

# UMASS POLL

JULY 2001

Calling Dates:

N=401

Margin of error 5%, 95% confidence level

## Health Care

MCAS

Governor Swift Rating

Housing

Voting Age

Gender in Politics

Death Penalty

Internet

Politics

## HEALTH CARE

1. Do you currently have health insurance; this would also include Medicare or Medicaid?

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 96% |
| No  | 4%  |

2. Over the past twelve months, how often would you say that either you or another member of your household used medical services for something other than annual checkups or routine visits? Has it been?

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Very Often     | 21% |
| Somewhat Often | 25% |
| Not Very Often | 17% |
| Rarely         | 22% |
| Never          | 15% |

3. Thinking about your current health care coverage. How satisfied would you say you are with your health coverage overall? That would include the cost of your health plan, the quality of care you receive, and the access to medical care and services when and where you need them. Would you say you are Very Satisfied, Somewhat Satisfied, Not Very Satisfied, or Not Satisfied at All? If you don't have health insurance just say so.

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very Satisfied       | 45% |
| Somewhat Satisfied   | 39% |
| Not Very Satisfied   | 7%  |
| Not Satisfied At All | 3%  |
| Don't Have Insurance | 5%  |
| Don't Know           | 1%  |

4. Given the money you spend on medical care, you know, health insurance premiums, prescriptions, co-pays, and other out-of-pocket expenses, how much of a financial burden are those payments, would you say it is?

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Heavy Burden          | 11% |
| Something of a Burden | 32% |
| Not Much of a Burden  | 36% |
| Not a Burden At All   | 19% |
| Don't Know            | 2%  |

5. Some people say that the health care system is getting into trouble because we can't continue to provide all the health care services that people want without substantially increasing costs. If you had to choose from the following two options, which would you choose, would you:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Pay More, Keep Svc | 62% |
|--------------------|-----|

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Reduce Svc, Keep Payments Same | 19% |
| Don't Know                     | 16% |
| Refused                        | 3%  |

6. Since you are willing to pay more for your health insurance to keep services the same. I'd like to ask you what is the most you would be willing to pay to keep your CURRENT level of coverage. Just stop me when you hear the statement you agree with:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Pay 3 Times as much | 1%  |
| Pay Twice as much   | 9%  |
| Pay Additional 75%  | 6%  |
| Pay Additional 50%  | 18% |
| Pay Additional 25%  | 32% |
| Pay Additional 10%  | 31% |
| Don't Know          | 2%  |
| Refused             | 2%  |

7. Do you, or your spouse, have an employer who contributes to part of, or all of your health coverage costs?

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 63% |
| No  | 36% |
| DK  | 1%  |

8. Which of the following statements best describe your knowledge about the cost of your health insurance?

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Know What I & Employer Pay | 51% |
| Only Know What I Pay       | 35% |
| Don't Know                 | 13% |

9. Okay, about how much would you say both YOU AND YOUR EMPLOYER pay each month for health insurance, is it?

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| More Than \$1,000/Month | 4%  |
| Around \$1,000/Month    | 15% |
| Around \$800/Month      | 17% |
| Around \$600/Month      | 23% |
| Around \$400/Month      | 19% |
| Around \$200/Month      | 9%  |
| Less Than \$200/Month   | 10% |
| Don't Know              | 4%  |
| Refused                 | 1%  |

10. Okay, about how much would you say YOU pay each month for health insurance, is it?

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Around \$800/Month    | 1%  |
| Around \$600/Month    | 4%  |
| Around \$400/Month    | 18% |
| Around \$200/Month    | 21% |
| Less Than \$200/Month | 49% |
| Don't Know            | 4%  |
| Refused               | 34% |

11. How much would you say YOU pay each month for health insurance, is it

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| More Than \$1,000/Month | 1%  |
| Around \$1,000/Month    | 4%  |
| Around \$800/Month      | 11% |
| Around \$600/Month      | 4%  |

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Around \$400/Month    | 16% |
| Around \$200/Month    | 15% |
| Less Than \$200/Month | 39% |
| Don't Know            | 10% |
| Refused               | 1%  |

12. Thinking back over the past two years, have either you or a member of your family received medical services at a Hospital?

