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Gay marriage has 2:1 support in MA

Raleigh, N.C. – As time passes since the legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, more voters are coming to accept it. Twice as many (60%) believe it should be legal as illegal (30%). That is up from 59-33 when PPP last polled the state in June, with a little movement toward it from Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike. Indeed, when asked about the impact of its legalization on their lives, two-thirds of voters say it has had no effect at all, 18% say it has had a positive one, and only 15% a negative one. At 73%, Republicans are most likely to say it has not affected them, joined by 72% of independents and 59% of Democrats. A third of Democrats also say gay marriage being legal has had a positive impact on them.

Massachusetts voters are a little playfully scornful of Texas. 13% think that state should secede from the union, while only 5% think Massachusetts itself should. At 15%, Democrats are most likely to think Texas should leave the country and form its own, followed by 13% of independents and only 8% of Republicans. At 3%, GOP voters are also least likely to think their own state should declare its independence.

Voters give Gov. Deval Patrick high marks for his handling of the recent Hurricane Irene, with 69% approving and 14% disapproving of his performance during that crisis. But his overall approval rating has fallen since June, from 54-36 to 51-40.

Bay Staters have also soured a little on their senior Sen. John Kerry in the last three months. He had a 55-36 approval margin then, and 49-39 now. But for the first time since Scott Brown took office, Kerry is the more popular senator. In fact, 49% of voters say they have a higher opinion of him than Brown, with 45% saying the opposite.

Though the state is so solidly blue a change might not have any impact, more voters (40%) think the state should still allocate its electoral votes in a single bloc than think the votes should be divvied up by congressional district (34%). 26% are not sure.

PPP surveyed 791 Massachusetts voters from September 16th to 18th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.5%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Massachusetts Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Deval Patrick's job performance?

Approve 51%
Disapprove..... 40%
Not sure 10%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Deval Patrick's handling of Hurricane Irene?

Approve 69%
Disapprove..... 14%
Not sure 17%

Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator John Kerry's job performance?

Approve 49%
Disapprove..... 39%
Not sure 12%

Q4 Do you have a higher opinion of Scott Brown or John Kerry?

Scott Brown 45%
John Kerry 49%
Not sure 6%

Q5 Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal or illegal?

Legal..... 60%
Illegal 30%
Not sure 10%

Q6 Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry 56%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry..... 30%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship 12%
Not sure 2%

Q7 Has the legalization of gay marriage in Massachusetts had a positive or negative impact on your life, or has it not had any impact at all?

Positive impact..... 18%
Negative impact..... 15%
No impact at all..... 67%

Q8 Do you think Texas should secede from the United States and form its own country, or not?

Texas should secede 13%
It should not..... 77%
Not sure 10%

Q9 Do you think Massachusetts should secede from the United States and form its own country, or not?

Massachusetts should secede..... 5%
It should not 91%
Not sure 4%





Q10 Which system would you prefer for dispensing Massachusetts' electoral votes: giving all of them to the statewide winner or giving one to the winner of each individual Congressional District?

<i>Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner</i>	40%
<i>One should be given to the winner of each Congressional District</i>	34%
<i>Not sure</i>	26%

Q11 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	32%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	58%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	10%

Q12 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	15%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	23%
<i>Moderate</i>	35%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	21%
<i>Very conservative</i>	6%

Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	52%
<i>Man</i>	48%

Q14 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	40%
<i>Republican</i>	15%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	45%

