



### **BAY STATE POLL – OCTOBER 2004 RELEASE**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ (first and last name) and I'm calling from the Center for Public Opinion Research at Merrimack College. Today we are taking a public opinion survey of Massachusetts residents and we would like to include the views of a representative group of people in our survey. Of the adults at home over the age of 18, may I speak with the one who has most recently celebrated a birthday?

1. Yes (I'll get him/her)
2. Yes (That's me)
3. No

Before we begin, I want to let you know that we are not selling anything, not asking for money, and all of your answers will be kept completely confidential. The survey should take about 10 minutes. May I begin?

1. Yes
2. No

To begin with, how many years have you lived in Massachusetts, is the number of years you lived in Massachusetts

1. less than 5 years
2. 5 to 15 years
3. more than 15, but less than all your life
4. all your life
  
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

1. Approve
2. Disapprove
3. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Here in Massachusetts, do you approve or disapprove of the way Mitt Romney is handling his job as governor?

1. Approve
2. Disapprove
3. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the United States today?

What about when it comes to Massachusetts, what is the most important problem facing the commonwealth today?

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about the economic situation. In thinking about the United States as a whole would you describe the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Not So Good
4. Poor
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Compared to a year ago do you think the nation's economy is getting better, about the same, or getting worse?

1. Getting Better
2. About the Same
3. Getting Worse
4. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Now what about our state, would you describe the Massachusetts economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Not So Good
4. Poor
  
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Compared to a year ago do you think the Massachusetts economy is getting better, about the same, or getting worse?

1. Getting Better
2. About the Same
3. Getting Worse
  
4. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Now what about your own economic situation, would you describe your own personal finances these days as: excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

1. Excellent
2. Good
3. Not So Good
4. Poor
  
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Compared to a year ago is your personal financial situation getting better, about the same, or getting worse?

1. Getting Better
2. About the Same
3. Getting Worse
  
4. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Now I'm going to ask you a series of questions about the upcoming presidential race.

In general, would you say that you are paying a great deal of attention, some attention, or not very much attention to this election contest?

1. A great deal
2. Some
3. Not much
  
4. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

If the election for President of the United States were held today would you vote for George Bush, the Republican, John Kerry, the Democrat, Ralph Nader, the Independent, or somebody else?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
3. Nader
4. Somebody else
  
5. (Vol) Wouldn't Vote
6. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Regardless of whom you are planning on voting for, who do you think will win the presidential election Bush, Kerry, Nader, or somebody else?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
3. Nader
4. Somebody else
  
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Which of the following issues do you think will be most important in this year's presidential election?

1. The war in Iraq
2. National security
3. Jobs and the economy
4. Reducing the deficit
5. Foreign competition and jobs
6. Gay marriage
7. Health care
8. Some other issue
  
9. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

How about for you personally, which of the following issues will be most important to you in deciding who to vote for in this year's presidential election?

1. The war in Iraq
2. National security
3. Jobs and the economy
4. Reducing the deficit
5. Foreign competition and jobs
6. Gay marriage
7. Health care
8. Some other issue
  
9. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Now I am going to ask you about a series of issues facing the United States. For each one please tell me who you think would do a better job handling this issue if he were elected president.

To begin, who do you think would do a better job handling the U.S. campaign against terror, George Bush or John Kerry?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
  
3. (Vol) Both
4. (Vol) Neither
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Who do you think would do a better job handling the situation in Iraq, George Bush or John Kerry?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
  
3. (Vol) Both
4. (Vol) Neither
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Who do you think would do a better job handling taxes, George Bush or John Kerry?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
  
3. (Vol) Both
4. (Vol) Neither
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Who do you think would do a better job handling relations with other countries, George Bush or John Kerry?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
  
3. (Vol) Both
4. (Vol) Neither
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Who do you think would do a better job handling the economy, George Bush or John Kerry?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
  
3. (Vol) Both
4. (Vol) Neither
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Who do you think would do a better job handling appointments to the Supreme Court, George Bush or John Kerry?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
  
3. (Vol) Both
4. (Vol) Neither
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Who do you think would do a better job handling education, George Bush or John Kerry?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
  
3. (Vol) Both
4. (Vol) Neither
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Who do you think would do a better job creating jobs, George Bush or John Kerry?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
  
3. (Vol) Both
4. (Vol) Neither
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Who do you think would do a better job handling health care, George Bush or John Kerry?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
  
3. (Vol) Both
4. (Vol) Neither
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Who do you think would do a better job helping the middle class, George Bush or John Kerry?

