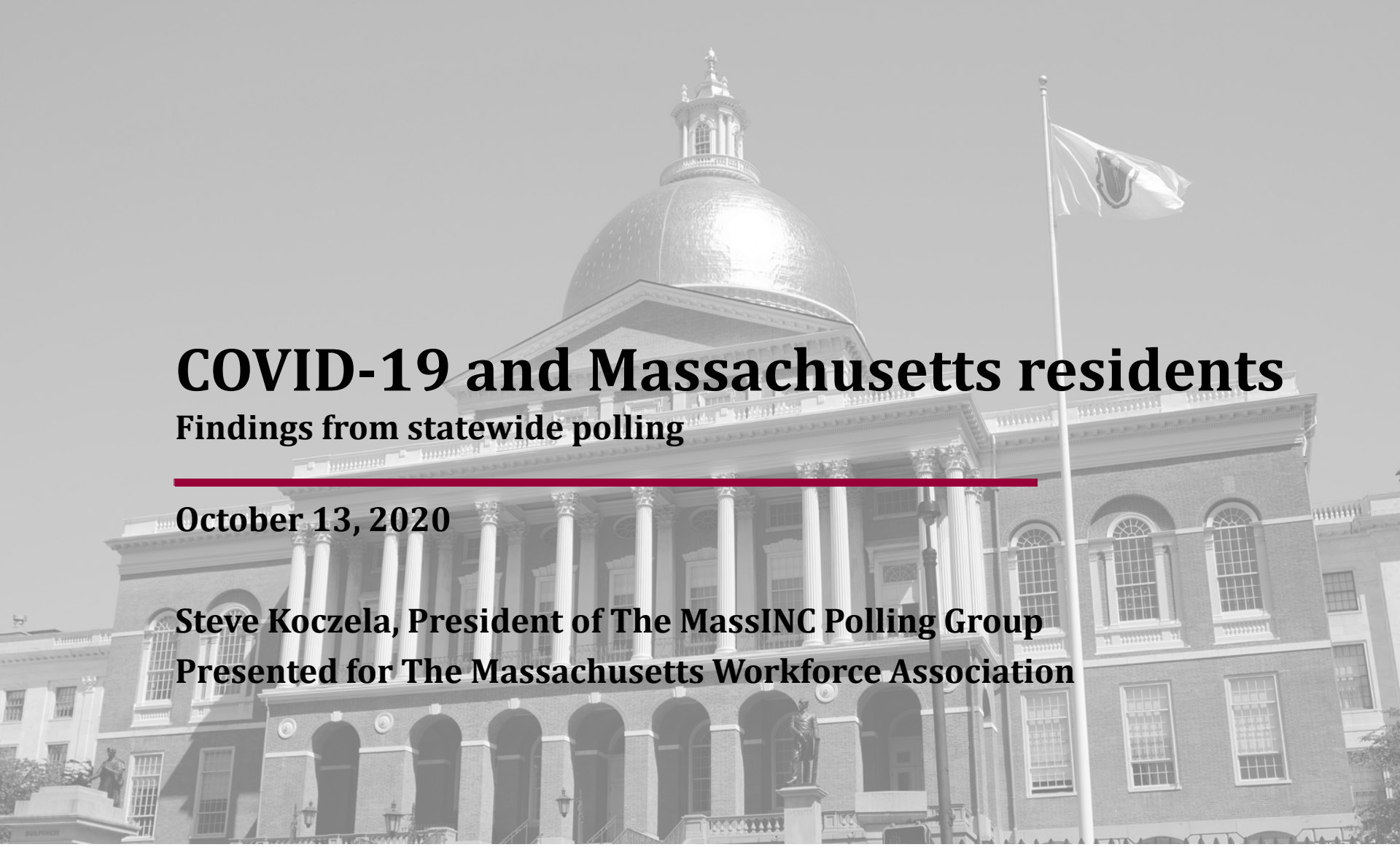


COVID-19 and Massachusetts residents

Findings from statewide polling

October 13, 2020

Steve Koczela, President of The MassINC Polling Group

Presented for The Massachusetts Workforce Association

info@massincpolling.com MassINCPolling.com @MassINCPolling

11 Beacon St Ste 500 | Boston, MA 02108 | Phone: (617) 224-1647

THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Topics of interest

- Small business
- Education (K-12 / higher ed)
- Latino resident survey
- National politics

THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Small Business Recovery Survey

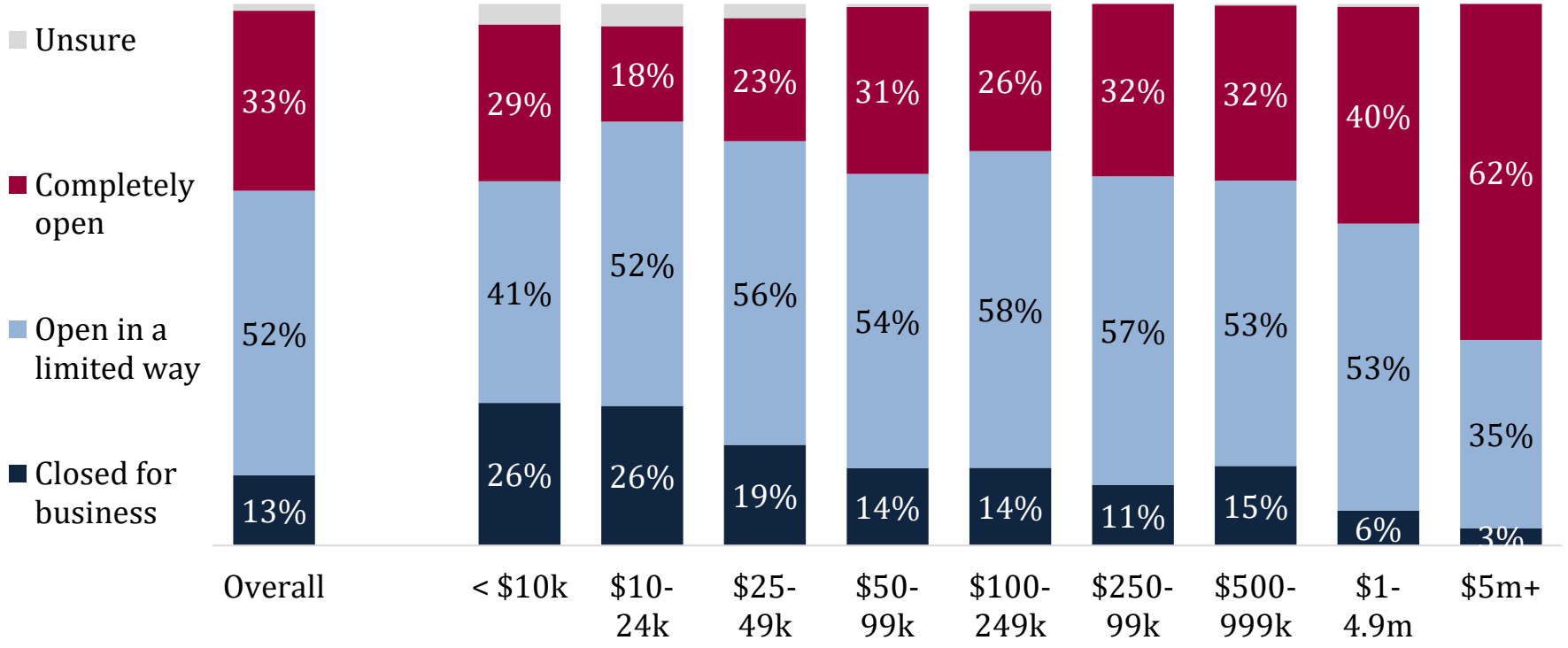
- Results based on a statewide survey of 1,868 small business leaders in Massachusetts.
- Conducted June 23-July 13, 2020 via online interviewing with distribution through business associations and organizations across the state.
- Data was weighted to known and estimated population parameters on gender and race/ethnicity of company owners using SBA and Census data.
- Sponsored by Amplify Latinx

THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Open for business – sort of

- Overall, 85% of companies are at least partially open. Smaller companies, by revenue, are more likely to be closed or only partly open.

