 voters surveyed, 36 percent said they would vote for Coakley while 29 percent chose Baker. About 27 percent of those surveyed were undecided.
Poll: Many have doubts on casinos

By BOB SALSBURG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON - While gambling regulators move closer to awarding the state's first resort casino license, a poll released Monday suggests that many voters still have doubts about whether Massachusetts should host casino gambling at all.

The Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll found 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state, while 37 percent approve. The survey of 800 residents was conducted June 4-7 with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

The results were in contrast to a similar poll in February when 50 percent of respondents said they approved of locating casinos in Massachusetts, while 37 percent disapproved.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission is scheduled today to begin a series of meetings leading up to a Friday vote on whether to award MGM Resorts International a license for its proposed $800 million casino in downtown Springfield. MGM is the only remaining applicant for the sole Western Massachusetts resort casino license.

The commission has been evaluating MGM's proposal on a number of criteria that include financing, economic development and building and site design.

"We look forward to sharing our findings with the public and are pleased to progress to this major milestone as we focus on facilitating the thousands of jobs and revenue benefits that await the citizens of Massachusetts," Stephen Crosby, chairman of the commission, said.

The state's highest court is deciding whether to allow an initiative calling for repeal of the 2011 casino law to appear on the November ballot. Attorney General Martha Coakley barred the question from the ballot, saying it would violate the state's constitution. But casino opponents asked the Supreme Judicial Court to overturn that ruling.

The group Repeal the Casino Deal said Monday it welcomes the most recent poll results as evidence of growing public support for their position.

"The more that Massachusetts voters learn about casinos, their ethics and practices, the more the voters realize we can do better than casinos for the people and economy of our state," said Darek Barcikowski, the group's campaign manager.

MGM has asked the gambling panel to consider granting a provisional license and hold off on a final license until the uncertainty over the ballot question is settled. The company is concerned it might lose a $185 million licensing fee and other charges if the law is ultimately repealed.
Poll: Many in state still have doubts on casinos

By BOB SALSBERG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — While gambling regulators move closer to awarding the state’s first resort casino license, a poll released on Monday suggests that many voters still have doubts about whether Massachusetts should host casino gambling at all.

The Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll found that 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state, while 37 percent approve. The survey of 800 residents was conducted June 4-7 with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

The results were in contrast to a similar poll in February when 50 percent of respondents said they approved of locating casinos in Massachusetts, while 37 percent disapproved.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission on Tuesday is scheduled to begin a series of meetings leading up to a Friday vote on whether to award MGM Resorts International a license for its proposed $800 million casino in downtown Springfield.

MGM is the only remaining applicant for the sole western Massachusetts resort casino license.

The commission has been evaluating MGM’s proposal on a number of criteria that include financing, economic development and building and site design.

“We look forward to sharing our findings with the public and are pleased to progress to this major milestone as we focus on facilitating the thousands of jobs and revenue benefits that await the citizens of Massachusetts,” Stephen Crosby, chairman of the commission, said in a statement.

The state’s highest court is deciding whether to allow an initiative calling for repeal of the 2011 casino law to appear on the November ballot. Attorney General Martha Coakley barred the question from the ballot, saying it would violate the state’s constitution. But casino opponents asked the Supreme Judicial Court to overturn that ruling.

The group Repeal the Casino Deal said in a statement Monday that they welcome the most recent poll results as evidence of growing public support for their position.

“The more that Massachusetts voters learn about casinos, their ethics and practices, the more the voters realize we can do better than casinos for the people and economy of our state,” said Darek Barcikowski, the group’s campaign manager.

In a separate poll question about eastern Massachusetts resort casino proposals, about 35 percent answered “neither” when asked if the facility should be sited in Revere or Everett. Eighteen percent answered Revere and five percent said Everett, with the rest undecided.

MGM has asked the five-member gambling panel to consider granting a provisional license and hold off on a final license until the uncertainty over the ballot question is settled.
Plainville getting nervous about anti-gambling poll

BY JIM HAND SUN CHRONICLE STAFF | Posted: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 1:30 am

PLAINVILLE - Penn National Gaming has repeatedly said it is unconcerned with a referendum effort to repeal the state's casino law, but local officials are starting to get nervous in the wake of a poll that shows public opposition to gambling growing.

The Suffolk University poll out Monday said voters now oppose gambling by a 47-37 percent margin. The results were a sharp reversal of a February finding that showed support for casinos by a 51-37 percent mark.

The findings come as opponents of legalized gambling are trying to get a question on the November ballot repealing the state law that made slot machine parlors and casinos legal.

"The shift is good news for gambling opponents but dicey for the companies that have invested in locating casinos here," David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center in Boston, said in a press release.

Penn National Gaming, the owners of Plainridge Park Casino, formerly Plainridge Racecourse, has been awarded a license for 1,250 slot machines and has already started construction on a $225 million Route 1 facility.

Construction is well under way and millions of dollars have been spent on the project and licenses. The change in voter sentiment has Plainville town officials worried because the slot machines are supposed to generate up to $4 million a year for the town.

"As a town official I'm concerned because Plainridge is supposed to bring a lot of revenue into the town. As a resident, I'm concerned because it could mean a lot of jobs," said Jim Trockmorton, a planning board member.

"I'm deeply concerned. That was supposed to be our Hail Mary prayer," he said of the slot machines.

He said opponents of gambling are exaggerating its harmful effects.

"I don't think in little old Plainville the mob is going to move in," he said.
Town Treasurer Kathy Parker, a supporter of the slot machine venue, said she does not understand how voters could take away Plainridge's license after it had been awarded and Penn National spent a lot of money building a facility.

"I have a hard time believing they would be left holding the bag," she said of Plainridge.

Luckily, she said, town officials are not planning to spend any Plainridge revenue before it become a reality.

But, Mary-Ann Greanier, an outspoken opponent of gambling, said she is helping to work toward repeal.

She said gambling hurts people more than it helps towns. The Plainridge site would be better suited as a place for green energy or a medical facility, she said.

"In November, should the people decide that state-sponsored predatory gambling is not what's best for the commonwealth, then the fate of Plainridge will be in the hands of the multi-billion dollar corporation Penn National that rolled the dice three times in Massachusetts with absolutely no guarantee that they'd get a license," she said.

Greanier said she is unconcerned with what repeal of the law would do to Penn National and the money it has spent.

"If they decide to close the racetrack, as they have suggested they might, then perhaps they'll sell the land to a business that makes money without fleecing the residents and creating addicts," she said.

Penn National has said it intends to continue with construction and hopes to open next summer, despite the referendum drive.

If the repeal question makes the ballot, the firm said it would join forces with businesses and labor unions to campaign against the question, saying repeal would kill jobs and allow money to go out of state.

Whether the question even makes the ballot is up in the air. State Attorney General Martha Coakley has blocked it, but supporters are appealing her decision in court.

Patrick Francomano, a King Philip Regional School Committee member, said he does not see how repeal could take away a license Penn National has already been awarded and spent millions to implement.

"That would be taking away their property without compensation," which he said is illegal.

Selectmen Chairman Rob Rose said it is too soon to worry.

"Would it hurt us if the repeal showed up on the ballot and passed? Sure. But I'm not going to be concerned about a possible eventuality at this point," he said.
Another poll gives Coakley the edge, but Grossman sees "passion gap"

By Matt Murphy, State House News Service
Jun. 9, 2014

Attorney General Martha Coakley continues to hold a commanding lead over her four rivals for the Democratic nomination for governor, according to a new Suffolk University poll that also shows voter opinion shifting dramatically against the state’s nascent casino industry.

As the Democrats running to succeed Gov. Deval Patrick enter a critical week of campaigning ahead of the Democratic Party Convention in Worcester this weekend, Coakley leads her nearest rival, Treasurer Steve Grossman, by 32 points with a 44 percent to 12 percent advantage.

Though support for Coakley has fallen from 56 percent since the last Suffolk University Polling Center survey in February, Grossman’s backing has remained relatively flat with over 32 percent of voters indicating that they are still undecided in the race.

Meanwhile, the overall opinion of casino gaming in Massachusetts has flip-flopped over the past four months, according to the poll. While a majority of Bay State voters approved of casino gaming in February, 47 percent now disapprove of casinos compared to 37 percent who still favor casino gaming. Support for the industry is down from 50.5 percent in February.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission is poised to decide Friday whether to award the state’s first casino license to applicants MGM who hope to build a facility in Springfield. The commission is scheduled in late August or early September to award a casino license in the Boston area.

The poll arrives ahead of a Herald/Suffolk debate with the five Democratic candidates planned for Tuesday at 11 a.m. The debate will be moderated by Suffolk University’s John Nucci, a former city councilor, and Herald editorial page editor Rachelle Cohen. It will be streamed live on Suffolk.edu, Bostonherald.com, and the newspaper’s internet-based station, Boston Herald Radio.

"The race is a little bit closer in the Democratic primary but it’s still Coakley’s," said Suffolk University polling director David Paleologos. He said "Coakley’s numbers have dropped a little bit not to anyone else’s benefit."

Grossman told the News Service that Coakley’s campaign is suffering from a "passion gap," and predicted that he would begin to close the deficit in both support and name recognition later in the summer when his campaign begins airing ads on television.

"When I saw that poll, frankly, I saw Martha Coakley at 44 percent and I said ‘whoa.’ If you are the clear front-runner, if you’re the acknowledged front-runner, and you can’t make it out of the 40s in a poll that’s a serious challenge and when you have this passion gap to boot with your activists, those are serious, serious challenges,” Grossman said.

While only one license for a slot parlor has been issued so far in Massachusetts, the Gaming Commission is getting close to issuing a casino license in western Massachusetts where MGM is the lone bidder for a license in Springfield. The commission is also considering applications in eastern Massachusetts for a casino in either Everett or Revere, and the Supreme Judicial Court is expected to rule soon whether a proposed ballot question repealing the expanded gaming law is eligible for the ballot in November.

Only 18 percent said they thought it made sense to locate a casino in Revere, while 5 percent...
said Everett made sense as a location for a Greater Boston casino. Fifty-six percent said neither spot made sense to them.

The shifting opinions on casino gaming could create an opening in the gubernatorial race for former Obama health official Dr. Donald Berwick, who is the only Democrat in the field to oppose casinos and express his support for repeal. After polling at less than 1 percent in February, Berwick saw his numbers in this latest Suffolk survey tick upward slightly to 4 percent, putting him in third place.

Democrat Juliette Kayyem, a former state and federal homeland security official, captured just over 2 percent in the poll, while Wellesley biopharmaceutical executive Joseph Avellone had under 2 percent.

While nearly 37 percent of voters said they were not following the governor's race very closely or at all, those numbers would probably be significantly higher in the other statewide races where undecided voters make up the clear majority.

Democrats Stephen Kerrigan and Leland Cheung tied at 4 percent in the four-way race for lieutenant governor with more than 85 percent of respondents indicating they were undecided.

Former assistant attorney general Maura Healey leads former state Sen. Warren Tolman 21 percent to 18 percent, with 59 percent undecided, while former Brookline Selectwoman Deb Goldberg (11 percent) led both her Democratic opponents Sen. Barry Finegold (8 percent) and Rep. Thomas Conroy (4 percent).

As Democrats prepare to gather in Worcester for the party's nominating convention, Grossman is widely expected by party insiders to win the delegate vote despite trailing Coakley in the polls. Coakley, however, remains the only candidate in the race currently polling ahead of expected Republican nominee Charlie Baker.

Coakley leads Baker 36 percent to 29 percent in a hypothetical matchup, while Grossman trails Baker 27-24, within the 3.5 percent margin of error. Coakley’s seven-point lead over Baker is down from 13 points in February, while Grossman has narrowed the gap slightly with Baker that was five points at the time of the last poll.

The independents in the race for governor – venture capitalist Jeff McCormick and health consultant Evan Falchuk – are barely registering with less than 2 percent of likely voters.

“What it says is that there’s a ‘passion gap’ in her campaign that is, I think, very, very potentially damaging to her,” Grossman said of his perceived edge at the convention. “Yeah, she has the lead in the polls. When you have 95 percent name recognition, you’re going to have a lead in the polls, but I’m not worried about that.”

Despite a barrage of negative attention for Gov. Deval Patrick over the past several months, the two-term governor’s approval rating remains strong with 57 percent approving of the job he is doing as governor and 48 percent saying they think Massachusetts is heading in the right direction.

Asked about the Department of Children and Families and told that there have been nearly 50 deaths since 2006 of children under DCF supervision, 38 percent of respondents to the poll blamed Patrick while 27 percent saw the tragedies as on par with what happens in other states and 35 percent were unsure.

