

# The Waters Around Us:

*Public opinion research on  
Massachusetts residents' views on  
climate change*



**MassINC**



**Barr  
Foundation**

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**Hyams**  
FOUNDATION



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POLLING GROUP

Dear friends,

The Barr Foundation is pleased to have supported MassINC Polling Group's new poll on how people in Massachusetts feel about climate change, and to offer a few words of introduction to this report.

Above all, we are struck that 53% of respondents now say global warming is a high priority (up from just 32% as recently as 2014). What's more, 88% characterize climate change as serious problem for Massachusetts, and are well aware of current and looming climate impacts—especially threats to public health and to low-income communities. Majorities also want to see more state leadership and policies that accelerate needed transformation.

Climate change is a central priority for us at the Barr Foundation. To inform our approach, and as a resource to others who share these aims, we have partnered with MassINC Polling Group since 2011. Their work has been instrumental in helping us understand the level of awareness and concern among residents about how climate change is affecting Massachusetts.

This report, *The Waters Around Us: Public opinion research on Massachusetts residents' views on climate change*, provides data and analysis from the MassINC Polling Group's latest round of high-quality, independent public opinion polling. It provides the snapshot of a continuing trend - that Bay Staters are feeling an increasing urgency for climate action and leadership.

Though there remain contrasts in opinion across different parts of the state, the long-term trends are clear. And these bring to life what many of us see firsthand in our work every day—that people in all parts of Massachusetts recognize that responding to climate change is both necessity and opportunity, and there is no time to lose.

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**MassINC**



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We at The MassINC Polling Group gratefully acknowledge the support of The Barr Foundation and The Hyams Foundation, which made this project possible. We also recognize the many people and organizations who provided feedback in forming the questionnaire to explore these complex issues. The interpretation and conclusions in this document are solely the product of The MassINC Polling Group

## **ABOUT THE MASSINC POLLING GROUP**

The MassINC Polling Group is a nonpartisan public opinion research firm serving public, private, and social-sector clients. MPG elevates the public's voice with cutting-edge methods and rigorous analysis. Based in Boston, MPG serves a nationwide client base.

# The Waters Around Us:

## *Public opinion research on Massachusetts residents' views on climate change*

### Executive Summary

An update to Massachusetts' climate policy is on the agenda. In the past year, the Massachusetts House and Senate along with Governor Charlie Baker have all put forward substantial policy proposals to deal with various aspects of climate change. From Speaker Robert DeLeo's GreenWorks resiliency grants for cities and towns to the Governor's new ambitious goal of driving the commonwealth to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, state government is taking the issue seriously. The Massachusetts State Senate just passed new legislation to go even further, setting new emissions targets, pricing carbon, and encouraging purchases of electric vehicles. These bills come at a time of growing anxiety among residents about climate change, and reports from the scientific community that grow more alarming by the day.

In his State of the Commonwealth address last month, Baker announced the goal of getting the commonwealth to net-zero carbon emissions by the year 2050. This would be a change to the current policy of reducing emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, set in 2008's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act. The new proposed target also comes as the state is nearing the deadline for lowering emissions 25% below 1990 levels in 2020.<sup>1</sup> Over the past decade, the state has taken significant steps to reduce carbon emissions, realizing considerable reductions even as the state economy is booming.

Even if the state hits its 2020 mark, the next milestone

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<sup>1</sup> "GWSA Implementation Progress Dashboard," Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, accessed January 2020.

will be a much bigger lift, both in terms of government policy as well as individual and societal behavior. Time is of the essence to reach these goals and do enough to change the trajectory of a warming planet. Without urgent and sweeping action, the consequences of climate change will be severe. With the federal government paralyzed by partisanship, the task falls to local and state governments to lead.

Here in Massachusetts, that message has been received. Residents of the commonwealth consider climate change a priority and are concerned for the future of the state. They report a wide range of environmental impacts already underway and see more coming in the next few years. They see the need for action and leadership at all levels of government, and recognize that change is inevitable, either from climate change itself or the actions needed to stop it. Few think it is too late, and majorities support a range of policy interventions.

These are among the findings of a new survey of 2,318 residents of Massachusetts conducted by The MassINC Polling Group. This work is the latest in a series, dating back to 2011, that defined a culture of climate protection as 1) recognizing global warming as a problem and priority, 2) supporting policy efforts to curb global emissions, and 3) putting a premium on individual efforts to reduce one's own carbon footprint. This survey shows progress towards all three of these.

The survey was preceded by a series of focus groups conducted across Massachusetts. This report includes insights and quotes from that qualitative research alongside the quantitative findings throughout.

## Key Findings

### Massachusetts residents see climate change as a serious challenge and are already feeling its impacts.

A large majority of residents acknowledge the reality of climate change – 81% of residents say it “has probably been happening”, while just 11% say it probably has not. If nothing is done to address it, 79% say climate change will be a serious problem for Massachusetts, including 53% who say it will be “very serious.” Residents already see a range of consequences to the environment, with half or more saying more powerful storms, coastal erosion, sea level rise, heat waves, and coastal flooding are happening now, and another 12% to 15% saying they are very likely in the next 5 years.

### Change to everyday life seems inevitable, either to address climate change, or due to its impacts.

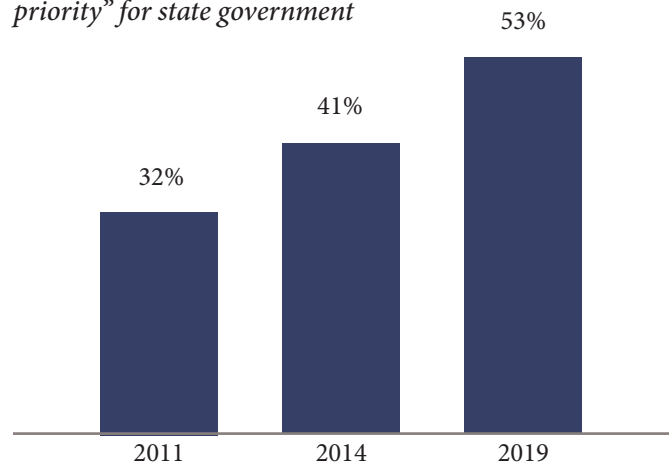
Those who acknowledge climate change recognize the changes it will bring to day-to-day life. To reduce emissions enough to stop it, 72% think major or moderate changes will be required to how we live today. If nothing is done, 66% foresee major or moderate changes coming to how they live. Whether the state acts or not, residents are bracing for substantial changes to their day-to-day lives.

### Massachusetts residents see the need for action at all levels

Over half of Massachusetts residents name climate change (54%) or global warming (53%) as a “high priority” for state government, continuing a steady rise from 2011 (Figure 1). Majorities support a variety of state-level policy initiatives to deal with climate change. Among the proposals included in this poll, improving public transportation was most popular, echoing many other recent polls on the urgency of transportation improvements. Other proposals on housing, environmental protections, and power generation also receive majority support. Around 70% think tackling climate change will require at least moderate changes to federal and state policy, and to how we live today.

### Figure 1: Steady rise in global warming as a “high priority”

*% of residents who say global warming should be a “high priority” for state government*



*Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents. Poll conducted Oct. – Nov. 2019.*

### Climate change will affect us all, but some will fare better than others

The impacts of climate change are happening already and will be felt everywhere. But many see inequities in how communities and individuals will be equipped to respond to the challenges of a warming planet. Far more think high-income neighborhoods are prepared for climate change (63%) than think the same of low-income neighborhoods (22%). Those who live in higher-income households are more likely to say their families and neighborhoods are well-prepared.

### Boston-area residents are more concerned by climate change and louder in their calls for solutions

In keeping both with Boston’s leftward lean and its vulnerability to the effects of climate change, Boston-area residents are more concerned about climate change and more supportive of policy action and leadership. But residents are also less prepared for a climate-related weather event, suggesting a unique challenge for emergency managers.

## Main Findings

Climate change is taking center stage in state policy, with Governor Baker and both chambers of the state legislature putting out proposals to reduce emissions and prepare for climate impacts. This report shows the public is ready for action. Majorities think many effects of climate change are being felt already. Climate has risen as a policy priority for state government compared to previous polling in 2011 and 2014. As they have in previous polls, majorities of residents support a variety of policy proposals. The cost of those policies is balanced in the public’s mind by the cost of doing nothing.

### Climate change has risen in importance since 2011

The relative importance of climate change on a list of statewide issue priorities has grown since 2011 when this series of research began. Over half of Massachusetts residents say climate change (54%) or global warming (53%) should be a high priority for state government (Figure 2). This shows a steady increase from a 2011 MPG poll<sup>2</sup> when 32% named global warming as a high priority, and 2014 when 41% did so.<sup>3</sup>

Other questions show a similar increase in concern. A majority (53%) of residents now call climate change a “very serious” problem if left unaddressed, up from 42% in 2011. Dire warnings of climate change and a series of “once in a lifetime” weather events over the past decade are grabbing attention and headlines.