Most businesses at least partially open, but a quarter of smallest firms remain closed
% of companies overall, and by 2019 revenue, open fully, partially, or closed



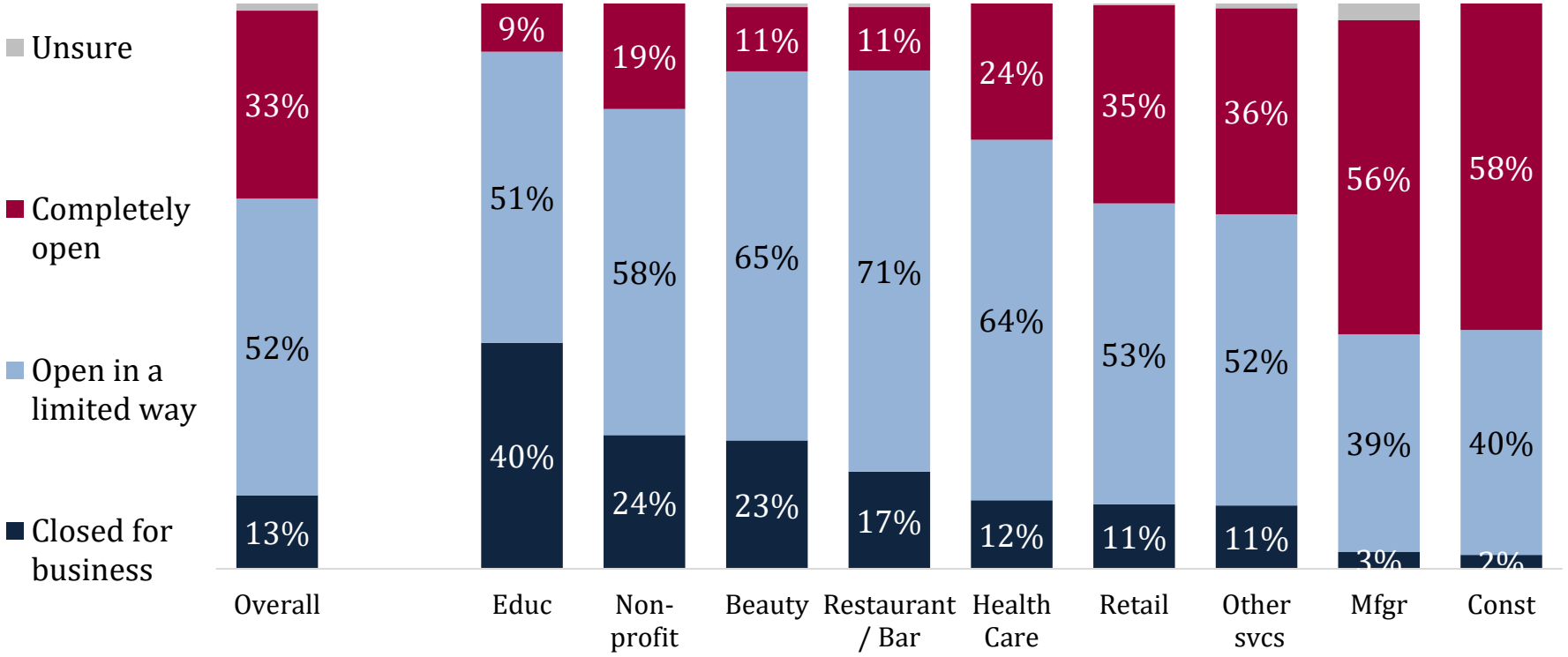
Q: Which of the following best describes the company as of right now?

Some industries more open

- Education, beauty, and restaurant/bar businesses are more likely to be closed and less likely to be open completely.
- Retail stands out as industry that sees customers on site that is more fully open.

Education, beauty, and restaurant all less likely to be fully open

% of companies overall, and by 2019 revenue, open fully, partially, or closed



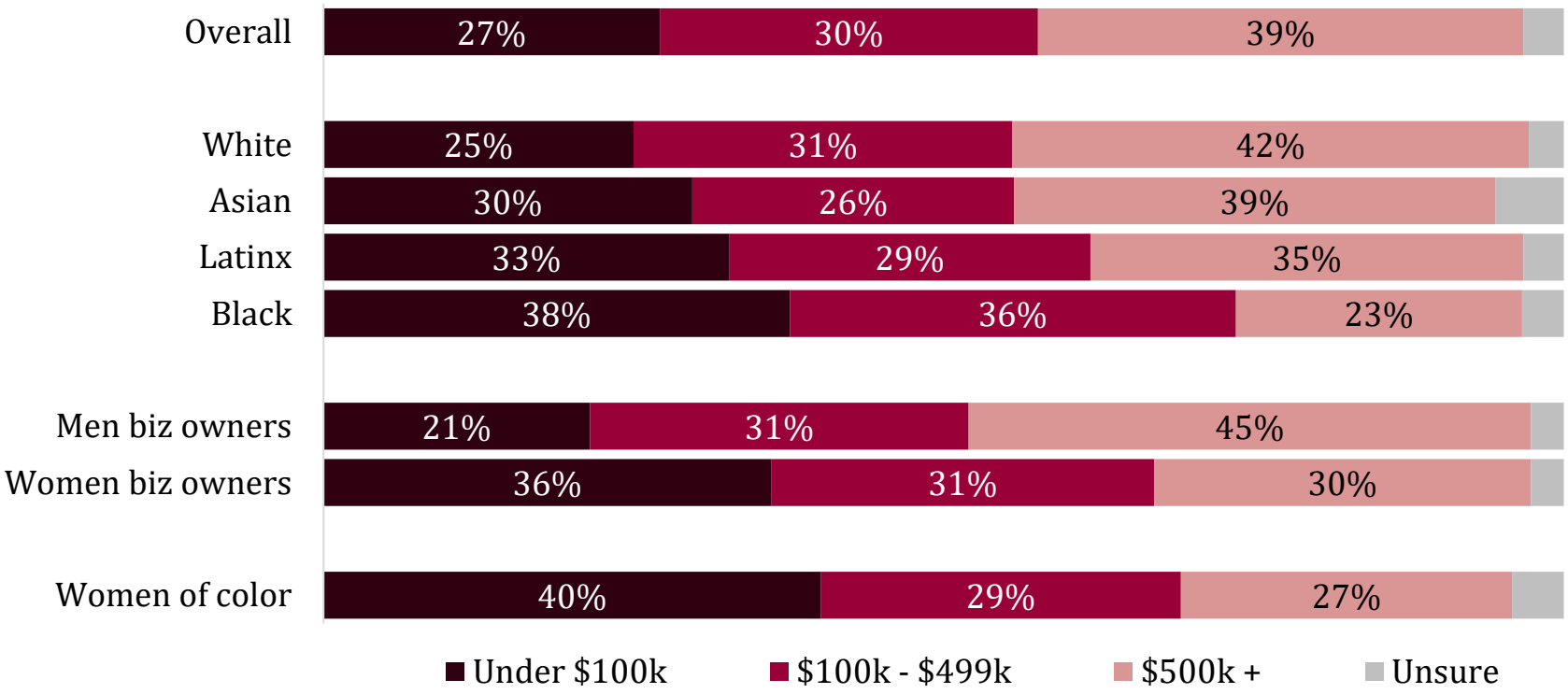
Q: Which of the following best describes the company as of right now?