President Barack Obama’s approval rating in Massachusetts was about level with 45 percent approving and 44 percent disapproving of the job the president is doing, while 49 percent believe the Affordable Care Act is generally good for Massachusetts compared to 40 percent who view it as generally bad.

Mike Deehan and Gin Dumcius contributed reporting.
Baker backs minimum wage hike, tax credits

By BOB SALSBERG
Associated Press
Monday, June 9, 2014
(Published in print: Tuesday, June 10, 2014)

BOSTON — Republican candidate for governor Charles Baker is backing an increase in the state’s minimum wage to $10.50 per hour, and said Monday it should be coupled with tax breaks for low-income individuals and small businesses.

The former head of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, who was the 2010 Republican nominee for governor, announced a series of economic proposals as he and his running mate, former state Rep. Karyn Polito, began a statewide campaign tour.

Baker endorsed a House-passed bill that would raise the minimum wage to $10.50 per hour over three years. The Senate version calls for a hike to $11 per hour over three years and, unlike the House bill, would automatically tie future increases to inflation.

Meanwhile, a Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll released Monday showed Baker trailing by seven points in a hypothetical general election matchup with Democratic Attorney General Martha Coakley. Nearly 27 percent of respondents said they were undecided. The survey of 800 likely voters was conducted from June 4-7 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

A similar poll in February showed Baker trailing Coakley by 13 points.

The most recent poll puts Baker in a virtual dead heat with state Treasurer Steven Grossman and well ahead in hypothetical matchups with the three other Democrats, Joseph Avellone, Don Berwick and Juliette Kayyem, who are vying for their party’s gubernatorial nomination.
A poll of more than 600 likely voters conducted for The Boston Globe from May 29 to June 3 showed Coakley with a five-point lead over Baker in a hypothetical matchup, while Baker notched a six-point lead over Grossman.

That poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

Hiking the minimum wage is an “important first step” in helping more than 400,000 workers in Massachusetts, from students working their way through college to parents holding multiple jobs to support their families, Baker said. But he added it would not alone do enough to help low-income workers and also called for a doubling of the state’s earned income tax credit from 15 to 30 percent.

“I care deeply about expanding the opportunity experienced in some parts of Massachusetts to the whole state for those families left behind by the last eight years of one-party rule,” Baker said in a statement.

To offset the cost to small businesses with 50 or fewer workers, Baker’s plan would offer tax credits of $1,000 per minimum wage employee for each $1 increase in the wage.

Baker’s Republican primary opponent, tea party member Mark Fisher, opposes a change in the mandatory minimum wage, saying it should be left to individual employers to decide.

All five Democrats running to succeed Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick support a higher minimum wage.

Baker’s economic plan also calls for tax credits for businesses that hire welfare recipients, phasing out the state’s inventory tax, reducing fees for starting and maintaining a business, and reviewing the state’s regulatory structure with an eye toward streamlining demands on businesses.

Candidates confident as they head into Democratic convention

By Edward Donga
MassPoliticalNews.com
Posted Jun. 13, 2014 @ 12:05 am

With the Massachusetts Democratic Convention looming this weekend, candidates Maura Healey and Warren Tolman are gearing up to meet with the party's delegates and activists.

Both are vying for the party's nomination to replace Martha Coakley as the state's next attorney general. Coakley is one of five democratic candidates seeking to become the state's next governor after Gov. Deval Patrick decided not to run for another term.

While neither Tolman nor Healey were willing to predict who would walk away with the party's nomination, both said they were feeling confident heading into the convention.

"I like where we are, but I got no idea where things are going to end up," Tolman said. "There are a lot of great activists that will be there, and obviously, you want to have as many on your team as possible."

Prior to launching his campaign for attorney general, Tolman served in the Massachusetts Legislature from 1991 to 1999 as a senator and representative. For the the last decade, he has worked as an attorney at the law firm Holland and Knight.

Tolman added that he was "confident" he will secure the 15 percent of the delegates needed to appear on the ballot in September's primary election, but was silent on which candidate would garner the most delegates.

"You'd rather have it than not, but I'm not going to lay down on my sword for the nomination," Tolman said.

On Wednesday, Healey said she was also heading into the convention with high spirits.

"I just feel really great and really excited about where we're at," Healey said. "I'm really looking forward to Worcester."

Healey currently serves in the attorney general's office, where she has headed the Public Protection and Advocacy Bureau and the Business and Labor Bureau under Coakley. Prior to joining the attorney general's office, Healey had worked as a private sector attorney and a prosecutor in Middlesex County.

"I can't predict how things are going to go," said Healey when asked about her expectations for the convention. "The goal is to get the 15 percent and get on the ballot and make my case to voters in September."

Both candidates cited their experience and leadership as reasons why they expect they will attract support from the delegates.
For Tolman, that experience and leadership stems from his time in the Legislature where he took on entities like the tobacco industry while Healey’s experience comes from her service in the attorney general’s office where she led the state’s challenge of the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

Although Healey began her campaign as the underdog, a June 9 Boston Herald/Suffolk University poll had her almost four points ahead of Tolman heading into the convention.
Democratic governor candidates tangle before convention

In their final tuneup before this weekend’s state party convention, the five Democrats running for governor jousted over illegal immigration and casino gambling during a debate Tuesday that also reflected broader philosophical agreements on many issues facing the candidates.

By Matt Murphy
State House News Service
Posted Jun. 11, 2014 @ 10:00 am
Updated Jun 11, 2014 at 7:42 PM

In their final tuneup before this weekend’s state party convention, the five Democrats running for governor jousted over illegal immigration and casino gambling during a debate Tuesday that also reflected broader philosophical agreements on many issues facing the candidates.

Attorney General Martha Coakley, leading in the polls, faced several barbs from her rivals over her previous opposition to driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants and her office’s decision to disqualify a potential ballot question that would repeal the state’s casino law.

All five candidates also agreed that Massachusetts was on the “right track” after eight years with Gov. Deval Patrick at the helm, but didn’t hesitate to describe issues with the Department of Children and Families, the Health Connector and the rollout of medical marijuana as “fiascos” and management failures of his administration.

The debate was the last matchup between the Democrats running for governor before the nominating convention in Worcester this weekend when one, or maybe more, may fail to win enough support among party insiders to qualify for the ballot. Coakley came into the forum riding high in the polls, even though Grossman is widely expected to win the convention’s delegate vote.

The latest Suffolk University-Boston Herald poll showed Coakley leading Grossman with 44 percent to the treasurer’s 12 percent. The debate, streamed live on the Internet, was moderated by Suffolk University’s John Nucci, a former city councilor, and Herald editorial page editor Rachelle Cohen.

"I'm going to make the argument that this state needs a progressive job creator, not a prosecutor as the next governor," Grossman said after the 90-minute debate.

With the struggles of past attorneys general to ascend to the governor's office, Grossman seemed to use the word "prosecutor" as a negative to describe his chief rival for the Democratic nomination.

"Martha Coakley is a prosecutor. That's fundamentally what she is," Grossman said. Asked to
Democratic governor candidates tangle before convention - News - Wicked Local Waltham - Waltham, MA

explain what he meant, Grossman said, “She spent her life as a prosecutor. We need a job creator.”

Coakley said she was not paying attention to the poll numbers, and said her career as a prosecutor in Middlesex County and at the state level is not a detriment to her campaign. She noted her fights against bank home foreclosures and challenging the Defense of Marriage Act.

“I’ve always focused on families, people who need voice, people who need someone to speak for them. I’ve done that as a prosecutor, I’ve done it as AG. I will be the voice for people as their governor,” Coakley told reporters.

» Comment or view comments

>> Trending Articles and Offers

Suprising energy play causes huge buying frenzy...[Investors cash in]

Popular “Skinny Pill” Putting Gyms Out of Business.

Boston arrest records. Who do you know?

One weird $10 device keeps looters away

A Conversation With Linus Torvalds, Who Built The World’s Most Robust Operating System And Gave It Away For Free

Jun. 7, 2014

Odyssey Opera forges a new path

Jun. 8, 2014

Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum talk ‘Jump Street,’ mutual admiration

Jun. 9, 2014

There’s A New Type Of Mobile Ad That Lets You ‘Click’ With Your Voice And Talk Back To The Radio

Jun. 9, 2014

Get Reel: Movies that made an impression

Jun. 8, 2014

CALENDAR

Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu

6/13 12:00 am BAC Summer Class Registration

6/13 12:30 am NIGHTCAP

6/13 1:00 am Registration for Newton Community

6/13 1:00 am Newton Camera Club exhibit

More Events » Add Events »

Events Venues Dining All

Events by evi says.com

Watch This Tonight: Jessie

See Why Tori Spelling Says Reuniting with Jennie Garth for Mystery ...
AG candidates confident as they head into Democratic convention

By Edward Donga
MassPoliticalNews.com
Posted Jun. 13, 2014 @ 7:55 am

BROOKLINE

With the Massachusetts Democratic Convention looming this weekend, candidates Maura Healey and Warren Tolman are gearing up to meet with the party’s delegates and activists.

Both are vying for the party’s nomination to replace Martha Coakley as the state’s next attorney general. Coakley is one of five democratic candidates seeking to become the state’s next governor after Gov. Deval Patrick decided no to run for another term.

While neither Tolman nor Healey were willing to predict who would walk away with the party’s nomination, both said they were feeling confident heading into the convention.

"I like where we are, but I got no idea where things are going to end up," Tolman said. "There are a lot of great activists that will be there, and obviously, you want to have as many on your team as possible."

Prior to launching his campaign for attorney general, Tolman served in the Massachusetts Legislature from 1991 to 1999 as a senator and representative. For the the last decade, he has worked as an attorney at the law firm Holland and Knight.

Tolman added that he was "confident" he will secure the 15 percent of the delegates needed to appear on the ballot in September’s primary election, but was silent on which candidate would garner the most delegates.

"You'd rather have it than not, but I'm not going to lay down on my sword for the nomination," Tolman said.

On Wednesday, Healey said she was also heading into the convention with high spirits.

"I just feel really great and really excited about where we're at," Healey said. "I'm really looking forward to Worcester."

Healey currently serves in the attorney general’s office, where she has headed the Public Protection and Advocacy Bureau and the Business and Labor Bureau under Coakley. Prior to joining the attorney general’s office, Healey had worked as a private sector attorney and a prosecutor in Middlesex County.
"I can't predict how things are going to go," said Healey when asked about her expectations for the convention. "The goal is to get the 15 percent and get on the ballot and make my case to voters in September."

Both candidates cited their experience and leadership as reasons why they expect they will attract support from the delegates.

For Tolman, that experience and leadership stems from his time in the Legislature where he took on entities like the tobacco industry while Healey’s experience comes from her service in the attorney general’s office where she led the state’s challenge of the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

Although Healey began her campaign as the underdog, a June 9 Boston Herald/Suffolk University poll had almost four points ahead of Tolman heading into the convention.

>> Comment or view comments

» Trending Articles and Offers

Suprising energy play causes huge buying frenzy...[Investors cash in]
 Popular "Skinny Pill" Putting Gyms Out of Business.
 Boston arrest records. Who do you know?
 One weird $10 device keeps looters away

Death Records &Obituaries

myheritage.com/Obituaries

Collections Dating Back To 1538! Death, Cemetery & Obituary Records.

Stay Informed

Email newsletter Sign Up Today

Sign up for our newsletter and have the top headlines from your community delivered right to your inbox.

Your privacy is important, read our privacy policy.
The Salem News has a real-name policy for commenting. Users may sign in using the Facebook Connect tool above the comments field. Once your first comment is posted by a moderator, all future comments will post automatically. If you prefer not to use Facebook, send an e-mail with your comments user name (which must be the same as your real name), city or town, street address and daytime phone number to comments@salemnews.com. A staff member will contact you directly to confirm your identity. It may take a day or two before you can post comments. Only your user name will be public. All users are required to follow our rules for commenting, which can be found here.

comments powered by Disqus
June 11, 2014

Gubernatorial candidate Steve Grossman looks to North Shore business leaders for support

Christian M. Wade Statehouse Reporter

SALEM — State Treasurer and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Steve Grossman wants to boost state aid to local governments, tap Canadian hydropower as a renewable energy source and limit the number of guns Massachusetts residents can buy.

"I don’t know anyone who needs to buy more than one gun a month," Grossman told a small group of North Shore business leaders at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem on Wednesday morning. "Unless you’re trying to arm a militia, you don’t need more than 12 guns a year."