Despite elevated concern, climate change has not reached the top tier of issue priorities for voters overall. Residents think health care (71%) and education (70%) should be top issues for state government. Jobs and the economy (61%) is third, down from the top concern in 2011 and 2014, when the state was still emerging from the Great Recession. Education has also declined in importance, though it remains a top-tier priority.

In focus groups, participants mentioned a similar set of everyday issues and concerns as their top daily

challenges at the outset of the sessions. However, once the moderators raised climate change as an issue, participants were fully engaged with it as a challenge requiring immediate attention.

“None of the other issues really matter if the planet we live on is inhospitable,” said one Boston participant. Another said, “When I think about climate change, I feel really helpless and anxious about the future.” But before it was brought up, participants had many other issues on their minds. As one Pioneer Valley resident explained, “Springfield has a whole host of issues. So when you’re hearing about these issues, unfortunately I think something like climate change is kind of pushed to the side.”

**Figure 2: Climate change climbs in importance for state leaders, but remains a mid-tier priority**

*% of MA residents who say \_\_\_\_\_ should be a a “high priority” for state government*

	2011	2014	2019
Health care	71%	77%	71%
Education	83%	83%	70%
Drug addiction	N/A	N/A	64%
Jobs and the economy	89%	83%	61%
Climate change*	N/A	N/A	54%
Global warming*	32%	41%	53%
Transportation	N/A	39%	52%
Reducing air pollution	N/A	N/A	51%
Taxes	49%	49%	48%
Energy	N/A	N/A	47%
Criminal justice reform	N/A	N/A	43%
Immigration	N/A	N/A	42%

Source: *The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.*

\* Half of respondents received either “global warming” or “climate change”.

<sup>2</sup> Koczela, Steve, Ben Forman, and Caroline Koch, “The 80 Percent Challenge: A Survey of Climate Change Opinion and Action in Massachusetts,” MassINC, April 2011.

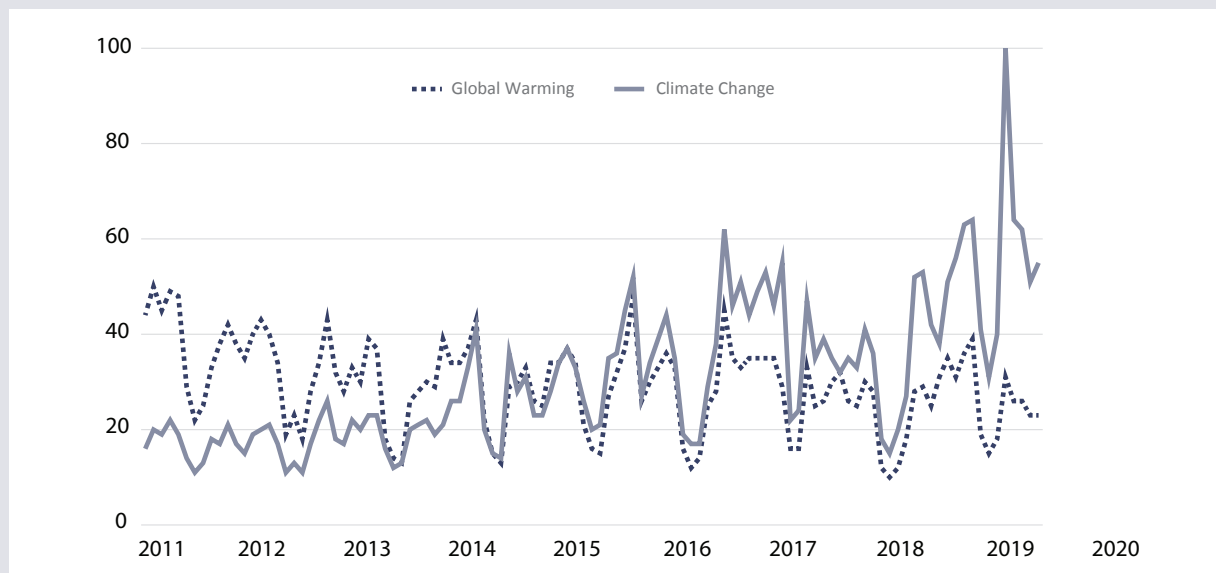
<sup>3</sup> Koczela, Steve, Ben Forman and Rich Parr, “Looking for Leadership: Public Opinion in Massachusetts on the Response to Global Warming,” MassINC, March 2014.

### “Global warming” vs. “climate change”: How to phrase the question

Question wording in surveys is important, both to avoid unintentionally influencing responses and ensure the survey instrument is written in language familiar to respondents. In 2011 and 2014, the survey mainly used the term “global warming.” Since this series of reports began in 2011, the term “global warming” has become less common, while “climate change” has been more frequently used. This is shown most clearly in Google Trends, a service which shows the frequency of search term use (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Indexed Google search traffic for “global warming” and “climate change”**

Data from 2011-2019, 100 = max traffic.



To keep up with shifting linguistic trends, the 2019 survey mainly uses the term “climate change.” This update was made after assessing search traffic, media reports, and other public discussions. To ensure “climate change” was an appropriate substitution, it was included along with “global warming” and “air pollution” in the initial issue priority question. Half of respondents considered an issue priority list with “climate change” while half instead saw “global warming.” The results suggest “climate change” is comparable – 54% of respondents say climate change is a “high priority,” compared with 53% of those who were prompted with “global warming.”

Throughout the survey instrument and the report, the term “climate change” is used unless otherwise noted.

Another issue of increasing importance is transportation. Around half (52%) of residents name transportation as a “high priority,” up from 39% in 2014. Other recent MPG polls on the issue show residents fed up with congestion, transit issues, and the condition of both roads and transit systems. Transportation and climate are related; transportation is the single largest contributor to the state’s carbon emissions.<sup>4</sup> They are also viewed as

priorities by comparable numbers of residents, both in 2019 and 2014, although transportation is less polarizing along partisan lines. Transportation is an example of how the route to climate-friendly policy outcomes often leads through other issues. People may not want transportation policy change *because* of climate impacts, but many such policy changes would have the effect of reducing carbon emissions.

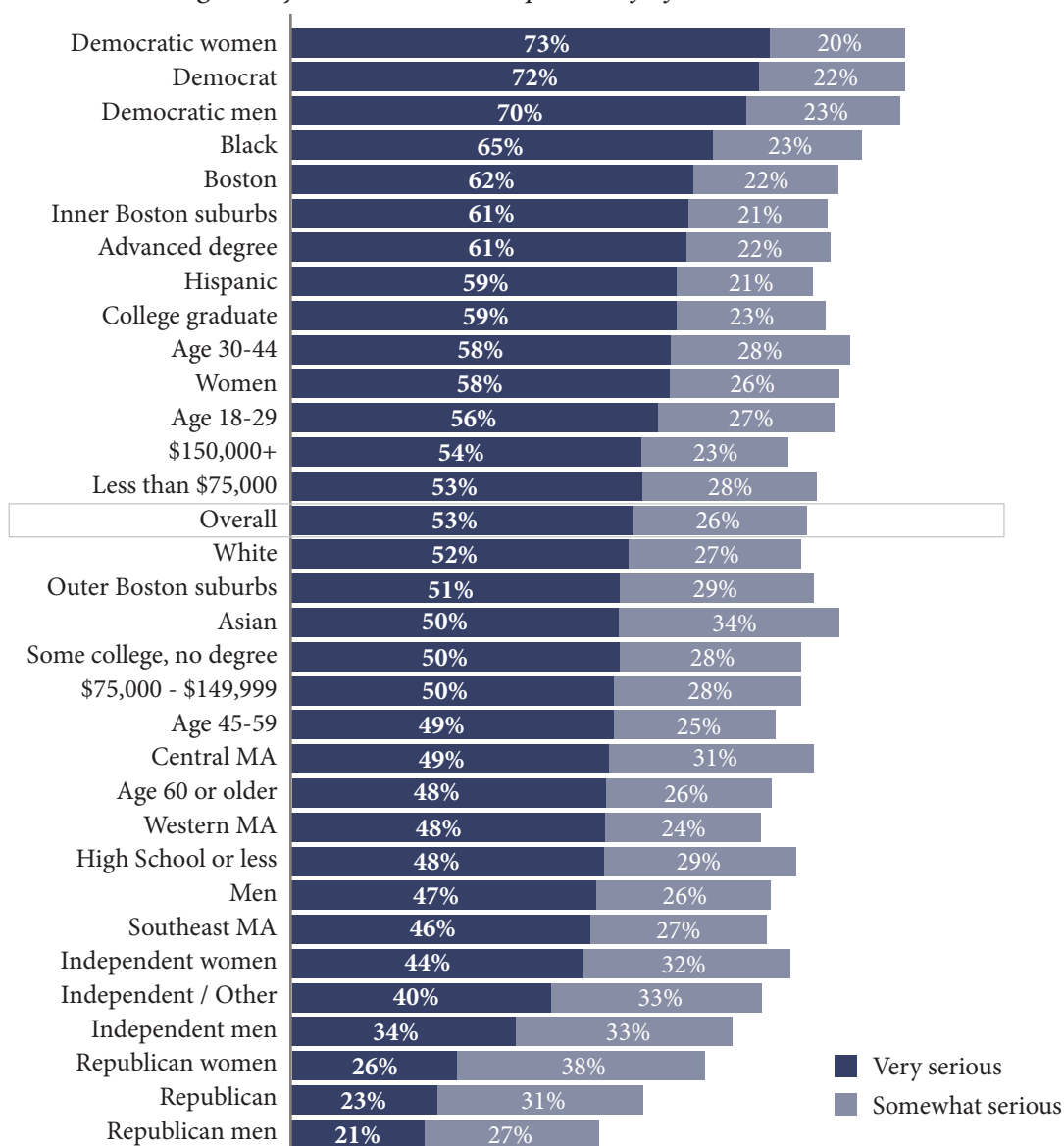
<sup>4</sup> Swasey, Benjamin, “The State’s Emissions Declined 2.5 Percent in 2016. They’re Now 21 Percent Below 1990 Levels,” WBUR, January 4, 2019.