Q15 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

<i>White</i>	87%
<i>Other</i>	13%

Q16 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i>	9%
<i>30 to 45</i>	26%
<i>46 to 65</i>	41%
<i>Older than 65</i>	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Patrick Approval				
Approve	51%	17%	71%	35%
Disapprove	40%	74%	19%	49%
Not sure	10%	9%	9%	16%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Patrick Irene Approval				
Approve	69%	49%	82%	61%
Disapprove	14%	28%	6%	15%
Not sure	17%	23%	12%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Kerry Approval				
Approve	49%	15%	69%	41%
Disapprove	39%	74%	19%	42%
Not sure	12%	10%	11%	17%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Higher Opinion of Brown or Kerry?				
Scott Brown	45%	89%	18%	55%
John Kerry	49%	9%	75%	33%
Not sure	6%	2%	7%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Same-sex Legal/Illegal				
Legal	60%	33%	77%	50%
Illegal	30%	58%	13%	41%
Not sure	10%	9%	10%	9%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	56%	27%	75%	38%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	48%	18%	38%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	12%	22%	6%	16%
Not sure	2%	2%	1%	9%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Has Legal Gay Marriage Had Pos/Neg/No Impact on You?				
Positive impact	18%	4%	27%	13%
Negative impact	15%	24%	9%	17%
No impact at all	67%	73%	64%	70%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Should TX Secede?				
Texas should secede	13%	10%	15%	10%
It should not	77%	81%	76%	70%
Not sure	10%	8%	9%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Should MA Secede ?				
Massachusetts should secede	5%	6%	4%	8%
It should not	91%	92%	93%	79%
Not sure	4%	2%	3%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Should MA EVs All Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?				
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	39%	42%	31%
One should be given to the winner of each Congressional District	34%	38%	32%	33%
Not sure	26%	24%	26%	36%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Patrick Approval						
Approve	51%	86%	74%	46%	19%	12%
Disapprove	40%	9%	15%	43%	72%	77%
Not sure	10%	5%	11%	11%	9%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Patrick Irene Approval						
Approve	69%	92%	82%	69%	47%	43%
Disapprove	14%	4%	8%	13%	23%	30%
Not sure	17%	4%	10%	17%	30%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Kerry Approval						
Approve	49%	88%	76%	40%	17%	13%
Disapprove	39%	5%	14%	45%	69%	78%
Not sure	12%	7%	10%	14%	13%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Higher Opinion of Brown or Kerry?						
Scott Brown	45%	11%	16%	47%	83%	92%
John Kerry	49%	85%	78%	42%	16%	6%
Not sure	6%	4%	6%	11%	1%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Same-sex Legal/Illegal						
Legal	60%	93%	83%	58%	27%	12%
Illegal	30%	6%	10%	29%	58%	78%
Not sure	10%	1%	6%	13%	15%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	56%	92%	78%	54%	23%	6%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	4%	16%	32%	55%	44%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	12%	3%	5%	10%	20%	42%
Not sure	2%	-	1%	4%	2%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Has Legal Gay Marriage Had Pos/Neg/No Impact on You?						
Positive impact	18%	54%	28%	8%	4%	3%
Negative impact	15%	4%	5%	16%	22%	44%
No impact at all	67%	42%	68%	76%	75%	53%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Should TX Secede?						
Texas should secede	13%	27%	12%	12%	6%	16%
It should not	77%	64%	79%	76%	86%	78%
Not sure	10%	9%	9%	12%	8%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Should MA Secede?						
Massachusetts should secede	5%	12%	3%	3%	4%	11%
It should not	91%	85%	95%	91%	93%	87%
Not sure	4%	3%	3%	5%	4%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Should MA EVs All Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?						
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	36%	38%	44%	40%	38%
One should be given to the winner of each Congressional District	34%	34%	36%	31%	31%	47%
Not sure	26%	30%	26%	25%	28%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Patrick Approval			
Approve	51%	54%	47%
Disapprove	40%	34%	46%
Not sure	10%	12%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Patrick Irene Approval			
Approve	69%	74%	65%
Disapprove	14%	11%	16%
Not sure	17%	15%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kerry Approval			
Approve	49%	55%	43%
Disapprove	39%	33%	46%
Not sure	12%	12%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Higher Opinion of Brown or Kerry?			
Scott Brown	45%	42%	47%
John Kerry	49%	50%	48%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Same-sex Legal/Illegal			
Legal	60%	64%	55%
Illegal	30%	25%	36%
Not sure	10%	10%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	56%	59%	53%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	30%	29%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	12%	8%	16%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Has Legal Gay Marriage Had Pos/Neg/No Impact on You?			
Positive impact	18%	21%	15%
Negative impact	15%	11%	18%
No impact at all	67%	67%	67%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should TX Secede?			
Texas should secede	13%	11%	15%
It should not	77%	79%	75%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should MA Secede?			
Massachusetts should secede	5%	5%	5%
It should not	91%	91%	91%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should MA EVs All Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?			