Grossman is one of five Democrats vying to replace outgoing Gov. Deval Patrick, a Democrat who isn’t seeking a third term.

All five — Grossman, Martha Coakley, Juliette Kayyem, Donald Berwick and Joseph Avellone — are seeking the party’s nomination at a state convention in Worcester this weekend. Each must collect support from at least 15 percent of the delegates to get on the Sept. 9 primary ballot.

Grossman's campaign stop in Salem came just four days after Coakley, the state’s attorney general, visited the city to pick up an endorsement from Mayor Kim Driscoll, a Democrat.

Coakley, who lost the 2010 U.S. Senate race to Republican Scott Brown, remains the Democratic frontrunner for governor. A Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll released Monday showed her leading Grossman 44 percent to 12 percent. No other Democrat is in double-digits, according to the poll.

A former head of the state Democratic Party and Democratic National Committee, Grossman currently leads in the money race, with more than $910,000 in cash in hand, according to filings with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

Coakley had $528,379 in her campaign coffers as of Wednesday; Berwick, a former federal healthcare official, had $228,863; Kayyem, a former Homeland Security official, had $167,667; and Avellone, a former Wellesley selectman, had $57,287.

At Wednesday’s campaign stop in Salem, Grossman spoke to about 40 members of the North Shore Chamber of Commerce who peppered him with questions on a variety of issues including job creation, renewable energy, tax policy and casino gambling as they scoffed down breakfast.
Baker backs minimum-wage increase to $10.50 per hour

Sentinel & Enterprise

POSTED: 06/10/2014 06:32:14 AM EDT

BOSTON (AP) -- Republican gubernatorial candidate Charlie Baker is backing an increase in the state's minimum wage to $10.50 per hour, and said Monday it should be coupled with tax breaks for low-income individuals and small businesses.

The former head of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, who was the 2010 Republican nominee for governor, announced a series of economic proposals as he and his running mate, former state Rep. Karyn Polito, began a statewide campaign tour.

Baker endorsed a House-passed bill that would raise the minimum wage to $10.50 per hour over three years. The Senate version calls for a hike to $11 per hour over three years and, unlike the House bill, would automatically tie future increases to inflation.

Meanwhile, a Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll released Monday showed Baker trailing by seven points in a hypothetical general election matchup with Democratic Attorney General Martha Coakley. Nearly 27 percent of respondents said they were undecided. The survey of 800 likely voters was conducted from June 4-7 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

A similar poll in February showed Baker trailing Coakley by 13 points.

The most recent poll puts Baker in a virtual dead heat with state Treasurer Steven Grossman and well ahead in hypothetical matchups with the three other Democrats, Joseph Avellone, Don Berwick and Juliette Kayyem, who are vying for their party's gubernatorial nomination.

A poll of more than 600 likely voters conducted for the Boston Globe from May 29 to June 3 showed Coakley with a five-point lead over Baker in a hypothetical matchup, while Baker notched a six-point lead over Grossman. That poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

Hiking the minimum wage is an "important first step" in helping more than 400,000 workers in Massachusetts, from students working their way through college to parents holding multiple jobs to support their families, Baker said. But he added it would not alone do enough to help low-income workers and also called for a doubling of the state's earned income-tax credit from 15 percent to 30 percent.

"I care deeply about expanding the opportunity experienced in some parts of Massachusetts to the whole state for those families left behind by the last eight years of one-party rule," Baker said in a statement.

To offset the cost to small businesses with 50 or fewer workers, Baker's plan would offer tax credits of $1,000 per minimum-wage employee for each $1 increase in the wage.
Baker's Republican primary opponent, tea-party member Mark Fisher, opposes a change in the mandatory minimum wage, saying it should be left to individual employers to decide.

All five Democrats running to succeed Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick support a higher minimum wage.

Baker's economic plan also calls for tax credits for businesses that hire welfare recipients, phasing out the state's inventory tax, reducing fees for starting and maintaining a business, and reviewing the state's regulatory structure with an eye toward streamlining demands on businesses.

Welcome to your discussion forum: Sign in with a Disqus account or your social networking account for your comment to be posted immediately, provided it meets the guidelines. (READ HOW) Comments made here are the sole responsibility of the person posting them; these comments do not reflect the opinion of The Sentinel and Enterprise. So keep it civil.

Recent Comments

John C. Schumacher-Hardy

Mob Rule: Coming to Lancaster Soon :-(

14 Benefits Most Seniors Didn't Know They Had

Boston - New rule allows many Massachusetts residents to get car insurance at half-price.

Surprisingly simple solution to help your joints. See why these ingredients are flying off shelves

Boston arrest records. Who do you know?
SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts — The state's top gambling regulator says MGM's $800 million casino plan for downtown Springfield is a "genuinely ambitious and unusual effort" that presents a "real possibility" for lifting the economic fortunes of the entire Pioneer Valley.

Massachusetts Gaming Commission Chairman Stephen Crosby, giving an overall assessment of the project on Wednesday at the MassMutual center, said he was convinced the casino plan is unique enough to compete against Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun in Connecticut and draw tourists from Connecticut and New York.

Crosby's assessment completes the commission's final review of MGM's proposal, which is the lone applicant for the state's western region casino license.

The five-member panel will discuss terms and conditions of the license Wednesday afternoon. It plans to finalize the casino license — the state's first — on Friday.
Governor candidates debate

By Matt Murphy, State House News Service

UPDATED: 06/11/2014 08:50:14 AM EDT

BOSTON -- In their final tune-up before this weekend's state party convention, the five Democrats running for governor jousted over illegal immigration and casino gambling during a debate Tuesday that also reflected broader philosophical agreements on many issues facing the candidates.

Attorney General Martha Coakley, leading in the polls, faced several barbs from her rivals over her previous opposition to driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants and her office's decision to disqualify a potential ballot question that would repeal the state's casino law.

All five candidates also agreed that Massachusetts was on the "right track" after eight years with Gov. Deval Patrick at the helm, but didn't hesitate to describe issues with the Department of Children and Families, the Health Connector and the rollout of medical marijuana as "fiascos" and management failures of his administration.

The debate was the last matchup between the Democrats running for governor before the nominating convention in Worcester this weekend when one, or maybe more, may fail to win enough support among party insiders to qualify for the ballot. Coakley came into the forum riding high in the polls, even though Grossman is widely expected to win the convention's delegate vote.

The latest Suffolk University-Boston Herald poll showed Coakley leading Grossman with 44 percent to the treasurer's 12 percent. The debate, streamed live on the internet, was moderated by Suffolk University's John Nucci, a former city councilor, and Herald editorial page editor Rachelle Cohen.

"I'm going to make the argument that this state needs a progressive job creator, not a prosecutor as the next governor," Grossman said after the 90-minute debate.

With the struggles of past attorneys general to ascend to the governor's office, Grossman seemed to use the word "prosecutor" as a negative to describe his chief rival for the Democratic nomination. "Martha Coakley is a prosecutor. That's fundamentally what she is," Grossman said. Asked to explain what he meant, Grossman said, "She spent her life as a prosecutor. We need a job creator."

Coakley said she was not paying attention to the poll numbers, and said her career as a prosecutor in Middlesex County and at the state level was not a detriment to her campaign.

She noted her fights against bank home foreclosures and challenging the Defense of Marriage Act.

"I've always focused on families, people who need voice, people who need someone to speak for them. I've done that as a prosecutor. I've done it as AG. I will be the voice for people as their governor," Coakley told reporters.

All five Democrats said they supported Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone's recent decision to sign an executive order limiting the city's cooperation with the Secure Communities program, which partners local police with federal authorities to hold undocumented immigrants for possible deportation.

"Anyone who is in public safety know that communities have to have trust and faith in their law enforcement, otherwise they will not come forward whether it's domestic violence or drugs," said former homeland security official Juliette Kayyem.

Coakley said the program was designed to help federal authorities remove threats to public safety from communities. "We know it's gone far too far," she said, by targeting many undocumented immigrants with no criminal background.

Grossman described Secure Communities as a "blunt instrument," but quickly pivoted to knock Coakley for opposing drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants, which he called a public safety issue. Coakley has opposed such licenses in the past, but during the campaign said she would be open to the idea because the federal government has failed to enact comprehensive immigration reform.
Both Grossman and Kayyem said they would support drivers' licenses and in-state tuition rates for undocumented immigrants.

Dr. Donald Berwick, a pediatrician and former Medicare and Medicaid administrator under Obama, also sought to differentiate himself from the pack with his support for single-payer health care and his opposition to casino gambling.

A Suffolk University poll released Monday showed that only 37 percent of likely voters now support casino gambling in Massachusetts.

"It's time to backpedal," Berwick said.

While the other four candidates said they would oppose repeal if the Supreme Judicial Court certifies a question for the November ballot, Berwick said casinos would not only "cannibalize" the Lottery and cost the state jobs but also lead to addiction and medical health problems for the population.

"Frankly, I do not understand why my opponents are not joining me," Berwick said.

Joseph Avellone, a biopharmaceutical executive, said he fears that "referendum government" can lead to an unstable business environment, and argued for allowing the state's 2011 law to play out.

Avellone is against a single payer system, saying it will cost jobs, and opposes indexing the gas tax to inflation, another law that could be repealed in November.

Avellone called the indexing provision included in last year's transportation financing plan a "backdoor tax," though he said he would likely try to make the case to voters in the future for further increases in the gas tax to support investments in public transit and infrastructure.

Grossman said the Legislature in 2013 made a "modest downpayment" of $600 million in new revenue to support transportation, but criticized the likely Republican nominee Charlie Baker for opposing gas tax indexing. "I would challenge Charlie Baker to say where on earth are you going to get the $1 billion we're going to lose over the next 10 years," he said.

The candidates also discussed patronage in state government, affordable housing for students, the need for more public transportation, affirmative action, student debt and the possibility of legalizing marijuana. All five candidates said they would prefer to wait and see how the medical marijuana experiment in Massachusetts and the new legalization laws in Washington and Colorado work before deciding on legalized marijuana.

Avellone and Coakley said they would support student loan forgiveness for graduates entering certain professions, while Grossman called for a four-year tuition freeze at public universities and Berwick said making health care affordable will help graduates pay their loans. Several also noted their support for U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren's bill, pushed by the president on Monday, to allow students to refinance their education loans at lower rates.

In a unique twist in addition to presenting questions from Suffolk students and Twitter, the moderators allowed independent Jeff McCormick and Republicans Baker and Mark Fisher to pre-record questions for the Democrats.

While McCormick asked how they would create jobs and Baker asked if Massachusetts was on the right track in light of recent struggles with DCF and the Affordable Care Act website, Fisher pointed to evidence of welfare fraud and illegal immigration as evidence that the state is on track to become "Detroitchestas." 

Avellone, Berwick and Grossman all touted their private and public sector experience running businesses and large federal agencies, while Kayyem said a governor can lead on job creation by investing in areas like transportation and the maritime industry, while Coakley said she wanted the governor's office to be a one-stop portal for small business owners to seek help growing their companies.

While all five acknowledged some of the recent let-downs under Gov. Patrick's watch, the Democrats agreed that the most important thing was to recognize mistakes and fix them, not to place blame for problems that inevitably arise under Democrat and Republican administrations.
GAMBLING

Many Mass. voters leery of in-state casinos

As gambling regulators move closer to awarding the state's first resort casino license, a new poll suggests that many residents still have doubts about whether Massachusetts should host casino gambling at all.

A Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll released Monday finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state, while 37 percent approve. The survey of 800 residents was taken last week and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission on Tuesday is scheduled to begin a series of meetings leading up to a Friday vote on whether to award MGM Resorts International a license for its proposed $800 million casino in Springfield.

The state's highest court is deciding whether to allow a question calling for repeal of the state's casino law on the November ballot.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY-BOSTON HERALD POLL

Opinion Shifts Against Mass. Casinos

By MATTHEW STURDEVANT
msturdevant@courant.com

A new poll shows waning support for casinos in Massachusetts even as state gambling regulators prepare for a Friday decision on whether MGM may build an $800 million casino in Springfield.

Public support for casinos is paramount if the state's highest court allows a ballot initiative that could repeal the 2011 law allowing casinos in Massachusetts. The Supreme Judicial Court is expected to rule this summer in a case that pits petitioners against Attorney General Martha Coakley, who says that the state can't back out of a casino process that is well underway.

The Suffolk University-Boston Herald poll released this week found that 47 percent of voters disapprove of putting casinos in Massachusetts, 37 percent approve and 15 percent are undecided.