Climate change has not reached the top tier of resident priorities, but residents are genuinely concerned about it. Indeed, there is broad consensus that climate change is real, caused at least in part by human activity, and that it has and will bring severe consequences. Fully 81% of Massachusetts residents agree that climate change “has probably been happening” while just 11% say it has not.

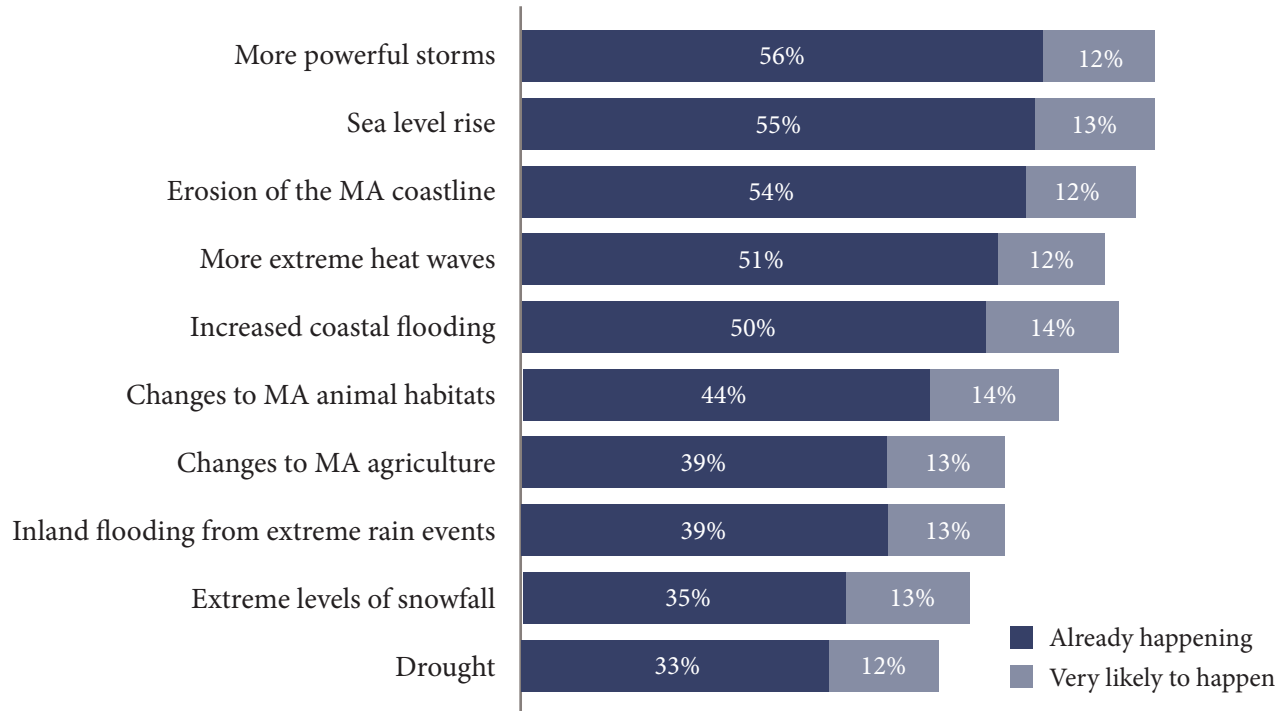
Among those who acknowledge it, 86% say it is due at least in part to human activity, at least in part. Finally, 79% of residents say climate change will be a serious problem for Massachusetts if left unaddressed, including a majority (53%) who say it will be “very serious” (Figure 4). This is an increase since 2011, when 42% called it “very serious.”

**Figure 4: Majorities across demographic groups see climate change as a serious problem if left unaddressed**  
*% of residents who call climate change a very / somewhat serious problem if left unaddressed*



Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.

**Figure 5: Residents already see many effects from climate change, expect more soon**  
*% who say each is already happening or very likely to happen in the next 5 years*



Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.

Concerns about climate change extend across demographic and geographic groups. In most groups, more than 70% say climate change will be a very or somewhat serious problem. Republican men are the only group where less than half express this opinion (48% call climate change “somewhat” or “very” serious). Among Republican women, this rises to 64%. Partisan differences have been a durable feature of climate change opinion, with Republicans typically expressing more skepticism and less urgency. This poll adds a layer of nuance to this dynamic, showing that among Republicans there are differences between subgroups.

**Residents already feel many effects from climate change in Massachusetts**

One thing adding to the urgency residents express is the sense that climate change impacts are already here. Many residents say they are already witnessing specific weather consequences of climate change (Figure 5). As a coastal state, residents seem particularly attuned to impacts along the shore. Half or more say powerful

storms, sea level rise, coastal erosion, heatwaves, and coastal flooding are already happening. In each case, another 12% to 14% say they are very likely to happen in Massachusetts in the next five years. A majority of residents also see or expect changes to animal habitats in the state (58%), changes to agriculture (52%), and inland flooding from extreme rain events (52%). Nearly half say the same about extreme levels of snowfall (48%) and drought (45%).

These figures do not appear to reflect personal observation as much as they reflect concern over climate change in general (Figure 6). In other words, those that say coastal erosion or coastal flooding are already happening do not necessarily live on the coast. “I can see crops not being able to grow across the globe,” said a focus group participant, offering a much broader perspective. A Northampton participant also offered a broader view, saying “I don’t think you can draw a town line around climate change.” Instead, perception of current weather impacts has more to do with each person’s assessment of the seriousness of climate change. Those who think

climate change is serious are far more likely to report witnessing the full range of weather impacts, regardless of whether they live in the region where those impacts may be most prevalent.

**Whether action is taken or not, residents see impacts of climate change as inevitable**

Residents say there is no avoiding the impacts of climate change at this point. Those impacts will come either from the need to adapt to the environmental events many already see happening, or from the policy and societal changes needed to reduce emissions enough to lessen the severity of climate change. As one New Bedford focus group participant put it, “If you don’t plan in advance for your future, your future’s not going to be what you hoped.”

A plurality (40%) say “major changes” to how we live are required to stop climate change; another third (32%) say “moderate changes” are necessary (Figure 6). If nothing is done to stop climate change in the future, 36% say there will be “major changes” to how they live (30% expect “moderate changes” will be required). In other words, residents say they can voluntarily make major adjustments to how they live, or else nature will enforce changes to their lives.

This is an important dynamic for policymakers to consider. Many times, policies are designed to minimize the impacts on everyday residents and voters. But on climate, residents see the impacts coming. This should give policymakers some license to take action that entails some level of disruption. Residents may not demand change, given the modest (though increasing) level of priority given to climate change. But they would support leaders who came forward with plans to address the issue.

