



CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

TO: CITIZENS FOR LIMITED TAXATION

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RE: MA STATEWIDE SURVEY RESULTS

DATE: APRIL 16, 2008

What follows are the results from the recent statewide survey of likely November 2008 voters in Massachusetts conducted by Fabrizio, McLaughlin & Associates.

Summary

Massachusetts voters clearly indicate that they have NO appetite for higher taxes. They want to use spending cuts or the Governor's casino plan as the solution to close the budget gap – not tax increases. They overwhelmingly reject property tax hikes, gas tax hikes and support rolling back the income tax to 5%.

Survey Results

- ✓ **By an overwhelming 6 to 1 margin, MA voters would prefer cutting spending over raising taxes in order to close the gap in the state budget deficit.**

Nearly three-quarters of voters (71%) prefer cutting spending over raising taxes. Barely one in ten (12%) prefer to have taxes raised to deal with the budget deficit.

“As you may be aware, the state is facing a \$1.3 billion budget deficit. In addition to using some monies from the state's “rainy day fund,” which ONE of the following, in your opinion, should the Governor and State Legislature do to close the rest of the budget gap?”

	All Voters
Raise taxes by nearly \$1 billion	12%
Cut spending by nearly \$1 billion	71%
Unsure/Depends	14%
DK/Refused	4%

- ✓ **When the casino proposal is added to the list of choices for closing the gap in the state budget deficit, it becomes the preferred option of a plurality of voters.**

Nearly one in two (47%) indicate that allowing the 3 new casinos is the best option for closing the gap in the budget deficit with just over one-third (35%) preferring cutting spending as the solution. Less than one in ten (7%) would prefer to have taxes raised to close the gap in the budget deficit.

“Again, the state is facing a \$1.3 billion budget deficit. In addition to using some monies from the state’s “rainy day” fund, which ONE of the following, in your opinion, should the Governor and State Legislature do to close the rest of the budget gap?”

	All Voters
Raise taxes by nearly \$1 billion	7%
Cut spending by nearly \$1 billion	35%
Generate more than \$800 million in new revenue by allowing 3 new casinos in the State	47%
Unsure/Depends	7%
DK/Refused	4%

- ✓ **Nearly three-quarters of MA voters (72%) oppose increasing the gas tax by 11½ cents to pay for road repair and construction providing further evidence of voters’ distaste for raising taxes.**

By better than a 3 to 1 margin, voters oppose the gas tax increase. In fact, there is very strong intensity to their opposition as 61% “strongly oppose” the gas tax increase. Less than one in four (23%) favor raising the gas tax by 11½ cents to pay for road repair and construction.

“Please tell me whether you favor or oppose increasing the gas tax by 11.5 (11 and ½) cents to help pay for road repair and construction.”

	All Voters
TOTAL FAVOR	23%
-- Strongly Favor	10%
-- Somewhat Favor	13%
TOTAL OPPOSE	72%
-- Strongly Oppose	61%
-- Somewhat Oppose	11%
DK/Refused	4%

- ✓ **MA voters would overwhelmingly reject any measure on the ballot this November to raise property taxes in their local communities – more evidence of the anti-tax sentiment of voters in the state.**

Nearly three-quarters (72%) would vote NO on a measure to raise property taxes in their local communities. One in five (19%) would vote YES to allow the increase in property taxes with 10% currently undecided.

“In 1980, voters statewide passed Proposition 2 and a half (2 ½) which gave voters the power to vote directly to override any limits and raise their local property taxes. If there was a measure on the ballot in your local community this November to raise property taxes, would you vote Yes or No?”

	All Voters
Vote Yes	19%
Vote No	72%
Undecided	10%

- ✓ **By nearly a 3 to 1 margin, voters want the State Legislature to “unfreeze” the state income tax rollback MA voters approved in 2000, cutting the state income tax down to 5% as originally authorized by a vote of the people.**

Two-thirds (67%) favor the Legislature “unfreezing” the rollback to bring state income taxes down to the 5% level voters approved in the ballot box. Less than one quarter (23%) oppose “unfreezing” the rollback to bring state income tax from 5.3% to 5%.

“In 2000, voters statewide passed a measure to rollback the state income tax from 5.75% (five point seven five percent or five and three-quarters percent) down to 5%. However in 2002, the State Legislature froze the rollback at 5.3%. Would you favor or oppose the State Legislature “unfreezing” the rollback so that the tax rate could rollback to 5% as originally authorized by the voters?”

	All Voters
Favor	67%
Oppose	23%
Undecided	10%

- ✓ **A majority of Massachusetts voters are pessimistic about the direction that the state is headed.**

By nearly a 2 to 1 margin, voters say that the state is off on the wrong track and not heading in the right direction. A plurality of voters, regardless of political party registration, indicates that the state is off on the wrong track.

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“Do you think the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is headed in the right direction or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?”

	All Voters	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Right Direction	29%	17%	37%	28%
Wrong Track	56%	73%	46%	60%
DK/Refused	14%	10%	17%	12%

- ✓ **One factor contributing to voters’ pessimistic views toward the direction of the state is their perception that state government wastes more than 40% of their tax dollars.**

On average, MA voters estimate that the state government wastes 41 cents out of every dollar in state taxes that they pay. Even voters who think the state is headed in the right direction feel that more than one-third of their tax dollars are being wasted.

“How many CENTS out of every dollar you pay in state taxes would you say is WASTED by the state government?”

	All Voters	Right Direction Voters	Wrong Track Voters
Mean Score	\$0.41	\$0.35	\$0.45

- ✓ **While a majority of MA voters think the state has gotten off on the wrong track, they have only just begun to follow news about the state budget deficit. As voters become more aware of budget problems this could further drive the state’s wrong track number.**

Less than 1 in 10 voters indicate that they are following news of the state budget deficit “very closely.” Forty-six percent (46%) are following the news “somewhat closely” with 43% “not closely at all.”

“How closely, if at all, have you followed the news regarding the state budget deficit? Have you followed it very closely, somewhat closely or not closely at all?”

	All Voters
Very Closely	8%
Somewhat Closely	46%
Not Closely at All	43%
DK/Refused	2%

Methodology

This survey of 500 likely November 2008 voters was conducted statewide in Massachusetts from April 9-13, 2008. All interviews were conducted by professionally trained interviewers utilizing computer-assisted interviewing technology (CATI). Respondent selection was random within pre-determined geographic units utilizing a sample frame that represents actual Presidential Election voter turnout throughout the State. This survey of 500 likely voters has a margin of error of +/- 4.4% at the 95% confidence interval.

Survey Demographics

Party Registration:

	All Voters
Republican	16%
Democrat	41%
Independent/Other	40%
Refused	4%

Gender:

	All Voters
Male	48%
Female	52%

Race:

	All Voters
Caucasian	88%
African-American	4%
Hispanic	3%
Other	3%
Refused	2%

Age:

	All Voters
18-34	10%
35-44	36%
45-54	12%
55-64	10%
65+	28%
Refused	4%

Media Market:

	All Voters
Boston	80%
Springfield	10%
Providence/New Bedford	8%
Albany/Schenectady/Troy	2%