Support has fallen since February, when 51 percent of voters approved of casinos and 37 percent were against them, according to the Suffolk University Political Research Center. In February 2010, 57 percent of voters favored casinos.

MGM Resorts International appeared to take the latest poll in stride.

"A long licensing process may have resulted in casino fatigue for some residents of the Commonwealth," Carole Brennan, a spokeswoman for MGM Springfield, said in a statement. "But we are optimistic that MGM Springfield will be designated the Western Mass licensee soon and that will show voters that thousands of new jobs and strong economic opportunities are real outcomes, not just slogans.

"Springfield is about to realize a unique downtown renaissance at the center of the region. That is exciting change that we are confident will build momentum," Brennan said.

Release of the poll coincides with a growing anti-casino movement in Massachusetts. Gambling opposition unified small groups that fought proposals in Palmer, West Springfield, Milford and East Boston where residents voted down casinos at the municipal level.

David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center, cited several factors that could have influenced public opinion since February, including media attention on Democratic caucuses between Feb. 8 and March 2 during which casinos were a hot topic.

Support for casinos could also be fading as the economy rebounds, he said. Gambling was seen as a way to create jobs, and there is less of a need than there was in 2011 when unemployment rates were higher, Paleologos said.

The casino approval process itself has also come under increased scrutiny.

State Gaming Commission Chairman Stephen P. Crosby recused himself in May from any role in deciding whether to award a casino license in Greater Boston. Crosby's decision followed months of media reports about his business relationship with one of the landowners in Everett, where Steve Wynn wants to build a casino. Separately, there were news reports of Crosby's attending a party at Suffolk Downs where the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority wants to build a casino.

In the Suffolk poll, women and Republicans were two groups that changed their views significantly since February, with lower approval rates and higher disapproval rates.

Women who live west of Worcester and in Middlesex and Suffolk counties, around Boston, increasingly disapproved of a casino, Paleologos said. Approval rates among women have fallen and disapproval rates are up, and studies show that the social ills of gambling tend to affect women more profoundly than men, he said.

Support is slipping among registered Republicans as well, Paleologos said.

"They're flipping, we believe, for different reasons [than women]," he said. "They're flipping because they see Gov. [Deval] Patrick's casino commission with delays, and abstentions and possible conflicts of interest. So, they're flipping. I think, because of their disdain for government bureaucracy and not handling it properly."

Ballot Bound?

Still unresolved is whether Massachusetts voters will get to have their say on a possible repeal.

Petitioners gathered enough signatures to get a measure on the November ballot that would allow voters to repeal the state's casino laws, which the legislature passed in 2011. However, Coakley didn't certify the petition, arguing that the petitioners' proposed law would
take private property in the form of contract rights without any compensation in return.

The petitioners appealed Coakley’s rejection to the highest court in Massachusetts, and both sides made oral arguments on May 5. The Supreme Judicial Court typically decides cases within 30 days, but it could be sooner if the matter is to get on the ballot.

MGM has asked the gaming commission to hold off on actually awarding a license until the petition is resolved because the license triggers hundreds of millions of dollars in contractual obligations, and if state voters repeal the law, it will all be for naught.

GM Springfield President Michael Mathis wrote a letter in April asking the Massachusetts Gaming Commission for flexibility “in timing of the award and payment of licensing fees.”

“MGM Springfield will be at risk of $200M dollars in fees, payments and deposits due to the confiscatory nature of the ballot initiative if allowed to proceed to the November election and passed by voters,” Mathis wrote in his letter.

The gaming commission has not responded to the request, but it could do so this week if it decides that MGM’s plan is sufficient to get the license.

The 2011 legislation allows for casinos in three region regions of the state: Western Massachusetts, Greater Boston and southeastern Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission is poised to decide Friday whether MGM Resorts International should be allowed to build a casino in Springfield.

MGM is the only remaining casino proposal in Western Massachusetts.

Separately, the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority is competing against Las Vegas casino owner Steve Wynn for the Boston license.

Suffolk University surveyed 800 likely voters throughout the state by phone from June 4 to 7. The margin of error is 3.5 percentage points.
Nine out of 10 view gambling as acceptable activity

Public support of casino gaming is at an all-time high, with 57 percent of voters expressing approval, and nearly nine in 10 viewing gambling in general as an acceptable activity, according to a new poll commissioned by the American Gaming Association, a casino trade group.

Nearly two-thirds of casino visitors own a home, and 70 percent of them consider themselves “middle class” or “upper middle class,” the survey found. Forty-six percent are college graduates and more than a third attend religious services every week.

The association released the results Monday along with the latest statistics on nationwide gross gaming revenues, which increased 1 percent from $37.34 billion in 2012 to $37.78 billion in 2013. The figures are for commercial casinos, of which there are none in Connecticut. Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun are owned by Indian tribes.

The poll found that 74 percent of voters believe casinos promote job creation, and 59 percent say casinos help the economies where they are located.

Recent polling in Massachusetts, where gaming regulators could license up to three resort casinos, revealed different attitudes. A Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll found that 47 percent of likely Massachusetts voters disapprove of casinos in their state, while 37 percent approve.
A new poll shows waning support for casinos in the Bay State even as Massachusetts gambling regulators prepare for a Friday decision on whether MGM may build an $800 million casino in Springfield.

Public support for casinos is paramount if the state's highest court allows a ballot initiative that could repeal the 2011 law allowing casinos in Massachusetts. The Supreme Judicial Court is expected to rule this summer in a case that pits petitioners against Attorney General Martha Coakley, who says that the state can't back out of a casino process that is well underway.

The Suffolk University-Boston Herald poll released this week found that 47 percent of voters disapprove of putting casinos in Massachusetts, 37 percent approve and 15 percent are undecided.

Support has fallen since February, when 51 percent of voters approved of casinos and 37 percent were against them, according to the Suffolk University Political Research Center. In February 2010, 57 percent of voters favored casinos.

MGM Resorts International appeared to take the latest poll in stride.

"A long licensing process may have resulted in casino fatigue for some residents of the Commonwealth," Carole Brennan, a spokeswoman for MGM Springfield, said in a statement. "But we are optimistic that MGM Springfield will be designated the Western Mass licensee soon and that will show voters that thousands of new jobs and strong economic opportunities are real outcomes, not just slogans.

"Springfield is about to realize a unique downtown renaissance at the center of the region. That is exciting change that we are confident will build momentum," Brennan said.

Release of the poll coincides with a growing anti-casino movement in Massachusetts. Gambling opposition unified small groups that fought proposals in Palmer, West Springfield, Milford and East Boston where residents voted down casinos at the municipal level.

David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center, cited several factors that could
have influenced public opinion since February, including media attention on Democrat caucuses between Feb. 8 and March 2 during which casinos were a hot topic.

Support for casinos could also be fading as the economy rebounds, he said. Gambling was seen as a way to create jobs, and there is less of a need than there was in 2011 when unemployment rates were higher, Paleologos said.

The casino approval process itself has also come under increased scrutiny.

State Gaming Commission Chairman Stephen P. Crosby recused himself in May from any role in deciding whether to award a casino license in Greater Boston. Crosby's decision followed months of media reports about his business relationship with one of the landowners in Everett, where Steve Wynn wants to build a casino. Separately, there were news reports of Crosby's attending a party at Suffolk Downs where the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority wants to build a casino.

In the Suffolk poll, women and Republicans were two groups that changed their views significantly since February, with lower approval rates and higher disapproval rates.

Women who live west of Worcester and in Middlesex and Suffolk counties, around Boston, increasingly disapproved of a casino, Paleologos said. Approval rates among women have fallen and disapproval rates are up, and studies show that the social ills of gambling tend to affect women more profoundly than men, he said.

Support is slipping among registered Republicans as well, Paleologos said.

"They're flipping, we believe, for different reasons [than women]," he said. "They're flipping because they see Gov. [Deval] Patrick's casino commission with delays, and abstentions and possible conflicts of interest. So, they're flipping, I think, because of their disdain for government bureaucracy and not handling it property."

Ballot Bound?

Still unresolved is whether Massachusetts voters will get to have their say on a possible repeal.

Petitioners gathered enough signatures to get a measure on the November ballot that would allow voters to repeal the state's casino laws, which the legislature passed in 2011. However, Attorney General Martha Coakley didn't certify the petition, arguing that the petitioners' proposed law would take private property in the form of contract rights without any compensation in return.

The petitioners appealed Coakley's rejection to the highest court in Massachusetts, and both sides made oral arguments on May 5. The Supreme Judicial Court typically decides cases within 130 days, but it could be sooner if the matter is to get on the ballot.

MGM has asked the gaming commission to hold off on actually awarding a license until the petition is resolved because the license triggers hundreds of millions of dollars in contractual obligations, and if state voters repeal the law, it will all be for naught.

GM Springfield President Michael Mathis wrote a letter in April asking the Massachusetts Gaming Commission for flexibility "in timing of the award and payment of licensing fees."
"MGM Springfield will be at risk of $200M dollars in fees, payments and deposits due to the confiscatory nature of the ballot initiative if allowed to proceed to the November election and passed by voters," Mathis wrote in his letter.

The gaming commission has not responded to the request, but it could do so this week if it decides that MGM's plan is sufficient to get the license.

The 2011 legislation allows for casinos in three distinct region regions of the state: Western Massachusetts, Greater Boston and the southeastern part of the state. The Massachusetts Gaming Commission is poised to decide Friday whether MGM Resorts International should be allowed to build one in Springfield. MGM is the only remaining casino proposal in western Massachusetts.

Separately, the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority is competing against Las Vegas casino owner Steve Wynn for the Boston license.

The Suffolk University-Boston Herald poll found that 55 percent say there shouldn't be a casino in either Revere, where the Mohegans want to build, or Everett, where Wynn wants to build. In February, 47 percent disapproved of putting gambling in the Boston region, which includes both Revere and Everett.

The poll did not break out similar numbers for western Massachusetts.

Suffolk University surveyed 800 likely voters throughout the state by phone from June 4 to 7. The margin of error is 3.5 percentage points.

Copyright © 2014, The Hartford Courant
GOP's Baker backs minimum wage hike, tax credits
By BOB SALSBERG, Associated Press
Updated 11:42 am, Monday, June 9, 2014

BOSTON (AP) — Republican candidate for governor Charlie Baker is backing an increase in the state's minimum wage to $10.50 per hour, and said Monday it should be coupled with tax breaks for low-income individuals and small businesses.

The former head of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, who was the 2010 Republican nominee for governor, announced a series of economic proposals as he and his running mate, former state Rep. Karyn Polito, began a statewide campaign tour.

Baker endorsed a House-passed bill that would raise the minimum wage to $10.50 per hour over three years. The Senate version calls for a hike to $11 per hour over three years and, unlike the House bill, would automatically tie future increases to inflation.

Meanwhile, a Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll released Monday showed Baker trailing by seven points in a hypothetical general election matchup with Democratic Attorney General Martha Coakley. Nearly 27 percent of respondents said they were undecided. The survey of 800 likely voters was conducted from June 4-7 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

A similar poll in February showed Baker trailing Coakley by 13 points.

The most recent poll puts Baker in a virtual dead heat with state Treasurer Steven Grossman and well ahead in hypothetical matchups with the three other Democrats, Joseph Avellone, Don Berwick and Juliette Kayyem, who are vying for their party's gubernatorial nomination.

A poll of more than 600 likely voters conducted for The Boston Globe from May 29 to June 3 showed Coakley with a five-point lead over Baker in a hypothetical matchup, while Baker notched a six-point lead over Grossman. That poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

Hiking the minimum wage is an "important first step" in helping more than 400,000 workers in Massachusetts, from students working their way through college to parents holding multiple jobs to support their families, Baker said. But he added it would not alone do enough to help low-income workers and also called for a doubling of the state's earned income tax credit from 15 to 30 percent.

"I care deeply about expanding the opportunity experienced in some parts of Massachusetts to the whole state for those families left behind by the last eight years of one-party rule," Baker said in a statement.

To offset the cost to small businesses with 50 or fewer workers, Baker's plan would offer tax credits of $1,000 per minimum wage employee for each $1 increase in the wage.
Baker's Republican primary opponent, tea party member Mark Fisher, opposes a change in the mandatory minimum wage, saying it should be left to individual employers to decide.

All five Democrats running to succeed Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick support a higher minimum wage.

