

Massachusetts 2024 Ballot Questions

There are five statewide ballot measures that have been certified to be on the Massachusetts State Election ballot on November 5, 2024.

Information for Voters Booklet

The Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, William Francis Galvin, has delivered to all Massachusetts households an [Information for Voters](#) booklet which contains detailed information on each of the 2024 Ballot Questions. This booklet includes the full text of the proposed law, statements about what a “yes” or “no” vote would do, and arguments drafted by proponents and opponents of each question. Additionally, the booklet contains information on how to register to vote, how to vote either by mail, early in-person, and on election day.

Information on Each Ballot Question

LWVHW has provided below a summary of each Ballot Question, and information as to what a “yes” or “no” vote would do as described in the Information for Voters Booklet. We strongly urge you to review the information booklet provided by Secretary Galvin for a full understanding of what the proponents and opponents argue regarding each ballot question.

Question 1: State Auditor’s Authority to Audit the Legislature.

Summary: This proposed law would give the State Auditor the authority to audit the State Legislature. Proponents of the measure have generally argued for transparency, accountability and accessibility which would be achieved by giving the State Auditor this authority. Opponents of this measure argue that a legislative audit conducted by the State Auditor without requiring prior consent of the legislature would violate the separation of powers and legislative supremacy in the state constitution, and would make the State Auditor a political actor and potentially an influential participant in the legislative process.

- **Yes** – Would specify that the State Auditor has this authority
- **No** – Would make no change in the law relative to the State Auditor’s authority which would mean that the State Auditor does not have the authority to audit without the State Legislature’s consent.

Question 2: Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement.

Summary: This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that high school students pass the MCAS test in mathematics, science and technology, and English, to receive a high school diploma. In its place, high school students would be required to complete coursework certified by the student’s district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies

contained in the state academic standards in mathematics, science and technology and English, as well as any additional areas determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The measure has been pushed by the Massachusetts Teachers Association who argue that the MCAS takes away from classroom time and causes undue anxiety for students. Opponents to the measure generally argue that eliminating the MCAS requirement would devalue a Massachusetts diploma and allow for differing standards across the state and potentially perpetuate the socioeconomic divide between richer and poorer districts.

- **Yes** – Would eliminate the requirement that students pass the MCAS in order to graduate high school but still require students to complete coursework that meets state standards
- **No** – Would make no change in the law relative to the requirement that a student pass the MCAS in order to graduate high school.

Question 3: Unionization for Transportation Network Drivers

Summary: The proposed law would allow ride-share drivers to form unions and to collectively bargain, which would include companies like Uber, Lyft, as well as food delivery drivers. Proponents of the measure argue that this measure would give Massachusetts rideshare drivers the option to join a union while maintaining driver flexibility and independence. Opponents argue that the measure would raise prices for all riders, would fund union pockets and not benefit all ride-share drivers who do not want to unionize.

- **Yes** – Would provide transportation network drivers the option to form unions to collectively bargain with transportation network companies regarding wages, benefits, and terms and conditions of work.
- **No** – would make no change in the law relative to the ability of transportation network drivers to form unions.

Question 4: Limited Legalization and Regulation of Certain Natural Psychedelic Substances

Summary: This proposed measure would legalize the possession and supervised use of psychedelics for treating depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions. Proponents of the measure argue that it would allow regulated access to promising natural psychedelic medicines that leading medical institutions have shown could be effective for treatments for depression and anxiety. Medical and mental health professionals, veterans, and recovery groups have urged a no vote arguing several reasons including that decriminalization would lead to increased accidents related to driving under the influence, home access would lead to dangers to children and pets for accidental consumption, and high risk with certain at-risk patients without medical professional access.

- **Yes** – Would allow persons over age 21 to use certain natural psychedelic substances under licensed supervision and to grow and possess limited quantities of those substances in their home, and would create a commission to regulate those substances.
- **No** – Would make no change in the laws regarding natural psychedelic substances.

Question 5: Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers

Summary: This proposed law would gradually increase the minimum wage for tipped workers over a period of five years, matching the state's standard minimum wage in 2029. Opponents of this measure argue that this would reduce overall wages for services and increase costs for restaurants.

- **Yes** – Would increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to the full state minimum wage implemented over five years, at which point the employer could pool all tips and distribute them to all non-management workers.
- **No** – would make no change in the law governing tip pooling or the minimum wage for tipped workers.

Additional Resources:

- [League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. Website Information on Ballot Questions for November Election.](#)
- [Voter's Guide to 2024 Massachusetts Ballot Questions.](#) The Center for State Policy Analysis (cSPA) at Tufts University Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life provides non-partisan analysis on all Massachusetts state ballot questions. See the following detailed reports that have been posted by cSPA on the Ballot Questions:
 - Question 1 – [cSPA report on Question 1: Should the Auditor Oversee the Legislature](#)
 - Question 2 – [cSPA report on Question 2: Eliminating the MCAS Graduation Requirement](#)
 - Question 3 – [cSPA report on Question 3: A Union for Rideshare Drivers](#)
 - Question 4 – [cSPA report on Question 4: Legalizing Psychedelic Drugs](#)
 - Question 5 – [cSPA report on Question 5: The Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers](#)

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Position on Ballot Questions

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) is “taking no position” on the Massachusetts Ballot Questions. League members may participate in their personal capacity in either yes or no campaigns, but such participation shall not be construed to represent the LWVMA or the League of Women Voters of Hamilton-Wenham.