

# WESTERN NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE POLLING INSTITUTE

## 2008 Massachusetts Statewide Poll

### TABLES

Voters in November also will decide whether Massachusetts should eliminate the state income tax. Supporters of this idea say it will save the average taxpayer \$3,600 per year. Opponents of this idea say eliminating the income tax would force state and local government to make deep cuts in services.

Do you support or oppose eliminating the state income tax?

| <b>Ballot Question 1 – Eliminating the State Income Tax</b> |                                 |         |        |                     |      |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|--------|---------------------|------|
|   |                                 | Support | Oppose | DK/RF/<br>Undecided | (N)* |
| Sept.- Oct<br>2008  | Registered voters               | 26%     | 62%    | 12%                 | 408  |
| Party ID  | Democrat                        | 14%     | 74%    | 12%                 | 136  |
|   | Republican                      | 42%     | 36%    | 23%                 | 65   |
|   | Independent                     | 22%     | 70%    | 8%                  | 144  |
| Gender  | Male                            | 26%     | 61%    | 12%                 | 164  |
|   | Female                          | 26%     | 62%    | 12%                 | 244  |
| Age   | 18-29**                         | ---     | ---    | ---                 | ---  |
|   | 30-49                           | 22%     | 66%    | 12%                 | 150  |
|   | 50-64                           | 21%     | 70%    | 10%                 | 138  |
|   | 65 and over                     | 24%     | 62%    | 14%                 | 93   |
| Education   | High school<br>graduate or less | 41%     | 45%    | 14%                 | 92   |
|   | Some college                    | 25%     | 59%    | 15%                 | 86   |
|   | College graduate                | 19%     | 70%    | 11%                 | 226  |

\*Subsamples are unweighted N's. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

\*\*Subgroup had fewer than 50 respondents.

Voters in November will decide whether Massachusetts should decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana. Possession of an ounce of marijuana or less would become a civil offense, punishable with a \$100 fine.

Do you support or oppose the state decriminalizing possession of an ounce or less of marijuana?

| <b>Ballot Question 2</b>  |                                 |         |        |                     |      |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|--------|---------------------|------|
| <b>Decriminalizing Possession of Small Amounts of Marijuana</b> |                                 |         |        |                     |      |
|   |                                 | Support | Oppose | DK/RF/<br>Undecided | (N)* |
| Sept.- Oct<br>2008  | Registered voters               | 62%     | 32%    | 5%                  | 408  |
| Party ID  | Democrat                        | 62%     | 32%    | 7%                  | 136  |
|   | Republican                      | 54%     | 44%    | 2%                  | 65   |
|   | Independent                     | 62%     | 32%    | 6%                  | 144  |
| Gender  | Male                            | 65%     | 31%    | 4%                  | 164  |
|   | Female                          | 61%     | 33%    | 6%                  | 244  |
| Age   | 18-29**                         | ---     | ---    | ---                 | ---  |
|   | 30-49                           | 61%     | 36%    | 3%                  | 150  |
|   | 50-64                           | 72%     | 19%    | 9%                  | 138  |
|   | 65 and over                     | 45%     | 45%    | 10%                 | 93   |
| Education   | High school<br>graduate or less | 60%     | 31%    | 9%                  | 92   |
|   | Some college                    | 64%     | 33%    | 4%                  | 86   |
|   | College graduate                | 62%     | 33%    | 4%                  | 226  |

\*Subsamples are unweighted N's. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

\*\*Subgroup had fewer than 50 respondents.

Voters in November will decide whether the state should ban dog racing. Do you support or oppose a ban on dog racing?

| <b>Ballot Question 3 – Banning Dog Racing in Massachusetts</b> |                                 |         |        |                     |      |
|--|---------------------------------|---------|--------|---------------------|------|
|  |                                 | Support | Oppose | DK/RF/<br>Undecided | (N)* |
| Sept.- Oct<br>2008   | Registered voters               | 53%     | 30%    | 17%                 | 408  |
| Party ID   | Democrat                        | 62%     | 27%    | 12%                 | 136  |
|  | Republican                      | 49%     | 33%    | 18%                 | 65   |
|  | Independent                     | 49%     | 31%    | 20%                 | 144  |
| Gender   | Male                            | 44%     | 40%    | 15%                 | 164  |
|  | Female                          | 59%     | 22%    | 18%                 | 244  |
| Age  | 18-29**                         | ---     | ---    | ---                 | ---  |
|  | 30-49                           | 46%     | 36%    | 19%                 | 150  |
|  | 50-64                           | 56%     | 25%    | 19%                 | 138  |
|  | 65 and over                     | 47%     | 31%    | 21%                 | 93   |
| Education  | High school<br>graduate or less | 52%     | 31%    | 17%                 | 92   |
|  | Some college                    | 55%     | 32%    | 14%                 | 86   |
|  | College graduate                | 53%     | 28%    | 19%                 | 226  |

*\*Subsamples are unweighted N's. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.*

*\*\*Subgroup had fewer than 50 respondents.*

## METHODOLOGY

The Western New England College Polling Institute surveyed 449 adults drawn from across Massachusetts using random-digit-dialing between September 29 and October 6. The sample yielded 408 adults who said they were registered to vote in Massachusetts. The data were weighted to reflect the adult population of Massachusetts by gender, race and age.

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 408 registered voters is +/- 5 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of registered voters were found to support a ballot question, one could be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 45 percent and 55 percent (50 percent +/- 5 percent) had all Massachusetts registered 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.