

Western New England University Polling Institute – May 29-31, 2012

TABLES

Next I'd like to ask you about some ballot questions that voters might decide in November in Massachusetts.

The following questions about the two ballot initiatives were rotated in random order in the survey.

Do you support or oppose allowing people who are dying to legally obtain medication that they could use to end their lives?

"Death With Dignity" Ballot Question					
		Support	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused	N*
May 29 -31, 2012	Registered voters	60%	29%	11%	504
Party ID**	Democrat	67%	26%	8%	160
	Republican	53%	37%	10%	71
	Independent	58%	29%	14%	257
Gender	Male	60%	28%	11%	240
	Female	60%	29%	12%	264
Age	18-49	61%	30%	10%	148
	50-64	72%	22%	7%	179
	65 and older	46%	34%	20%	159
Education	High school or less	55%	30%	16%	107
	Some college	62%	25%	13%	132
	College graduate	62%	30%	9%	255
Region	Western MA	51%	40%	9%	76
	Central MA	67%	24%	9%	61
	North / South Shore	59%	29%	12%	163
	Boston and suburbs	61%	25%	13%	195

* *Subsamples are unweighted N's, and consist of registered voters. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.*

** *Party identification was measured with the following question: "In politics today, do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent or something else?"*

"Death With Dignity" Ballot Question By Religion and Attendance at Services

May 29 – 31, 2012	Support	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused	N*
Registered voters	60%	29%	11%	504
All Catholic voters	52%	36%	12%	227
Catholic voters who attend services at least once a week or almost every week**	37%	52%	11%	103
Catholic voters who attend services about once a month, seldom or never	62%	25%	13%	121
All Protestant voters	56%	28%	16%	148
Protestant voters who attend services at least once a week or almost every week	38%	42%	20%	69
Protestant voters who attend services about once a month, seldom or never	71%	16%	13%	79
Voters from other religious backgrounds	76%	19%	5%	38
Voters who identify as agnostic or atheist	88%	10%	2%	38

* *Subsamples are unweighted N's, and consist of registered voters. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.*

** *Attendance at worship services was measured with the following question: How often do you attend church, synagogue, or other worship services -- at least once a week, almost every week, about once a month, seldom, or never?*

Do you support or oppose legalizing the use of marijuana for medical purposes?

		Medical Marijuana Ballot Question			
		Support	Oppose	Don't know/ Refused	N*
May 29 -31, 2012	Registered voters	64%	27%	9%	504
Party ID**	Democrat	74%	20%	5%	160
	Republican	45%	47%	8%	71
	Independent	62%	27%	11%	257
Gender	Male	58%	34%	8%	240
	Female	69%	21%	10%	264
Age	18-49	68%	22%	10%	148
	50-64	68%	27%	5%	179
	65 and older	54%	35%	11%	159
Education	High school or less	61%	30%	9%	107
	Some college	61%	31%	8%	132
	College graduate	68%	23%	9%	255
Region	Western MA	61%	33%	6%	76
	Central MA	73%	26%	2%	61
	North / South Shore	66%	24%	11%	163
	Boston and suburbs	62%	27%	11%	195

* Subsamples are unweighted N's, and consist of registered voters. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

METHODOLOGY

The Western New England University Polling Institute survey consists of telephone interviews with 552 adults ages 18 and older drawn from across Massachusetts using random-digit-dialing May 29-31, 2012. The sample yielded 504 adults who said they are registered to vote in Massachusetts. Unless otherwise noted, the figures in this release are based on the statewide sample of registered voters.

Braun Research, Inc. of Princeton, NJ conducted the telephone interviews under the direction of The Polling Institute. The call center dialed household telephone numbers, known as “landline numbers,” and cell phone numbers for the survey. In order to draw a representative sample from the landline numbers, interviewers first asked for the youngest male age 18 or older who was home at the time of the call, and if no adult male was present, the youngest female age 18 or older who was at home at the time of the call. Interviewers dialing cell phone numbers interviewed the respondent who answered the cell phone after confirming three things: (1) that the respondent was in a safe setting to complete the survey; (2) that the respondent was an adult age 18 or older; and (3) that the respondent was a resident of Massachusetts. The landline and cell phone data were combined and weighted to reflect the adult population of Massachusetts by gender, race, age, and county of residence using U.S. Census estimates for Massachusetts.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for a sample of 504 registered voters is +/- 4.4 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 55 percent of registered voters said they support legalizing marijuana for medical use, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 50.6 percent and 59.4 percent (55 percent +/- 4.4 percent) had all Massachusetts voters been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects.

Established in 2005, the Western New England University Polling Institute conducts research on issues of importance to Massachusetts and the region. The Institute provides the University’s faculty and students with valuable opportunities to participate in public opinion research. Additional information about the Polling Institute is available at www1.wne.edu/pollinginst.