1. Bush
2. Kerry
3. (Vol) Both
4. (Vol) Neither
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

In thinking about the likelihood of terrorist attacks against the United States, do you think that:

1. The chances of terrorist attacks against the United States will be less if John Kerry is elected president
2. The chances of terrorist attacks against the United States will be less if George Bush is elected president
3. The outcome of the presidential election will not have any effect on the chances of terrorist attacks against the United States
4. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree that George W. Bush has the personality and leadership qualities a president should have

1. Agree
2. Disagree
3. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree that John Kerry has the personality and leadership qualities a president should have

1. Agree
2. Disagree
3. Don't Know/Refused

Would you say that the Republican Party has or has not attacked John Kerry unfairly?

1. Has
2. Has not
3. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Would you say that the Democratic Party has or has not attacked George Bush unfairly?

1. Has
2. Has not
3. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

In your opinion, should Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and other so called 527 independent advocacy groups be more strictly regulated?

1. Yes, they should be more strictly regulated
2. No, they should not be more strictly regulated
3. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Finally, looking beyond the 2004 election, if John Kerry were to be elected president, and an election were held to fill his seat in the United States Senate, which of the following candidates would you be most likely to vote for

1. Congressman Stephen Lynch
2. Congressman Edward Markey
3. Congressman Martin Meehan
4. Attorney General Thomas Reilly
5. Middlesex County District Attorney Martha Coakley
6. Somebody Else
7. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

If President Bush were to be re-elected, do you think that Governor Mitt Romney is likely to serve out his four year term, or do you think he is likely to take a job in Washington DC with the Bush administration?

1. Likely to serve out his term
2. Likely to go to Washington DC
3. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Regardless of who wins the 2004 presidential election, do you think that Governor Romney will run for president in 2008?

1. Yes
2. No
3. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Now I'd like to ask you a couple of questions about how you see politics generally. In politics today do you see yourself as a Democrat, Independent, Republican, or something else?

1. Democrat
2. Independent
3. Republican
4. Something else
5. (Vol) None
6. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Do you lean more toward the Democratic Party or more toward the Republican Party?

1. Democratic Party
2. Republican Party
3. (Vol) Other Party
4. (Vol) Neither/Still Independent
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Regardless of which party you might favor, do you consider yourself to be liberal, conservative, or somewhere in between?

1. Liberal
2. Conservative
3. Somewhere in Between
  
4. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Are you currently registered to vote?

1. Yes
2. No
  
3. (Vol) Don't Know/Not Sure/Refused

Now I have just a few final questions. As far as your education goes, I am going to read from a list. Just stop me when I mention the highest level of education you completed.

1. Did Not Complete High School
2. Completed High School or Diploma Equivalent
3. Completed Some College
4. Completed a 2 Year Junior College or Vocational or Technical Degree
5. Completed a 4 Year College Degree
6. Completed an Advanced Degree
  
7. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

How old are you currently?

[ENTER AGE]

99. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

When it comes to race, do you consider yourself White, African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian-American, or Something Else?

1. White
2. African-American
3. Hispanic/Latino
4. Asian-American
5. Something Else
  
6. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Do you consider yourself to be Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Some Other Religion, Atheist or Agnostic?

1. Catholic
2. Protestant
3. Jewish
4. Muslim
5. Some Other Religion
6. Atheist/Agnostic
  
7. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Regardless of the religion you consider yourself, how important is religion in your life. Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, or not very important?

1. Very important
2. Somewhat Important
3. Not Very Important
  
4. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

Is your total family income before taxes

1. Under \$35,000
2. \$35,000 to \$69,999
3. \$70,000 to \$100,000
4. Over \$100,000
  
5. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused

In what county do you live?

[DO NOT READ LIST INITIALLY, ONLY READ IF THEY DON'T KNOW,  
IF RESPONDENT SAYS DON'T KNOW START WITH "Is it..."]

1. Barnstable
2. Bristol
3. Berkshire
4. Dukes
5. Essex
6. Franklin
7. Hampden
8. Hampshire
9. Middlesex
10. Nantucket
11. Norfolk
12. Plymouth
13. Suffolk
14. Worcester
  
15. (Vol) Don't Know/Refused.

What is your zip code?

[ENTER ZIP CODE]

99999. Don't Know/Refused

And I have to ask this, are you male or female?

1. Male
2. Female
  
3. (Vol) Other/Refused

Which of the following best describes your marital status?

1. Married
2. Separated or Divorced
3. Widowed
4. Never Married/Single
5. Not Married, but Living Together
  
6. (Vol) Other
7. (Vol) Refused

Those are all the questions that I have for you today.  
Thank you very much for your participation.

If you are interested in finding out more about this survey you can check our website at [www.merrimack.edu/polling](http://www.merrimack.edu/polling), or look for results in the Eagle-Tribune newspapers.

1. Interview Complete