Some of the changes needed to stem climate change will come from personal behavior, but policy will need to play a much larger role to achieve the needed reductions to carbon emissions. This research suggests voters understand the level of changes that will be required. Around 7 in 10 say either major or moderate change will be needed to both state and federal policy, while few

**Figure 6: Massachusetts residents expect policy, life-style change is necessary to address climate change**  
 % of MA residents who say major/moderate change to \_\_\_\_\_ is needed to address climate change

	Federal govt policy	State govt policy	How we live
Major changes	52%	46%	40%
Moderate changes	19%	23%	32%
<b>Total major / moderate change</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>72%</b>
Minor changes	4%	5%	7%
No changes	2%	3%	2%
Can't be stopped this way	7%	7%	4%
Unsure	5%	5%	4%
Climate change not happening	11%	11%	11%

Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.

say little or no policy change will be needed.

**Few think it’s too late to act, and want to see Massachusetts out front or acting regionally.**

Residents are seeing the effects of climate change now, but only 18% think it’s already too late to stop future effects (Figure 7). At the same time, only about half (49%) say there is still time, while the remaining 23% are unsure. Some of that pessimism and uncertainty appears to stem from the science on climate and some from the politics around climate policy. Focus groups members voiced significant concern as to whether the federal government was up to the task. “The part that scares me greatly is the cutbacks in regulations,” said one participant in Boston. “Trump has eliminated so many regulations on big businesses that have a direct impact on pollution and the environment.” Absent federal leadership, some participants wondered how much states can do alone. “I think the state can do something, but they can’t do

everything,” said a participant in Worcester. “I don’t think a single state can make that huge of a difference.”

Nonetheless, survey respondents want to see not just action but leadership from state government, either alone or in conjunction with other states. A majority (56%) say Massachusetts should act ahead of most other states in responding to climate change, while another 22% think Massachusetts should act at the same time as most other states (Figure 8). And 47% of residents think their own city or town should act ahead of most other places in responding to climate change, while 29% say their city or town should act at the same time as other places.

As the current administration in Washington pulls back from addressing climate change, Massachusetts residents want their own elected officials to pick up the slack. Massachusetts is part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, an example of an effective regional partnership to reduce emissions from power generation. Currently, Massachusetts is playing a leading role in the Transportation Climate Initiative, which would address greenhouse gases emitted from the transportation sector.

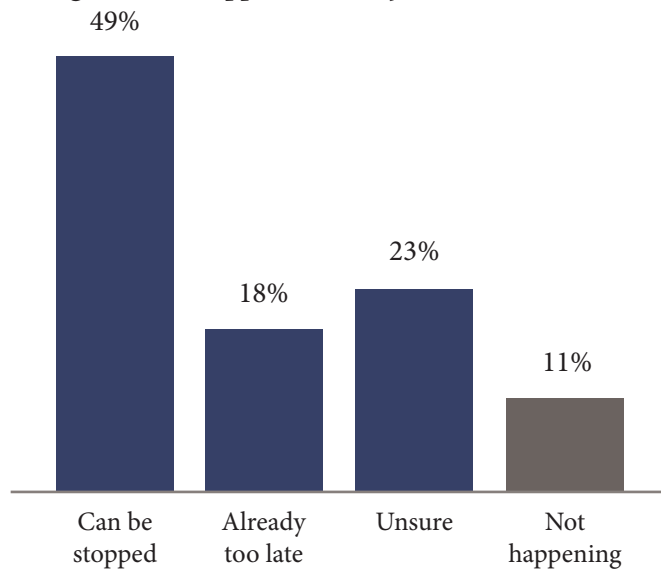
### Residents support a variety of state-level actions, especially public transportation improvements

Whether the goal is an 80% reduction in emissions from 1990 levels by 2050, or the new target of net-zero by then, the policies that will get us there are still in development. New proposals like those just passed by the State Senate aim to keep the state on track toward interim goals and potentially chart the way to net zero.

This poll does not include a full examination of specific policies which could potentially be employed, but looks instead at buckets of policies at a macro level. To get a sense of what sorts of policies were on the table (or anywhere near it), we solicited feedback from a number of experts, advocates, and legislative leaders during the design phase of this project. Since the survey fielded, the policy environment has continued to evolve.

**Figure 7: Few think it’s too late for action, but only half are confident that future effects of climate change can be stopped**

*% of residents who say future effects of climate change can be stopped / already too late*



Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.

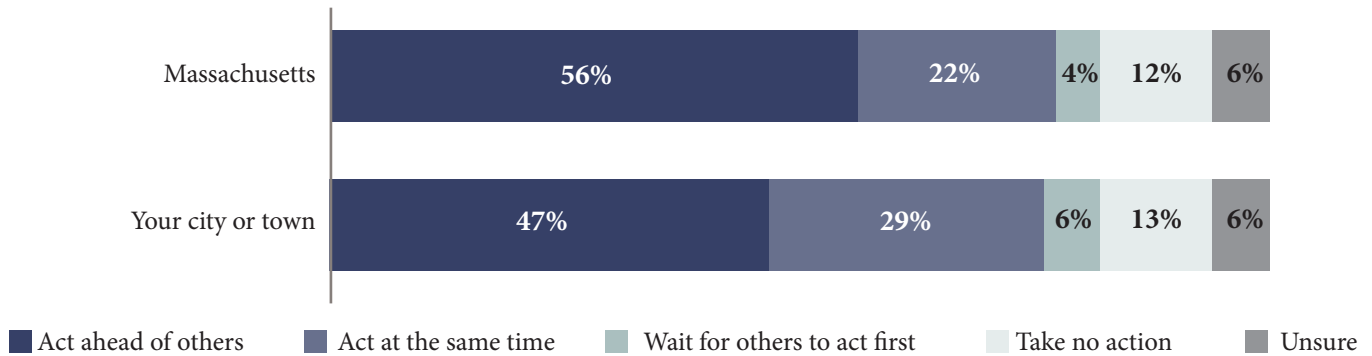
For instance, the multi-state Transportation and Climate Initiative has released a range of scenarios and price points for its regional plan to cap emissions from the transportation sector. And, none of the policies tested in this poll anticipated shifting the state’s goal to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. In some cases, such as transportation improvements, this poll did not include detailed proposals, although other MPG polling offers more specific insights into voters’ thinking.<sup>5,6</sup> MPG looks forward to conducting further research as new proposals are announced.

Climate change policy is often categorized as either focused on “resiliency” and “mitigation.” Resiliency policies aim to adapt infrastructure and commercial

5 “Gridlock: Stopped in Traffic, Delayed on Transit,” The MassINC Polling Group, April 24, 2019.

6 “Statewide Poll: Open Track for Regional Rail Proposals”, The MassINC Polling Group, September, 2019.

**Figure 8: Residents want state and local leadership, collaboration on climate change**  
 % of residents who say the state / their city should \_\_\_\_\_ in response to climate change



Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.

and residential property to withstand the anticipated consequences of climate change. Mitigation aims to reduce or eliminate the threat of climate change itself, by eliminating the carbon emissions contributing to it. This poll explores a combination of proposals in both veins.

In Massachusetts, residents support both approaches. Some 28% of residents say higher priority should be given to reducing or eliminating the threat of climate change altogether (mitigation), while another 12% say preparing residents for the effects of climate change should be the higher priority (resilience). But a plurality, 43%, say that both approaches should be given the same priority level.

When it comes to policy ideas, improving public transportation in the commonwealth garners the most support. Fully 86% of residents say they support improving the state’s public transportation network to reduce car travel, including 60% who “strongly” support this initiative (Figure 9). Some of this support may stem as much from concern over climate change as with well-documented frustration over the state of the transportation system.<sup>7</sup> A November 2019 MPG poll found 71% of voters in Massachusetts agreed that action was needed to improve the system; just 17% thought it

was working well as is. Looking specifically at the public transit system, only 7% said it was in excellent condition. Another 23% called it “good.” An equal number (30%) thought it “poor”

Addressing transit issues is an example of policy that deals with another priority issue for residents while also mitigating a root cause of climate change. Transportation is the number one source of carbon emissions in Massachusetts.

Related to transportation is housing. Building denser developments near transit can enable transit use, reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions. Three-quarters of residents support changing zoning laws to encourage developers to build developments near public transit, including 41% who would strongly support such laws. MPG polling in 2019 found residents open to the idea of more transit-oriented development (TOD) in the state’s Gateway Cities.<sup>8</sup> This extends to the possibility of providing state incentives to boost production. This is another policy intersection between climate change and other key issues. TOD offers the prospect of boosting economic activity in areas that need it, while also reducing the necessity of car travel and the emissions it brings.

