

2008 AAA Massachusetts Public Affairs topline results

(Based on 268 respondents with an error of +/- 6.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence)

National Issues

1) Of the following, what are your top three safety concerns as a motorist? (Check *three*) n=258

- 78% Drunk drivers
- 67% Distracted drivers
- 56% Aggressive drivers
- 29% Poor road quality
- 16% Teen drivers
- 16% Unlicensed drivers
- 13% Sharing the road with large trucks
- 12% Senior drivers
- 10% Drowsy drivers

2) Please rank the following issues in the order they concern you, from most concern (1) to least concern (6): n=225-234

- 1.9 Economy 3.7 Education
- 2.5 Health care 4.6 Global warming
- 3.1 National security 5.1 Transportation

3) How much do you oppose or support the following options in order to increase transportation investment?

| | Strongly oppose | Somewhat oppose | Neutral | Somewhat support | Strongly support |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| Increase other taxes (income, property) n=252 | 65% | 15% | 10% | 4% | 5% |
| Charge drivers a fee based on the number of miles driven n=257 | 53% | 16% | 11% | 14% | 7% |
| Impose tolls to drive on main roads during peak travel times n=253 | 51% | 16% | 15% | 11% | 6% |
| Increase sales taxes n=254 | 50% | 17% | 13% | 12% | 7% |
| Begin charging tolls on existing roads and bridges n=255 | 48% | 18% | 15% | 13% | 6% |
| Increase gasoline taxes n=259 | 40% | 12% | 16% | 16% | 15% |
| Impose tolls on newly constructed bridges and highways n=256 | 27% | 21% | 24% | 23% | 6% |

4) Please rank the following types of transportation projects in their order of importance to you, from most important (1) to least important (6): n=219-223

- 1.9 Routine road and bridge maintenance
- 3.2 Construction projects that enhance motorist safety (eliminating dangerous curves, improving intersections, etc)
- 3.3 Constructing new public transit facilities (bus, subway, commuter rail)
- 3.6 Building new roads and bridges to help reduce congestion
- 4.0 Expanding national rail corridors (high-speed, interstate passenger rail connecting cities)
- 4.9 Building bicycle and pedestrian pathways

5) Which of the following do you believe the next Administration should focus on to decrease the nation's dependence on foreign oil? (Check all that apply) n=265

- 78% Increased investment in developing alternative fuel sources and making them more available to consumers
- 77% Require auto manufacturers to produce more alternative fuel vehicles for personal use
- 60% Increased exploration and drilling of domestic oil
- 51% Emphasize more conservation methods/programs
- 48% Allow more offshore drilling
- 42% Offer the public tax incentives for specific consumer conservation changes related to driving

6) Which of the following personal lifestyle adjustments would you make to reduce your fuel consumption? (Check all that apply) n=267

- 70% Keep vehicle properly maintained
- 58% Buy smaller, more fuel efficient car
- 48% Drive less
- 48% Buy hybrid or alternative fuel vehicle
- 34% Use public transit more often
- 30% Walk/bike
- 13% Carpool/Vanpool
- 9% Unable to make any change
- 3% Not interested in making any changes

7) Some safety advocates call for the return to a national maximum speed limit of 55 mph, citing potential for fewer traffic deaths and injuries. Opponents say that newer, safer vehicles can safely handle higher speeds on many highways. Do you think the national maximum speed limit should be reinstated? (Check one) n=264

- 44% No
- 30% Yes, but at a speed higher than 55 mph
- 25% Yes, but at 55 mph

8) Should states pass laws that make it illegal for drivers to send a text message from a cellular phone or other wireless communications device while operating a moving vehicle? n=262

- 94% Yes
- 6% No

9) Some states are considering an increase in the minimum age to 17 for a teen driver. What do you think should be the minimum age for a person to get a driver's license? n=264

- 43% 17
- 31% 18
- 21% 16
- 5% 19 or older
- <1% 15
- 0% 14 or younger

10) What road safety investments do you think would save the most lives over the next 10 years? (Check all that apply) n=266