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 55% |
| No  | 45% |

13. How would you describe that medical facility, would you say it is a:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Teaching Hospital  | 37% |
| Community Hospital | 52% |
| Health Clinic      | 4%  |
| Something Else     | 5%  |
| Don't Know         | 3%  |

14. Would you happen to recall the name of this medical facility?

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Brigham & Women's          | 5% |
| Health Alliance            | 1% |
| New England Hospital       | 2% |
| Lowell General             | 1% |
| Emerson Hospital           | 8% |
| Leo Minster / UMASS        | 9% |
| Charleton Hospital         | 1% |
| Boston Medical             | 3% |
| Mass Iner                  | 1% |
| Winchester Hospital        | 1% |
| Mass General               | 5% |
| Baystate Hospital          | 5% |
| Cape Cod Hospital          | 1% |
| Med Check                  | 1% |
| Holy Cross Hospital        | 1% |
| Brookshire Med             | 1% |
| Noble Hospital             | 1% |
| Univ of Pittsburg          | 1% |
| Brockton Hospital          | 1% |
| Worcester Memorial         | 1% |
| Children's Hospital Boston | 4% |
| Saints Memorial            | 1% |
| Metrowest Med Ctr          | 5% |
| Berkshire Med Facility     | 2% |
| Hale Hospital              | 1% |
| Lawrence                   | 2% |
| Newton Wellesley           | 3% |
| Hensley Hawood             | 1% |
| Cambridge Hospital         | 1% |
| Harrington Memorial        | 1% |
| Falmouth Hospital          | 1% |
| Mercy Hospital             | 1% |
| Holy Family                | 1% |
| South Shore Hospital       | 1% |
| Norwood Hospital           | 1% |
| North Adams                | 1% |
| Lyayhe Clinic              | 1% |
| Faulkner Hospital          | 1% |
| Fieldland Hospital         | 1% |

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Milford Hospital              | 3% |
| North Shore Hospital          | 1% |
| Israel                        | 1% |
| Howard Vanguard               | 1% |
| Deconness                     | 1% |
| Union                         | 1% |
| Hehol Memorial                | 1% |
| Fairview                      | 1% |
| Marlboro                      | 1% |
| Sloan Kettering               | 1% |
| Auburn                        | 1% |
| Fallon Medical                | 1% |
| Martha-Elliot                 | 1% |
| St. Lukes                     | 1% |
| Sturdy Memorial               | 1% |
| Booley                        | 1% |
| Hyannis Med Ctr               | 1% |
| North East Medical            | 1% |
| Good Samaritan                | 1% |
| Framingham Community Hospital | 1% |
| Veterans Admin Hospital       | 1% |
| Jordan                        | 1% |
| Martha's Vinyard              | 1% |
| Mehea Clinic                  | 1% |
| Mass Eye & Ear                | 1% |
| Concord Memorial              | 1% |
| Maldan Hospital               | 1% |
| Nantucket                     | 1% |
| Don't Know/Remember           | 4% |
| Refused                       | 2% |

15. Thinking about community hospitals, how would you rate the overall quality of care provided by community hospitals for routine or common medical procedures such as appendectomies, setting broken bones, or hernia repairs. Would you say that it was:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Excellent       | 18% |
| Very Good       | 35% |
| Fair            | 18% |
| Not So Good     | 3%  |
| Not Good At All | 2%  |
| Don't Know      | 23% |
| Refused         | 1%  |

16. Okay, let's ask this a different way now, let's assume you didn't have any special medical condition, would you go to a community hospital for a routine or common medical procedure such as an appendectomy, setting a bone, or having a hernia operation?

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 72% |
| No  | 22% |
| DK  | 6%  |

17. Would you be willing to pay more to go to a teaching hospital for routine care?

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Yes     | 58% |
| No      | 36% |
| DK      | 5%  |
| Refused | 1%  |

18. I'd now like to ask whether or not you are a registered voter?

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 88% |
|-----|-----|

No 12%

## MCAS

21. I'd now like to ask you about the MCAS, do you support or oppose requiring students to get a passing grade on the MCAS to graduate from High School.

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Support    | 40% |
| Oppose     | 46% |
| Don't Know | 13% |
| Refused    | 1%  |

## GOVERNOR SWIFT RATING

22. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jane Swift is handling her job as Acting Governor?

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Approve    | 49% |
| Disapprove | 24% |
| Don't Know | 23% |
| Refused    | 3%  |

23. In general, how would you rate your opinion on Jane Swift, would you say it is:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very Favorable       | 12% |
| Somewhat Favorable   | 55% |
| Not Very Favorable   | 18% |
| Not Favorable At All | 7%  |
| Don't Know           | 8%  |

24. Although the election is more than a year away, should Jane Swift run for Governor in 2002. If you don't know just say so.

