Emerson Poll: Trump Strong in Massachusetts While Emails Hurt Clinton with Independents. Bay State Is Mixed on Marijuana but Supports Pats and Police Body Cams.

Boston (Oct. 20, 2015) A new statewide poll suggests the state's Republican primary race is Donald Trump's to lose. With 48% of the vote, Trump is trouncing Dr. Ben Carson (14%) and Marco Rubio (12%). The 34-point gap between Trump and Carson dwarfs the 9-point margin between the two in Emerson's recent national poll. Lagging behind the leaders, Jeb Bush has slid to 7%, only slightly ahead of Carly Fiorina and Ted Cruz.

In the Democratic primary, Hillary Clinton leads Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders 59% to 25%, with all other Democrats under 5%. In a sign of trouble for Clinton, 47% of Independents said her use of a private email server while she was Secretary of State made them less likely to vote for her, compared to 24% of Democrats who said the same. A majority of Independents (56%) believe her doing so harmed U.S. foreign policy. Independents make up roughly half the state electorate.

Voters weighed in on a range of other issues. Seven in ten (71%) support the Boston Police Department's pilot program to equip police with body cameras. Only 11% are opposed. Support is mixed for a 2016 state ballot question that would legalize the recreational use of marijuana by adults. Forty-one percent (41%) favor the initiative, and 48% oppose it. In 2012, Massachusetts approved the medical use of marijuana 63% to 37%.

Those polled strongly favor a proposed federal law that would restrict the sale of tobacco products to those under 21. Support was 59% or higher for both genders, all major political affiliations, and all age groups except those 18 to 34, who oppose the measure 51% to 37%.

As the undefeated New England Patriots continue their post-Deflategate "Revenge Tour", 51% of respondents said they believe the Pats will win the Super Bowl this season. By a margin of 48% to 22%, Red Sox fans gave a "thumbs up" to manager John Farrell being rehired for the 2016 baseball season. Farrell missed part of this season while undergoing cancer treatment.

Despite a popular song that extols Boston and the Charles River, voters apparently don't "love that dirty water," at least not enough to drink it. When informed that Harpoon Brewery had used river water to create a special-edition pale ale to commemorate the cleanup of the Charles, only 29% said they would drink it if they were offered a glass.

Caller ID

The Emerson College Polling Society poll was conducted from Friday, October 16 through Sunday, October 18. The polling sample for the Democratic and GOP primaries consisted of 265 and 271 likely primary voters, respectively, with a margin of error of +/-6% and +/-5.9%, and 629 registered general election voters with a +/-3.9%, and a 95% confidence level. Data

ECPS MA Statewide 10.16-18.2015 1

was collected using an Interactive Voice Response system. The full methodology and results can be found at www.theecps.com.

What is your gender?

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			Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Valid	Male	300	47.6	47.6	47.6
		Female	329	52.4	52.4	100.0
		Total	629	100.0	100.0	

Are you currently registered in Massachusetts as a Democrat, Republican, Independent or other party? Or are you unregistered?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democrat	241	38.3	38.3	38.3
	Republican	71	11.3	11.3	49.6
	Independent or other party	317	50.4	50.4	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

To celebrate the clean up of the Charles River, which runs into Boston Harbor, Harpoon Brewery created a small batch of pale ale using water from the Charles. If offered a glass, would you drink it?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	181	28.8	28.8	28.8
	No	274	43.6	43.6	72.4
	Not sure	86	13.6	13.6	86.0
	Don't like beer	88	14.0	14.0	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

The Red Sox recently announced that John Farrell will return as the team's manager in 2016. After winning a World Series in 2013, followed by two last-place finishes, do you think Farrell should be given another chance in 2016?

	chance in 2016?						
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent		
Valid	Yes	304	48.4	48.4	48.4		
	No	137	21.8	21.8	70.2		
	Not sure or Don't care	188	29.8	29.8	100.0		
	Total	629	100.0	100.0			

The New England Patriots currently have a 4-0 record and lead in the AFC East division. How far do you think they will go this season?

				Valid	Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Percent	Percent
Valid	They'll win the Super Bowl	323	51.3	51.3	51.3
	They'll win the AFC Championship	119	18.9	18.9	70.1
	They'll make the playoffs	70	11.1	11.1	81.2
	They won't make the playoffs	20	3.3	3.3	84.4
	Not sure	98	15.6	15.6	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

A proposed federal law would restrict the sale of tobacco products to anyone under 21. Do you support or oppose such a law? Or are you undecided?

		undecided	-		
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Support	373	59.3	59.3	59.3
	Oppose	173	27.4	27.4	86.7
	Undecided	83	13.3	13.3	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