Baker's economic plan also calls for tax credits for businesses that hire welfare recipients, phasing out the state's inventory tax, reducing fees for starting and maintaining a business, and reviewing the state's regulatory structure with an eye toward streamlining demands on businesses.
Poll: Coakley out in front, but GOP's Baker closing gap

Attorney General Martha Coakley holds a waning but still commanding lead over her Democratic gubernatorial rivals and a shaky 7-point margin over her likely GOP opponent as the race heads into a critical week, a new Suffolk University-Boston Herald poll shows.

Coakley has slipped within the last few months but most of her defecting supporters have gone to the undecided column -- not the camps of her closest competitors, according to the Suffolk-Herald poll of 800 likely voters.

The Democratic frontrunner, is beating her nearest rival, Treasurer Steve Grossman, by a 44-12 point margin, but Grossman has narrowed that gap in the last few months, according to the poll. She held a 56-11 point margin over the Treasurer in a Suffolk-Herald poll in February.

All the other candidates have failed to make a mark in the race, sitting in low single digits. But one third of Democratic voters are now undecided, the poll shows.

The attorney general, looking to atone for her soul-crushing U.S. Senate loss in 2010, holds a 7-point lead over likely GOP nominee Charlie Baker, but in February was beating Baker by 13 points, according to the Suffolk-Herald poll, which has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

The results come just one day before Coakley and the other Democratic candidates tangle in a Suffolk University-Boston Herald debate, which will be shown live on bostonherald.com and Boston Herald Radio at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Coakley's lead dropped in the Democratic matchup not because of a surge to Grossman or other candidates but because her backers drifted to undecided, according to pollster David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center.

"You've got this rotation away from Coakley to undecided," Paleologos said. "They're taking a pause."

In the general election matchup, Coakley's six point drop is due to her supporters waver-- not because Baker is moving up.

"They're not jumping to Baker. They're just taking a break from Coakley," Paleologos said.

Baker is also viewed unfavorably by 20 percent of voters, probably because of a negative ad push by Democrats.

Still, Coakley's dwindling lead in the matchup against Baker has to be worrisome to Democratic leaders and activists as they gather for their party convention in Worcester on Saturday. ___

(c)2014 the Boston Herald

Visit the Boston Herald at www.bostonherald.com

Distributed by MCT Information Services

Related Articles from FindLaw

GOP's Baker backs minimum wage hike, tax credits 4 DAYS AGO

BOSTON (AP) — Republican candidate for governor Charlie Baker is backing an increase in the state's minimum wage to $10.50 per hour, and said Monday it should be coupled with tax breaks for low-income individuals and small businesses. The ...
Four racing toward Saturday showdown

Juliette Kayyem is hoping her aggressive attacks on Martha Coakley at the Suffolk University/Boston Herald debate yesterday will help vault her onto the Democratic gubernatorial ballot, even as Treasurer Steve Grossman looks to top the front-running attorney general at the party's convention this weekend and boost his lagging poll numbers, according to political experts.

"She's on the cusp -- she could go either way," Paul Watanabe of the University of Massachusetts Boston said of Kayyem. "Ironically, if we were having a primary right now, she could probably get 15 percent of the public's vote. The group she has to appeal to is the one that's made up of party insiders."

Those insiders are gathering Saturday in Worcester, where the five gubernatorial rivals are bidding to collect at least 15 percent of the delegates to make it onto the Sept. 9 primary ballot. There are 6,000 delegates -- many already committed -- but political experts say the number of undecideds is larger than usual.

Coakley and Grossman are locks to make it onto the ballot, with the attorney general looking to deal the state treasurer a crippling blow by handing him a second-place finish. But some say that's not guaranteed because Grossman -- who said he's personally called a majority of the delegates -- could reap the benefits of his legwork and collect 45 percent of the vote.

Don Berwick -- the former Obama administration official who's courting the party's ultra-left by pushing so-called "single-payer" health plans -- boasted after the debate he'll make the cut, saying: "We'll be on the ballot for sure."

That leaves Kayyem and Joe Avellone fighting for the leftovers.

Political watchdogs say Kayyem could be the fourth winner this weekend, especially if Grossman swings a few delegates her way to chip away at Coakley's lead in the polls and make it a crowded field.

The last time more than three candidates made it onto the Democratic primary ballot was in 2002 -- when five made the cut, including Grossman.

None of the candidates landed game-changing blows during the debate, making the legions of undecided delegates that much more valuable.

"There's a much higher number of undecided voters than normal at this year's convention," said Democratic strategist Scott Ferson. "There's a general sense among the delegates that they like them all. ... If you're close, I think the number of undecideds helps you. ... I could see a higher number of undecideds helping those just under 15 percent."

Kayyem continued to take the offensive against Coakley even after yesterday's showdown.

"You cannot simply hide behind the role when you're afraid or too cautious to take a stand," Kayyem said of Coakley and her state AG post. "Caution is not going to win the governorship for the Democrats. So say what you mean, say what your opinion is, and don't hide behind the office."

That jab came after Kayyem accused Coakley during the debate of bragging about her office's achievements when it's politically helpful, but distancing herself from them when they're unpopular, including her efforts to block a casino repeal ballot question from the Nov. 4 election -- a matter before the state Supreme Judicial Court.
Grossman, meanwhile, took shots at Coakley before and after the debate -- but not during -- saying the state "needs a progressive job-creator and not a prosecutor as the next governor."

Coakley committed no major gaffes and declared pride in her record as attorney general, which amounts to a win for the party's undisputed front-runner. ____

(c)2014 the Boston Herald

Visit the Boston Herald at www.bostonherald.com

Distributed by MCT Information Services

Related Articles from FindLaw

Democrats debate issues days before convention 2 DAYS AGO
BOSTON (AP) -- The five Democrats running for governor met Tuesday for a final debate before their party's state convention, with all agreeing that Massachusetts was on the right track while acknowledging major problems in state government. Attorney General Martha ... __

Democratic convention will be big test for Coakley 5 DAYS AGO
BOSTON (AP) -- The Massachusetts Democratic Convention looms as the biggest political test for gubernatorial hopeful Martha Coakley since an ill-fated U.S. Senate campaign against Republican Scott Brown more than four years ago. Analysts say anything less than a solid ... __

Candidates for governor scrabbling for donations 1 WEEK AGO
BOSTON (AP) -- Republican candidate for governor Charlie Baker is closing the fundraising gap with Democratic hopeful Steven Grossman as candidates in the crowded field for Massachusetts governor scrabble for donations. As of the end of May, Baker reported $899,710 ... __

Grossman: $9M spending cap on Democratic primary 6 DAYS AGO
BOSTON (AP) -- Democratic candidate for governor Steven Grossman says he may spend as much as $9 million to win his party's primary. Grossman was required to submit the self-imposed limit as part of the state's public campaign finance ... __

GOP's Baker backs minimum wage hike, tax credits 4 DAYS AGO
BOSTON (AP) -- Republican candidate for governor Charlie Baker is backing an increase in the state's minimum wage to $10.50 per hour, and said Monday it should be coupled with tax breaks for low-income individuals and small businesses. The ... __

Related Regional News

Chabot: Rivals land few punches on Coakley at Suffolk-Herald debate 3 DAYS AGO
Gubernatorial frontrunner Martha Coakley's toughest rivals kept their swords sheathed during a Boston Herald/Suffolk University debate today -- blowing their opportunity to shake up ... FULL ARTICLE

Debate gives Dems chance to shine 3 DAYS AGO
It's crunch time for the Democratic candidates for governor as they face off today for the last time before this weekend's convention, where ... FULL ARTICLE

Candidates clash on casinos, welfare at Suffolk-Herald debate 3 DAYS AGO
The five Democratic candidates for governor clashed on casinos, illegal immigration, and photo IDs on welfare cards during lively exchanges at today's Boston Herald-Suffolk ... FULL ARTICLE

Coakley shuns convention-al wisdom 4 DAYS AGO
Attorney General Martha Coakley is downplaying the importance of winning this weekend's Democratic convention -- her first big political test since fumbling the 2010 Senate ... FULL ARTICLE

LEARN MORE ABOUT  Legal Topics / State Laws / Bookshelf / Blogs / FindLaw RSS Feeds / Sitemap / Geography Sitemap / FindLaw En Español / LawBrain / FindLaw UK
FIND A LAWYER  Browse by Location / Browse by Legal Issue / Search by Name
FIND ANSWERS  FindLaw Answers / Community Guidelines
GET LEGAL FORMS  Visit our Legal Forms site
FOR LAWYERS  Visit our professional site / Edit your legal profile / Website development / Advertise on our site
ABOUT US  Company History / Media / Contact Us / Privacy / Terms / Disclaimer / Advertising / Jobs
LOCAL LAWYERS  Atlanta Lawyers / Boston Lawyers / Chicago Lawyers / Dallas Lawyers / Houston Lawyers / Los Angeles Lawyers / Miami Lawyers / New York City Lawyers / Phoenix Lawyers /
Obama in Mass. as woes swirl

President Obama flies into the Bay State today for a fundraiser and a commencement speech amid a steady onslaught of scandals and missteps that Republicans say have "narrowed the map" for him and could prematurely turn him into a lame duck ahead of the midterm elections.

The latest Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll showed even in heavily blue Massachusetts, Obama faces as many detractors as fans, with his job approval/disapproval numbers in a virtual dead heat at 45 percent to 44 percent.

"When you're barely treading water in a Democratic stronghold like Massachusetts, it's safe to say you've hit lame-duck status," said Ford O'Connell, a Republican operative in Washington, D.C.

"He's going to Silicon Valley next, so he's really narrowed the map," O'Connell said, noting Obama is zeroing in on his party's most reliable sources of deep-pocket donors. "The chickens are coming home to roost. He will try anything to change the narrative around."

Pollster David Paleologos, director of Suffolk University's Political Research Center, reported in the Herald that a slew of recent missteps and scandals have likely led to the president's rapid slide. The VA scandal, followed by the release of five Taliban hardliners for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl -- viewed as a possible deserter by some of his comrades -- and anger directed at Obama by his own party in Congress for failing to notify leadership of the trade, are wearing on Obama, poll numbers show.

With Democrats across the country relying on Obama's fundraising ability and popularity to maintain control of the U.S. Senate in November, the negative numbers could not come at a worse time.

GOP strategist Chip Felkel said if the Bay State is a bellwether, it's too late for Obama to turn the tide.

"If he can't get a warm reception and have a good response in Massachusetts, I would say the midterms do not look promising," Felkel said. "The way they handled Bergdahl, the VA scandal, it's all starting to add up. It's not just Massachusetts. It's around the country. If you're at the National Republican Congressional Committee right now, you're licking your chops."

Obama is scheduled to land at Worcester Airport about 3:25 p.m. After he speaks at the Worcester Technical High School graduation at the DCU Center in Worcester he will head to Weston for a fundraiser at a private home. Obama was just in Weston for a fundraising dinner in October. At that gathering 60 or so invitees paid anywhere from $16,200 per person to $64,800 per couple to attend. ___

(c)2014 the Boston Herald

Visit the Boston Herald at www.bostonherald.com

Distributed by MCT Information Services

Related Articles from FindLaw

Obama holds up technical school as model for U.S.

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — Saluting graduates as they leave the safety of high school behind, President Barack Obama held up a revitalized New England technical school on Wednesday as a model for the United States in an increasingly competitive global workforce ...
Adriana Cohen: Prez schmoozes and country loses

Today, President Obama flies in to do what he does best: schmooze with one-percenters at a $32,000-a-head fundraiser in Weston.

You can rest assured neither the well-heeled Democratic donors nor the graduating class at Worcester Technical High School, where the president will deliver a commencement address, will say boo about what the polls are telling us: Even blue-state Democrats are disillusioned with his abysmal job performance. A Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll this week found his job approval numbers here at a historically low 45 percent favorable, 44 percent unfavorable in the wake of back-to-back scandals, most recently the swap of five Taliban terrorists for a suspected deserter.

So if you're Barack Obama, don't you have to ask yourself ... shouldn't I be back in Washington, D.C., trying to keep Americans safe, instead of looking for feel-good photo-ops and still more money for the Democrats' failed agenda?

The reality is that after nearly six years of Obama's misguided foreign policy, the Taliban and al-Qaeda are on the march.

U.S. troops were under such pressure from an emboldened Taliban on Monday they were forced to call in an airstrike that killed five of their own -- airstrikes, we're told, being a rare "in extremis" event under the military's highly restrictive rules of engagement.

The Taliban killed 27 people in Karachi, Pakistan, over the weekend. Yesterday, al-Qaeda took over Mosul, the second-largest city in Iraq, forcing Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to beg for military recruits. Iraq, you'll recall, is where President George W. Bush won the war, and President Obama abandoned the peace, failing to cut a deal to keep U.S. forces there to keep al-Qaeda at bay.