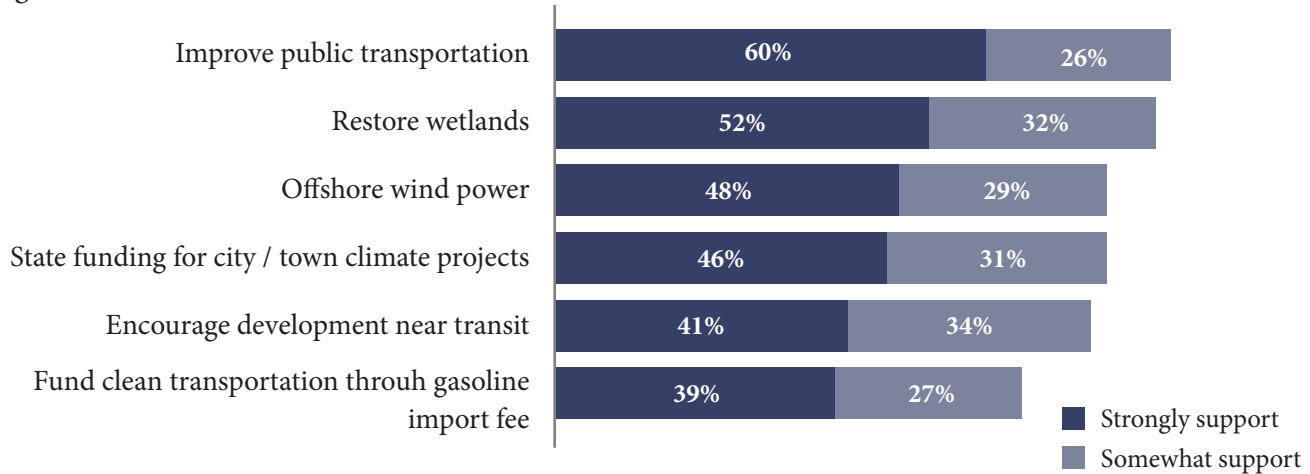
<sup>7</sup> “Get a Move On, Voters Ready for Transportation Improvements,” The MassINC Polling Group, November, 2019.

<sup>8</sup> “Statewide Poll: Open Track for Regional Rail Proposals,” The MassINC Polling Group, September, 2019.

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**Figure 9: Residents support a range of state-level action on climate change**

% of MA residents who say they strongly / somewhat support each of the following to address the threat of climate change



Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.

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Despite progress in the last decade, power generation remains another source of carbon emissions. With major wind developments in the works, 77% support moving the state toward offshore wind power to provide energy for homes and businesses (48% strongly support). The support for offshore wind mirrors a poll MPG conducted for WBUR in September 2018, which found 80% of likely voters thought the state should rely more on wind power for its future energy needs.<sup>9</sup> Clean and renewable energy has been consistently popular in all of the polls MPG has done in recent years, and this is no exception.

Some focus group respondents expressed concerns about wind power, mostly having to do with aesthetics and perceived reliability. “People say they’re an eyesore. They don’t bother me because I know the end result of it: It’s free energy,” said a Worcester group participant. Another said: “It’s a variable source of power. So it can’t be that alone. There are other things that need to be worked in. Solar doesn’t work at night. Wind doesn’t work when it’s not windy.”

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<sup>9</sup> Oakes, Bob and Wilder Fleming, “70 Percent of Likely Mass. Voters Say Mass. Doesn’t Spend Enough on Infrastructure,” WBUR, September 26, 2018.

Programs and partnerships that rethink funding climate change projects also receive broad support. Some 77% of residents support providing state funding to cities and towns for specific projects that address climate change in those communities (46% strongly support). Regional action is supported as well – 66% of residents support charging gasoline importers a fee and investing those funds in cleaner transportation options. This is the essence of the TCI proposal currently working its way through state governments in the region.

As we have seen in previous climate surveys, there is majority support for a wide array of policies to address both the causes and effects of climate change. These figures, combined with the rising priority level of climate as an issue and the majority support for Massachusetts leading on the issue, send a message to policymakers that the public is ready for action.

**Wide disparities in readiness for weather impacts; few feel fully prepared**

Another reason residents may give lawmakers wide latitude on climate policy is that many feel not fully prepared for its effects. When it comes to the weather

consequences of climate changes, few feel their own family or any region of the state is “very” well-prepared for the more severe weather events that climate change is likely to bring (Figure 10).

Pluralities think that all but low-income neighborhoods are at least “somewhat” well-prepared. But in the face of historic weather events and steady changes to climate, being somewhat ready leaves quite a bit of room for anxiety. Substantial minorities think their own family, neighborhood, and region are not well-prepared. And a majority (68%) think that low-income neighborhoods are not well-prepared, including 40% who think these neighborhoods are “not at all prepared.”

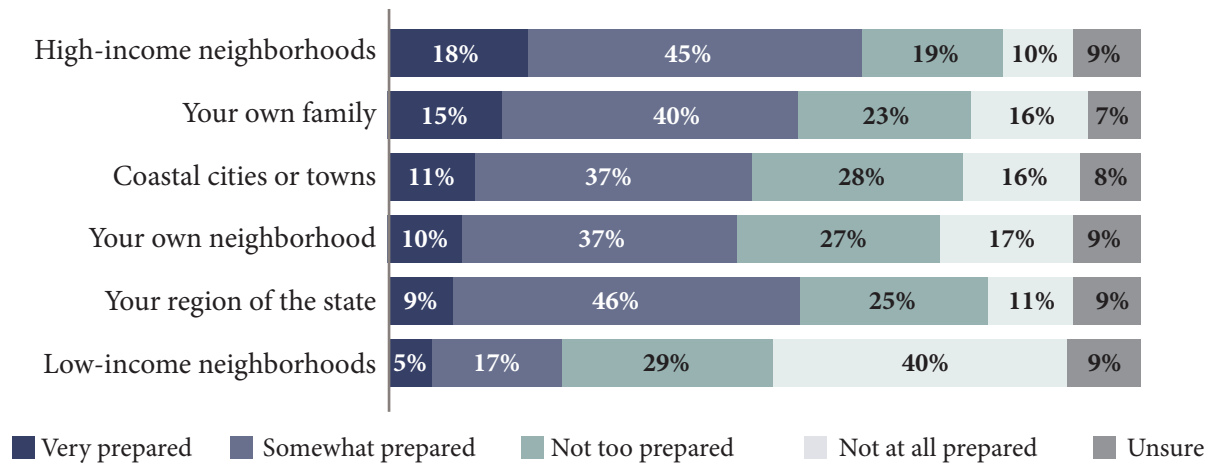
There is also a divide by residents’ income levels. Among those making \$150,000 a year or more, 64% think their own family is at least somewhat prepared. Among those making less than \$25,000, 40% think their family is “not too” or “not at all” prepared.

The focus groups shed some light on these disparities

by income. Several people cited past storms as evidence. A participant in the New Bedford focus group said: “During [Hurricane] Dorian, who got affected the worst? The poor people. They don’t have the means.” Another participant said, “Climate change affects everybody, but I think the distinction is a matter of, when you’re talking about incomes, it’s about resources available.” A focus group participant also questioned whether similar dynamics would play out in Massachusetts: “I don’t think New Bedford’s going to be the first one to receive aid or resources.”

Coastal impacts like flooding are particularly salient for residents, many of whom think they are already happening. Perhaps for this reason, only 48% of residents statewide think coastal cities and towns are “very” or “somewhat” prepared for severe weather events brought on by climate change. Nearly as many (44%) think coastal communities are “not too” or “not at all” prepared. Residents of the Southeast are somewhat more likely to think coastal communities are well-prepared (55%) than residents of Boston and its suburbs,

**Figure 10: Few residents feel “very” well-prepared for severe weather events**  
 % of MA residents who say \_\_\_\_\_ is prepared for severe weather events associated with climate change



Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.

the other major coastal region of the state (47%). The Southeast is the most politically conservative region of the commonwealth, and belief in man-made climate change is lower there.

Beyond general notions of preparedness, most residents say they have specific plans in the event of severe weather (Figure 11). Fully 75% say they have insurance for their home and belongings, the most common response. Majorities say they know how they will protect important documents or valuables (65%), get in touch or meet with friends and family (63%), and have enough food, medicine and other necessities in stock (62%). Fewer say they have a plan to evacuate their home, including any pets (52%).

But there are significant differences by income and race. Across all of these items, individuals who live in higher-income households are more likely to say they're prepared. For instance, 92% of high-income households say they have insurance compared with

50% of those in the lowest-income households.<sup>10</sup> Among the lowest income residents of the Boston area (those with household incomes under \$25,000) just 35% report having insurance for their homes and belongings. In the event of a major storm event, these residents will face a steep climb to recovery.

One focus group participant put it in personal terms: "My parents would lose their home if Boston flooded. My aunt would lose her home. She lives in Florida. That's, like, going to be underwater, and where's she going to move? She can't afford to buy a new house if she doesn't sell that one. So, it just feels like you have to have money to live through those storms."

