

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Workbench Strategy
RE: Massachusetts Statewide Voter Survey
DATE: March 2026

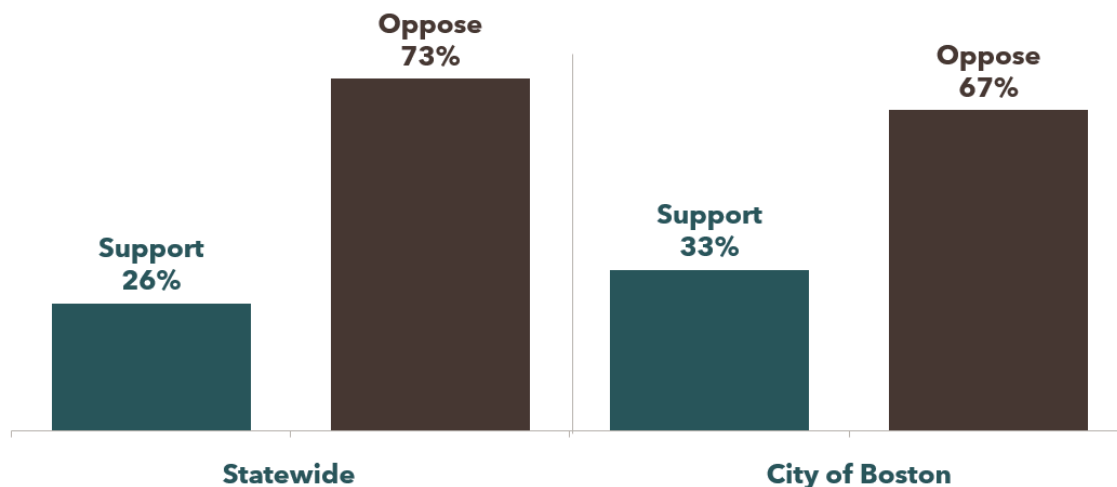
This memo outlines results from a poll conducted by Workbench Strategy from March 8-12 among 500 voters across the state of Massachusetts. The survey was designed to gauge voters' sentiment toward autonomous driverless vehicles, as well as potential legislation to require all autonomous driverless vehicles to have human operators. Surveys were conducted in English and Spanish via email and text invitations to an online survey. The overall margin of error is ± 4.38 percentage points. The survey also included an oversample of City of Boston voters ($n=240$; margin of error ± 6.33 percentage points). For more information on this research, please contact Jane Rayburn at jane@workbenchstrategy.com.

Massachusetts voters oppose driverless vehicles

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of registered voters oppose allowing autonomous, driverless vehicles - such as those operated by Waymo - to operate in Massachusetts. Two-thirds (67%) of voters in the City of Boston also oppose driverless vehicles. The intensity of opposition is strong both across the state and in Boston, with a plurality **strongly** opposing allowing autonomous vehicles to operate (44% and 43% respectively).

Autonomous, driverless vehicles are vehicles, such as Waymo, that operate without a human driver in the car, using AI and a remote operator to navigate the car around.

Do you support or oppose allowing autonomous, driverless vehicles to operate in Massachusetts?



When asked why they oppose allowing autonomous driverless vehicles to operate in the state, safety concerns rose to the top with a plurality of voters statewide and in Boston mentioning safety as their top concern (41% and 43% respectively). Concerns with the technology, economic impacts, and the challenges driverless vehicles would face on Massachusetts' roads were also mentioned.

Voters were also asked about their level of comfort with and likelihood of using a service like Waymo. Overwhelmingly, voters are not comfortable sharing the road with driverless cars, with three-quarters of voters statewide and two-thirds in the City of Boston disagreeing with the sentiment (74% disagree statewide, 63% City of Boston). Only a quarter say they would use a service like Waymo if it operated in their area (26% agree statewide).