Obama does everything he can to avoid using the word "terrorism." He insists al-Qaeda is on the run.

His people pushed the line that in Benghazi, the 2012 Islamist terrorist attack that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens was a protest about a video.

They called the 2009 deaths of 16 Americans by a rogue American Muslim soldier yelling "Allahu Akhbar" a case of workplace violence.

It appears Obama thought swapping a suspected deserter for five terrorists would be a public relations win. Massachusetts, attacked by suspected Islamist terrorists in the April 2013 Marathon bombings, isn't buying it. But in Barack Obama's worldview, grandstanding, scoring political points, and raking in campaign cash take precedence over Americans' safety.

Adriana Cohen is co-host of Trending Now on Boston Herald Radio. Follow her on Twitter @AdrianaCohen16. ___

(c)2014 the Boston Herald

Visit the Boston Herald at www.bostonherald.com

Related Articles from FindLaw

Obama's counterterrorism doctrine: Let locals lead the fight

NEW YORK (Reuters) - (This May31 story corrects spelling of byline to Rohde, not Rhode) In a foreign
Cashman: Berwick should bet it all on his casino stance

Jun 10, 2014 - 10:41 GMT

Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Donald Berwick may not want to be known as a one-issue candidate, but it should be his sole focus and winning strategy for today’s Suffolk University/Boston Herald debate. This is the last chance for the candidates to sell their message to voters, and more importantly to delegates ahead of this weekend’s state Democratic Convention. The poll … (continue reading)

ALL AMUSEMENT, GAMING & CASINO TOPICS

- Casinos (http://casinos.einnews.com)

See more (http://www.einnews.com/publications/amusement-gaming-casino)
Nucci: Poll shows odds don’t favor casinos

Jun 10, 2014 - 10:41 GMT

Casino opponents, especially in Greater Boston, shouldn’t fold their hand yet. There’s been a dramatic shift in what Bay State voters think about gambling, according to a new Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll. Public opinion has completely turned around on legalized slots and casinos. Only 37 percent of poll respondents say they approve of gambling in Massachusetts, while 47 … (continue reading (/article/208703238/xLc7AdkXG4G8ToiT))

Support the President?

Do you approve of his job performance? Vote Here

ALL AMUSEMENT, GAMING & CASINO TOPICS

- Casinos (http://casinos.einnews.com)

See more (http://www.einnews.com/publications/amusement-gaming-casino)

Suggest a topic (/suggest_topic?
see_all_url=http%3A%2F%2Fcasinos.einnews.com%2Farticle__detail%2F208703238%3Flcode%3Dw9AMi7rUO8gpYUPPgQ7fOA%3D%3D)
Poll: Doubts persist as vote nears on Springfield casino plan

Jun 10, 2014 - 06:10 GMT

BOSTON -- While gambling regulators move closer to awarding the state’s first resort casino license, a poll released on Monday suggests that many voters still have doubts about whether Massachusetts should host casino gambling at all. The Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll found that 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state, while 37 percent approve. The … (continue reading /article/208682100/pD9egUaK5GiJfDun)

Support the President?
newsmax.com/surveys
Do you approve of his job performance? Vote Here
Massachusetts voters ‘flip-flop’ on casinos

June 09, 2014 6:11 PM by Ray Poirier

Just when the much-criticized Massachusetts Gaming Commission was about to take a victory lap by awarding a casino license Friday to MGM Resorts International (MGM) for its $800 million project in Springfield, a new poll indicates the state’s residents may be changing their minds about having casinos in their neighborhoods.

A Suffolk University-Boston Herald poll, conducted last week and reported in Monday’s edition of the Boston Herald, found that voters opposed casinos 47% to 37%. This was a complete reversal from a poll conducted in February that had supporters leading opponents 51% to 37%.

The change in attitude toward the state’s plans to award licenses for three Las Vegas-style casinos comes as the Supreme Judicial Court mulls the question of whether casino opponents, who have filed enough signatures to put the question on a November ballot, should be granted that right.

Opposed to the referendum is Attorney General Martha Coakley, who argues the referendum would be unconstitutional since casino license seekers have gone to great expense under the presumption the licenses would be granted under the gambling expansion law passed two years ago.

Some political observers believe Coakley’s stance supporting the gaming companies could be hurting her in her bid to become governor. Initially, Coakley, a Democrat, was considered a strong favorite to win both her party’s nomination and the gubernatorial seat. Lately, however, polls have indicated her numbers are falling.

Although MGM remains the last bidder eligible for the Springfield license, two major gaming companies are still vying for the Boston-area license. Wynn Resorts Ltd. (WYNN) has plans for Everett while Mohegan Sun would locate on the Revere section of real estate owned by Suffolk Downs.

According to the Herald story, filed by Joe Battenfeld, when asked “whether it makes sense” to open a casino in Revere or Everett, a resounding 55 percent of voters chose “neither.” Just 18% picked Revere while 5% favored Everett.

Attitudes may change, however, now that MGM moves forward with its project. As some have noted, seeing jobs created for construction of the facility, and a boost given to the local economy could again change the minds of the state’s voters.

The addition of construction jobs and hiring for an operating casino could change public opinion “to where it was two years ago, when most of the discussion was about the benefits,” said Clyde Barrow of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Ray Poirier is the longtime executive editor at GamingToday.

Contact Ray at RayPoirier@GamingToday.com.

Tags Wynn Resorts Ltd. (WYNN) MGM Resorts International (MGM) casino license Massachusetts Gaming Commission gaming industry news Casinos gambling industry news casino industry news casino news
Herald and Globe Polls Skew Similarly

... just not how you’d expect them.

By David S. Bernstein | Boston Daily | June 9, 2014 2:00 pm

The Boston Globe released a new poll on Friday, with its new polling partner SocialSphere, and the Boston Herald released one Monday, with its partner Suffolk University. The results, both polling for likely November voters, were not far off from each other. In the key gubernatorial matchup, the Globe shows Democratic primary frontrunner Martha Coakley leading presumptive Republican nominee Charlie Baker 37 percent to 32 percent, while the Herald has Coakley ahead 36 percent to 29 percent. Same diff, at this stage. Both polls also show Baker a little ahead of Steve Grossman and the other, lesser-known Democratic candidates, mostly due to fewer people ready to say they’ll vote for those Dems rather than more actually saying they’d vote for Baker.

In a slightly odd discrepancy that plays against type for the two dailies, the Herald poll shows an electorate somewhat happier with the state’s Democrats, and less keen on Baker and the Republicans, than the Globe.

That’s true is a small way in Coakley’s 7-point Herald lead versus the Globe’s 5-point spread. But there are differences in that direction throughout. Deval Patrick’s job approval rating in the Herald is a powerful 57 percent approve/29 percent disapprove, significantly better than the Globe’s 51/39. Baker is seen favorably by 44 percent in the Globe poll, and just 33 percent in the Herald’s. Herald respondents were also more likely to say Massachusetts is on the right track than the wrong track.

At a quick look, I don’t see anything in the polls’ makeup to account for the difference, which I think was just a little flukey variance. And, some of the responses differed in the other direction: for example, Grossman’s favorability was much higher in the Globe poll.

Also, the Globe poll found Independent candidate Jeff McCormick grabbing a significant 7 to 8 percent of the general-election vote, while the Herald poll shows McCormick barely registering, with less than 2%.

As for what the polls tell us, I would generally agree that Coakley appears to be in a less dominant position than she has seemed in some past polls—although most of us always believed that her double-digit leads were mostly vapor back then anyway. Her favorability numbers seem to have remained awfully strong, however, so I wouldn’t read much weakness into her position yet.

One other quick note: the Herald poll shows Maura Healey ahead of Warren Tolman in the Democratic primary, 21 percent to 18 percent. Four months ago, the same pollsters had Tolman ahead, 25 percent to 17 percent. This race remains well below the radar of even likely Democratic voters at this point, but if I was Tolman I’d be starting to get worried. Those numbers suggest more than just a chunk of voters reflexively choosing the female name; it suggests that she’s winning over voters, while any advantage his name has isn’t providing a cushion as the race starts heating up.

A majority of Massachusetts voters no longer support casino development

Casino opponents got enough signatures, but Attorney General Martha Coakley rejected it, saying it was unconstitutional.

United States | 11/06/2014

(US)- In a serious blow to expanded gambling in Massachusetts, a new Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll shows support for Las Vegas-style casinos has dramatically slipped in just the past few months. The Suffolk/Herald poll conducted last week shows Bay State voters oppose casinos by a 47-37 percent margin, a near reversal of sentiment.

In February, a Suffolk/Herald poll had voters approving of casinos by a 51-37 margin. The new numbers could give more ammo to casino opponents, who are trying to repeal the casino law.

The Supreme Judicial Court is currently weighing whether to allow a referendum to repeal the 2011 law on the November ballot. Casino opponents got enough signatures, but Attorney General Martha Coakley rejected it, saying it was unconstitutional.

The poll results suggest Coakley's stance could hurt her gubernatorial campaign. The poll of 800 likely voters asked respondents whether they "approve or disapprove of plans to locate gambling casinos in Massachusetts" and nearly half said they disapprove — the first time a poll has registered such a negative response.
The 2011 law allows for a total of three casino resorts, one in western Massachusetts, one in the central part of the state and one in the Greater Boston area. The Gaming Commission is currently deciding whether to back a Greater Boston casino in Revere or Everett, but the poll offers little comfort to casino developers at either site.

When asked “whether it makes sense” to open a casino in Revere or Everett, a resounding 55 percent of voters chose “neither.” Just 18 percent picked Revere as the best location, while just 5 percent chose Everett.

David Paleologos, the director of Suffolk University Political Research Center, said the results show support for casino gambling has taken a huge dive in just a short time.

Yogonet.com / Boston Herald
Electronic Coverage
more than 100 officers will be part of that security detail. And a new poll out this morning shows the president's favorability in Massachusetts has hit a new low. The Suffolk University "Boston Herald" poll reveals 45% of 800 likely voters approve of the president's job performance while 44% disapprove. It was just over a year ago that same poll showed 63% of Massachusetts voters approved of the president's performance.>> There was a tribute to this weekend to some of the state's fallen heroes. >> A very moving ceremony. This is just more proof that

more than 100 Worcester officers will be a part of that security detail. A new poll out this morning shows the president's favorability in Massachusetts has hit a new low. The Suffolk University "Boston Herald" poll reveals 45% of 800 likely voters approve of the president's job performance while 44% disapprove. But it was just a year ago that the same poll showed 63% of Massachusetts voters approved of the president's performance. >> Six minutes after this: 00. Over the tribute to some of the state's fallen heroes. >> It was a very moving ceremony.

For by implementing a minimum tax on people making between one and two million dollars in year a new poll finds that support may be declining for casino gambling in Massachusetts. Suffolk University "Boston Herald" poll finds forty-seven percent of voters oppose casinos thirty-seven percent supported dumbed SF April from February found nearly opposite numbers with fifty-one percent supporting casinos thirty-seven percent opposing state and federal regulators are spending millions of dollars to read build habitats in Massachusetts for the New England cottontail rabbit including controlled burns to try to create low-lying brush

WCVB, New Center 5.my >> Keeps your hands away. Thank you, Jim. A new poll could be fueling the movement to scrap the state's casino law. The Suffolk University and the "Boston Herald" polled voters on their support for a Las Vegas style casino here. It shows that Bay State polls voters oppose the idea 47% to 37%. In February that same number was an approval. 51-37%. The high court now weighing whether to allow a referendum to repeal ther >> Police in New Hampshire are searching for the son who opened fire on several cars. This happened in Hookur early.