- 90% Safer drivers
- 55% Safer roads
- 50% Safer cars

11) Which of the following statements regarding large trucks on our highways do you agree with? (Check all that apply) n=266

- 71% Large trucks should have their own lanes where possible
- 45% The weight of trucks should be limited
- 45% The size of trucks should be limited
- 17% The number of trucks should be reduced
- 9% The current size and weight of large trucks is right
- 15% I don't have an opinion on this subject

34% Oppose

Massachusetts Issues

- 12) Which of the following do you believe would be most effective at reducing distracted driving due to cellular phone use and message texting? (Choose **one**) n=229
 - 70% Ban Cell Phone use *and* texting for all drivers
 - 13% Ban Cell Phone use *and* texting for drivers under age 18.
 - 10% Ban Cell Phone use for all drivers
 - <1% Ban Cell Phone use for drivers under age 18.
 - 7% None of the above.

- 13) Do you favor or oppose passage of a Massachusetts primary safety belt enforcement law, which would allow law enforcement officers to stop a vehicle solely because occupants are not wearing safety belts and to issue a ticket to the driver? n=265
 - 55% Favor
 - 45% Oppose

- 14) How effective would you say the driving schools in Massachusetts are at providing a good level of instruction for first time/novice drivers? n=225
 - 4% Extremely effective
 - 23% Very effective
 - 56% Somewhat effective
 - 13% Not very effective
 - 4% Not at all effective

- 15) Currently, junior operators/intermediate license holders are prohibited from driving unsupervised between the hours of 12:30 am and 5 a.m. Do you favor or oppose expanding this restriction to between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.? n=262
 - 74% Favor
 - 26% Oppose

- 16) Should education be provided to the adult children of older drivers to help them better discuss the impact of the aging process on older drivers and steps that can be taken to address concerns? n=259
 - 66% Yes
 - 34% No

- 17) The Massachusetts Vehicle Inspection program has changed significantly since October of 2008. If you've had your vehicle tested after this date, did you find the program to be: n=263
 - 6% Better
 - 34% About the same
 - 3% Worse
 - 57% Don't Know/Haven't been tested since October 2008

- 18) Red light cameras are photographic devices mounted at intersections and capable of photographing a vehicle and its license plate. Such cameras can detect if a motorist has run a red light, resulting in a traffic citation sent to the vehicle owner's address. Do you favor or oppose the use of red-light cameras as a means of law enforcement in Massachusetts? n=265
 - 58% Favor
 - 42% Oppose

- 19) Do you favor or oppose more frequent vision and behind-the-wheel testing for drivers over the age of 70? n=263
 - 66% Favor

- 20) Do you favor or oppose the RMV offering driver's license renewals and other registry services in Massachusetts AAA offices? n=261
 - 90% Favor
 - 10% Oppose

21) Please rate the following:

| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|
| Local City/Town Police n=254 | 19% | 61% | 17% | 4% |
| Mass State Police n=251 | 17% | 63% | 17% | 3% |
| State Emissions/Inspection Program n=251 | 10% | 66% | 18% | 6% |
| Mass Registry of Motor Vehicles n=253 | 7% | 53% | 32% | 8% |
| Mass Dept. of Transportation n=237 | 2% | 34% | 46% | 18% |
| Condition of Mass highways n=262 | 1% | 36% | 47% | 16% |

Demographics (Answers are for statistical purposes only.)

- 22) In what year were you born? _____
n=252 (1947=median)

- 23) Do you have any children under 18 living in your household? n=264
 - 21% Yes
 - 79% No ⇒ **Go to Question 25**

- 24) Do you have any teenage drivers under the age of 18 living in your household? n=54
 - 28% Yes
 - 72% No

- 25) Which of the following categories best describes your total annual household income before taxes? n=232
 - 11% Under \$25,000
 - 24% \$50,000-\$74,999
 - 22% \$25,000-\$49,999
 - 44% \$75,000 and above

- 26) What is your home ZIP code? _____

- 27) How many years have you been a AAA member? ___ yrs
n=232 (17 yrs = mean)

- 28) Please indicate your gender: n=265
 - 53% Female
 - 47% Male