Business size and demographics

- Different COVID impacts by size exacerbate race and gender disparities for business owners.

Differences in business size by the race/ethnicity, gender of owners/founders

% of companies in each revenue category (2019), by demographics of owners/founders



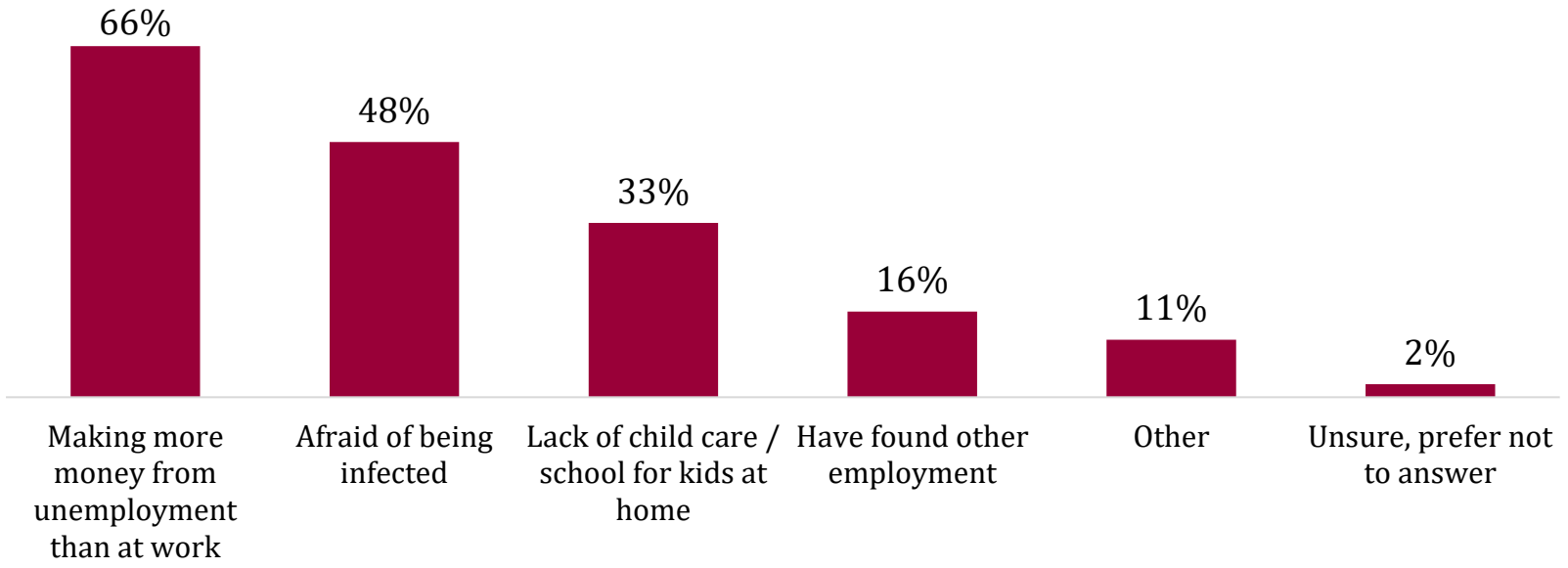
THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Impediments to rehiring

- The most common perception is workers won't come back because they are making more from unemployment, while others say workers are afraid of infection or lack childcare.

Companies cite unemployment pay as most common reason employees staying away

% of companies who have had trouble rehiring workers citing each as a reason



THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

ASKED OF THOSE WHO HAD HAD DIFFICULTY REHIRING WORKERS:
Q: What reasons have employees given for not wanting to return to work? Please select all that apply.

K-12 Education Survey

- Results based on a statewide survey of 1,502 parents of school-age children in Massachusetts, including oversamples of Black, Latino, and Asian parents.
- Conducted June 4 - 19, 2020 via live telephone and online interviewing.
- Data was weighted to represent each race / ethnic group as well as the general population on age, gender, race, and education.
- Sponsored by the Barr Foundation and The Boston Foundation.
- Input and assistance from The Education Trust.

THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Frequency of engagement varies widely

- There are major differences in how often parents say their child is engaging in each type of academic interaction.
- Online classrooms are the most common, while one-on-one check-ins are more unusual.

Parents report wide variation in frequency of engagement with teachers

% of parents who say their child _____ with each frequency level

	Every day	A few times per week	Once a week	Less often	Unsure / Does not apply
Participates in an online classroom	36%	35%	14%	7%	8%
Receives any kind of personalized feedback from their teachers	20%	33%	23%	16%	8%
Has a one-on-one check-in with their teacher via video or phone	13%	25%	22%	22%	18%

Q: How often would you say your child _____?

Satisfaction tied to assistance

- Parents who gave fair or poor ratings were much more likely to say there was "too little" of each type of assistance from the school.

Less satisfied parents were much more likely to want more communication

% of parents who said they received "too little" of each type of assistance

Activity Type	Overall	Parents who gave a(n)… Excellent rating	Good rating	Fair / poor rating
Resources for you to help your child	24%	11%	24%	50%
Access to teachers via video or telephone	25%	10%	28%	49%
Communication about what is expected of students	21%	10%	20%	44%
At-home assignments	21%	11%	22%	34%

THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

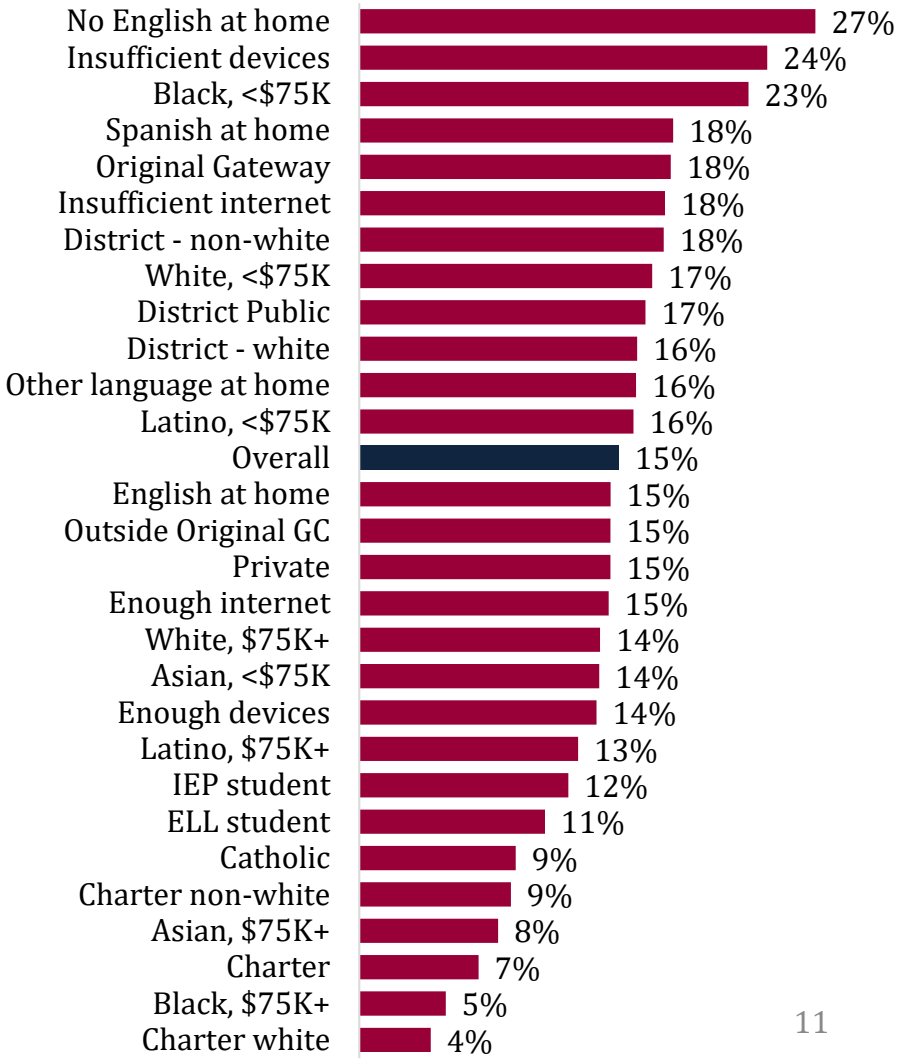
Q: Would you say your child's school currently provides the right amount of ____ , too much, too little, or does this not apply?

Non-connection rates: online classrooms

- Rates of "non-connection" refer to not reporting regular participation.
- Non-connection rates highest for those with language, tech barriers and those with lower incomes.

Non-connection rates for online classrooms

% of parents who did not report receiving regular participation in online classrooms



Q: How often would you say your child participates in an online classroom?

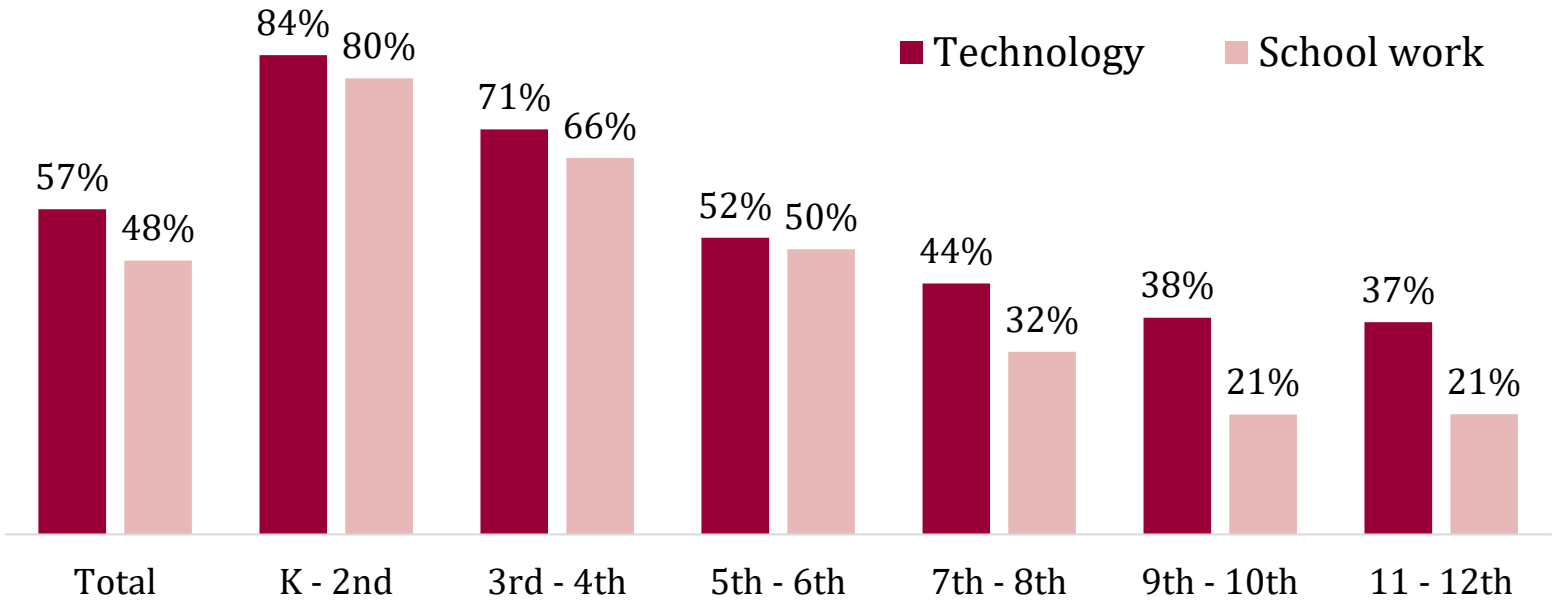
THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Burdens on parents of younger kids

- A large majority of parents of K-2nd graders provide their children with "a great deal" or "a fair amount" of assistance on both school work and the technology their child needs to complete school tasks.

Parents of younger children more likely to provide academic and tech assistance

% of parents who say they give "a great deal" or "a fair amount" of assistance with ____



THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Q: How much assistance with technology do you give your child to complete assigned school work?
Q: How much assistance do you give your child with the actual school work?

Higher Education Survey

- Results based on a statewide survey of 1,502 parents of school-age children in Massachusetts, including oversamples of Black, Latino, and Asian parents.
- Parents of 10th-12th graders were asked additional questions about their child's potential college plans (n=367).
- Conducted June 4 - 19, 2020 via live telephone and online interviewing.
- Data was weighted to represent each race / ethnic group as well as the general population on age, gender, race, and education.
- Sponsored by the Barr Foundation, The Boston Foundation, and The Smith Family Foundation.

THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Overall college plans holding steady

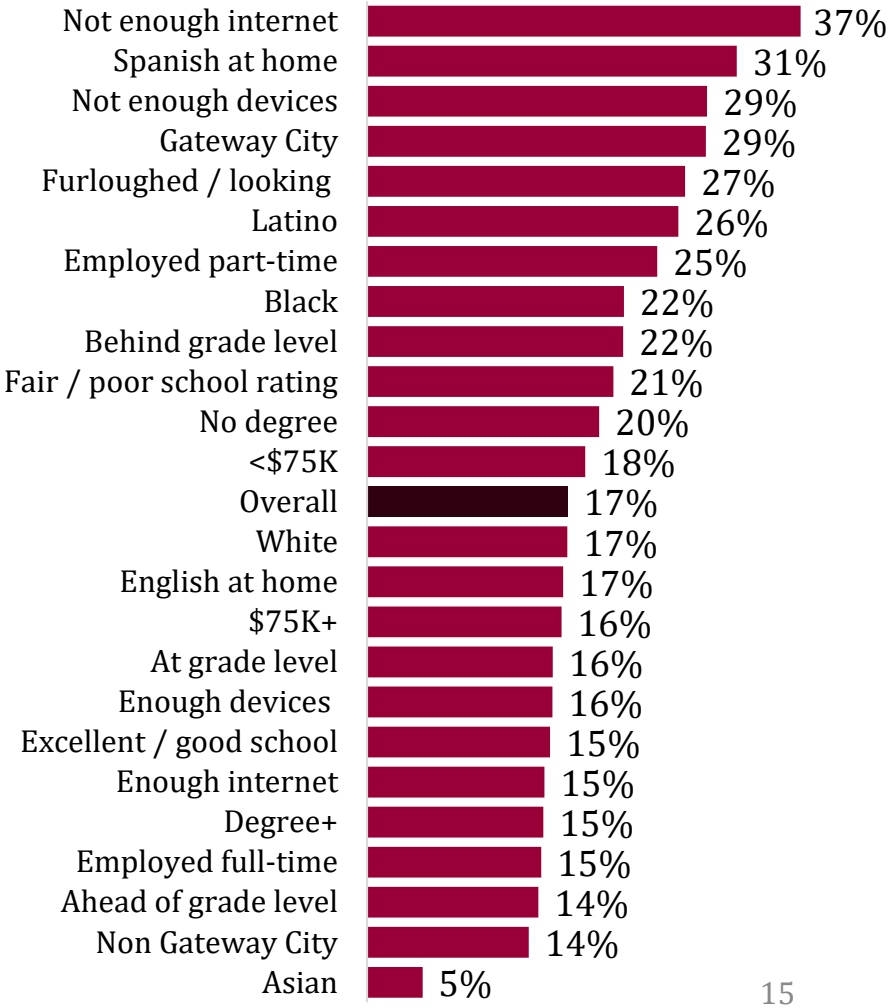
- No major drop in intention to attend college in the near future as of now (could change).
  - In all, 72% of parents of 10-12 graders say their child is "very likely" to attend college in the next few years
  - This roughly equals the 72.4% DESE reports for college attendance in the most recent data on Mass. students
- But in terms of this upcoming school year, many say their child may change their plans.

Who has changed college plans?

- Changes to college plans reveal inequitable impacts of the remote learning period.
- Technology, economic, and language issues played a major role in upending college plans.
- These same issues were closely related to overall non-connection rates with school activities during the remote learning period.

Language, technology, race are factors in changing college plans

% of 10th -12th grade parents in each group who say college plans have changed



THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Q: Have the impacts of the coronavirus crisis changed your child's plans as far as attending college is concerned?

Latinx Resident Survey

- Statewide survey results based on a statewide survey of 622 Latinx residents of Massachusetts.
- Conducted July 3-13, 2020 via live telephone and online interviewing in English and Spanish.
- Data was weighted to known population parameters on age, gender, education, nationality background, and region.

THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Lower-income & employment consequences

- Those who live in lower-income households are more likely to have lost wages and lost a job, while being less likely to have worked remotely.

Lower-income residents face heightened employment consequences of coronavirus
% who say they have _____ since the coronavirus crisis began

	Overall	<$50K	$50K-<$75K	$75K-<$100K	$100K+
Employed: Worked remotely	50%	36%	58%	69%	62%
Lost a job you had before crisis	19%	24%	18%	11%	11%

THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Q: Since the coronavirus began have you.....?

Lower-income face economic consequences

- The impact on savings is more even across income groups, suggesting many economic consequences are widespread.
- But a very acute consequence – needing food donations – is more likely among the lower-income.

Lower-income residents face heightened economic consequences of coronavirus
% who say they have _____ since the coronavirus crisis began

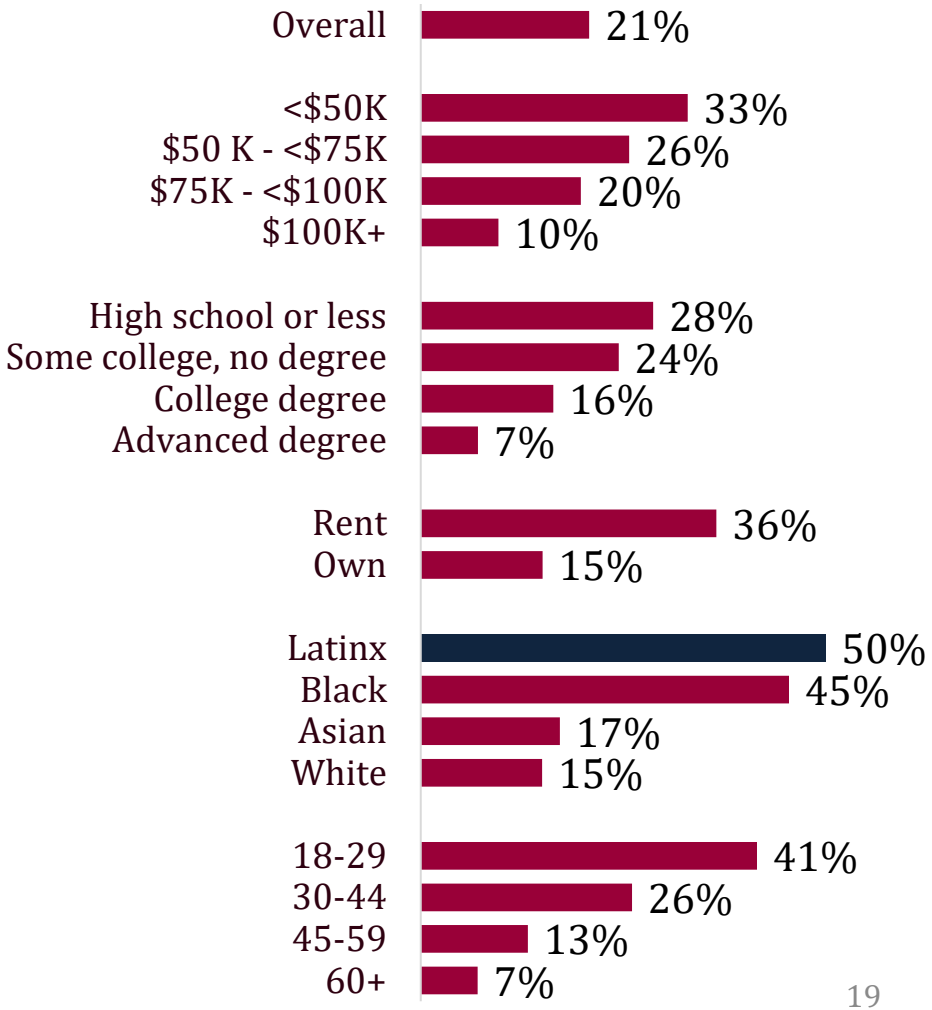
	Overall	<$50K	$50K-<$75K	$75K-<$100K	$100K+
Gotten food from food bank	35%	46%	21%	18%	11%
Lost savings / retirement	36%	38%	38%	39%	31%
Missed any rent/mortgage	17%	20%	21%	20%	11%

Q: Since the coronavirus began have you…..?