Than one hundred best companies shut down by federal inspectors last year a new poll finds that support may be declining for casino gambling in Massachusetts. Suffolk University "Boston Herald" poll finds forty-seven percent of voters oppose casinos thirty-seven percent supported them assess the pulled from February found nearly opposite numbers it was fifty one percent supporting casinos thirty-seven percent opposed coming up
on morning edition will have more on the attack by the caliban on the airport in karachi pakistan in nine minutes penn state were funded by you our listeners about plymouth rock assurance door-to-door valley claim service note :

WFXT-BOS (FOX) 6/9/2014 8:32:37 AM
Boston, MA
FOX 25 Morning News
Local Viewership: 52,570
Local Publicity Value: $2,273.17
drastically slipping showing a ship. poll conducted by boston herald in suffolk university 47-37 margin, reversal from a poll just in february that showed voters proving of casinos by 51 to 37 margin and new numbers could give edge to casino opponents trying to repeal the casino law in referendum that could appear on the november ballot. state gaming commission is expected to issue the license for casino projects in springfield on friday. shannon now over to you. >>> americans having a tough

Boston, MA
NECN Newsroom
Local Viewership: 24,411
Local Publicity Value: $611.77
massachusetts are showing indecision when it comes to building a casino in the state. a new suffolk university and boston herald poll shows -- support for casinos has dramatically dropped in just the past few months. a poll taken last week shows bay state voters are against casinos by a 47-to-37 percent margin. but, in february -- another poll showed that voters approved of casinos by a 51-to-37 margin. a lone casino proposal in springfield is vying for a license in western massachusetts. in the eastern part of the state -- everett and suffolk downs are competing for anothe license.

WBUR (Radio) 6/9/2014 10:04:18 AM
Boston, MA
go before the massachusetts democratic convention the new poll shows martha coakley holding on her big lead over potential primary opponents forty four percent of voters backed coakley according will boston herald suffolk university poll steve grossman was the only other candidate in double digits at twelve percent thirty two percent of voters remain undecided candidates meet fifteen percent of delegates at saturday's convention report on the primary ballot to brothers in boston are set to go on trial today for attempting to defraud the one five twenty three -year-old brandon matt ean twenty eight -year-old dominique greisinger pleaded not guilty making a fake to million-dollar claim for

Boston, MA
NECN Newsroom
Local Viewership: 6,954
Local Publicity Value: $176.85
showing indecision when it comes to building a casino in the state. a new suffolk university and boston herald poll shows -- support for casinos has dramatically dropped in just the past few months. a poll taken last week shows bay state voters are against casinos by a 47-to-37 percent margin. but, in february -- another poll showed that voters approved of casinos by a 51-to-37 margin. a lone casino proposal in springfield is vying for a license in western massachusetts. in the eastern part of the state -- everett and suffolk downs are competing for anothe license. former providence mayor buddy cianci is considering a post-

WBUR (Radio) 6/9/2014 11:04:43 AM
Boston, MA chooses governor's race shows attorney general Martha Coakley with both thirty two point lead over her closest democratic opponent forty four percent of likely voters back Coakley according to the Suffolk University boston herald poll twelve percent back treasurer Steve Grossman thirty two percent of democratic voters remain on the site in the next hour new hampshire senator Jeanne Shaheen will formally file papers to run for reelection first term democrat will face the winner of a crowded republican primary which includes former massachusetts senator Scott Brown investigators and Kate God working to complete dna tests on the human remains that washed up on a beach and sandwich last week.

WBZ-AM (Radio) 6/9/2014 12:06:30 PM
Boston, MA meteorologist I gather WBZ Israeli return there 70 tilt and savvy in Boston touring departed the race for governor may be in the early stages but according to a new Suffolk University poll only your is beginning to wonder what is significant weight changed then there are the core we still where the quake positioned when she read the I worry by big numbers and also in the general lack SFX suffix polling director David Healy Loglisci says there is a high number of those who are undecided while those who are on the fence rippling drank on Coakley's margin it is not a cure than anyone especially leading Republican Shirley Baker is benefiting because of a larger number of voters disapprove of casino gambling.

Boston, MA NECN Afternoon
Local Viewership: 5,382
Local Publicity Value: $212.22
we're getting a better idea on how the candidates for Massachusetts governor stack up against each other. the new Suffolk University poll shows that among democrats, Massachusetts attorney general Martha Coakley has a commanding lead at 44 percent. state treasurer Steve Grossman is a distant second at 12 percent. meanwhile, Coakley's lead is much smaller in a head-to-head match with the leading republican candidate. she has a seven-point lead over Charlie Baker. 26 percent are still undecided. and, necn will welcome five democratic candidates for governor to our studio this week, ahead of Saturday's convention. its part of our.

WCVB-BOS (ABC) 6/9/2014 12:10:01 PM
Boston, MA NewsCenter 5 at Noon
Local Viewership: 64,245
Local Publicity Value: $2,771.96
floor unit. 13 people were taken to the hospital. the chief says there is about $2 million in damage there. >> commitment 2014 now and a Suffolk University boston herald poll has Martha Coakley holding a commanding lead over the anotherrest democratic challenger. leads Grossman 24% to 12%. the other three candidates are in the single digits but more than 32% of voter is are still undecided. and current senator Jean Shaheen officially foiling candidacy for.

WCVB-BOS (ABC) 6/9/2014 12:11:14 PM
Boston, MA NewsCenter 5 at Noon
Local Viewership: 64,245
Local Publicity Value: $2,771.96
prison sentences. now the 73-year-old says he is leaning toward running again. a new poll may be fulling the movement to scrap the state's casino law. Suffolk University boston herald poll has Martha Coakley holding a commanding lead over the anotherrest democratic challenger. leads Grossman 24% to 12%. the other three candidates are in the single digits but more than 32% of voter is are still undecided. and current senator Jean Shaheen officially foiling candidacy for.

WBZ-AM (Radio) 6/9/2014 1:20:38 PM
Boston, MA
more than 24 hours this information given Roper is contained in the
criminal can’t wait what faces an initial court appearances Wednesday
afresh Suffolk University poll on the governor’s race in Massachusetts
gives Attorney General Martha Coakley leads that they are also high
number of orders or undecided in this one more on that and the World
Cup begins Thursday in Brazil you can expect some of the fiercest
competition on that when while Perkins says that can also be the case
among the athletes and he explains from the Ace Ticket duck comes
Sports studio a ban all will be showcased on the bench

WBZ-AM (Radio) 6/9/2014 2:11:44 PM
Boston, MA
sunshine in Boston Nice to see we were seconded cards for hours today
and there is speaking out 76 degrees until news there’s a new poll out
today from Suffolk University’s political research center finds Democrat
Martha Coakley with there’s one leading the way race for governor back
double Big easy Jet Brown Ritchie has to speak the director David clearly
all of this he says they are also high number of Orissa work and decided
Nicole with the higher under fire for our will have come or expense she
had a 13 point lead that continually Ram Now that we’re shrunk high single
digits soul I think what

WBUR (Radio) 6/9/2014 3:04:18 PM
Boston, MA
attorney general martha coakley leads the field of democratic
gubernatorial candidates but not by as larger margin as she once did four
percent of likely voters support coakley according to a new suffolk
university boston herald poll done from fifty six percent and from mori
pollster david pelley logo says coakley is losing some of her supporters
over disagreement on policy issues and are altering casino gambling is in
many areas of the state fire over fifty percent , and i think that might be
causing some hard treasurer steve grossman was in second in the poll
with twelve percent support thirty two percent of voters remain undecided
survey shows coakley is the only democrat ahead of

WBZ-AM (Radio) 6/9/2014 4:08:07 PM
Boston, MA
78 N Abbas has New poll finds many have doubts about whether
messages that should be harm to any resort casino outs Suffolk University
survey finds Forty-seven percent of voters disapprove of casinos in the
state Thirty-seven percent approve state gaming commission tomorrow
begins a series of meetings leading up to vote Friday on MGM's they're
from license for 800 million dollar casino in Springfield WBZ nearside
Voros from going through his head lonely in the mold of care A of the
bears more pieces of Ghana Guyana

PM
Boston, MA
Local Viewership: 17,352  Local Publicity Value: $368.11
a new poll suggests many people in massachusetts still have doubts about
casino gambling. a suffolk university poll released today finds 47 percent
of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state. 37 percent approve. the
state's highest court is deciding whether to allow a question calling for
repeal of the state's casino law on the november ballot. tomorrow, the
state gaming commission is set to begin a series of meetings leading up to
a vote on friday on whether to award m-g-m resorts a license for its
proposed casino in springfield. time now to check

New England Cable News 6/9/2014 4:37:54
PM
Boston, MA
Local Viewership: 22,338  Local Publicity Value: $720.50
today, a new poll is giving us a better idea on how candidates stack up
against each other. our political reporter alison king breaks down the
numbers. a new poll from the suffolk university polling center shows
martha coakley at 44 percent. and steve grossman at 12 percent. the
three other democrats in the race, poll in the single digits: don berwick at
4 percent and juliette kayyem and joe avellone at 2 percent. but it is
grossman and coakley who are considered the candidates to watch this
weekend. coming up at 5:30 -

agreement with mgm. now the only thing mgm needs is the gaming
commission's approval, but a new poll from suffolk university found that in
massachusetts, statewide support for casino gaming is decreasing. a
survey of 800 residents found that 47 percent of likely voters now
disapprove of casinos in the state, while just 37 percent approve. here in
springfield's south end, some business owners feel just the opposite. they
told 22news revenue from casino gaming could help improve the
community. i grew up in the south end and i can tell you things you
couldn't believe but there's something with this organization where i
changed my mind where

>> will they find passion in a political romance with grossman? >> i'm not
seeing it in the polling. right now, he has the name recognition problem.
>> suffolk university pollster david pollsta says keep a look at the
passionate backlash. >> the concordant result in that poll. only 37% of
voters now support it. one in three. the only candidate for governor
opposing casinos and for the appeal. this state is ready for bold
progressive leadership and that's what i'm offering. >> the party is not
closing ranks than is good news for me. >> and juliet kayan thinks she

on tonight? another part of the herald-suffolk university poll finds that many
massachusetts residents still have doubts about whether massachusetts
should host casino gambling, at all. the poll finds 47 percent of likely
voters disapprove of casinos in massachusetts, while 37 percent approve.
the state's highest court is deciding whether to allow a question calling for
repeal of the state's casino law on the november ballot. an audit of the v-a
is finding long wait times around the country for patients seeking their first
appointments with affairs hospitals -- doctors at veterans whether it's a
specialist or a primary care

the casino ballot. mgm is now waiting for the gaming commission's vote.
but a new statewide poll from suffolk university found that the number of
massachusetts residents who oppose casino gaming is increasing. a
survey of 800 residents found that 47 percent of likely voters now
disapprove of casinos in the state, while just 37 percent approve.
springfield casino supporters see mgm's proposal as a once-in-a-lifetime
economic opportunity. but casino opponents told 22news it's just a matter
of time before more people change their views on casinos.

this weekend's party convention in worcester to be on the september
ballot and our political analyst john keller is here with the latest including
some fresh poll numbers. >> and the political research center at suffolk
university surveyed likely primary voters and found attorney general
martha cokely holding a huge lead over treasurer steve grossman with the other candidates. and the other candidates lagging well behind in single digits. massachusetts democrats have had a recent track record of supporting political newcomers like duval patrick in '06 and elizabeth warren two years ago. and the poll, like most this early in the campaign, appears to be reflecting name

WSHM-SPR (CBS) 6/9/2014 6:07:45 PM
Springfield, MA
CBS 3 News
Local Viewership: 2,914 Local Publicity Value: $259.21
moves closer to awarding the state's first resort casino license...a new poll has been released suggesting some massachusetts residents still have doubts. the poll released today by suffolk university and the boston herald, finds that 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state while 37 percent approve. the state's highest court is deciding whether to allow a question calling for repeal of the state's casino law on the november ballot. new tonight at 6. according to a federal audit released by the veterans affairs department, massachusetts fared better in wait times than other va hospitals across the country.

WBZ-AM (Radio) 6/9/2014 6:08:20 PM
Boston, MA
states make the operations a prerequisite annual poll finds many have doubts about whether massachusetts should be harmed to any resort casino outs at suffolk university survey finds forty-seven percent of voters disapprove of casinos in the state. thirty-seven percent approved state gaming commission tomorrow begins a series of meetings leading a tour friday vote i am gms baird for a license for an 800 million-dollar casino in springfield wbz near strikes exocet mrs really crucial it's a moment we flat before the next on news in them i would like to start if you've been thinking about the next step and becoming a clinical psychologist and can find more ways to

WCVB-BOS (ABC) 6/9/2014 6:10:11 PM
Boston, MA
Newscenter 5 at Six
Local Viewership: 144,265 Local Publicity Value: $6,387.16
>> a new poll may be fueling the movement to scrap the state's casino law. suffolk university and the boston herald polled voters on the support for a las vegas style casino here and bay state voters opposed bay 47% to 37% margin. in february that number was in approval 51% to 37%. no change in gas prices from last week. a gallon of regular unleaded still $3.64 a gallon in massachusetts. two cents lower than last month and one cent than the national average. >> a weston man and prominent local doctor under a arrest for

New England Cable News 6/9/2014 6:36:37 PM
Boston, MA
NECN Business
Local Viewership: 4,346 Local Publicity Value: $677.34
massachusetts casino license. but with that vote just days away... support for casinos in massachusetts may be dropping. a new suffolk university - boston herald poll shows voters in the state oppose casinos by a 47 to 37 percent margin. that's a near reversal of a poll the two organizations conducted in february that showed voters approved of casinos by a 51 to 37 margin. hundreds of people plan to demonstrate in three massachusetts later this week -- to call for a raise in the minimum wage. the protests will be held thursday in boston, springfield and worcester. meanwhile -- vermont's minimum wage is about to go up.