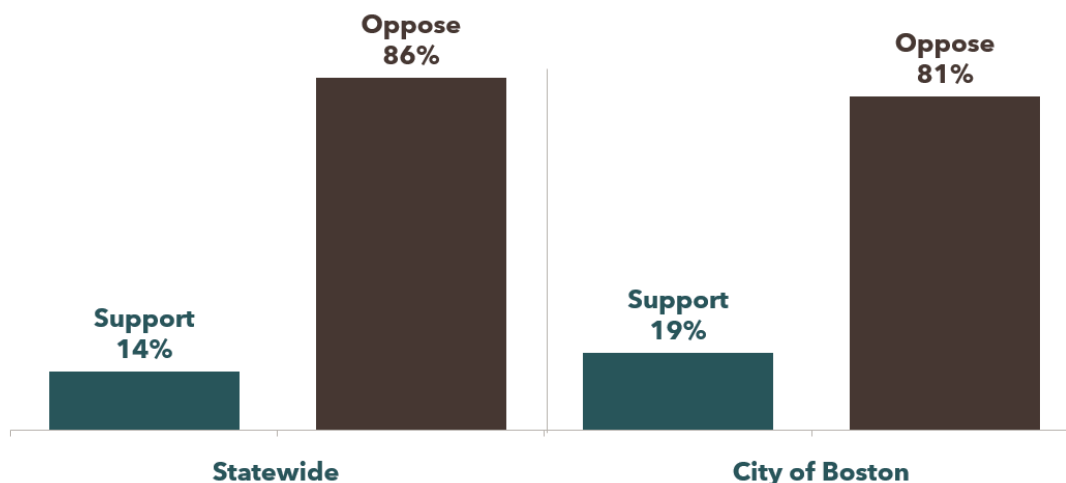
More so, Massachusetts voters strongly disagree that driverless vehicles are just as equipped as human drivers to handle traffic, accidents, and weather (80% total disagree statewide, 74% total disagree City of Boston).

Voters oppose driverless heavy trucks in Massachusetts

There is near universal opposition to autonomous, driverless heavy trucks operating in Massachusetts, with nearly 9-in-10 voters statewide (86%) and 8-in-10 voters in the City of Boston (81%) opposing driverless heavy trucks.

If autonomous, driverless vehicles are allowed to operate in Massachusetts, this could also include heavy trucks, such as semi-trucks.

Do you support or oppose allowing driverless heavy trucks, such as semi-trucks, to operate in Massachusetts?



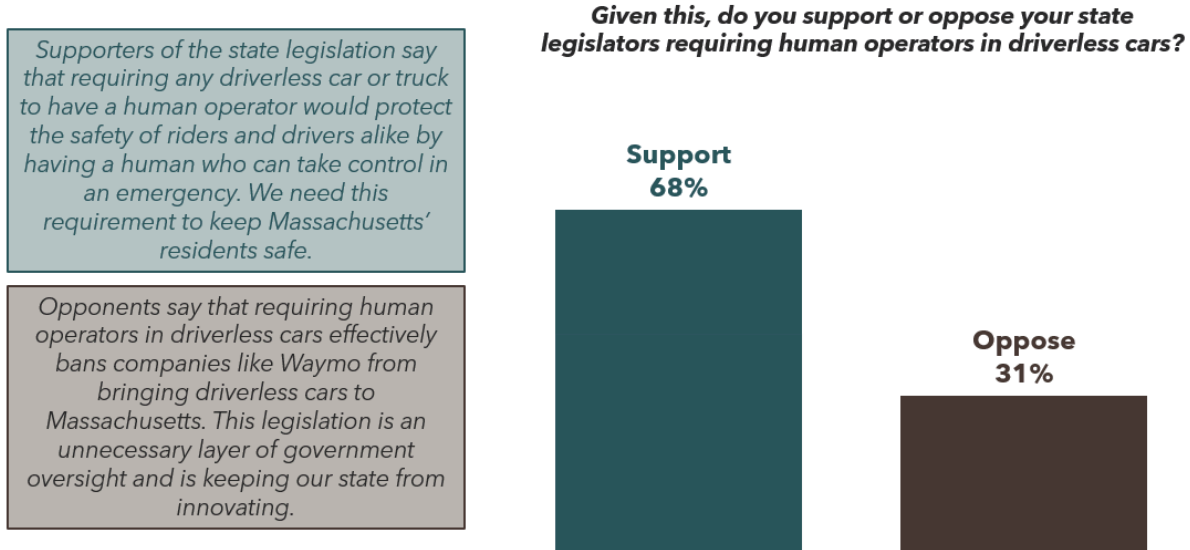
The intensity of opposition is extremely strong, with two-thirds (69%) across the state strongly opposed to allowing driverless heavy trucks. Opposition is ubiquitous across demographic subgroups.