Likewise, high-income residents are more likely to say they'll have enough food and supplies and know how

<sup>10</sup> According to 2017 Census data compiled by Prosperity Now, 87% of the highest-income households in Massachusetts own their home compared with 30% of the lowest-income households. This has obvious implications for insurance rates. Accessed January 2020.

**Figure 11: Disparities in specific plans for responding to severe weather**  
*% of MA residents who say they have a plan for each in response to severe weather*

	Overall	\$150K+	\$75K - <\$150K	<\$75K
Insurance for home / belongings	75%	92%	85%	65%
Protect documents / valuables	65%	75%	68%	62%
Get in touch with friends / family	63%	69%	65%	59%
Have enough food / medicine	62%	69%	63%	59%
Evacuate home	52%	57%	53%	52%
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
Insurance for home / belongings	80%	62%	60%	57%
Protect documents / valuables	67%	60%	65%	54%
Get in touch with friends / family	64%	68%	56%	57%
Have enough food / medicine	64%	59%	58%	48%
Evacuate home	53%	53%	51%	44%

Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.



they will protect important documents and valuables. This trend extends to items that are less directly tethered to finances. For instance, 69% of high-income residents say they know how they will get in touch with friends and family, compared with 59% of lower-income residents. A smaller difference exists for having an evacuation plan (57% vs. 52%).

There are also racial differences when it comes to having insurance: 80% of white residents say they have insurance for their home and belongings, compared to roughly 60% of Black (62%), Hispanic (60%), and Asian (57%) residents.<sup>11</sup> On other items the differences are smaller, but still notable, particularly between white and Asian residents.

Despite all of the preparation, perceived and real, only 12% of Massachusetts residents report having had to evacuate due to severe storms. The vast majority, 85%, have never had to take such a drastic step.

### **Climate change will affect everyone, but some will fare better than others**

These differences on preparedness by income and race are even more problematic because of the nature of the threat. Climate change is inherently unequal: some places and populations are more responsible for the emissions driving climate change, while other places and populations are more likely to bear the brunt of its effects. In the long run, climate change poses a risk to all of humanity and the planet. In the short term, it will be less well-off populations that will feel many of the early effects, and have fewer coping mechanisms.

Massachusetts residents are split on this aspect of climate change. When asked to choose between two statements, nearly half (48%) think that “climate change will affect all of us equally,” while 35% of residents say that “climate change will have a more severe impact on some people in Massachusetts than others.” It’s possible that some

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<sup>11</sup> According to 2017 Census data compiled by Prosperity Now, 70% of white households in Massachusetts own their home compared with 32% of Black households, 53% of Asian households, and 26% of Latino households. This has obvious implications for insurance rates. Accessed January 2020.

residents interpreted this question on a longer timescale, when climate change’s effects will be more widespread, while others were thinking of impacts in the near term.

The focus groups shed more light on these questions. Participants made it clear that everyone is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, but there are deep inequities in the capacity to respond to these impacts. As one Boston respondent put it succinctly, “People with money, means. They’ll be able to better accommodate themselves.” A younger participant said “I wouldn’t be prepared. I’m a student and working. I don’t know how I would afford losing anything.”

Participants painted two different pictures in the aftermath of a storm or other severe weather event. For the wealthy, there is ample insurance, the ability to rebuild, and the prospect of relocation. For those less well-off, they will have to ride it out, if possible, and wait for resources while living in worsened conditions. One participant went further: “I get the general sense that only the wealthy will survive, because not all of us have the money to leave an area that’s going to be underwater.”

This echoes data in the previous section where those in higher-income households felt that not only is their neighborhood better prepared, but they are also personally more likely to have home insurance and specific plans to deal with the fallout of a major weather event. “Access and repair to utilities is probably what’s most scary for a lot of people,” said one focus group participant.” More likely than not, if you live in a lower or moderate income area and something goes bad, they’re probably going to have to be waiting a lot longer to get that stuff back.”

Differences between the haves and have-nots came up frequently in the focus groups. In the end, residents seem to understand climate change will impact all of us. But between now and then, there are significant concerns about the equity of impacts from specific events. Policymakers could take note and incorporate resiliency for lower-income residents and communities into their climate plans.

## Broad consensus that climate change will have health impacts

Besides the emergency health impacts of a severe weather event, climate change brings with it more gradual and long-term health concerns. Higher temperatures can lead to poor air quality, which is associated with elevated levels of asthma and other respiratory conditions. Rising temperatures also increase the risk of heat stroke. Any time people are displaced from their homes regular preventative health care suffers. Changes to habitats and land not only threaten the global food chain, but can create or extend conditions conducive to the spread of disease.

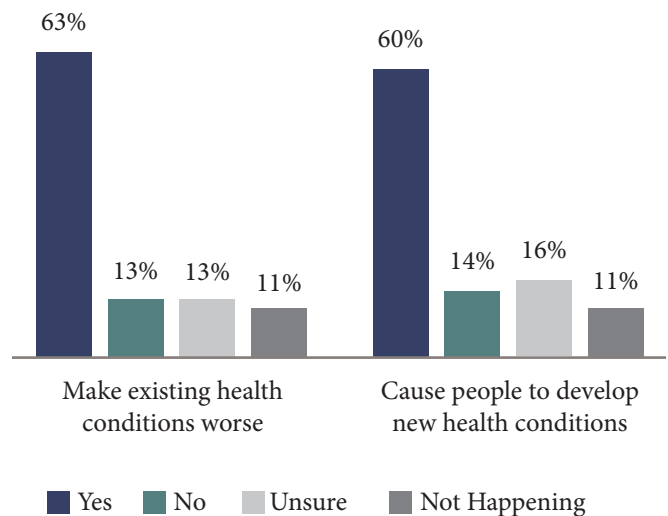
These health impacts may not be top of mind for most residents. More than a third (39%) admit that they had thought only “a little” or “not at all” about the health effects of climate change before taking this survey. Roughly a quarter (27%) say they had previously given health impacts “a great deal” of thought, while 31% had thought about it a “moderate amount.” Once prompted, however, residents are quick to realize the extensive impacts climate change will have on health. Fully 63% of residents agree that it will make existing health conditions worse, while another 60% say climate change will cause people to develop new health conditions (Figure 12).

A focus group participant in Boston observed, “Diseases like cancer will increase because of pollution,” and another said, “Airborne diseases are much more prevalent with increases in temperature.” In the Northampton groups, several participants were concerned about air quality: “They say, here in the Pioneer Valley, because it’s a valley, there’s a high rate of cancer, one of the highest rates in the state.” Another said, “I’m a breast cancer survivor, and I know several people that are. And we all talk about, we weren’t smokers [...] and we’ve all come to the conclusion that it has to be this environment that we’re living in.” Another said, “Other cancers in the area are very high here too.”

Black and Hispanic residents are more likely to have given previous thought to health impacts of climate change. Nearly three-quarters of Black residents (71%) say they have thought about health impacts a “great

**Figure 12: Widespread concern over potential health impacts of climate change**

*% of MA residents who acknowledge climate change who think it will...*



Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.

deal” or “moderate amount” before taking the survey, along with 63% of Hispanic residents and 62% of Asian residents. By comparison, 56% of white residents say they have given health and climate change this level of thought.

This reinforces findings from the focus groups. In one group that took place among Hispanic residents of Boston, participants were very quick to connect climate change to the health conditions they already observe. One respondent said, “Being a Latino man growing up here in Boston, when I was a kid I had asthma, and there of course were eventually studies that showed folks in more urban communities experience respiratory diseases at higher rates.” In other groups, the connection between climate change and health impacts did not come up until specifically prompted.

## **In Boston, elevated concern over climate change amid questions about preparedness**

As part of a statewide exploration of residents' views on climate change, this report examines the Boston area more closely. Specifically, the survey included oversamples of racial and ethnic groups within Boston and nine surrounding communities – Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop. Together, these 10 cities and towns comprise the Metro Boston Homeland Security region and share resources and expertise for threats to the region, including climate change. The region also represents the state's economic center and the seat of government.

Living in this area, often blocks from one another, are a mosaic of the state's most diverse residents representing the full range and extremes of the economic spectrum. These factors add complexity when preparing for the weather impacts of climate change, and merit deeper examination of opinion dynamics in the area (see text box).

Greater Boston is also consistently the most liberal region of the state in political and policy polls. So it should be no surprise that, on a politically polarizing issue like climate, Boston-area residents express both an elevated level of concern and support for action. A majority (57%) of Boston-area residents want to see their communities lead the way on dealing with climate change, compared to 44% elsewhere in the state.

