



The MassINC Polling Group
Barr Foundation – RTA Regional Poll
 Survey of 1,401 Massachusetts residents,
 including 967 in communities served by Regional Transit Authorities
 Field dates: February 23 – March 7, 2023

Which modes of travel do you use on a monthly basis to get around? Please select all that apply.

	Statewide	RTA
Drive alone	73%	77%
Drive or ride with others	55%	54%
Take a taxi, Uber, or Lyft	19%	14%
Take the MBTA subway or trolley	17%	5%
Take a public bus	15%	8%
Use paratransit service	1%	1%
Take a corporate or private shuttle	2%	1%
Take the commuter rail	8%	5%
Ride your own bike or e-bike	8%	8%
Ride a BlueBikes or other bikeshare	2%	1%
Walk	46%	38%
Other - Please specify	1%	1%
Don't know / refused	1%	1%

The state has 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) that run bus service outside the MBTA service area. The RTAs also provide on-demand, door-to-door paratransit service for passengers with disabilities that prevent them from using the bus.

Would you support or oppose the state increasing the amount the RTAs get from the state budget?

	Statewide	RTA
Strongly support	44%	44%
Somewhat support	35%	33%
Somewhat oppose	6%	6%
Strongly oppose	4%	5%
Don't know / refused	11%	12%

Right now, the 15 RTAs together receive \$94 million each year from the state budget. There is a proposal to increase that amount to \$150 million a year. Would you support or oppose the state increasing the amount the RTAs get from the state budget from \$94 million a year to \$150 million a year?

	Statewide	RTA
Strongly support	32%	31%
Somewhat support	37%	35%
Somewhat oppose	12%	13%
Strongly oppose	8%	10%
Don't know / refused	12%	11%

Many RTAs currently do not run service at night or on weekends. Would you support or oppose giving the RTAs more funding from the state budget in order to allow RTAs to run service at night and on weekends?

	Statewide	RTA
Strongly support	45%	43%
Somewhat support	35%	35%
Somewhat oppose	8%	10%
Strongly oppose	5%	7%
Don't know / refused	7%	6%

This November voters approved an additional 4 percent tax on income over \$1 million, to be dedicated to education and transportation. The new tax is expected to raise between \$1.4 and \$1.8 billion per year. How much would you support or oppose using some portion of this new tax to increase state funding for the RTAs?

	Statewide	RTA
Strongly support	37%	37%
Somewhat support	37%	34%
Somewhat oppose	10%	11%
Strongly oppose	7%	10%
Don't know / refused	8%	8%

The following question was asked only of bus and paratransit riders.

When you take the public bus or paratransit service, where do you go? Please select all that apply.

	Statewide	RTA
School	29%	30%
Work	61%	60%
Childcare	6%	9%
Shopping or errands	74%	79%
Health care appointments	62%	48%
To visit friends or family	57%	50%
Going out (dining / entertainment / nightlife)	52%	51%
Other - Please specify	6%	8%
Don't know / refused	1%	0%

What types of trips would you make using a public bus or paratransit service that you are currently unable to make? Please select all that apply.

	Statewide	RTA
School	11%	10%
Work	32%	30%
Childcare	5%	5%
Shopping or errands	40%	38%
Health care appointments	36%	35%
To visit friends or family	32%	29%
Going out (dining / entertainment / nightlife)	36%	33%
Other - Please specify	10%	12%
Don't know / refused	15%	18%

What, if anything, is preventing you from taking the public bus more often than you do?

	Statewide	RTA
No service near residence	23%	31%
Prefers car or own transport	18%	21%
Schedule / Frequency	13%	12%
Reliability / travel time / poor service / traffic	11%	7%
Routes / No service near destination	11%	8%
No need to take bus	8%	8%
Nothing / no reason / already ride	7%	7%
Comfort / cleanliness / crowding / other riders	8%	6%
Inconvenient	5%	5%
Crime / safety	5%	5%
Cost	5%	4%
Prefers other mode of transport (not car)	4%	3%
Disability / accessibility / health issues	3%	2%
COVID-19	3%	2%
Lack of information (stops, schedule, fares, etc.)	2%	2%

As far as you know, is the bus or paratransit service near where you live good enough that you could rely on it to get to places that you need to go?

	Statewide	RTA
Yes	35%	28%
No	38%	42%
Don't know / refused	27%	29%

If you needed to take public transportation to the State House in Boston, would you know how to do it?

	Statewide	RTA
Yes	56%	45%
No	37%	47%
Don't know / refused	7%	8%

How long do you think it would take to take public transportation from your home to the statehouse in Boston? If you don't know, please give your best guess.

	Statewide	RTA
30 minutes or less	7%	2%
30 minutes to 1 hour	28%	14%
1 hour to 2 hours	36%	41%
2 hours to 3 hours	16%	23%
3 hours to 4 hours	5%	9%
4 hours to 5 hours	2%	4%
5 hours to 6 hours	1%	2%
6 hours to 7 hours	1%	1%
7 hours to 8 hours	<1%	<1%
8+ hours	1%	2%
Don't know / refused	4%	3%

How willing would you be to take a public bus more often than you do now if the bus...