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	34%	47%
One should be given to the winner of each Congressional District	34%	31%	37%
Not sure	26%	35%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Patrick Approval				
Approve	51%	73%	15%	42%
Disapprove	40%	18%	73%	47%
Not sure	10%	8%	12%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Patrick Irene Approval				
Approve	69%	80%	45%	68%
Disapprove	14%	7%	27%	15%
Not sure	17%	13%	28%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kerry Approval				
Approve	49%	73%	14%	40%
Disapprove	39%	19%	74%	45%
Not sure	12%	8%	11%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Higher Opinion of Brown or Kerry?				
Scott Brown	45%	17%	93%	52%
John Kerry	49%	78%	5%	39%
Not sure	6%	5%	2%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Same-sex Legal/Illegal				
Legal	60%	75%	32%	56%
Illegal	30%	15%	55%	35%
Not sure	10%	10%	13%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	56%	72%	24%	53%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	18%	51%	33%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	12%	8%	22%	12%
Not sure	2%	1%	4%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Has Legal Gay Marriage Had Pos/Neg/No Impact on You?				
Positive impact	18%	33%	1%	11%
Negative impact	15%	8%	26%	16%
No impact at all	67%	59%	73%	72%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should TX Secede?				
Texas should secede	13%	15%	8%	13%
It should not	77%	73%	84%	78%
Not sure	10%	12%	8%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should MA Secede?				
Massachusetts should secede	5%	6%	3%	4%
It should not	91%	89%	95%	92%
Not sure	4%	5%	2%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should MA EVs All Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?				
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	42%	36%	40%
One should be given to the winner of each Congressional District	34%	30%	41%	34%
Not sure	26%	28%	23%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Patrick Approval			
Approve	51%	50%	53%
Disapprove	40%	40%	36%
Not sure	10%	10%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Patrick Irene Approval			
Approve	69%	70%	62%
Disapprove	14%	13%	19%
Not sure	17%	17%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Kerry Approval			
Approve	49%	50%	42%
Disapprove	39%	38%	45%
Not sure	12%	11%	13%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Higher Opinion of Brown or Kerry?			
Scott Brown	45%	44%	50%
John Kerry	49%	50%	43%
Not sure	6%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Same-sex Legal/Illegal			
Legal	60%	61%	52%
Illegal	30%	30%	31%
Not sure	10%	9%	17%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	56%	58%	41%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	28%	40%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	12%	12%	12%
Not sure	2%	2%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Has Legal Gay Marriage Had Pos/Neg/No Impact on You?			
Positive impact	18%	18%	18%
Negative impact	15%	13%	24%
No impact at all	67%	69%	58%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Should TX Secede?			
Texas should secede	13%	11%	30%
It should not	77%	80%	56%
Not sure	10%	9%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Should MA Secede?			
Massachusetts should secede	5%	3%	15%
It should not	91%	94%	76%
Not sure	4%	3%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Should MA EVs All Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?			
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	40%	39%
One should be given to the winner of each Congressional District	34%	33%	38%
Not sure	26%	27%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Patrick Approval					
Approve	51%	75%	44%	52%	46%
Disapprove	40%	17%	49%	39%	39%
Not sure	10%	8%	8%	9%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Patrick Irene Approval					
Approve	69%	83%	67%	70%	66%
Disapprove	14%	4%	12%	16%	16%
Not sure	17%	13%	21%	15%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kerry Approval					
Approve	49%	71%	47%	50%	43%
Disapprove	39%	21%	39%	41%	43%
Not sure	12%	8%	15%	9%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Higher Opinion of Brown or Kerry?					
Scott Brown	45%	38%	47%	42%	48%
John Kerry	49%	58%	46%	52%	45%
Not sure	6%	4%	7%	6%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Same-sex Legal/Illegal					
Legal	60%	83%	70%	60%	40%
Illegal	30%	13%	23%	31%	44%
Not sure	10%	4%	7%	10%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	56%	71%	63%	59%	37%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	30%	13%	29%	27%	42%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	12%	8%	6%	12%	20%
Not sure	2%	8%	2%	2%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Has Legal Gay Marriage Had Pos/Neg/No Impact on You?					
Positive impact	18%	33%	22%	17%	11%
Negative impact	15%	17%	10%	16%	16%
No impact at all	67%	50%	68%	67%	73%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should TX Secede?					
Texas should secede	13%	21%	13%	14%	10%
It should not	77%	67%	78%	78%	77%
Not sure	10%	13%	9%	8%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should MA Secede?					
Massachusetts should secede	5%	21%	2%	4%	3%
It should not	91%	75%	95%	92%	92%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	4%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should MA EVs All Go to Statewide Winner or By CD?					
Electoral votes should all go to the statewide winner	40%	29%	45%	40%	39%
One should be given to the winner of each Congressional District	34%	50%	34%	34%	28%
Not sure	26%	21%	22%	26%	33%