Like the rest of the state, Bostonians see some level of change as inevitable, whether action is taken or not. They are slightly more likely to acknowledge the personal sacrifice and toll of climate change. Some 84% of Boston area residents say changes will be necessary to how we all live to address climate change, compared with 79% of those outside the Boston area. And 80% anticipate changes to their own quality of life if nothing is done to stop climate change, versus 72% outside the Boston area. Nearly half of Boston-area residents (47%) say the change to their own lives will be “major” if nothing is done, compared with only 39% of those who live in the rest of the state. A similar share of Boston-area residents

### **More data to come on Boston area residents' views on climate change**

Boston is a majority minority city, and the surrounding areas contain still more diversity. This survey also included an oversample of residents of color in the Boston area. In addition to the base statewide sample, additional responses were collected to bring the total responses up to 200 each among Black, Hispanic, and Asian residents of the region. This enables deeper analysis, comparing responses between race and ethnicity groups, rather than just white residents vs. all others.

These oversamples were possible thanks to support from The Hyams Foundation. The data from these oversamples will be used to inform a series of focus groups by the UMass Sustainable Solutions Lab, also supported by The Hyams Foundation. Detailed survey data will be analyzed and released alongside the focus group findings in a report planned for later this year.

(49%) think actions to reduce emissions would bring major changes to their everyday lives.

Area residents express a higher level of readiness to take on the issue, with higher support for a range of potential policy interventions (Figure 13). One prominent example is improving transit systems. Boston residents are more likely to offer their support for transit improvements as a way to deal with climate change (68%) than are residents elsewhere (58%). A 2019 regional poll on the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) showed the same general dynamic up and down the east coast. The most favored use of funds generated by TCI was transit improvements, and support was strongest in the region's large urban areas<sup>12</sup>.

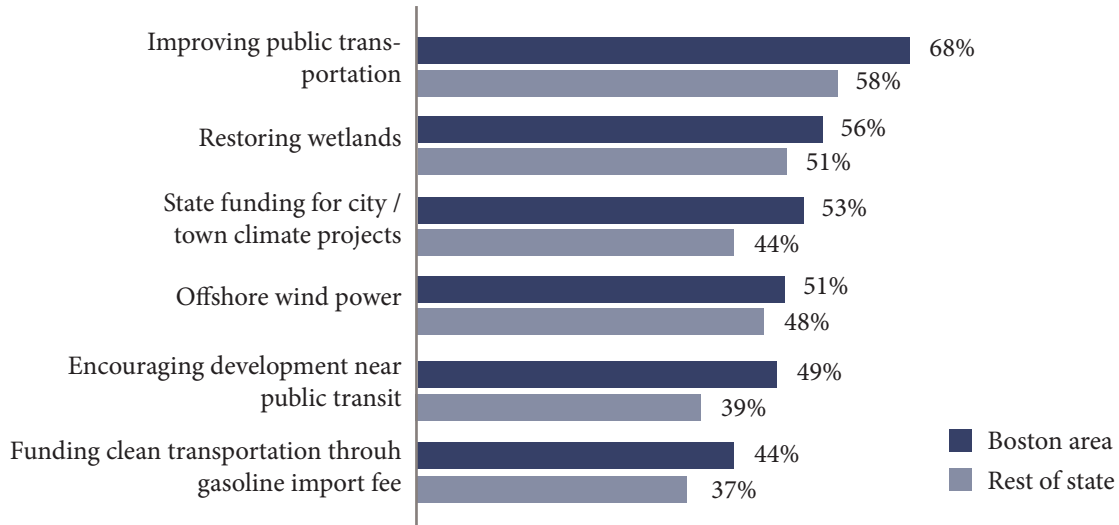
Support for efforts to fight climate change go beyond

<sup>12</sup> Parr, Rich, “New polling finds voters in largest Northeast, Mid-Atlantic states are open to policy to reduce transportation emissions,” The MassINC Polling Group, December 2019.

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**Figure 13: Boston area residents show stronger support for variety of climate proposals**

% residents in the Boston area vs. rest of the state who “strongly” support each idea to address climate change



Source: The MassINC Polling Group survey of 2,318 MA residents, Oct–Nov 2019.

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just transit improvements. Boston-area residents are also at least marginally more likely to support a broad array of policy interventions such as transit-oriented development, a gasoline import fee, and more.

### Despite concern and urgency, Boston area residents are less prepared for climate change’s severe weather events

While Boston-area residents are concerned about climate change and urge state and local leaders to take action, they tend to be somewhat less prepared themselves. For example, 54% of residents in the rest of the state have a plan to evacuate their home, compared with 46% of Boston area residents. A similar pattern emerges for food, medicine and other supplies (64% vs. 55%), protecting important documents or valuables (67% vs. 60%), and having a plan to meet or be in touch with friends and family (64% vs. 59%).

The Boston area is home to communities on both extremes of the income spectrum. In the event of major weather events, this raises the possibility of very different outcomes for residents across a small area. Some will be prepared and able to recover, while others will not.

Residents across the state see low income communities as least prepared, with just 5% describing them as “very prepared” and another 16% saying “somewhat prepared.” Most residents see high-income communities as either very prepared (19%) or somewhat prepared (49%).

This is not just a perception as it carries over into concrete preparation steps. One of the biggest gaps in preparation is in terms of insurance coverage. Among the highest income residents of the area, 86% report carrying insurance for their home and belongings. This drops to 35% among the lowest-income residents. There are smaller gaps by income on some other preparation steps.

These gaps in preparation add up to a region where preparation is spotty, and residents know it. Just 9% of area residents call their region “very” well prepared, 9% call their own neighborhood “very” well prepared, and 13% call their family very well prepared. In each case, another 35% to 45% say “somewhat well” prepared, which represent substantial portions of the population. Half of residents (49%) say their own neighborhood is “not too” or “not at all” well prepared, and 44% say the same of their own family.

The numbers on preparedness suggest looming challenges for those responsible for planning emergency response and recovery. Large groups of Boston-area residents do not feel well-prepared and lack the capacity to recover.

## Conclusion

Massachusetts residents are in broad agreement about the threat posed by climate change. They believe it is real, man-made, and happening now. They think it will have serious impacts on the state if left unchecked, and increasingly consider it a priority for state government. Residents understand that tackling climate will involve significant change, both in terms of policy and personal behavior. They want Massachusetts to lead in enacting that change, and they support a wide array of policies to address both the causes and effects of climate change.

That last point is key for policymakers considering further action to reduce the state's carbon emissions and protect against the negative effects of climate change. As seen in previous versions of this research in 2011 and 2014, there is support for action, even if climate is not the top concern on residents' minds. Both the governor and the State Senate have set their sights on a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. Getting to that goal will take vision and bold policy choices. If they lead, these numbers suggest that many residents are ready to follow.

## About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 2,318 residents of Massachusetts, including an oversample of 964 residents in Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop. The survey was conducted October 10 – November 8, 2019 via landline and cell phone via live telephone interviewers, as well as online survey interviewing. Results were weighted using known and estimated population parameters on age, race gender, education, party, and region.

Because the survey included four oversamples by race within a specified geographic area, the weighting process for this survey was as follows: first, each race and ethnicity grouping in the oversample area was weighted to be representative of that group; second, each group was weighted to its share of the oversample region and combined together to be representative of the oversample region; third, the rest of the state was weighted to target population parameters for the area outside the Boston region; finally, the oversample area and the rest of the state were combined.

In addition to the survey, MPG conducted five focus groups on the subject of climate change in cities and towns across Massachusetts. Groups were conducted in Northampton, New Bedford, Worcester, and Boston. In Boston, one group was composed only of Latino residents of Boston while a second group was representative of the general population. The moderator's guide was developed by The MassINC Polling Group in conjunction with a number of Barr Foundation grantees and stakeholders. The groups were 90 minutes each and were conducted between September 26 and October 8, 2019.

All groups were moderated by The MassINC Polling Group and consisted of between 9 and 11 residents of the corresponding region. Participants were selected to provide a good mix of demographics such as age, gender, race, and income. All groups were screened for people who believe climate change is happening and see a role for government in solving big problems.

The poll was sponsored by the Barr Foundation with additional support from the Hyams Foundation. We appreciate all the people and groups who contributed to the survey and this report, without whom this project would not have been possible.

## Appendix A - Topline results

Statewide survey of 2,318 residents of Massachusetts, including an oversample of 964 residents in Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop.

Field Dates: October 10 – November 8, 2019

I'd like to ask you about long term issues the Massachusetts state government could focus on. As I read from the list, please tell me if you think each should be a high priority, a medium priority, or a low priority for the state government over the long term. First, should READ FIRST ITEM be a high priority, medium priority, or a low priority for the State Government over the long term? What about READ NEXT ITEM. RANDOMIZE AND REPEAT QUESTION SCALE AND STEM AS NEEDED.