<i>Order rotated</i>		Very willing	Somewhat willing	Not too willing	Not at all willing	Don't Know / Refused
Required everyone to wear masks	Statewide	25%	30%	17%	19%	9%
	RTA Regions	23%	29%	17%	23%	8%
Got me to my location faster than it does now	Statewide	40%	34%	10%	10%	7%
	RTA Regions	35%	35%	11%	12%	6%
Ran to more places that I need or want to go	Statewide	38%	34%	12%	11%	5%
	RTA Regions	35%	33%	14%	13%	5%
Came when I called it instead of being on a fixed route or schedule	Statewide	34%	37%	10%	10%	8%
	RTA Regions	32%	37%	12%	12%	7%
Were free of charge to ride	Statewide	50%	27%	8%	11%	4%
	RTA Regions	45%	30%	8%	13%	4%
Ran more often during the day	Statewide	32%	36%	14%	12%	6%
	RTA Regions	29%	36%	14%	15%	6%
Ran on time more reliably	Statewide	41%	32%	11%	11%	5%
	RTA Regions	37%	32%	12%	14%	6%
Ran more on the weekends	Statewide	32%	35%	13%	13%	7%
	RTA Regions	28%	36%	13%	16%	7%
Ran more in the evenings	Statewide	26%	35%	17%	14%	8%
	RTA Regions	24%	34%	19%	16%	7%

Have you done any of the following in the past 12 months? Please select all that apply. *Ordered rotated.*

	Statewide	RTA
Contacted an elected official	17%	20%
Attended government meetings in your community, such as city or town council meetings	16%	18%
Attended a political rally, speech, or campaign event	11%	10%
Volunteered for a political campaign	6%	6%
Donated to a political candidate or campaign	15%	17%
None of the above	64%	61%

How many cars, if any, does your household own or lease?

	Statewide	RTA
None	12%	9%
One	39%	35%
Two	34%	39%
Three	8%	10%
Four or more	6%	7%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%

Asked of those who own/lease one or more cars.

Do you own an electric car or truck? Please select all that apply.

	Statewide	RTA
I own a fully electric car or truck	4%	3%
I own a hybrid	10%	10%
No, I don't own an electric or hybrid car or truck	86%	87%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%

To the best of your knowledge, is there a place where you could charge an electric car near where you live or work?

	Statewide	RTA
Yes	38%	37%
No	36%	40%
Don't know / refused	26%	23%

And to the best of your knowledge, is there a public bus stop within a 10 minute walk of where you live or work?

	Statewide	RTA
Yes	56%	43%
No	35%	46%
Don't know / refused	9%	11%

The last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

Do you have any children living with you and attending kindergarten through 12th grade?

	Statewide	RTA
Yes	24%	24%
No	74%	75%
Don't know / refused	1%	2%

Which one of the following best describes your work situation—employed full time, employed part time, or not currently employed?

	Statewide	RTA
Employed full time	46%	46%
Employed part time	16%	14%
Not currently employed	37%	38%
Don't know / refused	2%	2%

Asked of those not currently employed.

Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, temporarily unemployed, or unable to work due to a disability or mental illness?

	Statewide	RTA
A student	10%	6%
A homemaker	8%	9%
Retired	44%	48%
Temporarily unemployed	15%	13%
Unable to work due to disability or mental illness	19%	20%
None of the above	3%	2%

Asked of those employed full-time or part-time.

How often do you work from home right now?

	Statewide	RTA
Every work day	20%	19%
A few times a week	19%	16%
A few times a month	8%	8%
Less than once a month	4%	3%
Never, I prefer not to work from home	5%	5%
Never, this is not an option for my work	42%	48%
Don't know / refused	1%	1%

Statewide Demographics

Gender:

Man	47%
Woman	51%
Non-binary	1%
Some other way:	<1%
Don't know / refused	<1%

Age:

18-29	22%
30-44	24%
45-59	25%
60+	29%
Don't know / refused	<1%

Race:

White	72%
Black	7%
Latino	11%
Asian	7%
All other	3%
Don't know / Refused	1%

Party ID:

Democrat	34%
Republican	14%
Independent / Other	47%
Don't know / Refused	6%

Education:

High School or less	32%
Some college, no degree	25%
College graduate (BA/BS)	23%
Advanced degree	18%
Don't know / Refused	1%

About the poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,401 Massachusetts residents, including 967 who live in communities served by the state's 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs). Responses were collected via online survey, text messages, and live interviews via landline and cell phones between February 23 and March 7, 2023. The data were weighted to reflect known and estimated population parameters for residents with and without RTA service. Groups were then combined and weighted to the population parameters by race, age and gender, education, geography, and political identification for the state as a whole. The credibility interval for this survey is +/- 3.1 percentage points for the entire sample, including the design effect. This project was conducted by The MassINC Polling Group in collaboration with the Regional Transportation Authority Advocates Coalition (RTAAC) and sponsored by The Barr Foundation.