New England Cable News 6/9/2014 9:17:38 PM

(mike) a new poll finds many massachusetts residents still have doubts about whether the state should host casino gambling, at all. the boston herald-suffolk university poll finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos. 37 percent approve. the state’s high court is deciding whether to allow a question calling for repeal of the state’s casino law on the november ballot. starting tomorrow, the massachusetts gaming commission begins holding a series of meetings on m-g-m’s bid for a casino in springfield. the panel is expected to vote on the 800-million dollar project on friday. m-g-m’s plan is the only one vying for the western massachusetts casino license.

first casino license issued in the commonwealth. but a recent poll shows a lot of massachusetts residents still just aren't sure about bringing gambling into the bay state. last week suffolk university along with the boston herald surveyed 800 voters. here's what they found. 47% of them said they don't approve of casinos in massachusetts. just 37% were okay with the move. just last month another poll done by wbur found 52% of voters supported a repeal of the state’s casino law. the massachusetts supreme judicial court is deciding whether or not to allow that question on the november ballot. >>> tomorrow federal judge will make a big decision on on the state’s latest

moves closer to awarding the state's first resort casino license...a new poll has been released suggesting some massachusetts residents still have doubts. the poll released today by suffolk university and the boston herald, finds that 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state while 37 percent approve. the state’s highest court is deciding whether to allow a question calling for repeal of the state’s casino law on the november ballot. coming up on cbs 3 springfield news at 11. more details are surfacing about the las vegas couple that ambushed and killed two police officers and an innocent bystander

but a new poll suggests many residents of massachusetts have doubts about whether their state should host casino gambling, at all. the poll by suffolk university and the boston herald finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state while 37 percent approve. schenectady’s city council has approved a plan to build a casino there. the vote came last night and was 5-2 in favor of the plan. the design by the gelesi group and 'rush street gaming' out of chicago is one of 5 competing to be the only one allowed in the capital region. and there were opinions one both sides last night. more than 70 people turned

one year. shannon. >> bob. >>> the five democratic candidates for governor are taking to the stage. suffolk university and the boston herald are holding a debate at 1:00. martha coakley is in the lead to succeed governor deval patrick. her rival steve grossman trails her. the poll puts her 7 points against republican charlie baker if the two should face off in the collection. sharm harm will be at today’s debates. catch her report tonight on our news at 5 and 6 and you can by the it is a thorough one.
but a new poll suggests many people in Massachusetts have doubts about whether their state should host casino gambling, at all. The poll by Suffolk University and the Boston Herald finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state while 37 percent approve. Schenectady's city council has approved a plan to build a casino there. The vote came last night and was 5-2 in favor of the plan. The design by the Gellesi Group and 'Rush Street Gaming' out of Chicago is one of 5 competing to be the only one allowed in the capital region. And there were opinions on both sides last night. More than 70 people turned out.

New England Cable News 6/10/2014 6:39:46 AM
Boston, MA
News 6AM
Local Viewership: 10,516 Local Publicity Value: $525.57
license. This comes amid a new poll that found many Massachusetts residents still doubt whether the state should host casino gambling. The Boston Herald-Suffolk University poll finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos. 37 percent approve. Hundreds of people plan to demonstrate across Massachusetts later this week -- to call for a raise in the minimum wage. The protests will be held Thursday in Boston, Springfield and Worcester, and in Vermont the minimum wage will soon go up. Governor Peter Shumlin signed a bill into law that will raise the state's minimum wage from the current 8.73 an hour up to 10.50 over the next four years. Police in Fitchburg,

New England Cable News 6/10/2014 7:49:20 AM
Boston, MA
Morning Show
Local Viewership: 48,908 Local Publicity Value: $2,153.66
project on Friday. M-G-M's plan is the only one vying for the Western Massachusetts casino license. This comes - as a new poll from the Boston Herald and Suffolk University -- finds that 47 percent of likely voters do not approve of casinos in the bay state. The state's high court is deciding whether to allow a question calling for repeal of the state's casino law on the November ballot. Rhode Island lawmakers will hold a hearing today to discuss a number of bills -- related to the loan guarantee for 38 Studios. One of the bills would prevent the state from repaying the bonds. Later this week.. lawmakers will be forced to address the issue head on.. when they vote on

WBZ-AM (Radio) 6/10/2014 7:57:48 AM
Boston, MA panel that could dominate this election year with plenty of TV ads BN and hinting and combat in judging from all with A Suffolk University poll. It's going to be toffs wording for the big casino operators who once ruled the prospect of tapping into word game when happy culture according to lists of surveys support for casinos here has collapsed just since February when voters said they approved of them by 51 37 percent margin. No it's Forty-seven percent against and only 37 percent for casinos. White is changing public opinion on this so rapidly two high-profile

New England Cable News 6/10/2014 8:50:33 AM Boston, MA Morning Show
Local Viewership: 34,997
Local Publicity Value: $1,258.02
the 800-million dollar project on Friday. M-g-m's plan is the only one vying for the western Massachusetts casino license. This comes as a new poll from the Boston Herald and Suffolk University -- finds that 47 percent of likely voters do not approve of casinos in the bay state. The state's high court is deciding whether to allow a question calling for repeal of the state's casino law on the November ballot. Help is on the way for millions of people suffering from the financial burden of student loans. President Obama has signed a memorandum that will expand an existing program allowing borrowers to spend no more than 10 percent of their monthly income on student loan payments. The white house says the move could provide relief for around 5 million Americans with

WFXT-BOS (FOX) 6/10/2014 9:05:41 AM Boston, MA FOX 25 Morning News
Local Viewership: 50,678
Local Publicity Value: $2,295.12
Investigation. So far no charges have been filed against Chism for the most recent attack. >>> Well, the five Democratic candidates for governor are taking to the stage today. Suffolk University and the Boston Herald are holding a debate at 11:00 this morning. This comes as a new Suffolk poll puts attorney general Martha Coakley in the lead to succeed Governor Deval Patrick. Coakley's rival Treasurer Steve Grossman trails her by 32 points that poll also put her seven points above Republican Charlie Baker should the two face off in the November election. Fox25 Charlie Card will be at today's debate and you can catch her report tonight on the news at five and 6:00. Now you're up-to-date. >> Time now for the morning exchange. >> Tuesday edition of the

Local Viewership: 11,035
Local Publicity Value: $175.54
Massachusetts casino license. This comes amid a new poll that found many Massachusetts residents still doubt whether the state should host casino gambling. The Boston Herald-Suffolk University poll finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos. 37 percent approve. News across the nation -- we're learning more about the shootings in Las Vegas.. That left two police officers dead. Amanda Miller and Jerad Miller are accused of leading the deadly rampage. Police say the Miller's had been kicked off a ranch where anti-government protesters faced down federal agents earlier this year. The leader of the ranch.. told the Associated Press.. that the Miller's conduct was the reason they were
of likely voters disapprove of casinos. 37 percent approve. massachusetts senator elizabeth warren getting some major backing in the fight to ease student loan debt. next -- the changes put into motion by president obama. plus -- a terrifying elevator ride -- caught on camera. see more of the surveillance video, ahead.

New England Cable News 6/10/2014 11:49:11 AM
Boston, MA
NECN Midday
Local Viewership: 4,493
Local Publicity Value: $411.34
this comes amid a new poll that found many massachusetts residents still doubt whether the state should host casino gambling. the boston herald-suffolk university poll finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos. 37 percent approve. rhode island lawmakers will hold a hearing today to discuss a number of bills-- related to the loan guarantee for 38 studios. one of the bills would prevent the state from repaying the bonds. later this week... lawmakers will be forced to address the issue head on.. when they vote on repayment as part of the governors proposed budget bill. c-e-o mary barra is probably going to have some tough questions to anwer at the genreal motors annual

WBZ-AM (Radio) 6/10/2014 12:25:55 PM
Boston, MA
could dominate this election year with plenty of TV aired Spearman and hinting am combat and judging from all with the Suffolk University poll it's going to lead to Huff's wedding for the big casino operators when it ruled that the prospect of tapping into word game when happy culture according to lists of surveys support for casinos here has collapsed just since February when all is said they approved of them by 51 37 percent margin now it's Forty-seven percent against Norway 37 percent for casinos what is changing public opinion on this so rapidly two high-profile

WNYT (NBC) 6/10/2014 6:14:01 PM
Albany, NY
Newschannel 13 Live @ 6
Local Viewership: 36,135
Local Publicity Value: $1,460.44
to m-g-m. in the meantime, a new poll suggests, many residents of massachusetts have doubts about whether their state should host casino gambling, at all. the poll by suffolk university and the boston herald finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state, while 37 percent approve. a family owned business called driscoll foods is expanding into montgomery county. they will open a new distribution center at the former home of 'quandts' in amsterdam. nearly 60 new jobs will be created. driscoll foods is the largest, independent food service distributor in the new york metropolitan area. they received a two hundred thousand dollar grant from empire state development to

WGBY 57 (PBS) 6/10/2014 10:15:02 PM
Springfield, MA
Local Viewership: 2,099
Local Publicity Value: $426.92
all other campus crimes went down. a new poll shows more massachusetts voters are now against casinos, rather than for them. suffolk university and the boston herald found that 47 percent of voters disapprove of putting casinos in massachusetts, while 37 percent approve of them. support has fallen since february, when 51 approved of casinos and 37 percent were against them. a change in public opinion comes just as the massachusetts gaming commission is prepared to decide friday whether m.g.m resorts international will be allowed to build a $800 million casino in springfield. >> the connecticut business and industry association is getting creative

WTIC-HFD (FOX) 6/10/2014 10:15:16 PM
Hartford-New Haven, CT
Fox CT News at Ten
Local Viewership: 55,033
Local Publicity Value: $7,932.12
of more than 50 percent since 2001. all other campus crimes went down. a new poll shows more massachusetts voters are now against casinos, rather than for them. suffolk university and the boston herald found that 47 percent of voters disapprove of putting casinos in massachusetts, while 37 percent approve of them. support has fallen since february, when 51
approved of casinos and 37 percent were against them. A change in public opinion comes just as the Massachusetts gaming commission is prepared to decide Friday whether M.G.M Resorts International will be allowed to build a $800 million casino in Springfield. >> The Connecticut business and industry

Items in this report: 48
Total Local Viewership: 1,535,007
Total Local Market Publicity Value: $92,531.65
Poll: Many in state still have doubts on casinos

Posted: Jun 09, 2014 3:28 PM EDT
Updated: Jun 09, 2014 3:28 PM EDT

BOSTON (AP) - As gambling regulators move closer to awarding the state's first resort casino license, a new poll suggests that many residents still have doubts about whether Massachusetts should host casino gambling at all.

A Suffolk University/Boston Herald poll released Monday finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state, while 37 percent approve. The survey of 800 residents was taken last week and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission on Tuesday is scheduled to begin a series of meetings leading up to a Friday vote on whether to award MGM Resorts International a license for its proposed $800 million casino in Springfield.

The state's highest court is deciding whether to allow a question calling for repeal of the state's casino law on the November ballot.

Copyright 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
Springfield could soon have a new casino.

The $800 million MGM casino would draw from western and central areas of the state, as well as Connecticut.

A state gambling regulator said Tuesday a study shows the casino could bring in up to $485 million a year.

Meanwhile, a new poll suggests, many residents of Massachusetts have doubts about whether their state should host casino gambling, at all.

The poll by Suffolk University and the Boston Herald finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state, while 37 percent approve.

The State Gaming Commission is expected to make a final decision by Friday.
Will Massachusetts gamble on a casino?

Massachusetts is getting closer to building a casino within a 90 minute drive of Albany.

On Friday, the State Gaming Commission is expected to vote on whether to award a license to MGM International to build an $800 million gambling complex.

But a new poll suggests many residents of Massachusetts have doubts about whether their state should host casino gambling at all.

The poll by Suffolk University and The Boston Herald finds 47 percent of likely voters disapprove of casinos in the state while 37 percent approve.