Similar to autonomous vehicles, safety is the top concern with allowing driverless heavy trucks, with over half of voters (56% statewide, 57% in Boston) mentioning this as the top reason they oppose allowing driverless heavy trucks to operate in Massachusetts.

More than two-thirds of voters support regulation

Voters were presented with information about potential legislation to require any autonomous, driverless vehicles in Massachusetts to have a human operator. Initially, over a majority support their legislator voting yes on this legislation (54% statewide and 52% City of Boston).

When given additional information about the pros and cons of having a human operator in each driverless vehicle, support for regulating driverless vehicles and requiring a human operator increased (68% total support statewide).



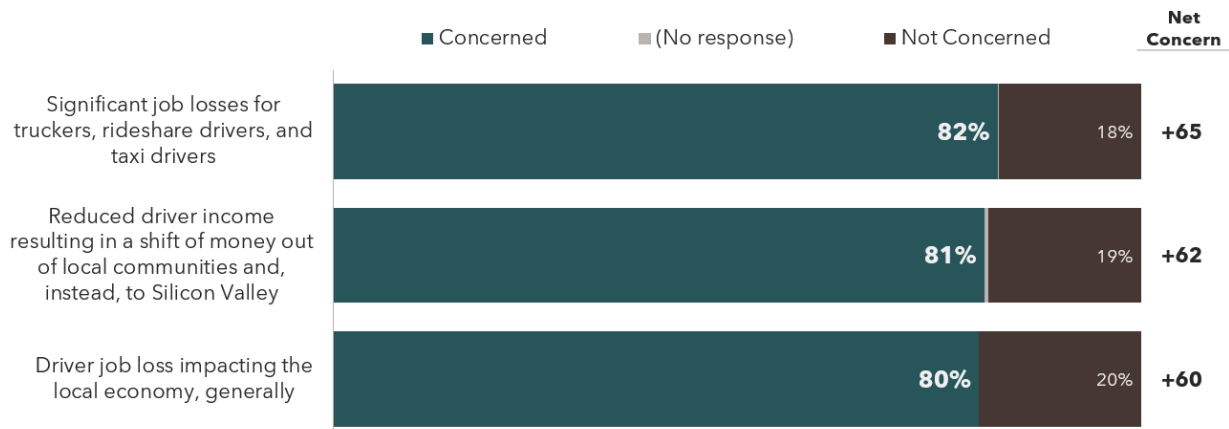
There is also strong consensus that “the state must regulate the operation of driverless vehicles in Massachusetts”, with nearly all voters statewide agreeing with this sentiment (86% total agree statewide). Voters statewide, and nearly all voters in Boston, also strongly agree that “elected officials at the state and local level must take action to prevent adverse effects associated with driverless vehicles” (86% total agree statewide, 85% total agree City of Boston).



Massachusetts voters very concerned with economic impacts

While safety concerns are the top reason for opposing driverless vehicles, voters are also notably concerned with potential adverse economic impacts from allowing driverless vehicles in Massachusetts. 8-in-10 voters statewide express concern with job loss for drivers (82% total concerned), job loss impacting the economy more broadly (80% total concerned), and reduced driver income resulting in corporations in Silicon Valley taking money out of local communities (81% total concerned).

How concerned are you about each of the following, if driverless, autonomous vehicles are allowed to operate in the state of Massachusetts?



Voters in the City of Boston are equally as concerned with these economic impacts, especially job loss for drivers and truckers (77% total concerned) and money shifting out of the local economy (81% total concerned).

A potential increase in traffic from driverless vehicles is also problematic, with three-quarters statewide saying they are concerned about increased traffic (76% total concerned). 8-in-10 voters in Boston are concerned about an increase in traffic (81% total concerned), along with high proportions of voters across other demographic groups.