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Yes     | 47% |
| No      | 28% |
| DK      | 24% |
| Refused | 1%  |

## HOUSING

25. Responding to the high cost of housing in Massachusetts, the state has established a goal that each community set aside 10% of its housing for low and moderate income households. How supportive would you say you are of this goal, are you:

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Very Supportive       | 48% |
| Somewhat Supportive   | 31% |
| Not Very Supportive   | 10% |
| Not Supportive At All | 7%  |
| Don't Know            | 3%  |
| Refused               | 0%  |

26. Although most of the large urban cities have reached this 10% goal, very few of the towns in Massachusetts have reached this 10% goal, do you support the idea that every community should be required to meet this 10% goal?

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Yes     | 63% |
| No      | 32% |
| DK      | 5%  |
| Refused | 0%  |

27. What if reaching this goal meant changing zoning requirements such as those which require one acre of land per house, or building more houses or apartments in a community, would you still support the law requiring that each community provide 10% affordable housing.

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Yes     | 74% |
| No      | 16% |
| DK      | 9%  |
| Refused | 1%  |

**VOTING and AGE**

28 Exactly 30 years ago this month, the US Constitution was amended lowering the voting age from 21 to 18. In general, do you favor or oppose once again lowering the voting age—this time lowering the voting age to 16?

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Favor Lowering Voting Age to 16  | 11% |
| Oppose Lowering Voting Age to 16 | 88% |
| Don't Know                       | 1%  |

**VOTING and GENDER**

29 Each election, millions of people make decisions about who will receive their vote—a decision which is often based on many different factors. I'd now like to ask you about one possible factor, which may or may not be important to you and that's gender. How important would you say the sex of a candidate is when you vote? Is it:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Very Important       | 3%  |
| Somewhat Important   | 15% |
| Not Very Important   | 20% |
| Not Important At All | 61% |
| Don't Know           | 0%  |

**DEATH PENALTY**

30. During the past several years, new evidence has been used to overturn murder convictions throughout the US—and some of these cases have involved death row inmates. In light of these cases, which of the following, if any, best describes your opinion on the death penalty.

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Continue to Support Death Penalty | 30% |
| Continue to Support but Doubts    | 25% |
| No Longer Support                 | 5%  |
| Never Supported                   | 38% |
| Don't Know                        | 3%  |
| Refused                           | 0%  |

**INTERNET**

30. Some communities, at taxpayer expense, have given free computers and Internet access to families with school age children to expand educational opportunities for the whole family. In general, what do you think about using taxpayer dollars for this purpose, is it:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Great Idea           | 13% |
| Good Idea            | 43% |
| Not Very Good Idea   | 19% |
| Not Good Idea At All | 19% |
| Don't Know           | 5%  |
| Refused              | 1%  |

31. Recently, some businesses have begun to give consumers free computers and internet access if they agree to use their services—which may be either provided for free or at a monthly fee. What do you think about this business practice? Do you think it is:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Great Idea           | 10% |
| Good Idea            | 52% |
| Not Very Good Idea   | 22% |
| Not Good Idea At All | 10% |
| Don't Know           | 6%  |

32. Some people say that having Internet access in a home is an advantage in everything from education to just being well informed, while others say it doesn't make any difference. What do you think? Is having Internet access in a home:

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Big Advantage          | 42% |
| Something of Advantage | 40% |
| No Difference          | 12% |
| Disadvantage           | 3%  |
| Don't Know             | 3%  |
| Refused                | 0%  |

### NEW ECONOMY SKILLS

33. Which of the following best describes your job situation?

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Working Full Time | 47% |
| Working Part Time | 11% |
| Retired           | 27% |
| Unemployed        | 3%  |
| Full Time Student | 1%  |
| Housemaker        | 8%  |
| Other             | 3%  |
| Something Else    | 0%  |
| Refused           | 1%  |

During the past 10 years or so, the US economy has undergone considerable change. Jobs have changed, and some would say that the skills and training needed to fill those jobs has also changed. I'd now like to read you several statements, and then ask you whether you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Somewhat Disagree, or Strongly Disagree. If you Don't know or are Unsure—just say so. The first statement is,

34. I'm concerned about losing my job because of my limited skills

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strong Agree      | 4%  |
| Somewhat Agree    | 9%  |
| Somewhat Disagree | 13% |
| Strong Disagree   | 74% |
| DK/Refused        | 1%  |