Economic distress since crisis began

- While 21% of the state's population are in the higher distress categories, this jumps to 50% of Latinx residents (from May MPG housing survey).
- Based on missed housing payments, food insecurity, lost pay, and job losses since coronavirus started.

Demographics of economic distress in Mass.
% in the "more distress" or "most distress" categories, by demographic grouping

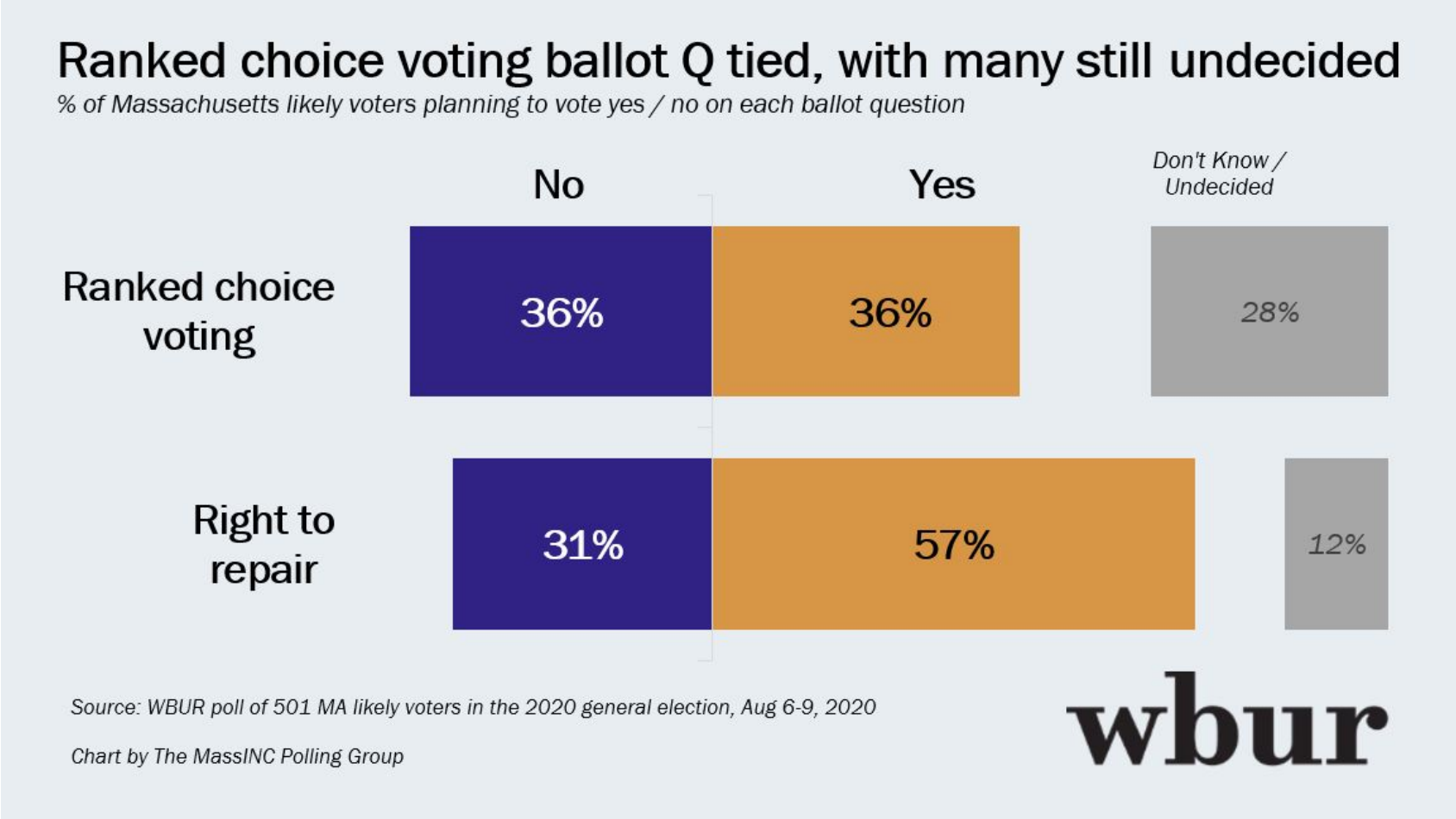


Source: MPG housing poll, May 20-25, 2020

THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

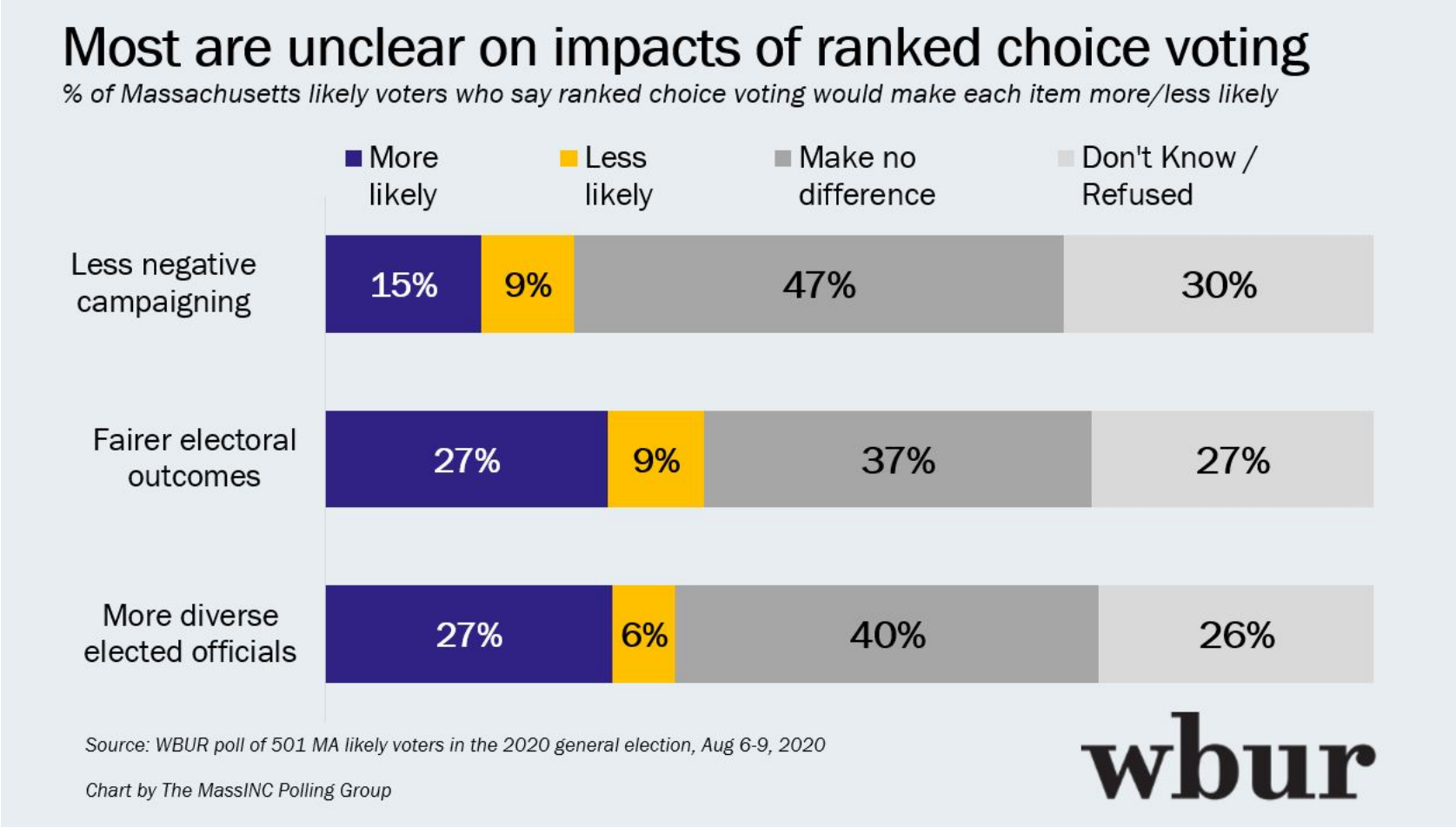
2020 Election

Ranked-Choice Voting on the Ballot



THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

RCV not fully understood



THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

Latest poll averages for key states

A snapshot of current polling averages

Polling misses are normal, and can be even bigger than they have been in recent years.

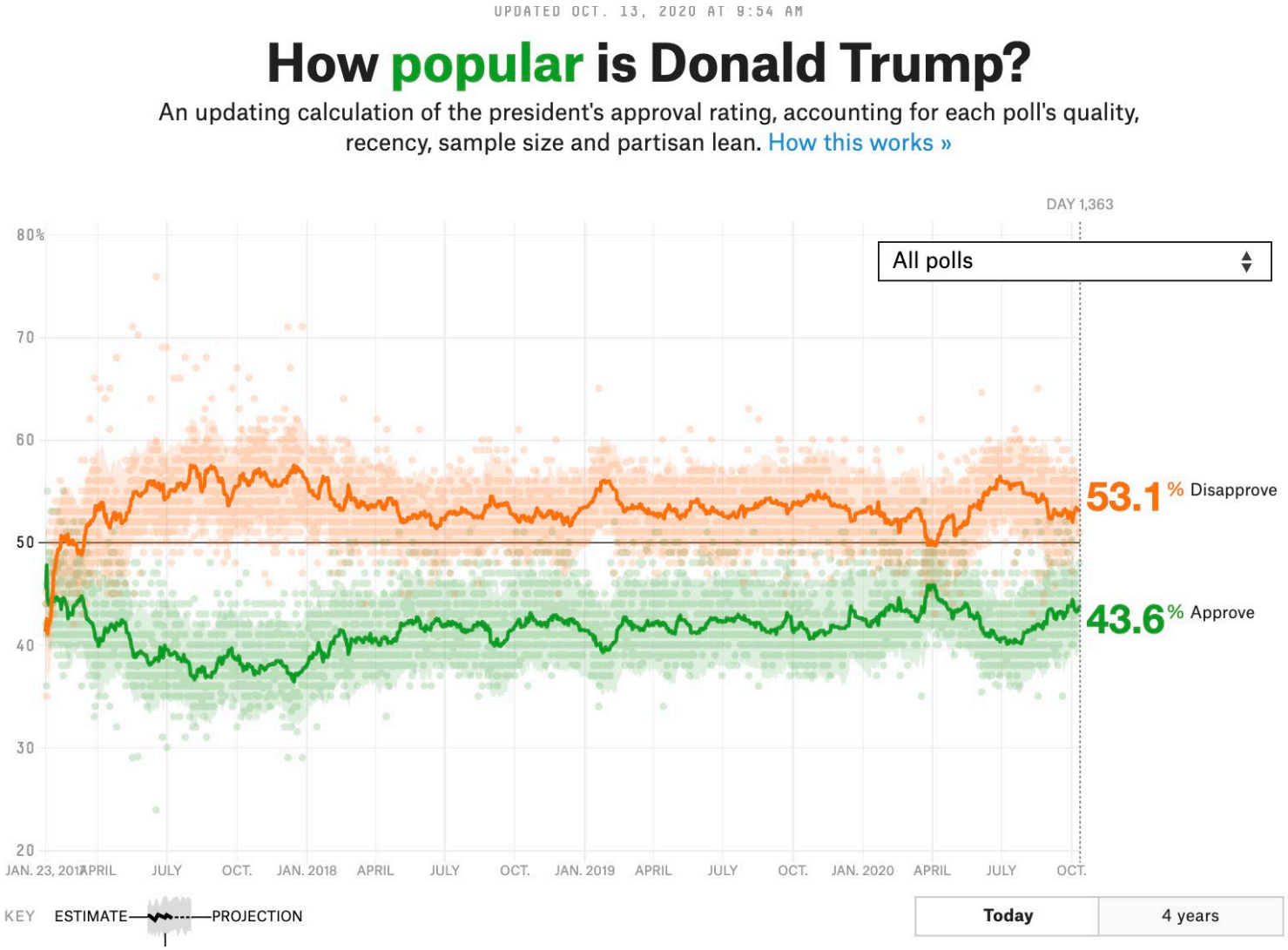
	POLLING LEADER	IF POLLS ARE AS WRONG AS THEY WERE IN... 2016	2012
U.S.	+10 **Biden**	+7	+14
N.H.	+11 **Biden**	+8	+14
Minn.	+10 **Biden**	+2	+11
Wis.	+9 **Biden**	+1	+12
Mich.	+9 **Biden**	+4	+13
Pa.	+8 **Biden**	+3	+9
Neb. 2*	+8 **Biden**	+10	+3
Nev.	+7 **Biden**	+9	+10
Maine 2*	+5 **Biden**	+6	+10
Ariz.	+5 **Biden**	+3	+3
Fla.	+5 **Biden**	+2	+6
N.C.	+4 **Biden**	+1	+3
Iowa	+3 **Biden**	+5	+6
Ohio	+2 **Biden**	+5	+2
Ga.	+1 **Biden**	<1	<1
Texas	+2 **Trump**	+4	+3

