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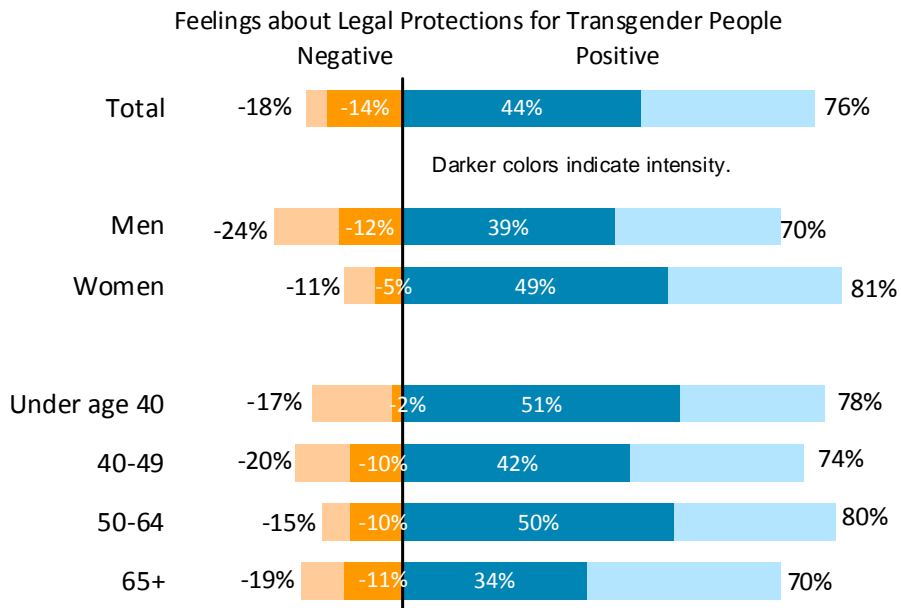
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**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** Celinda Lake, Joshua Ulibarri, and Tresa Udem  
**Date:** November 9, 2009  
**Subject:** Massachusetts Statewide Poll Findings<sup>1</sup>

**A new Lake Research Partners' survey of likely voters with a proven vote history in Massachusetts reveals significant voter support for passing a law that prohibits discrimination against transgender people. Seven in ten voters want their legislator to vote for this law, and half say they are more likely to vote for a legislator who supports this measure. Support for the law is deep and broad and stretches across demographic and geographic groups.**

Voters have a strongly positive reaction to legal protections for individuals who are transgender in employment, housing, or other public accommodations. More than four in ten voters have a very positive reaction (44 % very, 76% positive overall). Lake Research Partners has been conducting research on prohibiting discrimination against transgender people for many years, and this data solidly places Massachusetts in the top tier of states supporting protections.

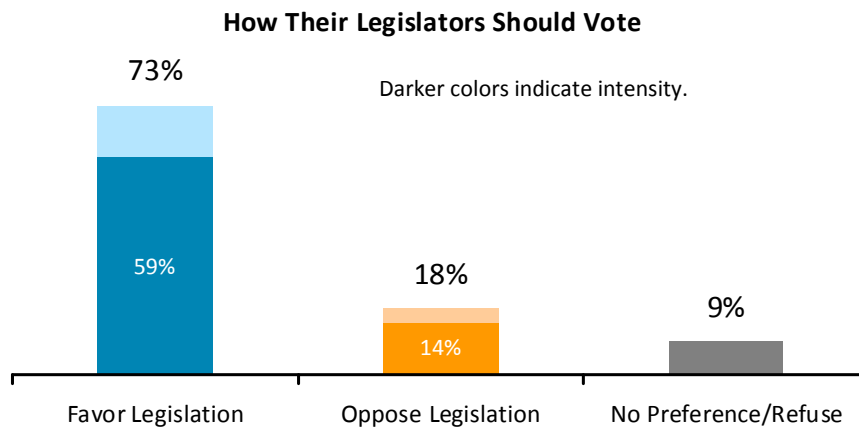


<sup>1</sup> **Methodology:** Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey reached a total of 400 likely 2010 general election voters in Massachusetts. The survey was conducted November 4- 8, 2009. Telephone numbers for the survey were drawn from a list of Massachusetts voters with a proven record of voting in midterm elections. The data were weighted slightly by age and education in order to ensure an accurate reflection of the demographic configuration of this population. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.9 percentage points.

Positive reactions to legal protections for transgender people extend across partisan groups, including Democrats (90%), independents (74%), and a majority of Republicans (53%). Women are particularly strong on this issue with 81% having a positive reaction to legal protections and 49% percent having a *very* positive reaction. Men also react positively to legal protection for individuals who are transgender (70% positive).

Importantly, voters’ attitudes toward legal protections for transgender people tracks closely to their positive reactions toward legal protections for gay and lesbian people. Eight in ten (81%) likely voters in Massachusetts have a positive reaction to these legal protections, including 50% who have a very positive reaction. Contrary to conventional wisdom, there is little division between voters’ attitudes toward protections for gay and lesbian adults or transgender people – they support equality, legal protections, and an end to discrimination for both.

Perhaps most importantly, likely voters in Massachusetts want their legislators to pass the proposed law – by a wide margin.<sup>2</sup> An overwhelming majority (73%) want their legislators to vote in favor of the law, including 59% who strongly want their legislators to vote in favor. Only 18% want their legislator to vote against it. Support for the law once again extends across partisanship; Democrats (83%), independents (71%), and Republicans (57%) each want their legislators to support the law.



Voters indicate they are more likely to support legislators who vote in favor of this law. Half of voters (51%) say they would be more likely to vote for a legislator if that person voted in favor of this legislation prohibiting discrimination against transgender people. Only 14% would be less likely to vote for someone who supported an end to this discrimination.

**In sum, voters support legal protections for transgender people in Massachusetts, and they want their legislators to vote in favor of the law. This is not a controversial issue for voters; equality, prohibiting discrimination, and extending legal protections to everyone has become a core value in Massachusetts.**

<sup>2</sup> **Question wording:** As you may know, there is no law in Massachusetts to protect transgender people from discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodations. The Massachusetts State Legislature will soon debate a bill to prohibit discrimination against transgender people in employment, housing, or public accommodations. How do you want your state legislator to vote on this measure: do you want them to vote IN FAVOR of prohibiting discrimination against transgender people in employment, housing, and public accommodations, or do you want them to vote AGAINST prohibiting discrimination against transgender people?