		High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Unsure
Jobs and the economy	2019	61%	32%	6%	1%
	2014	83%	12%	4%	1%
	2011	89%	7%	2%	1%
Education	2019	70%	25%	4%	1%
	2014	83%	13%	3%	1%
	2011	83%	14%	3%	1%
Health Care	2019	71%	22%	6%	2%
	2014	77%	17%	5%	1%
	2011	71%	22%	6%	1%
Taxes	2019	48%	37%	11%	3%
	2014	49%	36%	12%	3%
	2011	49%	37%	11%	3%
(SPLIT ½) Global Warming	2019	53%	26%	18%	3%
	2014	41%	31%	25%	3%
	2011	32%	35%	29%	4%
(SPLIT ½) Climate Change	2019	54%	26%	17%	3%
Reducing air pollution	2019	51%	34%	12%	3%
Transportation systems throughout the state	2019	52%	35%	11%	2%
	2014	39%	42%	17%	2%
Immigration	2019	42%	33%	20%	4%
Energy	2019	47%	41%	10%	2%
Drug addiction	2019	64%	25%	9%	2%
Criminal justice reform	2019	43%	41%	13%	3%

You may have heard about the idea that the world's temperature has been going up slowly over the past 100 years, often called climate change or global warming. Do you think this READ OPTIONS?

	2019	2014	2011
Has probably been happening	81%	79%	77%
Has probably NOT been happening	11%	17%	17%
Unsure	8%	4%	6%

*The following asked for those who believe climate change has probably been happening.*

Do you believe climate change is due more to... **(READ AND ROTATE OPTIONS 1&2)**

	2019
The effects of pollution from human activities	41%
Natural changes in the environment	10%
Both	45%
Neither	N/A
Unsure	4%

If nothing is done to reduce climate change in the future, how serious of a problem do you think it will be for Massachusetts – very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not serious at all?

	2019	2011
Very serious	53%	42%
Somewhat serious	26%	32%
Not too serious	9%	12%
Not serious at all	8%	9%
Unsure	4%	4%

*The following 5 questions asked for those who believe climate change has probably been happening or are unsure:*

If global action were taken to try to stop climate change by reducing carbon emissions, do you think future effects of climate change could be stopped or is it already too late?

Can be stopped	54%
Already too late	20%
Unsure / Refused	26%

Thinking about actions the federal government could take, how much national policy change do you think would be required to reduce carbon pollution enough to stop climate change?

Major changes to policy	59%
Moderate changes to policy	21%
Minor changes to policy	4%
No changes would be needed	3%
Climate change can't be stopped by federal action	7%
Unsure / Refused	6%

Thinking about actions state governments across the country could take, how much state level policy change do you think would be required to reduce carbon pollution enough to stop climate change?

Major changes to policy	52%
Moderate changes to policy	26%
Minor changes to policy	6%
No changes would be needed	3%
Climate change can't be stopped by state action	8%
Unsure / Refused	5%



Thinking about how we live today, how much change to how we live do you think would be required to reduce carbon pollution enough to stop climate change?

Major change to how we live	45%
Moderate changes to how we live	35%
Minor changes to how we live	8%
No changes would be needed	3%
Climate change can't be stopped by how we live	5%
Unsure / Refused	4%

If nothing is done to stop climate change in the future, how much do you think the impacts of climate change will change how YOU live?

Major changes to how I live	41%
Moderate changes to how I live	34%
Minor changes to how I live	12%
No changes to how I live	9%
Unsure / Refused	5%

*Asked of all respondents:*

In responding to climate change, do you think Massachusetts should act ahead of most other states, act at the same time as most other states, wait for other states to act first, or take no action?

Act ahead of most other states	56%
Act at the same time as most other states	22%
Wait for other states to act first	4%
Take no action	12%
Unsure / Refused	6%

How about your own city or town? In responding to climate change, do you think your city or town should act ahead of most other places, act at the same time as most other places, wait for other places to act first, or take no action?

Act ahead of most other places	47%
Act at the same time as most other places	29%
Wait for other places to act first	6%
Take no action	13%
Unsure / Refused	6%

Which of the following impacts do you think climate change is already having here in Massachusetts? First, **READ FIRST. PROBE IF NOT ALREADY HAPPENING:** How likely do you think **READ ITEM** is to happen in the next 5 years due to climate change? Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely? How about **READ NEXT. REPEAT STEM AND SCALE ONLY AS NEEDED.**

	Already happening	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not at all likely	Unsure / Refused
Increased coastal flooding	50%	14%	14%	8%	8%	6%
Sea level rise	55%	13%	12%	8%	7%	5%
More extreme heat waves	51%	12%	15%	10%	7%	5%
More powerful storms	56%	12%	11%	9%	7%	5%
Drought	33%	12%	20%	16%	10%	9%
Inland flooding from extreme rain events	39%	13%	19%	13%	9%	7%
Extreme levels of snowfall	35%	13%	21%	15%	9%	8%
Changes to Massachusetts animal habitats	44%	14%	16%	8%	8%	10%
Erosion of the Massachusetts coastline	54%	12%	12%	7%	6%	8%
Changes to Massachusetts agriculture	39%	13%	19%	10%	7%	12%

Which do you think should be the higher priority for Massachusetts state government when it comes to dealing with climate change?

Preparing residents for the effects of climate change	12%
Trying to reduce or eliminate the threat of climate change altogether	28%
Both should be given the same priority level	43%
Neither is a priority	13%
Unsure / Refused	4%

I'm now going to read you a list of things Massachusetts state government could do to address the threat of climate change. For each, please tell me whether you would support or oppose that idea. **PROBE:** And would you support/oppose this idea strongly, or only somewhat?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly opposed	Unsure / Refused
Change state zoning laws to encourage developers to build developments near public transit, to reduce car travel	41%	34%	8%	8%	8%
Restore wetlands along rivers and the coast to their natural state to serve as buffers against flooding from major storms	52%	32%	6%	4%	6%
Provide state funding to cities and towns for specific projects that address climate change	46%	31%	7%	9%	6%
Charge companies that bring gasoline into the region a fee and invest the funds in cleaner transportation options	39%	27%	12%	13%	9%
Move the state toward offshore wind power to provide energy for homes and businesses	48%	29%	7%	7%	8%
Improve the state's public transportation network to reduce car travel.	60%	26%	5%	4%	4%

Which of the following best describes your view?

Climate change will have a more severe impact on some people in Massachusetts than others	35%
Climate change will affect all of us equally	48%
Climate change will not have an impact on people in Massachusetts	11%
Unsure / Refused	5%

How well prepared do you think each of the following communities is for severe weather events often associated with climate change?

	Very prepared	Somewhat prepared	Not too prepared	Not at all prepared	Unsure / Refused
Low-income neighborhoods	5%	17%	29%	40%	9%
High-income neighborhoods	18%	45%	19%	10%	9%
Coastal cities or towns	11%	37%	28%	16%	8%
Your region of the state	9%	46%	25%	11%	9%
Your own neighborhood	10%	37%	27%	17%	9%
Your own family	15%	40%	23%	16%	7%

If there were a severe weather event where you live, do you...? **ROTATE ORDER**

	Yes	No	Unsure / Refused
Have a plan to evacuate your home, including any pets	52%	42%	5%
Have enough food, medicine, and other necessities in stock	62%	30%	8%
Know how you will get in touch or meet with family or friends	63%	30%	7%
Know how you will protect important documents or valuables	65%	26%	9%
Have insurance for your home and belongings	75%	18%	6%

Have you ever had to temporarily evacuate your area due to severe storms?

Yes, have had to evacuate	12%
No, have not had to evacuate	85%
Unsure / Refused	3%

Before taking this survey, how much, if at all, had you thought about how climate change might affect people's health?

A great deal	27%
A moderate amount	31%
A little	24%
Not at all	16%
Unsure / Refused	3%

The following asked for those who believe climate change has probably been happening or are unsure:  
Thinking about the possible impacts of climate change, do you think... **ROTATE ORDER**

	Yes	No	Unsure / Refused
Climate change will make existing health conditions worse	71%	14%	15%
Climate change will cause people to develop new health conditions	67%	15%	18%

## Demographics

### Gender

Male	47%
Female	52%
Transgender	<1%
Prefer not to say	<1%

### Age

18 to 29 years	22%
30 to 44 years	24%
45 to 59 years	27%
60 or over	27%

### Party Identification

Democrat	52%
Republican	24%
Independent / Other	20%
Prefer not to say	4%

### Education Level

High School or less	35%
Some college, no degree	26%
College graduate (BA/BS)	22%
Advanced degree	15%
Prefer not to say	2%

### Race

White	75%
Black	6%
Hispanic	10%
Asian	6%
Other / more than one race	2%
Prefer not to say	1%



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