UPDATED OCT. 13 1:24 PM ET

Source: The New York Times

THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

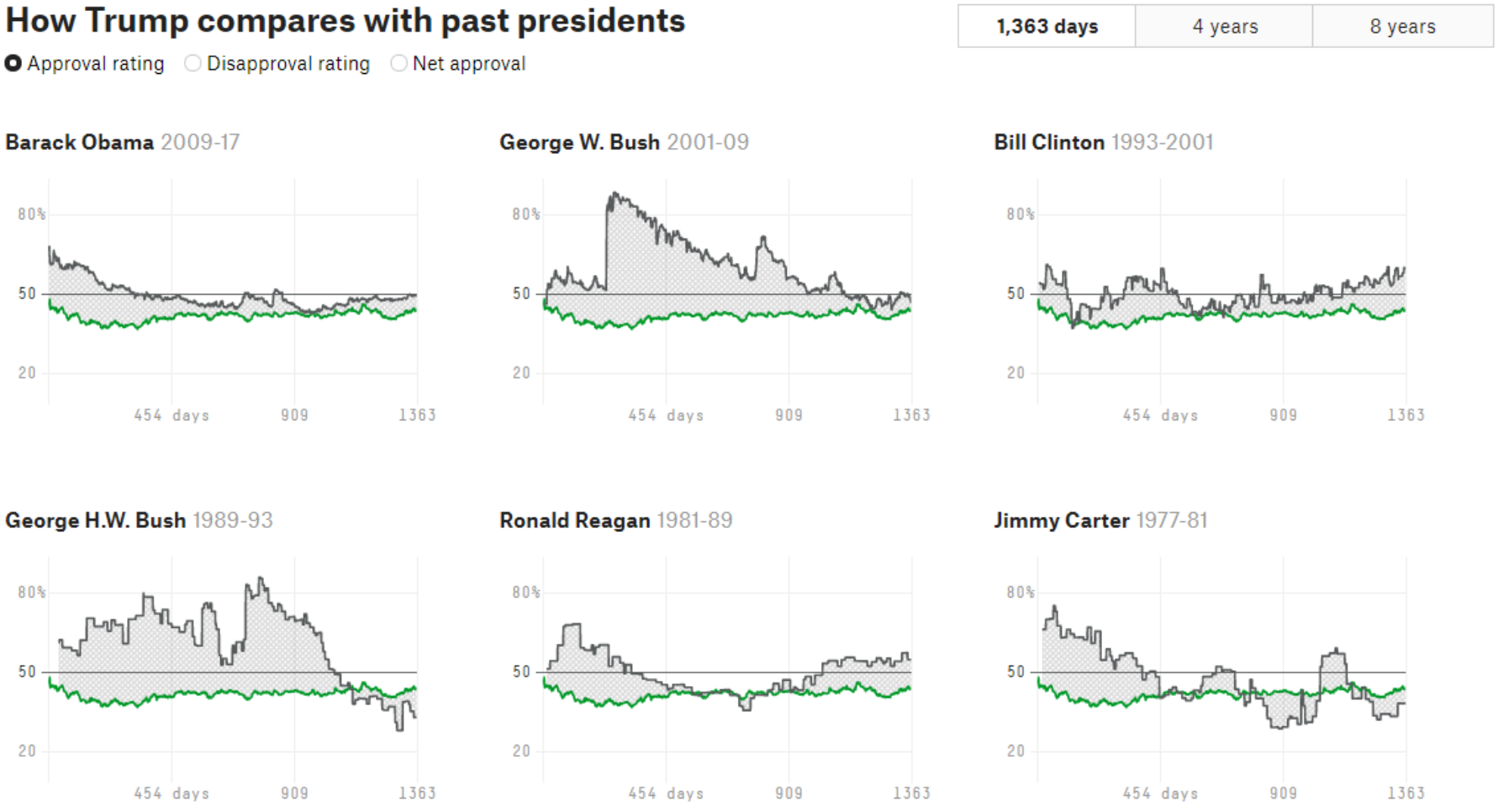
Trump approval rating



THE MassINC POLLING GROUP

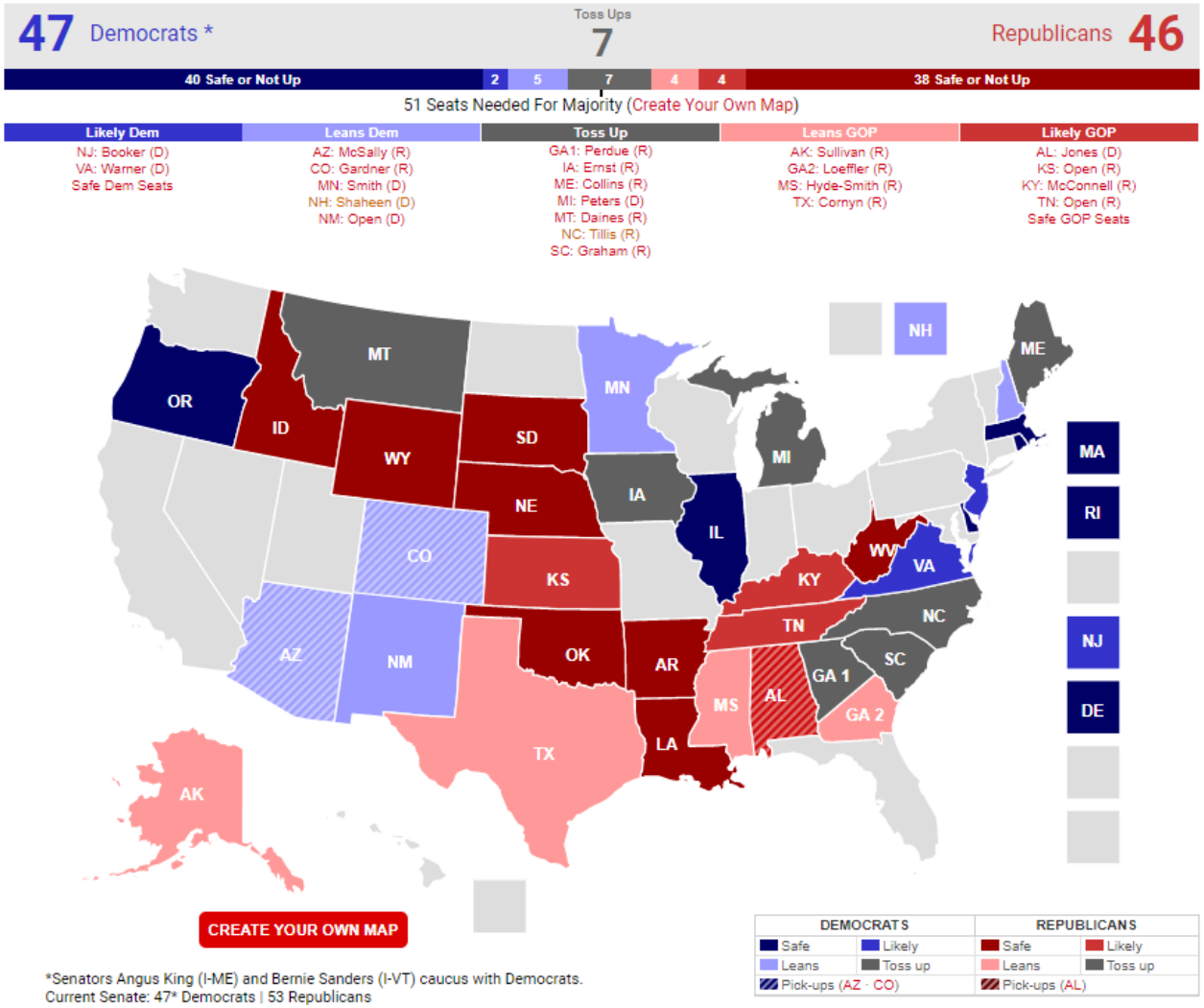
Source: FiveThirtyEight

Compared to past presidents



Source: FiveThirtyEight

2020 Senate Race by State



Source: RealClearPolitics

info@massincpolling.com MassINCPolling.com @MassINCPolling

11 Beacon St, Suite 500 | Boston, MA 02108 | Phone: (617) 224-1647