The Boston Police Department recently announced it will conduct a pilot program to test out the use of body cameras worn by police. Do you support or oppose the use of body cameras? Or are you undecided?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Support	445	70.8	70.8	70.8
	Oppose	72	11.5	11.5	82.3
	Undecided	112	17.7	17.7	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

The Massachusetts Marijuana Legalization Initiative may appear on the November 8, 2016 ballot in Massachusetts. The measure would legalize recreational marijuana for adults and, according to proponents, regulate and tax the drug like alcohol. Do you supp

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Support	254	40.5	40.5	40.5
	Oppose	300	47.6	47.6	88.1
	Undecided	75	11.9	11.9	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

Thinking about the upcoming presidential primaries and caucuses early
next year, do you think you will vote/ or lean toward voting in your
state's Democratic contest, Republican contest, or do you think you will
skip the primary season and just vote next

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democratic Primary/Caucus (q10)	265	42.1	42.1	42.1
	Republican Primary/Caucus (q11)	271	43.1	43.1	85.2
	Skip primaries/caucuses and vote in November (q12)	56	8.9	8.9	94.0
	Undecided	37	6.0	6.0	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

ECPS MA Statewide 10.16-18.2015 5

	{RANDOMIZE LIST}						
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent		
Valid	Hillary Clinton	157	24.9	59.1	59.1		
	Bernie Sanders	67	10.7	25.3	84.4		
	Jim Webb	12	2.0	4.7	89.1		
	Martin O'Malley	9	1.4	3.3	92.4		
	Lincoln Chafee	9	1.4	3.2	95.7		
	Other	4	.7	1.7	97.3		
	Undecided	7	1.1	2.7	100.0		
	Total	265	42.1	100.0			
Missing	System	364	57.9				
Total		629	100.0				

If the Democratic presidential primary was held today and the candidates were Lincoln Chafee, Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley, Bernie Sanders, and Jim Webb, who would you vote or lean toward? {RANDOMIZE LIST}

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		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Ben Carson	38	6.0	13.9	13.9
	Jeb Bush	19	3.0	7.1	21.0
	Carly Fiorina	18	2.8	6.5	27.4
	Ted Cruz	14	2.2	5.1	32.6
	Marco Rubio	32	5.1	11.8	44.3
	Donald Trump	129	20.6	47.8	92.1
	Rand Paul		.0	.1	92.2
	Mike Huckabee	1	.2	.4	92.6
	Chris Christie	6	1.0	2.3	94.8
	John Kasich	8	1.2	2.8	97.7
	Lindsey Graham	2	.4	.9	98.6
	Other		.0	.0	98.6
	Undecided	4	.6	1.4	100.0
	Total	271	43.1	100.0	
Missing	System	358	56.9		
Total		629	100.0		

If the Republican presidential primary was held today, who would be your first choice to win the Republican nomination? {RANDOMIZE LIST}

Has coverage of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she was Secretary of State changed how likely you are to vote for her?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less likely to vote for her	244	38.7	38.7	38.7
	No change in how I'll vote	339	53.9	53.9	92.6
	More likely to vote for her	46	7.4	7.4	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

ECPS MA Statewide 10.16-18.2015 7

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
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Valid	Yes	282	44.9	44.9	44.9
	No	232	36.9	36.9	81.8
	Not sure	114	18.2	18.2	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

Do you believe Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server caused harm to U.S. foreign policy?

What is your age group?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-34	85	13.5	13.5	13.5
	35-54	245	39.0	39.0	52.5
	55-74	206	32.7	32.7	85.2
	75 and above	93	14.8	14.8	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

How do you self-identify your race/ethnicity?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	White or Caucasian	506	80.5	80.5	80.5
	Latino or Hispanic	42	6.7	6.7	87.2
	African American or Black	48	7.6	7.6	94.8
	Asian or Asian American	8	1.3	1.3	96.1
	Mixed race	7	1.1	1.1	97.2
	Other	18	2.8	2.8	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

ECPS MA Statewide 10.16-18.2015 8

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than high school	37	5.9	5.9	5.9
	High school diploma or equivalent	97	15.5	15.5	21.4
	Some college but no degree	126	20.1	20.1	41.5
	College degree	199	31.6	31.6	73.1
	Graduate degree or higher	169	26.9	26.9	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

What is your education level?

What is your income level?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Under \$25,000	110	17.4	17.4	17.4
	\$25,000 to \$75,000	250	39.8	39.8	57.2
	Over \$75,000	269	42.8	42.8	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

		Region			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Worc/West	149	23.7	23.7	23.7
	Northshore	224	35.6	35.6	59.4
	Suffolk County	51	8.1	8.1	67.5
	Southshore	204	32.5	32.5	100.0
	Total	629	100.0	100.0	

ECPS MA Statewide 10.16-18.2015 10