35. I have the skills needed to move up to a better job where I work

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strong Agree      | 48% |
| Somewhat Agree    | 30% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 10% |
| Strong Disagree   | 6%  |
| DK/Refused        | 6%  |

36. I'm concerned that my skills are not keeping up with the new skills my job requires

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strong Agree      | 6%  |
| Somewhat Agree    | 11% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 16% |
| Strong Disagree   | 63% |
| DK/Refused        | 4%  |

37. If affordable training opportunities were available, I would take advantage of them.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strong Agree      | 34% |
| Somewhat Agree    | 29% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 15% |
| Strong Disagree   | 17% |
| DK/Refused        | 5%  |

38. If I wanted to obtain new skills, the cost of training or education would NOT be a problem

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strong Agree      | 39% |
| Somewhat Agree    | 29% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 13% |
| Strong Disagree   | 17% |
| DK/Refused        | 1%  |

39. If I wanted to obtain new skills, I know where to get the training or education I wanted

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strong Agree      | 59% |
| Somewhat Agree    | 29% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 6%  |
| Strong Disagree   | 7%  |

40. The state should create a tax break for businesses as an incentive to provide NEW education and training programs for workers.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strong Agree      | 42% |
| Somewhat Agree    | 41% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 10% |
| Strong Disagree   | 3%  |
| DK/Refused        | 4%  |

41. The state has a responsibility to help Non-English speaking workers learn to speak, read, and write English.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strong Agree      | 24% |
| Somewhat Agree    | 34% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 13% |
| Strong Disagree   | 27% |
| DK/Refused        | 1%  |

42. The state is doing enough to ensure that it has enough skilled worker to fill the kinds of new jobs created

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Strong Agree      | 9%  |
| Somewhat Agree    | 30% |
| Somewhat Disagree | 28% |
| Strong Disagree   | 22% |
| DK/Refused        | 11% |

## **POLITICS**

43. If the Democratic / Republican primaries for governor were being held today. Which primary would you vote?

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Democrat                | 49% |
| Republican              | 17% |
| Don't Vote in Primaries | 3%  |
| Don't Know              | 25% |
| Refused                 | 6%  |

44. I know the primary is a long way off—but if you had to vote, which primary would you vote?

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Democrat                | 19% |
| Republican              | 8%  |
| Don't Vote in Primaries | 8%  |
| Don't Know              | 64% |
| Refused                 | 1%  |

45. If the Democratic primary for governor were being held today, and the following candidates were running for the democratic nomination - for whom would you vote:

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Birmingham   | 7%  |
| Galvin       | 5%  |
| Tolman       | 3%  |
| Grossman     | 6%  |
| O'Brien      | 14% |
| Meehan       | 20% |
| Someone Else | 2%  |
| Don't Know   | 41% |
| Refused      | 3%  |

46. How about if the following candidates were running - for whom would you vote:

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Birmingham   | 10% |
| Galvin       | 7%  |
| O'Brien      | 17% |
| Meehan       | 24% |
| Someone Else | 2%  |
| Don't Know   | 37% |
| Refused      | 3%  |

47. If the GENERAL election for governor were held today and the candidates were ,...for whom would you vote?

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Birmingham | 36% |
| Swift      | 30% |
| Don't Know | 30% |
| Refused    | 5%  |

48. How about if it was between ... for whom would you vote?

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Galvin     | 31% |
| Swift      | 28% |
| Don't Know | 36% |
| Refused    | 5%  |

49. What about ... for governor, for whom would you vote?

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Tolman     | 23% |
| Swift      | 32% |
| Don't Know | 40% |
| Refused    | 5%  |

50. How about ... for governor, for whom would you vote?

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Grossman   | 26% |
| Swift      | 30% |
| Don't Know | 40% |
| Refused    | 5%  |

51. How about ... for governor, for whom would you vote?

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Meehan     | 40% |
| Swift      | 26% |
| Don't Know | 30% |
| Refused    | 4%  |

52. How about ... who would you vote?

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| O'Brien    | 35% |
| Swift      | 26% |
| Don't Know | 35% |
| Refused    | 4%  |

53. Let's now turn to the US Senate Race, if the election were held today and the candidates were ...whom would you vote? If you don't know, just say so.

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Dem Kerry  | 65% |
| Rep Romney | 18% |
| Don't Know | 14% |
| Refused    | 3%  |