

Massachusetts Ballot Summary

Question 1: Mandated Nurse-Staffing Ratios



Proposes to limit how many patients could be assigned to each registered nurse in Massachusetts hospitals and certain other health-care facilities. The maximum number of patients per registered nurse would vary by type of unit and level of care.

Associated Industries of Massachusetts, the statewide employer association, urges a NO vote on Question 1.

Question 1 would impose rigid, expensive and scientifically unproven registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratios in all units, at all times, at every hospital across Massachusetts. Studies indicate that these staffing ratios do not improve the quality of medical care. Staffing decisions would be taken out of the hands of experienced nurses and doctors and put in the hands of a bureaucratic government mandate.

Massachusetts Health Policy Commission estimates that Question 1 would increase health-care costs \$676 million to \$949 million annually, a projection HPC calls conservative. Massachusetts residents and employers already pay among the highest health-care premiums in the country. The initiative could cause smaller, community hospitals to close emergency departments and other services because they will be unable to find enough nurses to meet the law.

Question 3: Transgender Rights Law Repeal



Proposes to repeal the 2016 state law that banned discrimination against transgender people in places of public accommodation, such as restaurants, malls and restrooms.

The wording of the question means that a Yes vote would preserve the transgender anti-discrimination law and a No vote would repeal it.

Associated Industries of Massachusetts, the statewide employer association, urges a Yes vote on Question 3.

The question poses both a civil rights issue and an economic issue.

The Massachusetts employer community supports civil-rights protections for all our fellow citizens. The question would remove basic protections from our co-workers, our neighbors and our friends.

Repeal would also touch off an economic backlash similar to the one that North Carolina suffered when it passed a similar law in 2016. That state lost an estimated \$3.76 billion from cancelled sporting events, concerts and corporate expansions.